

Mechanic 1041

Chapter 1041 Targeting

You have received 1 Legendary Point.

“So, this is what the [Spirit Instrument]’s benefits are.”

Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled.

[Spirit Instrument] was a class talent he obtained by default after becoming a Divine Throne Mechanic, which was only effective when building Universal Treasures. When successful, it would give bonuses. This was his first time seeing the exact bonuses it gave, and he was pleasantly surprised.

Previously, Han Xiao did not if there were any other ways to obtain God’s Trait Transformation Points, but now he had found one—building Universal Treasures.

The same blueprint would not provide multiple points, meaning even if he built another gold-grade King mechanical suit, he would not receive more God’s Trait Transformation Points. Hence, he needed to get more gold blueprints.

Han Xiao was curious. There were other Beyond Grade A Mechanics who had built Universal Treasures throughout history, but from the intelligence provided by the dynasty, this method of obtaining God’s Trait Transformation Points was not mentioned.

He had some speculations.

Some Beyond Grade As who successfully built Universal Treasures probably did not fulfill the prerequisites to obtain God’s Trait Transformation Points, so they could not notice this effect. For example, Austin.

As for those who knew, maybe they hid this information for their own purposes and did not report it... or the advanced civilizations kept this a secret deliberately.

It could even be that he was the only one who could obtain God’s Trait Transformation Points through this method because the other Beyond Grade As did not have the interface!

Of course, it could also be that the dynasty did not know about this but the other two Universal Civilizations did. After all, the three Universal Civilizations were not a family; they would not share their secrets.

“The problems I’m facing now at this level are finally touching the blind spots of the Universal Civilizations... Makes sense. The dynasty doesn’t know about the First Sanctum too.”

Han Xiao shook his head.

“I still have the Emperor’s Cape blueprint in my hands. If I’m able to build it, I’ll obtain another God’s Trait Transformation Point. Indeed, becoming stronger through building things is the best way for Mechanics.”

As for the randomly decreased Attribute Points that were changed into Free Attribute Points, it was similar to resetting attributes. After every level up, Race Evolution, or Promotion, all attributes would automatically be increased. This would shift some of the Attribute Points in less important attributes to the main attribute, slowly making him stronger, which was quite useful.

Han Xiao felt that this could be triggered repeatedly but probably had a limit. Maybe the number of points reduced and given was related to the difficulty of building the Universal Treasure. The more difficult it was, the more points would be affected.

Furthermore, following the logic of the increased cost of blueprint gambling... if he built the same Universal Treasure multiple times, the points should decrease slowly too. For example, King reset two hundred of his Attribute Points the first time, but the second time might be less than two hundred.

“By the way, this time, it actually decreased my Luck...”

Han Xiao opened the attribute interface and looked at his Luck, which turned from a stick to an egg. His mouth twitched uncontrollably.

In his previous life, players with the subclass [Gambler] had tested that the lowest the Luck attribute could go was zero. It was the bottom line. To Gamblers, it meant this put them at an ‘unbeatable’ spot.

He previously only had one Luck, which had decreased to zero, and then he obtained two hundred Free Attribute Points...

“So, I basically netted 199 Attribute Points?”

“I don’t know if this is lucky or unlucky...”

Han Xiao was speechless.

Although it was an amazing deal, he could not smile. Tears were running in his belly.

“Sometimes, you only realize how precious something is when you have already lost it.

“Brother, I can’t do without you. It cannot be zero!”

The Great Mechanic Han clenched his teeth and solemnly pressed on the “+” button beside his Luck attribute...

+1.

The next moment, the value of his LUK attribute returned to that noble, pure, magnificent, and holy ‘1’.

Han Xiao almost felt like his soul had ascended.

Actually, Han Xiao was mainly worried that if his Luck was zero, the next time an attribute reset came, Luck would not be considered in the range of attributes.

He looked depressed, but he was actually overjoyed and wanted it to happen to him more.

“In addition to what I have in my interface, I now have 2,248 Free Attribute Points. My Endurance is now more than 11,700, and as long as it exceeds 15,000, I will be able to obtain one more God’s Trait Transformation Point through the next Promotion... Hmm, let’s save it for now.”

Suppressing his excitement, Han Xiao looked at his attributes interface, pondered a while, and used the one God’s Trait Transformation Point on [God’s Trait Transformation—Machinery].

Machinery and Void represented his main class and species; the transformation paths of these two should be mostly the same for everyone. Through testing, the former enhanced his Mechanic abilities, and the latter strengthened his Racial Talents and gave him bonus attributes.

Since he now had [Spirit Instrument] as a method to obtain God’s Trait Transformation Points, he would have to invent more gold blueprints, which would require strong Mechanic abilities. Not only did the main class path increase his basic Machinery Affinity and ability strength, it also slightly enhanced the effects of his various Mechanic abilities.

The next moment, his cells operated at full capacity. His energy waves increased drastically, and electric sparks appeared from all over his body. His flesh and bones were both itching and hurting, which made him narrow his eyes a little.

God’s Trait Transformation—Machinery (2/?)

Stage One: +1,000 Machinery Affinity, +20% Ability power. The basic effects of all Mechanic class abilities are slightly enhanced.

Stage Two (New): +15% building, enhancing, repairing abilities, +1% Machinery Affinity for every 30 INT. Main branch ability effects enhanced (Virtual Branch).

“Not bad.”

Han Xiao scratched his chin. He felt like this was not as good as the first enhancement. It might be that the first stage was like a welcoming gift and was an exception, while the later stages would keep getting better.

Then, he looked at the new talent, [Universal Treasure Creator]. Its introduction was that building a Universal Treasure meant that he had touched a certain new level. Its effect was +10% Machinery Creation Performance, +1 level to all machinery abilities, +4% basic success rate of building gold equipment, and +2% basic success rate of inventing gold blueprints.

Its effects were quite good, but Han Xiao’s attention was attracted by the notification that came with this talent.

You have obtained the talent [Universal Treasure Creator]. You have fulfilled the requirement.

You have received 1 [The First Sanctum] Ability Fragment.

“This so-called The First Sanctum again...”

An electric spark flashed past Han Xiao’s eyes.

He now had two Ability Fragments, and he still did not know what use they had, but since they were so difficult to obtain, it was definitely something important.

Without any clues, there was no point in overthinking. Han Xiao put the thought away and looked at the Legendary Point given.

Achievement Legendary Point: Universal Treasure Artisan—You have built a Universal Treasure. From this moment forth, you’re one of the top artisans in the entire universe. You’ve become a master. The things you have built will be passed on as treasures in the future.

“Speaking of which, since I have the core technology, if I build more Kings and sell them, I can make quite a lot of money.”

Han Xiao smiled at this thought.

He was just thinking about it. There was no way he would exchange his trump card for money; he now had no interest in money.

After making sure he had gone through all the new things he had obtained on the attributes interface, Han Xiao finally looked at the gold Grade King mechanical suit closely.

At this point, it was not yet colored. The appearance of King was a magnificent full cover style mechanical armor. The details on every piece of its plates were exceptionally exquisite, giving off the beauty of a top-class mechanical product. It was like a piece of art.

A palm-sized triangular device was embedded on its chest and was glowing slightly. This was the King mechanical suit’s only set attachment, Throne. As long as it was taken off, no matter where it was placed, the King would be able to instantly arrive at its place. Its effect was comparable to the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device.

Performance-wise, naturally, it was far superior to orange equipment in every way. As equipment specially made for Beyond Grade A Mechanics, it provided a 1.075 multiplier to the wearer’s total Machinery Affinity, as well as a thirty-five percent bonus to the effective area of Mechanical Force enhancement. It was a mechanical suit that was top-notch even among Beyond Grade A equipment.

Han Xiao immediately put it on like an old driver who had just bought a new car, tested it with excitement, and recorded the various parameters. Only then did he reluctantly stow it away.

“If the mechanical suit I was using last time was a home-use Volkswagen, King would be a Pagani, Koenigsegg, or a Bugatti sports car.”

Han Xiao was very satisfied.

After organizing all his gains, he ordered the mechanical assistants to clean up the workshop while he set the Divine Mechanical Throne to lazy sofa mode.

He leaned back and opened the forums comfortably, planning to reward himself by looking at those idiotic players.

In Version 4.0, the player forums had made some changes and updates. It added the new Flickering World panel, which was like a world channel to the players.

As more and more people arrived, the popularity of the Flickering World panel exceeded all the other panels in no time, quickly becoming the most active channel on the forums.

Han Xiao flipped through the posts for a while and saw Bun-Hit-Dog's newly released video.

The Black Star Army series got a new episode again. Its content was what the army had done during the version update, and its views seemed to have broken records again.

He clicked in and watched it. This was not really the best episode ever, but since tons of players had joined the Black Star Army, more people came to learn about the Black Star Army's history, hence the explosive increase in the view count of even the videos posted in the past.

Ever since Version 1.0, Bun-Hit-Dog had been making series videos, which already had many episodes by now. The new players could binge-watch from the start and learn about the complete rise of the Black Star Army. As a super faction that grew before the eyes of the players, it could give them a strong sense of immersion.

Most of the foreign players who had joined the army came for the benefits and did not have any sense of belonging at all. However, learning the history of a faction could slowly build up their unity, and Bun-Hit-Dog's series videos played a huge part in that, like fertilizer.

"Ideology construction has to be heeded. They need to be given more knowledge about the Black Star Army so that the players will feel the warmth of a home."

While mumbling, Han Xiao continued to flip through the posts. Suddenly, he saw that someone had made a post to expose the Limitless Financial Group.

The content was shockingly the spying mission given by Sorokin, which required players to purchase intelligence from Black Star Army players.

The Limitless Financial Group actually kept this secret very well. At least Han Xiao did not know about it through other sources. Sadly, the players sold Sorokin out on the forums.

It's probably more difficult for me not to know...

Han Xiao's mouth contorted slightly.

The player forums were a special information exchange platform; no outsider could interfere with it. However, he could browse it, which gave him an incomparable intelligence advantage that currently only he had.

To him, players were a natural free intelligence network. Even if he did nothing and sat at home, the player forums would continuously provide intelligence about the other organizations.

Currently, the Limitless Financial Group was the organization that was most passionate about recruiting the players other than himself. That unlucky b*stard wanted to use the players as his spies but had no idea that he was exposed by the players instead, and Han Xiao did not have to pay the price for it.

The joy of having privileges has always been this simple and dull.

Thinking of Sorokin's face that was clearly covered in plots and conspiracies, Han Xiao almost wanted to laugh.

Might as well let the army players accept his mission, then sell some intelligence to take Sorokin's money for free. He's that rich anyway.

While Han Xiao was having these wicked ideas, he suddenly saw a very popular post title, and his attention was pulled over immediately.

'The Army Players' Corpses Have Been Camped Time After Time. Who Is Targeting the Black Star Army?'

Chapter 1042 Reappeared Shady Trick

Camping corpses was a task that required skill.

To protect the players' fragile hearts, there were many ways to revive they could choose from—revive on the spot, at the nearest city, nearest carrier, or special designated coordinates. They could even not revive and just go offline. Also, they could revive a maximum of ten times every six days. Therefore, camping someone's corpse was pretty difficult.

In his previous life, the fact that Han Xiao was okay despite being completely ruthless was mostly thanks to this kind of reviving method.

However, even with so many difficulties, the players never got tired of camping the other players' corpses. The more common methods were kidnapping, forcing carriers to stop, and so on. In combat mode, there were restrictions to logging off for the players, and they would be punished for forcefully exiting the game. Hence the kidnapping method. They would bring the target to the nearest revive point and surround the target. Forcing carriers to stop made the player revive on the same spot whether they chose to revive on the spot or the nearest carrier. Nonetheless, none of these methods could perfectly deal with the reviving mechanism. Even if all locations were blocked off, the target had to be at least online and not log off.

Hence, the only requirement for camping someone's corpse to succeed was... that the target had a lot of pride.

And from the ID of this pal who made the post, which was [Daddy Is Proud What Are You Going To Do], Han Xiao could clearly feel his unrestrained sense of manliness.

In the post, this [Daddy Is Proud What Are You Going To Do], who was an army player, explained what had happened to him.

“Just some time ago, I was doing a solo errand mission in the free competition zone and came to a transit planet. I met a group of stranger players from another organization, and the moment they saw me, they attacked me without saying anything and killed me.

“I asked them why, but they dared to tell me that they just didn’t like my face! I don’t know about the others, but there’s no way I could put up with that. So, I revived on the spot and fought with them head-on, not intending to give up. These pieces of sh*t then actually really killed me time after time and finished all my revive counts for today. After that, they even private messaged me to mock me, f*ck!

“I was minding my own business, and out of nowhere, I got beat up. Who did I mess with? I’ve already posted the ID of these sons of bi*ches. My brothers, all of you are my fathers today. Please respond to my summon and help me greet their family. Let these *ssholes enjoy the bath of positive energy!”

Han Xiao looked at these IDs, which were clearly all American players of the Demon Race.

He then continued reading the comments and realized that this post had already become a sea of joy.

[Fast Horse: Shocking, agitated dude calls people father at the scene (つ°Д°;)つ]

[Human Hammer: I, your daddy, will avenge you!]

[Cold Sister: Senior keyboard warrior of thirty years reporting for duty!]

[I Can’t Take It Anymore: When it comes to scolding people, count on us.]

Other than these chaotic replies, there were also army players who were complaining about experiencing the same thing. It seemed this had happened to quite a lot of people.

However, not everyone was so stubborn. More people were just attacked by a group of players from other organizations out of nowhere. Furthermore, it was not just the Americans; there were players from other countries too, and not all of them were guild members. It was almost like people were hunting the army players.

Han Xiao pondered about the reasoning behind this.

He felt that this was probably a butterfly effect he had caused. In his previous life, everyone was scattered without the Black Star Army. Now, the Black Star Army was the biggest player faction.

The winds howl around the highest peaks.

From the responses of the players, this most likely had nothing to do with NPC organizations and was completely initiated by the players. Maybe some people were hostile toward the army players, or maybe the foreign big guilds worked together secretly. There were only so many possibilities.

Currently, tens of millions of players were swarming into the Flickering World and onto the universal stage. They started attracting the attention of all kinds of organizations. Tens of millions of people was just a droplet of water in the vast sea to a Star Field, but if they were all Immortal Grade B Supers, it would be a force that could not be ignored.

As a part of the universe’s ecological system, the players’ actions now would affect the others too. Han Xiao’s intelligence network had shown that more and more organizations were beginning to study the

players, and even more were trying to use the players. The three Universal Civilizations had also moved the recruitment and studying of players up the schedule.

The fact that foreign players were willing to leave their own factions to join the Black Star Army attracted more attention as well. Many organizations were very curious about the source of influence Black Star had among the Immortals. Although Black Star was famous indeed, why was the top choice of so many Immortals the Black Star Army? They could not figure it out.

However, many players joined other factions too, so although the situation surrounding the Black Star Army was interesting, it was not too big a deal. If Han Xiao really had all the players in his army, the dynasty would probably have come to his door to question him the very next day.

“The other organizations did not target the army, but their players actually started causing trouble first.”

Han Xiao carefully read all the replies and discovered that the biggest group of people who hunted his players were American, Japanese, and Korean players.

Also, when they attacked the army players, they avoided killing any army soldiers, so it was clearly targeted at the players.

Suddenly, he had a thought and started searching in the forums. As expected, he discovered some anonymous posts that were censored due to the aggressive language used, which were about the players of the other organizations bragging about killing army players and expressing that they were indeed targeting the Black Star Army. They were also very arrogant, mocking the Chinese players they killed by name.

