

The Mechanic 441

Chapter 441: Version 1.0 Update (3)

In unknown chaos, the first beam of light pierced through the everlasting fog of darkness. The sense called 'vision' awoke the obscure consciousness. Through the 'eyes' of its 'body', vibrant colors shattered the world made of black and white. Everything was fresh and interesting.

Then, more information came. The noise, the cold air, and the pungent metal.

It insatiably wanted to feel more things, but it could only see through the eyes of this body. It tried to turn its head, but its body did not move as its mind commanded. It could only feel but not control.

It anxiously wanted to move but could not. It started crying silently like a baby, but no one could hear it.

An unknown amount of time had passed since it awoke. Through this body, it saw countless upright creatures come and go, carrying out activities that it could not understand.

I want... I want more...

After some time, the number of visions started to slowly increase.

Water fell onto the leaf and slowly rolled down it. It stared at the droplet, wondering why it did not tickle.

Roots dug into the soil, and the fertilizer brought a sense of satisfaction, like the feeling the upright creatures felt when consuming food.

Its nose sniffed, and its hypersensitive sense of smell drew out the prey's escape route.

More and more senses brought a raging stream of data. It greedily accepted everything.

Then, a new sense was born. It felt microorganisms like a running stream. To its surprise, it discovered that this was the first thing that it could control, like an obedient army.

Is this the sense that belongs to me?

No, it's not.

I am all; all is me.

...

In Sanctuary Three, ever since an officer breathed in some leaked paralyzing gas and ended up lying in bed for seventeen days and three hours, Emerald Grass' alchemy room was deemed a forbidden area.

Compared to when Han Xiao left, the size of the alchemy room was many times larger with more precise devices. Rows of colorful liquid drugs were placed on the shelves. On the table were transparent glass drawers with different plants inside, all original materials used to make drugs.

"Hmm..." Emerald Grass wore a white coat, anti-corrosion gloves, and a pair of glasses, humming and blending some kind of plant drug.

Her power to control plants allowed her to feel the plants, and thus accurately control the dose of drugs.

Sweeping aside her hair, she reached out, opened a drawer, and tore off a petal. As she was going to throw it into the device and use it as the raw material, her movements suddenly stopped.

Her power sensed something peeking, but it disappeared after a very short instant, almost like an illusion. Emerald Grass furrowed her brows slightly and looked toward the source of that feeling, but it was the plant that she had taken the petal from.

“Strange,” Emerald Grass mumbled. She pondered and reached out to touch the plant again.

The instant her fingers touched the plant, a shiver passed through her Esper power sense like an electric current and stabbed her heart deeply.

Quickly pulling her hand away, Emerald Grass took a few steps back and looked at the plant with shock and suspicion.

“It’s not an illusion... there’s a very real sense of peeking when I touched it...”

If not for her power to observe the tiniest changes in plants, she would not have felt the change.

Disbelief flashed through her eyes.

“This plant, is it consciously sensing me?”

Emerald Grass suddenly thought of something. Her expression changed, and she hastily touched every plant in the room. Most plants did not change, but a quarter of the plants gave her the same feeling.

In the enormous alchemy room with not a single other person, she felt like she was surrounded by countless eyes peeking at her silently.

A shiver went down her spine uncontrollably.

These immobile plants seemed to have grown eyes, looking at and observing her.

“Something’s wrong... something’s very wrong...” Emerald Grass murmured.

...

It was late at night.

In the Internal Personnel Residential Area inside the sanctuary core area, Hila, who was in a black windbreaker, was sitting on the rooftop, looking up at the starry night.

Ever since Han Xiao left, she would go up to the rooftop occasionally and look up at the stars blankly.

In the past year, Hila had not left the sanctuary, and Aurora’s health had recovered.

“Whoo...” A four-meter-tall gigantic white bear growled softly. This bear was circling around the courtyard on its fours, and a blonde girl was sitting on its back, smiling and laughing brightly. Her voice was young, energetic, and full of life.

Aurora’s power was recovering slowly, and she was gradually growing taller. She was not skinny and tiny like before anymore; her skin became whiter and smoother with a tint of healthy redness. Bear Cub,

who followed her around, was growing quickly, too. Its fur was smooth, soft, and slightly reflective. On its forehead, chest, arms, and thighs, there were scales that looked like ice crystals. It looked tough and muscular, and its tiny eyes looked both cute and fearsome.

Hila looked down, furrowed her brows, and said, "Don't run too fast and be careful not to fall."

"Are you looking at the moon again, Sis?" Aurora looked up.

"The moon isn't what I'm looking at."

"I know, you must be thinking of uncle Black Phantom." Aurora smiled and said, "I miss him, too."

"Who says I'm missing him." Hila snorted. "I'm just curious about what the universe looks like. Hmm... I only occasionally guess what he's doing in space. That guy left a strange disaster prophecy and left us afraid while he's having fun in space."

Aurora's eyes moved around and blew a shining kiss, which flew to Hila's cheeks.

Hila waved her hands and dissipated the rune of light in front of her. "Stop it."

At this moment, Aurora's movement suddenly stopped. Her smile froze on her face, and her body started to shiver uncontrollably.

"Si—sis..."

"Hmm?" Hila looked down. Her expression immediately dropped, and with a flash of red glow, she appeared beside Aurora in an instant, holding her in her arms. She reached for her forehead and said anxiously, "What's wrong? Are you sick? I'll go find that Pharmacist."

"No..." Aurora opened her mouth with some difficulty, her tiny body still shivering. "My power sensed a very strange creature. No, that thing can't be considered a creature. I don't know what is that either..."

Hila was bewildered. Aurora's power could sense signs of life—she had never seen Aurora get so horrified just because she sensed a certain life form.

"What did you sense?"

Aurora closed her eyes, her lips pale.

"It's very tiny... but very huge too... it's spreading..."

When her eyes reopened, they were filled with horror.

"It's everywhere!"

...

In the Black Star stronghold hall, all the players of the mercenary group were gathered together.

"It's about time." King Admiral looked at the interface. "The version update will start in an hour, let's log off here."

“It’s safer here.” Hao Tian nodded.

“Hmm, we will experience a time skip because of the update. There will be unknown changes, so it’s best to stay in the stronghold,” Frenzied Sword said earnestly.

As one of the players from the closed beta, he knew that there would be a time skip after the update. The original characters and factions would act alone and go through various changes. When the public beta started, he had even been separated from Han Xiao because of this.

