

Mechanic 1061

Chapter 1061 Reward

Character Summon Card—'Void Overlord' Kasuyi: [Artificial Psychic Current—Frenzy Tide]

By using Psychic attack on a large area, creates a long term aggressive Psychic Current that can be controlled in simple ways. Deals damage instances to all living creatures in the affected area. Damage taken will be judged three times every second. Basic damage each damage instance: $(INT+MYS)*1.8$. 170% Psychological Resistance penetration, a chance to give the target a random negative mind state. Uses: 0/2.

Character Summon Card—'Star Shatterer' Sierron: [Sixteen Arms—Shattering Fists]

Single target melee range ability. Through quick consecutive attacks, send highly condensed Pugilist flames into the target's body through a special method, shattering the target's atom structure instantly. The target's body will be annihilated. One Lethal Judge will be carried out, depending on the difference between the user and the target's level, health, Energy Level, STR, END, and LUK. If the judgement fails, deals 500,000–800,000 True Damage to the target. Uses: 0/2.]

Character Summon Card—"Beast Ancestor" Gorutan: [Body of the Beast Ancestor]

+20% STR, +20%DEX, +40% END, +300% Pugilist Flame damage. Regenerates 2.5% of maximum health every second. Duration: 30 minutes. Uses: 0/2.

Character Summon Card—"Goddess of Death" Hila: [Death Rejection—Awakening]

When your health reaches zero, you will be immune to this death and instantly recover 25% – 50% of your health while refreshing your status. This can be gifted to another being, but it is only effective once on the same target. Uses: 0/6

"Woah, these are nice!"

Han Xiao was overjoyed after reading through all the effects of these Character Summon Cards.

The quality of them was extremely high. They certainly matched up to those peak Beyond Grade As and the owner of a Super High Risk Esper Ability.

Kasuyi's Character Summon Card was a pure attack ability with good base damage. Han Xiao's Intelligence and Mystery totaled about 30,000, so the basic damage every instance would be about 50,000. Three instances every second meant that this ability would deal about 150,000 damage every second. The 170% Psychological Resistance penetration meant that it would drastically reduce the effectiveness of the target's psychological barrier. If it was used on a weaker target, the damage might even be close to becoming True Damage.

If it was just a one-time attack, it would not be too big a deal. The powerful part of this Character Summon Card was that it would create a Psychic Current that would not easily dissipate. With good

enough control, it would become a large-area AOE attack that dealt constant damage over time, which would add up to an enormous amount of damage.

Sierron's Character Summon Card was also an attack ability. Unlike Kasuyi's AOE ability, this was a single target ability. Not mentioning how powerful the Lethal Judge mechanic was, the True Damage dealt even if that failed was still very high. If this dealt the maximum 800,000 True Damage every single time, just two to three hits would send Psyker to see God.

However, this would not be effective against targets who had True Damage Immunity. If Sierron used this on Han Xiao, it would be the same as a tickle.

Han Xiao nodded. "The single target damage a peak Pugilist can deal is still quite incredible for normal Beyond Grade As."

Gorutan's Character Summon Card was an overall powerful buff that was very suitable for Pugilists. It was also quite good for Han Xiao, since it gave attribute bonuses and bonus health regeneration.

The one that surprised Han Xiao the most was Hila's Character Summon Card. This was the upgraded effect of the [Death Immunity] talent, which was basically a chance to revive. Even though he was already extremely tanky, this Character Summon Card still gave his life another layer of security.

The shocking part was, this could be gifted to someone else, so that person would be immune to death one time as well.

Character Summon Cards were created from the characters, meaning that Hila had this ability. However, Han Xiao had seen her interface before, and she did not have the ability to give others a one-time use Death Immunity in the past.

"Could it be that this battle forced her potential out and made her awaken a new way to use her Esper Ability?"

This seemed quite possible.

During this battle, Hila had built a link with Aurora that ignored distance. Maybe this was partly the reason this ability appeared, which would explain why Hila did not have this ability in his previous life.

Outsiders could only accept this ability once and could not be revived by Hila indefinitely. Nonetheless, it would still mean one extra life, which was amazing for the Black Star Army's officers.

"I used quite a number of Character Summon Cards. There're still uses for Psyker, Ames, Mechanic Emperor, and Silver Shadow. The ones that are finished are only Perfect Mechanical Sense and Polar Channel Flow. I shall use the Blank Character Summon Card this time to restock the Perfect Mechanical Sense, so in the end, all I spent was Heber's Character Summon Card. Receiving four more has made up for that."

Han Xiao had a joyful expression on his face.

Character Summon Cards were just the appetizers, yet those already made him gain back the cost of the explosive power he used. The chance to draw abilities from the bonus mission was the main dish.

He suppressed his excitement and looked at the notifications on the interface.

Bonus mission requirements have been completed.

You have received bonus reward: Randomly draw an ability/talent from each Beyond Grade A captive.

He had captured five people this time—Tolaen, Womre, Jackornitz, Hades, and Gorutan—who were spread across Mage, Mechanic, Pugilist, and Psychic.

Although their average strength was not as high as those whose Character Summon Cards he had received, the abilities he would obtain would be permanent.

There were two noobs among these five, but at least they were Beyond Grade As, so there was a chance he would get something good.

“I have to leave the best to the last.”

Han Xiao decided to start drawing from the weakest.

He hesitated between Tolaen and Hades for a while before going with Hades.

Note: Hades is a Psychic. Part of the abilities/talents are adjusted according to your class.

Randomizing... complete.

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

1. [Will Resistance]—Ability: +35% Abnormal Psychological State Resistance. Cost: 0. Cooldown: 160s.
2. [Calm and Relaxed]—Talent: +200 INT, +200 MYS.
3. [Energy Control Proficiency]—Talent: -25% Energy Cost.
4. [Psychological Barrier Enhancement]—Talent: +120% Psychological Resistance, +50% Abnormal Psychological State Resistance.
5. [Squeezing Style Energy Recovery]—Ability: By spending 20,000 – 50,000 health, recover the same amount of Energy and temporarily reduce Energy Cost by 15%. Cooldown: 330s.

Hades was a Psychic, so most of the options were related to psychic, which was expected.

Not receiving any powerful talents, Han Xiao was not discouraged and took it as a consolation prize.

He picked [Psychological Barrier Enhancement] without hesitation, which was not too bad.

Throughout the years, Han Xiao had been consciously making up for his weakness in the psychological field and had already obtained quite a high resistance. However, when he saw Kasuyi’s Character Summon Card earlier, he knew that his current Psychological Resistance was far from enough for someone like Kasuyi.

Since he had obtained a decent new Psychological Resistance talent, it was like filling up a gap for him. After adjusting his thoughts, Han Xiao then continued to draw the next ability.

Note: Tolaen is a Mage. Part of the abilities/talents are adjusted according to your class.

Randomizing... complete.

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

1. [High Level Energy Senses]—Talent: Increase your senses of all kinds of energy. You will be able to see more details the others aren't able to see.
2. [Magic Insulation]—Ability: When receiving magic attacks, the actual damage you receive will be decreased by 22%. Magic type controlling abilities last 17% shorter on you.
3. [Super Overload]—Talent: Your body can endure an even greater load. Some buffs will last longer on you. +1,500 END, +15% maximum health.
4. [Skilled Melee Combat Techniques]—Talent: You know a ton of melee combat techniques. Your attacks will occasionally deal damage in an area. +34% Melee Damage, +20% Critical Rate, +28% Block Chance, +23% Dodge Chance, +300 DEX.
5. [Lightning Control]—Ability: Drastically increase Lightning and Electromagnetic Affinity.

“... Well, I guess a Demon Race Mage who doesn't put points into melee combat isn't a proper Mage.”

Han Xiao's mouth contorted slightly.

Among the five options, [High Level Energy Senses] was basically an ability all Beyond Grade A Mages had to have, which was what made them able to capture any strange movements of energy. [Magic Insulation] and [Super Overload] were abilities only buff-type Mages like Tolaen had. His body had to endure the load from a large number of enchantments so that the buffs applied on him would last longer.

Without much hesitation, Han Xiao picked [Super Overload] directly. This was the most suitable for him, and its numbers were quite impressive.

The 1,500 Endurance points made up for the shortage in his Endurance. He just had to put some of his Free Attribute Points into Endurance for it to be above 15,000, and he would be able to receive one more God's Trait Transformation Point every Promotion.

After this battle, Han Xiao had noticed that the important factor that made the difference between peak Beyond Grade As was the extent of their God's Trait Transformation. Although his way of leveling up was different from the others, more God's Trait Transformation Points would always be better.

Han Xiao drew from Womre third, which gave him something quite great.

[Cell Activity Expansion]—Talent: Through training, you have enhanced the activity of your cells, increasing the quantity of energy your cells can contain and efficiently make use of. With your character's level increasing, your energy will gradually increase.

Lv1 – Lv100: +0.5% maximum energy, -1% Energy Cost, +2% Stamina Energy Conversion Efficiency every 10 levels; Lv100 – Lv200: +0.8% maximum energy, -1.5% Energy Cost, +4% Stamina Energy Conversion Efficiency every 10 levels; Above Lv200: +1.2% maximum energy, -2% Energy Cost, +6% Stamina Energy Conversion Efficiency every 10 levels.

Current total bonus: +27.4% maximum energy, -49% Energy Cost, +132% Stamina Energy Conversion Efficiency.

Han Xiao had his eyes on this ability instantly, mainly because of the increase in maximum energy.

His current energy was about 180,000, so his maximum energy would increase by about 50,000 instantly with this talent, and this was something he was short of.

Not only did this increase the limits of his health-energy conversion, it also increased his Energy Level by one rank, giving him a new level of bonus, which was basically the same as a few thousand Attribute Points.

This talent was a percentage bonus, so it had growth potential. To him, this was as powerful as half a Molding Talent.

Furthermore, cell activity was related to life span, so maybe this talent had the hidden effect of increasing his life span by one second.

The fourth target was Jackornitz. With the same class, there would be more abilities to choose from.

Mechanical Pugilists preferred to fight using supportive machinery, and they were good at the techniques of using those 'tools', so they had quite a few special talents.

The five options he got all had quite high quality. Most gave Machinery Affinity bonuses. Han Xiao hesitated for a while and made his choice.

[Machinery Control Master]—Talent: Machines that are enhanced by your Mechanical Force will receive the following bonuses: +120% Melee Damage, +24% Ranged Damage, +35% mechanical suit performance.

Although this talent was a Mechanic class talent, only Mechanical Pugilists would be able to awaken it usually, but Han Xiao had now obtained it.

Many Mechanical Pugilists' abilities directly increased their efficiency in using their machines. This ability gave him a huge boost, and the melee damage of his mechanical army rocketed.

Furthermore, Han Xiao had tested it before and found out that the Mechanical Deity was a special assembled machine, but as its core had to be his main body or his Lord's Avatar, it was considered a mechanical suit by the interface. This meant that it would receive mechanical suit related bonuses.

This way, the actual power of the Mechanical Deity would be increased drastically. It would have strength close to having two Perfect Mechanical Senses stacked together!

"This is good stuff. If I can get all those special talents of Mechanical Pugilists and Cannon Masters, the power of my mechanical army will probably multiply many times." Han Xiao was drooling at the thought of it.

He then adjusted his emotions, took a deep breath, and clicked on the last target.

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

Randomizing... complete.

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

1. [Energy Shock]—Ability: By using energy, shock the target and make the target enter a short stunned state.
2. [Micro-Molting]—Ability: Refresh yourself, dispel all debuffs. Cooldown: 400s.
3. [Energy Recycle Stream]—Talent: When melee attacks land, while dealing the same damage, you can recycle 40% of the energy used in your attacks.
4. [Block Penetration]—Talent: Even when the target has blocked your melee attack, they will still receive 30% – 80% damage.
5. [Polar Channel Flow—Blood Rage]—Ability: Through burning your health, you turn it into a special kind of blood energy. This increases your basic attributes, attack, Critical Rate, and ability strength, depending on the health you burn after every judgement. Duration equals the amount of time you burn your health for. After this ability ends, you'll enter a state of weakness that lasts three times the duration of this ability.

Chapter 1062 Plan and Birthday

Having seen the five abilities drawn from Gorutan, Han Xiao was slightly stunned.

"Polar Channel Flow?"

There were infinite Pugilist styles in the universe, and the Polar Channel Flow style was mainly focused on explosive abilities, which reflected the horrible and harsh environments in the past. Of course, it might also be that the creator of Polar Channel Flow simply liked the style.

High-level Pugilists all mastered multiple styles, so it was normal for Gorutan to know Polar Channel Flow.

Back then, the ability from Heber's Character Summon Card was [Polar Channel Flow—Cellular Overdrive], while this ability from Gorutan was Blood Rage. The effects of the two were quite similar, but the former exchanged potential for strength while the latter burned current health.

To others, although the explosive state given by Cellular Overdrive would damage one's potential, it did not have any immediate side effects and only made one stronger for the time being.

Comparatively, Blood Rage would burn up one's health continuously. If the user's regenerative ability could not keep up, the user would be heavily injured if this ability was activated for an extended period. This was not great for long duration battles, and the enemies might notice its side effects and deliberately play for time.

Han Xiao thought that this was probably the reason Gorutan did not use this on him. After all, he was known for being amazing at drawn-out battles.

"All things considered, this ability is perfect for me."

Han Xiao's eyes were sparkling.

His regenerative ability could even be considered everlasting. Even Beast Ancestor could not compare to him. Therefore, burning his health was nothing. If he used it well, this ability could totally become a stable method to obtain explosive strength.

In comparison, [Micro-Molting] and [Block Penetration] were good but not as valuable as Blood Rage.

"I've used up the one-time Character Summon Card for Cellular Overdrive, but now I've obtained a method to gain explosive strength stably. Tsk tsk, nice..." Han Xiao was overjoyed.

Even though the explosive strength granted by Blood Rage was slightly lower than Cellular Overdrive, it was completely acceptable.

At this time, all Han Xiao wanted to do was raise his arms and praise Feidin.

... Oh, and Nero too.

You have received [Polar Channel Flow—Blood Rage]!

The new abilities obtained from the five Beyond Grade As immediately took effect on Han Xiao's body, changing every one of his cells.

Hu!

Immense pain flooded his entire body, only dissipating after quite some time.

Han Xiao had already gotten used to this pain. He took a deep breath and sensed the changes in his body.

Hmm, I clearly have more energy, which is the effects of Womre's [Cell Activity Expansion]. My physique is stronger too, like I've taken off some invisible weights. This should be thanks to Tolaen's [Super

Overload]. My mind feels slightly stronger, thanks to Hades' [Psychological Barrier Enhancement]. My Mechanical Force feels sharper and easier to control. This is Jackornitz's [Machinery Control Master] taking effect...

Han Xiao sorted out the changes in his body and felt refreshed.

A new notification popped up on the interface, a new dungeon was created from [Hila Rescue Warfare]. Without even having to look at it, Han Xiao knew that the level of this was much higher than even the Planet Lighthouse battle, which was far beyond the players' capabilities at the moment.

Han Xiao then looked at the mission list. [Rescue Hila] had already disappeared, meaning that all the rewards were given.

Out of curiosity, Han Xiao tried using [Polar Channel Flow—Blood Rage]. This ability gave him the freedom to decide how much health he wanted to burn without an upper limit, only a minimum of 0.1% of maximum health every second. Therefore, he turned it on with the lowest requirement.

Boom!

A blood colored ring of light suddenly blossomed in front of Han Xiao's chest and expanded like ripples before him.

The next moment, he felt that all the blood in his body started boiling!

Bright red vapor sprayed out from all over his body like flames made of blood. The reactions were very drastic. By just roughly looking at it, one might mistake it to be red Pugilist flames.

This blood red vapor was the blood energy obtained from burning his health. In Han Xiao's senses, it was as easy to control as his limbs. Masses and masses of new energy kept appearing in his body as his health burned.

He took out a mirror and looked at himself. The vibe he gave off was completely different compared to the calm and tough vibe he usually exuded. With the blood vapor surrounding him, he looked fearsome, evil, and savage. However, his emotions were unaffected.

Han Xiao then looked at the interface and pondered.

"The bonuses of Blood Rage are mainly focused on damage output and ability strength. It's a more aggressive bonus compared to the comprehensive bonuses Cellular Overdrive gave."

He then turned off Blood Rage, and a sense of weakness immediately appeared, lasting for a little while before disappearing.

In order to familiarize himself with the new abilities, he tested them one after another before stopping and nodding with satisfaction.

"Tons of EXP, four Random Rewards, one Blank Character Summon Card, four powerful Character Summon Cards, and five great abilities and talents. Excellent."

Han Xiao was very pleased.

The difficulty of the mission was over the top, but the rewards were rather generous as well. His strength increased by quite an extent, and he obtained a few new trump cards.

Suppressing his excitement, Han Xiao started thinking about the real impact of this incident.

The change in impression the various organizations had of him would be none other than to take him more seriously. During his trip back, there were more organizations that had come to fawn over him. Some organizations that had been plotting secretly against him had also stopped, such as the Limitless Financial Group.

Overall, the goal of establishing fear and respect was greatly achieved. Han Xiao's reputation was at its peak, and the Black Star Army's position became even firmer. Han Xiao's planned goal was achieved.

Including the players, more people requested to become allies of the Black Star Army. The officers who were in charge of this department had been working overtime continuously to settle these matters. The number of members of the army was projected to see a sharp growth in the time to come.

Han Xiao nodded. "The federation and the church are probably discussing the matter of exchanging captives now. I'll obtain a large amount of resources very soon."

Of course, he had no plans to keep these four Beyond Grade A allies of Universal Civilizations himself. They were hot potatoes that he could not make use of, so giving them away in exchange for more profit was the best solution. However, this time, he was not going to easily give them away. He had to make things difficult for the church and the federation, to make them publicly apologize before he even considered giving those Beyond Grade As back.

"Speaking of which, Kasuyi's proposal is not completely out of the question. Should I sell the federation's people to the church and let the two of them fight with each other?" Han Xiao scratched his chin and pondered.

