

Mechanic 1241

Chapter 1241 Sorokin's Bizarre Adventure 2

The soul energy he used to possess the Holy Accord warrior was incinerated, but Sorokin could not be bothered with the fact that he had been exposed. Thinking of what he saw before his manifestation collapsed, disbelief appeared on his face. Dozens of Primordial Ones, all alive till today... did they fake their deaths like me?

Sorokin could not believe it.

Impossible!

Some of them were definitely dead. Even their ashes were scattered!

How did they get past the exploration era, hide their existence, and live till now?

Is this place actually the nursing home for the Primordial Ones?

Or have these people been hiding for so long and planning an astronomic conspiracy?

Sorokin completely lost it. The more he thought about it, the more terrified he was.

He had never heard of this organization before. Could he be the only one in the universe who knew this secret?

This time, Sorokin suddenly shivered. He hastily ordered the leader of the mercenary group, "Split up the fleet immediately. Retreat in different directions and run at full speed!"

For the first time in a long time, Sorokin panicked.

He was confident in his strength. Originally, he felt that the success rate of retrieving Soul Flame was not low. He only got a bit more serious even when he saw three Beyond Grade As earlier and did not think he could not do it.

However, to his absolute shock, there were more than thirty Beyond Grade A there!

The situation far exceeded what he expected, who in the world could deal with this!

Dozens of Beyond Grade As far exceeded the limit of what he could deal with. Plus, he had triggered Soul Flame's alarm, which was basically the same as poking the hornet nest. Sorokin immediately lost any desire to continue his plan; all he wanted to do was immediately run out of this area as far as possible.

At this time, the mercenary group leader looked at the remote observation images and suddenly screamed, "Boss, their fleet moved and is heading toward our direction. Plus, dozens of high energy reactions suddenly appeared on the radar, all possibly Beyond Grade As!"

"What are you standing there for then? Run!"

Sorokin was furious and shocked.

He could secretly find out more about this organization in the future, but if he got caught now, there would be no 'future' to speak of!

The mercenary group split up right away. The main ship Sorokin was in sent all its energy into the engine, entered overload mode, and fled at full speed in hyperdrive. The starlight outside the window was stretched into lines.

However, only shortly after they started fleeing, a deafening alarm rang on the radar!

Boom!

The next second, the entire spaceship suddenly trembled and exited from hyperdrive mode. The huge inertia caused everyone but Sorokin to fall onto the floor.

Sorokin ignored the screams of pain of all the crew and hastily looked outside the window.

The cosmic space around was filled with magic arrays. Glass-like translucent arcane tentacles extended from within and tangled around the entire spaceship tightly. The arcane tentacles squeezed the spaceships continuously, and the sound of the metal armor tearing up could be easily heard in the cabin as cracks appeared and extended on the alloy walls.

At the same time, a magic teleportation suddenly opened up right in front of the spaceship. Beiger and the group of Primordial Ones walked out.

"Beiger!"

Flames of rage filled Sorokin's eyes. He ground his teeth.

Damn Mage!

This time, the spaceship was suddenly taken over by a Virtual Mechanic among the Primordial Ones and opened its communication.

The next moment, Oathkeeper's projection appeared in the cabin. He sized Sorokin up. His tone was thirty-percent curious, thirty-percent excited, and forty-percent annoyed.

"You're the one who dodged Soul Flame's seal and possessed my subordinate?"

"I don't know what you're talking about! Who are you?" Sorokin was on full alert.

"Interesting, you're not going to tell us you just happened to pass by, are you?" Oathkeeper narrowed his eyes.

"Listen to me, I..."

"You'll have plenty of time to explain later!"

Before Sorokin finished speaking, dozens of Beyond Grade As attacked at the same time. A shocking amount of energy headed right toward the spaceship Sorokin was in.

Boom!

The spaceship was instantly shattered into atoms. Sorokin dashed out the cabin at the last moment. Feeling the hopeless strength difference between him and the enemies, he was filled with despair.

He wanted to calm these people down with words first, but they attacked right away, and there was nothing he could do about it.

Although his physical body was not the core of his life, he did not want to end up in the hands of these people.

“There’s no other way!”

Sorokin clenched his teeth and retrieved most of his Soul Seeds. Suddenly, his entire vibe changed and became cold and violent. An enormous energy shockwave erupted from his body, creating visible ripples in the cosmic space around him!

Feeling this energy, Oathkeeper’s eyes turned serious. He pulled his teammates into a mind chat channel and said, “Careful, this guy is very strong. Don’t let down your guard.”

“Don’t worry, there’s plenty of us!”

They laughed and charged forward.

An intense battle erupted instantly. However, within seconds, Sorokin was completely overwhelmed, and the battle became one-sided.

His actual strength was indeed very strong, on par with even peak Beyond Grade As. However, he had yet to step into that higher territory and was still a normal Beyond Grade A.

With dozens of Beyond Grade As attacking him together, Sorokin could only get thrashed. Even if it was the evolved EsGod, he would still meet the same end.

All Sorokin could do was try not to die. Very soon, his mask was shattered, and everyone saw his face.

“This guy is... the Limitless Financial Group’s Sorokin?”

Oathkeeper was surprised.

He did not expect the guy who infiltrated his organization to be the renowned head of the biggest consortium.

Isn’t this guy known for being weak? Isn’t he among the weakest Beyond Grade As? Why does he have this level of strength?

Has Sorokin always been acting weak and hiding his strength? Is he this cowardly?

While he was being confused, Beiger suddenly noticed something from Sorokin’s combat style and exclaimed, “This Esper Ability... Are you Soul Emperor?”

“What?” The others were shocked. They hastily observed Sorokin, and everyone discovered some clues.

The modern people could only analyze Soul Emperor’s abilities, whereas they were in the same generation as Soul Emperor and had fought him God knew how many times. They noticed it right away.

Hearing this, Sorokin was filled with frustration.

He had always avoided going all out because he was worried about being recognized, but in the end, it still happened.

He knew he could not deceive these people who were familiar with him. Plus, he already planned to give up this identity. Thinking at least they shared some common topics, he gave up acting and yelled, "That's right, it's me! Aren't you *ssholes dead? How are you here?"

"It's really you, Rovell Sissock!"

The Primordial Ones were surprised and slowed down their attacks.

If it was a stranger, they would not have been affected at all. However, Soul Emperor was someone in the same generation as them, so he was at least a familiar face. They were all very curious about what was going on with Sorokin.

We didn't revive you. Did you not die?

Beiger's expression changed slightly. He recalled what Black Star said in the past that hinted Soul Emperor had always been alive.

"Did you fake your death?"

Beiger was shocked.

"I clearly beat you to death back then. You did not leave any sign of life at all. How did you do it?"

"You're one to bring it up!" Sorokin dodged another magic missile that had more than enough power to penetrate a planet. Veins popped up on his forehead as he was reminded of what happened in the past.

Back then, his physical body had lost its life, and he had indeed been on the brink of death. The strong sense of frustration and hate in his mind had pushed his potential to explode, causing his Esper Ability to evolve. In the last moment, he had acquired the [Immortal Soul] ability. Otherwise, he would have died during the exploration era war along with his physical body.

This time, Oathkeeper thought of something and suddenly started to doubt his thoughts on the spy.

From the way it looked, it does not look like Sorokin knew about us long ago. Is he not related to the leak of the organization's information in the past?

"I didn't expect you to be Soul Emperor from back then. You've hidden yourself really well... How did you find us?"

"I was just trying to retrieve Soul Flame and followed my senses. I didn't know about you guys at all." Sorokin clenched his teeth. "Stop attacking, let me go!"

Oathkeeper recalled what happened earlier and believed Sorokin mostly, but he still shook his head.

"It doesn't matter if you knew before or not. You've found our secret today, so there's no leaving. We're all people from the same generation. We can have a good chat... but that'll be after you lose the ability to resist. Stop resisting. There's absolutely zero chance you can escape, so why prolong your suffering?"

The others nodded in agreement. Most of them did not intend to kill Sorokin right there. After all, they knew him from the old era, and they all wanted to hear Sorokin's experience in the past years.

Bang!

This time, Sorokin's face got punched by Pagon again, blasting him away flying. He forced himself to stay focused and observe the battlefield. His heart kept sinking.

Dozens of Beyond Grade As formed an encirclement. He had no chance of breaking through it head-on at all. In terms of mobility, as a mind Esper, he was no match for the teleportation spell of a Mage. There was absolutely no way he could escape.

Is this really going to be the end for this shell I've spent so much effort raising? I was supposed to use it against Black Star, but I haven't even seen Black Star's face yet!

Although Sorokin was confident to a certain extent that he would not die there because of his Esper Ability, he did not want to take the risk if he could save his body too. After all, he had already faked his death before; these people would definitely be more careful.

How many years has it been since I was last in such a desperate situation? I'm still not 'cowardly' enough. If I knew I'd end up poking the hornet nest, why did I think about killing Black Star? Isn't just retiring quietly so much better?

Sorokin was filled with regret.

"What, still not surrendering?" Beiger snorted. "Don't think just because we know each other, I won't kill you. I've killed you once, and I can kill you again!"

Suddenly, it occurred to Sorokin. Memories deeply buried in his mind surfaced.

"I remember now! Holy Accord, you guys are the Holy Accord!"

The memories of the exploration era became vivid again. Sorokin had heard of the Holy Accord back then but scoffed at it and did not join.

As so much time had passed and Primordial Ones died one after another, he thought that secret-association-like Holy Accord organization had long disappeared.

When he just saw the dozens of Beyond Grade As, he was too shocked and occupied with fleeing, so he did not think of this at all. However, when he tried to find a way to escape earlier, his mind had spun rapidly, and he finally recalled this 'rumor' that once circulated around the Primordial Ones during the exploration era.

Therefore...

"Reviving using the Sanctums is real? You guys succeeded?"

Sorokin's expression changed drastically. His tone was filled with disbelief.

If they came back by being revived, everything would make sense. He never thought such a rumor with absolutely no proof or whatsoever would be true!

Seeing that Sorokin had figured out the truth, everyone present was surprised.

Soul Emperor was in the same generation as them, so it was not impossible for him to figure it out. However, although they were already mentally prepared for that, the moment their secret was exposed, they were still shocked.

At this time, bolts of lightning crisscrossed in Sorokin's mind and connected everything he had just experienced. A plan quickly appeared in his mind, followed by joy, as if he had seen light in a dark cave. He found the only hope he had of escaping!

The Holy Accord was so secretive definitely because they did not want the information about the Sanctum to leak, this was the only leverage he could use—he would only have a chance if he bet on these people being afraid of leaking this secret!

While thoughts flashed through his mind, Sorokin yelled without hesitation, "You guys have been hiding and protecting the secret of the Sanctums, but you guys definitely remember that I can possess others with my ability. Yes, I can't escape from this encirclement today, but before you guys kill me, I have the time to control my manifestations in other Star Fields to spread out the information about the Sanctums! Stop this immediately if you don't want your secret to be leaked, or I will share this information with everyone right now!"

As soon as he said that, the others' expressions changed, and they slowed down their attacks subconsciously. They turned to look at Oathkeeper."

"... Are you threatening us?" Oathkeeper's eyes flickered.

"You're leaving me no choice; I just want to live!" Sorokin wiped away the blood on his forehead. Although he had no confidence, he could only act firm. "You're the master of Soul Flame. You can try to see if you can stop me, but can you deal with the consequences? It's better if I'm the only one who knows this secret than the entire universe finding out about it," Sorokin said.

Oathkeeper sized Sorokin up for a while silently. As the atmosphere kept getting more intense, he suddenly raised his hand, signaling for the others to stop attacking. "All of you, stop."

As soon as he said that, the others stopped attacking but still surrounded Sorokin with hostile expressions, not letting him escape.

This indeed hit Oathkeeper's weak spot. He knew what exposing the information about the Sanctum would mean. Comparatively, Sorokin's life was insignificant.

Oathkeeper was an expert in the mind too, but he did not have complete confidence he could stop Sorokin from activating his Esper Ability to control his manifestations. God knew what new abilities this guy learned after living for so long.

Oathkeeper did not want to push Sorokin too hard and force him into a corner. He planned to take it slow and see how things went.

Chapter 1242 Sorokin's Bizarre Adventure 3

Seeing that everyone had stopped attacking him, Sorokin finally heaved a sigh of relief. His body was covered in wounds. Although the duration of the battle was not long, the strength difference was too

huge. He was crushed by dozens of people the entire time and was quite heavily wounded. An ordinary Beyond Grade A would have been done for long ago. Luckily, he had a flash of insight and found the Holy Accord's weak spot. Just knowing their weak spot was not enough; he had to be able to use it as a leverage and only an extremely few people in the entire universe could do that. Sorokin was one of them. No one knew how many manifestations he had and where they were hidden.

Furthermore, they were not sure of what method Sorokin used to fake his death, so they did not dare do anything impulsive.

This time, Sorokin endured the pain all over his body, suppressed his annoyance, and put up a stiff smile.

"Ahem, ahem. See, this is much better. We all know each other. We should use a peaceful method to solve our misunderstandings. There's no need to resort to violence."

Oathkeeper hovered in space and said, "What ideas do you have?"

Sorokin's mind spun quickly. "We can totally work together."

"Work together?" Oathkeeper sized Sorokin up.

"That's right. We're all from the old era. The conflicts we had in the past have dissipated with time. We're not enemies now. Today was just a misunderstanding. My goal is actually just Soul Flame, but I coincidentally discovered your secret. The biggest issue between us is that you guys don't trust me. You're worried that I, an outsider, will leak your information, so you want to capture me..."

Sorokin had calmed down, and using his magical mouth trained through his business experience over many years, he started negotiating.