No one knew what the duration of the time skip in this version update would be, nor did they know what Black Star would become.

Frenzied Sword only hoped not to be separated from Han Xiao again. He had only narrowly found Han Xiao on Planet Aquamarine, but if they scattered in space, he would probably end up playing the game as if it was a single-player game. Therefore, staying in the Black Star stronghold was the safest choice.

Throughout the whole of Version 1.0, it was the benefits that Black Star had provided that led them to be this strong. Even the players with a different class from Han Xiao became stronger because of Han Xiao’s equipment, not to mention those high reward missions. All the players wanted to continue following Black Star in the next version.

Not only them but the Planet Aquamarine players as well. Every time they watched Bun-Hit-Dog’s videos, they lamented over not being able to be a member of the mercenary group. The fun and adventures came second—the main reason was that there were so many rewards!

We are so jealous!

“Brothers, I shall go first. Let’s have a meal together when there’s a chance.” Bun-Hit-Dog logged off first.

Maple Moon gave a reserved smile, waved goodbye, and disappeared on the spot.

They said goodbye to each other and logged off one after another. Soon, all the players in the mercenary group disappeared.

They were not the only ones—the same thing happened at the same time on all thirteen novice planets. Close to ten million players disappeared together within a short period of time!

The officers of the sanctuary were stunned, and Huang Yu was completely clueless. He had made preparations privately for three entire days, and just as he was about to split the increasing number of Inhumans, they had all disappeared without warning!

What on earth is this!

The once crowded and boisterous player square had become deserted and quiet. There was not a single person there. A chill wind blew past, and an old newspaper rolled on the street.

The residents from a distance walked into the streets one after another and looked over in shock and bewilderment.

Many people thought of the same thing—the Inhumans disappeared the same sudden way that they had appeared like they had never existed before...

But the marks and changes left by the Inhumans were real and could not be ignored—these were the signs that they had existed.

Far away, in Juberly Hub, the Great Mechanic Han was punishing Sylvia in the machinery modification room as he suddenly moved his eyebrows. He opened the interface, and a new notification entered his sight.

Version 1.0 Update Activated

Saving data... saving completed!

Player forums closed.

Update Duration: Unknown. Please wait patiently.

Han Xiao tried to enter the forums, but the link had become gray, and he could not enter it anymore, just like when the closed beta ended.

Han Xiao closed the books, shook his head, sighed. Sipping on a cup of tea, he calmed his thoughts.

“It’s finally here. Sigh, tough days...”

Chapter 442: Radical Promotion Idea

Han Xiao counted his assets. He had 1.5 billion experience and about 900 thousand Enas. In the next year without players, he would have no choice but to do missions if he wanted experience, and the speed of obtaining rewards had drastically decreased. When the players were there, it was like he was dining at luxurious restaurants every day, but now he would have to eat buns and vegetables.

“Black Star?” Sylvia finally finished reading an entire paragraph of machinery theories that she memorized, but she saw Han Xiao had no reaction to it and looked like he was dozing, so she called him.

“I’m listening.” Han Xiao raised his eyes. He contemplated for a while, then put down the book and said, “We will leave Juberly Hub in two days, and you’ll come with us. I will help you to awaken your energy tomorrow. That’s it for today, you can go back.”

After Sylvia left, Han Xiao locked the machinery modification room door, took out a pen and paper, and wrote down some of his thoughts.

“Now that the players have disappeared, the force at my command is only the officers around me and the Sunil warriors. They’re only mortal, so I have to act carefully. This year is the preparation stage for Version 2.0. In order to have the upper hand, I have many jobs I need to complete.

“First and foremost is my Promotion mission. The stronger I am, the safer it is, and the easier it will be to act. I must find a relatively weaker opponent in Grade A. Even so, the risk is still very high... but so are the benefits. Once I complete my level 100 Promotion, I will have the chance for a Race Evolution again, and my combat ability will increase tremendously.”

Han Xiao tapped the table with his pen, furrowed his brow, and contemplated. He searched for a suitable choice in his memories. Names of characters flashed past one after another but were all quickly eliminated. Some were too strong, some were too far away, and some suitable ones had yet to appear.

In his mind, the best target would, of course, be Ember, whom he had fought before. He could counter that guy’s Esper ability, but Ember had yet to reach Grade A and seemed to have died under the bombardment from the fleet. Thus, he could only eliminate this choice as well.”

“Sigh, there are no suitable targets, what should I do?” Han Xiao scratched his head in frustration.

The difficulty mainly came from the strength difference between him and a Grade A Super. Plus, having anyone above his grade interfere and help was restricted. This meant he could not ask the Dragon Emperor for help. In order to kill a Grade A with a group of Grade Bs, it would be many times more difficult than when Sylvia tried to assassinate him. The resistance and health of Grade A Supers meant that many schemes would not work on them. Furthermore, none of those who could reach Grade A would be not cautious and alert; it was impossible for them to fall into traps easily.

With his level, if he wanted to kill them directly, he could only use extremely powerful weapons or traps with significantly high technology, such as a Destroyer Level Battleship Quantum Annihilation Cannon, the Forbidden Doomsday Electric Ring Spell Scroll, or something of the same level. However, he did not have any way to buy those.

Furthermore, his officers were not players. If they knew that they were going to go against a Grade A Super, they would definitely have issues with it and might not be willing to take the risk to do something so meaningless, unless they had incomparable hatred toward the target. If he chose a Grade A DarkStar member, then Herlous would not oppose it.

Although Han Xiao knew the abilities of DarkStar’s Grade A Supers, such as ‘Wind Demon’ Anur, ‘Psychic Explosion’ Vivira, and ‘Mountain Hammer’ Rogue, he did not have the confidence to mess with any of them. Furthermore, DarkStar’s forces were strong, stealthy, and swift, so it was impractical to choose one of them.

He could wait till Version 2.0 started and command the players to fight the opponent. However, wasting a year of not becoming stronger would place him in a very dangerous situation when facing DarkStar in Version 2.0. Secondly, even if a thousand of those Grade C players fought against one Grade A, they would still be wiped out in an instant. Sure, they could revive, but they would not be of any use.

Not to mention Grade A, even the Great Mechanic Han could beat a group of players himself.

Han Xiao was very troubled by his level 100 Promotion mission as he did not know what he could do.