Gorutan, of course, did not receive such a treatment. Han Xiao planned to keep him as part of his collection.

He also paid attention to Beast Ancestor's organization. After their boss was done for, as expected, the organization became chaotic, splitting into many factions. The internal conflict was at its peak. At the same time, there were also many organizations outside that had their eyes on the 'inheritance' of Beast Ancestor, prepared to take a bite of it anytime.

"Should I participate too? After all, I'm the one who eliminated Beast Ancestor."

The possible responses the various organizations might have appeared in his brain one after another, quickly getting analyzed and classified. This time, a flash of insight crossed his mind. The more he thought about it, the more he felt it was doable.

Han Xiao's eyes slowly became brighter as a smirk appeared on his face.

"If the dynasty's response is just as I expect, I should be able to look for Sorokin after some time and get some things from him..."

Earlier, Han Xiao had announced to the outside world that he would be resting. One reason was to make the so-called 'burned of his potential' more convincing, and another was to spare some free time to do some stuff.

There were quite a few things he had to do. First, he had to deal with the impact of this incident—dealing with the captives, negotiating with the dynasty, splitting up Beast Ancestor's inheritance, and so on all fell under this classification.

Second, he planned to use the time to repair the mechanical army, which would take quite a lot of time. He planned to build Emperor's Cape's too, as well as improve the Mysterious Energy Host.

Then there was the kindness Manison and Kasuyi had shown during this incident. Using the enormous force of the Black Star Army in the Flickering World, he would start building a communication channel for the united front of the Beyond Grade As.

Last but not the least, he needed to also make a trip to the secondary dimension with Ames and capture Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy's old buddy, Holy Light Particle.

"Looks like I'm going to be rather busy. The good thing is, after this battle, I won't have to worry about the growth of the Black Star Army for quite a long time, which will give me a lot of time to do my own things."

After doing some planning, Han Xiao arranged his thoughts and walked out of the room.

After returning and touching Feidin, he had headed right to the training ground to receive the reward and had yet to talk to his many officers. He now walked toward his office and told Phillip to gather the core officers.

...

When Han Xiao walked into his office, everyone was already there, including Ames.

Technically, this was an internal affair of the army, and outsiders should not be allowed. However, Ames was an exception, so no one was stupid enough to stop her from doing so.

"You've finally decided to come back?" Ames leaned on the wall and looked at Han Xiao with a faint smile.

"Ahem, I had important matters to deal with," Han Xiao replied with resignation.

He had invited Ames to the Black Star Palace only as an insurance. He did not expect it to force Traveler to back away.

"Don't forget what you promised me." Ames' brows rose slightly.

"When I'm done handling the matters on hand, we'll go travelling." Han Xiao nodded.

"Hmm, I shall not disturb you guys then."

Ames glanced at Hila before leaving the room. Although no one had chased her away, she knew that it was not polite to stay there and listen to the internal affairs of the Black Star Army.

Han Xiao sat on his seat, looked at Hila first, and said, "After some time, you'll have to return to exploring on the frontlines. I'll build something new for you, the mechanical suit that sent you back here. With that, you won't have to worry about getting ambushed or surrounded."

"Okay." Hila had no objections.

"Has the dynasty contacted you recently?"

"No." Hila shook her head.

"Then let me say this first. If they use me as a reason to convince you to join the dynasty, come and discuss with me first. Don't agree right away."

"Don't worry, I know."

"By the way, how's your connection with Aurora?" Han Xiao asked curiously.

"It's stable." Hila paused for a moment. "But I can still feel the existence of that special secondary dimension... Can you take me along to travel the secondary dimension this time too? I want to take a look at it."

"Probably not this time. Someone has to be with the army while I'm gone." Han Xiao shook his head. "I'll go with you next time."

Hila nodded in agreement with a slight smirk. She seemed to be in a good mood.

After chattering for a while, Han Xiao looked at the other officers. He glanced at Feidin with eyes filled with satisfaction, and he only stopped smiling after Feidin became clearly uncomfortable. He then told the others to give their reports.

Sylvia, Herlous, Reynold, and the others summarized the recent business situation. During the reporting process, quite a number of Calamity Grade officers secretly sized Han Xiao up. Han Xiao's recent achievement had shocked many officers too. Many of them had even more respect for him.

After listening to the reports, Han Xiao nodded. "The situation is going extremely well right now. After this, the Black Star Army will have an even easier time in the Flickering World. There won't be anyone casually testing us. You guys, go do some recruitment. The army might see some excellent business opportunities in some time, be prepared..."

Han Xiao talked about the things to pay attention to and do for a while. Seeing that everyone nodded while listening, he suddenly thought of Evans.

Evans had also come back with the spaceship that transported the Throne. Han Xiao had told Phillip to sort his accommodation and had kept him hidden.

Before Evans, his secret weapon, grew to a certain point, Han Xiao was not going to expose him to others.

Han Xiao leaned back in his chair. "That's all. If there are no questions, you guys can get back to your tasks."

"By the way," Sylvia said, "there's one thing that needs your attention. A star director hopes to see you."

Han Xiao was surprised.

Star director? Who? Manison?

Seeing Han Xiao's confused expression, Sylvia explained, "He's the renowned master-level director, Beny Travol. He is hoping to get your permission to shoot a documentary about you."

"... That's new."

Han Xiao immediately became interested.

In the galactic society that had no shortage of material supplies, the influence of the entertainment industry was humongous. A famous galactic celebrity might have quintillions of fans. For example, Feidin had been considered a local celebrity before.

Galactic star directors such as Beny Travol had extremely high popularity and influence, as well as extraordinary positions in the industry. They were all important people even on the scale of the entire universe.

However, the people in the entertainment industry and someone in the military industry like him were in two completely different worlds that hardly had any connections, which made Han Xiao wonder why this person came asking to shoot a documentary of him. Could this be the effect of his Universe Legendary Points?

Han Xiao contemplated for a while. "Okay then, I'll meet him."

"Okay, I'll contact him personally." Sylvia nodded.

Han Xiao then glanced at everyone. Seeing that no one spoke, he said, "If there's nothing else, we'll call this a day."

At this time, Hila suddenly thought of something. She took out a small box, placed it on the table, and pushed it toward Han Xiao with her beautiful fingers.

Han Xiao looked down at it. This was a red box with ribbons, like a gift. Confused, he looked at Hila.

"This is..."

"Today is your birthday. This is your birthday present, an amulet. Remember to wear it," Hila said softly.

Han Xiao was surprised.

This is only February. Today isn't my birthday. It's October... Oh, I get it. This should be the birthday of my original identity. Back on Planet Aquamarine, the Germinal Organization definitely investigated me. Hila probably saw the birth certificate of my original identity.

Understanding that, Han Xiao swallowed the words he was about to say back down. He accepted the gift and said with a smile, "Thanks, didn't think you'd remember."

"I remember everything about you."

Hila closed her eyes and left the room before Han Xiao could reply.

The officers around looked back and forth between the two of them with meaningful looks in their eyes. They then left one after another.

Han Xiao was the only one left in the room. He carefully opened the gift box and looked at what was inside.

A tiny dark gold coin lay quietly in the box, hooked on a thin silver chain. It was a necklace.

Han Xiao picked up this coin and suddenly felt a special kind of energy on it. It had both Hila's Power of the Dead energy and Aurora's Esper Ability energy.

With a flash of insight, Han Xiao opened the interface and looked at Hila's Character Summon Card.

If I'm guessing correctly, this coin is a carrier of some kind of ability, and this ability is probably the reawakening ability that Hila just obtained... No wonder she called it an amulet. Basically, she gave me a revive token.

The Character Summon Card did not display the limitations and cost for Hila to use this ability, but Han Xiao was certain that Hila would not be able to casually just gift this ability to anyone. It was most likely quite costly.

Han Xiao wore the amulet on his neck, stood up, walked to the window, and gazed at the scenery outside Black Star Palace.

If not because Hila suddenly brought it up, he would totally have forgotten the meaning of 'birthdays'. In all the years he had spent in Galaxy, this was the first time someone had given him a birthday present.

Although the birthday of this body was not the same as his own birthday, Han Xiao still felt nostalgic and emotional.

Memories often would not stop coming up once reminded. The images of the past kept appearing in his mind like it was lifetimes ago.

"Birthday..."

A soft sigh sounded in the room.

Chapter 1063 - In Order to Save the Universe, I Have Decided to Become...

1063 In Order to Save the Universe, I Have Decided to Become...

In the Emerald Star Cluster was one of Beast Ancestor's stronghold planets.

Two fleets with the same Beast Ancestor symbol stood against each other in space. The atmosphere was tense.

The situation was clear—the smaller fleet wanted to leave the stronghold and was stopped by the guarding fleet.

Inside the command ship of the guarding fleet, Byram looked at the fleeing fleet in front of him that was prepared to start a fight anytime with complicated feelings. He then said in the public channel, "Jotina, do you know what you're doing? This is defection!"

As soon as his sentence ended, a female creature appeared on the screen before him. She had light-brown skin, a lustful face, and black beastly patterns at the tips of her eyes and her temples, as well as white lines on her cheeks in a pattern like cat whiskers. She looked similar to a leopard. Her clothing was wild and unrestrained, showing her astonishing body shape and beauty.

At this point, the face of this woman was filled with a firmness.

“Gorutan is done. We’ve made up our minds. If you want to stop us, you can try.”

Looking at the woman on the screen, Byram sighed in his mind.

This person’s name was Jotina. She had some beast bloodline and was one of the Four Admirals under Beast Ancestor’s command, like the Vanguard Officials and Black Star Guards. She was an ace combatant who stood at the top among her brothers and sisters. She was also a Beyond Grade A seed. Given her wild personality, quite a number of brothers and sisters were afraid of her.

However, a lot of people knew that Jotina was in the rebel faction and had always hated Gorutan. Gorutan, however, did not care if his children hated him. His offspring were just tools to him. As long as he was alive, he did not fear anyone escaping his control.

He had maintained control of his organization with his own strength, and once he was gone, it instantly started cracking up like rats leaving a sinking ship.

On this day, Jotina brought a big batch of rebel faction members and planned to leave the Beast Ancestor’s organization, hence this confrontation.

Byram was in the neutral faction, so he did not have overwhelming loyalty for Gorutan. He sighed and said, “We’re all brothers and sisters. Why fight each other? Father is only captured. He might return in the future. Why not stay and work through this difficult time together?”

“Shut up!” Jotina yelled. “I’ve been waiting for this day for way too long. If you don’t let us go today, don’t blame me for not having mercy.”

Byram stayed silent. He turned and looked at the enraged expressions of the loyalists, shook his head internally, and ordered, “Let them go.”

Without the overwhelming strength of the Beast Ancestor that kept this many people in their place, his organization had absolutely no unity, and everyone had their own plans. Byram was not willing to fight with them.

However, the loyalist faction was not having it. From the way they looked at it, immediately leaving when their father was in trouble was an act of total betrayal that needed punishment.

Although Byram was the commander, many officers did not obey him and suddenly fired, starting a battle.

Battleships were sunk one after another, creating fireworks in the comic space. Calamity Grades dashed about in between the battle and fought each other with no mercy.

After a very long time, the battle finally ended. Tons of battleship wreckages were floating in the cosmic space.

After paying a hefty price, the betraying fleet finally broke away. The loyalist faction also suffered a huge loss. Many officers were killed by Jotina on the spot, so none continued chasing after her.

Without father, there will be other Beyond Grade As who come to get us. These loyalists will be cleaned up sooner or later. I'd better find a way out as soon as possible.

Byram looked at the wreckages and sighed in his mind. He knew that the Beast Ancestor's organization was no more.

Meanwhile...

"We finally got out. They didn't chase us..."

Inside the command ship that was covered in battle scars, Jotina sat on the ground, leaning against the wall. She was exhausted and covered in wounds, blood pooling under her.

She was surrounded by many officers who were defecting with her. After the intense battle earlier, everyone had wounds and was bandaging each other up.

A Calamity Grade officer turned to Jotina after stitching a comrade up. "Big sis, where do we go now?"

Since Jotina was the initiator of this operation and was also the strongest, she was recognized by all as the leader of this defecting team.

"Escaping was just the first step. Don't forget our target. We can't rely only on ourselves; we have to go to a big organization," Jotina said while gasping for air.

"Who should we go to?"

"Whoever that beat up Gorutan." Jotina struggled to get up, looked outside the porthole, and murmured, "Black Star is worth depending on..."

...

A few days later, outside Black Star Palace...

"I've already disturbed you guys for quite some time. I'll leave today. Thanks for your help."

Silver Shadow stood before his spaceship, nodding to express his appreciation for Han Xiao.

Some time ago, he had used the Evolution Cube and stayed as a guest in the Black Star Army, bonding with Han Xiao. The relationship between them improved quite a bit, from familiar faces to good friends.

After staying for a few days, he still had other things to attend to so he decided to bid farewell today, Han Xiao came to send him off.

"Okay, I won't keep you then. Feel free to come here to play in the future." Han Xiao smiled.

Silver Shadow nodded, shook Han Xiao's hand, led a group of his subordinates onto the ship, and closed the hatch.

The spaceship's thrusters fired up as it sped up and dashed out of the dock, turning into a stream of light and quickly disappearing into space.

Watching the spaceship leave, Han Xiao nodded with satisfaction.

The time he had spent with Silver Shadow over the past few days had sped up the progress of winning Silver Shadow over. With the favors he owed him, he would be able to at least ride him three more times.

Han Xiao left the dock and returned to his office.

“Phillip, any news from the three Universal Civilizations?”

“Not yet, hum...”

“It’s been so many days. It should be time for them to contact me.”

Han Xiao shook his head. Over the past few days, he had been waiting for the federation and the church to contact him. It seemed that these two were still considering what attitude they were going to present when contacting him, so no one had called him yet.

During the Planet Lighthouse battle, he had handed over the captives to the dynasty, and the dynasty had negotiated with them. This time, however, he had basically caught all the captives by himself. Plus, he was much stronger. Therefore, Han Xiao told the dynasty that he wanted to negotiate with the federation and the church personally.

At this time, Phillip suddenly paused and reported, “Master, hum... there’s a new communication request. It’s from the Arcane Church.”

Speak of the devil... Han Xiao told Phillip to pick it up.

Very soon, a remote projection appeared in the room. This was a high-ranking official of the church who was in charge of diplomatic matters. He took a bow as soon as he appeared, looking very respectful.

“Your Excellency Black Star, I’m the diplomat of the Arcane Church. First, on behalf of the church, I would like to apologize for this incident...”

“Hmm, let’s skip all that and cut to the chase.” Han Xiao glared at the church diplomat in front of him and said with a deep voice, “If you want Tolaen back, it depends on how sincere you guys are. I have to emphasize one thing though: the compensation must include a public apology on your side.”

The church diplomat blinked a few times and said softly, “That won’t be a problem, but we can put aside Tolaen’s matter first. I want to talk about the federation’s captives...”

Han Xiao raised his brow.

What a surprise. The Arcane Church is in no hurry to bail Tolaen back but instead wants to gain a federation captive first.

Although he could understand the reason behind this, Han Xiao still thought it was quite tragic... for Tolaen.

Shaking his head, Han Xiao said, “The church wants to buy a Beyond Grade A captive of the federation, huh?”

“Not one. The more, the better. I’m sure Kasuyi has spoken to you about this as well. The church wants something to regain the Ten Thousand Deity Scepter. Your Excellency Black Star, we come with a lot of sincerity this time, and we’re willing to pay a high price.”

“How high?” Han Xiao raised his brows.

“These are our initial terms.”

The diplomat brought up a list and displayed it.

Han Xiao quickly scanned through the list. Not only did the terms include tons of resources compensation, but the church was even willing to use non-strategic Universal Treasures to acquire the captives. The terms were quite generous.

However, he was not going to easily agree. He purposely acted like he was considering for a while. Then, he said slowly, “I’ll have to endure pressure from the federation if I sell their captives to you, and this is all you’re offering? It doesn’t seem sufficient.”

“How about you propose the terms, and we can...”

Han Xiao snorted and interrupted him. “Go figure, change the terms till I’m satisfied.”

By not being the one stating the terms, he would be able to give the federation and the church a hard time. Otherwise, the two of them might not learn the lesson. Also, it would not be beneficial to public opinion if he easily agreed to their terms.

“Okay then, we’ll go back and change the terms. Can I assume that you don’t object to selling the federation’s captives?” the church’s diplomat asked.

“Depends on my mood.” Han Xiao did not make a guarantee.

Seeing that Han Xiao was not taking a clear stance, the church diplomat had no choice but to go offline and report the situation to his superiors.

As soon as he disconnected, the communication request from the federation came.

“How coincidental,” Han Xiao murmured and picked up the communication.

“Greetings, Your Excellency Black Star, I’m the Federation of Light’s...”

“Alright alright, I know who you are. Cut the crap. Show me your terms for bailing the captives.”

The federation’s diplomat’s words were forced right back down his throat, and he had no choice but to obediently show Han Xiao the terms.

After looking through the list, Han Xiao shook his head in his mind.

The price the federation gave was not as high as the church. After all, this was just ordinary bailing for them.

Tsk tsk, cheeky as always, you lost three people, but you don’t want to pay a huge price?

In your dreams!

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes, tapped the table, and said slowly, "Just now, the Arcane Church contacted me and made an interesting proposal."

"What proposal?"

"They want to buy the Beyond Grade A captives of the federation from me... and they're willing to pay a high price."

Han Xiao gave him a meaningful look.

The federation diplomat was startled and quickly said, "D-Did you agree?"

"Hmm, I'm still considering it. However, the price the church gave was quite tempting."

"You can't just decide to sell the federation's important ally to the church, or..." The federation diplomat was just about to threaten Han Xiao when he suddenly realized that he was facing Black Star, who had just cost them a huge loss, so he quickly changed his tone. "Anyhow, as long as you don't agree to the church's proposal, we will definitely do something."

"That will depend on your sincerity and how high a price are you willing to pay to make me reject the church's offer." Han Xiao smiled.