He observed everyone's expression, paused, and continued. "However, you guys can't stop me from leaking your information now, and I'm also worried you might do something to me. We both have worries. Therefore, working together is the best choice for all of us. If we can peacefully come to an agreement, we can avoid escalating the situation that'll do neither of us any good."

"How do you want to work together?" Oathkeeper narrowed his eyes.

Sorokin smiled. "Simple. You guys are worried about me leaking the secret, so you don't trust me enough to let me roam outside. Therefore, you might as well let me join the Holy Accord and make me one of you. Then, isn't the problem solved?"

His core mindset was very simple. If he could not defeat them, join them!

This was not just a temporary plan to save his life but a carefully thought-out plan. Although what he experienced this time threatened his life, when he carefully thought about it, it might just be an incredible opportunity to explore the secrets of the universe.

He already planned to give up the identity of 'Sorokin' and was originally planning to go to the secondary dimensions and retire for some time. However, from the way things looked now, the Holy Accord organization might be a better place to go. Not only was there a group of familiar faces, but they also seemed to be carrying out some kind of big plan. Plus, if he stayed there, he could even convince the outside world that he had been revived.

After the initial shock, Sorokin had a strong interest in the Sanctums. Another of his goals was to reduce the number of Beyond Grade As in the universe. Now that he had realized that Beyond Grade As could be revived, he would not be able to sleep and eat well before he figured out how it happened.

At the same time, Sorokin inevitably felt bitter. Originally, he thought most Primordial Ones had disappeared, and he was the only one who had stayed alive till now. Although he never mentioned it, he actually had a sense of superiority in his heart, thinking that he was the only one who got the last laugh among all the Primordial Ones in the same generation.

However, now that he saw a big group of Primordial Ones still alive, his sense of superiority disappeared, and he was left with only bitterness. That was especially so when he thought of how he hid his identity and carefully lived all these years in the past. He could not help but feel jealous and envious of these revivors, which made him even more interested in the Sanctums.

“You want to join the Holy Accord?”

The others were surprised. The expressions on their faces became odd.

You didn’t contribute anything, yet you want to take a bite off our fruit of victory?

Why is your dream so ambitious?

After so many years, how did that cold and powerful Soul Emperor in their memories become so smooth?

Oathkeeper frowned and pondered silently. It seemed like he was having difficulties making a choice.

Seeing this, Sorokin added, “Frankly, I was just planning to retire. If the Holy Accord is willing to accept me, I won’t come empty handed. You guys should know that I’m the owner of the Limitless Financial Group. I can bring Holy Accord a huge amount of funds. You’ll need money no matter what you’re planning, right?”

He had eyes on the secret of reviving through the Sanctums too, so he was willing to pay a high price to join the Holy Accord. If he could also enjoy this privilege, his life would be insured.

Hearing this, Oathkeeper said, “The risk of letting an outsider join us is not controllable. You hid your strength so well, and we don’t know much about you. It’s very tough for us to trust you.”

“I understand your worries, but I’m really sincere. As for what you said about me being an outsider, I don’t think that’s true.” Sorokin smiled. “We all know each other and each other’s personality to a certain extent, we don’t lack the foundation of trust.”

Beiger suddenly shook his head and said, “No, we never hung out and are not close.”

Fu*k you! You even ‘hung’ me to death back then!

Sorokin wanted to cuss but still maintained a smile.

Oathkeeper slowly said, “So many years have passed; you’ve definitely changed your identity more than once. How do we know how much you’ve changed?”

Hearing this, Sorokin became silent, which was rare. Then, he shook his head and said, “Everyone has secrets. No matter what I experienced in the past, I’m just Sorokin now.”

He did not want to expose the information of his other identities. The identities of Soul Emperor and Sorokin were still considered clean, but he had done many not-so-clean things with his other identities. If he shared this information, it would become new leverage. Hence, he refused to say what identities he used before, expressing his firmness to a suitable extent, reminding the opposite party that their positions were equal in this negotiation.

Oathkeeper thought about it, changed the question, and asked, “Let’s put this matter aside first. Let me ask you, you say you can sense Soul Flame, but you have not done it in so many years—why are you suddenly trying to find Soul Flame? We can’t believe what you say if you don’t explain this.”

Sorokin hesitated for a moment and said, “Actually, I’ve come across a very strong enemy. In order to fight him, I have to retrieve Soul Flame and increase my strength as much as possible.”

“Who’s that strong enemy?”

“Black Star!”

As soon as he said that, everyone’s heart shook, but they hastily controlled their expressions and did not expose themselves.

Oathkeeper suppressed the shock in his heart, acted confused, and said, “Black Star? I know this guy. He only rose in the past few decades and seems to be among the strongest in the universe. It’s said that his full strength is unfathomable. How did you get into trouble with him?”

When this was brought up, Sorokin’s expression turned gloomy.

“He figured out my identity and came to blackmail me. I decided not to escalate the issue, accepted his request, and partnered with him in businesses at a loss, hoping to fill his appetite so he won’t expose me. But that *sshole is too much. He took my money and still wanted to expose my identity, plotting against me behind my back. If I don’t teach him a lesson, he’s really going to think I can be easily bullied!”

This time, Sorokin’s rage was not fake but his real emotions. It was as if he could not live with Black Star being alive and would grab tightly onto any opportunity to kill Black Star.

“So, this is why you wanted to abandon your current identity and retire?” Seeing that Sorokin’s expressions were sincere, Oathkeeper pondered.

“That’s right. I don’t want the three Universal Civilizations to pay attention to me. He forced me to abandon the organization I’ve spent years building,” Sorokin said with a hateful tone.

His hostility toward Han Xiao was extremely strong. Earlier, he even thought of threatening to leak their secret to make the Holy Accord organization help him kill Black Star. With such an unexpected and overwhelmingly strong force, he definitely could get Black Star by surprise.

However, after thinking about it carefully, he had given up on this thought. After all, Black Star had the King suit and would not be trapped. Also, threatening them would definitely make Holy Accord unhappy, and they might not let him join them.

Compared to the secret of the Sanctums, dealing with Black Star did not seem that significant. Therefore, Sorokin did not want to lose the opportunity of finding out about the Sanctum because of something less significant. Furthermore, he had already learned a lesson from what happened today—since he chose to be a coward, he should be a total coward!

Hence, Sorokin did not want to make things more complicated. With the big secret of the Holy Accord opportunity, he decided to abandon the plan of targeting Black Star and retired peacefully. Anyway, he felt that he would always get a better opportunity in the future to make Black Star pay for what he did to him.

Oathkeeper narrowed his eyes and suddenly said, “If you’re targeted by Black Star, this is a risk for us too. If we take you in, Black Star might find our location one day by tracking you, leading to us being exposed like today.”

Sorokin quickly said, “That won’t happen. Black Star is not very obsessed with me personally; he just wants my money and assets. You guys don’t know, but that guy is endlessly greedy, domineering, ambitious, slippery, shady, and extremely shameless... His goal is to take over the Limitless Financial Group’s assets.”

Damn, if not because we made contact with Black Star before, we might have really believed in your nonsense.

... But you’re right about him being shameless.

Oathkeeper rolled his eyes in his mind, acted serious, and said, “That’s just your speculation. You can’t ensure Black Star won’t do anything. If you want to join the Holy Accord, it’s best to solve this problem first.”

Sorokin was frustrated inside. He was already planning to cancel this plan, but to his surprise Holy Accord actively wanted to force him to target Black Star instead.

However, from his perspective, Oathkeeper’s worry was totally sensible and logical. Sorokin did not find it strange.

“Honestly, I’m not very confident about fighting Black Star alone. He’s too strong...” Sorokin said with resignation.

Oathkeeper gave him a glare and said, “What, are you asking us to help? Don’t cross the line! If you think you can threaten us just because you have some leverage on your hands, we’ll eliminate you even at the risk of exposing our secret.”

He used a strong and firm attitude so that Sorokin would not suspect Holy Accord and Black Star were connected.

“What do you want to do then?” Sorokin asked. He felt that since Oathkeeper had said so many things, there was no way he was still thinking of resorting to such an extreme solution.

Oathkeeper narrowed his eyes and suddenly said with a gentler tone, “Anyway, you can’t leave now. We have to ensure your original body is in our sights. However, we won’t do anything to you. This is just an

insurance measure to prevent you from leaking the secret. As for your request to join the Holy Accord... we'll have to consider it, weigh the pros and cons."

The other Holy Accord members all understood Oathkeeper's intention to take a step back from what he said. They had varied expressions.

"What, are we really going to take him in?" Beiger deliberately acted surprised.

"That is one option. If not, are we really going to let him leak the information?" Oathkeeper turned and glanced at him. He then scanned through everyone and secretly gave them a look. He then turned back to Sorokin and said, "This is my condition. If you don't accept it, there's nothing more to talk about."

Sorokin considered it for a while and realized that he did not have much of a choice. This was already a decent result. Hence, he exhaled and slowly nodded.

"Okay, I agree with your terms. I'm willing to stay under your control temporarily, but you guys can't secretly set up traps to seal soul energy. Although that doesn't work much against me, if you guys show signs of doing it, I'll see it as you guys being insincere about this partnership. I'll consider our agreement invalid and immediately have my manifestation leak your secret."

"Okay." Oathkeeper nodded.

As the two sides came to an agreement, the atmosphere calmed down.

The people approached Sorokin and escorted him toward the Holy Accord's fleet, planning to monitor this guy every second as a new entertainment other than playing cards.

Sorokin obediently let them take him away. He discreetly wiped away his cold sweat, felt that this experience was like a dream and was glad.

"Luckily, I'm convincing enough to earn a chance..."

After the others went away, Oathkeeper was relieved too. He was also planning to keep Sorokin stable first.

Actually, to Oathkeeper, if Sorokin was sincere about joining them, taking him in was not an issue. They had nothing against each other, plus, they were from the same generation and had common topics, and it would prevent Sorokin from leaking their secret.

Holy Accord was not a subsidiary organization of someone else, so there was actually no need to report to Black Star when recruiting a new member. However, Oathkeeper felt it was still better to tell Black Star about this.

After all, Sorokin and Black Star had conflicts, and Oathkeeper was more on Han Xiao's side in his heart. To him, the Black Star Army was a more important partner.

Having thought of that, Oathkeeper closed his eyes and secretly used his soul projection to contact Han Xiao.

...

Oathkeeper's soul projection appeared in Han Xiao's office and saw the person who was dealing with a pile of documents in his seat right away.

Noticing Oathkeeper's arrival, Han Xiao looked up and smiled.

"Yo, Oath, what a rare guest."

Oathkeeper, however, had no intention to chit chat. He said with a deep voice, "Black Star, an emergency situation just happened, and I felt I needed to tell you about it. This might severely impact our plan."

"Tell me then. I didn't cover your mouth." Han Xiao was not nervous at all and joked.

"Just earlier, Sorokin found us..."

Oathkeeper described everything that had happened without leaving any details.

"What? I thought my luck was trash enough. I didn't think yours would also be not much better."

Han Xiao laughed right away. He did not expect Sorokin to be so brave to break into this nursing home.

"How are you still laughing!" Oathkeeper was annoyed. "What do you think we should do about this? If you don't have any suggestion, I'm really going to take him into the Holy Accord!"

"Aiyo, don't be in such a rush. Isn't this very easy to solve?" Han Xiao casually waved.

"What ideas do you have?"

"You've mistaken the situation, which is understandable given how much it concerns you." Han Xiao rested his chin on his hands. "You're worried that he'll leak your information, but he doesn't know my connection with you guys. Therefore, in his eyes, leaking your information is only a threat to the Holy Accord organization, not to me. If you think about it from another perspective, you'll realize that this is good news for me."

"You're saying..." Oathkeeper had a rough idea.

"I never had the chance to secretly attack him. Now, however, you guys have helped me to trap the prey and even indirectly created a secret execution ground. Furthermore, Sorokin has no idea that the leverage he has is also effective on me. All it takes is for us to put on a show, and the problem will be solved. This is the reason for our partnership to exist, basically..."

Han Xiao smiled faintly. A Mark of the Underworld on the back of his palm flickered slightly.

"He's gone."

Chapter 1243 Holy Accord: We Are Serious About Acting!

Two days later, in the Holy Accord's fleet, a group of Primordial Ones sat in a circle around Sorokin, playing cards while keeping an eye on Sorokin at all times to make sure he did not do anything. Sorokin sat on a small chair in the middle and watched them play cards, giving suggestions from time to time, not acting like an outsider at all.

This time, the door opened. Oathkeeper walked in, and the noise in the room suddenly disappeared. Everyone, including Sorokin, looked over.

Oathkeeper looked around, stopped at Sorokin, and said with a deep voice, "I've considered it over the past two days. I'll accept you into the Holy Accord."

Joy appeared on Sorokin's face. Just as he was about to speak, Oathkeeper stopped him and added, "But before that, you have to resolve your conflict with Black Star. I don't want you to bring problems to the organization."

Hearing this, Sorokin's expression turned serious. "What ideas do you have?"

Oathkeeper slowly said, "First, we have to test the risk, which is how persistent Black Star is about killing you. Therefore, we'll use your location as bait and see if Black Star chases after it."

"How do we do that exactly?"

Oathkeeper opened the star map, pointed at a transit hub planet in the Ancient Star Desert, and said, "We'll find a way to spread rumors saying you've passed by Planet Deere recently, then set up surveillance to see how Black Star reacts to it. If his men come right away to investigate, it means he's indeed hunting you. If Black Star invades Planet Deere's node using Virtual Intrusion, our men will discover it too... To show our sincerity in working together, we'll share the situation reflected by the surveillance with you."

Sorokin thought about it for a moment and agreed with this plan. Although he did not think Black Star would be hunting him, faking his whereabouts would not threaten his safety, so he had no objections. Instead, he was quite impressed by how cautious Oathkeeper was. It suited his taste.