It’s so damn difficult!

If he could revive like the players, he might still have had a chance and would not have been so frustrated. However, he only had one chance, and once he failed, it would be his end. These various factors caused this Promotion to be almost impossible to complete.

“Then there’s no choice but to take a shortcut...” Han Xiao held his forehead and sighed.

The chance to complete the Promotion mission through regular means was almost negligible. Luckily, he had the radical method.

Mission Completion Card!

Its effect was to grant the mission reward of a mission and deem the mission as completed with the lowest rating.

This was indeed suitable for Promotion missions with no mission rating. As long as it was completed, he could be promoted.

To the players, the effect of the Mission Completion Card was very ordinary—they usually used it on extremely difficult missions. However, the lowest rating reward would not be a lot anyway, so they might as well try the mission themselves and see if they could get a higher rating. Therefore, despite this item being very rare, it was not scarce. The Mission Completion Card had once appeared in the random reward after Han Xiao completed the Germinal Organization main storyline, but he had chosen the other choice, which was Esper Ability Potential Enhancing Fluid. Although he needed the Mission Completion Card, the Esper Ability Potential Enhancing Fluid had undoubtedly been the right choice back then.

“There are three methods to obtain Mission Completion Cards. First, it might appear as a random reward, and random rewards are only given when a difficult mission is completed with a high rating. Second, reward from specific missions. Third, cash in and buy from the store, limited to five per month...”

The third method was eliminated straight away without a doubt, and the second method would not work as well, as these specific missions were in other Star Fields—it was way too far. Thus, he could only use the first method.

“The pro is that I can avoid the risk of fighting a Grade A Super—the con is that there’s too much uncertainty.”

Han Xiao shook his head.

Adventures are for the youngsters, old people like me should do it the stable way.

...

The next day, Sylvia came as promised. Han Xiao agreed to help her awaken energy today, so she had hardly slept the previous night. She was looking forward to it, nervous and anxious.

“Sit.” Han Xiao pointed at the chair beside him. The chair had bondage straps on its armrests, back, and legs—it looked like an electric chair.

“Wha—what is this?” Sylvia swallowed her saliva uncontrollably and forced a smile. “I remember being told that awakening Mechanical Force only needs simple training...”

The Mage class could generate magic power through mediation. Although the Mechanic class was focused on external objects, there were also similar methods to awaken their exclusive Mechanical Force.

“You’re talking about the regular way. It’s too slow. I’ve said before, you already have Super-Genes, and you’re talented in Mechanic class. I have a much quicker way.”

Han Xiao’s tone was very calm. If someone was confirmed to have the potential for the Mechanic class, there was a method to quickly awaken the Mechanical Force—have another Mechanic stimulate their body. This way, the speed of awakening would be much quicker. This was what he had found by searching through the Mechanic class articles. Of course, if the target did not have the potential, it was not much different from electrocution.

Although the players grew in a different way and did not have to experience these stages, many articles had recorded the training methods for different classes. To the players, these ‘details’ made it more immersive and real.

Han Xiao tied Sylvia to the chair and spread his palm. Dense electric snakes appeared on his hand and formed a lump of light with shifting shape, flashing terrifying electric light. He glanced at Sylvia, whose body was stiff and face was filled with terror.

“Relax, don’t be nervous.”

Sylvia struggle continuously in terror and yelled, “Do—don’t come here... Ahhh!”

Before she finished talking, Han Xiao’s hand grabbed onto Sylvia’s forehead. The electric light surged into her body and coursed through her, flickering.

Buzz!

Sylvia’s entire body was trembling like a fish being electrocuted. Her body was penetrated by electric currents from head to toe, her muscles were retracting, and she was numb from the pain. It felt like her body was not hers anymore.

“This should be enough, or she might be electrocuted...”

Han Xiao counted the time, pulled his hands away, and stepped back.

Sylvia slumped against the chair with her head dangling from her neck. White smoke floated from all over her body, and she had yet to recover from the pain. She wanted to speak, but her entire body was numb, and her tongue could not move.

A special sense was born in her body—it was very weak, but it was there. Sylvia struggled to focus and tried to control it. A tiny and almost unnoticeable electric current flashed under her skin.

“I activated your Super-Gene; you now have the magnetic-type energy. Keep training, and you will grow. I will teach you the ways to train energy in a few days. Go back and memorize another machinery theory book first.”

Sylvia finally stood up. She looked down, and her face twitched. In the end, she could not hold it back and cried out loud as she ran out of the room.

Coincidentally, Herlous happened to be at the door and almost bumped into her. Surprised, he said, “What did you do to her... Wait a minute, what’s the smell in this room?”

The next moment, Herlous’ expression became strange. With shock and suspicion, he looked at Han Xiao from head to toe, again and again, looking like he wanted to say something but did not.

“I know what you want to say, shut up.” Han Xiao rolled his eyes. “Get to business, what do you want?”

“By the way, all your subordinates disappeared and still have yet to return after one day,” Herlous said.

Players logged on and off regularly—Han Xiao had given a perfunctory explanation, saying that it was the side effect of their immortal body. The other officers were used to it, but they had never seen all the players disappearing together and not appearing after an entire day, so Herlous came to ask Han Xiao about it.

Han Xiao contemplated and found an excuse to get it over with. Roughly, he meant that the price of being immortal was that they had to sleep every once in a certain period, and when they stayed active for too long, they would have to take a very long sleep. They would not appear again for a very long time. Herlous had doubts but had no choice but to convince himself to believe it.

“They won’t be around for the time being, so I’m preparing to stop the mercenary group’s business... not including your Sunils. I’m talking about us.”

“Then what are we going to do?”

Han Xiao pointed at his own eyes and mysteriously said, “It saw some things again. Remember my promise to you? I can feel it, the time is near.”

Herlous’ eyes turned bright.

“But... I need to make some preparations. We will go to the Taralam Star Cluster next,” Han Xiao said.

“That’s the closest Star Cluster to the wormhole cluster at the middle of Shattered Star Ring and the area with the largest scavenger forces. It’s very dangerous, what are we going there for?”

“To find something,” Han Xiao said with a deep voice.

A random reward would only be given after completing a mission with a high rating. Based on this, Han Xiao confirmed his action plan. He was going to target the missions that he knew extremely well, and he was going to choose the ones that were not too difficult but definitely would be intricate to complete through normal means. This way, he could make full use of the advantage of knowing the mission well and obtain a very high rating!