“Interesting, so that’s how they’re going to play.”

Han Xiao suddenly understood the reasoning behind this.

He was not unfamiliar with this method. This had happened among the players in the previous life too, also during Version 4.0.

This was a very shady method. The people behind this were undoubtedly the big clubs. Basically, they secretly gathered some of their local players to hunt the players of the target faction. Then, these players would be told to taunt and provoke as much as possible, as aggressively as possible on the forums, to trigger the rage of the target faction players, starting an insulting war. Afterward, they would then let people secretly guide the focus of the situation to race, nationality, and area discrimination, causing hatred.

The goal of this was to control their local players’ faction preference by creating collective hatred.

Since the players these clubs could directly control were very few compared to the normal local players, who made up the majority, someone in his previous life thought of this extremely shady and low idea to influence the normal players’ preference in picking factions.

For example, a faction had a million players, among whom there were 800,000 Chinese players and 200,000 American players. The American clubs would then start hunting the Chinese players, provoking and taunting to make the Chinese players retaliate and insult them too. They would then guide the topic into the hatred between the nations.

This way, the 200,000 American players in this faction would, of course, not be happy, so they would join the internet war. The clubs would then keep fanning the flames and making the situation worse.

The result would be, a lot of these 200,000 Americans would quit this faction out of their anger toward the Chinese players, and more American players would not want to join this faction. This was just one of the methods the big clubs used to manipulate the faction preference of their local players. They created hatred, and using that hatred, they increased the unity of the players of their country.

The reason for this was very simple—the clubs did not want their local players to work for the factions that the clubs of the other countries were in. They only wanted their local players to work for the factions they were in.

To normal players, the more players in one faction, the stronger the competition. But to clubs, local players represented cheap labor. Be it during normal developments or national wars, as long as the clubs made announcements, the normal players would most likely respond and become free manpower.

Normal players wanted to enjoy the game freely, which the professional players had to respect too. However, clubs and official guilds were commercial organizations; their goal was to gain achievements in the Pro League and make a profit.

Therefore, after Version 4.0 started in the previous life, with the Americans in the lead, some clubs started to manipulate their fans at all costs, using all sorts of dirty methods. This led to the forums' environment becoming contaminated to a certain extent, so the mainstream factions of the clubs of the other countries would be weakened, and they would become stronger... Simply put, they were robbing leeks from others.

Only clubs of a very few countries did not take part in such things, and the Chinese were one of them.

The Chinese had always been united, and now that most of the Chinese players were in the Black Star Army, there was no need to use such shady methods at all.

"Tsk, the first reappearance of this trick, and it's aimed at me. Plus, it's from the clubs of multiple countries."

Han Xiao thought about it and understood what these clubs were thinking.

It was basically because the foreign clubs did not want the army players' forces to keep getting bigger. Otherwise, the army would have too many advantages among the factions. Not only would that reduce the development space of the other faction, but it would also give the Chinese clubs free manpower, which was basically sending money to the enemies, to these foreign clubs.

"Just as I expected, the army is too outstanding, so the Chinese clubs became targets. Although these foreign clubs are not targeting me, if I let them continue doing this, my leek farm might shrink."

Han Xiao did not panic at all. Rather, he smiled.

"Isn't this a perfect opportunity to strengthen the sense of belonging of the new army members that is delivered to my doorsteps?"

Why were the Alliance and the Horde so united? One reason was their background story and the game setting, but the more direct reason was that the players of the two factions were fighting each other all the time.

Creating a shared target—this was a great way to rapidly increase the sense of unity of a group!

“Discrimination is a factor in the real life. I indeed can’t deal with that right now, but I can target those main factions that you foreign clubs are in.

“You’re manipulating players through nationality differences, so I shall make use of the difference between factions.

“When the foreign clubs gather people to hunt the army players, their factions won’t reward them. Therefore, to them, this is just a matter between the players.

“However, if I announce a Bounty Mission, stating that as long as the army players kill the players of your factions, they’ll be rewarded, what will happen?

“At that point, your local normal players might even beat you up!

“How can those people secretly hired by the clubs compare with the eight million warriors of our army?!”

“You wanted to play dirty? You asked for it!

“Hehe, since you people can’t be satisfied with peacefully developing your forces and play these dirty tricks all day, let me add more wood to the fire and make your business more popular.”

Han Xiao grinned wickedly, sat up from the lazy throne, opened the faction interface, and started drafting the Bounty Mission.

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At the same time, on a private player chat channel, the high position members of the professional clubs of many countries were online.

Among these were America’s Devil and Key; Japan’s Hydra, Amaterasu, and Werewolf; Korea’s Kimchi and Triple Star Bomb; Italy’s Classical and Pizza; and Southeast Asia’s Red Bay, Island, and Titan. Many of the regular attendees of the international tournament were in this channel.

At this time, the topic these people were discussing was indeed related to the Black Star Army.

Just like Han Xiao guessed, as more and more players of the various countries changed factions and joined the Black Star Army, these guilds who were not planning to change their factions could not put up with it anymore. They secretly worked together and planned to restrain the Black Star Army’s rapidly growing player base.

“... The people on our side are moving according to plan. The public opinion part is still in preparation. The players’ emotions need time to be developed,” a high ranking member of the Key club said.

“The circumstances are actually beneficial to us. China has managed to win two consecutive years. This is their pride, and they have this sense of superiority, so the public opinion will not be tough to manipulate. Steer the topic in this direction, toward how the normal players of the various countries are

targeted because the teams of their country did not achieve optimal results, then let the Chinese players insult us. This way, more anger can be created.”

“Actually, tricks like this are not difficult to see through. The players are quite smart...”

“Don’t worry. Players will be players. Once it gets to their head, reasoning won’t be important. The Pro League is a great conversation topic. It’ll be easy to trigger their emotions.”

“Let’s hope it works. We’re all in different factions. The biggest threat now is the Black Star Army. There are way too many players there. If we don’t weaken them, the Chinese clubs will have way too big an advantage.”

“It’ll be best if we can isolate them.”

As for the stand of the Black Star Army, it was not within their consideration. To them, all of this was just between the players. The NPC factions were just the background.

Chapter 1043 I’ll put up a strong front and make you cry

“I’ll god d*mn burn down all your dreams!”

In the great hall of Black Star Palace, an emotional roar sounded as a white beam of light shone up. It transformed into a revived army player with the ID of [Under the Soaring Clouds]. Naturally, he came from China.

The great hall had quite a few players coming and going, and hearing this loud exclamation, everyone turned to look at Under the Soaring Clouds. All they saw was him heaving hard with a look of resentment.

To the side, one of the veterans asked with a tone as though he expected it, “What’s wrong, brother with big lungs? Why the anger? Who f*cked you?”

“I got squatted[1] by a bunch of foreigners, and they even ridiculed me. This is already the third time!” Under the Soaring Clouds was exasperated.

“Sigh, it’s now Version 4.0, the World Server. There are players from all sorts of factions outside now, and it can’t be compared to back then when we were in the Shattered Star Ring. You have to watch out for your safety,” the veteran advised before shaking his head and leaving.

Under the Soaring Clouds’ face was nasty to behold.

He was a new player that only joined in Version 3.0, and he was more of a casual player, not interested in PK at all.

In the last version, the World Server had not been opened yet, so as an army player, he was basically only meeting his own people whenever he went out, so he was rarely attacked by others. However, there was no security in the current version. He had done a couple of missions but was maliciously interfered with by players from other organizations.

He struggled to get used to the huge gap between the two versions, so he felt that his gaming experience had drastically fallen.

Looking around, he saw that players with foreign IDs were scattered around, basically newcomers who had only joined the army recently. Among them, a small group of players constantly scanned the coming and going army players, looking at him from time to time as well. This sort of performance was most likely from a 'spy' sent by a foreign guild.

"Recently, there have been many squatting incidents, and this is probably the work of those spies. My whereabouts were revealed by them, which caused me to be squatted as well." Under the Soaring Clouds felt that this was likely, and he gritted his teeth in indignation.

He disliked the foreign players who had recently joined, and he was not the only one—many of the Chinese players had the same idea as him, as the previous versions were so much more comfortable to play in. Everyone belonged to the same country, but now, since there were more foreigners, they had to be aware of the lurking dangers in their external and internal environments, making many people sick and tired of playing.

Under the Soaring Clouds belonged to the category of a new player, and he was unlike the veterans who had invested a lot of time into the army. Right now, he could not help but think about changing factions.

"I really don't want to encounter the mess of being squatted anymore. It really affects my mood."

Just as he was about to act on his words, the communicators of every player in the room rang. The moving players all gave each other a strange look, collectively stopping as they lowered the heads to read the news.

Under the Soaring Clouds also retrieved his communicator, and when he scanned the notification, he realized it was an internal announcement from the army, and there were three messages.

Army Announcement 1: Newcomer Preferential Treatment Policy

Addressed to all soldiers of the army: Now is the period of the development in the Flickering World. Recently, we have recruited new warriors from the other Star Fields. In order to quickly integrate the newcomers into the army, we're re-enabling the policy of supporting the newcomers. Existing members can take the newcomers to perform missions, and both parties will obtain additional benefits. The army will give certain subsidies, which include but are not limited to Enas, Contribution Points, Ammo, and free repair opportunities. The full list can be seen in the Appendix (Expand/Collapse). I hope everyone will actively help newcomers, no matter which Star Field they arrived from. As long as one has joined the Black Star Army, I hope we can all entrust each other with our backs in battle—Army Commander, Black Star.

"It turned out to be this policy." Under the Soaring Clouds had a shift in heart.

In the previous version, the army recruited a bunch of Russian and Australian players in the Constellation Corridor. During that time, they also announced a similar policy, which was implemented for a period of time. After results were achieved, this welfare plan was temporarily frozen.

The effect of this policy had been proven in the previous version. It would mobilize the enthusiasm of older players to bring in newcomers, and it also quickly narrowed the distance between them, encouraging the making of friends. This allowed the Russian and Australian players in the previous version to quickly blend into the army.

Right now, the Russian and Australian players in the army were different from those new players who had only joined the army recently. They had blended in with the Chinese players for a longer period of time and got along relatively well with them. Han Xiao had thus proposed this plan again in order to quickly integrate the new players from various countries and to allow them to feel the warmth of the old players, eliminating any barriers caused by unfamiliarity.

Under the Soaring Clouds was not surprised by this announcement... but he was a little upset. Now that many of the old players were being squatted, the army actually wanted them to even lead the newcomers.

While the spies only accounted for a small portion of the population, he could not help but blame the entire new player group. Thus, in his eyes, this plan sounded like the leader still choosing to help the bully even after he had shown signs of being bullied. The more he thought of it, the angrier he got.

“This is too much!”

Under the Soaring Clouds knew that the NPC could not be blamed, but he could not help sulking.

As he scrolled down to the next messages, he suddenly jerked, and his eyes widened like saucers.

Army Announcement 2: Organization Warning List

Recently, a large number of immortals have reported to the upper echelons that while they were performing their missions, they were ambushed and killed by immortals from other organizations. After a detailed investigation, we have found this to be true. We have compiled a list of organizations that are deliberately targeting our members. For details, please refer to [Appendix – List of Organizations] (Expand/Collapse). Although immortals do not fear death, their actions are regarded as a provocation to the Black Star Army. Thus, I am issuing a public warning to these organizations to restrain your immortal subordinates before I declare war—Army Commander, Black Star.

Army Announcement 3: Counterattack Permit

Until these organizations restrain their subordinates and put an end to the ambushes made to our immortals, we will initiate counterattacks. I hereby inform all immortals of the army that they can engage in retaliatory attacks against the above organizations, restricted only to their immortals. It is not our style to be beaten and not fight back. In order to encourage this behavior, the army will subsidize additional supplies, which can be found in [Appendix – Reward List] (Expand/Collapse). Repeated kills are allowed, and to receive rewards, you will need to use the Phillip mini program to upload each battle video in exchange for the reward you are entitled to. Kills on the same person will not be awarded.

At the same time, for those habitual offenders who have repeatedly attacked members of our army, a special pursuit order will be issued. Every time you kill a designated wanted person, you can exchange it for special reward, please refer to [Appendix – Kill List] (Expand/Collapse). Everyone, please remember, those who offend me, Black Star, will be punished no matter the distance—Army Commander, Black Star.

An uproar sounded as Under the Soaring Clouds finished reading the other two notifications, and many players got excited.

“Damn, what is this? The army actually moved!”

“The PKs between players actually caused such a change in the faction?”

“Haha, those dumb bitches. Squatting on us? Do you think our identity as army members is given for free?”

“This is the feeling of having a backer. It’s really good.”

“Our Army Commander is truly domineering, tsk, warning the other factions immediately.”

The recent squatting incidents had left the army players outraged, but it was because they did not have any teams, they could only count on themselves, praying that they would not meet any of those malicious players from the other factions.

But right now, the Black Star Army had directly issued a faction announcement, with very domineering wording indicating that they could retaliate against their enemies. This attitude made many of the army players extremely comfortable.

Especially since killing players from other factions would now give them reward, everyone was immediately motivated.

Han Xiao released three announcements with the intention of a full-scale blow. He first used the Black Star Army to suppress people and skipped through the chain of command to warn the other factions that their people were causing trouble, making them pull those troublemakers back.

The second was the permission to counterattack. All players in the army could thus be mobilized, and players in the other factions could be hunted down. Not only could they vent their frustrations and enhance their sense of identity, this would also allow the older players to fight together with the newbies to build friendships.

In addition, he even dragged the players from other countries into the water, tying everyone to the same ship. In this manner, it would be much more difficult for any foreign clubs to incite discrimination between countries.

They wanted to divide based on nationalities? Even their own countrymen would end up attacking them, so there was nothing to fuss about!

The manpower used by the clubs to incite trouble was limited, which was only considered annoying to the army players, but if all the army players turned around to hunt down the hostile players, the foreign

club players would be overwhelmed and choose to change factions, which would in turn weaken the scale of players in the faction and would help expand their own leek farms.

The third announcement served to specifically fish out players that liked to cause chaos, killing the chicken to warn the monkeys. This would reduce the number of players who engaged in trouble together, thus reducing the manpower available for the clubs as much as possible.

Under the Soaring Clouds was pleasantly surprised. He turned his head, seeing those people he suspected of being spies now standing still, as though frozen stiff.

Under the Soaring Clouds felt as though all his grievances had been vented. He felt extremely good and comfortable, and if there was a faction identity score, one would see his score have continuously rising.

“Haha, this is the judgement from heaven. Who will Black Star forgive!”

Under the Soaring Clouds laughed out loud, feeling extremely comfortable.

A perfectly normal casual player was actually rubbing his knuckles, as though he could not wait to form a team and cut down people.

From today onward, Black Star will be my big brother. Whoever tries to mess with the army, I'll show them who they're messing with!

...

Once the three announcements were issued, a storm was set off among the players.

The players were no strangers to this sort of mission. Was this not a faction war?

The army players felt like they had been brought to a carnival, where many of them did not even bother with the normal missions any longer, calling for their friends and rushing for the clearing list, exiting the base like locusts leaving empty fields.

The Black Star Army was the first organization to organize a faction war mission. In the memory of the army players, some people in the previous version had switched over to Bloodshed Land, causing the army to issue a similar killing list, but it paled in comparison to the current operation.

This was a large group consisting of more than a million people!

The players were more prone to chaos than NPCs. Missions could be skipped, but how could such an interesting event be passed up?