From his perspective, he could totally just retire and not do anything, but Holy Accord was not going to agree with that. They were worried Black Star might find them just like he did. Therefore, they actively wanted to remove the hidden threat. He could not make the decision for the Holy Accord, so he could only cooperate.

"If Beiger is really hunting him, what do we do?" Beiger added.

"Then, there'll only be two ways to solve this problem." Oathkeeper looked at Sorokin, acted like he was troubled, and said, "Either we erase Black Star, or you fake your death to deceive Black Star."

"That makes sense," Beiger added. "Black Star will only give up hunting him if he thinks he's dead. After all, the dead don't speak. Anyway, Sorokin knows how to fake his death; he can just do it again."

Sorokin felt this was logical and nodded. However, thinking about it, he said with a reluctant tone, "But that's too risky. Black Star knows my identity, so he'll definitely be wary about me faking my death. I'm worried that if he discovers it, I'll really be dead..."

Oathkeeper shook his head. "Honestly, that's even more convincing. We have the Sanctums, so if you really die, we can revive you. Not only will the threat be eliminated that way, but you'll really become one of us."

Sorokin laughed awkwardly. "I'd rather pass on that. Plus, he has the Spacetime Amber. I'm worried he might seal me up..."

It sounded like a good plan, but how could he trust the Holy Accord? What if they did not revive him after he died?

Oathkeeper frowned and said with a displeased tone, "This plan has the lowest risk and highest success rate. In the end, you say you want to join the Holy Accord, but you don't see us as being on your side."

"I'm really very sincere about joining the Holy Accord, but trust needs to be developed over time..."

Sorokin looked troubled but complained inside.

This plan means you guys are only bearing the minimum risk. Basically, you don't have to do anything at all. The problem will be solved regardless of whether I'm really dead or not...

Conversely, fighting Black Star was very risky for Holy Accord but much less risky for him, so of course, he favored this plan more.

"Humph, so you're still forcing us to help you to kill Black Star." Violet Queen snorted.

Sorokin had nothing to say.

"... We'll talk about it when the time comes. Let's see if Black Star responds to the fake information first."

Oathkeeper purposely glanced at Sorokin with dissatisfaction. He did not say much and left.

Not long later, through secret channels, the intelligence that Sorokin passed by Planet Deere got spread out. At the same time, the Holy Accord organization set up many men on Planet Deere for surveillance.

Time passed day by day, and the information got spread further. As they did not know if Black Star had received the news yet, they could only wait and stare at the surveillance screens all day.

As this involved him personally, Sorokin was most concerned about it. He stared at the screens every second.

After almost ten days, the Holy Accord organization finally got the intelligence that one fleet from the Ancient Star Desert subdivision of the Black Star Army had arrived on Planet Deere and was searching for Sorokin's information on the planet.

...

"The situation is very clear. Black Star is indeed hunting you closely. You've brought us risk!"

In the remote surveillance room, Oathkeeper glared at Sorokin, his tone very displeased.

Sorokin did not reply. He looked extremely frustrated, and his heart sank.

He could not oppose this solid proof; he did not expect Black Star to want to kill him so much that he was hunting him secretly.

So, this guy not only wants my money but even my life!

What an evil man!

F*ck, although I tricked you several times in the past, I've already paid the price for that! Black Star, why do you want me dead so much?

This time, Oathkeeper said with a deep voice, "You really are not willing to fake your death to fool Black Star?"

"No." Sorokin shook his head without hesitation.

Oathkeeper looked distressed. He walked back and forth, annoyed, as if he was hesitating.

After quite some time, he spoke reluctantly like he had finally made a difficult situation.

"Since that's the case, we can only eliminate Black Star!"

As soon as he said that, the other Primordial Ones were instantly 'appalled' and expressed their strong objection.

"We have no conflict with Black Star. Why should we mess with such a strong enemy just for Sorokin?"

"Wouldn't fighting Black Star also leak our existence?"

"This guy is just threatening us. Don't fall for it!"

The elevated emotions of everyone startled Sorokin. He did not dare express his opinion.

"Stop!" Oathkeeper argued with them for a bit. He then raised his voice and said firmly, "There'll be no next time!"

Then, he glared at Sorokin and coldly said, "Are you satisfied now?"

"Nonsense, I'm not the one forcing you guys to deal with Black Star. This is your decision. I'd rather ignore him." Sorokin sighed and expressed this was not his fault.

He was originally not planning to threaten the Holy Accord organization to fight Black Star because he would offend them that way. However, he was not the one making the choice.

In his position, he could not change their stubborn opinions and convince the Holy Accord to ignore Black Star. It was like someone who owed loan sharks a lot of money and took refuge in someone else's home, not only causing them trouble, but also attempting to convince them to put up with the loan sharks' harassment... Even Sorokin felt that was a little bit shameless.

Oathkeeper snorted and said slowly, "All and all, you brought the trouble, so you'll have to solve it. Since Black Star is hunting you, you'll be the bait to lure him into the trap."

"Alone?" Sorokin asked.

"Of course, three of us will accompany you, both to prevent you from escaping and to help you fight Black Star." Oathkeeper shook his head. "As for the rest of us, we'll set up an ambush far away and join the battle when the time is right."

"Will that even work? Black Star has the King suit and is not afraid of being outnumbered," Beiger added, displaying his expertise as an actor.

“Don’t worry, Black Star will never expect there to be dozens of us, and that’s our biggest advantage! The trap set up by Sorokin will only have four people. It’s only our first measure but will seem like the whole ambush to Black Star. With Black Star’s strength, he’s unlikely to flee against four people and will definitely try to fight. Therefore, the team with Sorokin’s mission will be to stall Black Star.”

Oathkeeper’s tone sounded like this was real.

“Then?”

“Try to create an opportunity, of course! The dozens of us will be accumulating energy. As long as you can temporarily control Black Star and make him not have the time to use the King suit, Sorokin, we’ll charge right in with Beiger’s teleportation spell, attacking him all at the same time, while having those who excel in the soul territory try to heavily damage Black Star’s soul!”

Oathkeeper’s tone was very firm and filled with confidence. Even he almost believed it.

Sorokin analyzed the plan and felt that the success rate was much higher than for him to act alone.

He believed that as long as Black Star did not use the Spacetime Amber to guard against the attacks, even he would most likely not be able to endure the focus fire of dozens of Beyond Grade As.

Although Soul Flame was not in his hands, Oathkeeper could use it all the same. Furthermore, there were not just the two of them who excelled in the soul territory in the Holy Accord organization, which made Sorokin feel there was an even higher chance of succeeding.

“This plan should work. The success rate is probably above seventy percent. The entire galactic society practically sees Black Star as a god, but he definitely has limits no matter how strong he is.”

Sorokin was relieved and expressed his support for the plan.

Seeing that the fish had bitten the bit, knowing the ways of fishing very well, Oathkeeper said with a warning tone and a deep voice, “Don’t be glad so soon. You’d best pray this plan succeeds. Otherwise, if Black Star escapes, he’ll definitely leak our information too. Then, your leverage will be meaningless, and I’ll hold you responsible for it. You can make a guess on what we’ll do to you... Therefore, for your own sake too, you’d better give your all in this mission!”

Hearing this, Sorokin’s expression turned serious, and he nodded firmly.

...

Half a month later, in a certain desolate universe belt of the Ancient Star Desert, a small spaceship hovered. There were only four people in the spaceship—Sorokin, Beiger, and two other Beyond Grade As.

Beiger stood with his arms crossed. He glanced at Sorokin who was beside and said with an unsatisfied tone, “Tsk, I never thought I’d have to fight alongside you one day. Unlucky.”

“Tsk, you think I’m happy to see your face?” Sorokin snorted. He did not want to argue with him. He changed the topic and said, “It’s been so long—will Black Star really come?”

“Who knows? We’ve already sent the coordinates out; it all depends on how strong his love for you is,” Beiger joked.

Sorokin was about to strike back when an unwelcome guest entered the range of his senses. His expression changed immediately.

“Someone’s here.”

The other three sensed it too and became silent. They looked in the direction of the presence they felt outside the porthole.

After a while, an asteroid approached extremely quickly. It seemed to have noticed the four of them too. It stopped not far away, and a familiar face appeared.

“It’s Black Star! He’s really here!”

Sorokin’s expression turned grave. He flew out of the cabin and stood opposite Han Xiao. Beiger and the other two followed along.

Han Xiao scanned through the few of them and laughed in the public channel.

“Yoho, I see, you deliberately leaked your coordinates to lure me into a trap, huh? So, the information about your whereabouts some time ago was fake information you made up and spread purposely... Hehe, I don’t know where you got the help from, but Sorokin, oh Sorokin, aren’t you underestimating me too much, daring to attack me with just four people?”

“Black Star, I didn’t expect you to be so persistent in chasing me. You’re too much! Don’t blame me. You left me no choice!”

This was what Sorokin was most irritated by. From the way he looked at it, he was the one who incurred much larger losses, yet Black Star hunted him nonstop. It was too excessive.

“Sorry, I’m not a forgiving person. You’ve plotted against me one too many times. There’ll be quite a number of problems with letting you escape. Therefore, it’s better for you to live inside my Spacetime Amber suite, safe and sound.”

While speaking in the public channel, Han Xiao glanced at Beiger and the other two with mockery in his eyes.

There were only five people there and supposedly two sides, but there were three group chats. One was the public channel, and another was the temporary combat group chat Sorokin, Beiger, and the other two were in.

The third was the ‘actor’ group chat that Han Xiao, Beiger, the other two Beyond Grade As, and all the Holy Accord members ambushing far away were in. Basically, everyone except Sorokin.

“Do it!”

Sorokin did not want to bullsh*t with Han Xiao and attacked right away while also telling Beiger and the other two to attack together.

Seeing how much of a hurry Sorokin was in, everyone was laughing out loud nonstop in the actor group.

“He’s getting impatient...”

“Hahaha, why do I suddenly feel pitiful for him?”

“It’s so tragic. I can hardly watch.”

“You’d better take a few more looks. I’m afraid we’ll never see him again...”

The people joked around. The actor group chat was filled with a joyful atmosphere.

“Stop it. We’re in the middle of a performance. Be serious about it,” Han Xiao said while laughing. He summoned his mechanical army and charged into Sorokin’s attacks.

Beiger and the other two hastily joined the battle. They did their best not to burst into laughter and fought alongside Sorokin as if they were really on his side.

The battle broke up instantly. The energy left by the five of them left scorch marks in space.

The opportunity only existed for the blink of an eye. If they could not annihilate Sorokin instantly, this guy would still have time to leak the information. Now was not the time yet, so the Holy Accord was still performing for Sorokin.

Sorokin thought victory was in his hands and focused entirely on fighting Han Xiao. However, what he did not know was that the teammates he had high hopes in were all actors ready to backstab him any second.

Chapter 1244 Suppressed

The mechanical army circled around like crows, releasing streams of energy, wrecking the battlefield. Han Xiao himself changed into one of the Black King series gears and fought intensely with four opponents. The battle looked ferocious, but Sorokin was actually the only one fighting for real. His three teammates only used about sixty percent of their strength, and Han Xiao was slowly accumulating bonuses.

Beiger could clearly feel that the attacks of Han Xiao’s army were several levels weaker than the last time and not as pressurizing as before. He instantly understood that Han Xiao was also holding back.

Han Xiao’s strength had rocketed recently. In order to let Sorokin still have hope, he deliberately decreased the damage output of the army to only slightly stronger than the last time he showed his strength in public, creating a situation where both sides were on par.

He was not worried about Sorokin finding out—the two of them had never fought before, so Sorokin’s judgement of his strength all came from the information on the internet. Since he had never experienced it for himself, he did not have a clear understanding of how strong Han Xiao was. Han Xiao just had to display about the same amount of strength as the information available to the public said he had, and Sorokin would think it was his actual strength.

Sorokin was indeed quite strong. His soul Esper Ability was very tough to deal with, applying all kinds of debuffs on Han Xiao. Han Xiao did not activate [Kunde Rage] and [Thousand Soul Stream] for the time being, so it was not a breeze for him either. Putting other things aside, Han Xiao estimated that this guy’s Energy Rank was above 90,000, undoubtedly in the top tier of the universe.

Sadly, this guy is fragile.

Han Xiao curled his lips in his mind. No matter how incredible the fragile individuals were in terms of combat, they had limits—only tanks had an infinite future.

Sorokin's body was weaker than the average of those around the same Energy Rank as him, but destroying his physical body would not kill him. With [Immortal Soul], [Spiritual Energy Foundation], and other talents, Sorokin's soul was the foundation of his life. His soul could live without a physical body.

Furthermore, Sorokin had the [Fleshly Body Reconstruction] ability. He did not have to infest or take over another's body like Psychics; he could build a new shell for himself with his soul energy any time. To him, physical bodies were just replaceable vessels for his soul; his soul was his original body.

Through the introduction of [Immortal Soul] on the interface, Han Xiao knew that Sorokin was immune to physical attacks when in the soul state, while also having very high resistances, it was very difficult to deal with. Destroying his physical body would only lead to Sorokin entering his 'second phase'.

For that, the trump card he had prepared was the Mark of The Underworld. The Underworld at its peak had a special restraining effect on all souls; it was the arch enemy of souls.

Han Xiao' goal was to find an opportunity to destroy Sorokin's physical body in the blink of an eye, force his soul to be isolated, drag his soul right into the Underworld, and have the experts inside send him up happily.

Meanwhile, Sorokin was also making plans in his mind.

Black Star's strength is about the same as what I predicted. He's indeed strong but not as exaggerated as the rumors say. With this level of strength he has, the success rate of this ambush is higher than planned.

Sorokin felt confident.