"Understood... Understood. I'll relay your thoughts to the upper echelons immediately and change the compensation terms."

The federation diplomat wiped off the sweat on his forehead and hastily disconnected.

He knew that Black Star was driving the price up, but there was nothing he could do. Even though he thought he saw through Black Star's intentions, the only thing he could do was to obediently follow it.

After getting rid of these two, Han Xiao leaned back in his chair and smirked.

If this had happened in the past, the risk of doing something like this would have been very high. However, after this battle, he had showcased more than enough strength to be noticed. Only then would the church and the federation be willing to negotiate with him calmly instead of continuing to plot against him.

With these captives in his hands, he had enough leeway to ask for over the top prices. Even though he had made it clear that he wanted the federation and the church to compete with each other, they could do nothing but put up with it.

This feeling of having the upper hand is indeed great... Han Xiao smiled.

While he was pondering, his communicator rang again. It was Sylvia.

"Army Commander, the galactic star director I told you about a few days ago has arrived at Black Star Palace."

"So soon?"

"They were in the Flickering World to begin with. I've already sent someone to receive them. Should I bring them right to the guest room?"

“Hmm, I’ll go see him now.” Han Xiao stood up.

...

A civilian spaceship parked at the exterior dock of Black Star Palace, and a group of people walked out from it.

At the front was an old man with a large beard and round head. He clearly gave off a vibe of being wealthy. Like a true artsy type, his long hair was swinging. He looked like a boiled egg with hair.

This person was the Crimson Dynasty-born galactic great director, Beny Travol.

As soon as they disembarked from the spaceship, they looked left and right cautiously and chattered among themselves.

“So, this is the Black Star Army’s base. Are all these people mercenaries?”

“They’re all looking at us. Keep it down...”

Having heard his assistants were chattering behind him, Beny Travol frowned and softly yelled, “Keep your mouth shut. If you insult Black Star’s men, you know what the consequences are.”

The others quickly became quiet, looking very cautious.

They had been following Beny Travol for a very long time and were seniors in the entertainment industry. There were people everywhere who wanted to fawn over them. Although they were not considered arrogant, they were still quite proud of themselves.

However, these people did not dare act arrogantly here. The Black Star Army was a top tier armed force that was on a completely different level compared to them. Now that they had entered the headquarters of such a powerful armed force, they naturally felt intimidated.

They knew full well that their influence was nothing compared to someone like this who held real power. Every one of them tucked their tail between their legs and acted humble.

Not long after, a receptionist of the army came and said with a bright smile, “Greetings, Director Beny Travol. Please, follow me. The army commander is waiting for you.”

“Okay, thanks for leading the way,” Beny Travol replied with a smile.

Seeing this, the assistants around were surprised. They knew their own boss all too well. He was always proud; very rarely did he show such a passionate and fawning smile.

They went all the way to the guest room, walked in, and saw Han Xiao sitting at the main seat. Out of panic, they hastily greeted Han Xiao.

Beny Travol quickly walked toward Han Xiao and extended his hand. “Your Excellency Black Star, thank you for agreeing to meet with me.”

“You don’t have to be so formal, sit.”

Han Xiao shook his hand and invited everyone to sit down.

The group sat down one after another with their back straight and butt only taking up the edge of the seat, looking very cautious.

At the same time, they all stared at Han Xiao with respect and obedience, as well as a stiff and fawning smile on their faces. Many of them were quite important people, but now they could only smile.

Han Xiao shook his head. Position meant power. Even though he did not do anything, others would still uncontrollably feel nervous.

He turned to look at Beny Travol, smiled, and asked, “Great director Beny, I heard you want to shoot a documentary about me?”

“That’s right. I’ve seen your files from the beginning to your astonishing rise in the galaxy. You’re a living legend. What you’ve done stimulated my desire to innovate. It will be my honor to shoot a documentary for someone like you...”

Beny Travol cut right to the chase and started explaining the motivation behind all this.

When he came to the exciting parts, his face even became red, and he stood up to make gestures.

Han Xiao observed for a while and realized that this great director was not there just to praise him but really wanted to create an adapted documentary. This was probably one of the effects of his Legendary Points.

This was not strange. To others, what he had achieved was indeed legendary, so having a director want to shoot his life story was not exactly a surprise. After all, many films were adapted from true stories to begin with.

After being continuously praised for a while, Han Xiao felt quite good. Then, he waved and interrupted the saliva-filled speech of the director.

“So, you’re just here to ask for my permission to allow you to shoot a film about me?”

“Not just that.” Beny Travol suddenly became anxious. “I have another request. I hope you can be part of this film as an easter egg...”

These words required courage. He knew that Black Star’s position was way too high. For someone with so much power, Black Star could basically be considered a political figure. This was like a request for the dynasty’s ruler to guest star in his film—it was almost a daydream.

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes and tapped the table slowly but did not immediately reply.

As his expression changed, the atmosphere instantly cooled to a freezing point. Everyone’s heart started beating faster and faster. No one dared take big breaths. The room became dead silent.

Just as Han Xiao was about to speak, a mission notification popped up on the interface.

Invitation from a Director

Mission Introduction: A universally known star director hopes to have you take part in the shooting of a film.

Mission Requirements: Star in the film.

Reward: 1,800,000 EXP, random increase in Renown of various Star Fields.

Bonus Reward: Talent – [Celebrity Effect]

[Celebrity Effect]: Others will feel close to you and forgive you more easily.

Han Xiao's mouth contorted slightly.

What's this? Forcing me to become a celebrity?

Chapter 1064 An Overly Difficult Mission

Han Xiao did not reject the idea of guest-starring in the film. He was not the lead star, so it would not take him too much time.

Furthermore, with how developed the technology was, it would not take long to shoot one film. Plus, they could be watched in many different ways, such as the classic third-person screen, an immersive watching experience where one could step into the environment, or even take over the perspective of the character in the movie. With the development of technology, the expression of films had also become richer.

The [Celebrity Effect]'s effects were not quantified. Feidin had it too, and it was related to the Charisma attribute. Not only would it make gaining Favorability easier, it would also make losing Favorability more difficult even if he offended someone. The name suited the effects it gave quite well.

The effects of the talent looked ambiguous on the surface, but Han Xiao knew that this was actually quite useful. It would help in many situations. Be it business negotiations or daily socializing, it was an excellent ability for networking.

Even if the mission rewards were not considered, this proposal itself was beneficial for Han Xiao. Currently, his reputation was at its peak, but the heat of the news would reduce with time. Furthermore, having such an astonishing achievement as a comparison, the more ordinary deeds would hardly increase his influence and fame.

Therefore, using the entertainment industry to continue to increase his Renown was a great path to take. After all, the entertainment industry had a unique advantage in terms of the attention it received. This would also not damage his reputation while helping the outside world understand him more.

Furthermore, this seemed very suitable for increasing the number of believers.

Hehe, that old man Manison definitely wouldn't be willing to do the same.

Under the nervous stare of Beny Travol and his assistants, Han Xiao purposely acted like he was pondering for a while. He then nodded and said, "Sure."

“That’s great!”

Beny Travol was overjoyed. He initially thought he would most likely be rejected, but Han Xiao turned out to be surprisingly friendly.

The nervous atmosphere disappeared instantly. Everyone felt relief followed by excitement—being able to have someone like Black Star cameo in their film was like a dream.

“When do you guys plan to start the project?” Han Xiao asked.

“We’ll have to finalize the script first. Since this will be adapted from your real experience, if possible, we hope you can provide some details. We might even have to organize a few interviews,” Beny Travol said softly.

“That’s easy, as long as I’m free.” Han Xiao smiled.

“Okay okay. When we’ve done the script, we’ll show it to you for you to audit. We’ll only start the shooting after you agree with the script.”

“Hmm.” Han Xiao nodded. He suddenly thought of something and asked, “Do you have any funding issues?”

“Don’t worry, the entertainment industry is quite influential. Plus, this will be your story. There will definitely be a lot of people fighting to fund it. Even the Crimson Dynasty’s ministry of culture might.” Beny Travol was quite confident.

“Alright, come to me if you have any funding issues. I’ll sponsor you.”

Beny Travol was very touched.

Whoa, what a generous man.

He decided that he had to make sure this film turned out amazing. It not only had to be filled with artistic factors but also had to make a great sale.

Having been a director for many years, Beny Travol had both excellent productions and failed ones. While using the noble reason of ‘pursuing art’ to get funding, some projects had not even been able to break even.

It would not be a problem if those films sponsored by ordinary people did not turn out great. He would lose his brand image and money at most. However, if the film sponsored by the Black Star Army turned out not good enough... he might even lose his life. He did not dare slack.

Given the population of this era, the profit in the entertainment industry was beyond imaginable. Occasionally, there were even some films that the entire universe liked and loved, and the profit gained from just one of those would surpass the total value of many small financial groups. It was absolutely bonkers. Han Xiao had no reason not to gain profit from it.

Han Xiao suddenly thought of something and said, “By the way, I want to put someone in the cast.”

“Please do tell.”

Han Xiao brought up Feidin's image, smiled, and said, "This person. He's one of my guards, a Calamity Grade Super. He was once a local celebrity. Just give him a character to play."

"This person..." Beny Travol's eyes widened.

He did not mind Black Star putting someone in the cast. He had seen this kind of thing happen way too many times. What surprised him was that Black Star was sending him a treasure.

This body! This appearance! This vibe! He's a born superstar!

Scanning the stunned expression on everyone's face, Han Xiao chuckled in his mind.

He knew very well how powerful Feidin's charming aura was. Having Feidin star in the movie would be more than enough to attract a ton of attention and make the promotion multiple times smoother.

Furthermore, Han Xiao did not forget about what Feidin had achieved in his previous life, [The Legend of a Singer], where he used his psychic singing to stop an entire war.

Therefore, to maintain the love and peace of the universe, he decided to make Feidin an idol again!

This was not a sudden thought. He had wanted to use this opportunity to make Feidin the image ambassador of the Black Star Army to gain more popularity, which might even attract more talents. At the same time, he hoped to increase the stock price of the Germinal Financial Group.

After so many years, the Germinal Financial Group was already listed thanks to the help of the army. Its funds at this point were huge.

Many thoughts flashed through Han Xiao's mind, but he did not reveal them. Maintaining a smile, he chatted with the others in an uplifting atmosphere. In the end, Beny Travol and the others decided to stay awhile in Black Star Palace to gain some insight and material before leaving with joy all over their faces.

After sending them away, Han Xiao told Sylvia to follow up with the matter and then went to chat for some time with Ames to make sure his old friend was receiving enough attention.

Ames, however, was very understanding. She knew that he had many things to deal with, so she did not hurry him. Both Han Xiao and Hila had returned, so she had company there and lived so comfortably she almost did not want to go back.

I don't have anything to do on Floating Dragon Island. What should I go back for?

What? Jenny?

Who's that? Never heard of her.

...

Han Xiao returned to his room and bathed out of habit. He came out surrounded by hot water vapor. Without drying himself, he wrapped himself in a bathing robe and lay on his bed while humming. Water droplets slid down his hair and wet his pillow.

Of course, Beyond Grade As' bodies were pure and free from dirt, so they did not have to bathe. However, Han Xiao enjoyed this feeling of adjusting his senses to have the temperature sense of a normal person. Only then would he be able to have a hot water bath. Otherwise, even lava would feel cold to him.

A few mechanical pets climbed up and circled around Han Xiao. They kept rubbing their bodies on him in an adorable way. There were both cats and dogs, even snakes. They were all mechanical lives with their own independent minds. Their metal bodies had no edges; they were smooth and round. They did not have to eat or excrete and were very easy to take care of.

Ever since Hila gave him a birthday present, Hila had suddenly thought of getting some pets to give his usually cold and quiet bedroom some life.

Han Xiao casually petted his pets for a while. He then leaned back on the bed and opened up the player forums.

The 'Black Star's Godlike Battle' topic had yet to cool down. It even became hotter instead. The Flickering World panel was still filled with it.

There were not only discussions. Many players also took action and left their original faction to join the Black Star Army, giving the player count of the army a boost.

The one-sided faction war had lasted a while. Due to the factions that were named admitting their inferiority, the army's opponents were powerless. Not only did the shady plan of those foreign clubs not work, they even shot themselves in the foot. The factions they were in had lost a huge number of normal players. This indirectly increased the unity of the army players and shortened the distance between the new and old army players from different countries.

The atmosphere in the Black Star Army had become much better. Although the players from different countries could not be considered friendly toward each other, they had grown to accept others.

On the forums, there was another thing that sparked discussion. After Han Xiao created the [Rescue Hila] Dungeon Crystals, he had placed them in the faction store.

In the following few days, a ton of players had bought the Dungeon Crystal to watch their Army Commander with their lives.

After nonstop effort and hard work, there were already famous dungeon raiders who increased the survival time record to a whopping twenty-nine seconds, earning the respect of countless players.

[Rescue Hila] and [Planet Lighthouse] were now known as the two film-type dungeons, which meant... there was nothing they could do, only watch.

Han Xiao was still browsing the forums with joy when Phillip sent him a message.

"Master, hum... A fleet that has defected from the Beast Ancestor's organization has arrived at our frontline stronghold in the free competition zone. Onboard are seven Calamity Grade officers previously under the Beast Ancestor's command, led by one of Gorutan's Four Admirals, 'Claw Empress' Jotina. She has mentioned that she wants to see you by name."

"See me?"

Han Xiao raised his brows and closed the player forums. He then quickly brought up Jotina's data and browsed through it. He then started pondering.

He did not know much about Gorutan's subordinates. Most of them were Gorutan's tools. Only a few had left an impression on him in his previous life, including Jotina, but not because of the achievements she made.

In his previous life, Jotina secretly worked with other organizations and gave out missions to players that involved destroying all the offspring production warehouses of the Beast Ancestor's headquarters when Gorutan was not home, releasing all the females that were imprisoned as reproduction machines. Although the plan did not end up succeeding, it still brought the Beast Ancestor a humongous loss. She initially wanted to die together with Gorutan using a psionic energy bomb but failed. In the end, she was torn apart alive by Gorutan.

Knowing that, Han Xiao had a rough guess as to why she was there.

"Okay, I'll meet her."

...

In the Emerald Star Cluster, the Black Star frontlines stronghold had already repaired the damage suffered from the Hila Rescue Warfare. The fleet was now patrolling as usual.

At this time, Jotina and the gang were welcomed into the dock. Due to the Beast Ancestor symbol on their spaceships, they attracted the attention of all the army members they passed.

The spaceships parked steadily, and the hatches opened with a swoosh. Jotina led her friends out of the spaceship, ignoring the strange looks on the army members around, and headed toward the guest room following the mechanical receptionist.

"We're finally here. I wonder if Black Star will keep us. After all, we were his enemies not long ago."

"Black Star isn't petty."

"I'm just not sure if we're strong enough for him to be interested..."

Jotina did not join the discussion. With a tense expression, she followed the receptionist into the guest room. It was empty.

Hum!

This time, Han Xiao's remote projection appeared in the room with his hands behind his back. He looked at everyone with coldness as he slowly spoke.

"You wanted to see me?"

"That's right. We were all under Beast Ancestor's command. We have been unhappy with him for a very long time but never had the strength to resist. Now you've defeated him, so we came to join you, hoping to work for the Black Star Army.

Jotina cut right to the chase while staring at Han Xiao. Clearly, she was very direct.

Although Han Xiao had already guessed, a saying still appeared in his mind...

This is them abandoning evil to take the righteous path, isn't it?

Han Xiao did not plan to reject them. After all, there were seven Calamity Grades, which was quite an amount of power. Furthermore, Jotina was a rare Beyond Grade A seed with extraordinary potential. She could be of company to Hadavy and Lothaire.

High-quality leeks uprooting themselves up and entering his vegetation field was always something Han Xiao loved to see. However, he could not agree with it too easily. The routine questioning was still needed.

"Why were you unhappy with Gorutan?"

Jotina took a deep breath. Sorrow and anger appeared on her face as she said, "In order to produce high-quality offspring, Gorutan bought countless females of different races from the black market. These females weren't even granted the freedom to die. The only thing they could do was become a tool of reproduction.

"My mother was one of them. With my very own eyes, I watched her give birth to one offspring after another for years. She died of exhaustion in the end. The high-quality offspring were given a lot of resources and trained well, while the low-quality ones became slaves. Although we're all related by blood, most people have no emotional connection to others. That place was like a cold and freezing graveyard. Everyone had no choice but to fawn over Gorutan. Not a single day spent there was not filled with hatred and disgust."

Jotina closed her eyes as she was flooded by the sorrowful memories, only reopening them after a while. Then, she said with a deep voice, "My friends have had the same experience as me. We hate everything Gorutan has created, but we had no choice but to be manipulated by him and assist in his evil deeds. We lived every day in agony and frustration. We're not afraid of dying. Only through enduring this pain and keeping ourselves alive can we find the chance to change everything. And when you defeated him, we were finally liberated."

Then, Jotina kneeled onto the ground. The people behind her followed. The entire group kneeled as a gesture of respect.

"We hope you can take us in!"

Jotina pressed her forehead onto the ground and growled emotionally.

"Please take us in!" Everyone else shouted simultaneously as well. The shouting echoed in the room.

Seeing this, Han Xiao pondered a while and nodded. "Since that's the case, I shall accept you to become members of the Black Star Army."

The group exhaled with relief and finally stood up.

A smile appeared on Jotina's face again. Her expression relaxed. It was beautiful. Like her wild personality, her emotions were also directly displayed.

Han Xiao nodded. His tone became friendly as he smiled and said, "Then, we're all family now. Come to Black Star Palace. I want to see you guys with my own eyes and arrange roles for you. Also, if you want to visit Gorutan's specimen..."

This time, Jotina interrupted Han Xiao. She wiped the smile off her face and said with a serious tone, "Black Star, I also have a gift as well as a request."

"Do tell." Han Xiao raised his brows.

Jotina nodded. "The Beast Ancestor's organization is in shambles now. It's a great opportunity to split it up. I'm willing to help you obtain the Beast Ancestor's inheritance. This is my gift to you."

