

L Hero

Chapter 771 You'd Better Not Run

After both parties formed an alliance, Floating Dragon changed their drifting trajectory and headed toward the headquarters of the Black Star Army. They would work together with Han Xiao during this period.

Since Ames had chosen to fight by Han Xiao's side, she naturally had to bring her personal weapon along. Floating Dragon had another two more islands, and using it to smash others would definitely be more painful.

Han Xiao then got Reynolds to inform the army's logistics department to modify some empty backup satellite fortresses. Han Xiao was prepared to give them to Ames so that she could use them as her weapon. After all, she could not always use her main camp as her weapon.

After using the Evolution Cube, everyone rested for a day before Han Xiao and Ames gathered all the officers together.

This time, it was to reply to the Tyrant's challenge.

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Before announcing his response to the world, Han Xiao decided to contact the Tyrant privately.

The secret war had been fought for such a long time, and the two parties had not contacted each other before. The last time they had seen each other was more than ten years ago at the Tyrant's gathering. Back then, he had been only Ames' follower, and Heber had tried to recruit him.

Han Xiao did not have the Tyrant's communicator number, but Ames had it in her communicator. This time, he was going to borrow Ames' communicator to contact Heber, which Ames had no issues with.

Han Xiao then opened Ames' communicator and pulled out Heber's number from the blacklist. Because of Heber's pursuit, Ames had always blocked his number.

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Han Xiao then sent a communication request to the Tyrant.

Beep beep!

After a few seconds, the communication request went through, and Heber's image appeared on the communicator.

"Ames? You are finally going to... Hmm? Black Star?"

Heber immediately frowned. Ames' name appeared on his communicator, and he thought that Ames had finally thought things through and decided to agree to become his partner. However, he had never imagined that the call would be made by Black Star.

"Ames formed an alliance with you?" Heber immediately reacted.

Han Xiao only nodded.

Heber's eyes narrowed, and his expression remained emotionless.

For a few years, many organizations had been spreading rumors about the Black Star Army and Floating Dragon splitting up. When Han Xiao became a Beyond Grade A, Heber knew that both of them would definitely split up, and Heber was hoping that Black Star and Ames would become enemies as a result. The outcome that he did not want to see was the two of them becoming allies.

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"It seems like the little tricks of those organizations weren't able to shake your relationship," Heber said calmly.

"You don't seem anxious at all." Han Xiao raised his brows.

"It makes no difference to me," Heber said. "Tell Ames that I will give her a final chance. As long as she stays out of this matter, I can ignore her. I will not show any mercy otherwise."

"Get your head out the clouds. I didn't ask you to show any mercy," Ames said coldly upon hearing those words.

Heber ignored her and said to Han Xiao while shaking his head, "Black Star, I gave you a chance a long time ago. It is a pity that you didn't treasure it and rejected my invitation. If you are contacting me to plead for mercy, it is too late. We are now enemies, and there isn't anything to talk about between us."

"I called you to respond to your challenge. Set a time and place," Han Xiao said with a deep voice.

Through his Observer's Mark, Han Xiao knew that Psyker had contacted Heber privately and invited Heber to work together with him. However, the Tyrant rejected and insisted on dealing with Black Star alone but did not stop Psyker from going to view their battle. Thus, both parties had issued separate challenges.

Han Xiao also understood Heber's thoughts from the conversation between the two. Heber did not only want to take revenge but also want to establish his prestige with a new Beyond Grade A Super. Heber wanted to have as many people paying attention to this matter as possible and thus publicly set a time and invited the various organizations to watch the battle.

"Alright," Heber said resolutely. "The time will be set twenty days from now. The location will be in the desolate universe belt between the Colton Star Cluster and Seoul Star Cluster. I will announce the coordinates publicly."

Choosing a neutral region between the two made it convenient for Bloodshed Land to send out their army and create a confrontation between Purple Crystal and Klent. It was still equivalent to both the civilizations fighting a proxy war.

Heber set the date twenty days from then so that the news would be able to spread throughout the Star Field and attract more people to witness his battle with Black Star. However, he would not drag the battle on for too long as he did not want to give Han Xiao too much time to prepare. He also did not want the matter to die down and wanted to establish his prestige when Black Star's influence was at the peak.

If Black Star wanted to back out of the battle, Heber would not lose out either. Heber could just say that Black Star was afraid of him and did not dare appear for their battle. He would also be able to build up his prestige as well and have a reason to visit the Black Star Army headquarters.

“Alright, you’d better not run when the time comes,” Han Xiao said without much hesitation.

Han Xiao then hung up without waiting for Heber to reply.

“This fellow is still as domineering as usual. How annoying,” Ames said with her eyes narrowed and her force field energy being gathered in her palms. Every time she saw the Tyrant’s annoying face, she had the urge to smash her Floating Dragon down on him.

“In any case, the time and location have been decided. We just have to show up when the time comes.” Han Xiao looked at all the officers. “You lot heard the conversation, right? Announce it to the public in the name of the Black Star Army.”

“Understood.” Sylvia nodded and started a long-distance conference. As the Chief Administrative Official, public relations was her job.

“There’s still twenty days...”

Han Xiao’s eyes glimmered. It seemed like this would be all the time he had for preparations.

...

The challenge given out by the Tyrant and Star Pupil created a huge commotion in the Shattered Star Ring, but Black Star had not given an official response. Many individuals had their appetites whet and were looking forward to the development of the matter.

Because of the storm created by the battle, many Supers who wanted to join the Black Star Army controlled themselves and waited to observe what happened. Thus, there were not too many who applied to the Black Star Army during this period. However, Han Xiao was also aware about this and thus did not start his recruitment.

Seven days after the challenge was issued, the Black Star Army finally made a response.

Black Star accepted the challenge!

Not just that, the Black Star Army had also announced a shocking piece of news.

From that day on, the Black Star Army would leave Floating Dragon and gain independence!

Many organizations had intentionally spread rumors that led many to believe that the Black Star Army would cut off all ties with Floating Dragon after gaining independence.

However, the truth had shocked many. The Dragon Emperor Ames had actually chosen to form an alliance with Black Star and deal with the Tyrant and Star Pupil!

This was something that no one had expected. Black Star had to fight alone originally and face the challenge of the Tyrant and Star Pupil single-handedly. Many individuals could not help but break out in cold sweat for this newly ascended Beyond Grade A. However, the interference of the Dragon Emperor immediately leveled the playing field.

A total of four Beyond Grade A Supers had entered the fray!

This was like a stimulant that caused the entire Star Field to blow up with excitement!

Regardless of whether they were ordinary citizens or members of large organizations, everyone was extremely clear about one thing.

A huge show was about to erupt in the Star Field!

...

In the Palace of Hidden Spells, Austin looked through a report on his communicator and thought to himself, Black Star accepted the challenge officially? He's even taking the Dragon Emperor...

It was now a two-on-two battle, and the Shattered Star Ring had five Beyond Grade A Supers.

This meant that his presence would influence the direction in which this matter developed, and everyone else knew that as well.

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"It seems like there will be people looking for me very soon." Austin shook his head.

Beep beep!

Just as he thought that, Psyker called him.

Austin let out a helpless chuckle and accepted the call, hanging up after chatting for a short while. Just when he hung up, another call arrived. It was Han Xiao this time.

"It has been a while since I last saw you. You didn't disappoint me indeed, Black Star."

"I actually have to thank you." Han Xiao smiled.

"Thank me for what?"

"If not for you telling me about information regarding the Evolution Cube, I may not have been able to obtain this item."

"Oh, I see." Austin smiled and said straightforwardly, "I know why you called. Psyker called me before this."

Han Xiao's eyes glimmered, and he did not beat about the bush. "Since you already know our intentions, what do you plan on doing?"

Both parties wanted to attract Austin to their side.

Austin's eyes narrowed, and he said, "Although I have some ties with Psyker, he never agreed to lend me the Evolution Cube. Now that he's lost the Evolution Cube and this chip is in your hands, are you prepared to use it in exchange for my help?"

"That's right." Han Xiao nodded. Austin was no fool, and there was no need for Han Xiao to waste his time explaining it to Austin.

Unexpectedly, Austin shook his head and said, "I am very willing to provide compensation for using the Evolution Cube, but I cannot agree to this matter."

Han Xiao's heart sank.

However, Austin added, "Don't worry, I don't intend to help Psyker either."

"You want to remain neutral?" Han Xiao was surprised.

Austin smiled and said, "The silent Shattered Star Ring has been stirred up again after so many years. How can I allow this wonderful show to end prematurely because of my interference? Hahaha!"

This darn old man just wants to watch the world burn... Han Xiao gritted his teeth.

Austin wanted to be a spectator and watch the show by the side. Furthermore, he felt that there would be a chance to use the Evolution Cube in the future based on Black Star's character. Thus, Austin was not prepared to join any side this time.

To a Beyond Grade A Super like him who was used to maintaining his neutrality, he was willing to give up some benefits to remain on the sidelines and watch the show. At his current level, he did not have to restrain his own personality and preferences.

Furthermore, both parties were Beyond Grade A Supers, and he would offend the other party if he chose to get involved. Austin was no fool; remaining neutral was the best choice for him.

Austin's attitude was resolute, and it would be impossible for Han Xiao to persuade him. Thus, Han Xiao hung up after a short casual conversation.

Although he did not manage to bring Austin to his side, Han Xiao was not too disappointed. He had never planned to have Austin on his side from the very start. It would be a pleasant surprise if he could succeed, but his failure was well within expectations. At the very least, Psyker also did not manage to pull Austin over to his side.

The situation was already clear, and the division of the Beyond Grade A Supers would not change. If that was the case, Han Xiao could only find aid from other organizations.

...

In the Crimson Dynasty embassy on the mother planet of the Klent Kingdom...

"Ah, Klent wants us to help them deal with Black Star?"

Within the office of the embassy, the Crimson Dynasty envoy Zoel looked at the Klent emissary with a smile.

"That's right. Black Star is in the Purple Crystal faction and killed a few dozen of our Calamity Grade Supers, dealing a huge blow to our high-level combatants. Now that Black Star is a Beyond Grade A Super, he will become a bigger obstacle to us. Our strength is limited, and we hope that the Crimson Dynasty can provide us with some aid," the Klent emissary said respectfully.

Zoel tapped his fingers on the table and looked at the party silently without talking.

He was the envoy that the Crimson Dynasty had sent to Klent, and he had been there for many years. He was also the envoy who Han Xiao had met at the Tyrant's gathering many years prior.

The life span of the Crimson Dynasty race was extremely long, and ten years was not much to them.

Over ten years ago, when Klent openly submitted to the Crimson Dynasty, Zoel had surfaced from the dark and built an embassy on the Klent mother planet. This represented the diplomatic ties between the Crimson Dynasty and Klent.

At the same time, he had the authority to mobilize any army that the Crimson Dynasty stationed in the Shattered Star Ring.

The three Universal Civilizations had their own secret factories in every Star Field, and the army that they had stationed in every Star Field was enough to start a war with two to three Star Cluster Civilizations at the same time.

The authority to control the secret armed force of the dynasty was enough to show how high a status Zoel had in the Shattered Star Ring. He was the individual with the highest authority in the envoy party.

Zoel thought for a while before saying, "I will consider Klent's request. Please leave for now."

Upon hearing that, the Klent emissary could only take his leave.

"Black Star..." Zoel muttered.

Zoel naturally had some understanding toward this new Beyond Grade A Super who had created a huge commotion in the Shattered Star Ring recently. In truth, Zoel had been constantly updating Black Star's shocking battle record in the dynasty's database over the past ten years.

Klent did not wish for Purple Crystal to have a Beyond Grade A ally and requested for the Crimson Dynasty to help them get rid of Han Xiao completely.

As an envoy of the Crimson Dynasty, Zoel's sights were naturally set at a very high level. It was not that he was being full of himself. Even if there were many Beyond Grade A pillars in the Crimson Dynasty, he would not underestimate other Beyond Grade A Supers. It was because he understood the strength of a Beyond Grade A Super that he knew that a Beyond Grade A should not be provoked easily.

It was not that Zoel did not want to help Klent deal with a local Beyond Grade A Super but that he had an interest in Black Star.

"He completed his Beyond Grade A journey in twenty years, and he is the first in history to accomplish such a feat. He still has a long life ahead of him, and his potential is immeasurable."

Furthermore, such a character had snatched the Evolution Cube, which was hidden by the Arcane Church.

Perhaps I can find the opportunity to interact with him.

As for the thoughts of Klent... As an envoy of the dynasty, why did he have to give a Star Cluster civilization an explanation?

Right at that moment, his communicator rang, and the face of his subordinate surfaced.

“Your Excellency Zoel, a special individual wishes to speak with you. Should I patch the communication through?”

“Who is the other party?”

“Black Star.”

He actually took the initiative to find me?

Zoel paused for two seconds before nodding.

“Patch him through.”

Chapter 772 Negotiations and Hidden Currents

After waiting for a while, Zoel’s figure appeared on his communicator.

Han Xiao raised his brow.

Since the Crimson Dynasty embassy did not reject his communication request, it meant that they were interested in negotiating with him. This was a good opening as the Crimson Dynasty was an important part of his plans.

With a smile, Han Xiao said, “It has been many years since I last saw you, Envoy Zoel.”

“That’s right. It has been more than ten years since we last met, and you were participating in the Tyrant’s gathering beside the Dragon Emperor back then. I still remember you trying to persuade Ames to join the Crimson Dynasty. Although you didn’t manage to succeed, I have a very deep impression of you,” Zoel said with a smile.

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His good attitude toward Han Xiao was not only because Han Xiao was a Beyond Grade A Super but also because of how Han Xiao seemed to lean toward their dynasty.

“It turns out that you still remember.” Han Xiao smiled. “Back then, I felt that it was extremely likely for the Crimson Dynasty to win the Flickering World, and history has proven my prediction correct.”

Zoel’s smile became brighter upon hearing that.

Over ten years ago, Black Star had predicted that the Crimson Dynasty would successfully take control of the Flickering World; Zoel’s impression of Han Xiao immediately rose.

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“You are truly able to see far ahead.”

Of course, I doubt anyone can look further into the future than me... Han Xiao thought to himself.