What he was going to find on this trip was an item to trigger a mission. In his previous life, the players had acquired this item coincidentally—the item introduction indicated that this item could trigger a mission—and had gone to look for the person to trigger the mission. Only then did they receive the mission. Han Xiao, however, was very familiar with the process. He did not need a coincidence; he knew exactly what he had to do.

Han Xiao had already calculated everything. The missions that he now had also had a chance of giving a random reward. However, they were either not activated or needed time. What he needed was only the chance to receive random rewards; the mission reward came second. He remembered many missions, and these all had chances to receive random rewards.

Although obtaining a [Mission Completion Card] was full of uncertainties, it was at least much safer than facing a Grade A Super directly.

Chapter 443: Backdoor

In the Taralam Star Cluster, a spaceship hovered outside the atmosphere of the small planet numbered 51687. This was a deserted planet marked as a resource planet in the database.

“Low oxygen density in the atmosphere, an average temperature of sixty degrees, not suitable for human habitation. A large amount of heat-preferring plants covering a large area of the surface. The soil contains rich nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, suitable for plant growth...”

Han Xiao looked through the planet information, pointed at a tall forest on the map, and said, “There’s a secret stronghold of a small group of scavengers here—they’re our target of this trip. They have something that I need.”

His target of this trip was an item that could trigger a high rating mission, and that item was in the hands of this scavenger group.

“You’re planning to break in? How strong are they?” Herlous asked.

“Not strong, just one Grade B. The main issue is that their defensive measures are quite tight, but they have a secret pathway that leads to the underground spaceship garage, which is located here.” Han Xiao drew a circle on the map.

“How did you even know this?” Herlous was surprised.

Without speaking, Han Xiao answered by pointing to his eyes. “The plan is simple. I’ll kick the door open and crush the enemies—you’ll go to the garage and wait for them. Don’t let anyone go. Everyone else, standby on the ship.”

After quickly finalizing the plan, the spaceship ejected two egg-shaped airdrop cabins. They penetrated the atmosphere like two meteors, falling down to the forest.

...

The descent was full of turbulence.

Boom!

The airdrop cabins crashed through a few trees and buried themselves deep in the ground. Soil and wood splattered all over the place and created a mess.

The cabin door opened. Han Xiao walked out, identified their location, and said, "The landing location is about four hundred meters from the enemy's base. There are many automatic machine gun traps ahead. Hmm... there's not much oxygen, so breathing is a little difficult."

The bone-white Void Dragon shrouded his body and filtered the air. Han Xiao inhaled a full mouth of oxygen, and mechanical energy flew into the compressed orbs as they fell onto the floor. With the sound of mechanical parts moving, the compressed orbs expanded into thirty mechanical Black Panther mechanical beasts and surrounded him.

"Go."

With a snap of his fingers, the mechanical beasts charged forward into the alert area of the enemy's base. Gaps quickly opened up one after another on the ground, exposing ten or so automatic machine guns that started to fire immediately. Blazing red bullets landed on the mechanical beasts' armor, causing fire sparkles and continuous clanks.

This extent of damage was nothing worth mentioning to the enhanced mechanical Black Panther beasts. Thirty mechanical beasts culled the enemies one after another, cutting through muzzles quickly and swiftly with their sharp blade tails. The sound of gunshots disappeared very soon—all the automatic machine guns became scrap metal.

The other benefit of the Hounds Style was that the mechanical beasts could be used to scout ahead.

After Han Xiao learned the advanced artificial intelligence knowledge, he swapped the mechanical beasts' smart chip. Previously, the mechanical beasts could only carry out combat tactics in groups of four, but it had become sixteen, making them much more flexible and swift.

Crossing through the machine guns, Han Xiao activated the metal detection device in his helmet. The full structure of the base showed on the analyzing screen. He found the door on the ground and pulled it open. Inside was a pitch-black path toward inside of the base. A faint buzzing sound came from within—the alarm.

"Looks like they already know I'm here."

His fingers moved. The shoulder armor plate opened, and three mini mechanical flying insects flew out into the path. These flying insects were equipped with all kinds of detection devices that could be used to find traps, among many other things.

"One Laser Corridor with more automatic machine guns... Mobile Crushing Walls and Vacuum Seals... quite many defensive measures I see. One-meter thick gate made by high strength alloy, cannot be opened by hand."

The analyzing screen was showing the view of the detection flying insects. They were very small, and they were covered in coatings that could block all sorts of detection methods, so they safely passed

through the infrared detection of the corridor and came to the gate. Beside the gate was a password device.

Han Xiao sent a new order. The two flying insects suddenly stuck onto the edge of the device. Mini rotary saws popped out from a flying insect's mouth and pried open the exterior of the password device. A chip plug popped up from the other flying insect's tail and connected to the password device. The pair of flying insects were tiny cuties made from another advanced knowledge, [Mini Machinery Modification], which he had bought some point in the prior nine months. They had very rich functions, capable of scouting, detecting, and remote hacking.

The data stream of the base appeared on the analyzing screen. Han Xiao started to hack it while keeping an eye out for enemies to suddenly strike. However, as he hacked through the gate's program, no one appeared.

This time, Herlous' communication came with a sigh. "I've arrived at the garage; there's no spaceship here. Don't bother wasting your time; there's no one here."

Han Xiao's eyes twitched. The player in his previous life had needed to break into this scavenger base to get the mission item, but luckily for him, none of the enemies were even home.

No wonder no one had appeared despite him having already arrived at their gate.

"We really came at a good time..."

Han Xiao was speechless. It turned out that he was fighting with the air all along. He quickly stood up and walked into the base casually. He had already shut down all the defensive measures. After he entered the stronghold, there was indeed no one inside.

Although the base was not huge, it had everything it needed. Han Xiao spent some time and completely hacked the system firewall, took over control of the base, and went straight to the warehouse.

The warehouse was stacked with things collected by the scavengers, most of which was useless. Han Xiao was mainly looking for the item that could trigger the mission, and after searching for a while, he found it without any twists and turns.

It was a beautiful and detailed mini statue that looked like it was made by some kind of brown wood, yet it was as strong as high strength alloys. It was the statue of a very strange creature. If it had to be described, it kind of looked like a distorted mantis. As Han Xiao picked it up, a low and unclear voice suddenly appeared in his mind.