"And your request?"

"I hope you can destroy the Beast Ancestor's headquarters and all of the offspring production facilities, releasing all the females and taking in all the young offspring of Beast Ancestor. This is both my request and my gift. Although I hate Gorutan to the core, these young offspring are innocent. Their worldviews have yet to take shape and can still be adjusted. If raised properly, they can become new blood for the army."

Jotina then looked up and stared at Han Xiao, as if she wanted to see the answer she had been hoping to see for a very long time in Han Xiao's eyes.

Han Xiao opened the interface, and as he expected, this triggered a mission. However, it was not one mission but two.

The first mission was [Liberate Beast Ancestor's Organization]. Just like Jotina said, it required him to destroy the Beast Ancestor's headquarters and free those within. The rewards were Jotina's Favorability and her Character Summon Card.

The second mission, however, shocked him.

Ending the Darkness

Mission Introduction: Life form trafficking is the source of countless tragedies. Jotina hates it with everything she has. Destroying the practice has always been her dream her entire life.

Mission Requirement: End the life form trading industry in Galaxy.

Reward: 1 Trillion EXP, 15 Random Rewards, 3 Universe Legendary Points, 5 Blank Character Summon Cards.

Bonus Reward: [Slave Liberator] Milestone.

[Slave Liberator]: Your relationship with all Lawful Factions will forever be fixed at [Reverence].

One trillion experience... Han Xiao was stunned.

This was the craziest mission he had ever seen, as were its rewards, and of course its difficulty.

Eliminate the life form trading industry of the entire universe?

Looking at the population of the entire Galaxy, this was a mission that was impossible to complete. If there was no demand for it, it would never have started in the first place. Even the three Universal Civilizations could not do this, so who else could?

No wonder Jotina only requested that he liberate Beast Ancestor's organization. She most likely knew that this wish of hers would never be achieved.

Of course, Han Xiao would not expose her. He shook his head, put this matter at the back of his mind, and did not mention it.

"About liberating Beast Ancestor's organization, you have my word."

"Then, I'll be willing to serve you till the end of time."

Jotina lowered her head, and admiration appeared in her eyes.

Ever since Han Xiao defeated Gorutan, she had viewed Black Star as her idol.

Before she came into contact with Black Star, she had been anxious, afraid that the truth about her idol might disappoint her.

Also, she was afraid that Black Star might mistake her for someone who went whichever way the wind blew, seeing her actions as betraying her old master and going to the winner. She would have been very sad if that was the case.

Now, however, all those worries were gone. Black Star was totally worth her admiration.

Like electricity running through her entire body, she suddenly felt something in her heart. She was a very direct person, and her emotions were easily affected. At this moment, she felt she was in love.

1065 The Wolf Is Besieged and Annihilated

Ending his long-range projection, Han Xiao opened his eyes within his palace, his emotions overflowing in joy.

"Seven Calamity Grades joined, with one of them even being a Beyond Grade A seed. This wave of talents is good quality."

He had only been interested in the resources accumulated by the Beast Ancestor and did not covet the latter's offspring because both sides were enemies after all. Even if he were to forcefully accept the troops and force the descendants to work for him, there would always be resistance.

There was also a chance that they would not put in their best effort, and their numbers would allow them to pollute the army and form a faction, which would become a ticking time bomb.

A melon that is forcefully plucked will not be sweet.

The losses would outweigh the gains. Furthermore, the Black Star Army was already part of the Lawful Faction, so they could not go too overboard. At the same time, they did not lack manpower in the army at the moment, so he was not interested in poaching the manpower of the Beast Ancestor.

That being said, if it was those who decided to voluntarily pledge themselves to the Black Star Army, he naturally would not reject them.

“The majority of people from the rebel faction are still waiting, and Jotina’s batch is only the first wave of guinea pigs. There will definitely be more of them in the future. Even I don’t know the exact number.”

Han Xiao did not wish to capture all these people in one go, as each individual had their own ambitions. Some of them might not necessary chose to defect to him if they were to betray the Beast Ancestor Organization. Some would choose to resign completely, burying their lives and living in a low-profile manner.

Shaking his head, Han Xiao temporarily put this matter aside and summoned Phillip.

“Notify Herlous and Sylvia. Tell them to mobilize the soldiers of the Shattered Star Ring to send a fleet over to the Beast Ancestor’s base to free all the slaves and to destroy his offspring cultivation assembly line.”

Due to the high difficulty level of the mission [Ending the Darkness], he could not progress in it at the moment. In contrast, the other missions were quite simple, and since he had already given the other party his word, Han Xiao swung into action. With Jotina joining him, he would also have sufficient reason to send out troops.

Furthermore, since Gorutan had brought out a large number of elites, his base was quite empty. Thus, it also reduced the difficulty. As long as the fleet brought along his own avatar as a guarantee, there should not be any accidents.

This group of guys who had forsaken the darkness for the light brought Han Xiao plenty of good news. However, there was one detail that made Han Xiao sit up and take notice.

He always felt that the look Jotina had in her eyes seemed a little bit too eager...

It was like how he normally looked at Feidin.

...

In the stronghold of the Beast Ancestor’s base in the Emerald Star Cluster, after Jotina and her group broke out, the atmosphere became silent and cold. There was less chatter. They were obviously brothers and sisters, but the looks they exchanged were filled with vigilance, and more thoughts were hiding behind their poker faces.

As the people’s hearts changed, the undercurrents surged.

Jotina was the first defector, and there were still many more of the cautious rebels watching the situation. Seeing that she had a good start, more of them started to get ready to move.

Within a secret room, a group of people from the rebel factions gathered together quietly. Their leader was a prestigious Calamity Grade officer, ‘Boa Constrictor’ Schneider. While he was not at the level of the four major officers, he was still one of the more influential officers, an elite combatant who combined his Pugilist skills with his innate toxin talents.

"I believe you know my purpose behind gathering all of you." Schneider looked around, his eyes stopping for a while on the stronger officers before continuing, "There's news from Sister Jotina, she says that Black Star has already accepted them. They have found a good home."

No one present spoke, waiting for him to finish.

Seeing this, Schneider said, "The loyal faction fought with Jotina and suffered heavy losses. They probably no longer wish to waste any more strength in dealing with the defectors. It's about time for us to leave as well. I know that there are a few among us that do not wish to defect to another organization and wish to be independent. All of this can wait for when we leave. For those that are unwilling to follow and walk your own paths, we will meet again somewhere in the universe and reminisce about our familial ties then."

After he was done, the room remained quiet for a moment before someone finally spoke out.

"That's right. It's time for us to leave. In another few days, it will be my troops' turn to patrol. This is our chance, and it's best to avoid any conflict with the loyalists."

As soon as the silence was broken, everyone spoke in a rush. Everyone with some influence in the audience offered suggestions, brainstorming for the rebellion.

Meanwhile, a few of the loyalists were also having a secret meeting.

"Did you hear? It seems like the group of traitors from Jotina's side joined the Black Star Army."

"Where did this news come from? Is it reliable?"

"Many people saw their spaceship headed toward the stronghold of the Black Star Army, and after entering, they never came out. Furthermore, among that rebel faction that has a lot of hidden thoughts, there has been quite a bit of intelligence leaking out, so it should be accurate."

One of them said in a deep voice, "If it's true, then we can implement a bold plan. Let our people pretend to defect and enter the Black Star Army. We'll find a chance to rescue Lord Father."

"But... Black Star is a Beyond Grade A Mechanic. It's hard to even be able to steal anything under his nose. Furthermore, there is no solution for the Spacetime Amber; even the three Universal Civilizations are left befuddled."

"Lord Father has so painstakingly raised us. He's our respected patriarch. Only we can help him now, so even if the odds are slim, we still have to try," someone else replied firmly.

"Alright... but there's still another problem. The defectors definitely know our allegiances, and the loyal factionists who attempt to defect will definitely be seen through."

"This is a good question. After being together for so long, one cannot just break into the group of rebels..."

Everyone hesitated.

Jotina's incident had provided hope to the loyalists. Some of them wanted to stage a rescue of Gorutan, who was made into a specimen. After all, he was just sealed and not dead yet.

At this time, the sound of a communicator rang, breaking the stale atmosphere in the room like a roar of thunder on a sunny day.

The leader looked at his communicator and said, "Byram has gathered all the officers to discuss our future plans."

Everyone did not feel any surprise. After Gorutan's fall, this sort of meeting had been held many times. Without a decision maker, the affairs of the organization could now only be decided by a large majority of the officers agreeing. However, everyone had their own plans, so there was no unified opinion.

The group of loyalists left the room, rushing toward the large conference room.

At this moment, the conference room was almost full of people. All those present were officers with a certain amount of influence, and the scene was as rowdy as a scene in a marketplace. The three factions of loyalist, rebels, and neutrals distinguished themselves clearly, all looking at each other with cold glares.

This group of loyalists immediately spotted Schneider and glared at him before finding their places.

Schneider did not care about their attitude. He had also heard the news when he was in his secret meeting and rushed over.

After waiting a while longer, all the officers were finally present. Byram was the last to enter, and he closed the door to the conference room. Under everyone's gaze, he slowly walked up to the rostrum before looking down from his vantage point at everyone.

"What happened, for you to convene us again?" one of the officers demanded. The person in question was one of the Four Generals.

"We haven't finished discussing the previous topic, so today, we'll continue to discuss the future of our organization." Byram calmly smiled before he changed the topic. "However, before that, let me introduce someone to you."

Everyone frowned. From Byram's attitude, they noticed something was wrong.

It was at this moment that a wave of magic appeared in the room, and a blue circle representing a transportation door appeared beside Byram.

Hum!

A foot slowly stepped out of the portal, and a strong sense of oppression soon followed. The air in the room seemed to freeze instantly.

The Secret Master walked out before waving a hand to close the transportation door. With his hands behind his back, he gazed at everyone present with an expression of indifference.

The entire room turned silent.

At this time, Byram broke the silence with a smile in his voice.

"I believe everyone is familiar with the Secret Master, who is also a patron of the Galactic Black Market just like Lord Father.

“Byram, what’s the meaning of this?”

The group of loyalists immediately stood up, suppressing their anger as they questioned him.

In reality, everyone understood that Byram, who was part of the neutral faction, had already initiated a relationship with the Secret Master. Under the guise of a meeting, he had gathered all the officers so that the Secret Master could catch them all at once and control everyone.

He was going to present this stronghold and all the officers present to the Secret Master!

Byram only smiled in response. His gaze shifted to the Secret Master, and he explained, “Since Lord Father was captured, countless organizations have been watching us, wishing to divide us. Without a Beyond Grade A holding the helm, we’ve been a mess. Secret Master is an old friend of Lord Father, so he has decided to grant us asylum to help us weather our difficulties.”

Yes, spin, continue to spin your story!

Everyone cursed in their heart. The neutrals were surprised, the rebels had heavy hearts, and the loyalists were enraged.

The Secret Master took in everybody’s expressions before coldly speaking. “The situation is as thus. Gorutan and I have been partners for a long time, and I cannot just watch as his descendants split. I’ll temporarily take in the Beast Ancestor’s organization, and when the situation stabilizes, I’ll hand the rights back to you.”

F*ck your mom, what sympathy and what partners? Do you think we all have amnesia?

Everyone gritted their teeth.

The Secret Master did not have an organization of the Black Star Army’s scale, so the warriors under the command of the Beast Ancestor were one of the resources he wished to gain.

Because he was not a direct enemy like Black Star, he would not need to worry about the issue of them taking revenge. Furthermore, he was also a patron of the Galactic Black Market, so it was more reasonable for him to receive the Beast Ancestor’s organization. His own organization already consisted of many mixed forces, belonging to the gray side, so there was no need to worry about suffering from indigestion from being unable to digest the Beast Ancestor’s troops.

This was merely an excuse for the Secret Master to embezzle the power of the Beast Ancestor, but even if the loyalists were angry, they dared not stand up against it.

The Secret Master had already spoken.

If you still do not know what’s good for you, then you won’t even have time to regret if this pinnacle Beyond Grade A here destroys you.

Thus, no one retorted after the Secret Master finished speaking, as though they all silently agreed.

At this moment, Schneider slowly stood up, attracting the eyes of everyone present, including the Secret Master.

He took a deep breath before speaking in a respectful tone.

“Many thanks to Your Excellency Secret Master for your generosity. Your asylum is something we urgently need, and I agree that you have to take over Lord Father’s organization for the time being.”

“Hmm, not bad.”

Secret Master nodded, feeling that this kid was on the right path.

However, this impression was destroyed by Schneider’s next sentence. “However, I’ve already grown tired of this kind of life, and I don’t wish to continue fighting in the universe. Now, I just wish to live the life of an ordinary person. Your Excellency, I’m not going against you, but everyone has their own ambitions. Please allow me to retire.”

Secret Master did not think much about it, replying, “You’re blessed with a Calamity Grade level combat power. To retire just like that would be a pity. I hope you will continue to find the passion in your current post. I’m optimistic about you, so don’t talk about resigning anymore. Sit down.”

Schneider gritted his teeth before mustering up the courage to speak again. “Your Excellency Secret Master. I wish to take a period of leave. My sister has defected to the Black Star Army, and I wish to tell her not to worry about things back home.”

Once this sentence was spoken, it could be considered as stating his stand. He implied that he did not wish to work under Secret Master but rather wished to lean toward Black Star.

Secret Master narrowed his eyes and stared at him. The pressure within the room got steadily stronger.

Only when Schneider started to sweat did Secret Master finally reply.

“I feel that there’s no need for that. When I formally take over, the universe will naturally receive the news. There’s no need to take unnecessary steps.”

Hearing this, Schneider as well as the people in the rebel factions all sighed in their hearts.

The attitude of Secret Master was clear. Even if he knew that they wanted to go over to Black Star, he still chose to detain everyone, not allowing any officers to leave in order to control them.

“Ha...” Schneider sighed before sitting down, an expression of regret on his face.

If he had known of this development, he would have acted more aggressively and taken action with Jotina. He was a step late.

The faces of the rebels were ugly, and their current emotions could be described as ‘being there in body but not in spirit’.

...

Secret Master publicly placed a magical imprint on all the officers to monitor their actions before speaking in a high-handed manner, emphasizing how deep his relationship was with Gorutan, and after spending so much time together, how they were practically brothers.

The crowd secretly rolled their eyes as they listened to the bullsh*t Secret Master was spouting. When the end of the meeting was announced, they could not wait to get up and leave the room, as though they were fleeing.

Soon, there were only two people left in the conference room. Byram came up to the Secret Master and smiled.

“Your Excellency Secret Master, congratulations on absorbing the troops of the Beast Ancestor.”

“This is only the first step. The Beast Ancestor still has many other camps and Star Fields.”

“I understand, but most of the people he has brought over to the Flickering World are important officers, and since you’re controlling them, you’re basically controlling almost half of the Beastman Organization.”

“Hmm. Anyways, you’ve done a good job. When this matter comes to an end, I’ll definitely reward you for your achievements.” The Secret Master nodded.

Hearing this, Byram’s smile grew wider.

After Jotina defected, Byram also decided to find a way out. It happened that Secret Master was also plotting on taking over the Beast Ancestor’s army, so both sides started communicating with each other and hit it off. Byram thus decided to assist the Secret Master.

The reason he did not choose Black Star was partly because the loyalist faction would never agree to submit under Black Star. Also, if he presented such a gift to their enemy, when news got out, his reputation would be ruined. Considering both factors, it was better to work with Secret Master instead.

Byram walked away in excitement, and after sending him off, Secret Master’s lips curled up in a sneer.

“Humph, merely a person who goes whichever way the wind blows.”

Shaking his head, Secret Master took out his communicator to contact Sorokin.

After three rings, the call was connected. Sorokin’s visage appeared on the screen, carrying a meaningful smile.

“Your Excellency Secret Master, have you managed to absorb the Beast Ancestor’s troops?”

“The initial steps are done.” Secret Master nodded. “However, it seems like Black Star has already stepped in. There are people who wish to defect to him...”

Sorokin smiled in response. “Relax, Black Star’s commanders are plentiful like the clouds, and he definitely will not target the Beast Ancestor’s troops so desperately. Anyway, there’s no reason not to be afraid to offend him. If you still feel unsafe, after absorbing the troops, just give Black Star suitable compensation, and he will not pursue this further.”

“Let’s talk about this when it comes.” Secret Master did not agree or disagree.

He was a mature person and wished to befriend Black Star. However, he also wished to obtain the Beast Ancestor’s troops, seemingly wanting to have his cake and eat it too. Since Black Star was not hard up for these people, he was not picking someone else’s fruits.

Sorokin paused for a moment before changing the topic. “So, about my suggestion, what are your thoughts?”

Secret Master narrowed his eyes. “You wish to use the position of shareholder in the Limitless Financial Group that was vacated by Galactic Black Market in exchange for the position of Protector of the Galactic Black Market. This idea is not bad at all.”

“Hehe, I’m a businessman and will only talk about business. Since Gorutan has fallen, I’ll require a new partner.” Sorokin smiled faintly.

During the time he worked with Gorutan, Sorokin had already penetrated many different industries within the Galactic Black Market. If he had the identity of a Protector, he would be able to officially open a business within the Galactic Black Market and could incorporate the entire Galactic Black Market into the business empire of his Limitless Financial Group. This was a huge profit that was simply incalculable!

Even Sorokin who sat on astronomical assets could not help but move!

Thus, not too long ago, he had gotten in touch with the Secret Master and proposed a deal in which the wolf would be besieged and annihilated—the original shareholder position would be handed over to the Secret Master, while the other party would aid him in obtaining the status of Protector in the Galactic Black Market.

After he proposed this transaction, Secret Master did not immediately reject him, but he did not agree either.

From the perspective of Secret Master, without Gorutan, he would be able to gobble up more shares of the Galactic Black Market. If he introduced a financial giant like Sorokin, it would be equivalent to attracting a wolf into the room. After all, no one knew what Sorokin intended to do.