This was the benefit of being familiar with the storyline. Before even eating today, he knew what kind of sh*t he would have tomorrow.

After pausing for a while, Han Xiao got to the purpose for his call.

“My thoughts have not changed since ten years ago, and the Black Star Army has already left Floating Dragon. I do not need to persuade anyone, and I can make the decision myself.”

Zoel’s eyes lit up, and he said, “If I didn’t understand those words wrongly, you wish to join the Crimson Dynasty?”

“That is the reason for my call today.”

Han Xiao nodded.

Because of his advancement, the Black Star Army had the right to be called a Beyond Grade A organization. However, the upper limit of his organization would be dependent on his resources and network. In the galaxy, the three Universal Civilizations were the largest possible backers, and he would be able to obtain a huge amount of resources as long as he joined one of them.

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At the same time, he also needed a strong ally to protect the Evolution Cube. Psyker and the Arcane Church definitely would not give up on the Evolution Cube, and the Federation of Light might even choose to intervene. All the large organizations in the universe would have their eyes set on the Evolution Cube, and it was impossible for the Black Star Army, which was still at the Star Cluster level, to defend against all these ill intentions.

Among the three Universal Civilizations, the Crimson Dynasty was the most ideal ally to Han Xiao. He would be able to gain early access to the Flickering World and also foil Klent’s plan to obtain victory in the secret war.

Those were all important factors affecting his benefits.

Of course, there was another reason beside this.

Han Xiao had been part of the Crimson Dynasty faction in his previous life, so he had more information regarding the storyline and chance encounters in the Crimson Dynasty. Among the three Universal Civilizations, he admired the Crimson Dynasty the most.

The history of the three Universal Civilizations could be traced back to the origin era, which was before the exploration era, and these three civilizations were not born during the same period. The Federation of Light was the oldest, followed by the Arcane Church, and then the Crimson Dynasty. The time period of their uprising was separated by a few thousand years.

The origin era was the most chaotic era and lacked historical records. At that time, there was not a single powerful civilization to unite the galaxy, and the different Star Fields were not connected to each other. All the civilizations were alone and explored the dark universe on their own.

At that time, the three Universal Civilizations had not reached their current heights, and there were other civilizations in their Star Field that exceeded them in terms of strength. After many years of development, they finally eliminated all their opponents in their various Star Fields and obtained the rights to rule over a Star Field. They then began to explore the desolate universe belts.

The Central Galaxy where the three Universal Civilizations were located was the starting point of these three civilizations, and they were all neighbors of one another. They naturally discovered each other’s

presence and wanted to get rid of each other. As such, war broke out between the three Universal Civilizations, and this became a turning point between the origin era and exploration era. The three Universal Civilizations then worked together to start a new era.

During the exploration era, the three Universal Civilizations fought each other while exploring the outside world. With the Central Galaxy as the core, the flames of war spread toward the outside with more and more Star Fields being discovered. During the process of exploring these new Star Fields, more and more civilizations were forced to join the battle, and the war became extremely ferocious. Many civilizations were destroyed because of this war.

The war that spread throughout the entire galaxy was extremely miserable. In fact, a few desolate universe belts in the present galaxy were originally Star Fields. They were Star Fields that had been reduced to a desolate universe belt because of the flames of war.

Back then, the three Universal Civilizations did not have their current strength, and there were a few powerful civilizations at the same level as them. The Evolutionary Civilization was one of them. If these civilizations had survived, they would very likely have become Universal Civilizations as well. However, it was a pity that they were wiped out during the wars in the exploration era. Only the Federation of Light, the Arcane Church, and the Crimson Dynasty had managed to survive. They then consolidated their authority and stopped the war to allow themselves to catch their breath.

After many years of peace, the Federation of Light and Arcane Church had begun to display signs of stagnation in their development. Only the Crimson Dynasty did not fall in times of peace and maintained their ambition and development.

Thus, Han Xiao thought highly of the Crimson Dynasty. A civilization full of ambition would always create the opportunity for development. Forming an alliance with the Crimson Dynasty would definitely give him a brighter future.

“Hmm...”

Upon hearing Han Xiao’s response, Zoel did not reply immediately but fell into a deep thought.

He had originally intended to probe Black Star to understand his intentions but never imagined that Black Star would immediately request to join the alliance.

It was not anything new for a Beyond Grade A Super to join a Universal Civilization, but it was definitely a matter out of his authority. Thus, he had to report the matter to his superiors.

Zoel secretly estimated Han Xiao’s value.

Black Star’s strength and potential are undeniable. Since more than ten years ago, he’s leaned toward the dynasty and definitely isn’t an opportunistic individual. Furthermore, the Black Star Army has a sizable influence in the Shattered Star Ring, and it would be advantageous to the exploration of the Flickering World. Furthermore, he still has the Evolution Cube in his hands... Right. I need to have a good talk with him about the Evolution Cube.

The Evolution Cube originally belonged to Psyker and was protected by the Arcane Church. Now that it was in Han Xiao’s hands, it was an important bargaining chip.

Thinking about this, Zoel said, "I need to be clear about something. How are you going to deal with the Evolution Cube?"

A bright smile could be seen on Han Xiao's face.

"This item will naturally be a part of the conditions. We can use a sharing method to deal with the Evolution Cube. The Crimson Dynasty will support me in keeping the Evolution Cube, and you guys can send an unlimited number of individuals to use the Evolution Cube."

This was the cooperation method that Psyker and the Arcane Church had opted for. However, he was not prepared to have an exclusive contract with a Universal Civilization like Psyker.

Psyker used the exclusive contract to get the Arcane Church to give more support to his Star Pupil Holy Race, but Han Xiao did not have a race to bring up. The benefits from sharing the Evolution Cube with other civilizations would be greater.

"Hmm, not bad." Zoel nodded. This was within an acceptable range. "The upper echelons of the dynasty will probably accept this condition. We can help you deal with some obstruction on the outside. Apart from this, do you have any other conditions?"

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Han Xiao's eyes sparkled. This was the time for them to negotiate about benefits.

"I have a few requests," Han Xiao said with a serious expression. "First, I hope that the Crimson Dynasty will provide resources to me and the Black Star Army."

"No problem," Zoel replied without any hesitation. "With the Evolution Cube, we will be willing to provide more resources."

"Second, I hope that the Black Star Army can join the Flickering World exploration squad."

"Haha, I think that the dynasty would have requested that you go even if you didn't mention this matter."

Han Xiao only nodded.

That's right, the Shattered Star Ring is the nearest to the Flickering World, and if the Crimson Dynasty needs a vanguard force, the organizations in the Shattered Star Ring will be their first choice.

The entrance ticket to the Flickering World definitely would not be a problem.

"Third, I hope that the Crimson Dynasty will not speak on behalf of the Klent Kingdom with regards to the secret war."

Zoel frowned upon hearing that.

"This is a decision for the upper echelons and not within my authority. I cannot give you any assurance on that."

This request was not something that he had expected but was still reasonable.

After fighting for so many years, it would not be strange if Black Star wanted to obtain victory. However, Klent was also an ally of the Crimson Dynasty, and this was a question of which party had greater value. Even Zoel could not guarantee what the upper echelons would decide.

“No problem.” Han Xiao waved his hands. “These are my three greatest conditions.”

“Hmm, I will report the matter up.”

Zoel then suddenly said, “Right, I heard about the conflict between you and Heber. Do you need me to mediate on your behalf?”

Since Black Star was about to form an alliance with the Crimson Dynasty, the Tyrant and Black Star could be considered allies as well. Their battle was akin to friendly fire between both parties.

Although the public challenge could not be rescinded, they only needed to announce that Black Star had joined the Crimson Dynasty. At that time, both parties naturally would not fight.

“That isn’t necessary,” Han Xiao rejected.

Zoel thought for a while and came to a realization. He then said with a smile, “You’re right. I was the one who lacked consideration.”

It would not be good for Black Star’s image if the Crimson Dynasty came out to resolve the conflict between the two. The outside world would think that Black Star had chosen to join the Crimson Dynasty because he could not escape the Tyrant.

“If you don’t have anything else to add on, I will report your conditions to my superiors.”

“Right.” Han Xiao suddenly thought about something, “I have a small request. I hope to obtain some Mechanic Cutting-Edge Knowledge within twenty days.”

The Crimson Dynasty naturally had the entire set of class knowledge, and Cutting-Edge Knowledge was not that precious to them. Perhaps he would be able to activate the skills of the Emperor Mechanic before the battle.

With Han Xiao’s current construction speed, twenty days was enough for him to build a large number of machines with his new knowledge.

Zoel nodded. If it was Ultimate Knowledge, the upper echelons might still need to consider the matter, but Cutting-Edge Knowledge was nothing to them. After all, the other party was a Beyond Grade A Super who was about to join their alliance. This could be considered basic treatment.

“Alright, await my reply.”

This was only their initial negotiation, and the exact outcome would be determined by the upper echelons of the Crimson Dynasty.

...

At the same time, in some region of the Shattered Star Ring, Psyker was rushing toward the Colton Star Cluster.

“Since the Dragon Emperor has decided to intervene, it seems like this matter won’t go so smoothly...”

Psyker was not in a good mood.

Heber insisted on fighting Black Star alone and refused to join hands with him. Thus, Psyker could only issue a separate challenge to Han Xiao. However, Psyker had also found a good opportunity from this.

Since Black Star was maintaining the Evolution Cube in its portable form, Black Star would definitely take the Evolution Cube around with him. During the day of the battle, Black Star would reveal some flaws when fighting Heber. At that time, he would have an opportunity to snatch the item back from Black Star.

At that time, it would be useless for the Tyrant to reject him. As long as the Tyrant and Black Star began their battle, he would be able to join the battle anytime, and no one would be able to stop him.

He would not have to clash head on with Black Star if he wanted to seize such an opportunity, and the odds of his success were pretty high. Psyker’s final objective was the Evolution Cube, not dealing with Black Star. He was not bothered about the views of others. For the development of his race, losing a bit of reputation was nothing.

Originally, this plan of his could not have gone wrong. Black Star was due to be fighting alone, and while his focus was on the Tyrant, he would definitely not be able to deal with another Beyond Grade A Super.

However, Ames’ interference had foiled his plans.

Since Black Star had an ally, Ames would definitely stop him if he wanted to launch an attack. It would then be impossible for him to snatch the Evolution Cube from Black Star using such a method.

Unless... someone could restrain Ames.

The best candidate was Austin, but that darn old man only wanted to watch the show by the side and refused to help.

Thus, he could only look for other helpers.

Thankfully, he had a powerful ally.

“It seems like I can only seek help from the army that the Arcane Church stationed in the Shattered Star Ring. They should be willing to take action if it is to restrain a Beyond Grade A Super...”

Psyker’s eyes lit up brightly like a lightbulb.

Chapter 773 Star Field Trend

After the time and location of Black Star and Tyrant’s challenge was announced to the outside world, a huge storm was ignited throughout the Shattered Star Ring.

All of a sudden, spaceships that numbered in the billions flew toward the Colton Star Cluster, where the battle was going to happen.

Regardless of whether they were free galactic residents or from large organizations, none of them were willing to miss out on this rare event in the Star Field. They all rushed to the battlefield to witness the battle for themselves.

As the party involved in the battle, Bloodshed Land led their troops to the desolate universe belt near the border of West Wind and demarcated the battlefield. Purple Crystal resolutely decided to support Han Xiao and led the Section Zero troops to the battlefield as well.

The Black Star Army did not remain idle either, and under the orders of the various officers, numerous armed satellite fortresses rushed over from various Star Systems to support their Army Commander.

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Bloodshed Land and Section Zero began a standoff with each other, and the gap between them formed the demarcated battlefield.

There were numerous spaceships piloted by the galactic residents who went to join in the fun from all around the Star Field. Numerous spaceships of different models were packed tightly and formed a huge ocean of spaceships that one could not see the end of.

Looking at the ocean of spaceships, a nebula seemed to have been formed from the lights of the spaceship.

It was an extremely majestic sight!

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Furthermore, there were more spaceships arriving every day, and the size of the audience was growing by the second.

The different galactic media groups had also arrived at the destination of the battle and adjusted their broadcasting equipment.

It was still too early for the battle, and all the Beyond Grade A Supers had yet to arrive. However, a huge crowd had already formed, and many were already excitedly anticipating the arrival of the battle.

This was not just a clash between Beyond Grade A Supers but also a once in a lifetime event for the Shattered Star Ring.

Beyond Grade A Supers had an exalted status in the hearts of the galactic residents, and they were like superstars that every family knew about. Everyone wanted to personally witness their strength.

The twenty days of preparation time allowed the commotion of this event to be blown up even greater with over sixty percent of the galactic citizens discussing the event.

As the battle drew nearer, the anticipation of the galactic residents also grew greater.

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The various betting groups in the galaxy would not let go of this huge business opportunity, and they all sprang into action.

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Very quickly, the betting ring for the Tyrant and Black Star's battle was opened up, and a huge number of bets were made.

The various betting groups had a different payout rate, but Heber's payout was generally lower than Han Xiao's. This proved that the majority had more confidence in the Tyrant.

Although both were Beyond Grade A Supers, Han Xiao was a newbie after all and only had a single battle record with another Beyond Grade A Super. However, the Tyrant was different. He was an old powerhouse with a long history.

As a Beyond Grade A Super who had only been around for a month, Han Xiao's status in the Shattered Star Ring was naturally not as high as the Tyrant's.

Most of the mercenaries were gamblers, and although their boss was the one fighting, the warriors of the Black Star Army could not help but place their bets as well. Even the officers were not immune to gambling.

Herlous took the most and bet it all on Han Xiao. Most of the officers also placed their bets on Han Xiao but only bet a small amount to show their loyalty and trust.

There were only a few exceptions.

"You placed all your bets on the Tyrant?" Sylvia glared at Reynold with disbelief.

Reynold said with a solemn expression, "According to probability and my calculations, the Tyrant's odds of victory are more than thirty percent higher than His Excellency Black Star."

Sylvia shook her head helplessly. "Don't you believe in our teacher at all?"

"I only believe in science," Reynold said expressionlessly.

Rossellin, who was lazing around by the side, listened to the conversation with interest while drinking some wine.

Rossellin was now the teacher of the Black Star Army and was in charge of building up a culture within the army to increase the sense of belonging of the soldiers.