Whether it was an old player or a new player, their enthusiasm was stimulated!

In particular, the new players from the various countries who had joined recently were even more enthusiastic than the Chinese players. Because many of them had jumped from such factions, they were familiar with the formations of these organizations, and they had naturally rushed faster than anyone to fight with their own people. The veterans naturally took on a few of such 'pathfinders' in their parties.

The hostile factions listed by Han Xiao were those organizations that the clubs worked for. They came from different Star Fields and did not have a particularly strong background, let alone being in the Flickering World where Black Star reigned supreme.

Thus, facing the warning of the Black Star Army, most of them were bewildered.

What are you warning us about? We didn't provoke you guys at all!

But after a short check, they discovered the truth and almost had a stroke.

They obviously had no intention of targeting the Black Star Army, but some of the immortals under them had acted spontaneously and caused trouble, resulting in them being wronged.

It was literally the scenario of sitting at home, but a pot descended from the sky to strike at their head!

Most of the organizations immediately responded to Black Star Army's warning and hurriedly stated to Han Xiao that those were not their intentions. It was only some crazy subordinates who had acted without permission. They had no intention of becoming an enemy of the army, and their weak hearts could not withstand such a 'surprise'.

Internally, these organizations started to strictly restrict the movement of their immortals, ensuring that without their orders, they were not allowed to provoke anyone, lest they suffered from dire consequences. They also punished those troublemakers and instigators... Reflected in the player interface, those players experienced a decrease in Contribution Points and Favorability.

However, there were a small portion of organizations with a rather unique way of thinking. Considering the special reputation Black Star Army had among the immortals, they came to a startling conclusion.

Spies!

This group of troublemaking subordinates must have been spies sent over by the Black Star Army!

The Black Star Army must have plans to swallow us, so they purposely got the spies to create trouble. That way, they will have a just cause to attack us!

These smart alecks began to brew their own conspiracy theories and decided not to fall for the evil plot.

There were even a handful of organizations whose thought process was more refined, thinking that these Immortals that caused trouble were neither their people nor the people of Black Star, but rather a third party.

Their goal was to cause a conflict between them and the Black Star Army, thus acting as the fisherman that benefited in the fight between the sandpiper and clam!

Anyway, regardless of whether this was a truth or not, the organizations already believed it to be so.

And for the Limitless Financial Group, which was the keenest on recruiting the players, it had turned into an excellent target.

Hearing this, Sorokin was in a mess.

There was no problem. I really had such a plan...

But I haven't even started implementing it!

Could this be retribution?

Han Xiao's announcements stirred up the situation and directly caused the entire player population in the World Server to turn into chaos.

And the foreign clubs were immediately forced into a corner by Han Xiao's triple attack.

This is not right. Us players originally liked to PK, so why is it you as the NPC that reacted most strongly?

We only attacked your Immortals troops, and you already made such a big hoo-ha. Do you even feel embarrassed?

Their plan was hit hard right after it started, and they almost got destroyed because of it. In this situation, even if the plan could continue, it would be far from achieving their desired results.

The executives of the clubs were also unable to do anything.

If they fought a faction war, they would not be the ones suffering. Including all the affected factions, even if they could not beat the Black Star Army players, they would not lose too badly. They could even rally the ordinary players in their respective factions through this faction war.

However, the factions they belonged to directly complied. Not only did they not allow a counterattack, they even restrained the players under their command.

Since their superiors did not allow them to retaliate, the faction war could not take place. All they could do was withstand the enemy's attacks.

The Black Star Army had encouraged their players and even released faction rewards. Not only did their organizations not have rewards, but they even held them back. The contrast was just too jarring.

They all knew that if they were bullied like this, the casual players in their faction would be disappointed, maybe even jumping over to the Black Star Army since they could not beat them.

The benefits of staying in a strong faction were just too much!

However, it was not these clubs that had the worst. It was the casuals.

Faced with such a situation, many of them were caught totally unawares.

I just got out of bed, without even brushing my teeth, and you're telling me that I've been marked by hundreds of thousands of players?

What are you trying to do?

...

Just as these players were tearing up in confusion and desperation, Hila, who was situated in the Emerald Star Cluster, suddenly received a special communication request.

It came from the Arcane Church, from the Pope himself!

Chapter 1044 Exposing One's Fangs

At the frontline exploration base of the Black Star Army in the Emerald Star Cluster...

In the bright, empty training room, Hila was levitating in midair, her eyes closed and breathing slow. A red brilliance surrounded her body, and the energy fluctuations she emitted made the high collared cloak of the Crimson Snake uniform flutter like dancing black and red clouds.

In front of her floated a deep red ball of concentrated death energy, and suspended in the middle was a faint golden glow. Golden blood vessel-like threads radiated from that glow, spreading throughout the ball.

At this moment, Hila's brows suddenly frowned, and the energy ball in front of her boiled as though a violent chemical reaction had occurred. It exploded, the death energy reverberating across the room.

"We failed again, Sis."

Aurora's annoyed voice sounded in Hila's mind.

"It's okay. It's not your fault." Hila shook her head.

With the qualitative change in one's Esper Ability's strength, control, and other characteristics, the Esper would be able to bring out and develop more uses for this ability.

Because there existed an exclusive vitality link between the two, after Aurora entered the Calamity Grade, this link was further strengthened, giving birth to a two-way telepathic channel for them to communicate with each other.

As for the transmission of life energy, this was originally limited by the distance. Right now, their personal project was to develop an energy transmission channel that would ignore the factor of distance. However, they had not succeeded yet and were still looking for a method.

Now that Aurora had entered the Calamity Grade, Hila reckoned that she could protect herself. Thus, she no longer restricted Aurora, allowing her to utilize the abilities and life energy freely.

"Sis, actually, the life link that ignores distance already has an embryonic form. The life energy is constantly emitted from my side, but it cannot be transmitted to yours."

"It's not a complete failure." Hila nodded. "Actually, I did receive a small amount of life energy, but the energy loss is too severe, which limits me to only receiving one ten thousandth of it. The way I see it, most of your energy seems to be absorbed by an unknown secondary dimension, and that secondary dimension has a weak connection with me, which is why I could feel its presence."

"Is that so? I didn't feel anything." Aurora was surprised.

"I only sensed this when I advanced to the Beyond Grade A realm. I think that if we wish to complete the link, we need to first solve this obstacle. I previously sent my death energy into this secondary dimension, but once it entered, it was cut off from me entirely. I'm afraid I'll need to find time to go there in person. I always feel that it has some secret related to us. Call it the intuition of a Beyond Grade A."

As she spoke, Hila shook her head and lifted her finger. There was a bright golden light floating on her fingertip, about the size of a peanut. This was the life energy she had obtained from Aurora.

With just her eyes, she manipulated the sesame-sized particles of death energy into this cluster of life energy, and the next moment, a brilliant light flashed as the two energies melted together. The red and golden light spots merged into a light spot with the color of orange gold.

“Sis, did you succeed?”

“Nope, I’m still exploring the ratio needed to successful fusion. Right now, I can only merge this small amount of energy.”

Hila lightly breathed out. She had tried to fuse their energies a long time ago, but due to their lack of control over their Esper abilities, they had never succeeded. At that time, they had thought that it was a conflict in their energy natures that caused this.

However, now that Hila was in the Beyond Grade A realm and Aurora had also entered the Calamity Grade, Hila reattempted the combination, only to find out that their energies were actually combinable, but they were unstable and required powerful manipulation abilities to maintain the balance.

After the fusion, it would turn into an orangey-gold light cluster, with different characteristics. Although the healing and killing effects were still present, these two characteristics were not strengthened but in fact weakened. Hila had not yet studied the special effects the fused energy would have.

At this moment, a communication request sounded.

Beep beep!

A virtual screen appeared, and the vice-captain’s image popped up. The shock on his face had not faded as he said, “Your Excellency, the Pope of the Arcane Church wishes to speak to you. Should I transfer the call over?”

Hila’s pupils shrank.

For someone seated at the very top to come knocking, Hila thought it was surprising.

She thought for a while before saying, “Transfer it.”

Very quickly, the screen in front of her changed to the shadow of the Pope.

The three Universal Civilizations often had their leaders appear in the news, so Hila naturally knew who he was. Thus, her expression was indifferent as she spoke.

“May I know your intention in looking for me?”

Because of the conflict between the Arcane Church and the Black Star Army, Hila did not bother showing much respect.

The Pope did not bother beating around the bush either. “I would like to invite you to join our Arcane Church.”

“The leader of a Universal Civilization actually came to personally invite me, I’m really flattered... If Black Star was here, that’s what he would say.” Hila remained impassive. “But I’m not him.”

The Pope slowly continued. "We've looked into you, and you're someone who values and pursues strength. The Arcane Church can help to give you incredible strength. I..."

"It's alright. I reject your offer." Hila did not even wish to listen on and refused flatly.

"... So long as you join as an ally, you can state any conditions."

"Not interested."

The Pope paused, expressionless. "The reason you insist on following Black Star, is it because of your own personal feelings?"

"Nothing to do with you."

The Pope nodded. "My offer will stand. If you happen to have a change in heart, the Arcane Church will forever welcome you with open arms."

He then ended the communication.

Looking at the darkened screen, Hila could not help but frown.

The Arcane Church's Pope had personally appeared, which meant that he had more sincerity than the Crimson Dynasty. However, this could be because of their relationship as enemies, which would require him to step up if he wanted to poach her.

If it was an ordinary Beyond Grade A that had received such a treatment, they would likely have accepted it on the spot. However, she would not consider leaving the Black Star Army for the time being. Thus, no matter how good the offer, she did not hesitate to refuse.

...

On the other end, there was a fleet of spaceships making their way toward the Black Star stronghold in the Emerald Star Cluster.

The insignia of the fleet represented a small mercenary group, but it actually carried several Beyond Grade A combatants from the Arcane Church.

'Child of Light' Sagman glanced at his communicator. "The Pope's intentions have been conveyed. The poaching has failed. We can begin our operation."

The Arcane Church had long prepared both plans. During this time, the Beyond Grade As had assembled, and if the Pope failed to persuade her, they would strike and eliminate Hila, preventing any mishaps in the future.

"The situation now is beneficial to us, as both the dynasty and Black Star have yet to discover that we have assembled. It's best to do a quick battle and make no mistakes like before," Taylor said.

In the past, it would have taken the Beyond Grade As a long time to gather because of the different Star Fields, so any action would have been discovered a long time ago. However, because a large number of them were in the Flickering World, they were close to each other, facilitating their actions. Before their enemy discovered them, they could take action whilst they were unaware.

"It's best to shift Hila away from the stronghold. Otherwise, the allies of the dynasty can quickly support her through the stargate."

"Then we'll leave this job to you, Tolaen. You go provoke Hila and draw her out. The further the better," Sagman said.

Tolaen paused for a while, his heart unwilling. In the end, he gritted his teeth and said, "Let me try."

"Well, if Hila does not accept the challenge, we will first destroy the stronghold's stargate. It's a pity that Sun Hunter will not be able to participate in that activity. Taylor, you're a Mage with more flexible means. Destroying the stargate will be left to you and me." Sagman hesitated, before continuing in a deep tone. "As for the Lord's Avatar of Black Star that will be beside Hila..."

At this moment, the doppelganger of Kasuyi, which had always been silent, said, "I'll hold him off."

The Arcane Church had brought out enough benefits to allow Kasuyi to participate in this operation. However, he did not like the act of besieging others or bullying newcomers, so he merely sent a doppelganger over as insurance.

"Alright, we have no guarantee of beating Black Star's avatar. Only you will be able to suppress him." Sagman nodded.

"It's a pity that His Excellency Wuornos could not appear as well, or else killing Hila would only be a matter of seconds," 'Desolate Beast' Mercer muttered.

"Stop imagining things. Wuornos will never leave the Temple of God. He will not involve himself in vulgar mortal affairs." Taylor shook his head.

The six of them present were 'Child of Light' Sagman, 'World Gate' Taylor, 'Desolate Beast' Mercer, 'Red Devil' Tolaen, a doppelganger of Kasuyi, and a Lord's Avatar of a Mechanic.

The nature of Kasuyi's doppelganger was similar to the Lord's Avatar of the Mechanic class, which carried a part of the body's combat power. It could not be compared to the quasi-Beyond Grade A doppelganger ability of EsGod.

Such a lineup just to deal with Hila, this was truly overkill.

However, the difference between this and the battle at Planet Lighthouse was that the allies from the dynasty were missing, and Black Star's true body would also not be present, which meant the absence of the Spacetime Amber. The Arcane Church thought that this situation was favorable, not to mention that their target was Hila, who was easier to deal with than the cockroach that was Black Star.

Kasuyi's doppelganger turned his head away to look out of the porthole, declining to continue the conversation with the rest.

"Manison, you probably wouldn't make a move right... If Hila dies, Black Star will certainly go crazy... Hehe, such a difficult choice this time.

"You're not suitable to act, and I understand, so let me take your place in this show.

"With me around, she will not die."

1045 Undercurrents

The Federation of Light's territory in the free competition zone was in another Star Cluster.

A fleet was hovering in space, with the total number of battleships amounting to two million. Among them, the largest flagship was the Eternal Light. Two humongous mechanical rings circled around the entire fleet, one horizontally positioned and one vertically positioned, perpendicular to each other.

These two mechanical rings, which were larger than the stargate itself, were the strategic Universal Treasure of the Federation of Light, the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device.

The components of the mechanical rings were intricate, and a large number of mechanical ships were being connected to each section of the ring for debugging and maintenance work.

On the bridge of the flagship, the gathered Beyond Grade A members of the Federation of Light stood in a row, looking at the scene outside.

"To actually utilize such strategic equipment, it seems like the federation's upper echelons really value the action this time." A muscular green-skinned man sighed. On his head was a purple runic turban that glittered constantly.

This person was Womre, with the moniker 'Energy Soul'. He was a pugilist based in the federation and was adept at energy-based attacks. As a Beyond Grade A descendant race, he possessed unique racial talents that gave him superior skills. Standing with his hands behind his back, he gave off the bearing of a grandmaster.

"This matter concerns the unlocking of the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter's seal, so it is worth them investing the huge resources to activate the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device," Hades said. "The Arcane Church will definitely make some sort of move. When they begin to stall Black Star's avatar, we'll activate the teleporter to appear directly in the battlefield."

"That's right," the commander explained. "We also have another Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device in the fleet, so once we grab Hila, we'll be able to teleport back, and the operation will be a success."

The Federation of Light was different from the Arcane Church; their objective was to capture Hila so as to force Black Star to unseal the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter. Because of their Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device, they had a natural advantage in allowing them the ability to escape the battle once they obtained their target.

The Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device was able to send someone away but could not bring them back, so the fleet equipped itself with a second set of teleporters, along with a self-destruct device. Once the teleportation was completed, it would destroy itself, preventing others from taking it and studying the technology.

If they could unseal the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter, paying the cost of a Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device was acceptable to the federation. While expensive to build, a Universal Civilization did not lack money, and it was not difficult to build them if one had the relevant technology. They had quite a number of Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Devices lying in their warehouse, acting as a deterrent to other civilizations.

“It’s easier said than done. While the fleet has brought along another set of teleporters, it takes a lot of time for it to be arranged and charged, and there will definitely be disturbances during this period,” one of them in a mechanical suit said. His name was Jackornitz, a Beyond Grade A Mechanical Pugilist of the Federation of Light.