You have received [Mysterious Statue].

Item Introduction: This is a statue that you have never seen before. You don't know what it represents or what meaning it has, but when you touch it, you hear a soft, faint voice speaking to you in your mind. Yet, when you focus on that voice, it disappears.

Remarks: This item seems to possess certain secret knowledge. Some people might be interested in it.

“This is it.” Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled. This was a mission triggering item, and he knew the origins of it. This statue was one item included in an item set that came from the Arcane Church and arrived at the central wormhole of the Shattered Star Ring from a distant Star Field. Then, it wandered and ended up there. The players could receive the related mission through two methods. One was, of course, to get this item first then meet the person that would trigger the mission later, and the other was to first get clues from that person then find the item that would trigger the mission. In conclusion, no matter which method was used, it required a certain amount of luck. However, Han Xiao did not need to go through such trouble—he could head straight for the key item.

This phenomenon of giving someone an illusion of hearing voices in their head was a characteristic of the Psychic Current. The Psychic Current was very unique and could occur through various means, such as the thoughts of many creatures being enchanted onto on target. After a certain amount of time, this item would produce Psychic Current once it had gathered enough thoughts, like a container of gathered thoughts. The most well-known example would be sacrifices and prayers, and this statue was made from exactly that.

“I’ve got the item,” Han Xiao said.

“That’s quick, shall we leave now?” Herlous asked.

Han Xiao was just about to reply, but suddenly, his movement paused. He looked around, and a daring idea appeared in his mind. “Don’t be in such a hurry. There’s no one here, and we have plenty of time.”

Since they had arrived while the enemy was out, they definitely had to take more things with them.

No, that was too petty.

They should take the entire place!

Without hesitation, Han Xiao called Herlous and came to help those scavengers ‘move house’.

Base System Chip? Take it!

Defensive devices? Take it!

Alloy wall? Take it!

After quite some time of tearing things down, whatever could be taken from the base was removed and put into more than a dozen supply boxes. For a Mechanic at Han Xiao’s level, the speed of tearing things down was extremely fast.

He roughly estimated that those items could be recycled and turned into more than 2,000 Enas worth of machinery parts.

Han Xiao looked back. The scavenger base had already become an empty shell with opened gates... no, the gates were already gone. Even the floor had been pried open, exposing the wires below the ground. The central computer and energy core had all been dismantled. The rather huge base was only left with walls.

Han Xiao smiled with satisfaction. He ordered the spaceship to land and loaded the full supply boxes into the spaceship.

...

A few days later, the scavenger spaceships finally returned to the planet. They had made quite a good profit from picking up trash near the wormhole clusters, so they were rather joyful.

However, when the base with missing gates and an empty interior entered their visions, everyone froze in place.

What the hell? Where's our base?

The scavenger captain rubbed his eyes and made sure that he was not seeing an illusion. His face turned furious, and he howled, "Who tore down our base?"

This planet was completely unpopulated, and it was in a very rural area. They had spent quite a lot of resources to build a secret base there and never exposed its position. How could anyone know where their base was?

In the Taralam Star Cluster, they were just a small group of scavengers. Who would bother to go against them? It had to be a petty thief that got lucky!

"Search! Search for the petty thief who did this!" the captain yelled furiously and regretfully. If he had been in the base, he could have prevented it from happening.

They barely gathered the intel fee and contacted the information seller. After searching, they found out that there was only one spaceship that visited this planet during that period. After uncovering the identity of the passengers of that spaceship, the rage of those scavengers immediately disappeared. In fact, they were dumbfounded.

"Bla—Black Star?" The scavenger captain was stuttering. "What were galactic mercenaries of that level doing here?"

They exchanged looks and were immediately discouraged. Now, they suddenly felt glad they had not been in the base when it happened.

If they had faced Black Star, they certainly would have died.

Suddenly, the scavengers felt that losing a base was not so unacceptable.

...

As the scavengers were feeling glad, Han Xiao and the others passed through the Star Cluster teleportation stargate and came to the Rain Star System of the Colton Star Cluster. The person that could trigger the mission was there... temporarily.

The ruling civilization of Rain Star System, the New Phyllen Alliance, had invited a galactic celebrity that was very popular in Shattered Star Ring to tour the place. The entertainment industry in the galaxy was very developed as well. There were singers, actors, and many other industries that brought entertainment to various civilizations.

The different entertainment shows could be watched from the paid channel in the Galactic Communicator. Although Han Xiao did not watch it much, many galactic residents spent their days watching television. After all, with how developed some civilizations were, most people did not have to work, unless they wanted higher positions or better quality of life.

The person to trigger this mission was rather special—it was indeed the galactic celebrity that had been invited.

Chapter 444: Chen Xing and Statue Mission (1)

This celebrity had a huge number of fans in various Star Clusters in the Shattered Star Ring. He was a singer, and because of how developed the transmission technology was, his influence was not limited by physical distance.

This performance was for the traditional yearly celebration of the New Phylon Alliance being reunited, and this singer was the most famous one among all the invited guests.

The venue of the performance was a vacation spaceship called 'Wine and Celebration'. Those who could watch it live were all either wealthy or had a very high position in the New Phylon Alliance. If Han Xiao wanted to come into contact with the target, it had to be at the venue, but the problem was... how were they going to get the ticket for the show?

"Are you going to the Union Day Celebration?"

When Sylvia heard about the destination of their spaceship, she rolled her eyes and said, "Stop dreaming. Every year, those that can enter the venue to watch it live are all very important people. Such as leaders of political parties, higher-ups in the army, high level government officials, businessmen that pay tons of taxes every year, and so on. With so many important people gathered in one place, the security is extremely tight. Don't even think about sneaking in—you might be mistaken for an assassin."

Han Xiao glanced at her and said, "Have you finished memorizing the books I gave you?"

Sylvia's tone instantly turned soft, and she murmured, "Isn't there one more day before the test..."

"By the way, you're a New Phylon citizen. Don't you want to watch it live at the scene?"

Sylvia curled her lips and said with a yearning tone, "Who doesn't want to? But us ordinary people can only watch on television."

The Union Day was a memorial for the day that the nations of the New Phylon Alliance reunited after their split; it was very meaningful to the New Phylon people, similar to National Day in China. Sylvia wanted to go every year, and in fact, Langley's position had been high enough to get her into the venue. Unfortunately, he was a traitor and a spy.