At this moment, Rossellin smiled and said, "According to what I know, our vice commander also placed his bets on Tyrant. Furthermore, he placed quite a large bet."

"LAGI!" Sylvia flew into a rage and charged out of the door.

She was the Chief Administrative Official and had a great deal of authority in her hands. Although Lagi was the vice commander of the army, Lagi pretty much ignored all the affairs of the army, so Sylvia had the courage to confront Lagi. To think that he had placed his bets on the enemy as the vice commander. This was too outrageous!

Reynold's expression also changed slightly as he heard that.

“Oh no. Lagi also placed his bets on Tyrant. The winning chance of our Army Commander will be increased by ten percent at least.”

Rossellin laughed. “Hey hey hey, I thought you only believed in science.”

“Magic is also a part of science...” Reynold said with resignation.

However, regardless of how he placed his bets, he still hoped that Black Star would win.

...

Because of Black Star and the Tyrant’s battle, the secret war also came to a halt, and the players did not have any battles to fight in.

Even the Main Storyline mission was stopped because of this event. To the players of the Shattered Star Ring, this was the largest event in the three versions.

Black Star was already the leader that all the players had recognized, and his status was elevated further after he entered Beyond Grade A.

Although Han Xiao did not issue any faction missions, all the players located in the various regions followed the forces of the army and arrived at the battlefield to support their Army Commander.

This was not the first time that the Black Star Army had held a collective event, but the number of players participating in this faction event was the highest in history!

The forums were filled with threads regarding the cause and effect of this battle, and one of the threads received huge approval from the other players. The thread said that this battle would be a turning point for the destiny of the Black Star Army.

The Black Star Army was the main faction in the hearts of the Shattered Star Ring players, and Black Star had been the main character NPC ever since Version 2.0. Together with the growth of the faction, the benefits that the players could receive also increased, and almost all their needs in terms of missions, levels, skills, knowledge, equipment, and so on were fulfilled.

A single faction was better than the addition of many different factions in other Star Fields. Thus, the players in the Shattered Star Ring did not need to waste any time farming favorability with the other factions. As such, the Black Star Army was treated like a special existence that only the players in the Shattered Star Ring could enjoy.

Many of the players had tried to analyze the future of the Black Star Army. According to the experience of the players from the other Star Fields, some were worried that the Black Star Army would not continue to exist forever and would suffer from some irreparable damage during the later versions. At that time, all the benefits that they currently experienced would be gone, and they would have to join different factions like the players from the other Star Fields.

Could they really remain in the Black Star Army forever? No one knew.

Such a question had always existed but was not mentioned very often. Most of the players could not be bothered to make such wild guesses, and only the players who enjoyed diving deep into the storylines analyzed the question. Summer Night Flower was one such individual.

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In the intense discussions on the forums, this battle became an important factor to predict what happened in the future. If the Black Star Army could achieve victory, the Black Star Army would soar to greater heights, and their faction would go up to the next level, still appearing in the next version.

But if the outcome of this battle did not go as planned, the feelings that the players had toward the army would also undergo a subtle change.

Bun-Hit-Dog was affected by the topic being discussed on the forums. The Black Star series videos were his most popular series, and he was the one who wished for the successful development of the Black Star Army the most.

“I must gather enough material this time to make an explosive video,” Bun-Hit-Dog swore to himself.

...

In the Aquamarine Federation, Bennett placed down the communicator in his hands, and a look of concern could be seen on his face.

News of the battle between Black Star and the Tyrant had spread throughout the Shattered Star Ring. Now that Planet Aquamarine was connected to the galaxy, everyone was able to view the galactic web, and the events in the galaxy were no longer a secret to those on Planet Aquamarine.

“This is probably the strongest opponent that you have faced, right?” Bennett lamented.

Nero, who was doing his homework, raised his head and asked curiously, “Daddy, what are you talking about?”

Bennett waved his hands, and Nero sat down on Bennett’s thighs obediently.

“Your godfather is being dragged into a dangerous storm. A powerful opponent challenged him, and he chose to accept the challenge...” Bennett briefly described the situation. Nero was still a child, so Bennett skipped many details and only told him that Han Xiao was in danger.

Nero was Han Xiao’s godson, and Bennett was prepared to hand his child over to Han Xiao.

“What should we do?” Nero rubbed his head. “Daddy, will you help godfather?”

Bennett laughed helplessly and said, “Your godfather doesn’t need my help. You will understand all this when you grow up.”

They were too far away in terms of realms, and he did not even have any intention of contacting Han Xiao as he did not want to disturb Han Xiao.

Bennett hugged Nero and looked up at the sky above. He knew that Han Xiao was in some part of the galaxy and prayed for Han Xiao.

“Old friend...”

...

The large fleet that set off from the Black Star Army headquarters met up with Floating Dragon and flew toward West Wind together.

A few days later, Zoel took the initiative to contact Han Xiao to inform him of the Crimson Dynasty's response.

"The dynasty accepts your requests, and I welcome you to our alliance on behalf of the dynasty."

Zoel said these words with an official tone before smiling and adding, "We are now one big family."

Han Xiao clenched his fists and was truly excited.

"May we have a pleasant working experience."

"Don't worry. Our dynasty has plenty of experience in this regard and will always treat a Beyond Grade A Super with sincerity. You can rest assured," Zoel said with a smile.

The three Universal Civilizations were at odds with each other, and every Beyond Grade A Super ally was an important deterrent. Thus, they would not bully their Beyond Grade A Supers for sure.

The moment their alliance was confirmed, the Universal Civilization would treat their allies with the utmost respect in order to keep them.

"The Crimson Dynasty is now taking care of matters regarding the Flickering World and will pass by the Shattered Star Ring along the way," Zoel said. "It shouldn't take too long for the resources from the dynasty to reach your hands. However, we can only work together officially after your battle with the Tyrant comes to an end. During this period, the dynasty will send the contract to me, and we just need to sign it when the time comes."

Although a contract was not very restrictive to a Beyond Grade A Super, this was a way for the government to officially confirm their alliance, and it had a political meaning.

Han Xiao nodded upon hearing that.

Joining the Crimson Dynasty was the way for him to achieve greater heights, and the benefits of his decision would slowly begin to show. Currently, he had to deal with the Tyrant first before he had time to deal with the development of the Black Star Army.

"The dynasty also has a request for you. The dynasty hopes that you can make a trip to the Central Galaxy. The upper echelons would like to meet you and introduce you to the other Beyond Grade A allies of the dynasty."

For him to appear in the Central Galaxy with the status of the Crimson Dynasty's ally, this was akin to the Crimson Dynasty showing off to their neighbors their new chip.

He did not have anything against this. Since he was willing to accept the support of the Crimson Dynasty, he naturally had to play his part.

Although this meant that many organizations would label him as part of the Crimson Dynasty and draw the attention of the dynasty's enemies, his own scope of operations was mainly in the Shattered Star Ring, and the other organizations would not casually make trouble for him.

Han Xiao shrugged. "No problem."

"Hmm, there is something else. My intelligence net noticed that the Arcane Church's forces have been mobilized and are moving toward the location of the battle. They may be there to provide backup for Psyker," Zoel said. "I will mobilize the Crimson Dynasty's army to be present on the day of the battle as well. This is what we have agreed upon, and we will help you fend off other powers."

"You guys are also going to watch the battle?" Han Xiao stroked his chin. "Is this alright? Won't people suspect you?"

"Of course not," Zoel said. "After all, the Tyrant is also our ally."

Han Xiao almost burst into laughter upon hearing that.

That's right. The Crimson Dynasty can use Heber as an excuse to mobilize their forces, and no one will suspect them. Not a single person will be able to guess that they are actually there to help me.

The Crimson Dynasty would not intervene in the battle between Han Xiao and the Tyrant. This could be considered an internal battle. Although, the Tyrant was still in the dark regarding this.

However, Psyker was not one of their allies and was a latent threat.

The Arcane Church's goal was naturally the Evolution Cube, and the Crimson Dynasty would not allow anyone to snatch the Evolution Cube.

"One more thing," Zoel added. "Your request for Cutting-Edge Knowledge has been approved. I will send you the data later."

Han Xiao's eyes sparkled.

Compared to the resources that he had yet to receive, this was a much more practical benefit.

There were nine Cutting-Edge Knowledges for the Mechanic class, and he had learned four from Purple Crystal. There were five more that he had not grasped, and he had sent a list to Zoel previously.

"How many Cutting-Edge Knowledges will the dynasty give me?"

"How many? Do you have some misunderstanding about Universal Civilizations?"

Zoel laughed.

"We will give you everything."

Chapter 774 Spending Potential Points Sure Is Comfortable

They are truly a wealthy bunch!

Han Xiao was overjoyed.

A Universal Civilization naturally would not be petty with a Beyond Grade A Super. Apart from Ultimate Knowledge, they would be able to freely give him all the knowledge from basic up to cutting-edge. In his past life, Han Xiao had needed to farm for contribution points in order to obtain new knowledge, but things were completely different now.

The conversation then ended after chatting casually for a while. Not too long later, a file was sent to him.

Looking at the file, joy filled Han Xiao's face.

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Han Xiao had already obtained the Cutting-Edge Knowledge [Controllable Annihilation Weapons] from the Armed Branch, [Abnormal State Energy] from the Energy Branch, and [Advanced Space Application] and [Quantum Network Matrix] from the Control Branch.

The file that Zoel sent over contained the last five Cutting-Edge Knowledges.

Armed Branch: [Cutting-Edge Material Science] and [Ultra-Composite Mechanical Architecture Technology].

Energy Branch: [Beyond Visible Energy Transfer] and [Activation Theory].

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Control Branch: [Spacetime Dimension Exploration].

"The entire set is now complete!" Han Xiao was extremely excited.

He belonged to the Control Branch, and learning a Cutting-Edge Knowledge required four points. However, learning the knowledge of the other two branches required twelve points each.

Han Xiao saved a large amount of Potential Points when he advanced into Beyond Grade A. Although it was not enough to level all the knowledges up to their maximum level, it was enough to level all the knowledge up by one.

It was impossible for players to be so extravagant and in Han Xiao's previous life, the players could only choose one or two Cutting-Edge Knowledge to learn. However, Han Xiao was different.

He had a large sea of experience points to level up his skill and he was able to farm for plenty of Potential Points. Thus, it wasn't impossible for him to learn all the Cutting-Edge Knowledge.

"Heber probably thinks that twenty days is too short. Hehe..."

Han Xiao chuckled in his heart.

Compared to other Mechanics, the interface was his biggest advantage. As long as he paid the relevant Potential Points, he would be able to rapidly learn new knowledge and save a large amount of time. Thus, he was able to achieve rapid growth during the limited time before his battle with the Tyrant.

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Without any hesitation, Han Xiao spent his Potential Points to learn all five Cutting-Edge Knowledges.

Mechanic class Cutting-Edge Knowledge [Spacetime Dimension Exploration] detected. Do you wish to spend 4 Potential Points to learn it?

Learning in progress. Do not cancel.

9%... 24%... 57%...

Success! You have learned [Spacetime Dimension Exploration]!

Mechanic class Cutting-Edge Knowledge [Cutting-Edge Material Science] detected. Do you wish to spend 12 Potential Points to learn it?

Learning in progress. Do not cancel.

Success! You have learned [Cutting-Edge Material Science]!

Mechanic class Cutting-Edge Knowledge...

A large amount of information flowed into his brain, but with Han Xiao's current Intelligence, this load was negligible.

The new knowledge that entered his brain was broken up and reorganized before being stored in his memory palace.

After spending fifty-two Potential Points to learn the five Cutting-Edge Knowledges, the names of these Knowledges lit up on his knowledge tree with an orange light. In the class knowledge tree, Basic Knowledge was white in color, Advanced Knowledge green, High-End Knowledge purple, Cutting-Edge Knowledge orange, and Ultimate Knowledge gold.

Right at this moment, a few notifications popped up on his interface.

Prerequisite requirement fulfilled. Your skill [Quantum Infinite Distance Transmission Channel] has been activated!

Prerequisite requirement fulfilled. Your skill [Secondary Dimension Army] has been activated!

Prerequisite requirement fulfilled. Your skill [Mechanical Force—Emperor's Power] has been activated!

The three Emperor Mechanic skills, which were originally grayed out, had turned green to indicate that they could be used.

The new knowledge that he had acquired fulfilled the prerequisite knowledge for these three skills, and only the final skill, [King's Mentor], had yet to be activated. Not only did this skill need [Activation Theory], it needed a higher level Ultimate Knowledge.

Because [King's Mentor] was a skill to help nurture his strength in the long run, this skill would not be able to help him much for the battle in ten days. Thus, Han Xiao was not too anxious about activating it and planned to find another chance to activate it in the future.

“With the Quantum Infinite Distance Transmission Channel, my mechanical army will be able to engage in long-range battles and enjoy the boost from my Mechanical Force even without my appearance. This means that my mechanical army now has the ability to go on a long-distance mission on their own, and the Secondary Dimension Army skill means that I no longer have to use army boxes. I can receive reinforcements at a much quicker speed and bring around a much larger force with me...”

Han Xiao was extremely satisfied.

The skills of an Emperor Mechanic were extremely powerful, but that was not all he had gained.

Following the changes in his knowledge tree, the new knowledge also brought him new skills.

You have learned [Active Mechanical Force]!

You have learned [Advanced Machinery Construction]!

You have learned [Fine Material Refinement]!

You have learned [Legendary Enhancement]!

You have learned [Machinery Fusion]!

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Han Xiao raised his arms to release Mechanical Force, and the Mechanical Force in his palms experienced a change in color. A light golden color could be seen amid the blue bolts of lightning, and it looked extremely luxurious.

This was the effect of [Active Mechanical Force], which came from the knowledge [Activation Theory]. It is a passive skill that could increase one’s Machinery Affinity by 150% at level one and 280% at the max level.

[Advanced Machinery Construction] was the upgraded form of [Basic Machinery Construction]. It largely increased the speed of construction, and as long as the raw materials were sufficient, raw materials could rapidly be transformed into spare parts before being assembled into machines.

This skill could also increase the effect of [Waste Modification]. Originally, machines could only be recycled for four times, but the upper limit had been increased to eight. The original twenty percent decrease in a machine’s attributes had fallen to ten percent.