“Thus, the reason we’re bringing this fleet along. There are a lot of unmanned ships within this fleet, which will speed up the deployment of the transmitter, and it will help to protect the transmitter from interference. There’s also the mechanical army of Her Excellency Mornisa to aid us, enough to allow us to retreat,” Hades replied.

“Yep.” A machine by the side nodded. This was her Lord’s Avatar, and she also brought along a mechanical troop, which was the best candidate to block off the enemy’s path. She would not feel regret even if all of them were completely destroyed.

“Don’t forget, Black Star is a Virtual Mechanic and can invade our fleet’s controls.”

“Romo and I will be responsible for the virtual defense remotely, and the main artificial intelligence of the federation will also invest the majority of its computing power into the firewall. While Black Star is a pinnacle Beyond Grade A Super, he can’t break through our defense while being distracted by the fighting,” Mornisa explained.

The Romo mentioned by her was a Beyond Grade A Virtual Mechanic from the federation, responsible for guarding the quantum network and the main intelligence network of the federation. He was not participating in this operation, but he would provide some form of remote assistance.

“It’s a pity that the Mechanic Emperor is not planning to take part in this operation. If he were in charge, we would not have to be afraid of the Virtual Intrusion of Black Star at all.” Hades sighed.

At this moment, Sierron, who was standing with his arms crossed in the center of all the people, snorted before indifferently speaking. “Humph, Manison refuses to come, and Oulou is also in the Central Galaxy, so I have to lead this team. I don’t care about the rest, just leave Black Star to me. If there’s anyone from the Arcane Church who tries to stop us, I’ll deal with the strongest too.”

‘Star Shatterer’ Sierron, a pinnacle level Beyond Grade A Pugilist, was the head of the federation team for this operation, and he was also a member of The Ancient Ones.

On the other side, a multi-faceted crystal was suspended in midair, its body shining with a deep blue color. It sent out mental fluctuations. “The task of capturing Hila can be left to me.”

This was a crystal life form called Crystal Soul. It was a Beyond Grade A Psychic.

The Federation was sending seven Beyond Grade As this time—‘Energy Soul’ Womre, ‘Lone Ranger’ Jackornitz, ‘Mechanic Empress’ Mornisa, Hades, Crystal Soul, ‘Star Shatterer’ Sierron, and ‘Defender’ Romo, who was providing remote assistance.

This lineup was stronger, with one additional participant compared to the Arcane Church.

...

In the Garu Star Cluster within the Flickering World, Sorokin stood at one of the branch offices of the Limitless Financial Group, overlooking the dense comet trails in space. These were the trajectories left by the spaceships coming and leaving the area.

This place was an interstellar transit station, located in the territory of the Black Star Army. Not far away was one of the stargate transportation hubs, so it was very prosperous and led to the surroundings of Black Star Palace.

Sorokin squinted and muttered to himself, "A good show should begin soon."

As the middleman who was responsible for the sending of messages to the federation and the church, he knew how they would act when Hila's data was given to them. There was a high probability of both civilizations taking action.

As he admired the scenery, he began to hypothesize the possible scenarios.

"The federation has the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device, which gives them the initiative. It is likely they will lurk behind and move later, waiting for the Arcane Church to first make a move. The Mechanic Emperor is likely not participating in this operation, so it is likely that Sierron will be the one at the helm. As for the church's side, whether it's Kasuyi or Sun Hunter that's leading, they will most likely be paddling and not really moving for real... Heh, the Meeting of the Gods really affected quite a few people this time, Black Star."

Just as he was speculating, a magic transportation door lit up in his room, and someone walked out. The person stood behind Sorokin and waved his hand, casually destroying the door.

Feeling the magical fluctuations, Sorokin turned around, and a superficial smile surfaced.

"Your Excellency Traveler."

The person was a humanoid creature, with a gray complexion and no nose. He had yellow, crystal eyes, with vertical slit-like pupils, messy gray hair, and a gold ring. He only had three fingers on each hand, with one holding onto a staff that was twisted like a branch. He wore a gold headband with a brown hooded robe.

The Traveler, a Beyond Grade A mage, spent most of his time travelling around the secondary dimensions, and he did not appear in the outside world often. On the surface, he was a neutral Beyond Grade A, but he actually maintained a secret relationship with multiple Super Star Cluster level civilizations. He was also present during the Meeting of the Gods, albeit remaining taciturn and almost non-existent.

"The Super Star Cluster Alliance has employed me to aid you." The Traveler looked at Sorokin with interest. "This is interesting. What sort of deal have you reached with them, to actually have them send me to challenge Black Star?"

"There are some matters that are currently happening, and if my predictions are correct, the federation and the church will appear in the next few days to attack Hila. During that time, I hope you will be able to go to Black Star Palace and announce that you wish to challenge Black Star." Sorokin blandly smiled.

He had secretly contacted the Star Cluster alliance and revealed some bits of news, reaching a new deal to interfere in the process.

“Ah, so what you mean is...”

“That’s right. Go up for a challenge, and if Black Star spars with you, he will have to split his attention, which will cause the strength of his consciousness to drop, reducing the aid he can provide Hila. If he does not agree to the spar, it will mean that his true body is not in the camp, which means you will fight against Ames. I heard that he has a close relationship with Ames, which will leave him torn as to whom he should help first... No matter what, he will be restricted.”

Traveler quietly listened before speaking up. “You seem to be very clear that this operation will be a success. What benefits will you obtain?”

“Hila’s existence is a threat, and I believe the majority of Beyond Grade As do not wish to see such a character growing.” Sorokin laughed. “Furthermore, even if she joins an alliance, she will definitely choose the Crimson Dynasty. Thus, this poses a danger to the other two universal civilizations.”

“It doesn’t just stop there, right?” Traveler refuted. “You even dragged the Super Star Clusters into the mess. You definitely have bigger objectives.”

“Haha, alright, there’s no harm in telling you.” Sorokin narrowed his eyes. “Do you think the other two are kicking up such a big fuss over such one Hila? No, Hila is merely a catalyst. The bigger reason is the Meeting of the Gods that took place not long ago.”

“Oh?” Traveler’s eyes flickered.

“Think about it, the federation and the church sending their Beyond Grade As to do such a thing... once they succeed, how will Black Star respond? Both civilizations are trying to promote infighting among Beyond Grade As. If successful, then the Meeting of the Gods will only exist in name...” Sorokin’s mouth twisted up. “But I dare to boldly guess that the aim of the federation and the church is to leave just one or two of the Beyond Grade A allies alive from this operation, using this grudge to fuel their hatred.”

Traveler frowned. “It can’t be, right? The situation isn’t that bad.”

“Who knows? Throughout my long lifespan, I’ve awoken to a fact... that you should never believe you’re irreplaceable to the Universal Civilizations.”

Traveler stared at him before slowly saying, “Then, what about you? You’re also a member of the Beyond Grade As, but you’re not on the same front as them.”

“Aren’t you the same?”

“I’m justified, but you’re a true neutral.”

“Hehe, if I really have to give a reason, it’s just that I don’t like the idea of having an individual rule supreme. I’m a businessman, and I believe in having a collective entity. I believe only in the market.”

Sorokin revealed an insincere smile.

“No matter how strong a Beyond Grade A is, they are still an individual. Only the diversification of civilizations will be able to make the cold universe flourish. Civilization is the cornerstone of society itself, the protagonist of the universe. Individuals outside these specifications are merely dispensable parts of our interstellar society. Getting rid of them might even make the world more peaceful and prosperous.

“The Beyond Grade As have too many privileges. If you do not know how to be satisfied with what you have, you will reach out to places that you should not touch, causing new turmoil in the universe. I don’t want to see this, so the fewer Beyond Grade As in the universe, the better.”

Traveler was a little surprised. “I always thought you only knew how to make money. To think you had such a side.”

“You can think of me as a warden, responsible for the balance of the universe.”

Sorokin turned around, and after a momentary pause, he added another sentence.

“... Of course, money still has to be earned.”

...

Somewhere in the Emerald Star Cluster, Han Xiao was hiding in the mechanical workshop within his spaceship.

“Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy Carrier, Test #17.”

A silver and red mechanical carrier stood on the test bench. The Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy cylindrical container was fixed on top of the mechanical body by four mechanical arms, connecting both the container and carrier with dense transmission wires.

Phillip sat on Han Xiao’s shoulder, reporting, “The carrier has completed the self-diagnostics. Status is excellent. The state of Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy is currently well behaved, and the connection is stable. Should we begin the energy transfer?”

Han Xiao nodded. “Begin.”

The instruments activated when he spoke, and the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy turned active, rushing into the mechanical carrier along the transmission wires.

Buzz!

The mechanical carrier jerked, its eyes lighting up with a red glow, becoming more and more glaring. Its body vibrated at a high frequency as it endured the load of the Primal Esper Ability Entity.

Han Xiao fully released his Mechanical Sense, staring closely at the carrier as he observed every detail.

In his eyes, the violent Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy was gradually being constrained by the carrier and had begun to fuse with the special conversion components within the body. The function of this component was similar to that of the host’s cells to contain and refine the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy.

After a long period of time, the final speck of energy merged into the carrier.

Hu!

The carrier released a crimson colored shockwave, creating a gale in the room.

“Fusion complete. Synchronization rate is 72%. Compatibility, 75%. Load on the carrier is at 41%...” Phillip began reading out the results.

“Finally, it succeeded.” Han Xiao’s expression was joyful.

The carrier could not even perform the first step of fusion before, but now it had finally merged with the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy. While continuous optimization was required, this was a good start and could already be directly used in combat.

The creation of the carrier for the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy was different from that of the mechanical soldiers. Its technical requirements were extremely sophisticated, not only needing to integrate the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy but also to prevent it from seizing control of the body.

Fortunately, Han Xiao had obtained the cell sample of Evans, which spared him from a lot of detours.

Chapter 1046 Enemy Spotted

The mechanical carrier played a similar role as a host, accommodating the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy and using its own Psionic core to exert a force in order to drive the Primal Chaos’ abilities. It did not need to start from scratch like ordinary human hosts and could directly exert a strong combat power.

The combat power was wholly dependent on the performance of the carrier, as well as its fusion rate with the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy. In simple terms, this situation was similar to that of EsGod—an inherently strong host would allow the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy to burst forth with its fullest strength.

However, the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy’s main purpose was to provide energy, similar to a tool. It would be constrained within the carrier, and it would be the carrier itself or the artificial intelligence Sparta that controlled the body to fight instead.

Because this carrier was only the first prototype, there was still a lot of room for improvement, so Han Xiao did not turn it into an Apostle Weapon immediately.

“This model will be named [Mysterious Energy Host—First Generation]. I’ll come out with a new code name when it becomes an Apostle Weapon.”

Han Xiao was quite satisfied. He had a lot of skills that could increase the upper limit of his mechanical skills, so he still had vacancies to create Apostle Weapons.

“Noted, hum... The model name has been recorded, and its entry in the database is complete.”

Han Xiao nodded. He then sized up the carrier carefully before saying, “How do you feel?”

The next moment, a mental fluctuation was released, and the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy said, “It’s a little too cozy and uncomfortable. Give me a better carrier in the future.”

“Relax, the model has already been created, and optimization will be a simple process.” Han Xiao waved his hand casually.

“Humph, replace this carrier with a mechanical life form so that there will at least be someone to converse with me. Right now, I feel like I’m trapped within a prison.” The Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy was grumbling nonstop.

Han Xiao suddenly recalled something and interrupted, “Oh yes, do you think it’s possible if I were to split you into eight equal pieces to create a team of Mysterious Energy Hosts?”

“Don’t even think about it!” The Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy immediately lashed out. “I won’t allow you to mutilate my body! Ab! So! Lute! Ly! Not!”

“What an intense reaction. Is it unbearable for your senses?” Han Xiao was a little curious. He could not help but ask that upon thinking of EsGod.

“Humph, it’s equivalent to you dismembering a person and that person having to watch others use his body parts as weapons, playing with his body at will. Furthermore, the pain inflicted on the parts will still be transmitted back to the brain, so you tell me whether this is good or not,” the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy grumbled in dissatisfaction.

“Cough, treat it as I never mentioned it.”

Thinking about it, Han Xiao realized that the scene was a little gruesome and coughed to hide his embarrassment. He pretended that nothing of the sort had been spoken.

Next, he tested the combat power of the First Generation Mysterious Energy Host, applying many scenarios that would require the usage of Esper Abilities. The results only left him with satisfaction.

As a Super High Risk Esper Ability, the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy definitely had a plethora of abilities. It could strengthen itself, radiate the powerful dual attributes of psychic and spatial energies, and fly at high speed. It could even shuttle through secondary dimensions and extract energy directly from the planetary cores.

Since it had yet to receive the bonuses offered by a mechanical life form and Apostle Weapon, its combat power was far lower than a Beyond Grade A, but once the Mysterious Energy Host turned into an Apostle Weapon, it would likely become the most capable existence among the Apostle Weapons. Even Psionic Prime, who had been continuously evolving for many years, might not be its opponent.

“As long as the optimization is completed, the Mysterious Energy Host will become my top fighter and might even defeat ordinary Beyond Grade As.”

Obtaining another strong helper in battle left Han Xiao overjoyed.

At this moment, Phillip vibrated before saying, “Master, hum... There’s news from Black Star Palace. A Beyond Grade A has come knocking.”

“Who is it?” Han Xiao’s eyes narrowed.

Since it was Black Star Palace, who would dare go and lay their hands on his home base?

This person's courage was really too great. With the resources he had poured into Black Star Palace, alongside the troops stationed there, one would require two Beyond Grade As to attack it in order to pose a threat.

"Uh, it's not an enemy. It's an ally of the dynasty, Silver Shadow."

Han Xiao immediately jerked to a stop, his expression a little puzzled.

Why did this guy come over to my base camp in secret to find me?

"Who's receiving him now? Did he mention his intentions?"

"Ames has received him. He came here with a gift and would like to request for an opportunity to use the Evolution Cube."

"So, that's what this is..." Han Xiao figured.

Previously, when he fought with Silver Shadow, he defeated him, thus robbing Silver Shadow of the chance to request to use the Evolution Cube. Thus, he had most likely been searching for bargaining chips that would allow him to do an exchange.

"What sort of presents did he bring for me?" Han Xiao was curious.

"It seems like he brought some rare blueprints and materials. I have no idea where he got them."

"Blueprints... that works."

Han Xiao had already decided to properly befriend this Uber, so when he asked about the bargaining chips, he had set the bar low. As long as he showed a favorable attitude, then he would lend Silver Shadow the Evolution Cube. In this regard, Han Xiao's style was to treat each individual differently. People like Heber who were always annoying him would not be able to borrow the Evolution Cube even if he gave the entire Bloodshed Land to him.

"What a coincidence, to come precisely when my true body is not in the base." Han Xiao tapped Phillip's round face with his finger. "So, where's the Throne now?"

"Reporting, it has almost arrived at Black Star Palace. The ETA is in a few hours, hum..." Phillip gurgled as he hugged Han Xiao's finger.

"Then let him converse up with Ames for the time being. I'll be there once the Throne has arrived."

With the King already crafted, Han Xiao had gotten his mechanical army to secretly transport the warp point 'Throne' as well as Evans back to their main camp, Black Star Palace. It had already been some time since they did so, and with the exclusive stargate passage of the Black Star Army, they took many shortcuts. They were already nearing Black Star Palace.

The moment the Throne arrived in his palace, he would be able to utilize the King to warp directly there. As long as he did not stay longer than three minutes, he would be able to re-activate the charge and return to his original position before the cooldown began.