However, if he exchanged it with the identity of a shareholder of the Limitless Financial Group, this would involve more legitimate businesses, and his profits would also increase. Thus came the Secret Master’s dilemma.

Hearing Sorokin bring this up again, Secret Master snorted.

“I’ll be honest, although the condition to become a Protector is to be a Beyond Grade A, with your strength, it seems hard for you to obtain the identity.”

Sorokin smiled mysteriously. “Wouldn’t this be better for you?”

Secret Master remained silent. It seemed as though he agreed with the statement.

He pondered for a while before speaking. “I can try to help you deal with and persuade the other two Protectors, as well as the administrators...”

Sorokin’s eyes lit up, knowing that this was the start to their partnership. His smile grew wide.

“Many thanks to Your Excellency Secret Master. I’ll keep the vacant seat of shareholder for the Limitless Financial Group open for you.”

“Hmm.” Secret Master answered indifferently before hanging up.

1066 Concession from the dynasty, the Universe Celebrates

Ka la ka la...

The sound of machinery being assembled reverberated in the private workshop, and the flashing Mechanical Force was like flexible blue tentacles, manipulating the robotic arms to create a totally new King mechanical suit.

Han Xiao was fully absorbed, watching the details of the mechanical suit in his hands step by step.

When the last piece of outer armor plate was attached to the chest area of the King, his interface pinged as a notification appeared.

You have built a Gold Grade equipment (Universal Treasure).

“Huu...”

Han Xiao’s tense expression finally eased up, and he slowly exhaled.

This was the second Gold-grade mechanical suit of the King. With his successful experience from the last time as well as the bonuses granted by [Universal Treasure Creator] and [Spirit Instrument], he still had to attempt it five times before succeeding. Still, that was much better than his previous attempt.

Han Xiao intended to pass this second mechanical suit to Hila. While this was exclusive equipment for Mechanics and Hila could not enjoy the bonuses attached, Han Xiao only wanted to utilize its transmission function to provide a safety guarantee for Hila.

Moreover, he was not intending to stop at two. Han Xiao had to create a few spare sets for himself and maybe also one set for Ames. The manufacturing time was not the limiting factor now. Rather, the cost was.

The King was equivalent to the cost of an entire fleet, and if it did not reach the Gold Grade, it would be a huge loss. He currently could not guarantee that he could churn out a Universal Treasure Grade each time and would inevitably waste a lot of Enas. Even if the Black Star Army was rich and powerful, the cost pained him.

Han Xiao could not help but sigh. “As a Mechanic, you can’t not know how to make money.”

He glanced at the Attribute Panel. Because it was his second time creating the King, the [Spirit Instrument] did not award him with new God’s Trait Transformation points, nor did it unlock a new layer of bonuses for him. There was only the benefit of a reallocation for his Attribute Points.

Furthermore, due to it being the same blueprint, the efficiency of attribute point reallocation had also decreased, from the previous 200 points to 160 points. It was a pity his Luck did not get reallocated this time, but he received a reallocation from his Charisma, which was not too bad. Anyway, he had always been shameless... He did not care about his face.

The 160 Free Attribute Points were put on standby, and Han Xiao stuffed the second King into a maintenance box for mechanical suits, sending a random mechanical soldier to give it to Hila.

It was worth mentioning that this special maintenance box was already Orange Grade equipment, which served to nurture the mechanical suit. Placing a mechanical suit inside it for a long time would improve a certain basic attribute of the mechanical suit. As a pinnacle Beyond Grade A Mechanic, everything that Han Xiao used was only the best.

After completing all his work, Han Xiao rubbed his eyes and stretched his waist. He did not have anything to do in camp, and other than dealing with daily tasks, he was only in the workshop repairing his Apostle Weapons and building Universal Treasures.

“Time to relax. I shall go and watch the others play cards.”

Just as Han Xiao was about to walk about, his communicator rang. The indicator showed that it was a call from a high ranking official of the Crimson Dynasty.

“The dynasty is finally willing to contact me. Have they finally come to a conclusion on how to deal with me?”

Han Xiao’s eyes flashed, and he accepted the call. A remote projection of a high-ranking official appeared. This was the person-in-charge of contacting Han Xiao, so he was already familiar with them.

“Your Excellency Black Star.” The official nodded. “It’s been a long time.”

“Good day to you too.” Han Xiao nodded, and he asked as if unaware, “What do you have for me?”

“Heh, I know you like things to be handed directly, so I shall not waste your time. The dynasty’s upper echelons are planning to release a plan related to you, and I would like to obtain your opinions and negotiate.”

“What sort of plan?”

“The dynasty intends to temporarily open the sales of the Evolutionary Totem to the universe, no longer limiting it to her allies. However, because the Evolution Cube is its energy source and it’s in your hands, the dynasty wants to know your attitude toward this matter.” The official smiled.

Han Xiao’s heart skipped a beat, and an expression of joy spread across his face.

While he knew that there was this probability, having it confirmed gave him a lot of excitement.

All the while, the Crimson Dynasty had controlled the sales channels of the Evolutionary Totem and did not allow it to enter the free market, only allowing her allies to purchase it. This was an agreement between Han Xiao and the dynasty. If these restrictions were lifted, every civilization in the universe would become his customer, which would bring him immense profits.

Furthermore, this was not a one-off sale. The Evolutionary Totem could run for up to twenty years, after which it had to be recharged with the Evolution Cube, just like refueling it. Thus, the subsequent maintenance costs could be considered a steady stream of huge benefits, which was like a business opportunity of endless profits.

The Crimson Dynasty had jammed the rights to publicly sell the Evolutionary Totem, wishing to control this income. The only way to do that was to get the Evolution Cube from Han Xiao, as it was unwilling to

allow a non-direct ally to control such an important strategic treasure. Thus, both sides had been wrangling over this issue, and their relationship had soured.

Now, the dynasty was finally willing to open up the purchase channels of the Evolutionary Totem and finally made a concession, taking the initiative to ease the relationship between both sides. The reason behind their action was no doubt due to the influence of Black Star's Godlike Battle. They were thus willing to temporarily hand over the huge profits to Han Xiao.

While excited, Han Xiao still caught a key point. "Temporarily? So, how long would that be?"

The official shook his head. "I don't know about such exact details. Even the upper echelons probably have not set a date."

That meant, the moment he did something wrong, this could all end...

Han Xiao knew that the dynasty's move was not only a win-win situation but also an indirect method of control. The moment he got used to the huge gains or the rapid expansion, or when his army could no longer separate itself from the capital flow brought about by this business, the dynasty would have a new way to manipulate him. He also understood this point. After all, the dynasty was a Universal Civilization and would never allow themselves to back off. Now that they were willing to make concessions and show respect, it was good enough for him.

"Alright, I have no objections. When do we begin?" Han Xiao agreed.

"The duration has yet to be determined, but the duration it takes to implement this should take about half a year to a year to prepare. However, within the time of three days to half a month, this decree will be announced to the universe, so we have to quickly agree to a benefits distribution plan," the dynasty official stated.

Because the previous cooperation mainly dealt with the dynasty and her allies, there were many preferential discounts. For the sales to the rest of the universe, be it Han Xiao or the dynasty, both wished to inflate the price significantly to fleece the outsiders. Therefore, distribution plans had to be reformulated.

Han Xiao thought for a while before replying. "In that case... I'll have the business team under me contact you directly, and we shall strive to negotiate a suitable result as soon as possible."

The Germinal Financial Group under the army had raised a group of business negotiation experts, who could come in handy regarding this matter. Furthermore, he had Iapetus, who was an executive of the financial group and a master in this field.

Because he was holding onto the Evolution Cube, the majority of profits would belong to him, but the dynasty still had to obtain a cut. After all, it had helped to bear the pressure for so long, so he could not act as though they had done nothing. Moreover, the Crimson Dynasty would still provide him assistance in logistics, transportation, and the supply of raw materials in the future. After all, the market of the entire universe was too huge, and the current Black Star Army could not cover the entire universe alone.

Both parties discussed a little more before they hung up. The moment Han Xiao thought of how the army was about to obtain a huge profit channel with a steady stream of money, his good mood took a turn for the better.

Suddenly, a past thought flashed across his mind, and Han Xiao's eyes gleamed as a ridiculing smile surfaced.

"The moment the Crimson Dynasty announces this decree, I can go to the Limitless Financial Group... Heh, you thought that by taking back your commercial suppression on me, everything would go back to normal? How could there be such a good thing in this world!"

...

In the Emerald Star Cluster, within an actual combat training ground of the Beast Ancestor's stronghold...

Boom!

The fist with fingers curled up like the claws of a leopard was entwined in a black energy glow, and it directly connected with the abdomen of a body. The skin and muscles ripped in a ring due to the tremendous force, and the resulting shock wave blew the target away like a cannonball, hitting the wall of the training ground heavily with a bang.

Schneider withdrew his fist, and the toxic energy circling him also faded. He indifferently said, "Let's stop here."

He did not even look at his opponent from the loyalist faction, who had challenged him to a spar but gotten easily defeated. He only picked up the windbreaker he threw to the side before walking out of the training ground.

Ordinarily, Schneider would not even bother to respond to the challenges of others, but right now, he was in a bad mood and was venting his frustrations.

Schneider lamented the fact that everyone was now controlled by the Secret Master and forbidden to leave the stronghold.

Beep beep!

At this moment, his communicator rang. He saw that it was a call from his elder sister Jotina.

The moment he connected, Jotina yelled in dissatisfaction, "When I invited you to leave the Beast Ancestor Organization together, you said to wait and see. Now, even after so long, you haven't brought your team and left yet? What's going on?"

Schneider revealed an expression of resignation, and he softly replied, "Big Sis, it's not that I don't wish to leave. There's been a small incident."

"What incident?" Jotina frowned.

"It's His Excellency Secret Master..." Schneider hesitated upon recalling the imprint that Secret Master put on them, but he resolutely decided to speak the truth. "He has expressed his intention to help manage the Beast Ancestor's troops, and make us work for him. Now, none of us can leave the stronghold, and I've also been trapped."

Jotina was furious as she expected better from him. "I told you to leave sooner, but you just refused to listen. Now look what happened! You're useless! A shame to me!"

She ranted on and on, and Schneider could only mutely accept her cursing.

Because the rebel faction's source of hatred was based on the miserable experiences of their birth mothers, they appeared far more humane compared to the other two factions. There was a true brother-sister bond within the people of the faction, and it was the case for Schneider and Jotina. They had grown up together, and Schneider had been afraid of her since he was a child.

Jotina continued to curse for a while before finally holding back when she saw Schneider's sullen look. She asked, "If you're unwilling to work under Secret Master, you should find a chance to escape."

Schneider shook his head and sighed. "The Secret Master has already said that escaping without authorization will be regarded as betrayal, and he has also left a magical imprint on us. Even if we could escape, how could we outrun a Beyond Grade A?"

Toward the siblings that she recognized, Jotina had a soft heart and could not bear to see Schneider's plight. After struggling for a while, she suddenly said, "Are you willing to join the Black Star Army?"

"Of course, but there's no more chance for me now." Schneider sighed.

Hearing this, Jotina gritted her teeth. "Don't lose hope yet. I'll go and beg the Army Commander for help!"

After she spoke, she did not even wait for Schneider to reply, immediately hanging up.

Schneider held onto the communicator with the busy dial tone, a helpless expression on his face.

"Beg Black Star for help? How is that possible?"

He sighed, not holding any hope at all.

Just thinking about it, as people previously under the flag of the Beast Ancestor, defectors at that, why would Black Star offend another pinnacle Beyond Grade A for Calamity Grades like them?

...

The former palace of the Beast Ancestor was now converted to a resting place for Secret Master.

Gorutan's huge throne had been placed in the Secret Master's alchemy storage bottle as a war prize, and he had replaced Gorutan's seat with his own throne.

At this moment, Secret Master sat on the throne, browsing the information regarding the officers in the organization, whilst Byram stood at the side, ready to answer a question if needed.

His communicator rang, and when Secret Master glanced at it, his facial expression turned solemn.

His expression as though he had met with a life-threatening situation stunned Byram, and he secretly began guessing who was on the line to cause the Secret Master to show such a drastic expression.

At this moment, Secret Master waved his hand and coldly remarked, "Leave."

Hearing that, Byram could only bid his farewell in resignation and leave despite his curiosity. While he considered himself the new confidant of the Secret Master, he did not dare step beyond the rules.

When he was left alone in the room, Secret Master connected to the communication channel with a solemn expression.

“Black Star, what are you calling for?”

Han Xiao’s hearty laughter came from the communicator.

“Hahaha, Secret Master, you seem to be a little nervous.”

“You’re thinking too much.”

Secret Master’s brain was overclocking at the moment. While he wished to befriend Black Star, he could not help having a somewhat guilty conscience.

Han Xiao smiled. “While we had a conflict on the issue of the Primal Chaos Mysterious Energy, the matter has been resolved. Furthermore, there’s no enmity between us. If we must say, I also gave you quite a big boon.”

“What boon did you provide?”

“You still need to ask? It’s the Beast Ancestor. Didn’t you warn me the other time so that I would get rid of Gorutan? Both of you were Protectors, so there would definitely have been a conflict of interest. Helping you get rid of him means that you can take over his markets. Isn’t that doing you a favor?”

“Indeed, you have indirectly helped me.” Secret Master did not refute it.

“Since I’ve helped you, you can help me with a favor that I require now.” Han Xiao blinked before saying in a meaningful tone, “I heard that you’ve taken over the Beast Ancestor’s troops. Don’t worry, I’m not interested in them. As a twisted melon will never be sweet, I leave it to you to handle them. However, it seems like there are a few who wish to defect. I’d like you not to restrict those who wish to defect to me.”

Secret Master’s eyes changed slightly. He was a little unwilling to part with these Calamity Grade officers just like that.

Furthermore, if he chose to give such a concession, there would definitely be other officers who used defecting over to Black Star as an excuse. At that time, should he let them go as well? In this way, his gains from taking over the Beast Ancestor’s organization would be reduced substantially, and many of the Calamity Grade talents would also be lost.

But since Black Star had called, it meant that he knew of him detaining the Beastmen. If he did not agree, he would end up offending Black Star, and with the latter’s current tough stance, it might result in conflicts. He still wished to befriend Black Star, but he was not willing to lose too much for it.

While he found it a pity in his heart, Secret Master did not hesitate much. He was not willing to offend Black Star for a few Calamity Grades. “Alright, I’ll only release those who wish to defect to you.”

“That’s great!” Han Xiao burst out into a genuine laugh.

The two of them suppressed their inner emotions, pretending to be good friends and brothers, chatting for a while more before hanging up.

The moment he put down the communicator, Secret Master's expression collapsed. He summoned Byram and ordered, "Bring Schneider's group over."

Byram was a little confused, but he did as he was told.

Very quickly, Schneider and the rebels were gathered in the palace, staring at Secret Master on the throne with a complicated, helpless, and unhappy expression.

Secret Master was expressionless. "Who here wishes to defect to the Black Star Army?"

A commotion occurred in the crowd. Everyone looked at each other. What was Secret Master trying to do?

Could this be a test, to kill the chickens in an attempt to warn the monkeys, in order to ward off further rebellious thoughts?

Everyone suddenly turned vigilant, feeling that they had stumbled onto the truth, and rushed to show their loyalty.

"How could that be? We're willing to accept the protection of Secret Master."

"We're all siblings and can communicate easily. I love this place so much, so how could I defect elsewhere?"

Seeing this scene, Secret Master only felt a growing headache.

If it was someone, he could use their current words as an excuse to give a perfunctory response, but Secret Master did not intend to play any tricks on Black Star, so he was currently a little depressed.

The current situation could be described as akin to a drama.

Underlings: "Secret Master Father, we really do not wish to go to Black Star."

Secret Master: "No, think about it again. Quickly scam to acknowledge your true father."

Taking a deep breath, Secret Master regained his calmness. A surge of momentum was released from him, and he solemnly said, "Less bullsh*t. Those who wish to defect to Black Star, I will not stop you, nor am I toying with you. Those who wish to leave, hurry up and scam."

Those people who were still professing their loyalty suddenly felt an irresistible pressure and discovered that the Secret Master was not trying to test them. They all stopped in their tracks, stunned.

What's the matter? Didn't you restrict everyone a while ago. Why are you suddenly freeing us?

Is Secret Master that fickle?

Byram's eyes flickered, and he thought about the call that Secret Master had received previously. He came to the conclusion that it was likely Black Star.

To actually sway Secret Master with just a few words, could it be that Secret Master was that afraid of Black Star?

Byram was secretly surprised.

Within the crowd, Schneider suddenly thought of his call with Jotina two hours ago.

“It can’t be wrong. Black Star must have played a part in this, or else there’s no other way to explain it...”

He discovered that Secret Master’s expression was quite ugly, as though he was unwilling to do so.

In Schneider’s view, Jotina had just joined the Black Star Army, and she could not have much sway. For Black Star to help her so unhesitatingly, it had to be because he placed some importance in them.

While he did not know if his conjecture was right, Schneider could not help but feel moved, and he had the urge to even die for Black Star.

It seems like Jotina’s right. Black Star is indeed a worthy figure to defect to.

...

Because it was a private deal, the departure of Schneider and the rest did not cause any waves.

It was only seven to eight days later, when the government of the Crimson Dynasty issued a decree without warning, that the entire universe suddenly erupted!

The content of the decree was simple. The dynasty had decided to open up the right to purchase Evolutionary Totems to the entire universe, starting in one year!

The fight between the three Universal Civilizations for the Evolutionary Totem was not a matter that had happened a day or two ago. Thus, when this news was released, it caused massive waves and an uproar. Countless civilizations went crazy.

The dynasty had finally thought it through!

The entire universe, however, knew that the Crimson Dynasty would not make such a move without any motives behind them. For them to come out with such a decision, it likely had to do with the recent matters.

And everyone knew that the recent major matter at the universe-level was Black Star’s Godlike Battle!

Everyone understood the cause and effect of the two events.