[Fine Material Refinement] and [Legendary Enhancement] were the upgraded abilities of a Mechanic’s basic skills. They increased his ability to work with new materials and also strengthened his machinery.

Both [Machinery Fusion] and [King’s Mentor] came from [Activation Theory] and were used to strengthen his soldiers.

They bestowed a mechanical soldier with the ability to swallow other machines and decompose the target to snatch the target's armor and equipment. This was a way for a mechanical soldier to evolve and grow.

The two skills did not overlap. [King's Mentor] increased the energy of a mechanical soldier whereas [Machinery Fusion] improved the hardware of the mechanical soldier. Explaining it simply, [King's Mentor] was used to increase a mechanical soldier's energy whereas [Machinery Fusion] increased a mechanical soldier's body strength and basic stats.

Both skills were complementary and could increase the strength of a mechanical soldier when used together.

These skills are extremely important to increase my strength in this phase, Han Xiao thought to himself.

Using the Evolution Cube resulted in a ten-month experience penalty, and Han Xiao was not planning to waste his extra experience leveling up during this period of time. He was prepared to use it to increase the level of his skills instead of increasing his chances during the battle with the Tyrant.

After looking through his new skills once and raising most of them to the max level, Han Xiao closed the interface.

These new skills should be used on his mechanical army, and his strength would definitely reach a new peak after the next ten or so days.

Han Xiao passed all the miscellaneous tasks over to his officers and remained in the workshop to construct his new machinery. The others knew that he needed to prepare for battle, and even Ames did not disturb his seclusion.

...

The date for the battle soon arrived.

The desolate universe belt outside of West Wind was bustling with activity and had become a sea of spaceships.

After travelling for twenty days, numerous spaceships rushed over from all the different regions, and there seemed to be a never-ending sea of spaceships.

In every Star Field, Star Cluster, Star System, and planet, the number of people watching the live broadcast of the event was many times that of those present.

The battlefield had become the stage for the trillions all over the galaxy.

Not a single Beyond Grade A Super had arrived at this moment, and everyone was waiting excitedly for the main characters to arrive.

Bloodshed Land and Section Zero's fleets were currently in a standoff with each other, and both Klent and Purple Crystal had sent out their official fleet to maintain order. The atmosphere was extremely tense, and the secret war looked as though it was about to erupt and become a war between two civilizations. However, both parties had extremely good self-control and had a tacit agreement to not escalate the conflict.

“There are truly too many people...”

In one of the Star Diamond Grade Flagships, Ralph looked out at the sea of spaceships. Even with his authority and status, he could not help but feel nervous at such a majestic scene.

The number of spectators was probably in the trillions!

“It would be impossible for us to maintain order if chaos breaks out.” Ralph felt his heart thumping.

“When will Black Star arrive?”

“The Black Star Army headquarters just sent a message and said that His Excellency Black Star’s fleet will arrive soon.”

Ralph felt his palms drenched in cold sweat as he tried to imagine what would happen next. He had not brought the Purple Crystal fleet over for fun and was prepared to provide reinforcement for Black Star when needed.

After finally gaining a Beyond Grade A ally, Purple Crystal was not willing to give up on Black Star. If the battle was to Black Star’s disadvantage, Purple Crystal would reinforce him even if it meant an all-out war. Since the secret war was already in a stalemate, Purple Crystal was not afraid of flipping the table. Furthermore, the authority to mobilize the fleet was in the hands of Ralph and a few other military commanders. Thus, Ralph truly had a heavy feeling in his heart.

In the Section Zero camp, the Black Star Army fleet was in the most prominent spot with tens of thousands of spaceships present. The players were present within the Black Star Army fleet, and they looked out at the scene before them.

“The battle is going to begin today...”

Frenzied Sword clenched his fists tightly.

All the players around him had looks of curiosity, anxiety, excitement, agitation, and many other different emotions.

The scale of this gathering was one that they had never witnessed before and the largest event in the three versions of Galaxy. None of the players wanted to miss out on such an event.

In the Bloodshed Land faction, there was also a batch of players present. They were the ‘traitor army’ with Summer Night Flower in the lead.

Summer Night Flower looked at the Black Star Army fleet with a complicated look on his face.

I was once a part of them...

The way Summer Night Flower saw it, the battle between the bosses of Bloodshed Land and the Black Star Army was his final chance to prove himself.

The Mercenary League had sent their forces and occupied a VIP spot.

“How many years has it been since such a majestic event took place in the Shattered Star Ring?”

The bigshots of the Mercenary League were chatting casually, and Gureja could not help but lament. He was the leader of Sky Ring and one of the upper echelons of the Mercenary League.

“The last time Beyond Grade A Supers publicly challenged each other was 276 years ago. It was Austin fighting one of the powerhouses from the previous generation, right?” another Army Commander said.

“More than two hundred years ago. Heh, I was still a small guerrilla captain back then,” Underworld Feather said while chewing on some snacks.

“I bet you definitely didn’t have such a weird fetish two hundred years ago.” Gureja could not help but look at the dry meat in Underworld Feather’s hands.

“What weird fetish? I am a gourmet.” Underworld Feather rolled her eyes.

Gureja shook his head and ignored her. “Since Black Star has already become a Beyond Grade A Super, regardless of the outcome of the battle, I will invite him to become the chief of our Mercenary League. All of us will be able to find more development opportunities if we are under him.”

All the Army Commanders nodded, and no one disagreed.

The Mercenary League could be considered a large organization in the Shattered Star Ring, and the Black Star Army was one of the founders. None of them minded Black Star becoming the nominal leader of their organization as it would bring them a brighter future.

There were many other organizations that Han Xiao had cooperated with before present as well.

Right at that moment, a blue whirlpool-like transportation door suddenly appeared in the middle of the battlefield and expanded rapidly.

“They’re finally here!”

At this moment, the crowd erupted in a huge commotion.

The excitement that everyone had been suppressing was ignited once again!

Chapter 775 The Battle Begins!

Everyone in all the spaceships stopped talking, and their gazes were fixed on the transportation door in the middle of the battlefield.

The wormhole-like transportation door enlarged continuously as though it was limitless. The largest spaceship present currently was the armed satellite fortress of the Black Star Army, but the size of the transportation door had already exceeded that of an armed satellite fortress. The radars of all the spaceships began ringing as they detected a large energy surge.

The next moment, a majestic castle covered in a colorful magical shield floated out from the transportation door. The complicated engravings on the spherical shield looked like exquisite decorations, and they shimmered as though they were breathing.

The treasure of the Hidden Red Robe Abbey, Palace of Hidden Spells!

“Austin is here!”

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“He actually brought his entire base over. He is truly too high profile.”

“Is he here as a spectator or to help one of the parties?”

Although the first Beyond Grade A to arrive was not involved in the battle, the spectators were still extremely excited. Since Austin had made his appearance, this meant that all five Beyond Grade A Supers in the Shattered Star Ring would gather there!

“This fellow is also here to join in the fun?” Ralph was startled and was worried that Austin would spoil his plans.

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The commander of Bloodshed Land, Jorde, also felt nervous.

“I wonder if Austin is an enemy or ally...” Jorde gulped nervously. Psyker was the one who had contacted Austin in private, and thus, Jorde was not clear of Austin’s intentions.

The Palace of Hidden Spells very quickly completed its descent, and the transportation door shrank rapidly before disappearing with a flash of light. Austin’s main camp was a Beyond Grade A Universal Treasure Mage Pagoda, and he had engraved a large number of teleportation formations on the pagoda so that it could engage in long distance travel.

Numerous mages living in the Palace of Hidden Spells walked out of the castle and gathered together on one of the balconies to munch on snacks as they waited for the show to start. Austin then appeared on top of the castle with his Forbidden Sorcerer squad and controlled the Palace of Hidden Spells to find a good spot beside the battlefield.

“Tsk, why am I the first one here? Youngsters these days don’t have any sense of time,” Austin lamented.

He had rejected both parties’ requests to form an alliance and was there to watch the battle. In order to ensure that he could watch the show comfortably, he had even shifted his entire house.

Just when the spectators were discussing Austin’s intentions, a commotion broke out from afar.

A gigantic fleet approached the battlefield, and all the spectators who saw the insignia on the fleet could not help but make a path for them in shock.

The insignia on the outside of the spaceship was one that everyone could recognize. It was the insignia of a Universal Civilization, the Arcane Church!

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The Arcane Church had made an appearance as well!

This was a small portion of the fleet that the Arcane Church stationed in the Shattered Star Ring. The frigate was composed of a special Arcane Church model, which had a thin disc-like shape with the entire body covered in black and dark purple. Three gigantic empty holes could be seen on the body of the

spaceship in a triangular formation with a dark-red energy ball floating in the middle of the holes. It served both as an energy furnace and annihilation weapon.

The flagship was of the butterfly model with a ball in the center and a few hundred butterfly wings connected on both sides. These wings were currently in their closed form and looked like a single pair of wings. Although the spaceship was made from metal, it was made from a special alloy and had a soft, silky texture. When the flagship entered battle, all the butterfly wings would open and slide along the surface of the ball in the middle to form a sun-like shape.

The Arcane Church fleet entered the battlefield without any obstruction, and a spaceship flew out from within the fleet. When the hatch of the spaceship opened, Psyker flew out from the spaceship. He was the second Beyond Grade A to arrive.

His body floated in front of the Arcane Church fleet, and his gaze was fixed on the Purple Crystal and Section Zero fleet far away. Despite being a tiny ant compared to the gigantic fleet, the attention of all the spectators was gathered on him.

Everyone took a deep breath.

“Psyker has arrived!”

“The Arcane Church has actually sent a fleet with him. Is this the attitude of a Universal Civilization?”

It was no secret that the Arcane Church was behind the Star Pupil Holy Race, but the Universal Civilizations had not displayed an official stance with regards to this matter yet. For them to appear at this moment, it meant that they were about to interfere in the battle. This was something that all those present did not expect.

Regardless of whether they were the spectators present or those watching the live broadcast, everyone was shocked.

They originally thought that this battle was only a conflict between Beyond Grade A Supers. However, the appearance of a Universal Civilization meant that the situation had become a lot more complex.

“Things aren’t looking good. The Arcane Church is here to help Psyker!” Ralph immediately felt as though a huge enemy had descended.

The fleet sent by the Arcane Church was extremely powerful and was comparable to the fleet of both Purple Crystal and Section Zero. Furthermore, how would Purple Crystal and Section Zero dare fight a Universal Civilization?

On the other side, Jorde became wary.

Because the Star Pupil Holy Race was too far away from the battlefield and could not send a fleet to support Psyker, everyone had thought that Psyker would come alone. However, the appearance of the Arcane Church meant that Psyker was the one with the most powerful backing out of everyone who is present. The special position of a Universal Civilization made all the organizations present tremble slightly.

However, before everyone could accept the changes before their eyes, another fleet descended.

Upon seeing the incoming fleet, everyone present was dumbfounded!

The Crimson Dynasty!

Yet another Universal Civilization?

The technological skills of the Crimson Dynasty were obviously extremely different from those of the Arcane Church. The spaceships of the Arcane Church had a mystical and magical style while the spaceships of the Crimson Dynasty had a heavy industry style. The spaceship had a solid metal beauty and emanated a tyrannical pressure even from afar.

The Crimson Dynasty squeezed into the battlefield and stopped beside Klent, entering the face off with the Purple Crystal fleet as well. They looked as though they were there to support Tyrant.

Ten days prior, Zoel had agreed to Klent's request for them to send a fleet to support the Tyrant. Upon seeing their backing arrive, Jorde immediately became relaxed, and he looked at the Black Star Army camp with a sneer.

Do you see that little brother? Do you have any backing?

We have two on our side!

On the Star Diamond Grade Flagship, Ralph's face was completely pale, and he felt his legs turn to jelly.

He had never expected that things would turn out as such. The situation was not just bad at this moment. It was hopeless!

If both parties broke out in a conflict later, they would not be able to hold their own against two Universal Civilizations.

Right at that moment, all the spectators finally snapped out of their stupor.

"Both the Crimson Dynasty and Arcane Church have arrived!"

"Two Universal Civilizations are standing against Black Star?"

"Black Star only has Purple Crystal behind him, and his situation truly looks pathetic..."

"A new Beyond Grade A Super actually has to face such a situation, huh? I think his luck just ran out."

In the eyes of the spectators, both Universal Civilizations were going against Black Star together. The alliance of the Tyrant and Star Pupil was far too powerful, and Black Star was definitely on the losing side.

At the thought of Black Star's predicament, cold sweat slid down the spectators' backs. At the same time, the bets placed on the Tyrant rapidly surged up like mad. The various betting rings only planned to stop accepting bets after the arrival of Black Star and Heber but were forced to immediately stop accepting bets.

All the players in the Black Star Army camp could not help but feel anxious. This was the first time that they witnessed the peak characters of the universe, but they were all enemies of their faction.

"It seems like our Army Commander is in trouble..." Maple Moon clenched her fists tightly.

Frenzied Sword also could not help but worry, and his fists were clenched tightly as well.

Although the Black Star Army was the main camp in the hearts of the players, the brainwashing of the three versions had made all the players believe that the Universal Civilizations that had existed for a long time were the true tyrants of the galaxy. Originally, there were plenty of players who were optimistic about the battle, but the changes in the situation made it such that the players could not even force out a smile.

Many individuals could not help but be shaken. The next few versions would definitely revolve around the Universal Civilizations, but their Black Star Army had become an enemy of the Universal Civilizations. This was not a good sign at all...

On the contrary, Summer Night Flower was overjoyed.

The reason behind his inclination to the Bloodshed Land was because the Bloodshed Land would give them a path to join the Universal Civilizations. On the other hand, the Black Star Army only had the Purple Crystal Civilization above them. The appearance of the Crimson Dynasty was like an injection of confidence, and Summer Night Flower began to regain confidence in his belief.

“Do you see that? This is what I meant by a limited faction growth,” Summer Night Flower said with a face full of smiles. “I have emphasized this point since the start; we cannot be dazzled by the short term benefits placed before our eyes like the players of the Black Star Army. We should look far into the future and make the right choice instead.”

At the same time, many of the officers in the Black Star Army flagship had bitter looks on their faces.