Now that she had become a mercenary, she would never have the chance to attend it again, so she could only bury this tiny dream of hers.

Mercenaries were powerful and strong indeed, but they did not have a high position in society. After all, for the most part, the lives of galactic citizens were peaceful. Only when they faced problems that could

only be solved with violence would they think of the professionals in this field. Other than that, they would not want to have any contact with such dangerous mercenaries.

Furthermore, most mercenaries were free citizens of the universe that did not have a nationality. Although Han Xiao had worked with the New Phylen Alliance before, this small of relationship was only enough for him to request to see prisoners at most—it was far from enough to attend such a huge celebration.

Of course, nothing was absolute. With the backing of Floating Dragon Island, if Han Xiao could drag Ames there, he did not believe that the New Phylen Alliance would not invite the Dragon Emperor in. In fact, not only would they be invited, they would definitely be sitting in the top VIP seats beside the alliance leader.

What? You don't give me, the Dragon Emperor, face?

Well then, have you ever seen a brick the size of a planet?

When one's strength reached a certain level, there would be no need to even showcase it; just showing up would be enough.

Han Xiao rubbed his chin, pondered, and said, "Since you want to go to the venue, I'll bring you along then. It's not much trouble anyway."

Sylvia was dazed. She asked uncertainly, "Do you really have the ticket? Impossible..."

"There's no need for a ticket." Han Xiao waved his hands and said, "Someone will invite me in."

"As if I believe you."

Sylvia was obviously doubtful. She paused and said unhappily, "Plus, I still need to memorize the books..."

"Alright fine, I'll give you a day's holiday."

Han Xiao shook his head and smiled.

Herlous came closer and said with an expressionless face, "Let me guess, I'll be staying here and looking after the ship?"

"Wow, my brother, we really have good chemistry; you basically read my mind."

Han Xiao clapped with exaggeration, and Herlous resigned to his fate.

...

Wine and Celebration was docked on the main planet of the New Phylen Alliance. This was an enormous spaceship that had a flat hexagonal shape and surrounded by countless guard ships. For the Union Day Celebration, the dock had stopped its service for the day and was used solely to welcome all the attendees.

In the hall of the dock, a huge number of people were gathered. They were all New Phylen citizens, there to watch the boarding ceremony.

All the performers and political leaders would enter from the same path on the dock. This was a ceremony representing the start of the Union Day Celebration and the only chance that normal citizens had to be close to the venue. Hence, there were a lot of people and it was very crowded.

Han Xiao was in the crowd at this moment. Despite the wave of the crowd moving around him, he stood in his place without budging. Sylvia had to hold on to his shirt tightly so that she would not be pushed away.

At the edge of the crowd were rows of soldiers regulating the order and preventing anyone from rushing into the boarding path. These soldiers frequently glanced at Han Xiao with warning and alertness in their eyes—it was clear that they could tell Han Xiao was a Super with a high threat.

“Bla—Black Star... I want to ask you for the last time...” Sylvia said while shivering. She kept swallowing her saliva and spoke anxiously. “We’re not really going to cause a commotion and rush into the spaceship, are we? Although I gave you my next ten years, you don’t have to let cut it this short...”

Han Xiao could not be bothered to reply. He waited patiently and silently.

After some time, a commotion erupted among the crowd in a distance. Accompanied by the guards, the important personnel boarded the ship one after another. The crowd was cheering so loud that it was almost deafening. Those people walked with smiles on their faces while waving and greeting the crowd.

“They’ve started boarding the ship...” Sylvia craned her neck and exclaimed, “Wow, that’s the alliance chancellor. I used to see him a lot on television.”

She did not believe that Han Xiao could enter the venue. Now that the boarding had started, the fact that Han Xiao was still there proved that he was not one of the people that was boarding, but Sylvia did not call him out on it. She was already satisfied that she could go to watch the boarding ceremony. Her father had not allowed her to go in the past, so this was the first time that she had seen the Union Day Celebration spaceship so closely. Although she could not enter the spaceship, she was content.

Although Langley was a rebel, he had taught his daughter to love her country.

Suddenly, a louder cheer came from afar and rippled closer like a wave. Han Xiao looked up. A human-shaped creature in a veil who was surrounded by a group of assistants was walking here slowly. A pair of extremely attractive eyes smeared with black eye shadow could be seen from under the veil. Even the solemn blue robe could not cover his attractiveness.

“Chen Xing! Chen Xing!”

The cheering was thunderous.

Han Xiao nodded in his mind. This was the person that would trigger the mission, a singer with the stage name of ‘Morning Star¹’. From the almost ear-shattering cheer, it was clear how successful this person’s celebrity career was.

By the way, this person was a male.

While passing by where Han Xiao was, Chen Xing suddenly stopped and turned his head slowly. His eyes passed through the crowd and locked accurately onto Han Xiao. The next moment, he directly walked toward this direction.

The crowd instantly became feverish and wanted to touch their idol. The soldiers stopped the wave of people with all their might, and one soldier said, "Your Excellency Chen Xing, please do not come close. It's not safe here."

"It's okay, they will not hurt me."

Chen Xing opened his mouth. His voice was gentle, soothing, and pure like water. The people who heard it felt calm. The commotion mysteriously stopped, and he walked into the crowd.

The crowd opened up a path willingly.

In the end, Chen Xing stopped before Han Xiao. Under the eyes of countless people, he smiled and said, "Hello, I hope to have the honor to invite you to watch my performance live at the scene personally."

Chapter 445: Chen Xing and Statue Mission (2)

"Hiss!"

The crowd inhaled deeply and looked at Han Xiao in disbelief and envy. The people around Han Xiao instantly backed off and isolated him, making him extremely conspicuous.

"Who is this guy? What is his relationship with Chen Xing?"

"Why is he chosen?"

"What a lucky guy."

Han Xiao nodded without changing expression and said, "Sure."

"Please follow me."

Chen Xing turned around, and Han Xiao followed behind the group. Chen Xing's assistant contacted the organizers, and the government found Han Xiao's identity very quickly. It turned out that he was a mercenary who had worked with them before and belonged to Floating Dragon. Thus, he was trustworthy. Although it was not very suitable to let a mercenary into the venue, for the sake of giving Chen Xing face and the fact that Han Xiao had no negative background, they agreed to let him in.