Being shocked by Black Star’s record, the dynasty had finally compromised and actively given in, allowing Black Star to control the Evolutionary Totem business with his Evolution Cube!

A Universal Civilization, especially a stubborn boss such as the Crimson Dynasty, actually compromised for a Beyond Grade A!

When had this last happened?

When they figured this out, the countless Galactic Civilizations and residents were shocked beyond words.

But on the other hand, the Arcane Church and the Federation of Light were delighted.

By showing his prestige, Black Star had moved the Crimson Dynasty to open up the Evolutionary Totem sales. For this reason, it was worthwhile for them to have lost a few Beyond Grade As.

We were walking on the wrong path all along!

If they had known that putting pressure of the dynasty would not be of use, they would have just sent a bunch of people over to Black Star, allowing him to rack up an incredible battle record. Then, they would have gotten their desires that much earlier!

The dynasty's decree set off a wave of public opinion across the universe, further skyrocketing Han Xiao's records and personal prestige. He alone now overwhelmed the rays given off by all Beyond Grade As.

While the news and rumors were spreading like wildfire throughout the universe, the Limitless Financial Group's branch within the Flickering World welcomed an unexpected guest.

1067 An Offer You Can't Refuse

This was a large commercial planet located in the Dawn Star Cluster. The sky was filled with anti-gravity flying vehicles, like a river of steel diagonally hanging in the air.

There were many tall buildings located at the center of the planet's capital city. One of the buildings stood out from the rest, towering into the clouds, and its structure was akin to the double helix structure of a gene sequence. The outer wall of the building was pure white, and its corners would occasionally flash with blue lights. It exuded a sense of technological advancement and art.

At the top of the building, there were eight anti-gravity suspensions holding up a helipad, similar to a floating island, shielding the '∞' shaped signboard in the middle. It was the emblem of the Limitless Financial Group. This was a subdivision of the Limitless Financial Group. Unlike armed forces, unless there were special circumstances, commercial organizations would not build bases everywhere like the warlords.

A small aircraft from the atmosphere slowly descended on the helipad of the Limitless Financial Group branch. Han Xiao got out of the cabin, stepping onto the platform.

"Welcome, Your Excellency Black Star."

Not far away, the receptionist who had been waiting for a long time quickly came up to greet him. Black Star had notified the Limitless Financial Group of his impending visit. Thus, they had arranged for a receptionist to guide him.

Han Xiao hummed in response, his face remaining expressionless. "Where's Sorokin?"

"His Excellency Sorokin is already awaiting you in the reception room. Please follow me."

The reception staff respectfully responded, leading the way.

Han Xiao followed him into the subdivision of the Limitless Financial Group, taking a private elevator to a certain floor.

When the elevator doors opened, a spacious area came into view. In the center of the room was a sofa and a table, and the four corners of the room were surrounded by exotic blue and green plants. The walls were completely made up of floor-to-ceiling windows. No other furniture was present, as though this entire floor was only used as a reception room.

Sorokin sat on the sofa, waiting. As Han Xiao approached, he stood up with a smile on his face. "Your Excellency Black Star, please have a seat."

The elevator doors then closed, leaving only the two of them in the room.

Han Xiao sat down opposite Sorokin, and only then did Sorokin return to his seat. He smiled. "What a rare visitor. When you spoke of visiting me, I still didn't dare believe it. For someone as busy as you, why would you suddenly come over to my place?"

"Why, am I not welcome?" Han Xiao tilted his head.

"Haha, you must be joking. Of course, I welcome you." Sorokin maintained his smile, but he was secretly sizing up Han Xiao. It was a pity that he failed to notice anything.

On the surface, he put on a warm and hospitable look, but Sorokin was full of suspicion and doubt in his heart, speculating about Black Star's intention to visit.

Recently, the rumors of the dynasty's concession to Black Star had spread madly. Sorokin had naturally heard about it. Although he was surprised, there was no shock, as he had already anticipated this would happen the moment Han Xiao repelled the others in the rescue of Hila. His surprise came more from the fact that the dynasty really did concede.

Right now, Black Star was extremely popular within the universe. For this guy to suddenly run over at this juncture, he most likely had some scheme prepared. Could it be that he wished to cooperate on the issue of the Evolutionary Totem?

It was unlikely, and the dynasty also had no reason to let outsiders intervene. Furthermore, the Limitless Financial Group and the Black Star Army had been having commercial struggles for so many years. Even though both sides never mentioned it, they definitely remembered it in their hearts.

Sorokin was thus very vigilant at this point.

Han Xiao's behavior was very relaxed, as though he had come to reminisce about the past. He softly smiled. "This is the first time I've come to visit you, and it's very prosperous. It seems that the Limitless Financial Group has developed very well in the Flickering World."

"This is all thanks to the business partners." Sorokin picked up the liquor bottle on the table, opening it before pouring a glass for Han Xiao.

"Wow, good wine. This seems to be a high-end product from the federation, only given to select people." Han Xiao raised the glass, swirling the amber liquid within and hearing the pleasant clink of ice cubes. He casually said, "Speaking of which, we can also be considered business partners in certain territories."

"That's right." Sorokin nodded.

Han Xiao did not get straight to the point but rather spoke about routine matters first. Thus, Sorokin could not tell his intentions and could only follow alongside the conversation.

After taking a sip of the liquor, appreciating the mellow taste as it flowed down his throat, Han Xiao savored the aftertaste as he smacked his lips. He then sighed.

“Sigh, even to this day, I still regret that I almost became a closer partner of the Limitless Financial Group. Unfortunately, you chose Bloodshed Land instead.”

“Hehe, the matters of business have always been inaccurate. Compared to the Black Star Army, which has already matured and formed its system, the Limitless Financial Group is more willing to invest in a force that has huge potential but is unable to realize it. It’s not that the Black Star Army is lacking but rather that the Bloodshed Land needs us more. I find it truly pitiful as well that our cooperation could not be reached.”

Sorokin gave a long and passionate monologue but grumbled in his heart.

He had invested in Bloodshed Land mainly to support them in going against Black Star Army in the commercial sector, robbing the army’s businesses. Black Star had no reason not to know this, so bringing the partnership up but not mentioning the commercial battle, Black Star likely had something up his sleeve.

Let me try playing nice and see what he’s up to, Sorokin thought.

At this moment, Han Xiao suddenly raised his head, smiling as he spoke. “In fact, this is what I came for today. Today is different from the past, so I would like to represent the army and provide an opportunity to cooperate with the Limitless Financial Group.”

Hearing this, Sorokin narrowed his eyes as he quickly calculated. He suddenly came to a realization.

I understand, so it turns out that Black Star had such an intention.

After the Evolutionary Totems were released to the world, the Limitless Financial Group need not continue to put pressure on the Black Star Army’s business any longer. The obstacles between them both had been cleared, and business cooperation could now be carried out normally. With the Limitless Financial Group’s size and the Black Star Army’s prestige, if they cooperated, it was indeed a win-win situation, mutually benefiting both parties.

For this reason, Black Star no longer pursued the conflict of interest from the past twenty years and took the initiative to talk about cooperation.

This mentality of abandoning former grudges and making money together was very suited to Sorokin’s taste. He thought that he had already guessed Han Xiao’s intentions and relaxed. The smile on his face was no longer just for show but rather a genuine smile.

“Your Excellency Black Star, your suggestion is exactly what I was thinking. Right now, there are plenty of opportunities to shine with the Flickering World. If the two of us work together, we’ll be invincible and occupy the bulk of the market in the Flickering World!”

“Since Your Excellency Sorokin also thinks that way, things will be easy!” Han Xiao slapped his thigh. “Then, let’s decide on the date for me to officially become a shareholder of the Limitless Financial Group.”

The next moment, the air within the room instantly solidified.

Sorokin’s smile froze on his face.

What, shareholder position? Weren’t we talking about normal business cooperation? How did we get to this part?

Seeing the playful look in Han Xiao’s eyes, Sorokin’s heart thumped violently. He began to realize that he had mistaken Han Xiao’s intentions.

“Your Excellency Black Star, forgive me if I’m being too offensive, but the cooperation you’re suggesting is...”

“The opportunity that I’m providing to cooperate with the Limitless Financial Group is to allow me to be a shareholder of the Limitless Financial Group. Didn’t you just happen to have a vacant position?” Han Xiao smiled meaningfully. This was his true intention.

Sorokin’s eyes narrowed, finally confirming that Han Xiao did not come with good intentions.

Taking advantage of the fact that Gorutan’s position was now vacant, Black Star wished to replace him? Did he think that the shareholder position was some trophy that he could claim? Whether he could take it or not, only Sorokin could make the decision!

For this empty shareholder position, Sorokin had already formulated a detailed strategy to allow him to break into the galactic black market. The position was a bargaining chip used for trading with Secret Master, so he would naturally not give this position to others. This was related to the blueprint of his business empire in his heart, and being a Protector of the Galactic Black Market was a critical step, with no margin for error allowed.

Sorokin’s smile faded, and he carefully said, “Then I’m truly sorry. While Gorutan indeed suffered from an accident, since he’s still alive, he can still be considered a shareholder. Even if he died, his shares would be transferred to the financial group to await withdrawal. I have no intentions of establishing any new shareholders for the time being. If you wish to discuss any other sort of cooperation, I’ll be happy to accompany you, but the shareholder position is off limits.”

Han Xiao did not take it to heart, only smiling. “If I didn’t remember wrongly, this is the second time you have rejected my request to be a shareholder.”

Hearing this, Sorokin remembered, and it seemed like Black Star had mentioned the same time once when they first met more than twenty years ago.

“That’s right, I rejected you at that time. Today, the answer is still the same,” Sorokin indifferently replied. “The Limitless Financial Group’s foundations are huge, and any change in its shareholders have to go through the consent of all other shareholders. At the same time, the three Universal Civilizations each only have one shareholder within the Limitless Financial Group, to ensure check and balance. Right

now, with Kant among the shareholders, the federation and the church will not allow another ally of the dynasty to enter this circle.”

Han Xiao blinked, before speaking in a knowing tone, “Sorokin, twenty years have passed, and times have changed now. I’ll make you an offer you can’t refuse.”

“Oh?”

“Haha, firstly, regarding consent of all shareholders... do you think the others will support or reject me?”

Sorokin was taken aback for a moment, and his brows then wrinkled sharply.

He suddenly discovered that for Black Star, this issue no longer posed any problem.

Black Star was no longer what he used to be, and his position in the universe far exceeded that of twenty years ago. He was also responsible for building a shared battlefield for the Beyond Grade As. Based on this alone, he would be able to obtain the support of both Manison and Kasuyi. Kant, as a fellow ally, was even less likely to oppose him.

Sorokin suddenly had a bad feeling about this.

At this point, Han Xiao smiled and slowly said, “As for the checks and balances between the three Universal Civilizations... Do you think the federation and the church are more willing to allow another dynasty shareholder to appear, or do you think they value the Evolutionary Totems more? In other words, do you think they will openly oppose me at this moment?”

Laying out his cards!

This was the only thought running through Sorokin’s mind.

His expression also sank.

Since the dynasty had opened up the sale of Evolutionary Totems, temporarily dissolving the hostility between the federation and the church, in order to ensure the smooth implementation of this decree, and Federation and the church might turn into boot-lickers, not just to please the dynasty, but also to please Black Star who held the Evolution Cube.

Furthermore, Black Star had their allies as captives, and he had enough chips to force both civilizations to compromise. If he insisted on including the conditions of being a shareholder inside the redemption clause for the captives, then both the church and the federation would not stop him. In the end, Black Star would still become a shareholder of the Limitless Financial Group!

At this moment, Sorokin suddenly noticed a detail he had ignored previously. Once the problem of the Evolutionary Totem was settled, he would obtain the benefits provided by the church and the federation as a result of completing the transaction, but he would also lose their protection at the same time.

This means that if Black Star wished to be a shareholder, he, as the head of the financial group, did not even have the veto power anymore!

Either he closed both eyes and allowed Black Star to become the shareholder, giving him an astronomical amount of dividends for nothing, or waited for the three Universal Civilizations to help Black Star sanction the Limitless Financial Group in the commercial field and force him to submit.

He could only say yes or yes!

Thinking to this point, Sorokin looked deeply at Han Xiao.

What an impeccable move, completely utilizing his influence. Could it be that Black Star had predicted such a point long ago?

Han Xiao only smiled, slowly savoring the liquor with a nonchalant expression, awaiting his answer.

Seeing this, Sorokin's expression warped many times before he slowly spoke.

"Black Star, this hand of yours... was beautifully played."

"Then, what will you choose?" Han Xiao playfully replied.

"... Do I have a choice?"

Hearing this, Han Xiao laughed, putting down the glass and stretching out his hand.

"Then... I wish us both a happy cooperation?"

Gazing at Han Xiao's offered hand, Sorokin deeply breathed in, suppressing the feeling of having stepped into sh*t, and squeezed out a smile, gripping Han Xiao's hand.

"Hope we have a pleasant cooperation."

Seeing the derision in Han Xiao's eyes, Sorokin almost could not hold back his urge to attack, but he quickly quenched the thought.

He recognized the reality. Since he could not resist, he could only take the lesser of two evils. Even if it meant carving out a piece of his flesh, he decisively promised and yielded to Han Xiao.

"Hmm?"

Han Xiao could clearly feel the killing intent released by Sorokin in that instant. It was as though he was faced with a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood. The pressure was even stronger than Hila's, and it was not possible to obtain such an aura without reaping the lives of millions if not billions.

This old fogey was indeed once a cold-blooded murderer...

However, Han Xiao did not put it to heart, smiling as he withdrew his hand. He knew that Sorokin was used to pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger, only knowing how to bully the other party but not daring to take action.

After all these years, Han Xiao had sort of understood how Sorokin behaved, and he did not care one whit about his personal reputation at all.

If one took the initiative to attack, Sorokin would definitely pretend to lose and get himself beaten up, then make use of public opinion to add fuel and jealousy to let the whole universe know of your

unreasonable attitude. It would lower his reputation, and the chance of obtaining the shareholder position would be forever lost. Even without the support from the federation and the church now, his identity as the head of the Limitless Financial Group was still a shield of sorts for him. After all, he did not belong to any random organization or a gray area but rather a legal galactic business. Using violence against such people would have huge repercussions, which will definitely appear in headlines.

Now that Han Xiao had gotten what he wanted, he stopped teasing Sorokin but wiped his smile off his face. "Since we have reached a consensus, please announce this to the universe as soon as possible. I won't bother you any further."

"Alright, have a nice trip back." Sorokin reluctantly smiled, sending him off.

The moment Han Xiao left the room, Sorokin's expression sank thoroughly.

He got wrecked this time!

This was not as simple as the shareholder changing from Gorutan to Black Star. It had also undermined Sorokin's business strategy, causing him to miss the opportunity to enter the Galactic Black Market.

As a businessman, watching an important business opportunity slip through one's fingers was a pain that could not be described in words.

Moreover, with Black Star guarding against him, he would not sincerely cooperate with the Limitless Financial Group. Thus, it would be difficult to obtain any benefit off this shareholder. He could only give Black Star the dividends in vain and maybe even need to deal with any potential backlash from Black Star's end.

Just thinking about it made Sorokin upset.

For a long time, the Limitless Financial Group had been using commercial means to hinder the development of the Black Star Army and had only recently stopped their attacks. However, their circumstances were actually flipped over, to get suppressed by Han Xiao now.

Ka-cha!

The glass of liquor he was holding shattered, the shards falling all over the floor.

Sorokin however did not wipe his hands, allowing the amber liquid to drip between his fingers.

His expression was ugly as he muttered, "I hate these Beyond Grade As..."

1068 Extortion

As the spaceship left the Limitless Financial Group branch, Han Xiao looked through the window as the building diminished in size before pulling back his gaze and smiling.

"I've hit at a good time. Sorokin has finally compromised..."

By his estimation, there was a seventy-percent chance of the negotiation succeeding. Even if he had the right time and place, he dared not speak with absolute certainty that Sorokin would yield to him.

Fortunately, his judgment of Sorokin's character was not wrong, and the final result was favorable to him.

If it was another Beyond Grade A with a temper, they would most likely have fought. However, Sorokin was good at enduring, and it was probably not the first time he had dealt with such matters. After weighing the benefits and costs, he immediately chose to compromise.

"Speaking of which, Sorokin is so shy about showing his strength. There must be a lot of factors within..."

Han Xiao stroked his chin as he pondered.

This guy was not like the other Beyond Grade As, who relied on their own personal power to influence their organization's development. He had almost no record worth mentioning, and his business was run through the normal and legal way.

The advanced civilizations had always been alert to any non-allied Beyond Grade A organizations. As the top financial group in the universe, the stronger their power, the more jealousy they would attract. Commercial organizations were not armed forces and had their own set of industry rules to follow. The moment they were targeted by the three Universal Civilizations, it would be hard for the financial group to maintain stable footing. If Sorokin decided to retaliate, others would know that he had been hiding his strength, and the civilizations' fear would increase.

This was only one of the reasons. Han Xiao still remembered some of the information displayed about Sorokin on his interface. This guy had probably changed his skin many times and had been living in the universe with different identities.

But no matter how many times Sorokin changed his skin, his ability would not change, so he avoided any form of conflict so as not to be recognized. Maybe he had committed some huge offense, so he deliberately kept his name incognito.

"This guy is full of mystery." Han Xiao shook his head. This was all speculation, and maybe Sorokin had another reason to do so.

No matter what those secrets were, he had squashed Sorokin this time and avenged the suppression he had suffered over the past two decades.

Shareholders would receive huge dividends from the Limitless Financial Group every year. This was no small amount, and while it was not too huge of a loss to Sorokin, Han Xiao could finally obtain some interest.

Under normal circumstances, such huge dividends would not be taken for free. Every shareholder position given by the Limitless Financial Group was coveted, and they would form another business cooperation with the Beyond Grade A organizations, mutually benefitting both parties.

But Han Xiao naturally would not allow the Limitless Financial Group to partake in the army's business channels, otherwise it would just be a gift to Sorokin. He had made up his mind to only take the money and do nothing, just like a dog in the manger, deliberately creating trouble for Sorokin.