Lagi then said with a sigh, “It seems like I will die here today...”

The other officers would usually tease Lagi about his pessimism, but no one replied that day.

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Even they could not help but feel pessimistic.

They had not forgotten that their Army Commander had to face two different challenges!

Even if he could hold his own against the Tyrant, there was still a Psyker who wanted to force Black Star to give up the Evolution Cube. No matter what, they felt that it was better for Han Xiao to give in and take the initiative to hand over the Evolution Cube. There were two Universal Civilizations eyeing up the Evolution Cube, and their strength just could not hold a candle to Universal Civilizations.

They truly could not understand how their army could keep the Evolution Cube.

One of the Calamity Grade officers could not help but say, “Well, if he chooses to behave stubbornly...”

“Shut up!” Sylvia glared at him hatefully, “Our job is to obey the orders of our commander. What do you want to say?”

Everyone could not help but look at each other helplessly.

“Hopefully Black Star doesn’t lose his rationality...”

Right at this moment, a Bloodshed Land spaceship flew over from afar and came to the center of the battlefield. Heber had finally arrived.

He was equipped with a set of heavy armor and floated in the middle of the battlefield like a small mountain. All the spaceship's radars began to ring after detecting his frightening energy.

Heber then turned around to glare at Psyker, warning Psyker not to interfere with his plans.

Psyker retreated a distance expressionlessly.

"The Tyrant is here as well. Only Black Star and the Dragon Emperor are left."

"Eh, they're here."

All the spectators turned around to look, only to see a Black Star fleet arriving together with the Floating Dragon Island. Because the Floating Dragon Island could not travel at a high speed, Han Xiao and Ames were the last two to reach the battlefield.

The surrounding spaceships made a path for the humongous Floating Dragon to enter the battlefield.

"Everyone is finally here!"

The spectators' excitement had reached the peak.

Ames floated up into the air, and Han Xiao also flew out from his spaceship, looking at Heber and Psyker from afar.

Han Xiao had filled the empty Mechanic slot, and the five Beyond Grade A Supers of the Shattered Star Ring were different classes. The spectators could not help but feel as though a ceremony was going on, and they were all witnessing this once in a lifetime ceremony.

Han Xiao turned around to look at Ames, and both of them nodded to each other. He then glanced at the huge crowd, and his face could not help but contort.

"Aren't they afraid that I may accidentally kill a few lucky audience members?"

Han Xiao then looked at the Palace of Hidden Spells and shook his head helplessly. Finally, his gaze landed on Heber.

After sizing Heber up for a while, Han Xiao connected to the Tyrant's communication device, and his voice sounded in Heber's armor.

"I am here, Little Ty-Ty. How do you want to fight?"

"... What did you call me?" Heber was stunned for a moment.

"Heh, I will call you whatever I like." Han Xiao chuckled.

Heber could not be bothered to reply and said, "Black Star, I've thought highly of you since over ten years ago. This proves that my foresight wasn't wrong. It is a pity that you rejected my invitation and made the wrong decision. I gave you a chance before, but you didn't know how to treasure it."

Han Xiao curled his lips and said, “Don’t talk about such useless things. Don’t you want to make use of me to establish your prestige?”

“That’s right.” Heber did not bother hiding anything. “You are only alive today because you didn’t have any value for me to uproot before, and you really didn’t disappoint me. I let you keep your life until today so that I can use your fresh blood to paint my throne.”

At the Beyond Grade A level, one was only able to gain fame by killing another Beyond Grade A Super, and this had always been the Tyrant’s goal. In his eyes, as long as he could increase his prestige, more and more talents would come under him.

However, the other three Beyond Grade A Supers were not easy to deal with, and he did not have a reason to take action. Even Ames, who had her abilities countered by him, had impressive lifesaving abilities. Thus, he had decided to rear up a Beyond Grade A enemy and get rid of the fellow before he could grow up fully.

Han Xiao was the target whom he had chosen.

Upon hearing those words, Han Xiao couldn’t help but shake his head.

Since you like rearing pigs so much, you’d better be careful not to get squashed by the pig.

Right at this moment, Han Xiao’s interface lit up.

You have triggered S ranked mission [‘Tyrant’ Heber]!

Mission Introduction: A Beyond Grade A Super stands at the peak of the galaxy, and Heber is one of them. Are you sure you want to battle him?

Mission Requirements: Last for as long as possible under Heber’s attacks. (Battle method isn’t restricted. You can only leave battle mode for 30 mins at most. There are no restrictions to the number of times you can leave battle mode.)

Reward: You will be able to attain the corresponding reward by fulfilling the corresponding requirements. (Only 1% of the time out of battle mode will be counted toward the mission.)

Last for 10s: 100,000,000 Experience

Last for 30s: 230,000,000 Experience

Last for 1 min: 450,000,000 Experience

Last for 2 mins: 700,000,000 Experience

Last for 3 mins: 900,000,000 Experience, +1 Legendary Point

...

Last for 7.5 mins: [Character Summon Card – ‘Tyrant’ Heber], 3,000,000,000 Experience

...

Last for 20 mins: The opportunity to draw one of the Tyrant's abilities or talents, 8,500,000,000 Experience, +1 Legendary Point

"To think that it is actually such a mission." Han Xiao's eyes sparkled.

A Beyond Grade A Super was a true boss and an unscalable mountain. Even if the players had his current level, they would not be able to defeat a Beyond Grade A Super with a body full of Molding Talents. The only difference was the amount of time they could last. In his previous life, there were some players who had challenged Beyond Grade A Supers, and a portion of them triggered special S rank missions like this one. It had given them rewards based on the amount of time they could survive.

In his previous life, it was incredibly difficult for most of the players to last even a minute. The only method they had was to leave combat mode and escape to the best of their abilities. Because only one percent of the time was calculated, this meant that only eighteen seconds would be counted toward the mission at the very most. If the players wanted to earn the reward for lasting twenty minutes, they would have to leave combat mode more than sixty times at least. Furthermore, they had to ensure that the Beyond Grade A Super would not catch up to them for thirty mins. This meant that they needed to escape from the Beyond Grade A Super for more than thirty hours. It was a mission that was almost impossible to complete.

Han Xiao had challenged a Beyond Grade A Super before, and his best record was only a few minutes.

However, the interface's judgement of a mission rating was on the basis of the player's strength, and Han Xiao was an exception.

He did not need to leave combat mode and could choose to fight head on!

With his endurance, twenty mins would only be a warm up!

Han Xiao let out a deep breath, and his bluish-gold Mechanical Force burst forth.

Behind him, a large mechanical army appeared, forming an endless wave of black!

Emperor Mechanic! Secondary Dimension Army!

Upon seeing that, Heber cracked his neck, and his body exploded with a ball of fire.

The next moment, the mechanical army welcomed a shooting-star-like figure.

Chapter 776 The Battle

In the past ten days or so, Han Xiao's mechanical army had gained millions of members, and the enhancements of all the models were completed. The enormous army stood before Heber, firing at him with all kinds of ranged weapons.

The psionic particle cannons' dark energy annihilation beams formed a bright rain of light.

The Pugilist flames all around Heber's body expanded into a huge golden light sphere thousands of meters wide, forming his protective energy layer. His tiny mountain-sized body charged forward, carrying a long tail of flames behind, and headed right into the wave of machinery like a meteor.

The storm of attacks crashed onto Heber's protective shield, leaving clusters of explosions on the path behind him.

Facing the focus fire head-on, Heber dashed right into the formation of the mechanical army, penetrating the defenses of the mechanical soldiers layer after layer, heading right toward Han Xiao.

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He decided to use his strength against the enemy's weakness—to quickly defeat Han Xiao in close-range combat!

“Horribly tanky, as expected for a Beyond Grade A Pugilist...”

Han Xiao glanced at the combat information and raised his brows.

Heber's level, attributes, and health were all question marks. The interface showed that many of Heber's Molding Abilities were triggered. There were [Low Damage Immunity], [True Damage Immunity], [Fixed Damage Reduction], and many other damage reduction abilities. These abilities and his Beyond Grade A Pugilist energy shield reduced the strength of Han Xiao's attacks tremendously!

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Heber was immune to True Damage as well as any damage that did not exceed a certain level, and only the portion that exceeded that level would be calculated. If the damage immunity limit was 100 and the raw damage was 110, Heber would only take 10 damage. A part of that 10 damage would then be reduced by his protective energy shield, and the remainder would be reduced once again by his resistance talents...

The damage would only count for Heber after so many layers of reductions!

The most terrifying thing was, Heber's recovery ability was pretty good, too. Although not as powerful as Han Xiao's, it still gave him a lot of sustainability.

This was the true Beyond Grade A Tank!

Han Xiao's eyes focused. He had known long ago that this would be a tough battle.

Hadavy had True Damage Immunity and Low Damage Immunity as well, but as he was an Esper, his attack was not very high. In comparison, Heber was clearly more comprehensive as a Beyond Grade A Pugilist that excelled in both attack and defense.

Hence, Han Xiao had no interest in fighting a Beyond Grade A Pugilist with his body. Even though he was quite tanky, the difference in a Beyond Grade A's main attribute and sub-attribute was way too huge; fighting Heber in close range combat was basically looking for a beating.

Seeing that Heber was heading right toward him, he immediately knew that Heber wanted to end this quickly. His lips curled up.

Although this was the right strategy for a Pugilist to use against a Mechanic, this also meant that the Tyrant was very confident in his offense and clearly ignored his 'Indestructible Body' nickname.

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“You think it’d be this easy?” Han Xiao snorted. He casually threw a Luck Curse on Heber. Doesn’t matter if it works, use it first.

Different strategies had to be used against different opponents. Han Xiao quickly changed his strategy into moving around with his speed and surrounded Heber with his mechanical army.

The mechanical army was more powerful after receiving Beyond Grade A bonuses. With the bonuses that he currently provided with his Machinery Affinity, just a few thousand normal mechanical soldiers would be able to fight a normal Calamity Grade. Furthermore, he had the sustainability given by [Advanced Machinery Construction], so he was not afraid of the battle dragging on.

Most importantly, a huge portion of his mechanical soldiers could penetrate Heber’s defenses. Despite the damage dealt being reduced tremendously, given the sheer size of his army, they were able to deal rather considerable damage to even Heber. This was indeed the strength of the Army Style against any class—the Human Wave Tactic would always be a threat.

Han Xiao knew that there were no shortcuts against an opponent like the Tyrant, the only thing he could do was slowly reduce his health.

The energy of the mechanical suit flowed into the thrusters. Han Xiao turned into a stream of light and moved swiftly through the battlefield. The wide battlefield gave him more than enough space to distance himself.

Energy flames erupted with Heber’s every movement, like a Fixed Star exploding, shattering tons of mechanical soldiers. However, the shattered machinery quickly reformed under Han Xiao’s Mechanical Force and kept intercepting Heber in changing formations.

As a Beyond Grade A, Han Xiao had all kinds of devices that gave him mobility. His speed was higher. Although Heber was not slow, he was much bulkier comparatively, so he could not close the distance.

Heber broke a Giant Soldier into pieces and frowned. The battle will drag for too long this way.

There had been no Beyond Grade A Mechanic in the Shattered Star Ring for many years, so Heber did not have much experience fighting a Mechanic of the same grade, but he knew that the source of a Mechanic’s strength came from their knowledge and time.

It had been less than two months since Black Star became a Beyond Grade A, so he had extremely limited time to learn knowledge and did not have enough chances to expand his machinery. This was the time when he would be the easiest to deal with.

Therefore, what Heber wanted was an overwhelmingly one-sided victory, not a protracted battle.

I have to use more energy... Heber took a deep breath, not of air but the dark energy that was everywhere in the universe. Every single one of his cells absorbed the dark energy like a bottomless hole and quickly split open.

The next second, his mountain-sized body expanded, instantly destroying his armor and turning into a tall giant dozens of meters tall. He had entered the second stage directly.

He was a unique Beyond Grade A species. Furthermore, Pugilists Beyond Grade As basically all had one specialty—their Gene Limiter was removed.

In other words, his body strength 'theoretically' had no limits!

Heber extended his palm, aimed at Han Xiao far away, and shook his head.

"You're talented indeed. If you had enough time, you might've become someone like Manison in the future... Pity."

The next moment, everyone's vision was filled with white light.

A blinding light sprayed out from Heber's palm. This Shockwave Blast was extremely fast, and it was not just shot out but could be controlled remotely by Heber.

Han Xiao dodged dozens of times but was still hit by the beam. His entire body showered in the red-gold Pugilist flames.

However, this Shockwave Blast did not explode like expected but solidified into energy like a long tentacle, grabbing Han Xiao.

Judging Energy Level... Judgment failed.

Your Energy Level is lower than the opponent's.

You have entered [Energy Locked] state. You can no longer use energy.

Han Xiao was shocked. The Pugilist flames around him formed a restricting force, making the Mechanical Force in his body entirely quiet and trapped in his cells. His link to his mechanical army was cut.

He tried to break away from the Pugilist flames but was faced with terrifying resistance. His body movements were extremely slow. It was almost as if he was fixed in the beam of light.

"This is..."

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Han Xiao's pupils constricted.

"Come here!" Heber quickly pulled with his hand. The red and gold light beam shrank and pulled Han Xiao toward him at a high speed.

Energy was the extension of the body for Pugilists. In terms of the strength of energy, Pugilists were the master among the five Super classes.

To Pugilists, the so-called abilities were just different techniques. There were trillions of Pugilist styles in the universe and countless abilities.

This ability was the compression of Pugilist energy, forming a special force field when hitting the target, suppressing the target's energy with his own energy. It was like deploying a barrier around the target, forcing the target's energy in his body.

This could only be avoided if the target's Energy Level was higher or equal to Heber's. Heber was a senior Beyond Grade A Super who had lived for many years; he knew many energy training techniques, and his Energy Level was unfathomable.

The mechanical army focused fire on Heber under the control of the artificial intelligence. However, without Han Xiao's Mechanical Force enhancements, they could not even penetrate Heber's defenses.

Han Xiao's brain worked quickly.

I need to think of a simple method to get out of this. Heber will definitely use this more than once. The cooldown of Void Hyperdrive is too long. It will work once but not twice...