...

At the same time, in the Army Commander's reception room in Black Star Palace, Silver Shadow placed both hands on his knees, sitting up straight, appearing cautious and polite.

And opposite him, Ames was seated on the main seat, one hand supporting her chin, while the other telekinetically brought three wine glasses to the table. She smiled. "No need to be polite. Let's have something to drink first."

By the side, Feidin smiled lightly. "Your Excellency Silver Shadow, the Army Commander has just gone to inspect the territories and will be back in a few hours. Please wait for a moment."

"Alright." Silver Shadow nodded before lifting the glass and emptying it.

Ames sized up Silver Shadow's gleaming body with some interest. "I heard from Black Star that you have good strength, and he's very optimistic about your potential."

"Thank you. I'm also deeply respectful of His Excellency Black Star." Silver Shadow hesitated for a while before continuing. "Actually, I have a question to ask..."

"What is it?" Ames lightly smiled as she lifted the glass to sip at her wine.

"Black Star is not here, but why is it you that is welcoming me?" Silver Shadow was a little hesitant as he spoke.

In his opinion, while the Black Star Army and Floating Dragon Island were allies, there was no need for them to replace each other to meet other Beyond Grade As. After all, the officers of the army were present, and the Dragon Emperor should be a guest. However, it seemed like she was treating this place like her house.

Unless... the rumors were true, that Black Star and the Dragon Emperor had... that sort of relationship?

"How is that surprising?" Ames raised a brow. "Black Star told me to come over to meet him, but he ended up going away, so of course I'm the one to welcome the Beyond Grade A guests instead."

Hearing this, Silver Shadow felt that there were a lot of hidden meanings within.

Such a natural tone... ha, the rumors were indeed true!

He had actually felt it strange at the start. Why would Ames come all the way from afar to visit Black Star Palace? But now it was all clear. If they really had such a relationship, it was no big deal for Black Star to call the Dragon Emperor over to spend some long and sleepless nights together.

Thinking about this made Silver Shadow subconsciously display an even more respectful attitude. While he was someone who did not enjoy small talk, he tried his best to accommodate Ames' requests.

After all, he had a request to ask of Black Star, and since a 'family member' had come out to greet him, it would be rude for him to snub them.

...

At the same time, in the Emerald Star Cluster, a spaceship flew over from the distance, slowly approaching the entrance of the Black Star Army's stronghold.

Seeing this, the defense force in outer space immediately separated two battleships, intercepting the ship and issuing a warning on the wide area channel.

“Visitor, please stop advancing and identify yourself!”

After the message was sent, the strange spaceship slowly switched off, hovering in outer space.

But the next moment, a tyrannical energy fluctuation burst out, and all energy detection radars in the entire stronghold instantly rang, sending out endless warning alarms.

Boom!

“Alert! Alert! High-energy fluctuations detected. The model is being matched... Match found. The source is determined to be an energy release from a Beyond Grade A!”

Swoosh!

A commotion erupted throughout the stronghold, and the fleet in outer space immediately gathered. The cannons on the ground also raised their muzzles toward the air, locking onto the spaceship, and a large number of battleships rose into the air. The stronghold instantly entered a state of combat.

The next moment, the figure of Tolaen appeared on the wide area channel, laughing arrogantly as his entire body blazed with Demonfire.

“Ahahaha... Hila! I’m here to get my revenge! Last time, I was beaten by you, but today, I shall wash away my humiliation. Do you dare fight me once more!”

As he spoke, his Beyond Grade A aura slammed against the stronghold.

In the training room, Hila suddenly opened her eyes, her gaze cold.

The warning from Han Xiao a while ago reappeared on her mind, which made her more cautious in dealing with matters.

Seeing that the defeated person had actually come looking for another battle with her, she thought to herself, What a fraud... does he really take me for a fighting idiot?

At this moment, the Vice Commander contacted her.

“Your Excellency Hila, he’s challenging you. What should we do?”

Hila had an indifferent expression, blandly replying, “What does the army manual say about how to deal with an enemy that’s close to the stronghold? Do I still need to teach you? Just because the other party is a Beyond Grade A, you suddenly do not know what to do. What’s the use of having you around?”

The Vice Commander shrank his neck. “I... I understand.”

Being surrounded in the starry sky by battleships, Tolaen patiently waited after sending out his battle request. He sneered to himself. With Hila’s character as a fighting nut, there’s a high probability she will agree. Kasuyi and the rest are hiding in the vicinity. As long as I lead her over whilst pretending to fight with her, we can complete this ambush.

Just as he was planning his movements, he found out that his vision was gradually brightening.

Tolaen looked up in a hurry, only to see that the Black Star Army fleet surrounding him had begun to open fire without any greetings.

The light of countless energy cannons filled his vision!

Tolaen's expression paled.

F*ck me, you're not following the script at all!

Chapter 1047 - Forced Attack and Acting

1047 Forced Attack and Acting

Boom!

The spaceship that was targeted turned into dust in an instant. Under the attacks of countless spaceships, not a single remnant could escape the fate of being completely annihilated. Not a scrap of the wreckage remained.

Not far away, an unstable transportation door opened, and Tolaen staggered out from it with fear.

Fortunately, he had prepared a teleportation spell long ago and dodged the attacks at the last moment. Otherwise, it would have been way too shameful for him to be heavily damaged before the fight even began.

"Shameless! Firing at me without saying anything at all!" Tolaen was both shocked and furious.

Who in the world would not even give any face at all in the event of a visit or request to spar between two Beyond Grade As?

Even though I did indeed come to challenge you, isn't it too ill-mannered for you to start firing at me immediately without even saying a word?

To him, even if the two Beyond Grade As had beef with each other and one went to challenge the other, they would at least be polite to each other on the surface.

We're all very important people with reputations to uphold. How can you just blast me away like that? What happened to the courtesy between Beyond Grade As? I'm not the only one that'll lose face for this, you will too!

At this time, Hila's voice appeared on the public channel.

"You've lost to me. Those I surpass will never have the chance to catch up. I have no interest in fighting you again."

Tolaen was instantly enraged by what Hila said. He thought he was arrogant enough, but Hila was even more arrogant than him.

After his expression changed a few times, he decided to put up with it for the time being.

"Humph, I have a mission to do, so I won't argue with you. You're already a dead woman anyway."

Tolaen snorted in his mind before activating a magical communication rune to contact his teammates who had set up an ambush somewhere else.

“Guys, our judgment was wrong. Hila did not accept the challenge and fall for the trap. She even shamelessly ordered her fleet to attack me instantly. The plan to lure her away won’t work. Let’s carry out a forced attack. At least we now know for sure that she’s in the stronghold.”

Very soon, Sagman’s reply came through the magical communication rune.

“Okay, change of plan, start the forced attack! Tolaen, share your vision with us. Taylor, open the teleportation gate and attack the stargate. Also, prestart the spacetime stabilization device. Make sure that Hila has nowhere to run after we arrive and that everything goes according to plan.”

...

Hila went all the way to the command room of the stronghold and looked at the image on the surveillance screen, where Tolaen was barely dodging the attacks from her fleet.

“Still not leaving, he must be up to something.”

Hila frowned slightly, hesitated for a moment, and took out the communicator to send Han Xiao a message. She wanted to discuss this with Han Xiao.

However, the next moment, she intuitively felt an extremely strong sense of danger, piercing deep into her back and almost freezing her bones.

Hila’s expression changed slightly as she looked up. She sensed a few Fixed Star sized energy sources suddenly appear nearby.

“Alarm! Alarm! High energy source detected!”

“Alarm! Alarm! Stargate is being attacked. Requesting reinforcements!”

The image on the screen changed, showing a magical teleportation gate suddenly appearing beside the stargate station afar and two people walking out of it. It was Taylor and Sagman.

The two of them started attacking immediately before the defense fleet could launch emergency fire. Tons of summoned monsters swarmed out and restrained the defense fleet, while countless arcane beams and shockwaves destroyed one stargate. The surprise attack was effective.

Beside Tolaen, another enormous teleportation gate appeared, and mechanical troops flowed out like a tide, quickly spreading out. The three at the front were Kasuyi’s doppelganger, ‘Desolate Beast’ Mercer, and ‘Mechanical Catastrophe’ Francisco’s Lord’s Avatar, who was controlling this mechanical army.

Kasuyi and Mercer had known each other for a very long time, while Francisco was a direct member of the Arcane Church. His situation was rather unique, as his main body had always been serving a sentence in the Arcane Church’s prison and was not usually allowed to go anywhere. The Arcane Church would only let him join battles using his Lord’s Avatar when they needed his power, and the contributions he made would shorten his sentence.

His crime was related to his nickname, Mechanical Catastrophe. He had once caused a catastrophe that was machinery related. At the same time, this nickname was also a recognition of his strength. He was a Mechanic of the Energy Branch who had special talents. The cost of enhancing his machinery using his Mechanical Force was drastically lower than Mechanics of the same Grade, and the range of it was much larger. This meant that he could enhance a much larger army of machines compared to others.

Mechanical Catastrophe Francisco was there to deal with the fleet of the army stronghold, as well as to restrain Black Star's mechanical army that was stationed there. Otherwise, the few Beyond Grade As would have to waste a lot of energy dealing with the fleets.

As soon as he arrived, Mechanical Catastrophe immediately started controlling his mechanical army to clash with the fleet of this stronghold.

With the sudden arrival of enemies, the stronghold fleet's response was late for some time but quickly adjusted. The battle instantly entered the climax.

Mechanical Catastrophe's army also brought along several spacetime stabilization devices, wormhole restriction devices, and so on. They were all activated, stabilizing the spacetime of this area. Even teleportation spells could no longer be used.

Seeing this, Hila's expression became grave.

The enemies were well prepared, six Beyond Grade As including powerful ones like Kasuyi...

Do they want to kill me this much?

Despite how proud Hila was, her heart still shivered for a second.

Is this what Black Star faced back then?

No, this might be worse. It's almost a certain death situation.

However, her mindset was only shaken for an instant before she suppressed the negative emotions and turned them into the fighting will, making her feel as if all the blood in her body was boiling.

Boom!

The next second, Hila tore the ceiling open and flew right into the sky. She clenched her teeth and charged toward the few Beyond Grade As in outer space who were locking on to her.

During the charge, she released death energy continuously, which turned into a bright red cloud.

Seeing this, Red Devil, Desolate Beast, and Mechanical Catastrophe's Lord's Avatar dove down at the same time, quickly got past the defense fleet that was restrained, and clashed with Hila.

Boom!

A circle of red shockwaves exploded!

The scarlet cloud formed by death energy dissipated, and the red meteor fell toward the ground at an even greater speed than before.

Boom!

After crashing large areas of bases and leaving a rift-like trail behind, Hila was finally able to stop herself. Her surroundings were filled with dust.

“Ahem...”

Hila helped herself up with a fierce look in her eyes, casually wiped away the blood dripping from her nose, and stared at the three people in the sky.

Clearly, she could not fight the three of them head-on and was blasted away immediately.

At this time, a black tide rose into the sky not far from the stronghold and quickly approached. It was the mechanical army Han Xiao had placed there, and at the front was his Lord’s Avatar.

However, the next instant, an ethereal voice appeared in everyone’s mind.

“Black Star, your opponent is me.”

With a flash of light, Kasuyi’s doppelganger stood in the path of Han Xiao’s mechanical army. He raised one hand and flipped it so that his palm was facing down.

Boom!

All the mechanical troops were instantly pressed onto the ground. Only the Lord’s Avatar was still standing, surrounded by bright Mechanical Force, barely hanging on.

“Although these are machines and mental attacks that I’m best at won’t be effective, I’m quite good at Psychic control too,” Kasuyi’s doppelganger said with a calm tone. He raised his hand and pushed forward.

A psychic wall appeared across thousands of miles and charged forward. All the buildings and machinery in its path were pushed away and pressed against it.

Some of the mechanical troops tried to attack the invisible psychic wall, but it was as if Kasuyi’s energy was infinite. Even though cracks kept showing up on the wall under the attacks, he easily patched them up in no time.

The advance of the psychic wall seemed unstoppable. It wiped away a large area of the planet surface like an eraser. Countless pieces of debris from buildings and machines were pushed away from the planet’s surface and into outer space.

Other than the Lord’s Avatar and some highly mobile mechanical soldiers that backed away, the rest of the mechanical army were all pushed off the planet and away from the battlefield, only able to form a formation again in the cosmic space.

At the same time, Kasuyi’s avatar followed them over and stopped in front of Han Xiao.

“Such powerful psychic powers.” Han Xiao’s Lord’s Avatar’s eyes sparkled.

“I can absorb energy from the Void Dimension, so my Psychic energy is infinite. In terms of energy volume, only the Federation of Light’s Oulou might be able to match up to me,” Kasuyi said coldly. “I heard you have the blood of the Void Race too. When your God’s Trait Transformation reaches a certain point, you might awaken a power like this.”

Han Xiao's Lord's Avatar looked around at the entire battlefield.

At this point, the planet stronghold could be divided into three battlefields.

First, there was Hila fighting Red Devil, Desolate Beast, and Mechanical Catastrophe, in which she was completely overpowered. It was too difficult for Hila to fight three of them at the same time, and she looked like she could be defeated and killed at any moment. However, Han Xiao knew what she was capable of. Although Hila would not be able to beat the three of them, she would be able to hold on for a short period. After all, her life-steal ability was quite powerful. Plus, her ability to reduce the enemy's lifespan would make the three of them fight more carefully and not dare to exchange blows.

Second was the large-scale army battle between the mechanical army controlled by Mechanical Catastrophe and the defense fleet of the stronghold. It was a very intense battle. The defense fleet's goal was to help Hila, while the Mechanical Catastrophe's army's goal was to restrain them.

The third and the last battlefield was Sagman and Taylor attacking the stargate stations to cut off Hila's path of escape and prevent reinforcements from arriving. When the two of them destroyed all the stargates, they would join the fight against Hila, and Hila would not be able to hold on any longer.

Han Xiao's Lord's Avatar wanted to stop the two of them, but the distance between the stargate and the stronghold planet was quite far, so he could not make it.

Furthermore, with the mechanical army he had there, he might not even be able to break away from Kasuyi. His largest mechanical army and the Apostle Weapons were all with his main body and were rushing there, but they would take some time to arrive.

This isn't looking very good... Han Xiao narrowed his eyes and looked at Kasuyi.

"Are you sure you want to keep me here?"

With an expressionless face, Kasuyi sent Han Xiao a unidirectional psychic message, saying slowly, "This Lord's Avatar of yours has to stay here with me."

He emphasized the words 'Lord's Avatar'.

Han Xiao observed Kasuyi's emotions. Suddenly, he had an idea. He controlled his Lord's Avatar and his mechanical army and charged toward Kasuyi.

Kasuyi was a Psychic, but not only did he not back off, he instead charged toward the Lord's Avatar and fought with it at melee range. The battle was very 'intense'. It looked like they had very deeply rooted hatred for each other.

The mechanical army around fired nonstop, which looked very accurate but actually barely hit Kasuyi at all.

Kasuyi did not stop this from happening and let these attacks land on the battlefield between Hila and three enemies behind him, occasionally stopping their attacks, forcing them to dodge and give Hila more chances.

At the same time, the mechanical army spread out, trying to get past Kasuyi. Kasuyi symbolically controlled his psychic wall to stop them, but the strength of it at some places was visibly weakened and was easily torn apart as the mechanical soldiers passed through the wall.