Remaining in the passive situation was very disadvantageous for him. Although he had found the Holy Accord's weak spot, his safety was still in their hands. This leverage would only be much more useful once he escaped the Holy Accord's control, or it would only keep him alive and nothing else... The Holy Accord organization indeed did not want to be exposed, but even if they were exposed, they would only get in trouble while he would almost certainly be dead. The scale was unbalanced, so there was not much room for negotiation.

He felt an opportunity to escape might appear the moment the ambush succeeded. However, as a soul Esper, his mobility was awful, and his odds of escaping were too low.

I shall follow the plan and find a chance to capture Black Star first, then improvise from there.

Sorokin focused his thoughts, pressed between his eyes, and sent another few hundred soul energy attacks right toward Han Xiao.

The five of them were all waiting for a chance.

The battle went back and forth for quite some time when, suddenly, Han Xiao's movements became stiff as if he had endured too many soul energy attacks.

"Now!"

Before Sorokin spoke, Beiger suddenly yelled in the group chat and took over the heavy responsibility of setting the tempo.

Intense magic energy erupted from all over his body. Control type spells he had been preparing all this time flew out rapidly and all landed on Han Xiao.

The other Beyond Grade As followed instantly and threw out all their control type abilities together.

Ohm!

Energy of all colors and forms tangled around him, seemingly fixing him in midair, unable to move.

Seeing the opportunity, Sorokin followed up right away. With his eyes wide open, energy shockwaves that almost materialized were launched rapidly one after another, penetrating Han Xiao's body, instantly applying all kinds of debuffs on him.

The next moment, Beiger raised his hand. A teleportation circle appeared on the battlefield, and dozens of Beyond Grade As swarmed out instantly, all holding onto charged attacks prepared long ago, ready to launch them at Han Xiao.

However, at this time, Han Xiao's body shook. He seemingly used some kind of ability to escape from all the control abilities.

He actually did not do anything; Beiger and the other two secretly deactivated their abilities.

As for Sorokin's abilities, he gained immunity to the tons of debuffs by activating [Kunde Rage] in advance and was not affected at all.

Even the opportunity was sold by Han Xiao; Beiger only cooperated following the script discussed in the actors group chat and made Sorokin mistakenly think the opportunity had come when it was actually Han Xiao's signal.

The sudden change happened in a fraction of a second. Before Sorokin could react, Han Xiao immediately used Void Hyperdrive after he was freed and appeared right before Sorokin. He then pressed Sorokin into his wide arms.

"You..."

Shock appeared on Sorokin's face. It was as if a huge red "DANGER" appeared above his head.

Before he finished his sentence, the dozens of Beyond Grade As attacked the two of them instantly!

The mechanical army also turned to fire at the two of them, this time, at full output!

Han Xiao activated all his explosive abilities directly followed by Virtual Soul to restrain Sorokin. The two of them stood still and watched countless attacks approaching rapidly.

The next second, the two of them were submerged by a blinding light.

Hong!

The attacks turned into a cluster of rapidly expanding energy, sweeping in all directions. The horrifying energy almost robbed the senses of everyone present, and all they could see was white.

Hu!

The cluster of light expanded to the maximum and exploded abruptly. The energy shockwave erupted from the center and blew away everything around.

The light dissipated quickly. Han Xiao was the only one left, covered in wounds that were gushing blood nonstop like a water bag with dozens of holes. He was clearly severely injured.

The attacks of dozens of Beyond Grade As' trump cards and the mechanical army dealt the most terrifying amount of damage to Han Xiao he had ever experienced. The [Perfect Energy Affinity Physique] and [Proof of Leadership] were the reasons he survived. Plus, Han Xiao wore the 'Defense Gear' of the Black King series. Though already completely shattered, it still blocked tons of damage. Otherwise, he might have had to use the revive token.

As for Sorokin, his physical body had been blown to atoms in the explosion.

Someone else would have completely died in this situation, but for Sorokin, this was only him entering his second phase!

Streams of light suddenly illuminated in front of Han Xiao, forming a glowing green energy entity with Sorokin's appearance.

At the same time, a mind message sounded in Han Xiao's mind.

"The attack worked... Looks like your Indestructible Body isn't really eternally indestructible."

Sorokin was secretly glad.

Luckily, the foundation of his survival was not his physical body. When his soul separated from his body, there was a moment his soul was in the phased invincible state, or that round of attacks would also have heavily damaged him. As for now, his soul was at the peak state.

One more round and Black Star will definitely be dead!

Without hesitation, Sorokin launched a chain of soul shockwaves onto Han Xiao, attempting to stop Han Xiao from escaping with the King.

Then, he backed away immediately through Han Xiao's arms, planning to increase the distance between the two of them. At the same time, he yelled in the mission channel for others to use this opportunity to launch another round of attacks.

However, as Sorokin was about to back off, Han Xiao raised and shoved his hand into Sorokin's soul. The Mark of The Underworld on the back of his palm instantly lit up, and an astonishingly strong absorption force erupted from it.

"What is this?"

Sorokin was stunned. This mark felt like a vortex. His soul suddenly went out of his control. Before he could do anything, an irresistible force dragged him inside.

"I got him!" Han Xiao spit out a mouth of boiling blood and grinned.

These changes seemed like they had taken a very long time to occur, when actually it all happened in an extremely short amount of time. If not because all of the Holy Accord cooperated and held back, he would not have been able to defeat Sorokin so easily.

However, only half of the plan succeeded. The problem was not yet completely solved.

“Follow me!”

Han Xiao put on the King while at the same time throwing out a few extras at Oathkeeper and a few other Beyond Grade As who were experts in the soul territory.

The mechanical suit latched onto them automatically. The next moment, Han Xiao shot out a few streams of Mechanical Force and activated the Kings on all of them.

With a flash of light, they disappeared.

...

Plop!

Sorokin felt the world was spinning. He fell onto a black stone ground.

At this time, the unknown energy that pulled his soul only finally faded. Sorokin flew up immediately and observed his surroundings cautiously. He had no idea where Black Star had sent him.

His eyes scanned through the boisterous land. An odd sense of familiarity surfaced in his mind.

Suddenly, Sorokin suddenly remembered something. His soul trembled, and his expression changed drastically.

“Is this the... Underworld?”

As a Primordial One from the exploration era, he had also heard of the two sisters and was no stranger to the existence of the Underworld.

The only thing left in Sorokin’s heart was disbelief.

Aren’t the two sisters dead? How does the Underworld still exist?

Why did Black Star send me here?

While he was being appalled, Onicelu appeared before him out of thin air and gave him an odd smile that made him feel threatened.

“Sh*t!”

Sorokin had no time to think carefully. He hastily rushed up the sky hoping to flee from the Underworld.

If this was another secondary dimension, he would not have been so afraid. However, all Primordial Ones knew that all independent souls were severely countered by the Underworld.

The Underworld was the nemesis of all souls! A forbidden ground feared by all soul life forms!

Onicelu remained in the same place and did not chase after Sorokin, all she did was extend her arm, aimed at Sorokin who was getting further away and tightened her fist.

Buzz!

The Underworld moved according to her will. A mysterious force suddenly appeared, pressing all Hero Spirits in the Underworld onto the ground.

Underworld—Soul Restrain!

The Underworld had recovered to its peak. Onicelu was a professional at dealing with souls!

Even though Sorokin's soul was extremely unique and had Beyond Grade A combat capability, his flight speed still decreased by ninety percent, and his altitude continued to decrease.

With the same smile on her face, Onicelu performed a 'pull' gesture.

Underworld—Soul Arrest!

Thick Underworld energy flowed out from the black ground, turning into countless tentacles that shot up the sky and ensnared Sorokin, trying to pull him down.

Although souls could penetrate all kinds of physical objects, they could not penetrate the energy of the Underworld and would instead be stuck. Sorokin used all his strength to try to escape from the tentacles but could only just keep himself from being dragged down further.

Hu!

At this time, a red tornado rose on the horizon, and Hila appeared. She had been waiting there since long ago.

"It's you!"

Sorokin was astonished. His soul was not immune to soul attacks; Hila happened to counter him.

"Go down!"

Hila waved her hand. Death energy gushed out like a raging river and brushed Sorokin's soul down.

Sorokin fell onto the black ground. Onicelu moved her index finger, and chains formed by Underworld energy extended from the underground. They penetrated Sorokin's soul and locked him down in multiple layers.

While Sorokin was clenching his teeth and trying to escape, a group of people suddenly appeared before him. It was Han Xiao, Oathkeeper, and the others who arrived by the Kings' teleportation. They all took off the mechanical suits.

Seeing this, Han Xiao smiled. "Looks like you had a fun time with my friends."

Seeing Oathkeeper and Han Xiao appearing together, Sorokin was completely dumbfounded.

At this moment, he understood everything.

"You guys are on the same side?"

Sorokin was filled with rage and shock. Without hesitation, he immediately tried to contact his manifestation and expose all their secrets.

However, he was dumbfounded once again the next second.

His connections with his manifestations were all cut off!

“Why do you think I spent so much effort to get you in here? In here, unless approved by the Underworld’s consciousness, no one can send soul signals to the outside world. Oathkeeper could not block your ability with absolute certainty, but the Underworld can.”

Han Xiao lightly stepped on the black stone ground under his feet.

“After all... the initial function of the Underworld was a prison!”

Chapter 1245 Welcome to the Underworld

Oathkeeper looked around and said with a surprised tone, “I didn’t expect the trump card you mentioned to be the Underworld. I thought they perished along with the two sisters.” When the actor chat group was discussing the plan, Han Xiao had said he had a trump card that could disable Sorokin’s ability, and he just needed an opportunity. He did not say what the trump card exactly was. Since the others had the same goal as him, and Black Star was usually quite reliable, Oathkeeper trusted him.

Only now did the Holy Accord members present discover that the trump card Han Xiao spoke of was the Underworld, which they were familiar with.

“Did the two sisters revive too?” Beiger asked with shock.

“Nope, the Underworld has a new master now.”

Han Xiao shook his head, told Hila to land beside him, and patted her shoulder. He did not share the detailed information about the two sisters’ inheritance.

At this time, the seven Hero Spirit Kings suddenly appeared around Sorokin and sized up the Holy Accord members present with shock and disbelief.

“You guys are still alive?”

“What, you guys too?”

The few Holy Accord members and the seven Hero Spirit Kings looked at each other with dismay.

Both sides were Primordial Ones who chose different paths of reviving. Both achieved that goal at this point. Meeting each other in the modern age after countless years, they felt complicated and surprised.

However, comparatively, the seven Hero Spirit Kings felt somewhat regretful.

They thought the Holy Accord was nonsense and the path they chose was the only right one. They never expected the Holy Accord to really succeed...

I should’ve joined the Holy Accord back then!

Looking at this, Sorokin was already completely dumbfounded.

The existence of the Holy Accord was already unbelievable enough. He never would have thought the Underworld still existed too. So many Primordial Ones lived till now, and he was not the only one at all.

Sorokin suddenly felt that his sense of superiority all these years was nothing but a joke.

This time, Han Xiao squatted, leveled with Sorokin's eyes, and said slowly, "I'm someone who always prefers to give others a chance to make a choice. There are two paths in front of you now. One, get wiped out by us, and you will then become fertilizer for Hila. Two, become an Underworld Hero Spirit and be controlled by the Underworld. Which do you choose?"

Sorokin was a top-level combatant. The external enemies of the explored universe had yet to be dealt with, so Han Xiao preferred not to eliminate him.

In fact, if not because Sorokin accidentally found out the Holy Accord's secret, Han Xiao would not even have targeted him. He was only displeased about how many times Sorokin plotted against him in the past and felt this guy was too much of an *sshole, but he did not see him as someone he had to kill.

Now that Sorokin was completely in his hands, Han Xiao almost wanted to say some classic villain lines... Go on and scream, no one will come!

Sorokin looked around at everyone and said with indignation, "What... are you guys planning?"

It was horrifying to find out that Black Star was both related to the Holy Accord and the Underworld. In fact, it was unfathomable. He felt Han Xiao was certainly planning something big secretly, and he could almost smell the stink of conspiracy.

Are these people trying to overthrow the universe?

Also, since Black Star is together with these guys, is he also one of the Primordial Ones who lived till now?

Having discovered these secrets and linking them with Black Star's history, Sorokin could not help but to fantasize in this direction.

"You think I'd tell you now?"

Han Xiao chuckled.

Telling the enemy all my plans when the mission is about to succeed is a huge no-no for villains. I'm not going to fall for it.

This time, the seven Hero Spirit Kings had heard about Sorokin's real identity from Oathkeeper. The head of the Hero Spirit Kings, Rega, walked over, patted Sorokin's shoulder, and comforted him. "Stop hesitating. When you join the Underworld, you'll realize that it's nice to be a Hero Spirit."

"Rega, you got domesticated too?" Sorokin said sarcastically. They were all from the same generation, so of course, he knew the seven Hero Spirit Kings.

Rega was not offended. He smiled and said, "Don't make it sound so bad. As long as the Underworld still exists, Hero Spirits will never die. You've borderline survived in the main universe for so long, I'm sure

you're not willing to die. What's so bad about being happy with us? You'll never have to worry about being killed, think about it."

The other Hero Spirit Kings also started to enthusiastically promote the advantages of becoming a Hero Spirit King. It was like a company's interviewer promoting the company's benefits during an interview.

It was not that they actually cared about Soul Emperor's life, but living in the Underworld while not being able to go out was quite dull. The seven Hero Spirit Kings already knew everything there was to know about each other, the freshness was long gone. Now that a possible new member was finally here, they did not want to let him get away.

Even the Holy Accord members on the side nodded in agreement.

The history of the exploration era already proved that as long as the Underworld was fine, the Hero Spirits could do whatever dangerous things they wanted to. Honestly, they were quite jealous too.

Since Oathkeeper had hidden some of the Sanctums' information due to certain reasons, the current Holy Accord members all thought that they could only be revived once. Seeing the Underworld, they also started to have some ideas.