They walked through the path and boarded the celebration spaceship. Sylvia was completely stunned on the way, unable to understand what was happening and dumbfounded at the fact that she had entered the celebration venue, which she had dreamed of for years, so easily. When she finally regained consciousness, she hastily pulled Han Xiao's shirt and said, "You really did it!"

"From what I know about you, your memory isn't that bad. Maybe I should give you more books to train it." Han Xiao stared at Chen Xing's back.

"I—I thought you were lying..." Sylvia did not know what to say. It had happened exactly as Han Xiao had said—they were invited onto the ship. However, she never would have thought that the person inviting them would be Chen Xing, and it looked like it was a last-minute decision.

She suppressed her excitement and asked with anticipation, "How did you do it?"

"No crowd can cover up my attractiveness." Han Xiao gave a perfunctory response.

The real reason, of course, was the [Mysterious Statue] that Han Xiao had with him. Chen Xing had a special sense toward the Psychic Current of the statue. As long as it was within a certain distance, he would definitely notice it. Hence, Han Xiao had known that Chen Xing would invite him onto the ship.

...

After everyone boarded, the various large cities on the main planet lit fireworks as Wine and Celebration took off and circled around the main planet. The spaceship was covered in streams of colorful lights, and the people on the surface could see the enormous spaceship when they looked up.

Han Xiao was arranged to be in the VIP room of Chen Xing's team. Chen Xing did not speak to him immediately but went to prepare for the show. He told his assistant that if Han Xiao asked why he was invited, tell him that he would meet him privately after the celebration.

However, the assistant waited and waited, yet Han Xiao did not express any curiosity. He closed his eyes and rested from the moment that he entered the room like he was completely uninterested in knowing why he had been invited. After waiting for a long time without receiving any response, the assistant had no choice but to speak first.

"Your... Excellency, Chen Xing wanted to talk to you after the celebration ends. Please wait patiently and enjoy the show."

"Hmm." Han Xiao gave a very short reply.

He knew Chen Xing extremely well, so he had no intention of asking anything.

After some time, the audience was all seated. The roof suddenly opened, showing the universe full of stars. A thick energy shield blocked the vacuum. This was the center of the spaceship, and it was an enormous outdoor stage!

The VIP rooms shook slightly as they slowly rose and hovered in midair, slanting toward the stage at forty-five degrees. One side of the wall was a transparent screen looking down at the entire stage. The VIP rooms had gravitational stabilizers equipped, so although the rooms were slanted, the people inside were sitting firmly in their chairs. There were more than two hundred VIP rooms like this, and they were like balloons floating above the stage.

With the magnificent and beautiful light starting to shine from the stage, an enormous performance commenced.

At the same time, the countless citizens of New Phyllen were watching this scene from their devices. It was a celebration shared by hundreds of billions of people.

Sylvia was completely astounded by such a magnificent view. This was her first time being at the scene and attending the celebration in person.

She had begged her father many times, but she had always been rejected. Yet, Han Xiao had done what her father did not do—fulfilled her dream.

Filled with complex emotions, Sylvia turned her head and looked at Han Xiao.

This person was her enemy, her savior, her creditor, and her teacher...

Noticing her sight, Han Xiao said calmly, “What?”

“Nothing, Tea...” Sylvia curled her lips. “Old man ¹ .”

“What kind of term is that? Are your eyes not working properly?” Han Xiao looked at her with confusion.

The celebration performance continued. Han Xiao was not a New Phylen citizen, so he was not very interested in the ceremonies, but the performance was indeed exciting. When it came to the last and most anticipated performance, the performer was indeed Chen Xing.

All eyes were on Chen Xing. On the enormous stage, where he stood was the only place that had light; everywhere else was dark. Yet, just by standing there, he made people feel he had occupied the entire stage. The whole place was silent.

The first note flew out from under Chen Xing’s veil—ethereal, elegant, and pure—like the voice from heaven. Her voice seemed to have created a wave of time, bringing the audience back to the ancient times, looking up at the first dawn between darkness and night, watching the first star glowing in a dim yet firm light.

Before the performance, the whole audience had turned off their translators, not allowing them to stand in the way of enjoying such a pure voice. Even though they could not understand what the lyrics meant, the immensity of the voice captured every one of their hearts. The audience felt like countless images flashed past before their eyes, the origin and the end of a star, and the endless cycle of life.

Along with his singing, the light on the stage started to expand. When he reached his highest note, the light also spread over the entire stage.

The audiences felt a shiver from the depths of their soul that flew into their mind.

“What a beautiful voice...” Sylvia was completely immersed in the song.

Han Xiao’s eyes sparkled.

A voice that included such strong Psychic power was indeed very influential.

“The money spent on organizing such a huge performance is enough to buy so many spaceships. What a waste...”

Han Xiao shook his head. Art was definitely not suitable for him.

The song had come to an end. Whether it was the audience at the scene or the audience watching from a screen, they were all engrossed in it. Chen Xing lowered his head slightly and left the stage. The overwhelming applause only came after he left.

Han Xiao stood up, stretched his neck, and looked at the assistant. "Bring me to see him."

...

In the private room, Han Xiao and Sylvia were waiting on the guest seats.

The door opened with a squeak, and Chen Xing, who had just finished his performance, walked in with an apologetic smile. "Sorry for the long wait. I hope you are satisfied with my performance earlier."

"Your voice is a little bit better than mine." Han Xiao nodded.

Sylvia's eyes widened; she was shocked by how shameless he was.

Chen Xing smiled and took off the veil, uncovering his exquisite face. From a human aesthetic point of view, this was a very beautiful face. Coincidentally, the human aesthetic was the most common in the universe.

The most beautiful female that Han Xiao had seen was Aroshia, and just in terms of looks, she was only a little more beautiful than Chen Xing. However, this was a man... exciting indeed, but he did not have such an interest.

"I know you're very curious about why I invited you," Chen Xing said.

"Hmm, I am very curious," Han Xiao said with a poker face.

No! You're not curious! Sylvia screamed in her mind.

"The reason is, I have a hobby as a collector, and I like to collect some special items. You seem to have something that I want."

As he was saying, Chen Xing took out a statue. Other than it having a different form, its material and size were exactly the same as what Han Xiao had.

Seeing the statue, Han Xiao took out the [Mysterious Statue] that he had brought along and said with a surprised tone, "Wow, what a coincidence!"