It looked like Kasuyi's doppelganger was forced to fight Black Star at close range and could not maintain his psychic wall at full power, leading to some of Black Star's mechanical army breaking away and heading in Hila's direction.

Han Xiao finally confirmed that this guy was deliberately doing this.

Why is he helping me?

Han Xiao suddenly had a flash of insight and softly whispered the code words in the unidirectional mind link.

"Meeting of the Gods? Acting?"

"Focus, acting."

Han Xiao immediately felt assured.

Damn, the opponent's boss is an actor!

He had already requested reinforcements from the dynasty. Although the stargates at the stronghold might be destroyed, the dynasty's reinforcements could still go to the nearest stargate. They would not be able to arrive right away, but it would not take too much longer.

The church has made its move, so there might be others waiting for an opportunity. I shall wait for the reinforcements and my main body to arrive first, Han Xiao thought.

With Kasuyi's 'help', some of the mechanical army successfully arrived at Hila's battlefield to support her. Once enhanced with Han Xiao's Mechanical Force, these mechanical soldiers were very powerful. Despite their low quantity, Tolaen and the others could not ignore them.

With help having arrived, Hila was relieved. The situation became much better, and she did not have to fight solely on her own anymore.

Her death energy, which had the ability to reduce one's life span, made Tolaen and Mercer very afraid. Usually, they were both tank-type fighters, but Mechanical Catastrophe's Lord's Avatar was the one taking on the role of the tank.

The fragile mechanical body had to endure pressure that was not supposed to be bestowed on this class. 'Mechanical Catastrophe' Francisco was completely speechless seeing how these two muscular men, Tolaen and Mercer, fought so cowardly.

Come on guys, try harder! I'm not Black Star. My Lord's Avatar isn't that tanky, okay?

"Sh*t, Kasuyi's letting enemies pass on his side. Is Black Star's avatar so tough to deal with?" Mercer was surprised.

"After all, it's Kasuyi's doppelganger that's here, and he just used a powerful attack earlier to divide the battlefield, so it's normal for him not to be at full power." Francisco's tone was calm. "What's surprising

is how strong Black Star is. Not only is he fighting Kasuyi head-on, but he's still able to use Virtual Intrusion on my troops at the same time."

On the other side, just as 'Red Devil' Tolaen was about to speak, his shield was suddenly shattered by cannon fire, and he was hit by one of Hila's death energy shockwaves.

Tolaen could not help but look at Kasuyi far away, who was in the middle of an 'intense battle', then complained in his mind, My life span's been shortened again...

...

"W-what's going on?"

In the fleet outside the stronghold, the army players inside the battleships were stupefied by this sudden event.

Although many players had already formed or joined guilds and were moving in the free competition zone as subsidiary organizations, there were also some players who chose to move along with the main fleet of the army.

Due to the faction war order that the army had recently announced, many players had gathered in this stronghold at the frontlines and chosen this to be their temporary main city to form teams and pursue the players of enemy factions.

Unexpectedly, while they were enjoying their time in the stronghold, this place was suddenly attacked by multiple Beyond Grade As and became a battlefield of eight Beyond Grade As!

What's going on? Aren't Beyond Grade A all very difficult to see?

Have we... run into another huge event?

Many players thought of the Planet Lighthouse event in the previous version and quickly started to record the battle, trying their best to capture the Beyond Grade As.

"This might be a huge event of this version! We're here to witness it!"

"Quickly, record it. I have a feeling that this will lead to something big!"

Many players had their fill of being rubberneckers and were very excited.

...

Hasty footsteps came closer and closer.

Bang!

The gate of the reception room was rammed open. Ames, Silver Shadow, and Feidin, who were chattering in the room, looked toward the gate. It was Aurora, who quickly ran in with an anxious expression.

"Teacher, bad news!"

"What happened?" Ames asked.

“My... my sister is being attacked by the Arcane Church. They’ve sent many Beyond Grade As to kill her. I saw it through our mental link!”

“What?”

Ames immediately stood up. Her Force Field erupted and blew away the furniture around her.

After training together for more than a decade, she already had a strong bond with Hila. Once she heard that her student was in a dire situation, Ames was enraged.

At this time, a virtual screen appeared in the room. It was a call from a management officer.

“Your Excellency Ames, Your Excellency Feidin, there’s a situation. A Beyond Grade A has arrived at Black Star Palace. He calls himself the Traveler, and he has challenged the Army Commander by name. How should we deal with this?”

“Tell him that His Excellency Black Star isn’t here,” Feidin replied.

“Er... he said that if Black Star isn’t here, he’ll fight his Lord’s Avatar.”

“Tell him, Black Star is very busy now and has no time to fight him.”

“... Your Excellency Feidin, he said that he won’t waste this trip here. If he can’t fight Black Star, he can challenge Her Excellency Dragon Emperor too... He’s refusing to leave. He’s a Mage, so it’ll be very difficult to chase him away without using special means.”

Feidin frowned and was about to reply.

Ames patted his shoulder, interrupting him, and frowned. “This person did not come with friendly intentions. He probably has some ulterior motives, which might be related to what’s happening to Hila. I’ll test him. Tell him that I’ll accept the challenge.”

Hearing this, Silver Shadow, who had been silent, felt that this was a great opportunity to gain a favor— if he helped Black Star’s family, he would probably benefit a ton from it.

He approached and said, “Your Excellency Ames, how about I take the challenge?”

“How can we let our guest help us in matters like this? Feidin, take Silver Shadow to the watchtower to observe the battle.”

Ames waved and rejected him. She then turned around and walked out of the room with large strides, her skirt swaying like a black flower.

Her tall back disappeared from everyone’s sights, only leaving her voice behind.

“Don’t worry, I’m not that easy to deal with.”

Chapter 1048 - Movements

1048 Movements

Outside Black Star Palace, Traveler crossed his legs in midair with his staff floating in front of him. He looked at the heavily guarded Black Star Palace from afar, and before him was the highly alert defense fleet.

Seeing this, Traveler's eyes narrowed slightly. "I've come at the right time."

According to the information provided by the Super Star Cluster alliance, Black Star was someone who loved accepting challenges. Yet, he was not coming out, not even sending out his Lord's Avatar to fight him. This meant that Sorokin's information was right. Hila was being attacked at this very moment, and Black Star had to protect her with his Lord's Avatar. He could not focus on too many fights at once.

Apostle Weapons and mechanical armies could fight multiple battles at the same time, but one could only descend onto one Lord's Avatar at a time.

"Black Star isn't even using his Apostle Weapons to fight me, so it looks like Sorokin guessed correctly. Black Star has taken his main army away and has been pretending to be in his base.

"Since Dragon Emperor will be the one accepting the challenge, I'll have to quickly deal with her and force Black Star to fight me. Even if he only sends a mechanical army to fight me, I'll still have achieved my goal and divided his attention."

In order to be done with the battle quickly, he had to use special tactics that would not be considered inside the perimeters of sparring. He would definitely offend Black Star by doing this.

However, Traveler did not care much about it. His relationship with some Super Star Cluster Civilizations was very special, exceeding the importance of his personal interests. On the surface, he was accepting a mission and doing his job. However, the truth was that as long as this would help the Civilization he belonged to, he would do everything in his power to succeed.

The Super Star Cluster alliance hoped that the church or the federation's mission would succeed. They wanted these Beyond Grade As to fight each other and did not want to see them united. The Beyond Grade As being united looked like it was problematic for the three Universal Civilizations but beneficial for the Super Star Clusters, but that depended on the timing of it. For now, this was not what the Super Star Cluster civilizations wanted to see.

In the eyes of the Super Star Cluster civilizations, Beyond Grade As were important tools they could make use of, but there were not enough Beyond Grade As in this era. Therefore, even if they were united, they had very limited value to these Super Star Cluster civilizations.

The Super Star Cluster alliance hoped to find a more suitable timing where the universe had more than enough Beyond Grade As. By then, they would even encourage and aid the Beyond Grade As to be united. Therefore, they did not want this opportunity to come this soon when the timing was not right.

Other than to balance the power dynamics, there was another reason the Super Star Cluster alliance wanted to do this—they were worried that if the Beyond Grade As became united too early, it would force the three Universal Civilizations to carry out another elimination, another 'Tragedy of the Pinnacles'. If and when that happened, the three Universal Civilizations would definitely deal with the outsiders first. Therefore, the allies of the Super Star Cluster alliance would be massacred with an excuse once again, and they would be the ones suffering from it.

Traveler silently waited for a while. Finally, Ames flew out from the base.

“You want to challenge Black Star? What’s your motive?” Ames narrowed her eyes.

“It’s nothing but respect for the strong. I want to challenge those standing at the peak. There’s no motive to speak of.” Traveler remained calm.

“You’re related to what’s happening to Hila, aren’t you?”

“I don’t understand what you’re talking about.” Traveler shook his head.

“Humph, chat sh*t.”

A green light flashed past Ames’ eyes, and a Force Field erupted from her body, grabbing onto numerous satellite tiles to bash onto Traveler.

Traveler remained calm and held his staff with both hands. Fog-like magic energy splashed out and turned into rune arrays of different sizes, fusing together and forming an enormous rune shield that looked as complex and exquisite as the mechanical parts of a mechanical watch, blocking the path of the satellite tiles.

Ka-cha!

Multiple satellites clashed onto the rune shield, creating cracks, but could not go further. At the same time, Ames extended her arm forward from afar, aimed at Traveler, and pulled heavily. A powerful force of absorption suddenly appeared and pulled Traveler toward her.

While being dragged through midair, energy sprayed out from Traveler’s body as he stabilized himself. He then cast a string of powerful spells instantly. Multidimensional energy turned into spells that quickly dashed past where Ames was standing but missed.

With a space ripple, she had already changed her location using Void Hyperdrive and approached Traveler’s back. She raised her brows, glared at Traveler’s back, and shot a shockwave from between her brows.

The next second, Traveler’s body was fixed in midair, and he could not move.

Force Field: Gaze of the Dragon!

The moment she locked the enemy’s movements, Ames’s long leg whipped horizontally, sending out a wave of Force Field right toward Traveler’s back.

Force Field energy that was sent out from her own body was the most powerful, and she had condensed this wave of Force Field into a thin line, rendering it dangerously sharp. It looked like she used her leg to launch a blade shockwave.

Force Field: Sweeping Blade!

Swoosh!

The blade Force Field slashed right across and actually cut Traveler in two.

However, the next moment, the two halves of Traveler suddenly shrank and turned into mojo puppets, while further away, a small puppet that looked to be made of clay appeared out of nowhere and quickly shapeshifted into Traveler.

“Puppet Replacement Spell, a simple little trick,” Traveler said calmly.

Ames, however, was slightly frowning. She had known Austin for a very long time and had some knowledge about magic.

The Puppet Replacement Spell was a little known spell of the Alchemy and Curse Branch, but it had a massive side effect. When reflected in the interface, every time someone cast the Puppet Replacement Spell, their health and energy would decrease by fifty percent, and all their attributes would also decrease by twenty percent. This was an extremely costly spell.

Due to its limited value, usually, only low-grade Mages would use it to save their own lives, while high Grade Mages had many defensive methods and would not use spells like this at all.

For example, a Beyond Grade A would have dozens of methods to dodge or block that attack earlier, and even getting hit by it would not be as horrible as the side effects of the Puppet Replacement Spell. Therefore, Ames felt that Traveler had done this for a reason.

As she observed more carefully, she realized that Traveler was strangely giving off a different vibe. He seemed to have a very faint creepy smile on his face, and she felt he became more corrupt and eviler.

“Tsk, Force Field Control is one of the most common Esper Abilities. It’s very rare for someone to be able to become a Beyond Grade A with it. You’re really talented in controlling your Esper Ability. One day, maybe you can improve this Esper Ability to its extreme form, the Super High Risk Esper Ability—Force Control. Although the difference is only one word, its meaning is a world of difference.” As Traveler gave off a different vibe, he became more talkative too.

“Something’s off.” Ames became more cautious and alert. She clenched her fist, shattering a corner of a satellite tile, and then controlled the broken pieces to fly out like a meteor rain.

Force Field: Dragon’s Breath Shooting Star Fist!

While using spells to block the attacks, Traveler was also observing a faint mark on the back of his hand. There was a faint purple evil glow inside his crystal yellow eyes.

“There’s not enough life force. More is needed...”

The two of them fought intensely outside Black Star Palace. Traveler’s way of fighting was extremely strange. He occasionally seemed to purposely get hit by Ames’ attacks. Ames showed the multiple uses of Force Field, including restraining, explosions, and slashes.

While training with Hila around the universe, Ames had improved as well. She had better control of her Esper Ability.

While the two of them were fighting, Herlous, who was watching in the watchtower, secretly commanded the fleet to leave in different directions and form an enormous encirclement.

“Everyone focus,” Herlous said with a deep voice. “Preheat the spacetime stabilization device. When I give the order, activate it and trap Traveler here.”

When the matter involved their Deputy Army Commander, no one cared about nobility anymore. Even Ames did not want to fight Traveler by herself.

It did not matter whether this was a misunderstanding; it was best to deal with Traveler first. Ames’ main goal in fighting him was to force all his attention on her so that the fleet would be able to deploy traps secretly, in case he opened a teleportation gate and escaped.

...

At the same time, the dynasty received Han Xiao’s message and started moving instantly. The Beyond Grade As who were in the dynasty’s territory received their missions, departed from their own territories, and headed toward the stargate stations.

Inside Kant’s ship, the few Beyond Grade As who had gathered urgently this time were all discussing their mission.

“The church really doesn’t learn. During the Planet Lighthouse battle more than twenty years ago, I... and Black Star taught them a lesson, and less than thirty years later, they’re here causing trouble again.” Beyoni curled his lips. A few fire sparkles jumped out between his teeth.

“This movement by them is very sudden. Their target is Hila, and we’re the only ones close by. It’s best for us to quickly head over.” Kant was serious about the matter.

Most of the dynasty’s allies were given territories in the Flickering World and were taking part in the free competition. They were too far away and would not make it in time.

Currently, the Beyond Grade As remaining in the dynasty’s territory would be able to reach the battlefield the quickest, and they were Kant’s Lord’s Avatar; Ravenlaude, who was recovering from his injury; the slacker, Beyoni; and Kohler, who had nothing to do.

“I heard Kasuyi’s doppelganger is there too. Isn’t that a little dangerous?” Kohler whispered.

Kant’s huge eyes glared at him and said, “Don’t be such a coward. With me here, what’s there to be afraid of? I can fight the entire church on my own!”

“Really?” Kohler’s face was filled with doubts.

“Of course not, but can you just let me say it?” Kant rolled his eyes. “If I were that capable, even Clotti would be my follower.”

Ravenlaude stayed silent with a conflicted expression.

Not long ago, he had been beaten up by Han Xiao, so he was not very willing to help.

However, the dynasty would give very generous rewards and merits for every reinforcement mission...

So...

Forget it, I heard the Black Star Army is in a dire situation this time. If I help him get through this, he'll owe me a favor. Then, I can ask Black Star to get me a Universal Treasure...

Having thought of this possibility, Ravenlaude was suddenly very motivated.

...

At the same time, after the dynasty had sent out the reinforcements, the upper echelons continued paying attention to this matter.

Inside the conference room of the political building on the dynasty's mother planet, Ruler Urranrell was watching the broadcast of the battle provided by the Black Star Army. Beside her were the remote projections of the dynasty's upper echelons, who were also watching silently. The atmosphere was very serious.

"The church has yet to give up, and they have now assaulted our ally once again." Urranrell looked around with a cold expression on her face. "What do you all think about this?"