Suddenly, he had a flash of insight. He activated the talent that he had not used for a very long time— [Chaos Entity – Release]!

He turned into a cluster of gray fog and became a Chaos Body, then immediately followed it up with Void Hyperdrive, getting out of the red-gold light beam before returning to human form.

Void Race's talent... Heber had read Han Xiao's information before and was not surprised.

The intelligence showed that Black Star's Void Travel could not be used for a few minutes. As he had used it now, it meant that he had lost one trump card.

However, what the intelligence did not know was that if Han Xiao used Void Hyperdrive type talents as a Chaos Body, the cooldown would be reduced to just more than ten seconds!

This was the talent of Chaos Observer. Back then, he had not been as famous as he was now, and he rarely showed this ability to anyone!

Han Xiao reconnected with the mechanical army and breathed a sigh of relief in his mind.

Initially, he wanted to fight the Tyrant with his own strength. Now, however, he realized that there was indeed some distance between himself and Heber. Given how tanky he was, his life would not be in danger, but the situation would definitely be bad for him.

Since this battle was witnessed by countless people, Han Xiao did not want to just have the lower hand throughout the entire fight.

I wanted to save this, but apparently, I won't be able to...

Han Xiao licked his lips. He opened the interface and activated an item.

Character Summon Card—Reynold!

Perfect Mechanical Sense!

Han Xiao's eyes widened instantly; his pupils were filled with lightning.

The Mechanical Force flowing inside the mechanical soldiers became blinding. Blue and gold light overflowed from the gaps of the machinery.

At this instant, Han Xiao's Machinery Affinity rocketed. The 1.4 times increase made his mechanical army immensely stronger!

Heber's movements paused for a second, and he looked confused.

It feels a little different.

...

"This is the power of a Beyond Grade A. Amazing..."

The audience stared at the two of them in shock. Many people only had an idea of what Beyond Grade As were, but never had they witnessed any battles between Beyond Grade As. They were all dazzled.

"His Excellency Tyrant is marvelous during battle." Jorde's face was filled with excitement.

Most of the Pugilist officers of the Bloodshed Land had personal admiration for the Tyrant. Seeing the Tyrant showcase his strength, the people of the Bloodshed Land were exhilarated.

On the other hand, the Purple Crystal Civilization and the ally organizations of Han Xiao were all nervous.

Ames did not interfere with their duel. As long as Han Xiao did not say anything, she had no need to fight the Tyrant.

Ames was not closely staring at Psyker. Han Xiao had told her that as soon as Psyker did anything, it was best to stop him instantly.

Psyker glanced at Ames then looked at the battlefield again, narrowing his eyes.

Black Star is stronger than when he fought me, but he's still no match for Heber. The Tyrant getting the upper hand is certain...

Psyker shook his head in his mind. The current situation was within his expectations. He had a very clear idea of how strong the Tyrant was. Black Star being able to fight him evenly did not mean that he could do the same against the Tyrant.

Psyker was not afraid of Heber because psychic attacks happened to be the Tyrant's weakness, just like how he feared the Tyrant's raw strength. Hence, they minded their own business and never messed with each other. However, Black Star could not make use of the Tyrant's weakness like he could, and the Tyrant's raw strength was clearly stronger than a new Beyond Grade A's.

If it was an ordinary new Beyond Grade A, the Tyrant might really kill him. However, having fought Black Star before, Psyker currently had the most knowledge of Black Star's strength, but he did not share this with Heber.

Black Star also has a very tough physical body even among Beyond Grade As, not much worse than Heber's. He should be able to last a very long time. They're still not going all out. When they're more worn out, only then it will be the time for me to make a move...

Thinking of that, Psyker glanced at the Arcane Church flagship behind him.

He knew that in the command room of the flagship, the commander of the fleet was waiting for his signal.

At this time, a meteor-like shadow flashed past the edge of his vision right into the Bloodshed Land's formation not far away, shattering a few spaceships.

Psyker turned and looked over, soon becoming shocked.

The one that was blown away was the Tyrant?

Psyker was a little stunned. As he quickly turned around and looked at Han Xiao, the look in his eyes gradually changed.

It seems I still underestimated you...

Chapter 777 Sudden

The energy Han Xiao was giving off had become much stronger. The power of the mechanical army had increased instantly. Not expecting this, Heber had been blown away by the countless particle cannon attacks.

Heber's continuously growing momentum was broken, which shocked countless spectators.

"Black Star hid such power..." The look in Psyker's eyes slightly changed.

The energy that Han Xiao was giving off surprised him. He was certain that Black Star had not been this strong when he fought him more than a month ago.

Is this his trump card?

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Ames could not help but glance at Han Xiao. A tint of shock flashed through her eyes.

Seeing their own boss penetrating their formation, Jorde's expression changed for the worse. The excitement of the Bloodshed Land officers was instantly extinguished.

Although Heber had merely taken a small hit, the Bloodshed Land officers had initially thought that the Tyrant would have the complete upper hand as the opponent was just a new Beyond Grade A Super. The current turn of events shocked them.

The mechanical army chased after Heber. By this time, Heber had already stabilized himself. His face was grave. Having been taken by surprise, he was a little angry.

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His fist charged forward, shooting a thick Pugilist impact wave toward the mechanical army.

The mechanical soldiers responsible for defenses moved from the back to the front, forming an enormous psionic protective shield in front of the army.

The Star Shaking Fist crashed onto the shield. The blinding red and gold light quickly expanded, exploding like a supernova, filling everyone's vision with white light.

As the mechanical army was stopped by the Star Shaking Fist, Heber took the opportunity and dashed out. He made a turn and pulled the battlefield away from the Bloodshed Land's forces. Han Xiao followed right behind and chased him with his mechanical army.

With the enhancements of Perfect Mechanical Sense, the mechanical army was tremendously stronger be it in terms of offense or defense. The millions of mechanical soldiers surrounded a single person, the light of psionic energy flashing nonstop within the battlefield.

Suddenly, Heber slowed down. He endured the focus fire and explosions with his body and launched another [Energy Lock] Shockwave Blast toward Han Xiao.

However, this time, Han Xiao had experience. He quickly escaped from it with his Chaos Body and Void Hyperdrive. Heber was astounded—he had thought that Han Xiao's Void Hyperdrive was still in cooldown.

"The same ability won't work again on me."

Having realized that he had judged it wrong, Heber frowned. Now that this ability no longer worked on Han Xiao, he had no choice but to patiently deal with the mechanical army while thinking of another way.

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With every punch, kick, and Shockwave Blast, tons of mechanical soldiers were heavily damaged or even instantly destroyed.

Heber, however, was not unharmed. Wounds gradually started to appear on his mountain-sized body.

With his energy increasing his cell vitality, the old wounds kept recovering, but new wounds kept appearing as well. The mechanical soldiers that he had destroyed were repaired time after time by Han Xiao's [Waste Modification] and [Advanced Machinery Construction].

Feeling the flowing Mechanical Force in his body, Han Xiao was thrilled. Perfect Mechanical Sense is really a god-like ability...

The 1.4 times total Machinery Affinity multiplier was a powerful Molding Talent. The damage the mechanical army dealt to Heber was clearly on another level. More than half of the raw strength difference between him and the Tyrant was mitigated by Perfect Mechanical Sense.

Sadly, this Molding Talent came from Reynold's Character Summon Card and was not yet his own. He only had three chances to use it; this was the second.

After fighting for quite some time, Heber's expression gradually became graver.

Initially, he had thought that no matter how talented the new Beyond Grade A was, his combat capability would not be too high. Yet, Han Xiao's current combat capability had shattered this thought directly.

The situation suddenly became even. Heber's plan to quickly end the battle was instantly broken, and he was forced into destroying machinery with his bare hands in a long battle.

Long battles were the strength of Army Style Mechanics. Heber knew full well that the combat had fallen into Black Star's control. If this carried on, it would be bad for him.

What he wanted was to make an example out of Black Star, but if the battle became even, it would be the other way around.

Not only would he fail to build more reputation, he would even lose it and become a stepping stone for Black Star's name. Black Star was a new Beyond Grade A who lacked fundamentals. Being able to fight him, a known senior Beyond Grade A, evenly would definitely be beneficial for Black Star.

Furthermore, he was the one that had demanded this battle. If he turned out to be unable to defeat Black Star, he would definitely be extremely ashamed.

Close combat was the strength of Pugilists. Although Heber also knew ranged abilities such as the Star Shaking Fist, a Beyond Grade A Mechanic like Black Star had way too many ways to block ranged attacks. In order to heavily damage Black Star, the only chance was to get close to him.

Heber's close-range damage output was horrifying. Among all the Beyond Grade As in Galaxy, no one would remain unharmed after a close-range explosive combo of a Beyond Grade A Pugilist, not even Heber himself.

He did indeed have one ability that could instantly get close to Black Star. However, he could only use it every once in a very long time. Black Star had many dodging and fleeing abilities, so he would be able to easily get away from him again if he failed. Heber was rather troubled.

Slippery guy. Heber frowned. The window of opportunity to get close to Black Star would only last for an instant; he had to wait for a chance.

...

Heber fought intensely with the mechanical army. The explosions lightened up the sights of all the audience. Almost all the spaceship radars of the spectators were repeating alarms continuously.

"High energy reaction detected! Please get away immediately! High energy..."

If the battlefield was a planet, it would have been destroyed long ago.

"It seems even..."

"I can't believe it. Black Star is matching up to the Tyrant."

"The Tyrant seems to have the lower hand now."

Countless spectators were stunned. Their impression of Black Star was continuously refreshed.

Seeing that Han Xiao stood his ground, the Black Star Army players were thrilled.

"Black Star gained control of the battle using the kiting strategy. The Tyrant's only way of breaking this is to get close. However, he seems to be unable to get across the mechanical army." Inside the battleship of the army, Hao Tian analyzed the battle. As a pro player, despite his level not being high, his PVP senses were still very sharp.

“Pugilists are good at explosive power at close range,” Frenzied Sword said. “As long as the captain maintains this kiting, he will not be defeated... given that the mechanical army can last that long.”

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“That’s what I thought.” Bun-Hit-Dog nodded.

However, at this time, a sudden change occurred in the battlefield. Hao Tian, Frenzied Sword, and the others’ expressions changed drastically.

“Not good!”

...

The focus fire of the mechanical army created blinding explosions and obstructed the audience’s vision.

At this time, surrounded by the mechanical army, Heber suddenly disappeared.

The next instant, he appeared behind Han Xiao immediately.

As expected. Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled. He had expected this. He had known that Heber would have a teleportation type Pugilist ability, so he had prepared for it long ago. However, he had to admit that Heber had picked a great opportunity.

Just as Han Xiao was about to dodge with Void Hyperdrive, all the abilities on his interface became gray.

Heber has used Racial Talent [Giant’s Gaze] on you!

You have entered [Forced Silence] state. All abilities are frozen. Duration: 0.3 seconds!

Han Xiao’s pupils constricted. He had no way to break free from a forced silence type ability. Heber had waited so long to use this and surprised him.

This interrupted his Void Hyperdrive and held him in his place.

With a cold expression, Heber punched right through the psionic shield and onto the Battle Tiger mechanical suit. An impact wave flew into Han Xiao’s body.

Heber has used the ability [Strength Punch—Molecular Vibration] on you!

Judging... Judgment failed. Your STR is more than 1,000 lower than the opponent’s.

You have entered [Out of Control] state. You are unable to control your body. Duration: 0.8 second

This is bad.

He had been avoiding getting comboed by Heber all along, but Heber's attacks were not easy to deal with. Now he was on the passive side.

The next second, red and gold fists landed on his body like a thunderstorm. The punches created countless afterimages and pits on the mechanical suit.

Dong! Dong!

Heber's every attack was a different Pugilist ability. As soon as he successfully landed the first disabling ability, he would be able to use continuous disabling abilities. Due to his vastly superior Strength and Dexterity, the Judgements for those abilities would usually all succeed.

The terrifying combo damage caused the armor of Battle Tiger and Han Xiao's own health to plummet.

With cold murderous intent in his eyes, Heber went all out without hesitation—he planned to heavily injure or even immediately kill Han Xiao in one combo!

...

The developments of the battle made the expression of countless people change drastically.

"Black Star is in danger..." Austin murmured.

Being controlled by Heber at close range was more than enough to threaten the life of a Beyond Grade A.

Ames could not help but look over.

"Chance!"

At this instant, Psyker moved. He rushed right into the battlefield, straight toward Han Xiao at an extremely high speed.

Distracted, Ames was a second slower to respond. Anger appeared in her eyes.

Just as she was about to drag Psyker back with her force field, the fleet of the Arcane Church suddenly fired. Highly condensed annihilation beams headed toward Ames.

Ames did not expect the fleet to suddenly attack. She hastily turned around and stopped the attacks of the fleet with her force field.

In just an instant, Psyker approached Han Xiao and Heber.

Black Star is being pinned down by the Tyrant. This is the opportunity to grab the Evolution Cube!

The sudden change of situation shocked everyone. In their eyes, it was clear that the Arcane Church had broken the rules, restraining Ames with their fleet while Psyker suddenly attacked Black Star together with Heber!

It was as if Black Star had fallen into a desperate situation in an instant!

"Teacher!"

"Black Star!"

“Captain!”

The expressions of Sylvia, Herlous, and the army officers all changed drastically!

Chapter 778 Counter

“Hmm?”

As another punch landed on Han Xiao’s chest, Heber noticed the abnormality. He quickly turned around and stared at the quickly approaching Psyker.

“Want to grab the Evolution Cube?” Heber looked at Psyker with hostility.

Psyker had publicized the information regarding the Evolution Cube, clearly stating his goal. Although Heber was interested in it, he had no means of locating the Evolution Cube.

He refused to cooperate with Psyker because he did not want anyone to disrupt his duel with Black Star and break his plan to make an example. Seeing that the Arcane Church had suddenly attacked to restrain Ames and Psyker was clearly using him, he was enraged.

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His eyes were filled with warning as he stared at Psyker.

Expressionless, Psyker continued to charge forward. He had to retrieve the Evolution Cube even if it meant offending Heber.

In his senses, the Evolution Cube was right on Han Xiao. His psychic energy had already shot toward Han Xiao. As soon as he got the Evolution Cube, he would retreat and not waste energy fighting him.