They originally thought they could only revive once, but with the Underworld, would that not mean they could keep living?

Although they would have to become someone else's subordinate... as long as they could live, what was so bad about becoming dogs!

"Black Star is closely related to the Underworld. I have to maintain a good relationship with him..."
Beiger mumbled softly, saying what everyone was thinking.

Han Xiao heard his whisper and laughed in his mind.

This was part of the reason he had brought them to the Underworld. Using the fact that the Holy Accord members did not know the truth about the Sanctums, he increased the importance of the Underworld in the ears of the revived Primordial Ones so that his plan in the future would be easier to execute.

Even those Holy Accord members with other goals could not ignore his existence for the sake of having a backup plan, which meant he could influence these people and prevent them from doing things too out of the line to a certain extent.

Seeing Sorokin was shaken, Han Xiao said, "You already love to cower. Now you're just cowering somewhere else. Plus, you won't have to worry about your safety. What's there to hesitate about?"

Sorokin stayed silent for a while. He sighed with frustration and resignation. "... I admit I'm done for. I'm willing to join the Underworld."

He always believed in living as a coward was better than dying a hero, so he had no choice but to say goodbye to freedom and choose to live with regrets.

Han Xiao looked like he expected and gave Onicelu a look.

Onicelu raised her hand. Clusters of Underworld energy flowed out from the ground and hovered beside Sorokin. She then smiled and said, "Lower your guard and accept the transformation. It might hurt a little, but don't resist no matter what, alright?"

Swoosh!

Before Sorokin responded, the Underworld energy rushed into his soul the next moment.

The color of Sorokin's soul was gradually painted with the Underworld energy's color as he transformed into a Hero Spirit.

Sorokin felt like burning iron bars penetrated his soul. His soul was scorching from inside out as if it was going to be burnt to ashes any second.

Seeing this, the seven Hero Spirit Kings were so overjoyed they wanted to beat the drums on the side to welcome another unlucky fellow joining them.

The Hero Spirit transformation lasted for quite some time before finishing.

The chains formed by Underworld energy disappeared. Without them, Sorokin slowly stood up, looked down at his soul that had now turned into an Underworld Hero Spirit, and felt his connection with the Underworld. He was filled with complicated emotions.

After so many years of cowering, to think he became an Underworld Hero Spirit he once despised; fate was really full of surprises...

The seven Hero Spirit Kings surrounded him and smiled passionately.

"From now on, you're the eighth Hero Spirit King. Welcome to the Underworld!"

"Hehe..."

Sorokin could not laugh at all. His lips were twitching.

Onicelu suddenly turned to look at Han Xiao and said, "He's not like the other Hero Spirit Kings. Although he's transformed, he still kept his original strength."

Han Xiao expected this. He asked, "He's special, can you restrain him?"

"That's not a problem. After being transformed into a Hero Spirit, he's already connected to the Underworld and is under my control." Onicelu nodded.

"That's good." Han Xiao nodded.

Normal Hero Spirits had no combat capability. They could only regain their strength with the help of life energy. However, Sorokin had [Immortal Soul] and [Spiritual Energy Foundation], so he maintained the strength of a Beyond Grade A even as a Hero Spirit. This was his uniqueness.

However, after the developments made by the two sisters, the Underworld was already a treasure close to the Space Wonder level. Its operating mechanisms were impeccable, so restraining Sorokin when it was at its peak state was not a problem.

Seeing that Sorokin's face was filled with regret, Han Xiao smiled and said, "Stop being so down. One day in the future, you might be glad you joined the Underworld."

"I don't think that day will ever come." Sorokin was filled with sadness.

"Hehe, we'll see."

Han Xiao smiled and shook his head.

With the increase of his strength, position, and connections, the enemies he once felt were tough to deal with were no longer so tough. Having gotten rid of another hidden threat, he was quite satisfied.

Sorokin's value was not just his strength; the resources and information this guy had was also very valuable.

Having thought of that, Han Xiao turned to Hila and said, "Go talk to Sorokin and have him share the information he knows."

Hila nodded and pulled Sorokin aside to question him. As the current master of the Underworld, she was perfect for this task.

Seeing that Sorokin had been dealt with, the Holy Accord members present were all relieved. They went to chat with the seven Hero Spirit Kings about the old times.

On the other hand, Han Xiao and Oathkeeper walked to the side on their own and talked about something else.

"How's the collection of the Third Sanctum keys?"

"Still working hard on it. With the experience from the last time and the channels you provided, it should be much quicker this time," Oathkeeper replied.

"Do it fast. I have a feeling that the peaceful times won't last too long," Han Xiao whispered.

He still had missions related to the Sanctums that were not yet complete. Even not for the missions, since the Sanctums were the future of the Beyond Grade As, he had to go in and take a look.

Oathkeeper nodded. He suddenly changed the topic and asked, "Although I'm not in the Beyond Grade A Association, won't Sorokin suddenly going missing cause problems?"

Han Xiao glanced at him and said with a deep voice, "Yes, Gaud went missing a few years ago and now Sorokin too. It's easy for people to link these two events... However, the difference is, no one will step up for Sorokin, so the problem won't be too big, and the impact won't be too strong. It'll mainly cause doubts among the association itself and investigations."

"It won't affect you, will it?"

"Not much if it's dealt with properly. The dynasty has been secretly investigating Sorokin recently. I can find a way to make Sorokin look responsible for what happened to Gaud, then fake the reason he went missing, saying he fled due to fear of having what he did discover. Thus, creating a motive for him and closing the case... As for the future, there's no need to worry if others discover Sorokin is here. His Esper Ability allows him to change his soul frequency, which will solve most problems."

Han Xiao was prepared for this.

Sorokin was now tied up to the fate of the Underworld. Although he had no freedom, it was not all bad. Han Xiao was someone who knew Sorokin's personality well. This guy's biggest trait was that he knew his situation well. He would basically never do something that would damage both parties, so there was no need to worry about him not cooperating.

Oathkeeper agreed. "As long as you have a plan. You're an expert at these shady things."

"Sarcasm, huh? Don't copy my words." Han Xiao glanced at him.

The two of them did not chat for long. The other Holy Accord members were still waiting in the main universe. Han Xiao used another King suit to send Oathkeeper back to explain what had happened to prevent them from worrying.

After sending the outsiders away, Han Xiao went to where Hila and Sorokin were. The two of them sat opposite each other. One asked, and the other answered; the atmosphere was peaceful.

Although Sorokin had regrets, what was done was done. He had no choice but to let go of his pride. He was quite cooperative.

Han Xiao walked beside Hila and asked, "How's it going?"

Hila looked up at him and had a playful expression.

"You came at the right time. He seems to have just said something huge..."

Chapter 1246 Confession and Doubts

"You played a part in making the Tragedy Of The Pinnacles happen?" After hearing the interrogation results, Han Xiao could not help but size Sorokin up with surprise. "I've changed many identities and have always been trying to reduce the number of Beyond Grade As in the universe. But as you can see, the Holy Accord and the Underworld found ways to revive them, so that's a dead end."

Sorokin was hopeless.

After entering the Underworld, there were no secrets that he could keep anymore. Plus, Hila could control him anytime.

Reducing the number of Beyond Grade As was his old goal. However, as he found out about the Holy Accord and the Underworld, he immediately knew that there was no way this plan would ever work. He was forced to change his mindset.

Sorokin shared all the other identities he had once used and confessed the fact he secretly assisted in making the Tragedy of the Pinnacles happen. He knew his situation very well; no matter how unwilling he was inside, he knew that this past of his had the potential to become a ticking time bomb in the future, so he actively brought it up.

If he kept it hidden, although he might have a chance to mess with Han Xiao, if the Underworld was damaged because of it, he would be affected too. As the saying went, if he could not resist, he might as well enjoy it. At least the Underworld Hero Spirits had almost infinite life. Although it was not what he

really wanted, it was not too bad either. He had no choice but to protect this only remaining privilege he had.

After hearing the various identities Sorokin shared, Han Xiao tutted and said, "So, they were all you. You really love causing chaos."

Initially, he had been thinking about how to frame Sorokin for what happened to Gaud, but now it seemed easy. Sorokin had so many identities in the past and a history of guiding the Tragedy of the Pinnacles. There was his motive!

As for clues and evidence, with Sorokin right there, he was not worried about not finding them.

Han Xiao put this thought behind him for the time being and said, "Let's put this aside first. Tell me the resources you have, such as secret warehouses, internal intelligence of the Limitless Financial Group, business secrets... Be honest. If you cooperate, I might consider leaving you some."

Sorokin knew that Han Xiao had his eyes on his assets and wanted to get all the benefits he could get from him. He was unwilling in his heart, but Hila was right beside them, and he had no choice but to truthfully share everything.

Han Xiao noted them down and could not help but be impressed.

"Not bad, not bad. You've accumulated quite a lot of good things. Other than technology, blueprints, and knowledge, you even secretly collected eight Universal Treasures..."

If not because I have Jayz's treasure trove, my inventory would also be about this much.

Being rich is really nice!

As for the Limitless Financial Group, it was a huge cake. Although Han Xiao wanted to eat it all, he had to control his appetite, or it would cause suspicion.

After Sorokin 'escaped due to fear of having what he did to Gaud discovered', the Limitless Financial Group would definitely be severely impacted and dissected by tons of organizations. Han Xiao did not plan to enter the scene in advance. He planned to have the Germinal Financial Group act together with the other organizations after Sorokin was discovered to have gone missing. Making sure he could get a piece of the cake was enough; being too greedy was not a wise idea.

However, as for the 'backup plans' Sorokin secretly prepared by using the Limitless Financial Group's funds, he could take all of them.

After Sorokin was done, Han Xiao put away the notebook with satisfaction and grinned.

"Alright, what needs to be said has been said. Spend some time getting used to staying here... Hila, take care of this guy. I'll be going back."

Hila nodded with a poker face. "Don't worry, I'll take care of him."

She emphasized the words 'take care'. Han Xiao instantly remembered how much of a battle maniac Hila was and could not help but secretly pity Sorokin.

He did not have the time to spar with Hila, while as the only Hero Spirit who had Beyond Grade A strength in the Underworld, Sorokin was clearly the perfect opponent. Since he could not be killed, she could kill him again and again!

Han Xiao gave Sorokin a weird glance, shook his head, and disappeared in his King suit.

Seeing this, Sorokin sighed. He felt that life was so magical. All he could do now was adapt to the new life.

This time, the seven Hero Spirit Kings approached him, smiling.

“Eighth, let’s chat. How about you start by telling us what big things happened in the universe in these years? We’re so curious.”

Sorokin’s face turned black.

“Who’s Eighth? Don’t disturb me. Scram!”

...

Days passed one after another. Not long after Sorokin went missing, the galactic society finally noticed that the head of the Limitless Financial Group had not appeared in quite some time.

Although very few people could see Sorokin to begin with, he was the head of a top consortium in the universe and was quite famous. Sooner or later, people were bound to notice.

Without the orders from their leader, the Limitless Financial Group was becoming quite chaotic.

While the entire galactic society was wondering, the Crimson Dynasty suddenly announced a wanted order. The target was indeed Sorokin!

The dynasty claimed that they had made a breakthrough in their investigation. They disclosed Sorokin’s real identity and his many identities, listed the many crimes he had committed—including guiding the Tragedy of the Pinnacles—and even claimed that Sorokin was deeply connected with Gaud going missing. They stated that Sorokin was missing because he had fled, so they announced a wanted order to find him.

Ever since Han Xiao hinted Sorokin’s identity to the dynasty upper echelons, the dynasty had been secretly investigating Sorokin in every way possible. Using this opportunity, Han Xiao left some related evidence provided by Sorokin. He did not do anything personally but instead secretly guided the dynasty to discover the evidence in the process of the investigation, exposing what Sorokin had done.

As soon as the news was announced, the entire galactic society was in an uproar. Countless galactic residents and organizations were shocked by this news!

All along, Sorokin’s image in everyone’s eyes was a wildly successful businessman, the owner of a universal consortium, and a Beyond Grade A who did not like violence. His business talent overshadowed his Beyond Grade A identity in the eyes of the galactic society. No one had ever thought Sorokin had such a big secret, that a universally renowned businessman was the secret mastermind of so many incidents!

For some time, the popularity of topics surrounding Sorokin shot through the sky. His history was too legendary. Almost everyone uncontrollably made wild assumptions and speculations; conspiracies became popular.

As this went on, the galactic society gradually began to look at it as a form of entertainment. More and more people started to make fun of Sorokin.

In the words of the galactic residents, Sorokin seemed to have become the biggest conspiracist ever in history, and everything became related to him. Even the pig next door giving birth to seven babies was part of his secret big plan.

A new meme was born on the internet—no matter what matter they were talking about, it would all end with ‘this is all part of Sorokin’s conspiracy!’

While the public was having fun, the Limitless Financial Group was filled with tragedy and worry.

As the consortium’s head had run away with the money, the dynasty’s strategies came right after. The negative impact of the news caused the consortium to not be trusted. Tons of creditors came to collect their debts, the stock market price plummeted, all their business partners and galactic banks stopped granting loans, and the capital flow gradually started to show signs of breaking apart. It was doomed.

Sensing the difficult situation the Limitless Financial Group was in, the hunters everywhere sharpened their knives and started moving, biting off the Limitless Financial Group’s enormous business empire bit by bit.

Tons of organizations came to enjoy this festival, countless talents of the Limitless Financial Group left one after another, and numerous businesses were taken over; its size shrank rapidly. The product of Sorokin’s blood and sweat over many years fell like dominos.

Approved by Han Xiao, the Germinal Financial Group also took part and shared the cake as a shareholder. Old Manison, Kasuyi, and the other shareholders also feasted on the remains of the Limitless Financial Group.

Sorokin was a member of the Beyond Grade A Association, after all, so the association had to host a meeting for this matter and discuss how to deal with it.