The people exchanged looks. After a while, Bekorodi raised his hand and slowly said, "Your Excellency, according to the data, the church's target is Hila, and Hila isn't one of our Beyond Grade A allies."

"Hila is the Black Star Army's Deputy Army Commander, and the Black Star Army is our ally."

"But she has personally rejected joining the dynasty... Your Excellency, I suggest drawing a clear line. Matters involving Black Star and matters Hila should be treated differently. Now that Black Star has requested help personally, and we have agreed to help because of our agreement, this means that he's using the dynasty's power to benefit his own faction. My thoughts are that... we can help our allies, but we can't be used by them without any cost. Protecting Black Star is what we should do, but protecting a Beyond Grade A who isn't our ally? I think we need to bring up the terms and not provide support without any compensation." Bekorodi's reasoning was logical.

"So, what ideas do you have?" Urranrell frowned slightly.

"If Black Star only gets through this with our help, I think we need to make one demand—Hila has to join the dynasty. Of course, she can remain in the Black Star Army, but she has to be the dynasty's ally too."

"Hmm... makes sense." Urranrell pondered for a while. "What if Hila is killed?"

"It's a loss to the dynasty, but there are benefits to it too. If Hila dies, Black Star will undoubtedly be on the opposite side of the church, the Meeting of the Gods will basically be completely meaningless, and the Beyond Grade As won't be able to unite. This means that one threat is eliminated. At the same time, with a shared external enemy, it's beneficial to building a closer relationship between the dynasty and Black Star. His loyalty will be firmer. Therefore, whether the rescue ends up successful or not, it will be beneficial for the dynasty one way or the other," Bekorodi analyzed.

Many of the upper echelons nodded. Logically speaking, they felt that Bekorodi had analyzed it very well.

Urranrell did not express her stand on this issue. She tapped her fingers on the table, and seeing that no one else had anything to say, she said, "No matter what, provide full support to the Black Star Army first. We'll deal with the rest later."

“Understood.”

The remote projections disappeared one after another.

Urranrell left the conference room, and ‘Dark Lord’ Clotti, who had been waiting outside the door, draped her coat over her and followed behind.

After walking for some time, Urranrell suddenly said, “Clotti, how likely do you think it is that Hila will survive this?”

“Very unlikely,” Clotti said with a poker face.

“Even with the dynasty’s help?”

“That’s right.”

“Why?”

“The federation won’t watch and do nothing.”

“How do you know that?”

“The Mechanic Emperor told me.”

Urranrell had no response for that.

Okay, that’s one powerful and good reason. I have nothing to say about it.

“Looks like the Mechanic Emperor takes the shared battlefield of Beyond Grade As very seriously.”

Urranrell stopped in place and turned to look at Clotti.

“You’re a Beyond Grade A, too. Don’t you have any thoughts about this?”

“My identity as a member of the Crimson Dynasty comes first, the dynasty ruler’s Guard Captain comes second, and the Beyond Grade A part comes only third,” Clotti replied with a calm expression.

Urranrell shook her head and turned back around.

She stayed silent for a moment and then softly said, “You’ve spent too much time as my personal guard by my side. Go take a break from your job. Go out and kill a few Beyond Grade As before coming back. Don’t let the universe forget the name of Dark Lord.”

“Okay,” Clotti replied calmly.

...

At the same time, in Beast Ancestor’s stronghold...

“Hahaha, they’ve made their move as expected!”

Inside the palace, Gorutan laughed loudly. His lungs were so strong that his laughter formed almost solid sonic waves, causing the entire base to tremble.

Just now, he had heard from Sorokin that the information he had exposed had put Hila in a desperate situation.

As his plan succeeded and he got his revenge, Gorutan felt very satisfied.

Sorokin's manifestation stood before him with a smile on his face. "Your Excellency Beast Ancestor, your territory isn't far from the battlefield. Why not go watch it live?"

Hearing this, Gorutan's laughter stopped. His sharp eyes stared right at Sorokin as he said with rage, "Are you trying to trick me again?"

"I wouldn't dare." Sorokin quickly waved his hands.

"Humph." Gorutan snorted. He then lifted his specially made enormous alcohol glass and gulped it down. "No matter what, I'm going to stay here to wait for the news of Hila's death. I'm not going anywhere."

"Don't worry. I'm not trying to convince you to join the battle. The dynasty will have already sent reinforcements. If the dynasty's reinforcements arrive, Hila might be able to escape her doom. Therefore, rather than staying here and doing nothing, it's better to secretly provide some help."

"What kind of bright idea do you have then?"

"Hehe, according to my estimates, the church will prioritize destroying the stargate stations when attacking Black Star's stronghold, activate spacetime stabilization devices, and eliminate Hila's path of retreat. Therefore, if the dynasty reinforcements want to come, they can only use the nearby stargate... Your Excellency Beast Ancestor, if the nearby stargate stations are turned off or destroyed, the dynasty's reinforcements will have to take a detour. This way, Hila will have to remain alone for an even longer time, and the possibility of the plan succeeding will increase drastically."

A flash of light appeared in Gorutan's eyes. He put down the glass and said, "Hmm, what you're saying does make sense..."

Sorokin smiled faintly.

...

In the Primeval Star River, Manison slowly opened his eyes and sent a message in the encoded secret communication channel.

"Mornisa, have you guys departed?"

"Teacher, the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device has already started preheating. We can depart any time."

"Okay."

Manison nodded, swapped the channel, and spoke to his Apostle Weapon team.

"Keep your eyes on Beast Ancestor. He might make a move. No matter what he wants to do, stop him."

"Understood."

After a few more orders, Manison closed his eyes again and softly murmured, "Black Star, that's all the help I'll give you today. Don't disappoint me."

Chapter 1049 Cultural Talen

Boom!

Like a crimson tsunami, the death energy swept across the ground and clashed with an energy shield, creating countless electrical sparks.

'Mechanical Catastrophe' Francisco's Lord's Avatar opened his arms to maintain the shield against the death energy. All the patterns on his mechanical body were glowing with psionic light, and the thruster on his back was working at full capacity, shooting out six deep blue flame trails. But he still could not stop himself from moving backward.

He turned around and saw that 'Red Devil' Tolaen and 'Desolate Beast' Mercer were hiding behind his shield while occasionally shooting ranged Shockwave Blasts or spells, then quickly running back behind him right after. Francisco was infuriated.

You guys are the melee warriors, yet you hide behind me?

Are you two using me as a cover?

Stop messing about!

Francisco was very annoyed.

The battle had already lasted for quite some time. The situation in the various battlefields had all changed. Black Star and Kasuyi were still having an 'intense battle', and mechanical soldiers continued to 'penetrate' Kasuyi's defenses to help Hila.

As Hila gained more help, she could focus more on her attacks, which led to Tolaen and Mercer acting more cautiously. Originally, the three of them had the firm upper hand, but now, the situation had shockingly started to move toward a stalemate. The main reason for that was the mechanical soldiers that Kasuyi let past. They were enhanced by Black Star's Mechanical Force, so they were quite powerful and made the battlefield very chaotic.

The fleet battlefield in outer space was not looking too good as well. The mechanical army controlled by Francisco was being attacked by Han Xiao's Virtual Intrusion, so mechanical soldiers were turning into traitors here and there, fighting their ex-teammates. This led to part of the fleet being able to provide help to Hila using ranged attacks, further diverting the energy of Mechanical Catastrophe and the other two.

'Mechanical Catastrophe' Francisco had to be the one dealing the damage, taking the damage, restraining the fleet, and even guarding his army on the virtual field, all at the same time...

My life is so difficult. I can't even serve my sentence in peace!

Only Sagman's side could give him some comfort, as they were almost done destroying all the stargates.

When the two of them are done, they'll be able to come over and help. Then, the stalemate will be broken, and Hila will be completely overpowered, doomed to die! Francisco thought.

He knew that the Arcane Church had given Taylor a special trump card secretly that would be able to restrict Hila's movements. According to the plan, when the five of them gathered, they would use it to launch a lethal attack on Hila.

This trump card was a few one-time use magic scrolls that stored extremely powerful church special forbidden spells, fused with the powers of Divine Spells.

Among them, the strongest was [Forbidden Spell—Wailing Nun's Embrace]. This forbidden spell normally needed multiple people to use it together and took a long time to activate, but it could be activated instantly when stored in a magic scroll.

The Arcane Church once had a stage where their Mages were blooming, so there were many Beyond Grade A forbidden spell scrolls that got passed down. This scroll had been created by four Beyond Grade A Mages. One of them was even a peak Beyond Grade A Mage, so the strength of this spell was extremely high.

Only Taylor, Sagman, and Francisco knew about these scrolls; the rest had no idea, even Kasuyi. The Arcane Church knew Kasuyi's personality very well, that he was not willing to bully a new Beyond Grade A with so many teammates. If he knew that the church planned to use this kind of one-time mass destructive weapon, it might lead to something unpredictable. Therefore, the church did not tell him about it, and their request to Kasuyi was only to stop Black Star's Lord's Avatar.

As for why only Taylor, Sagman, and Francisco knew, it was because the three of them were the most trustworthy and shameless, so they would work together the best. Anyway, once they activated the scrolls, the other teammates would follow up with more attacks as well.

On the other side, Crimson Snake had already turned into combat mode and shrouded Hila's face. She swiftly moved around the battlefield, shooting out death energy while trying to hide her anxiety.

She understood her situation. Although she could last some time against the three enemies with the help of the mechanical army, she knew that this stalemate would be broken very soon. As soon as Sagman and Taylor joined the battle, she would not be able to last for sure.

If I don't do anything, it'll just be a slow death.

Although Han Xiao had sent a message to her earlier saying that his main body was on the way, due to her personality, Hila did not expect to rely on others in times of despair. Instead, she would do her best to save herself.

The reinforcements have yet to arrive, my means of retreat has been cut off, and there are two other powerful enemies who will soon join the battle. In order to survive, I have to hold on while facing the attacks of five of them. That's a desperate situation even with the help of the mechanical army and the fleet. I'll have to rely on myself one way or another. What other trump cards do I have here?

Hila remained calm and quickly thought about how to resolve this situation.

Ideas were born and filtered out one after another. Very soon, there was only one idea left in her mind.

I'll have to do my best to try this...

Hila clenched her teeth.

...

An enormous beam penetrated the last stargate station. Debris flew everywhere, and shockwaves from the explosion made the shields of the defense fleet nearby flicker.

"The stargate stations have been destroyed, let's go!"

Sagman did not hesitate. He quickly turned into a mass of bright, golden light, which shrouded Taylor, and instantly sped up, turning into a stream of light and leaving the battlefield, heading right toward Hila.

As they knew that the spacetime stabilization device would be activated, they knew that summoning type spells would be affected too. Taylor had made preparations in advance; he had prepared a ton of summoning scrolls, which he started tearing open right after the teleportation gate appeared, forming an army of summoned creatures. Taylor himself, however, swapped from summoning style to artillery style to adapt to the environment.

He was good at summoning spells, but that did not mean he did not learn other types of spells. He was just not as good at those in comparison.

A Beyond Grade A would have multiple combat styles. This was especially true among Mages, who were known for their versatility. No matter what style they were good at usually, they could all switch to a different style when needed.

With Kasuyi holding back, a small number of mechanical soldiers were also let past, trying to stop the two of them.

However, Sagman was extremely mobile in light form. He made countless turns to avoid fighting the mechanical soldiers head-on, showing how experienced he was. Luckily, Taylor was a Beyond Grade A as well, or he would have been vomiting his guts out.

Sagman's Esper Ability was related to light energy, so his turning speed was extremely fast. He went in a huge circle to get rid of the mechanical troops and entered Hila's battlefield, floating in midair above the planet.

"You guys are finally here. Quickly, help!"

Francisco was done with his teammates and was exhilarated to see help arrive.

Sagman and Taylor exchanged looks and saw what each other meant.

Create an opportunity to use the forbidden spell scrolls!

The two of them joined the battle without saying anything.

Light energy shockwaves and magic spells were thrown out like they were free, exploding everywhere.

Boom!

The sound of explosions never stopped. Mechanical soldiers were being destroyed one after another. Hila was in a dire situation once again, so much so that she had to stop all her attacks and focus on defending herself.

After the two of them joined the battle, it became completely one-sided.

...

At the same time, Han Xiao's Lord's Avatar scanned through the difficult situation Hila was in. He then said in the chat window with Kasuyi exclusively, "Hila won't be able to fight against five of them. Stop blocking me and let me past."

"How do you want to act that out?" Kasuyi replied.

"Give me a powerful hit, throwing my Lord's Avatar and part of my mechanical army over."

"The church wants me to stall you. I can't possibly throw you into that battlefield. Plus, if you join that battle, I'll have to follow too, and then, I'll have to fight Hila as well. She'll be in an even more dangerous situation." Kasuyi shook his head slightly.

The acting was one thing, but he did not want to offend the church. No matter how much he was holding back, there was no way he could make it this obvious.

"How about... you use a large attack when you're in a dire situation, and that stops your teammates' attacks? Just say it's collateral damage."

"I have complete control over my psychic power. There's zero chance something like that would happen."

"Then... might as well let me destroy this doppelganger of yours. That's the easiest way."

"No, not mentioning whether your Lord's Avatar has the ability to defeat my doppelganger, I have to stay here to prevent accidents. That old man, Mechanic Emperor, said the federation wants to make a move. I'll have to act like I'm fighting with them for Hila to keep some of them busy."

Han Xiao did not even know what to say.

What's the courtesy of an actor? This is!

You're so passionate about your job that even the church would be touched!

"No this, no that, what should we do then?"

"The federation might appear at any moment. When they do, I'll turn to fight them, and her situation won't be so dangerous. If Hila can still hold on for now, it's best to wait for the change that's certainly going to come," Kasuyi said.

"I'll have to think about it..." Han Xiao pondered.

While these two actors were going through their script together, a change suddenly happened!

Swoosh!

Under the nonstop attacks of five enemies, Hila finally showed a flaw. 'Mechanical Catastrophe' Francisco captured the opportunity, clapped his hands, and released an extremely condensed plasma electromagnetic field that passed through the gaps between the death energy.

Buzz!

Electric sparkles appeared all over Hila's body, and her movements showed even more flaws.

Sagman and Francisco then continued throwing out more powerful controlling abilities to restrain her.

"Weird. Ever since we joined the battle, she's seemed less focused..."

This doubt flashed through Sagman's mind. Before he had time to think about it carefully, he yelled at Taylor in the mind communication channel, "Use the scrolls!"

"Ready long ago!"

Taylor tore open a white magical scroll with black words, the scroll then suddenly glowed extremely brightly.

Swoosh!

As if a prison was finally opened after a thousand years, countless white magical runes shot out from the scroll like wild dragons, all landing on Hila.

The next moment, the surface of Crimson Snake was crawling with eerie pale-white runes, which had an overall shape of a seductive woman. The woman-shaped pattern slowly opened its arms and did a hugging posture.

Buzz!

An unknown power appeared as Hila realized that she could not move her body. She was locked in midair. The boiling energy in her body quickly calmed down, and she was completely unable to move.

Forbidden Spell—Wailing Nun's Embrace!

"Focus fire!"

The duration of this scroll was limited. Sagman did not dare waste any more time. He yelled in the communication channel to tell everyone to use all their attacks and throw them at Hila.

Tolaen and Mercer responded instantly. Although they did not know what happened, they would not let such a good opportunity pass.

Boom!