Seeing that Psyker had ignored his warning, the hostility in Heber’s eyes became stronger. However, there was no way he was going to let Black Star go and turn around to attack Psyker.

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Psyker had publicly stood against Black Star by demanding a battle with Black Star just like he did, which means that they were on the same side. If he gave up on the opportunity to heavily damage Black Star to stop his supposed ‘ally’, the situation would go out of control. Psyker had already tied him up using his standpoint.

Due to many factors, Heber had no choice but to watch Psyker approach, unable to stop him. He was enraged.

With a gloomy expression, Heber decided to get back at Psyker after he finished dealing with Black Star.

At this moment, to his shock, his punch was suddenly stopped!

His eyes quickly moved away from Psyker and back to Han Xiao. Shocked, he realized that Han Xiao, who was supposedly unable to move, suddenly regained control and stopped his fists with his hands.

Instantly responding, Heber’s muscles expanded. A powerful surge of energy flowed into his arms. Just as he was about to forcefully break away from Han Xiao’s block and disable Han Xiao again, he was stunned.

A terrifying power came from Han Xiao's arms that matched his own!

What's going on?

Heber looked at Han Xiao's face with shock. Half of Han Xiao's mechanical suit helmet was broken, showing half of Han Xiao's face and his calm eyes.

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"Really horrifying damage, almost took half of my health..." Han Xiao licked away the blood at the tip of his lips and grinned. "Sadly, we have fought for far more than twenty minutes!"

The mechanical army had stalled the Tyrant for long enough, so he had obtained the Tyrant's Character Summon Card long ago!

[Character Summon Card—'Tyrant' Heber]. Usages: 1/3. Effect: +4,000 STR. Duration: 40 minutes!

With the increase in his Strength, he became immune to Heber's disabling abilities!

The next second, Han Xiao clenched his fists and grabbed Heber's hands. Surging power filled his body. With a turn of his waist, he lifted Heber and threw him right at Psyker!

"What?" Disbelief appeared in Heber's eyes.

I lost to a Mechanic in a battle of strength?

Are you kidding me?

This made Psyker's expression change dramatically as well.

Black Star had obviously been pinned down by Heber; he did not expect him to be able to escape it that fast and with raw strength!

The mechanical army far away regained its Mechanical Force bonuses and fired at Heber and Psyker. Psyker had no choice but to stop and block the attacks with his psychic shield while grabbing Heber and helping him regain balance.

The violent attacks exploded on the psychic shield. The expanding light obstructed their sight.

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Before the two of them could make the next move, they suddenly felt a sense of pressure. Turning around, they saw an enormous satellite penetrating the attacks outside the psychic shield and crashing directly toward them.

Not having the time to think about anything else, Heber rapidly absorbed dark energy and turned his body into a giant. His fists launched toward the armed satellite, hoping to stop its impact.

However, the difference in size was too huge. Heber and Psyker were both slapped onto the surface of the satellite.

Ames' eyes were flickering with a green light. Her force field pushed the armed satellite forward like a marble, drawing an arc and crashing toward the Arcane Church's fleet.

The attacks of the Arcane Church fleet had caused her to be unable to stop Psyker in time, which made Ames quite displeased. Luckily, Black Star had gotten out of the dangerous situation himself. Without hesitation, she immediately backed Black Star up and set the Arcane Church fleet as a target as well.

Facing the enormous armed satellite, the Arcane Church fleet fired without hesitation. The storm of dark energy blasts fired on the armed satellite and destroyed it.

This was the biggest explosion since the start of the battle. The strong light caused by it made the eyes of countless spectators hurt and forced them to close their eyes. Only stronger Supers could barely open their eyes.

As the aftershock of the explosion dissipated, only then did everyone see the current situation.

Han Xiao and Ames stood in the middle of the battlefield together, while Heber and Psyker endured the explosion and hovered before the Arcane Church's fleet. Four Beyond Grade As on two sides stood against each other.

The situation had taken too quick a turn, and the people could not react immediately. Once they figured out what happened, their eyes gathered on Han Xiao.

The situation earlier had been dire for Han Xiao, but Han Xiao had used raw strength to fight back against Heber. He had used the most direct and straightforward method to break the situation of being surrounded by Heber and Psyker!

"Hu..." Sylvia took a deep breath—she had been really startled earlier.

Hila's fists opened, and her tense body relaxed.

The audience calmed down and once again focused on the battle.

"Psyker and Ames both acted. It's probably not a duel but a battle now."

"The Arcane Church interfered. Not just the Beyond Grade As, even the fleets of two sides might start fighting!"

"The Crimson Dynasty will definitely respond as well; this might cause another war."

"I feel like we should back off a little more..."

Countless people were feeling nervous. The Arcane Church's involvement changed what was initially a duel between Beyond Grade As. The situation became complicated.

Just in terms of forces, Heber's side with the Crimson Dynasty and the Arcane Church had the complete upper hand. If the fleets took part in the battle, Black Star's side would definitely be at a disadvantage.

Psyker's expression was not looking good. After his failed attempt, his plan was shattered. Since he had already acted, he would not be able to watch from the side anymore. He could only snatch the Evolution Cube head-on, which would be much more difficult.

He turned around, looked at Heber, and saw that Heber was looking at him with sharp eyes as well.

Psyker knew that he had offended the Tyrant due to what he had just done. He sighed in his head before speaking to Heber with psychic energy.

“Ames has joined the battle; you won’t be able to duel Black Star anymore. They will fight you two on one, so you need help. We’ll settle what happened earlier in the future. Let’s work together first. I have the Arcane Church; you have the Crimson Dynasty. Using our fleets, help me retrieve the Evolution Cube, and the Arcane Church and myself will give you more than enough benefits.”

Heber frowned. His plan was messed up, and he really wanted to suffocate Psyker. When Psyker asked him to work together, he had suggested a similar plan. Back then, he had rejected it, and he still did not want to agree.

He did not invite the Crimson Dynasty; they had made a certain deal with Klent, which Heber did not know the details of. However, since the Crimson Dynasty had come, they were there to back him up. He did not want a duel to turn into a full out war—it would be far off from his initial intentions.

At this time, the Crimson Dynasty’s fleet suddenly moved, attracting everyone’s attention.

The Crimson Dynasty fleet turned around, aiming their countless cannons at the Arcane Church’s fleet. Before anyone could react, the Crimson Dynasty fleet suddenly fired!

Countless particle cannon beams blasted into the Arcane Church’s fleet. Suddenly being attacked from the side, the Arcane Church had no time to react.

At this moment, everyone was stunned!

Wh—What’s going on?

Han Xiao’s eyes lit up suddenly.

“Zoel acted!”

Chapter 779 Your Ally Is Not Bad...

What is the Crimson Dynasty doing? Jorde was stunned. He could not understand why the Crimson Dynasty suddenly attacked the Arcane Church. Aren’t we on the same side today?

Ralph was startled by this sudden turn of events as well. He was at a loss. Both the Crimson Dynasty and the Arcane Church were on the enemy’s side, so why did one suddenly attack the other?

The Arcane Church hastily adjusted their formation to face the Crimson Dynasty. While guarding against the attacks, they tried to counterattack. The Crimson Dynasty was behind the Bloodshed Land formation, so the Bloodshed Land fleet and the Klent fleet were affected as well.

Psyker’s expression suddenly changed as he quickly distanced himself from Heber.

“Was this your plan?”

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All kinds of speculations appeared in his mind. Was Heber's sudden betrayal revenge for his earlier interference, or was this planned long ago? Could it be that Heber was so mad that not only did he want to make an example out of Black Star but him as well?

Could it be that the Crimson Dynasty wanted to use this opportunity to get rid of him, an Arcane Church ally in the Shattered Star Ring?

Psyker could not help but to make many guesses. However, he realized that Heber looked puzzled as well, as if he did not know why the Crimson Dynasty had suddenly attacked.

Heber had no time to care about what Psyker was thinking. He turned into a meteor and flew back to the Bloodshed Land formation, entering the closest spaceship and borrowing their communicator.

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"Jorde! Contact the Crimson Dynasty's men and ask them what they're doing!"

"Your Excellency Tyrant, their commander told us to attack the Arcane Church with them and did not mention the reason!" Jorde hastily replied in the communication channel.

"Then contact Klent's men. Tell them to ask the Dynasty Emissary Zoel for the reason."

"O—okay," Jorde replied. "The officials on their mother planet are trying to contact Zoel."

Zoel had been staying in the Crimson Dynasty Diplomatic Building on the Klent Mother Planet all along. He had only deployed the Crimson Dynasty garrison but did not go to the scene personally.

The two Universal Civilization garrison fleets had fired at each other. Many nearby observers were affected and blasted into pieces.

The other observers backed away in panic. Countless spaceships turned around and escaped from the battlefield.

The situation became chaotic in an instant. Everyone was busy dodging stray bullets, and no one paid attention to the main participants.

The Black Star Army and the Purple Crystal's fleet on the other side were not affected. Seeing that the enemies were in chaos, they were confused. Han Xiao did not publicize becoming the Crimson Dynasty's ally, so Han Xiao and the Crimson Dynasty were the only ones that knew about it.

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Due to the sudden change, both Heber and Psyker's attention was diverted, and they had no time to care about Han Xiao. Han Xiao and Ames, who were in the middle of the battlefield, did not chase after them. They looked at the battle between the Crimson Dynasty and the Arcane Church from far away.

Han Xiao suddenly smiled.

"With the Crimson Dynasty's attack, this should end soon."

"This is your doing?" Ames turned to look at Han Xiao, and then it occurred to her. "You've joined the Crimson Dynasty."

She did not know about this either. Before this, she had thought that she was Han Xiao's most powerful ally there.

"The Tyrant wants to step on me to increase his reputation, and Psyker wants to take back the Evolution Cube," Han Xiao said slowly. "I also want to use this opportunity today to increase my influence. I'm a new Beyond Grade A Super, so I need to achieve many deeds to have a reputation like the Tyrant's, which will take too long. An opportunity for the Tyrant is also an opportunity for me; I can use this battle to obtain a ton of reputation and fame."

Ames raised her brows and said, "It sounds like you don't need my help to deal with the dangers today, or did you think I'm not good enough?"

"Don't misunderstand, I'm just used to having more than one plan." Han Xiao smiled with resignation.

...

The Crimson Dynasty and the Arcane Church did not turn out to fight a full out war. Very soon, both sides stopped firing and distanced themselves from one another. The atmosphere was tense.

Still puzzled, the observers all focused on the Crimson Dynasty's fleet from far away. Everyone wanted to know why the Crimson Dynasty had done what they just did.

At this time, the trillions of spaceships at the scene all received a message from the Crimson Dynasty. This was an announcement made in the official civilization public communication channel—a channel shared by the civilizations above the Star System level, only used to make official announcements. Any message sent using this channel would be received by all devices within a certain area.

"This is the Crimson Dynasty Shattered Star Ring Garrison K-004 Fleet Commander, Scurio, hereby sending a warning to the Arcane Church...

"Firstly, this battle is monitored by the Crimson Dynasty. Any organization breaking the rules will be firmly stopped by us. Your interference has violated the rules.

"Secondly, the Black Star Army is the Crimson Dynasty's ally. The Evolution Cube currently belongs to the Crimson Dynasty. Any organization planning to snatch it will be seen as the Dynasty's enemy!"

After hearing this announcement—be it Klent, the Bloodshed Land, the Purple Crystal Civilization, even the Black Star Army, or any other observer—everyone's eyes widened with shock.

When did Black Star become the Crimson Dynasty's ally?

So, the Crimson Dynasty is actually not here to help the Tyrant but Black Star!

Everyone was stunned.

Heber's expression changed drastically. "Why didn't I know about this?"

Jorde's mind was blank.

The Bloodshed Land was the Crimson Dynasty's ally, and now the Black Star Army had become the Crimson Dynasty's ally. Did that not mean that they were now on the same side?

The two sides had fought for a decade, but they had become allies?

“What the f...” Summer Night Flower’s expression stiffened, and his face turned pale.

Initially, he had thought the Bloodshed Land’s biggest advantage was having the Crimson Dynasty as their backer. Now, however, the Black Star Army had the same thing.

As his last shred of hope shattered, Summer Night Flower’s heart was filled with regret.

Suddenly, his vision was blocked by a shadow. He turned around and saw that the players around had surrounded him with unfriendly expressions on their faces.

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...

“The Black Star Army has become the Crimson Dynasty’s ally. When did this happen?”

Ralph was astonished.

Comparatively, all the players of the Black Star Army were overjoyed by this news.

Opposing the Crimson Dynasty was not optimal. They had initially been worried about the Black Star Army’s future. They had never expected the army to become the Crimson Dynasty’s ally!

The millions of army players were relieved immediately. Becoming an ally of a Universal Civilization meant that the Black Star Army had a channel for even more growth and that its potential was even greater!

Many players’ previously shaken beliefs became firm once again, and they were more confident in the army now than ever!

“Sh*t, I thought it was the end of us.”

“The captain somehow got to the Crimson Dynasty. The term ‘Black Star Networking Group’ is definitely accurate.”

“It seems that our army will most likely last for many versions.”

“Amazing, I’m going to be famous again.” Bun-Hit-Dog recorded footage with a huge grin on his face.

Inside the Black Star Army flagship, the many Calamity Grade officers breathed a sigh of relief, followed by joy.

“The captain made a backup plan long ago!”

With the Crimson Dynasty backing them, the Black Star Army was no longer an ordinary Beyond Grade A organization!

The many officers were thrilled and glad that they made the bet years ago to become a pillar of the army!

They did not make a mistake in believing in Black Star!

Inside the Palace of Hidden Spells, Austin's eyes sparkled.

"I see. Not only did you showcase your power by fighting the Tyrant, but you also publicly announced your support from the Crimson Dynasty, enhancing your reputation and indirectly solving your battle with the Tyrant. You single-handedly turned this feast today into an event to increase your fame. Heber and Psyker both fell right into it. You're the biggest winner this time..."

A strange smile appeared on Austin's face.

"Good, a person with ambition. The Shattered Star Ring is finally going to become boisterous."

...

"No wonder you were so calm. You joined the Crimson Dynasty using the Evolution Cube..."