...

A meeting was going on in the round table conference room on Planet Finn.

“It’s hard to imagine that Sorokin, who always pretended to be weak, was hiding such a big secret... He’s a Primordial One who lived all the way till now. Who knows how strong he really is? We never saw it coming,” Kasuyi said with disbelief.

“He’s indeed very well hidden. I always thought he’s really weak, even laughed at him. He probably thinks I’m just a joke.” Sun Hunter scratched his head.

“Actually, I’m a little doubtful. Would Sorokin really do this? Could someone have framed him? After all, some people have a history of that...” A neutral Beyond Grade A peaked at the dynasty’s direct members. It was easy to read between the lines of what he said.

“We have solid evidence,” Clotti replied calmly and was not angry about it.

They discussed the matter for quite a while when Han Xiao suddenly coughed, expressing that he had something to say. Everyone immediately became quiet.

Seeing this, Han Xiao slowly said, “Sorokin’s conspiracy is already proven to be true. He once guided the Tragedy of the Pinnacles, so attacking Gaud might be his attempt to do the same again. No matter what, despite being an upper echelon of the association, he’s not only not on our side but even wants to split the Beyond Grade As. He broke the principles of the association, causing extremely negative influences... I suggest canceling his membership as punishment. Let’s vote on it.”

Hearing this, the others exchanged looks. After quite some time, someone finally raised their hand.

“Seconded!”

“Agreed!”

Beyond Grade As voted one after another. The people who agreed with it quickly became the majority. Manison was the only one who had yet to make a stand.

“Old man, what do you say?” Han Xiao raised his brow.

Manison glanced at him and said with a poker face, “I concur. From today onward, Sorokin’s membership will be cancelled. He’s no longer a member of the Beyond Grade A Development Union.”

...

On the Crimson Dynasty mother planet...

“I see, the Beyond Grade A Association cancelled Sorokin’s membership... They’re wise.”

Marbruce finished reading the report and nodded slightly. He did not react to it much, as if he had expected this.

Opposite him was Bekorodi. They were the only two people in the room.

Bekorodi said softly, “Do you really believe that Gaud was attacked by Sorokin?”

“No,” Marbruce replied without hesitation.

“Then, why did you...”

Marbruce knocked on the table and slowly said, “The evidence came too easily. Think about this. If you were Sorokin, would you have left so much information behind? This evidence is very odd. Although it’s not fake, someone secretly guided us to find it. It might be an attempt to use a real lie to hide the real culprit.”

“But Sorokin is indeed missing. If it is really as you say, maybe the person who made Sorokin disappear is the same culprit who attacked Gaud?”

“Hmm, it’s very possible.” Marbruce pondered. “Don’t you think all of this is too coincidental? It’s like an invisible hand is controlling everything. Do you... really think Black Star did it?”

“I can’t say easily.” Bekorodi hesitated. “Logically, Gaud only tried to copy the Evolution Energy, and there’s no need for Black Star to make such a big deal out of it. He has no reason to...”

“Maybe there are some things we still don’t know about.” Marbruce’s eyes flickered. “I have a feeling that there might be a powerful force hidden in the universe we have yet to discover...”

“What do you mean?”

“Hehe, that’s confidential.”

Marbruce smiled and shook his head. He recalled a certain piece of information he only found after becoming the ruler that had the highest confidentiality level.

As a Primordial One, the Soul Emperor somehow lived till now. Is he really the only one?

Chapter 1247 Consumed

Sorokin going missing and the Limitless Financial Group’s collapse caused a certain impact on the economy of the galactic society. However, one company falling meant many others would take over. Many organizations absorbed the nutrition of the Limitless Financial Group and completed the handover, making up for the shortage caused by the Limitless Financial Group’s collapse, continuing to provide the services to the galactic society. In this battle of sharing the cake, relying on Black Star’s identity as a shareholder and the army’s military power advantage, the Germinal Financial Group inherited many ace businesses and tons of talents of the Limitless Financial Group. Its scale expanded instantly, and its stock price skyrocketed.

After this incident, although the Limitless Financial Group secured the last bit of their business and survived, it was severely damaged. Only a part of Sorokin’s elite offspring remained to protect their family business.

However, even though the Limitless Financial Group was already severely damaged, it only fell from the position of top consortium and was still a big consortium in the Star Field, clearly proving how many assets Sorokin had worked hard to accumulate. In terms of making money legally, there was probably really no one among Beyond Grade As who could match him.

If not because it was not convenient to let Sorokin appear in front of the public, Han Xiao almost wanted to make him in charge of the commercial area of the army. Han Xiao had already confirmed that making money was really one of the few hobbies of Sorokin.

In Sorokin’s own words, the increase of the money he had was visible and much easier than the increase of strength. He loved this kind of snowballing mechanism; the increase of his assets made him happy.

However, Han Xiao also did not plan to let Sorokin do nothing. He decided to have Sorokin take care of some business affairs behind the curtains.

This guy loved to make money, so letting him enjoy his hobby was also a form of entertainment for him. He could also give him some dividends... He had no place to spend it anyway.

The way Han Xiao looked at it, the Limitless Financial Group’s players were the unluckiest. When they returned in the next version, their reaction would probably all be the same...

Where's my faction? It's such a big faction. What happened?

Just thinking about it, Han Xiao felt pitiful.

Looks like I'll have to take these homeless leeks into my warm arms and show them that love really exists in the world.

After the Crimson Dynasty announced the wanted order of Sorokin, Gaud's case seemed to have finally settled. The dynasty did not do anything after that, and everything went back to normal.

The focus of the galactic society shifted with it and back to the developments of the Flickering World. The fourth exploration phase had already finished, ending with the exit of the Super Star Cluster Alliance. There would still be the fifth phase, the sixth phase, and so on. All would be focused on developing peacefully. The developments afterward did not have much to do with the Beyond Grade A allies.

A few months later, the Germinal Financial Group finally digested the 'inheritance' of the Limitless Financial Group and submitted a detailed report to Han Xiao.

...

In his office, Han Xiao carefully read through the report on the screen. After a while, he finally nodded with satisfaction and looked at the remote projections of Sylvia and Iapetus in front of him.

"You guys have done a good job consuming these businesses of the Limitless Financial Group. The army has taken a huge step in the progress of expanding its subdivisions in the various Star Fields, at least saving twenty years' time."

"It's all thanks to your guidance. You're the lighthouse of the army, showing us the path." Sylvia smiled lustfully.

Han Xiao caressed the back of his palm and said, "I also saw on the report that we recruited some of Sorokin's offspring. Some even actively chose to join us..."

"That's because no one can resist your charm." Sylvia did it again.

Han Xiao looked at her oddly.

What's going on with this woman today? Did her personality change?

Han Xiao ignored her, turned to look at Iapetus, and said, "What do you plan to do with Sorokin's offspring?"

Iapetus rubbed his moustache and slowly said, "Although Sorokin escaped for his crimes, his offspring are innocent. Some of them were raised as elites and had high management positions in the Limitless Financial Group. They're very capable, so taking these people in is great for the Germinal Financial Group. Of course, I'll test them before giving them positions, limit the power they have, and split them up into different management positions."

"Hmm, do as you said."

Although Han Xiao felt like it might be immoral for them to join the person who caused Sorokin to go missing, he felt like given Sorokin's personality, giving birth to offspring was probably just to raise trustworthy assistants; he would not be too emotionally attached to him.

Beyond Grade As breeding offspring as assistants was very common. Most people would carry out group activities at most to increase efficiency. Beast Ancestor was the only one in this era who was so extreme about it.

"Offspring are indeed good. They can be raised systematically from a young age. Maybe I should start to breed some babies," Han Xiao mumbled.

Sylvia's eyes lit up instantly. "I'll do it! Maternity leave is still leave. I don't mind it!"

Han Xiao almost fell down from his chair from shock.

What, are you already this desperate for the sake of taking leave now?

Not only do you want to take leave, but you even want to sleep with your boss! How do you think something that incredible will happen?

Iapetus coughed on the side and whispered, "If you want to take maternity leave, I can help too..."

Sylvia glared at him. "Keep dreaming!"

Iapetus's expression froze. Facing Han Xiao's meaningful stare, he wisely went offline.

Only two of them were left in the room. Sylvia suddenly smiled lustfully, shook her waist left and right, and walked to Han Xiao. She pressed her arms on the table, leaned forward, pressed her lips near Han Xiao's ears, and whispered, "I wasn't kidding. What do you think of me?"

"Is today your estrus cycle? Looks like I have to remember this date and calculate your cycle so I can dodge you in the future."

Sylvia's face twitched, and her smile became stiff. She did her best to not lash out and said with a suggestive tone, "Do you really not know just how charming you are? My admiration for you has flooded since long ago. Are you really going to treat me like this?"

"Stop it. It's not useful to me. Say what you want to say."

Han Xiao was unaffected. He pressed on Sylvia's forehead and pushed her head away.

Excuse me, I'm a righteous man. I have never practiced the "if there's something to do, let the secretary do it; if there's nothing to do, do the secretary" system.

Usually, you were always dismissive of me, but today you suddenly turned into an emotionless praising machine. There's definitely something you want from me today.

Sylvia's expression collapsed. She kicked Han Xiao's leg heavily, then rubbed her feet while grinding her teeth with annoyance. "I've been the Chief Administrative Official for decades. You've always used me like a tool! I've had enough. I want to change my position!"

Han Xiao thought it made sense. Although Sylvia was very loyal, she would not be happy about being a tool for so long, especially when the lifespan of Calamity Grades was far shorter than Beyond Grade As. She had basically given her youth to the army.

He always said that the hairline was the durability of the officers, but Han Xiao considered himself to be quite flexible. As long as the request was logical, he would not really treat his officers like tools.

“What do you want to do then?”

“I want you to teach me to become a Beyond Grade A!”

“Huh?” Han Xiao almost thought he had heard wrong.

“I’ve given my heart and soul to the army, putting in my entire youth, but you’re not even willing to teach me!” Sylvia was angry.

“No, no, that’s not true. It’s just that becoming a Beyond Grade A depends on talent. Even if I teach you, you don’t have too high a chance...” Han Xiao sighed.

“I don’t care. I just want you to teach me!”

Sylvia pulled Han Xiao’s arm and shook it like she was begging him. In front of others, she was a decisive, capable, and smart Chief Administrative Official. But in front of Han Xiao, she was still occasionally that little girl in the past.

“Alright, alright, after you’ve finished the handover for your job, come back as my student.” Han Xiao agreed.

Hearing this, Sylvia finally smiled brightly. She kissed Han Xiao’s cheek and ran away like a thief.

At the door, Sylvia stopped, turned, and smiled like a fairy with a slightly blushed face. She said with a playful tone, “I really wasn’t kidding about what I said earlier.”

Then, before Han Xiao could respond, she ran away.

“Tsk, as if I’d believe you, you little minx.” Han Xiao shook his head and wiped away the lipstick on his face.

In his previous life, after Sylvia’s father was sent into a prison, Sylvia could only wander in the universe without a goal. Now, the army had given her a home and a goal she could work for.

Without him knowing, many people’s fates had changed because of him.

“Sylvia’s potential shouldn’t be enough to reach Beyond Grade A, but nothing is absolute. Even garbage like Kohler and Beyoni can become Beyond Grade As, after all. With my teachings, Sylvia might not be completely hopeless... I shall teach her some knowledge from Jayz’s treasure trove.”

Han Xiao nodded in his head.

Beep beep beep!

At this time, his communicator suddenly rang. He took it out and to his surprise. It was a call from Ames.

Sylvia just left seconds ago and Ames already called?

So coincidental, is this the sixth sense of woman?

Han Xiao shivered slightly.

He focused his mind and picked up.

Ames appeared on the screen holding her cheek with her hand and smiling elegantly.

“We’ve not met for quite some time. Do you want to come and have a chat? Aesop brewed a batch of new wine.”

“That’s it? No, no!”

“Also... I might slightly, a little tiny bit, miss you.” Ames blinked.

“Let’s go.”

Without hesitation, Han Xiao put on the King suit immediately.

For the past few years, other than the plenary, he did not meet with Ames much. He had been busy with plotting and studying machinery. He felt a bit sorry for it. Furthermore, he had just dealt with a huge matter, so he also needed some soothing and stress relief.

Chapter 1248 Galaxy Calendar Year 780

In Ames’ palace at the center of Floating Dragon Island, Han Xiao arrived through teleportation and saw a round table in front of him right away. Neatly arranged snacks and fruits were placed on top. Ames sat on a chair beside it. Ames was smiling at the communicator when he arrived, only hanging up when she saw him. She kept the communicator and shifted her eyes onto him, maintaining a faint smile.

“I knew you’d come. Sit, the wine is ready.”

Han Xiao walked up and sat beside Ames. He sighed and said, “I’ve been busy lately and didn’t come for quite some time. I’ve neglected you.”

“When are you ever not busy?” Ames replied.

Han Xiao shook his head, picked up a glass, and drank the wine. He tutted and said, “Why does it taste different from the last time?”

“Aesop improved the recipe the last time he returned.”

Ames controlled her force field and filled Han Xiao’s glass up.

Han Xiao smiled and said, “Speaking of which, after Aesop was kidnapped, I was surprised you didn’t reject Aesop’s request to travel. I thought you’d ground him for a very long time.”

“I wouldn’t have agreed if not for the Soul Swapper.” Ames snorted softly.

After Feidin acquired the Soul Swapper, Han Xiao had come up with a plan for Aesop. After long consideration, Aesop had taken his suggestion and asked Feidin to temporarily swap his soul into

someone else so that he could go out. It was secretive and safe. In the end, Ames agreed with his request.

“The Soul Swapper is indeed nice. Sadly, Feidin is only at the Calamity Grade for now. The functions he can use are limited.” Han Xiao shook his head. He suddenly thought of something and said, “I have a gift for you.”