Hila's silhouette was instantly buried by colorful energy explosions.

It looked beautiful, but it was extremely powerful as well!

Kasuyi's doppelganger suddenly turned around.

"A forbidden spell scroll?"

The church hid this and did not tell me about it?

Seeing this, he did not want to discuss the script any longer. His psychic energy grabbed onto the mechanical army, including Han Xiao's Lord's Avatar, and threw them to the battlefield Hila was in.

"Damn, what a decisive man."

Flying in midair, Han Xiao rushed toward Hila's position with the help of Kasuyi's push, but he was not in a hurry.

Kasuyi did not know much about Hila and thought Hila was in danger. However, Han Xiao knew that Hila had the ability to be able to 'revive' herself. This wave of focus fire looked powerful, but it could not kill Hila. It would only trigger her reviving ability.

However, if that's the case, I'll have to use the backup plan. Han Xiao frowned slightly.

If Hila's one-time reviving ability was not triggered, he would take more risks. Now, however, Han Xiao felt like he needed to change the plan.

However, before he arrived at the battlefield, a powerful life force energy erupted in Hila's location!

Wu!

The gold life energy shot into the sky like a fountain!

The liveliness of this energy startled everyone.

Sagman and the other four suddenly realized, although they had been dealing heavy damage to Hila all this time, those injuries seemed to have recovered within seconds!

With the effect of the forbidden spell ending, Hila escaped. Crimson Snake was already worn out, showing large portions of her sky that was covered in opened wounds with visible flesh.

However, with vital energy regenerating her body, those open wounds closed in the blink of an eye, not even leaving any scars, turning back to her smooth skin.

Sagman and the others' eyes widened as they were astounded.

Impossible!

Such a powerful regenerative ability...

Why does she have this kind of power?

Also, why does this look familiar?

The next moment, everyone turned around and looked at Han Xiao's Lord's Avatar with a shocked expression.

Isn't this... Black Star's ability?

Why does Hila have it too?

In terms of the similarities between the two of them...

Could this be the people of Planet Aquamarine's cultural talent?

This time, Kasuyi's voice appeared.

"Black Star, are you people of the Planet Aquamarine... all unkillable?"

"That's really not true. We don't have that kind of talent..." Han Xiao smiled awkwardly.

If his main body was there instead of his Lord's Avatar, he would probably have taken a very deep breath.

What Hila did was successfully building a vital link with Aurora. How else could so much vital energy erupt out of nowhere?

Being able to obtain a new ability during battle, sis, are you a protagonist type character too?

That doesn't make sense. You're supposed to be on the evil side.

With this vital link activated, Hila became drastically stronger. Her basic combat capability did not increase, but she basically had an extremely powerful healer with her at all times. As long as Aurora still had stamina, Hila's regeneration ability would be terrifying!

Han Xiao's heart was hurting so badly he almost wanted to report this to the officials.

I thought I was powerful enough, but I never expected you to cheat!

If Hila had this 'external software' in his previous life... Han Xiao could not even imagine what would have happened.

Sadly, before Hila's cheat finished installing in his previous life, the Germinal Organization's leader had already destroyed it.

"Again!"

Hila's will to fight was boiling.

Currently, Aurora was already able to fight along her side in this way, which helped her escape lethal danger. Hila's mindset was different from before; she did not reject Aurora using her abilities to help her.

Beyond Grade As needed more vital energy to regenerate, but Aurora was now a Calamity Grade as well, so she was more than able to be Hila's healer.

Hearing Hila's yelling, Sagman and the other four were hesitant as to whether they should continue fighting Hila.

Han Xiao, however, stopped in midair and did not continue approaching. Kasuyi was watching from afar as well.

Everyone stopped doing what they were doing and exchanged looks. The situation became awkward.

However, everyone suddenly felt something and looked over in that direction.

Buzz!

Not far from the stronghold, a Federation of Light fleet penetrated the limitations of the spacetime stabilization device and suddenly appeared on the battlefield.

At the front of the fleet, seven Beyond Grade As stood in a row, looking at everyone there.

Kasuyi looked up and said calmly, "They're here."

Chapter 1050 Oscar Winner

At Black Star Palace, the battle between Ames and Traveler was reaching the climax.

Under the Force Field, the satellite tiles shattered Traveler's magic shield time after time like enormous fists, slapping him around everywhere like he was a baseball.

It looked like Ames had the complete upper hand and was totally overpowering Traveler, but not only was she not relieved, she was even more cautious.

There was a reason Traveler was getting beaten this badly—for unknown reasons, he used the Puppet Replacement Spell multiple times, decreasing his attributes, health, and energy time after time. It was like he was looking to be tortured.

At the same time, that uncomfortable evil vibe he was giving off gradually became stronger too.

"I can't keep doing this." Ames looked at the base far away and nodded.

The officers in the watchtower saw this action of hers, which was a hint to activate the spacetime stabilization device to cut off Traveler's path of retreat.

Herlous instantly gave the order.

"Ambush team in position. Everyone, activate..."

Before he finished, the situation suddenly changed! A purple and green energy wave as thick as flowing liquid erupted from Traveler's body. It had suction cups and looked like the tentacles of an octopus. It also looked like a boiling and bubbling potion that kept expanding.

The energy condensed into almost solidified translucent green and purple energy tentacles. Instead of saying that Traveler released them, it was more like these energy tentacles tore Traveler's body open and forced their way out!

Ames did not have a habit of waiting for someone to finish transforming. Without saying a word, she focused her Force Field once again.

Circular Force Fields spun around her like small tornados, quickly turning into the shape of drills. They then stopped for an instant before rocketing toward Traveler.

However, the next moment, the purple-green energy on Traveler's body moved and covered Traveler completely, forming a coating around him. The Force Field landed on it but was shockingly not able to penetrate it, only pushing him back slightly.

"Hahaha. Useless useless useless!"

Traveler laughed maniacally like he was a different person, giving off an indescribable sense of evil from all over his body.

Tons of army soldiers felt their legs tremble just by looking at him... In the interface terms, all of them had undergone a will judgment.

Ames kept attacking, but the purple-green energy around Traveler was extremely tough and blocked all her attacks. It was unknown what kind of energy this was.

At this time, Traveler suddenly held both his hands up, and a strong sense of passion appeared in his eyes.

“This powerful person here is the sacrifice I, your husband, have given to you. Answer my call, my lovely wife!”

Boom!

The energy around his body suddenly bloomed and spread out like it was infinite, painting the black cosmic space purple and green.

The properties of this area changed in this instant.

“Alert! Alert! Spacetime coefficient is fluctuating drastically. The wave peak has exceeded the reality safety line!”

“Spacetime stabilization device overloading... Alert! Stabilization anchor broken! Stabilization failed. Requesting more spacetime stabilization devices!”

“Analyzing event model... Analysis complete. 100% match. Event: Advent of a secondary dimension!”

If the spacetime was a piece of paper, the spacetime coefficient would be the extent to which this piece of paper was folded. The more stable it was, the neater and flatter this piece of paper would be. At this moment, this piece of paper was crushed into a ball, and another piece of paper representing a secondary dimension was wrapped around it.

Secondary dimensions were dangerous yet amazing. They were all born due to various reasons. If they appeared in the main universe, they would change the spacetime properties of a certain area and turn it into the secondary dimension. Most of the time, this would be a disaster.

Han Xiao had once seen an item called the Shadow Lantern in the dynasty. Its core was the fragment of the Shadow Dimension, and it could summon the Shadow Dimension. What Traveler was doing now was similar to that.

This evil filled secondary dimension gradually expanded outside Black Star Palace. Ames and the various fleets were all inside this dimension as if they were swallowed into its stomach.

Countless energy tentacles extended and appeared out of nowhere, each one at least a hundred thousand meters long, flapping and moving around randomly. The fleets' formations were immediately broken, and their shields were attacked continuously.

Ames frowned as she controlled her Force Field to keep shattering one tentacle after another. However, new tentacles appeared in this secondary dimension like there was no end to them. Seeing this, she had no choice but to keep aiming her Force Field at Traveler himself.

Boom!

Traveler did not even dodge. He just hovered in the same place and kept waving his hand that had the purple mark on it. Following the movements of his hand, purple green energy tides appeared out of nowhere like it was infinite, easily shattering Ames's Force Field attacks.

"I once lost to Oulou and witnessed his terrifying abilities, which motivated me to take the path of searching for secondary dimensions." Purple and green patterns extended on Traveler's face as he became more and more excited. He laughed like a lunatic and said, "Eventually, I found a new power! Let me introduce you. This secondary dimension is called Evil Convergence. It's my wife! Inside its body, I can absorb an infinite amount of energy! Call Black Star out. You're no match for me!"

"You haven't beaten me yet."

Ames narrowed her eyes slightly.

Traveler looked around and saw that countless fleets were rising from the Black Star Palace to deploy more spacetime stabilization anchors around.

Seeing this, he did not care and smiled coldly.

After causing such a big fuss, Black Star would definitely have to do something. He had already achieved his initial goal. All that was left was when would Black Star come.

However, he had to add more flames and give Black Star more pressure.

Having thought of that, Traveler looked at Ames and licked his lips.

"I shall chew you up into pieces first then."

...

In the Emerald Star Cluster, the arrival of the Federation of Light attracted the attention of everyone present. They all stopped moving with different looks on their faces.

There were six Beyond Grade As who appeared there, while 'Defender' Romo, who was providing ranged support, did not come.

"One, two... six Beyond Grade As."

Hila's heart sank. The excitement from creating a vital link that ignored distance quickly dissipated.

If all those people were there to kill her, she felt that there was no way she would survive.

Aurora's stamina was limited; it would run out sooner or later. With so many Beyond Grade As working together, they would be able to kill her countless times over.

To her, no matter how strong her regeneration ability was, being killed was just a matter of time. Furthermore, regenerating fast did not mean that she would not be captured by the enemies.

“Sis...” Aurora’s anxious call came through the mind link.

Hila felt the vital energy that kept flowing out in her body. The sharp look in her eyes gradually softened as she subconsciously turned to look at Han Xiao’s Lord’s Avatar floating in midair.

When she was surrounded earlier, she had analyzed the situation and felt that the only way to survive was to successfully link with Aurora. Hence, she had diverted her attention during the battle to keep trying to build a link with Aurora.

Whether it was her potential exploding in a time of life or death or some other unknown reason, that obstructing secondary dimension gradually stopped absorbing the vital energy. With this obstacle gone, the link between the two of them was built smoothly, and Aurora could finally share her energy with Hila through the blood and soul connection between them.

While everyone was observing the situation, the federation’s fleet moved.

A ton of unmanned spaceships and mechanical troops headed to attack the defense fleet of the planet stronghold, while the other spaceships quickly changed formation. The engineering ships came to the edge of the formation and released arc-shaped machinery that connected with each other, starting to assemble the Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device.

The six Beyond Grade As of the federation quickly approached the battlefield Hila was in. Sierron crossed his four arms and looked down at Hila, Sagman, and the rest from above.

“Looks like we arrived at just the right time,” he said coldly.

Kasuyi’s doppelganger slowly flew over. “The federation is going to be involved in this too?”

“Humph, you people of the church really are useless. You still haven’t killed Hila,” Sierron said coldly.

“Since the federation is here, I suppose you have the same goal as us. Why not work together to kill Hila?” Sagman said with a deep voice. “She has just exposed that she has a similar regeneration power to Black Star. We will only have a higher chance of killing her by working together.”

Hades suddenly said, “Okay, since everyone’s goal is the same, let’s form an alliance.”

Sierron paused, thought about it for a second, and did not explain their true goal.

There were quite a number of people from the church as well; it was not a suitable time to show all his cards. Working together was the best choice.

Hearing this, Sagman and the others were overjoyed, but Hila’s heart sank.

Looks like today is the day I die.

This time, Han Xiao’s Lord’s Avatar landed beside her and stood by her side. He took out a compressed orb for a new Crimson Snake, instantly expanded it out, and helped Hila change her mechanical suit.

Hila turned and looked at him, hesitated for a moment, and said softly in their communication channel, “Black Star, if I die today, take care of my sister for me.”

“You won’t die today.” Han Xiao shook his head.

“You don’t have to comfort me. There are ten or so Beyond Grade As here... This is more terrifying than what you faced back then. You won’t be able to save me even if you come in person... Don’t bring your original body here. Go, don’t save me. You’ll be in danger too.”

“You won’t know till you try it,” Han Xiao replied.

Hila shook her head, paused, and said softly, “I owe you too much. You’ve been taking care of us all these years. I really appreciate you a lot.”

Han Xiao looked at her. “Why are you suddenly saying your will? It’s not like you.”

“Hehe, don’t worry, I won’t give up resisting. Even if I die, I’ll hurt my enemies as much as possible. I’ve always been chasing after your shadow, and before I die, I can finally fight alongside you. I’m already satisfied.”

Hila subconsciously reached out her hand but stopped halfway. She hesitated and changed it into a pat on Han Xiao’s Lord’s Avatar’s shoulder before softly sighing.

The next second, her face returned to her cold ice-like expression. Energy erupted from her body as she charged fearsomely toward the Beyond Grade As before her!

She just hoped that Han Xiao’s main body was not the one standing beside her now.

However, before I’m killed in a battle, I should be able to see you one last time...

“Know your place.” Sagman snorted and brought his teammates to once again fight Hila.

Just as Sierron was about to bring his teammates and join the battle, they suddenly felt a sense of danger.

“Boom!”

An extremely powerful psychic energy wave swept over them. The members of the federation were shocked as they quickly activated their defense measures but were still blown away. The attack also contained a powerful mind attack. Many of them shivered and felt an overwhelming painful headache.

This made everyone shocked. Sagman and the other four stopped as well and looked up. The attacker was their leader, Kasuyi’s doppelganger.

Aren’t we temporary allies now? Why did His Excellency Kasuyi attack the federation’s men?

Hila’s movements paused as well. She was confused too.

That’s weird. Why are they suddenly fighting each other?

Sierron got rid of the slight headache, stared at Kasuyi’s doppelganger, and yelled, “What is the meaning of this?”

With hands behind his back, Kasuyi said, “The federation’s goal isn’t just to kill Hila, is it? You people want to capture her and use her as a chip to force Black Star to do something for you.”

Sierron's expression changed. Given how certain Kasuyi was, he definitely knew about this from somewhere or someone, so there was no point faking it anymore. He did not deny it and said coldly, "How did you know that?"

"According to how you people do things, I could've easily guessed," Kasuyi said calmly. "You people only came into the battle midway and even brought a Multi-Dimensional Sky Opening Transportation Device. Compared to killing someone, this is more like a kidnapping. The Ten Thousand Deity Scepter is still in your hands. If I'm not wrong, you want Black Star to open the seal of the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter in exchange for Hila."

Suddenly, the psychic energy around Kasuyi's body erupted like he was furious.

"If it was something else, it would not be a big deal. However, the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter is the church's treasure. It definitely needs to be prioritized before Hila. Even if I must give up my mission today, I'll stop you people from kidnapping Hila. The Ten Thousand Deity Scepter can't be used by the federation no matter what!"

Feeling Kasuyi's skyrocketing presence, Han Xiao was astonished.

Damn, are you an Oscar winner? How are you able to act this well?

Even if what he did now was reported to the upper echelons of the church, they would only compliment him for doing a good job.

Han Xiao suddenly thought that maybe this was not acting but his real thoughts...

What a pro! This was the highest level of acting—even the actor himself believed it!

If you don't receive the tiny gold man, it's definitely rigged!