Psyker had a complicated feeling. Now that the Crimson Dynasty had their hands on the Evolution Cube, the difficulty in snatching it back was beyond his abilities.

Seeing the situation, he sighed and sent a message to the Arcane Church Fleet Commander.

"Retreat."

With the Crimson Dynasty expressing their standpoint, no matter what the Bloodshed Land and Klent were thinking, the Crimson Dynasty would be part of this. Since Black Star and the Tyrant stood on the same side and he had become their common enemy. The Arcane Church fleet would not be able to do anything by staying there.

After considering both the pros and cons, Psyker felt retreating was the best choice. Hence, even though he was very displeased, he still made a decisive decision.

Under the eyes of the crowd, the Arcane Church fleet slowly retreated and left the battlefield, turning into a stream of light and disappearing. The Crimson Dynasty did not stop them; their goal had been to make the Arcane Church retreat all along.

"The Arcane Church has retreated!"

"Psyker left, too."

Countless people turned to look at Heber. With one of the people that demanded a duel with Black Star leaving, the Tyrant was the only one left. The direction of the situation was in the Tyrant's hands.

Originally, everyone had thought that the Tyrant and Black Star were enemies, but they had just discovered that they were allies. This duel had become an internal conflict between the Crimson Dynasty's allies.

Hence, the Tyrant was in a very awkward position. Heber's earlier confusion looked sincere, so most people believed that Heber did not know about this.

If that's the case, will he still insist on fighting Black Star now?

The situation had taken many turns, and no one knew what was going to happen next.

The Bloodshed Land remained at the ready. Heber did not return to the battlefield to continue fighting Han Xiao immediately. He narrowed his eyes and looked at Han Xiao from far away, and Han Xiao was looking at him.

As Heber did not make a move, the battlefield had entered a strange silence.

Inside the spaceship, Heber asked Jorde in a deep voice, "Did Klent respond?"

"They're still talking to the Crimson Dynasty..." Jorde could hear that Heber's tone was unpleasant.

...

At the same time, in the Crimson Dynasty embassy on the Klent Mother Planet...

"Envoy Zoel, what is the meaning of this? Didn't the Crimson Dynasty agree to fight Black Star together with us? Why did you accept Black Star as an ally?"

The outcry of the Klent high-level officials sounded from the communicator. Zoel raised his eyelids and slowly replied, "I don't think I ever agreed to this request. I dispatched the garrison to the venue and only said that it was to back up our ally. Klent is our ally, as is Black Star. Our target is just Psyker and the Arcane Church backing him up. You misunderstood, that's all."

"But you did not notify us about Black Star becoming your ally!"

"Oh?" Zoel raised his brows. "Does the Dynasty have to notify you every time we gain an ally? Do you also want the Dynasty to give you all of our military secrets?"

Chapter 780 Heber Stellar Furnace Cultivation

"I did not say that. But you knew Black Star is our enemy, yet you did not tell us about it. Doesn't that go against our agreement? If we'd known that Black Star was on our side in advance, we definitely would've told the Tyrant to cancel this duel, and the joke today wouldn't have happened."

"You're exaggerating it." Zoel was not angry and smiled. "Hiding this news was Black Star's request, and I agreed personally. I dispatched the garrison to the scene to prevent the situation from getting out of hand. Furthermore, didn't the results of what happened today turn out to be beneficial? The entire Star Field now knows you people and the Black Star Army have become allies, which is beneficial for both of you. Overall, not only did you guys not suffer any damage, but you actually benefited from it. After all, such a grant occasion like this rarely happens."

The Klent official clenched his teeth and smiled. "... Looks like we misunderstood you."

"That's right. Sigh, but I am indeed responsible for this. How about this? I will confess my wrongdoings to the Dynasty superiors and request for resources compensation for you. What do you think?" Zoel said with a smile.

"There's no need for that. We misunderstood you in the first place; you've done nothing wrong."

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"Alright then. Nonetheless, to express my apology, please accept the resources compensation."

“Okay.”

As Zoel ended the communication, the smile on his face disappeared instantly. He nodded with satisfaction.

Klent is smart, good.

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...

Not long after, the Bloodshed Land received Klent’s message at the scene.

“Your—Your Excellency Tyrant, Klent has responded,” Jorde stammered.

“Speak.”

“They said that Zoel was the one that agreed to make Black Star an ally. Klent told us to stop the duel and re—retreat immediately...”

Klent knew that they had been tricked by the Crimson Dynasty, but what could they do? They still wanted a piece of the Flickering World, so it was impossible for them to rescind the agreement. They could only swallow it up.

Black Star’s chips were too attractive. Klent knew clearly that the Crimson Dynasty would certainly not reject the Evolution Cube, so they could only accept it. Fortunately, the duel was mainly the Tyrant’s idea; Klent did not suffer much damage, so they had quickly compromised.

Heber closed his eyes.

After a while, he then reopened his eyes and squeezed out a word between his clenched teeth.

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“Retreat.”

The order sounded from the Bloodshed Land’s commanding channel. The many Bloodshed Land officers all became spiritless, like they had lost all their energy.

Jorde’s face twitched with resentment, but there was nothing he could do.

The Crimson Dynasty, Klent, and the Bloodshed Land’s fleets left one after another, leaving only Purple Crystal and the Black Star Army’s people at the scene.

“The Bloodshed Land retreated, haha!”

In the countless battleships, the warriors of the Black Star Army cheered with joy.

Influenced by the atmosphere, many players followed along in the cheering.

Ames smiled.

Although Han Xiao keeping this a secret made her feel a little unhappy, seeing Heber getting tricked by them made her feel very pleased.

The expression on Han Xiao's face under the helmet was filled with mockery. "Tyrant? Hehe."

As their battle had been stopped, a winner was not decided. However, during the battle, he had fought the Tyrant on even ground, so no one would think that he had joined the Crimson Dynasty because he was afraid of the Tyrant.

On the other hand, despite being the one initiating this duel, the Tyrant had left in the end. This meant that Heber had become his stepping stone, defining his position in the Shattered Star Ring. He would no longer be underestimated by some people because he was a new Beyond Grade A.

At this time, a Legendary Point notification popped up on the interface.

You have received 3 Legendary Points.

Star Field Legendary Point (Shattered Star Ring): Battle Against Tyrant—Your battle with 'Tyrant' Heber is known by all of the Shattered Star Ring. This battle will be passed around by one after another across this Star Field, along with your name.

Star Field Legendary Point (Shattered Star Ring): Ally of the Crimson Dynasty—Universal Civilizations are the biggest forces of this galaxy. You have become an ally of one of them, the Crimson Dynasty.

Star Field Legendary Point (Shattered Star Ring): Star Field Signature Character—Your name echoes through the entire Star Field as one of the signatures of this Star Field. From this day forth, whenever the Shattered Star Ring is mentioned, your name will be linked to it.

Han Xiao's eyes sparkled.

Star Field Legendary Points' bonus to experience was much higher than that of Star Cluster Legendary Points, and they were extremely difficult to obtain. He had received three at once, which meant that his plan to command respect through this duel had been very successful.

When what had happened spread throughout the universe, his reputation in the Shattered Star Ring would certainly rocket once again.

At this time, Ralph sent a communication request.

Han Xiao knew what Purple Crystal's reaction to this would be, so he had thought of what to say long ago.

"Black Star..."

The communication connected. Ralph's face appeared on the tactical screen under the mechanical suit helmet. Ralph looked hesitant.

"I know what you're going to say." Han Xiao spoke first. "Becoming the Crimson Dynasty's ally was my idea. As you guys know, the secret war is not looking good for us. In order to destroy Klent's plan, the only way is to do it through people with a high position. Using myself as the chip, I exchanged for their stand regarding the secret war. This was the method to win the secret war I told you about."

Ralph opened his eyes with a complicated expression.

He had initially thought Black Star would abandon Purple Crystal. Once he heard what Han Xiao said, he felt much better.

Luckily, Black Star still remembered Purple Crystal's support and requested the dynasty to give them some benefits. At least he was not someone to abandon them even after accepting so many resources from them.

"You and the Crimson Dynasty, sigh..."

"I know you guys hope to maintain the neutral ground of the civilization, but I'm different. I'm Purple Crystal's ally, too, like a bridge between you guys and the Crimson Dynasty. This will be beneficial to a certain extent for all three of us.

Ralph nodded. This was indeed true.

He knew what Han Xiao meant—he wanted to be the Crimson Dynasty's ally while continuing being Purple Crystal's ally.

Of course, Purple Crystal was not satisfied with this. They had funded and supported the Black Star Army for close to a decade, all because they wanted to be the biggest partner of a Beyond Grade A. However, a Universal Civilization had gotten to Han Xiao first. Ralph was unsatisfied.

However, after more thought, he could only feel resignation. After that fight, the Black Star Army would become even more powerful. If Purple Crystal rescinded the agreement, the Black Star Army would not be afraid since they had an even better ally. In the end, the ones suffering the most losses would be Purple Crystal.

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The best solution currently was to continue the partnership and share the profit brought by the Black Star Army.

After investing so much resources for so long, Purple Crystal was not willing to gain nothing.

"Understood. I will report this to the upper echelons..." Ralph calmed his emotions down and secretly admired Black Star's guts.

"Wait for the good news." Han Xiao smiled.

If he was just an ordinary Beyond Grade A, he might not have been able to make the Crimson Dynasty change their standpoint on the secret war. However, with the Evolution Cube in his hands, things were different.

Han Xiao ended the communication and secretly felt relieved.

Things were going great. Han Xiao felt relaxed. Having become a Beyond Grade A, he had truly entered the top circle of Galaxy. Most of the restrictions he had once faced as a Calamity Grade were now gone, and the weight of his name had become tremendously heavier.

This time, a teleportation gate opened beside Han Xiao and Ames. Austin, who had been observing from the side, walked out from it.

“Hehe, congratulations, Black Star,” Austin said with a smile.

“Hehe...” Han Xiao replied with a smile as well.

“This isn’t a good place to talk. Let’s chat again during the next Tyrant Party.” Austin did not say much.

Then, he teleported back to the Palace of Hidden Spells and activated the spells on it. The palace flew into the teleportation gate and disappeared.

“Tyrant Party...”

Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled. He wondered if the Tyrant would invite him to the next party.

“Since things are settled, I shall get going.” Ames waved and flew back to Floating Dragon. Floating Dragon slowly left.

Han Xiao watched Ames leave. He then returned to the Black Star Army’s flagship and entered the command room, where the army officers gathered. As soon as he walked in, everyone looked at him with admiration in their eyes.

“Sylvia, Herlous, announce the fleet to return,” Han Xiao said.

“Roger!” Sylvia’s face was filled with excitement.

“Also, using the Black Star Army’s name, issue a recruitment order to the entire Star Field. It’s time for those who have been observing to make a choice.” Han Xiao smiled.

Due to the Tyrant’s invitation to the duel, the Black Star Army had been keeping a low profile. Since the matter had been dealt with, it was time for the Black Star Army to expand and officially become a Beyond Grade A organization!

Many officers were exhilarated—this was what they had been waiting for!

Han Xiao turned and looked at Feidin. He had yet to complete the mission to draw the Tyrant’s ability because he wanted to touch Feidin for some luck.

Patting Feidin on the shoulder, Han Xiao gave everyone a few words of encouragement and sent all the officers away, saying that he needed to rest.

Han Xiao returned to his room alone and opened the interface to claim the reward.

You have received the reward: Draw Heber’s one ability/talent.

Tip: Heber is a Pugilist. Part of the abilities/talents are adjusted according to your class.

Randomizing... complete!

Please select one from the five options below as the reward:

1. [Phantom Combo]—Ability: +75% close-range attack speed. Duration: 7s. Cost: 80 Energy. Cooldown: 18s
2. [Star Tossing Power]—Ability: Use energy to enhance your cells, +600 STR. Duration: 20s. Cooldown: 120s
3. [Weakness Observation]—Ability: +30% close range Critical Chance. Duration: 15s. Cooldown: 180s
4. [Close Range Killer]—Talent: +40% close-range attack and attack speed. +2 levels to all close-range combat abilities.
5. [Heber Stellar Furnace Cultivation]—Ability: A secret technique the Tyrant uses to cultivate his energy. Current Effect: +500 Energy. Training Times: 0/650. This must be used on a Fixed Star. The effect of every training session depends on the time spent on the Fixed Star. Maximum effect per training: 25 Energy. Minimum: 0. Cost: 6,000,000 Experience per training session.

Scanning through the first four options, Han Xiao was a little disappointed. Beyond Grade A Pugilists had many abilities, so the chance of getting something good was exceedingly low. The first four options all had very limited effects.

However, the last option made Han Xiao surprised.

This is what Heber uses to train his energy?

This is good stuff.

Some of the Pugilists' powerful energy came from talents and some came from cultivation type abilities.

When someone reached Beyond Grade A and wanted to continue becoming stronger, they would start searching for all sorts of abilities to train their energy. The longer one had been a Beyond Grade A Super, the stronger one's energy would usually be.

His current health-energy cycle had reached an obstacle. This was because of his energy number—compared to his two million or so health, he only had fifty thousand energy, and this became a restriction to how tanky he was.

Although [Radiation Absorption] increased his energy, it required a very long time. Even if he searched for Energy Training Techniques like the other Beyond Grade As, it would also be highly time-consuming. Heber's Energy Training Technique, however, was the shortcut he needed at the moment to increase his strength. A high-grade secret technique created by a Beyond Grade A would have a considerable effect on increasing his energy.

As for the experience cost that was enormous for the players... Han Xiao happened to have the experience penalty for more than ten months, so there was no need for him to level up.

The other four options were not very useful, so Han Xiao selected the last option without hesitation.

You have received [Heber Stellar Furnace Cultivation]!

Han Xiao closed the interface with satisfaction.

“The biggest problem is temporarily settled. Next is the expansion of the Black Star Army. Plans regarding the Flickering World need to be brought forward as well. Speaking of which, when the army stabilizes, I will need to visit the Central Galaxy once...”

...

At the same time somewhere in the Central Galaxy, a broadcast of the duel in the Shattered Star Ring was playing on the screen. It had come to an end, and people started leaving.

Beep.

The broadcast was shut down, and EsGod’s face was reflected on the dark screen.

“Contact Black Star.”