“The Evolutionary Totem is being released to the universe, and I’ll also obtain the shareholder position of the Limitless Financial Group. With these two sources of income, the abundant funds are enough to support the continued expansion of the army. The stock price of the Germinal Financial Group will also skyrocket.”

Han Xiao was overjoyed. He took out his communicator to send messages to the contact points of the three Universal Civilizations.

It was only the initial step for him and Sorokin to come to a consensus. He still had to file it with the three Universal Civilizations regarding this matter for their support. Because of the Evolutionary Totems, this was not a difficult task.

After sending out the news, Han Xiao let out a deep breath.

Once the dynasty, federation, and church had all expressed their opinions, Sorokin also folded, which meant that the follow-up affairs of Black Star’s Godlike Battle had almost come to an end. There was nothing left to do except to take care of Traveler and the Super Star Cluster Civilization behind him.

Traveler had already hidden himself, but Han Xiao knew which Super Star Cluster Civilization he belonged to. However, he had no plans to deal with the civilization behind the scenes at this moment.

On the one hand, the Super Star Cluster alliance was currently developing as a group and steadily expanding in the free competition zone, not creating any trouble, so there was no opportunity for him to take action. On the other hand, the three Universal Civilizations would not sit back and watch the Super Star Cluster develop in the Flickering World. Thus, they would definitely take action. Han Xiao decided to wait for the time the three Universal Civilizations launched an attack to cooperate with them, which would achieve twice the results with half the effort needed.

“Things are almost settled. The establishment of a platform for the Beyond Grade A united front should be placed on the agenda.” Han Xiao rolled his eyes in deep thought.

Both Manison and Kasuyi, one director and the other the actor, did not come to urge him after the incident. No matter what they had done before, at least he owed them a favor during the Hila Rescue mission, so he still had to put in some effort to maintain a united front.

“The purpose of this platform should be to take advantage of the opportunity of the Flickering World to unify all the Beyond Grade A organizations, allowing everyone to have a communication platform, binding all Beyond Grade As together. It cannot be hidden from the eyes of the three Universal Civilizations, yet it cannot be done with too much fanfare... united front... hang on, united front!”

Han Xiao suddenly had a eureka moment and hurriedly recited a few phrases from the socialist mantras before deriving an ingenious idea.

...

At the same time, Secret Master in the faraway Beast Ancestor stronghold received a communication application from Sorokin.

“Sorokin, what’s happening?”

“Your Excellency Secret Master, I have a piece of bad news for you.” Sorokin sighed.

“Speak.”

“There’s now a problem in our previous deal.”

“What exactly happened?” Secret Master hurriedly asked.

“I promised to leave you one of the shareholder positions, but Black Star came over just now and used his current influence to threaten me. You also know, with the sale of the Evolutionary Totems, the three Universal Civilizations will surely support him. Thus, to reduce my losses, I could only agree to his request.”

“You mean Black Star stole my reserved shareholder seat?” Secret Master’s expression changed.

“Sigh, it’s indeed like that. I can actually create a new major shareholder seat, but I need to dilute the equity of the others, which is more troublesome. It will take a lot of time to carry out some commercial operations and complete the capital increase. Otherwise, the other Beyond Grade A shareholders will not be happy.” Sorokin could not take out his share, otherwise it would be painful if he lost control of the entire financial group.

“... Alright then. Let’s proceed with the deal when you’re done.”

Secret Master was helpless. While he said he would cooperate in the future, he had actually already planned to cancel the trade in his heart.

This Sorokin was obviously too unreliable.

I’m obviously first in line here...

Secret Master had no anger toward Han Xiao snatching his lollipop. After all, in his opinion, Black Star did not know about their private transaction and did not specifically target him.

...

A couple of days later...

“Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union?”

In the Black Star Palace, Sylvia looked at the prototype of the plan that Han Xiao had handed over and could not help but show some surprise.

Han Xiao placed his feet on the table, raising his eyebrows as he replied, “Any problems?”

“The problem is so big that I’m speechless. The dynasty will never agree.” Sylvia had an expression of helplessness. “To boldly unite all the Beyond Grade A organizations, isn’t this taking the initiative to anger with the three Universal Civilizations?”

“What are you talking about? The Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union is a non-governmental organization that aims to deal with the contradictions between the Beyond Grade A organizations involved in the expansion of the Flickering World. It’s always better to solve problems through negotiation rather than violence and jointly maintain the public security of the Flickering World. This is a good thing that will benefit the entire Star Field, and it is also an idea I developed after

experiencing the previous incident. I'm worried that there might be more Beyond Grade As that will fall into my hands." Han Xiao spoke with an expression as though he totally believed in his lies.

Sylvia was speechless. She waved the document in her hands. "You do know that such bullsh*t will not get past the three Universal Civilizations, right?"

Hearing this, Han Xiao stopped his scholarly act, rolling his eyes.

"Well duh, but what else can I do? If I wish to integrate the Beyond Grade As, I'll need an excuse. Whether the three Universal Civilizations believe it or not, we still have to sugar coat it to prevent us from getting caught in an embarrassing situation."

Sylvia still had a worried expression. "To have our Black Star Army be the pioneer, won't this be too eye-catching? Especially in the eyes of the dynasty..."

"That's why this is only a draft. I'll still have to pull in more people to establish this union. Those who joined in the Meeting of the Gods with me will probably tacitly choose to join." Han Xiao shook his head.

While the Beyond Grade As had similar unions, there had never been a union of such scale, akin to the Mercenary Association, Pharmacist Association, or even the Superheroes Association. While the name of this organization was called the Development Union, in the eyes of discerning people, this would be an association that gathered all the Beyond Grade As in the known universe.

So long as most of the current Beyond Grade As joined this organization, they would be able to drive the membership rate of any new Beyond Grade As in the future. Its scope far exceeded that of The Ancient Ones to encompass all Beyond Grade As.

And if one utilized the appeal of this organization to continue to expand the range of members included, it could even evolve into a Super Association for the entire universe. Such a scale would be terrifying because such associations were generally only established by the three Universal Civilizations.

"Having such non-governmental organizations will never put the three Universal Civilizations at ease. They will inevitably ask for their own personnel to settle in. By that time..." Sylvia interjected.

"I know what you mean. 'Beyond Grade A' has a special meaning, and the three Universal Civilizations do not wish to have an association of such a nature... But because we're Beyond Grade As, they can only express their views, and they cannot go all out to prohibit it," Han Xiao countered.

He was clear that once such an organization was created, the Beyond Grade As would no longer exist as a tray of loose sand. The three Universal Civilizations would also become wary, but at this moment, this organization only served to aid communications, nothing really major. Thus, while the three Universal Civilizations would feel apprehensive, they would not take any action.

However, this might not be the case in the future. The problem of the united front was that it could not circumvent the affiliation of each Beyond Grade A's allied faction. This was the shackles created by the three Universal Civilizations, and they would not allow the Beyond Grade As to get rid of it.

Furthermore, what the Mechanic Emperor wanted to do was unite the strength of all the Beyond Grade As, whilst Han Xiao only wished to reduce the number of Beyond Grade A casualties, accumulating high

levelled combat powers in the explored universe. Their goals were different, and there would be differences at some point in time. Furthermore, the Beyond Grade As were not of the same mind.

“Army Commander, you’re playing with fire.”

Sylvia had a worried expression. Her mind was full of the information regarding the Tragedy of the Pinnacles, and with the increasing popularity of the Black Star Army, she did not wish to see the three Universal Civilizations clear out all Beyond Grade A organizations. If that happened, the Black Star Army would inevitably enter their list.

Why did the three Universal Civilizations have an unbreakable dominance? It was precisely because when combined together, they had the ability to manipulate the entire explored universe! She had no doubt that the three Universal Civilizations would be willing to pay any price to kill off all disobedient Beyond Grade As in the universe, including their own allies.

Without the backing of a Universal Civilization, a Beyond Grade A would still be a Beyond Grade A. But in the same line, a Universal Civilization would still be one even without its Beyond Grade A allies.

“You’re thinking too much. Everyone has their own scruples, and it might not reach such a stage. Right now, I’m just testing the waters.” Han Xiao sighed. “The topic of Beyond Grade As is just too sensitive, so we can only take a step and observe, to see what how the Universal Civilizations react.”

“Alright then... I’ll go and improve on this plan.”

Sylvia could only accept it. After all, Han Xiao was the boss.

She got up and opened the door, only to find that Feidin was waiting outside. The two of them passed each other.

Seeing Feidin, Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled. He straightened and spoke with a smile. “Aren’t you practicing your song at the moment? How do you have the time to visit me?”

“I found out everything. You actually want me to go and be an actor.” Feidin had a resigned expression. “Couldn’t you have discussed it with me beforehand?”

“It’s just being a star. You’re back in your old line. Furthermore, the army needs you. You can’t possibly reject this.” Han Xiao chuckled.

“Alright, forget about the acting part, but why am I even the main character?” Feidin was speechless. “And my role is you?”

Feidin’s role was to be Black Star in the new film.

Lucky people would still be the main characters even when acting.

“This arrangement is very appropriate. Only you are as handsome as me. This is in line with the facts. Just take a look over here. If we meet with a stranger, they might even say that we’re twins!”

Feidin had no words.

Han Xiao laughed to himself. before waving his hand. "Alright, I won't joke anymore. The main reason is because no one dared act as me and bear the consequences after. You're someone close to be who used to be a star, so the director arranged it that way."

"But it's been so long since I last acted. Won't this be too weird for me?" Feidin was still hesitating.

"Haha, it will only be a hit if you're in a leading role. You're also a Calamity Grade, and a Psychic at that. How is acting difficult?" Han Xiao encouraged.

Han Xiao persuaded Feidin a while longer before sending this doubtful person off.

Shaking his head with a laugh, he took out his communicator to check on the latest news.

After swiping for a bit, he stood up in shock. A piece of internal news from the dynasty was reflected in his pupils.

The Dark Lord had resigned from his position!

1069 Confession

"'Dark Lord' Clotti has temporarily resigned as the Guard Captain of the dynasty Ruler, and his position will be temporarily assumed by 'Quantum Demon' Judith..."

Han Xiao focused, browsing through this internal intelligence. He could not help but fall into deep thought.

The three Universal Civilizations each had a pinnacle Beyond Grade A as their Guard Captains. For the Crimson Dynasty, it was [Dark Lord] Clotti; for the Federation of Light, it was [Golden Ring] Oulou; and for the Arcane Church, it was the [God's Chosen] Wuornos. All of them were Beyond Grade As of direct relation to the civilizations.

In the dynasty's Beyond Grade A circle, the Dark Lord had a transcendent status and was also well known for not mixing and socializing. Throughout his years of contact, coupled with the memory of his previous life, Han Xiao had a good understanding of what Clotti's personality was.

This was deathly loyal to the dynasty. If there was no special reason, he would not step down as the Guard Captain.

In his past life, this incident did not occur during this particular time period, so the possibility of settling his private affairs could be ruled out. It should be because Clotti had accepted some sort of special mission.

"This should be the butterfly effect I've brought about. Maybe it is related to the Evolutionary Totem or even the Hila Rescue Mission..."

To be honest, he was a little apprehensive regarding this news.

Based on his memories, some of the Beyond Grade As that were directly related to the advanced civilizations were often loyal and dedicated, placing the needs of their civilization above those of the Beyond Grade As, and the Dark Lord was undoubtedly one of them. These people would not be part of the Beyond Grade A united front and might even turn against them.

To allow such a monster to move freely in the outside world, it was unknown what sort of changes would occur. This might hinder the construction of the Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union.

However, it was useless to delve too deeply. Because of Han Xiao's existence, many of the fate lines for the characters had been altered, and he could only adapt as he went on.

As for the 'Quantum Demon' Judith, who replaced Clotti, he was a Virtual Mechanic coming from the Crimson Dynasty. He was the person in charge of guarding the Heroic Soul, the main Artificial intelligence of the dynasty, and had relatively strong combat ability.

"Speaking of which, the direct line of Beyond Grade As from the dynasty really do not mix around much with the allies." Han Xiao's eyes flickered.

Within the Beyond Grade A circle in the dynasty, only the allies liked to gather together and mess around. As for those directly related to the dynasty, they mostly chose to remain isolated.

Unlike allies, those directly related to the dynasty would always have official positions. Some guarded the secondary dimensional outposts, some served as instructors, and some were fleet commanders. They were not as free as those who were allies. Only those semi-direct allies such as Kohler would be so relaxed...

Of course, it might be because the dynasty thought of him as too weak.

Just as he was thinking, countless particles surfaced in front of his eyes, coagulating to form an image of Phillip.

"Master, hum... Jotina and her party have arrived. It's time to check up on them." Phillip blinked his big eyes. This was a reminder set by Han Xiao.

"Oh, take them to the lobby of the inner ring. Also, summon Hila and the other Calamity Grade officers to meet the newcomers."

Han Xiao took up, putting on his Army Commander jacket before walking out of the room.

...

Jotina and her party followed the receptionist all the way into the lobby, and many of the army officers slowly trickled in. They were curious about their future colleagues, but without the approval of the Army Commander, none of them engaged in any conversation.

This party not only included the seven Calamity Grades that defected with Jotina but also the second wave, including Schneider. The total number reached eleven. They waited in the center of the lobby, also looking over at the officers.

Both sides stared at each other, and after a while, Han Xiao and Hila walked in.

"Greetings to Army Commander Black Star and Deputy Army Commander Hila."

Jotina and her group stood up to salute.

Han Xiao was all smiles. "Everyone is here. You're welcome to leave the shadows and join the light. After joining the Black Star Army, you'll be part of our family."

"Yes, welcome." In front of everyone, Hila did not smile, keeping her words short.

Eleven Calamity Grades could be considered a strong fighting force, enough to carve out a territory in a corner of the universe. Now that this group had joined the army, the high-level combatants belonging to the army had increased quite a bit. Furthermore, there were also elites such as Jotina and Schneider.

Han Xiao had to personally review every advanced combatant that joined the army. This was also the reason why these original officers of the Beast Ancestor had come to the Black Star Palace.

"Regarding your positions, I have yet to arrange them. If you have any requests, do tell me. I'll take them into consideration." Han Xiao smiled.

Hearing this, everyone expressed their intentions, saying that it did not matter as long as they could serve the army. Only Jotina put forth a different suggestion.

"Your Excellency Black Star, if possible, I would like to join your personal guard."

"Eh?" Han Xiao curiously looked over. "Why is that so?"

Jotina raised her head, looking straight at Han Xiao with a fiery gaze, not bothering to hide anything. "The body does not lie. I have strong feelings for you, and I hope to always accompany you around. If there's a chance, I hope that some chemistry can spark between us."

The moment she spoke, the entire room turned dead silent!

"Hmm?" Hila eyes narrowed sharply. She was originally distracted and inattentive, but she suddenly seriously sized up Jotina from head to toe.

The officers around all thought there was something wrong with their ears. All of them adopted incredulous expressions. They did not think that this woman would be so blunt and speak out so honestly.

Even Schneider and the others were frightened, finding it unbelievable that their own elder sister would speak like this with a straight face.

F*ck me, we just joined the army, and you're already expressing the intention of mating with a Beyond Grade A in public?

Aren't your guts too big!

Even if you really feel something for Black Star, you should proceed step by step.

To actually be so direct... indeed, only you can do so!

Han Xiao was stunned in place, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. He waved his hands.

"Alright, I'm not interested in stuff like this. I'll do my best to consider your job requirements, though. Let me first get started by getting a preliminary understanding of your strength. Walk up to me one by one and take a punch of mine so that I can judge your abilities."

He lightly skipped over this topic, and Jotina did not insist either.

The conversation returned to normal, but a weird atmosphere lingered.

Everyone constantly shot weird glances toward Han Xiao or Jotina, cautiously moving around them while staying clear of Hila, whose eyes were firmly locked onto Jotina. They were afraid of being caught in the crossfire.

A line of Calamity Grades stood in front of Han Xiao. Nanoparticles rushed out behind Han Xiao, fusing into a silvery black humanoid machinery, floating beside Han Xiao like a stand-in.

This humanoid body sent a powerful iron fist to every officer originally from the Beast Ancestor, dealing some damage.

The attributes of each Calamity Grade were displayed on the combat information interface, and Han Xiao quickly scanned everyone's abilities.

Among this group of people, the most powerful was naturally the Beyond Grade A seed, 'Claw Empress' Jotina. She was outstanding even among the Pugilists in the Calamity Grade, adept in claw arts and the pugilist arts of the Beast Ancestor. Her strength and agility were on point, and her damage output was high. She was more of an all-rounder fighter, and her combat power ranked in the forefront of the Army's Calamity Grade officers. A good gauge would be third or fourth place.

As for 'Boa Constrictor' Schneider, he was an elite Calamity Grade. Among this group, there were two of them who were quite close to each other in terms of combat power, standing out from the rest.

Out of the eleven of them, nine were Pugilists, and the other two were Espers.

Because the Beast Ancestor Organization was one where they were muscle tyrants, not adept at using their brains, no one liked to learn. There were practically no mechanics or mages there.

Han Xiao intended to let all of them become combatants, while a small portion would be filtered into the Black Star Guards. Most of them would be commanded by Herlous as senior officers for the different fleets.

After some encouragement, Han Xiao left the scene with Hila, leaving the officers to mingle with this new group of colleagues.

As the two left the hall and walked through the corridor, the army members they passed nodded and saluted. Hila did not care while Han Xiao smiled as usual.

After walking for a bit, Hila suddenly opened her mouth. "You're actually quite popular."

"Are you referring to Jotina?" Han Xiao laughed. "In any case, I'm standing at the peak of personal power, so it's normal for people to treat me like their idol. Don't you worship me as well?"

"Nonsense, when did I ever worship you?" Hila snorted and avoided his gaze.

"Well, when you were surrounded and attacked, you were the one that personally admitted you had admired me for decades. It's no use trying to deny it. I still have the recording."

"Damn, you want to fight?" Hila was so embarrassed and angrily glared at Han Xiao.