“A gift?” Ames raised her brows.

Han Xiao took out a pure white small sphere from his pocket. He passed to Ames, smiled, and said, “This is a Universal Treasure I happened to obtain. It can help Espers develop their ability. It’s for you.”

Ames accepted the small sphere, toyed with it using her force field, and said curiously, “What’s this thing’s name? How do I use it?”

“Just call it Esper Ability Enhancement Orb. It’s easy to use. Just apply energy to it every day. Basically, play with it.”

Han Xiao briefly explained its effects.

This was one of the Universal Treasures that Sorokin secretly collected and was seized by him. According to the item details on the interface, this thing could randomly enhance the various ability parameters of Espers. The effects would only be triggered if it was worn for a long time. The chance was unknown, and the magnitude of the enhancement each time was not high.

At its maximum, it could at most increase the Esper Ability’s potential by one grade. After that, it would lose effects on the same user.

However, the enhancement effects would not certainly occur. It might be completely useless too. According to the introduction, the chance of triggering the enhancement relied on Luck to a certain extent... Basically, it despised unlucky people.

Han Xiao recalled that Ames’ Luck was quite high, so she should be able to trigger this treasure. After she was done using it, given her relationship with Hila and Aurora, why would she not lend it to them? It was perfect.

“I’ll take it then, thanks.” Ames toyed with it for a while and put it away.

In the past years, Han Xiao had given her gifts frequently. A few years ago, he had even secretly given her the entire set of Esper class knowledge. She almost thought Han Xiao hacked into the dynasty’s database.

The two of them chatted while eating snacks.

Most of the time, Han Xiao was speaking, and Ames was listening with a smile, staring at Han Xiao and holding her chin with her hands.

After chatting for some time, Ames suddenly interrupted Han Xiao and said, “I’ve realized you’ve had a lot on your mind in the past few years.”

Han Xiao was stunned for a moment. “How did you notice?”

"I know you too well." Ames smiled. "Do you want to talk to me about it?"

Han Xiao sighed.

Indeed, after he found out about the Sanctums, he had been feeling more stressed mentally. He had been spending all his time studying machines and becoming stronger in the past few years, keeping himself busy and not slacking off.

Han Xiao thought about it and said with a deep voice, "In the past few years, I've been thinking about one question. What if our world is just an illusion that exists only in the past and the things we see are only mirages in a cell?"

"Why did you suddenly have this thought?" Ames was curious.

"... I just happened to discover some information and made some connections."

Han Xiao's answer was ambiguous. Of course, he was not going to easily share the information about the Celestial Star Alliance, the iterations of the universe, and the Sanctums.

Actually, he had been suspicious of this since long ago. He had only buried it because he knew it was very difficult to find the answer for it. He only had more speculations after finding out about the Sanctums.

Although Ames did not understand what Han Xiao was talking about, he could sense the pressure from Han Xiao's tone. It sounded somewhat distant, and she felt something she rarely ever felt from Han Xiao. He sounded a tiny bit lost.

Most of the time, Han Xiao was very confident. She rarely ever saw Han Xiao like this. Although she did not know what caused Han Xiao to be so stressed, to her, it did not matter. What mattered was that she knew this man needed her comforting.

Having thought of that, Ames smiled.

"It doesn't matter. I know that our breath is real, the warmth I feel is real, and your touch is real..."

While saying, Ames held Han Xiao's hand in her hands and whispered, "And I'm real too."

The two of them looked into each other's eyes for almost twenty seconds.

"... Ahem, we're not in the secondary dimensions."

Han Xiao suddenly coughed and pulled his hand away.

"Hehe." Ames laughed softly with unknown meaning.

The two of them both skipped this topic without saying anything and chatted for a few more hours before Han Xiao bade farewell and teleported away.

Looking at the empty seat, Ames suddenly sighed.

After spending so much time with Black Star, she had long found out that although Black Star looked like he had many friends, for some reason, he always kept his heart locked up and would not let anyone walk into it.

...

In the place where Gaud was 'raised', a spaceship stopped at the port, and the hatch opened. Two rows of people appeared, one boarding it and another alighting. Most of the people in the former were dejected, while the people in the latter looked full of confidence.

This was a transport ship that carried a new batch of students in. It was also in charge of taking away the students who were disqualified from the training base.

Karlot was in the row of people boarding the ship. He could not help but glance back at the training base.

For all the time, Karlot had been on the edge of the disqualified list every term. If not because of what Gaud said back then, he would have been kicked out by the manager of the base long ago. Now, however, Gaud was nowhere to be found, so what he said, of course, became meaningless. The manager of the base no longer gave Karlot special treatment and placed him on the disqualified list in this term, no longer giving him advanced training.

"I've studied for almost a decade here. It's a shame I couldn't remain here..."

Karlot sighed softly.

He was not really down, just felt it was a pity.

He had worked hard for so long and only just discovered the right training method of the Super system, but before he could change the way he trained, he was kicked out...

"Never mind. At least the studies I did in these ten years had not gone to waste. As long as I've learned something, it's good enough."

Karlot shook his head, turned back to look at his front, and walked up the spaceship in big steps. The vibe he gave off was completely different from the dejected crowd around him.

...

After the dust settled on Gaud and Sorokin's cases, the galactic society finally entered a period of stable development.

The Super Star Cluster civilizations defeated in the Flickering War quietly licked their wounds, while the other organizations who took part in the war continued to rest and digest the profits of the exploration. A time of stability was needed after the leader of the Crimson Dynasty and the Federation of Light changed. On the other hand, the Beyond Grade A Association was continuing to build the profit network.

While all sides peacefully developed in this calm atmosphere, the fifth, sixth, and the rest of the exploration phases of the Flickering World were smoothly completed. The Flickering World was finally added to the map of the explored universe, making the galactic society even more prosperous than before, bringing in countless business opportunities.

Even a pig could fly with a strong enough wind. The development of the Flickering World bred many new organizations. New consortiums appeared in the Flickering World every once a while.

After the Black Star Army consumed part of the Limitless Financial Group's businesses, it grew even quicker and expanded rapidly in the various Star Fields. Its force became larger and larger, and Han Xiao's position increased along with it.

The two hidden threats, Gaud and Sorokin, had been dealt with, and Manison was accumulating strength with a low profile, so no one in the universe dared to mess with Han Xiao in this period. He finally entered the longest peaceful development period he had ever experienced.

Other than the daily activities, Han Xiao spent the rest of his time studying Jayz's technology while occasionally trying to break down the life energy. Every day was spent meaningfully.

As someone who had always been at the center of the attention and always slapped himself in the face in the end every time he said he wanted to keep a low profile for some time, Han Xiao finally faded out of the sights of the outside world.

Although the universe still remembered him, the stage was cleared for newbies to shine.

This situation lasted all the way to Galaxy Calendar Year 780. On this day, the Beyond Grade A Association welcomed its fiftieth anniversary.

This meant that the president position that lasted for fifty years every term was going to change. It was finally time for the election.

Chapter 1249 Forty Years

After growing steadily for forty years, the Black Star Army's territory was already very prosperous, and the number of undeveloped areas was rapidly decreasing. The Sigma Star System in the Garu Star Cluster was the Black Star Army's Flickering World logistics headquarters. It was not open to outsiders. A cluster of gentle pale-golden energy floated in an area surrounded by many satellite bases like a glowing golden asteroid. It was expanding and shrinking as if it was breathing, sending out rings of light gold energy rhythmically like ripples. Two figures, one black and one red, hovered near this 'asteroid'. Around them were countless mechanical soldiers that formed a line of defense guarding the area.

"This day has finally come. Aurora has stepped into our territory..." the red figure said softly with a tint of satisfaction and pride. A gentle smile appeared on her usually-cold face.

The two of them were Han Xiao and Hila. The glowing golden 'asteroid' nearby was indeed Aurora, who was going through the last step of transforming into a Beyond Grade A.

The last forty years had left no traces on Hila. Other than her vibe being colder and more distinguished, her appearance did not change at all. To normal Beyond Grade As, this amount of time was equivalent to about six to seven years, and to a special Beyond Grade A like Hila who controlled death, it was but the blink of an eye.

Han Xiao smiled. "If Aurora was accumulating energy on her own, it'd probably take more than a hundred years for her to become a Beyond Grade A. This is even quicker than I expected."

His appearance did not change much too, but his vibe became more unfathomable.

The army had steadily expanded over the last forty years, and the bonuses of [Proof of Leadership] increased along with it. Through studying Jayz's treasure trove, Han Xiao already increased his God's Trait Transformation to a very high level. He was remarkably stronger than forty years prior.

The leek harvesting technique using the Holy Light Particle reduced Aurora's process of accumulating energy. With her special trait of having no energy limit on top, becoming a Beyond Grade A was just a matter of time for Aurora. The time it took was close to what Han Xiao speculated.

After quite some time, the golden 'asteroid' in front of the two of them finally started to shrink. From an enormous cluster of light, it turned into a silhouette, glowing with light gold light all over, giving off a divine vibe like the combination of mothership and holiness.

Aurora's appearance changed drastically. She became taller, and her face became gorgeously beautiful; she had the face of an angel and the body of a devil. Her entire style turned from adorable to alluring. It was almost like a completely different person.

Seeing this, Han Xiao and Hila flew over to Aurora and sized her up, looking astonished.

"Why do you look different?" Hila compared her height with Aurora and realized Aurora was surprisingly even about fifteen centimeters taller than her.

Han Xiao stared and studied Aurora's body for a while and made a decisive conclusion. "This must be the second puberty!"

"This is my new ability. I can control the shape of my body now." Aurora giggled. Her body glowed, and she instantly returned to her normal tiny body shape. "How was that? Was I prettier than you, sis? I can change back anytime."

Hila tutted, changed the topic, and asked, "What other abilities do you have?"

Aurora performed them right away. All her abilities were enhanced. She did not have to develop her abilities on her own and directly inherited the progress from her predecessor. She instantly acquired many abilities and talents, fully displaying the advantages of being a cheater.

After entering the Beyond Grade A realm, the life energy Aurora could produce every day multiplied by countless times. She basically did not have to worry about not having enough of it at all. Furthermore, she even got an aura. The allies on her side would have a drastically higher regeneration speed if they were within a certain range of her. The range of this aura would even grow as she became stronger.

"Also, I should be able to perfectly produce revival energy now."

While speaking, Aurora flicked her finger and sent out a cluster of life energy. Hila saw it and released a cluster of death energy too. The two fused together and turned into a cluster of golden-orange revival energy. The strengths of the two types of energy achieved a stable balance.

"Now that you're a Beyond Grade A, you only have to briefly familiarize with your abilities, and we will be able to use the reviving function of the Underworld," Hila said.

The seven... oh no, eight Hero Spirit Kings had been doing nothing in the Underworld. Now that Aurora had become a Beyond Grade A, the last piece of the puzzle was found. These Hero Spirits would be able to have combat capabilities.

With the help of the eight Hero Spirit Kings of the Underworld, the two sisters leaped right to the front of the list of the strongest people in the universe. This was the biggest inheritance left by their predecessors. With enough strength to protect herself, the summoning style would become Aurora's best combat mode.

Han Xiao smiled and said, "You're a Beyond Grade A now. Do you want to become a deputy army commander like your sister, or do you have other plans?"

Aurora's eyes spun, and she said with excitement, "I can protect myself now. Does that mean I can act freely?"

"... Technically, yes." Han Xiao could only nod.

"Then I want to travel alone. Don't stop me." Aurora's tone was filled with anticipation. She had been extremely bored for years. She basically could not go anywhere at all. All she wanted to do now was travel the universe.

Han Xiao and Hila exchanged a look and saw the resignation in each other's eyes.

Now that Aurora had become a Beyond Grade A, they could no longer arrange everything for her like before. They had to respect her personal will.

However, at least there was no need to worry about her safety. Aurora could solve most accidents with her current capability.

"I'll approve it, but you have to take a Throne with you," Hila said with a serious tone.

Aurora was exhilarated. She turned to look at Han Xiao and said, "By the way, I can join the Beyond Grade A Association now, right?"

She had been longing for the Beyond Grade A Association for a very long time. She had heard that all of its members were talented and sweet. She had been wanting to see for herself.

"Okay, I'll arrange to put you in... Hmm, the presidential election is in two months. Letting you in will increase my chances too."

Han Xiao did not reject her.

Now that Aurora had grown, she had more than enough power to protect herself. There was no need to continue hiding her. Plus, she did not want to hide either. She was going to join the association sooner or later.

Although this would make the various organizations once again be reminded of the two Primordial sisters, Han Xiao could deal with it now.

Aurora's ability might even assist in uniting the Beyond Grade As... Who did not want to last longer?

Aurora blinked and said, "Are you sure you'll become the president this time?"

Han Xiao smiled. "At least ninety percent sure."

Over the last fifty years, the Beyond Grade A Association had already completed some of its initial goals. It successfully became a huge profit network. Although it met obstructions from the three Universal Civilizations along the way, there were no too intense conflicts.

Therefore, in the past few years, he did not hold back on causing problems for Manison. He had already obtained the highest reputation in the association; Manison could only be a mascot most of the time.

Other than the support of the internal members, the exterior organizations also supported him. If things remained this way, he would certainly take over the position of the president during the plenary in two months and bring the Beyond Grade A Association into an age led by Black Star.

However, he did not know what Manison had been doing over the last few decades since he had been keeping a low profile all this time. Han Xiao did not know if he would be watching him become the president or do something... However, no matter what, Han Xiao had already made the necessary preparations.

After chatting for a while, Hila brought Aurora to the Underworld to familiarize herself with her abilities, leaving Han Xiao alone.

Han Xiao watched the two of them leave. "The army has now raised a second Beyond Grade A. It's the only example. It'll be even better if Lothaire makes a breakthrough too."

Lothaire had been training hard and improving rapidly in the past forty years. He was already on the path of transformation. However, unlike Aurora, he had to break through some obstacles and was still some distance away from Beyond Grade A. As for the other officers of the army, no one showed any signs of becoming a Beyond Grade A any time soon.

Han Xiao caressed his chin and thought about the presidential election in two months' time.

Becoming the president was not even the most important thing; the chain reactions it would cause were. For example, the elderlies of the Holy Accord organization had remained quiet for decades, and they agreed with Han Xiao to only appear after he became the Beyond Grade A Association president.

Han Xiao could imagine the reactions of the entire galactic society—even though many details were changed, it would most certainly go back to the path of the Calamity of the Supers incident.

"Quite a number of rookies have been born in the last forty years and have been active in the universe, while I've been keeping a low profile for so long. Looks like I'll be returning to the center of the public attention once again."

...

The Beyond Grade A Association was already a giant in the galactic society. The election of the president received the attention of countless organizations.

On the Federation of Light's mother planet, the current federation president, Louis Rocky, tapped the table and said to the chief elder in front of him with a deep voice, "The Beyond Grade A Association is about to have an election. Manison will definitely be beaten by Black Star. What ideas do you guys have?"

The chief elder shook his head and said, "This is unavoidable. Although Black Star is the dynasty's ally, their honeymoon period has ended. Letting him become the president won't be a bad thing for us."

Louis frowned. "I'm not talking about Black Star alone... Not even a single rookie born in the past forty years joined the three Universal Civilizations. All of them went to the Beyond Grade A Association. The existence of the association is already influencing our interests."

As the Beyond Grade A Association grew, the three Universal Civilizations had been having a harder time controlling it. For example, the spread of knowledge privately happening between Beyond Grade As became more and more frequent, causing the three Universal Civilizations' system of attracting new Beyond Grade As by monopolizing the Ultimate Knowledges of all the classes to be severely impacted. They could not recruit any new allies.

Of course, the three Universal Civilizations never agreed to let the association pass around knowledge, so this kind of act could be considered a violation of the laws the three Universal Civilizations set. However, the association did not openly share the knowledge, so it would be extremely difficult for the three Universal Civilizations to find who was responsible for what. Hence, they could not prevent the association's members from spreading the knowledge in private. With the association backing them, the Beyond Grade As cared less and less about the three Universal Civilizations causing trouble for them.

"This is indeed a problem, but to solve it, we'll have to face the Beyond Grade A Association directly, which will have enormous consequences. I suggest you do not do anything before coming up with a fully developed plan," another elder said.

Louis tapped the table and narrowed his eyes.

The former president Bader did not want to flip the table on the Beyond Grade As during his term, so this mission fell to him. Louis had no choice but to take responsibility.

Through the past decades, he had become more and more certain that the Beyond Grade A Association was the top problem he had to solve during his term.

From the way Louis looked at it, the Crimson Dynasty and the Arcane Church probably had the same thought.

...

In a certain base of the Holy Accord...

"The Beyond Grade A Association's presidential election is finally here..."

"After Black Star gets elected, we'll be able to go out as promised."

The many Primordial Ones looked at the news on the virtual screen. Some were excited; some were looking forward. They chatted softly.

Oathkeeper stood beside the door with his arms crossed, mumbling.

"This day still came... Black Star, I hope your predictions are right."

Chapter 1250 Headstrong

As only a limited number of people knew about it and the army did not promote it, the news of Aurora becoming a Beyond Grade A did not spread to the outside world. Less than half a month later, Han Xiao hosted a welcome plenary just for her. The welcome meeting was being hosted at the association headquarters on Planet Finn.

The remote projections of the Beyond Great As sat in the venue. Compared to forty years ago, there were more seats now. Beside Hila, an empty seat was added for Aurora.

At this time, the Beyond Grade As present were all chatting and curiously guessing the identity of this new Beyond Grade A.

As the information had not been leaked, the people present only knew that another new Beyond Grade A had been born in the universe. They did not know who this rookie was.

“I wonder if the rookie is a neutral or a member of a big organization.”

“There’s no information anywhere at all, and Black Star’s already recruited this guy. I have a feeling this rookie is closely related to Black Star.”

“I’m only curious about what Super class this rookie is.”

“I hope it’s not a Pugilist. There’s already enough people with clogged brains...”

The people chatted within their factions.

After forty years, many more factions were formed in the Beyond Grade A Association.

Some were classified by the huge organization they were in—for example, the three Universal Civilizations direct members, their allies, and the neutral ones. Some were classified by their partnerships, like those Beyond Grade As whose organization worked very well with each other. Others were classified by different classes. These factions were formed because of the private spread of the Ultimate Knowledges, which caused the Beyond Grade As in various classes to gather around the stronger ones with the same class as them.

Because of that, many members hoped the rookie had the same class as them so that they could expand their faction.

Han Xiao let them chat freely for a while. He then clapped and smiled.

“Alright, let’s keep it down and welcome the rookie.”

Hearing that the vice president had spoken, the members all shut their mouths, ignoring Manison, who was resting with his eyes closed.

Not long after, the side gate of the venue opened. The mature version of Aurora walked in and sized up everyone curiously.

The Beyond Grade As present also looked at her with curiosity and mumbled softly.

“So, she’s the new Beyond Grade A. Doesn’t look like a Pugilist, great.”

“Hmm, I don’t know her. I know all the renowned Beyond Grade A seeds in the universe. She’s definitely not one of them.”

“That’s weird. She looks familiar to me... Don’t you guys think she looks a little similar to Hila?”

At this time, Han Xiao spoke. “This rookie’s name is Aurora. She only stepped into the Beyond Grade A territory not long ago. She’s Hila’s sister and also is a member of the Black Star Army. Her ability is the complete opposite of Hila’s. She controls life energy. This can help others to quickly regenerate their wounds and recover their life force... Aurora, on behalf of the Beyond Grade A Association, I welcome you.”

As soon as he said that, shock appeared on almost everyone’s face.

This rookie is a Black Star Army officer again?

She’s even the relative of another Beyond Grade A. What are the chances of that?

“One controls death; one controls life. And they’re sisters! Why does this sound familiar?” someone murmured.

Hearing this, many people recalled that there was a similar pair of sisters among the Primordial Ones.

Same Esper Abilities, same two sisters... this is too coincidental!

If someone were to say the two sisters were completely unrelated to the Primordial sisters from history, the vast majority of people there would never believe it.

Recalling the stories of the Primordial sisters, the way they looked at Hila and Aurora changed subtly. On top of disbelief, a tint of desire appeared.

Hila’s ability could reduce people’s life span. If her sister’s ability was the opposite, did that mean she could increase people’s life span? Or could she even imitate the Primordial Ones and create the legendary ‘Underworld’?

Most people present had ideas of befriending Aurora and immediately welcomed her. They were very enthusiastic.

They avoided Hila as much as possible but acted the complete opposite with Aurora.

Seeing this, Hila coldly warned, “Don’t have any ideas about my younger sister. I won’t hold back.”

“We’re greeting Aurora. What does it have to do with you?”

Many snorted.

Although they feared Hila’s ability, they could not act that way.

However, words were one thing. Indeed, not many dared have any vicious thoughts. After operating for fifty years, the association had already established a reputation. Not many were willing to violate the rules and do anything to its members. Furthermore, most people feared the giant organization, the Black Star Army. Even if they were not afraid of Hila, they had to consider Black Star too.

As they thought of Black Star, they could not help but feel bitter and jealous.

He had acquired another Beyond Grade A officer... Where in the world did Black Star find so many top talents from?

“Er, I’m Aurora. I’m glad to join the association...”

Aurora came to her seat and briefly introduced herself. She then read the script she had memorized and said the standard things like ‘it’s an honor to be a part of the association’.

The others responded kindly.

Hila watched on the side and secretly curled her lips.

Tsk, you dogs. I’ve never seen you this enthusiastic toward me before...

Aurora was the focus of today’s welcome meeting. She had finally entered the Beyond Grade A circle and was filled with curiosity. In the face of the others trying to befriend her, she kept on talking excitedly, creating a clear contrast with Hila’s cold image.

From her own words, the others confirmed that Aurora could extend their life span. They were overjoyed.

However, as soon as they mentioned anything about requesting her to do it, Aurora kicked the ball to Han Xiao and stated that she would only listen to Black Star. This was discussed beforehand to increase Han Xiao’s reputation and position further, increasing his chances of being reelected as much as possible.

Hearing this, the people looked at Han Xiao. When they saw that he was smiling, they immediately knew that they had to pay a price for Han Xiao to approve their requests. After knowing him for so many years, they knew that Black Star was not easy to deal with or deceive. The presidential election was very soon; it was easy to figure out what Black Star was trying to convey.

After chatting for some time, someone could not hold back his curiosity and asked, “Why do you work for the Black Star Army?”

“Well, Black Star saved me...” Aurora briefly shared her experience in the Germinal Organization, saying that Black Star had saved her life.

Hearing this, even those who knew about Black Star’s early history were astonished.

A puny surface civilizations organization that made three Beyond Grade As, just how blessed is this Germinal Organization?

After some time, seeing that they chatted about enough, Han Xiao spoke and changed the topic.

“Alright, you’ve all met. Let me use this opportunity to say something. The next plenary will be the presidential election. Manison will step down then, and all members can run. The election will be in the form of voting, and everyone has one vote. Don’t forget.”

The people nodded.

At the same time, Manison’s eyes opened slightly. He glanced at Han Xiao and closed them again.

...

On a certain planet in the Flickering World...

“The next presidential election, huh? If I can take that seat...”

Inside a palace, Royce’s eyes gleamed.

He was a relatively new Beyond Grade A. With the assistance of this platform, he quickly formed his own organization. Therefore, he knew what power the association had very well and had been eyeing it all along. Occasionally, he would fantasize about himself being on top of it.

The next president would be elected in two months’ time, and Royce felt his chance was here.

As a rookie, he knew that he could not compete with seniors like Black Star. However, the ambition in his chest made him want to give it a try no matter what.

What if he made it?

He was a doer. As soon as he had that thought, he immediately started to act on it.

“I’m definitely no match for Black Star in terms of strength, but the election is vote based. Although my chance is thin, it’s not completely hopeless...”

Royce’s eyes spun rapidly.

The rookies who had just stepped into the Beyond Grade A circle for a short amount of time had no way of finding out about Han Xiao’s personal relationship with the other members, so he did not have a strong sense of Black Star’s connections.

Therefore, in Royce’s eyes, he did not have completely no chance.

One of the reasons he dared do this was that as a member of the association, his life would not be in danger.

In terms of combat, although Royce admitted he was no match for Han Xiao, he felt the difference would not be too big.

When Royce came to fame, Han Xiao had kept a low profile for quite some time. Everything he knew about Black Star’s strength came from hearing it from others; he had never experienced it personally, nor could he really see the details by looking at the videos on the internet.

Overconfidence was a common problem for most new Beyond Grade As. They were ambitious and headstrong, always dreaming of taking over those at the peak.

Usually, only a beating from society could cure this illness, but ever since Royce became a Beyond Grade A, he had yet to receive any ‘treatment’.

“Although Black Star wants to become the president, who said I can’t take it from him?”

Royce started planning in his head and was looking forward to it.

...

Two months passed very quickly, and the election of the Beyond Grade A Association came as expected. The various organizations in the universe all focused their attention and waited for the results.

Inside the closed venue, all members came online earlier than usual. The atmosphere was solemn. The people's eyes kept moving back and forth between Manison and Han Xiao.

"Ahem, since everyone is here, let's start," Han Xiao said. He then looked at Manison with a smile. "Let's have the president host the meeting."

Manison glanced at him, slowly stood up, and looked around the entire venue.

After a short silence, Manison then spoke. "The association rules state that the president will be elected every fifty years. Now that fifty years have passed, I'll be stepping down from the president position and will not be running today."

As soon as he said that, the people were stunned.

Although most people knew that Manison would not be re-elected, no one felt he would easily give up. To their surprise, Manison gave up running for president completely.

Han Xiao was a little surprised too. He was already prepared to debate with Manison, but Manison directly gave up.

Odd, this doesn't suit old Manison's personality!

"Are you really not running? Is it because you're worried about being embarrassed when you lose to me?" Han Xiao asked to confirm.

"Humph." Manison did not reply.

Seeing this, Han Xiao shook his head.

No matter what Manison was thinking, as long as he did not run, his biggest competitor would be gone. Becoming the president was almost certain for Han Xiao.

"If that's the case, I'll be the first to run." Han Xiao looked around at the expression on everyone's faces and asked, "Who else?"

Many people looked away and did not meet his eyes.

Judging from the current situation, it was basically already decided that Black Star would become the president. Plus, he was indeed the most suitable for it.

None of the peak Beyond Grade As who were the most qualified to run even spoke, so most people read the room and shut their mouths. They were thinking they might as well let Black Star be the only one running so that the voting round could be skipped, and he would become the president on the spot.

However, when everyone thought that was how it was going to be, a voice filled with confidence sounded.

"I'll run!"

Who? Who's so headstrong?

The people were shocked. As they turned around, their expressions became odd.

Royce raised his hand and remained in the posture. He had an excited smile on his face as if he was enjoying the moment of being the center of attention.

“Are you sure?” Han Xiao was a little surprised.

“Anyone can run anyway, so why not try it? What if I win?” Royce was not afraid at all and looked directly at Han Xiao’s eyes, giving the vibe of confronting him directly.

This looked quite hot-blooded on the surface, but in the eyes of the people present, it was nothing but ridiculous.

This rookie is so daring. Does he really want to wrestle with Black Star?

At the same time, Aurora quietly whispered into Hila’s ear and asked, “This guy should be a Pugilist, right?”

Hila glanced at her.

“You guessed that right.”