“Hehehe...”

Hila’s forehead bulged with veins before she took a few deep breaths to regain her tranquility.

After being distracted by Han Xiao, she no longer felt depressed. Instead, she frowned and asked, “So, how are you going to handle Jotina? Are you really going to place her among the Black Star Guards?”

“Her ability speaks for itself, so why not? Are you afraid that a Calamity Grade can do anything to me? I’m a Beyond Grade A.” Han Xiao raised an eyebrow.

“Humph.” Hila turned her head away.

While she did not like the brazen Jotina, Hila would not use her position to trouble others. She was not someone who would engage in small tricks and would not interfere in Han Xiao’s decisions.

Seeing that Hila was silent, Han Xiao thought for a while before suddenly saying, “Anyways, the army is expanding very quickly these days, and there will be a new batch of people every three to five days. As a result, there are many members of the army that are not familiar with each other and do not know the officers. There is a sense of distance, which will not be conducive to the unity of the army. So, I was thinking that we should hold some large-scale events to promote camaraderie.”

Hila looked over. “What are you planning?”

“I’m thinking toward some internal competitions, such as a military parade or a sparring competition...”

As he spoke, Han Xiao’s eyes began to gleam.

As of now, the Black Star Army already had a large number of groups and a large number of talents under its command. There were sufficient resources to host large-scale internal events, allowing members of the army to participate in such events outside of their work. This would be conducive to increasing the sense of belonging and promoting the camp culture.

Han Xiao’s idea was to create a league of his own. The Pro League was an internal game for the players, but he planned to create a large-scale event organized by NPCs under the Black Star Army’s name, not only for the players but for all members.

Sparring would be one of the focal points. He could separate them based on their ranks, and the elites of each rank would be selected from the competition. There would be prizes, and it would also allow the normal members to witness the officers displaying their strength.

In addition to competitions, a variety of events could also be held, such as sports or technical skills such as piloting and commanding. Even the Wayne Cards could be used as a separate leisure event.

In Han Xiao’s vision, such an event could be turned into something similar to the Olympic Games for the army, held every few years as a celebration and also to showcase their strength to the outside world.

If this could be carried out, the scale would be many times larger than that of the players’ Pro League, which would serve as a carnival for everyone.

Just thinking about it made Han Xiao excited.

“But holding such an event seems like it would need a lot of money...” Hila hesitated.

“Hey, what’s that supposed to mean? Are we lacking money?”

Shortly from now, the sale of the Evolutionary Totems would be opened to the universe, and he would also become a shareholder of the Limitless Financial Group. At present, the Great Mechanic Han was bloated from the amount of money and could be considered to have fully entered the realm of a Rich Daddy.

If this money could be used to improve the faction cohesion and attractiveness, it would be quite profitable for him.

The more Han Xiao thought about it, the more he felt that this was something he could do. After he returned from the secondary dimension and settled the affairs of the Beyond Grade A union, he would have a lot of time to plan and hold such celebrations.

But it would be good to propose a prototype for Sylvia to perfect.

He had people to take care of his chores, so there was no pressure on him. Squeezing his own Chief Administrative Official had become a habit of Han Xiao’s.

He had no other choice. Who made Sylvia so good looking and capable, making him so pleased with her work?

...

Sylvia’s efficiency was high. She only took a day to perfect the draft of the Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union.

Han Xiao revised it before sending it to Manison to discuss the matter together. While they had conflicts of interest, they had to cooperate for this matter.

“This Development Union... the idea is not bad. While it is an excuse, it is reasonable enough to pass through the eyes of the three Universal Civilizations.”

Within the encrypted channel, Manison made comments while browsing the draft.

“Oh, this is just a cover,” Han Xiao explained. “On the surface, the scope of cooperation will be limited to the Flickering World. In fact, as long as this union is created, the conflicts of the Beyond Grade A in other Star Fields can also be resolved through this platform, and at the same time, the Beyond Grade A organizations can form a network of interests throughout the universe, providing each member with a place to exchange and cooperate with each other. This will achieve the goal of uniting power.”

Manison pondered. “This is similar to how The Ancient Ones operate, but to achieve this, most of the Beyond Grade As will need to voluntarily accept such cooperation, linking their organizations in the interest network. But if there’s no benefit, most people will be unwilling to cooperate, and then there’s still the obstacle of different factions...”

Han Xiao interrupted him. “That’s why we have to declare that this union is completely neutral by nature, just a loose one similar to The Ancient Ones. We have to organize it as much as possible so as to weaken any possible opposing influence from the factions. As for benefits, we will need the larger Beyond Grade A organizations to lead by example, by becoming the leader of the interest network and

actively taking out cooperation shares. That way, the other Beyond Grade A organizations will be willing to join.”

“Who are the confirmed initiators leading this?”

“Only you and I.” Han Xiao shook his head. “In terms of influence, we can be considered behemoths in the Beyond Grade A circle, enough to serve as an example. The fact that we are willing to cooperate should attract a lot of people, but well... just two of us isn’t enough. We need more leaders, preferably the pinnacle Beyond Grade As. Otherwise, we cannot hold on to the crowd.”

“I understand what you mean.” Manison agreed. “We’ll need organizations with sufficient influence in various fields. On my side, I can try to lobby all the ancient ones, and the Protectors of the Galactic Black Market should also be brought in to take the lead. At the same time, we cannot forget about the neutral Beyond Grade As. Oh yes, there’s also Sorokin who controls the Limitless Financial Group. His money is very important.”

In the Beyond Grade A circle, Sorokin was recognized as a top dog with one of the highest assets. While the majority did not care much for his combat abilities, no one underestimated his power to make money.

At this time, Han Xiao’s eyes gleamed.

“I have a question. With so many pioneers... who will be the Chairman?”

Hearing this, Manison narrowed his eyes.

Since they wished to form a union, this problem could not be avoided. The Chairman of this union was of great significance, equivalent to the position of the leader of the martial world, the nominal chief of the Beyond Grade As.

Thus, be it strength or influence, it had to be convincing. The prerequisite was to be a pinnacle Beyond Grade A. Manison would definitely be a hot candidate, and Han Xiao was also eligible to compete for the Chairman position.

The position of Chairman came with a risk, that he would become the main target of the advanced civilizations, attracting their firepower. However, with great risks came great rewards.

Manison was staring at this position naturally out of interest, but as the main initiator of this project, Han Xiao had no reason to actively hand over the position.

After silence reigned for a while, Manison spoke slowly, avoiding this sensitive topic.

“There’s only two of us now. It’s too early to discuss such a matter. Let’s bring in all the members before we decided on this.”

“Okay.”

Han Xiao nodded slightly before ending the call and letting out a sigh of relief.

Because this was a Beyond Grade A union, everyone present would be big bosses of an area. Thus, it would be impossible to make this into an area where only one person’s word mattered.

Thus, persuading other Beyond Grade As to join would be tantamount to pulling supporters for himself. Only with enough Beyond Grade As supporting himself could he justify becoming the Chairman of the Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union.

Simply put, this was a matter of fighting for face. Just his strength was not enough.

“My network is quite extensive, but compared to Manison...”

Han Xiao shook his head.

He was confident in his relationship side, but Manison had been around for far too long, and his relationships were definitely much deeper than Han Xiao’s. It would be difficult to compete.

If he wanted this position, he could only start with the benefits part. He had to let people see that whoever served as the Chairman would bring about greater benefits.

“What a difficult task. I’m afraid this will be another uphill battle...”

1070 The Dark Lord’s Targe

After assessing the plan’s feasibility, both of them separated into their own teams.

The pinnacle Beyond Grade As that Han Xiao was most familiar with were the three oldies of the dynasty, and the others were mostly acquaintances.

In contrast, Manison knew many more people, including those from the Federation of Light, the Arcane Church, Galactic Black Market, and even the neutral pinnacle Beyond Grade As. All of them were left to him to lobby.

Since his network was not as good as the other party’s, Han Xiao did not stop Manison from doing more work. Instead, he made up his mind to compete from another direction.

Only the dynasty’s side was left to Han Xiao. He sent out the proposal of the union to both Milizaus and Kant, inviting them both to participate in this grand event. As for the Dark Lord, Han Xiao did not invite him.

Thanks to the consensus reached in the Meeting of the Gods, the majority of the pinnacle Beyond Grade As readily accepted and agreed to build a Beyond Grade A platform in the form of a development union. However, a small portion of them hesitated, worried about the reactions of the three Universal Civilizations. Overall, it could still be said to have gone well.

The direct line of Beyond Grade As from the advanced civilizations was not included on the invitation list. They would not be issued any sort of invitation until the union was completely established. After all, most of these Beyond Grade As placed their own civilization above their personal interests, and while admirable, not everyone thought the same way.

Kant and Milizaus were both allies, and while agreeing to the invitation sent by Han Xiao, they raised their own concerns.

“Black Star, the relationship between you and the dynasty has just eased. If you take the lead now in forming the Beyond Grade A union, the dynasty will be dissatisfied with you again.”

“There are no rulers who wish to see any unstable factors in their jurisdiction, but there’s no way about it. Everyone has different positions,” Han Xiao replied.

“You still have to be careful,” Kant urged him again. “Manison’s objective is to seek for profit. He wants to tie all the Beyond Grade As together as a bargaining chip. You’re too young, don’t let him use you.”

These Beyond Grade As actually knew that Manison was using them, but because they could see the longer-term benefits that they could obtain, they saw no reason to reject this proposal.

“I’m aware of his intentions, but only through this can the Beyond Grade As benefit. If this can be realized, it can reduce the infighting between the Beyond Grade As caused by factions’ differences.” Han Xiao wished to preserve the vitality of the Beyond Grade As and intervene in the Calamity of the Supers as a chess player rather than a pawn.

“If I must say...” Kant spoke in an uncertain tone as he lowered his voice. “If the Beyond Grade A union can be fully formed, it will solve the problem of excess individual power. The moment Beyond Grade As grow to a certain extent, we will internally liquidate and kill those not from any of the factions, which is better than the three Universal Civilizations taking action in person.”

Hearing this, Han Xiao could not help but glance at him.

This was a way to seize the power of liquidation from the hands of the three Universal Civilizations and use the ordinary Beyond Grade As as a price to maintain their pinnacle Beyond Grade A status.

If they continued developing normally, the union would indeed likely evolve to this final form. When the Beyond Grade As circle was strong enough and had succeeded in stabilizing their position, the union would definitely actively control the number of Beyond Grade As to prevent this circle from becoming too strong and attracting a bloodbath from the three Universal Civilizations.

The Beyond Grade A union would take the initiative to prune the branches, keeping the number of Beyond Grade As at a level that could threaten the three Universal Civilizations but not force them to take action. This way, they could decide who to kill and how many to kill, keeping the initiative. This loss was naturally much smaller than having the three Universal Civilizations take action.

It was estimated that among the pinnacle Beyond Grade As, there were many who thought in the same manner as Kant. This behavior of taking away the ladder once he climbed up to the top of the wall himself was not a fresh concept... After all, when the number of Beyond Grade As reached a certain level, the nature of their circle would gradually change as well. This posed more disadvantages than advantages to them.

While these pinnacle Beyond Grade As agreed to join the union, their ideals were all different. Han Xiao narrowed his eyes but did not say anything.

In general, there were no many problems in pulling people on board, so the action was quickly implemented. The organizations of the many leaders cooperated to mobilize materials and to select a site in the Flickering World to build the base camp for the development union.

Naturally, it would be impossible to conceal such actions from the other organizations, and the leaders themselves saw no need to conceal it. After all, the nature of their union was no secret, and the three Universal Civilizations should have already learned about it.

Of course, the news also travelled to the dynasty.

...

Pa!

“Black Star is taking a yard for every inch we give!”

In the Ruler’s office, Bekorodi’s face was contorted in anger as he smacked the table.

He pulled along several of the upper echelons from the hawk faction, berating Han Xiao in front of Urranrell.

“Just look at Black Star’s recent actions. He acts with no respect for the dynasty at all! He has just eased his relations with the dynasty, and he dares to do something like this. Does he regard the opening of sales for the Evolutionary Totems as our weakness?”

Urranrell rubbed the center of her brows. “Then, what do you think I should do?”

“I feel that we should warn Black Star,” Bekorodi bellowed. “If he continues to act as he wills, then the dynasty will withdraw the decree to open up the sales of the Evolutionary Totem.”

However, Urranrell did not accept or reject his proposal. “If we rescind the decree, what do you think the federation and the church will do?”

“Humph, while they have coveted the Evolutionary Totem for so long, they are still clear on what is important. For this problem, both the federation and the church have to choose a stance, and they will not side with Black Star.”

Bekorodi had a confident tone, quite sure of his judgment.

Urranrell knocked on the table before slowly replying, “You are right, but after the Meeting of the Gods, we anticipated this situation. Just targeting Black Star will not help as this is the general trend.”

When she discovered that Black Star and the others intended to integrate the Beyond Grade As, she had already predicted that the hawk faction would attack and make things difficult.

In all fairness, Urranrell did not like seeing the Beyond Grade A union, but this issue was sensitive and involved many factors, so she could not make any hasty decisions.

As such, she could not easily withdraw the decree regarding the Evolutionary Totem sales and blame Black Star as Bekorodi suggested.

His suggestion was rejected, but Bekorodi was not angry. He had known that the Ruler would give such a response, and his goal was just to express his negative attitude. He pretended to grunt before leading everyone else away.

Only Urranrell was left in the room. She shook her head before opening the star map of the Flickering World, analyzing the situation.

Ever since the Flickering World was opened, the power patterns in the universe had started to change, and the dynasty was aware of this. First was the Super Star Cluster Alliance, and now the Beyond Grade A union. The changes were slowly surfacing.

“The price of exploration and expansion is turbulence, as every class wants to redistribute benefits...”
Urranrell sighed.

...

Currently, the development union was still a grassroots team. Only a group of pinnacle Beyond Grade As were making the preliminary preparations. During this period, they would inevitably have to negotiate with the three Universal Civilizations, and it would take a few months for them to formally establish themselves.

This matter did not require much effort, so Han Xiao had a lot of free time and was immersed in repairing and strengthening his mechanical army.

After many failures, he had finally created an Emperor’s Cape at the Gold Grade in his workshop.

This was the second Universal Treasure to be created by his hand. His [Spirit Instrument] skill unlocked the second layer, and at the same time, he obtained a new God’s Trait Transformation point.

The second layer increased his basic success rate of manufacturing Gold Grade equipment, as well as research and development benefits. The increase was the same as that of the first layer, 2.5% and 1.2% respectively, but it also had a new attribute that increased the possible mutation rate of a Universe by 0.2%.

Reading through the introduction, Han Xiao discovered that this was the probability bonus for generating unique mutations in the process of making Universal Treasures. Such treasures would generally be stronger than normal Gold Grade equipment and might develop some ‘unsolvable’ abilities.

As for the God’s Trait Transformation point, Han Xiao added it into the Mechanic path, and his [God’s Trait Transformation—Machinery] unlocked the effect of its third layer.

Third Stage: [Apostle Mechanic] and below classes will have +3 to all class skills, +50% to speed of assembly line production, +10% Assembly line product quality, and -25% cost of materials. In addition, +1,500 INT, +30 Potential Points.

“The levels of my basic mechanic skills have gone up by quite a bit, and there’s an increase in assembly line production skills, as well as Intelligence and potential points. It’s not too bad.”

Because Han Xiao had skills that could raise his Machinery Affinity based on his Intelligence, 1,500 points would bring about a 400% increase in his Machinery Affinity. The thirty free Potential Points could also be used to upgrade his Ultimate Knowledge skills by a level.

Though the effects of this third stage seemed to be a little mixed. They synergized quite well, especially the +3 to all class related skills, which brought a considerable bonus to him. After all, there were many Machinery Affinity skills in the low-level class skill list.

This time, the attribute targeted to be optimized was his Dexterity. Because of the amount of work needed, the difficulty in creating the Emperor's Cape was higher than that of the King. His points were thus optimized by 375 points, all of which were converted into free attribute points.

"I finally finished this equipment."

Han Xiao felt refreshed and put away his Emperor's Cape.

Everything that he needed to do was done. He could now make a trip to the secondary dimension.

The Flickering World Beyond Grade A Development Union was still in development, and this was no overnight event. The three Universal Civilizations would definitely oppose it, so it was a good time for him to hide from the dynasty's fatal calls. He did not even need to guess what the dynasty would say to him if the call connected.

Furthermore, Ames had already been there a long time, so he should not make her wait too long.

...

In the Crimson Dynasty's Constellation Corridor, within a large interstellar military fortress, a gigantic spacetime gate that was several times larger than a normal stargate stood in the center of the base. It lay in a dormant state, merely resembling an oval arch.

There was a figure hovering in front of this spacetime gate. It was 'Dark Lord' Clotti, who had removed his Guard Captain uniform and put on a special lightweight mechanical suit.

The respectful voice of the base commander came through the helmet communicator.

"Your Excellency Clotti, this mechanical suit is specially used for shuttling in the secondary dimension. It can anchor the coordinates of the main universe, and there's also a spare portable anchoring device within it. Please do not damage or discard it, else you might be lost within the stacks of secondary dimensions..."

"No need to explain further. It's not my first time going to the Secondary dimension." Clotti's tone was indifferent.

"Alright, we're about to open the portal. His Excellency Guzar, who is manning the outpost over there, will welcome you."

The moment he finished speaking, the giant spacetime gate gradually opened, and bright rays of light emerged from within the gate, quickly forming a whirlpool of light.

Quietly watching as the spacetime gate warmed up, Clotti called out the secondary dimension database list that was built into the mechanical suit. This stored the secondary dimension profiles that the dynasty had explored over the years, recording the spacetime coordinates and the energy frequencies.

The secondary dimension was very different from the main universe, so this database was equivalent to a map. Tracking devices could be used to remotely mark each location, which was equivalent to a navigation route.

Browsing through the database, Clotti quickly focused on one particular secondary dimension and marked it as a target location.

This secondary dimension was called [Evil Convergence]!