*Bullsh*t coincidence!* Sylvia's expression was twisted from trying extremely hard to keep the annoyance in.

"Your friend does not seem to be feeling well. Does she need to visit the washroom?" Chen Xing asked with concern. "Should I call a doctor for her?"

"No need, thanks." Han Xiao gave Sylvia a stare.

Chen Xing shrugged and continued. "This is a set of collectibles. There were originally four of them. Two of them are here, and two others are lost in unknown places. When one of them is a certain distance from another, its location can be sensed."

He leaned back against the back of the chair in a very gentle way that did not look masculine at all. “I have just heard that you’re a galactic mercenary, so I want to ask you to find the last two statues for me. I will pay a reward for it. How about 100,000 Enas?”

“On—One hundred...” Sylvia could hardly breathe. *That’s way too generous!*

Han Xiao was not surprised, however; it was very normal for a celebrity to be wealthy.

Furthermore, one of the reasons that this mission was popular in the previous life was that the difficulty of the mission did not fit its reward.

“Sure, any requests?” Han Xiao gave a faint smile.

“Request...” Chen Xing tapped his lips and said, “The sooner, the better, of course.”

You have triggered C Ranked mission [Statues Search].

Mission Introduction: A singer named Chen Xing is collecting a special set of statues. He hopes that you can find the other statues.

Mission Requirements: Find the other two [Mysterious Statue].

Remarks: When you have two statues, if there is another statue within a certain distance, you will notice.

Reward: Basic reward of 100,000 Enas and 1,100,000 Experience.

After the mission is completed, grading will be given based on the time taken to complete it. The shorter it takes, the higher the rating. A bonus reward will be given.

Got the mission. Han Xiao narrowed his eyes.

This was the mission that he wanted to trigger; it was one of the most suitable missions for him to get a high rating after he searched through his memories.

Finding an item was not difficult but very time consuming—the process was complicated, yet time was a factor in the rating given.

However, to Han Xiao, it was not difficult at all. Thanks to the players in his previous life, he knew the location of the last two statues, so he could skip the search process and obtain them directly. Getting a high rating was not a problem at all.

Since he did not want to look for Grade A Supers to kill, he had to get random reward chances through high rating missions so that he could obtain Mission Completion Cards.

The reward of the mission itself was not important; the chances for random rewards was the key.

Chapter 446: City of Runes

“Take this statue and find the others as soon as possible,” Chen Xing said.

Han Xiao sized the new statue up. Its shape was a faceless human looking up with a huge eye on its chest, which was strange as well. After he held it in his hands, the item introduction on the interface was [Mysterious Statue] as well but with an additional remark.

These statues that you have discovered seem to be a part of a set. Gather all the statues and maybe something unusual will happen.

Han Xiao held onto the two statues and asked, “For the sake of 100,000 Enas, I accept the hire. Where do I find you once it’s completed?”

“My schedule is very full. Anyway, it’s impossible for you to find all of them in a short time. I will give my assistant’s communication number to you later. Just inform him once you complete it.” Chen Xing gave a gorgeous smile.

Although he knew the location of the statues, Han Xiao did not choose to come after collecting all three statues—it would make him seem very suspicious. After all, Chen Xing felt that meeting Han Xiao was just because of luck.

Chen Xing was looking for the statues himself, but he had never found any leads. With two statues, the area of detection for the other statues would be much larger. If not because he was very sensitive to the frequency of the statues, he would not have been able to find Han Xiao among the crowd.

He had never expected to find another statue during this performance.

Although he was smiling calmly, Han Xiao knew full well how excited this guy was.

Chen Xing said that he was a collector, which, of course, was nonsense. Han Xiao knew what his goal was.

This singer was a Psychic that used his voice to spread his powers. Although he looked gentle and weak, if Chen Xing wanted to, he could scream in an extremely high and destructive voice anytime he wanted. He was at least Grade B. It was because he put his Psychic powers into his voice that made his voice sound so impactful. These four statues had a special effect for Chen Xing—they could enhance his Psychic powers.

The four statues had originally been a set of totems for receiving prayers from believers night and day. They came from the Arcane Church.

Unlike the practical Crimson Empire and the Federation of Light that believed in freedom, the Arcane Church was a very religious and mysterious civilization.

In the knowledge of most planet and Star System sized civilizations, religions and beliefs were just a comforting or guiding tool for the mind that could at most guide the believers to have a certain attitude toward things in life. Some civilizations even saw religions as the cancer of society.

However, there were countless paths of evolution in the universe. Most religions believed in a fictional god, but some believed in real gods. Luckily for the Arcane Church, they were the latter. They had begun as savages just like the others, but unlike the other civilizations that progressed through technology or magic awakening, their ancestors discovered a way to communicate with real gods. When the gods that they believed in could really 'respond' to the believers and when the religions could make technology and society advance, their social structure naturally turned out to be different from most of the technology or magic focused civilizations.

What was a god? In magic terms, they were supposedly beings with enormous magic power. From a technological perspective, gods were superior beings from a higher dimension that could not be detected by ordinary beings. The projections from higher dimensions were all strange and weird. Thus, those that did not look unique enough were basically all false gods.

In both cases, the relationship between believers and gods were usually beneficial for both sides. However, the more developed a civilization was, the more careful their attitude toward the gods was, not giving it a definition easily.

The Arcane Church had its own explanation for the existence of gods, and they had an unbelievable technology that could turn what the believers believed in into a real being! For example, for a religion that believed in a fictional god, the Arcane Church had methods to turn it into a real god. Of course, their reasoning for it was 'All gods have existed since the start of time, waiting for offerings, and we just build bridges for the lost believers.' Anyway, it was very Superstitious, and the Great Mechanic Han was not supportive of it.

Therefore, other than the Spirit Emperor, which the Arcane Church believed in, they gathered countless believers from other religions. It was a sacred land shared by all religions in Galaxy. Those four statues were the religious totems of a religion where its gods were materialized. It had gathered prayers from its believers for a very long time.

Most of this information came from the various articles that Han Xiao had read. All three Universal Civilizations had unbelievable abilities. Of course, he was not concerned with such a large matter. His primary target was completing the mission.

...

After the celebration ended, Han Xiao bade farewell to Chen Xing and went back to the rented spaceship.

"What did you get?" Herlous was very curious.

"I got a 100,000 Enas job."

"Yo, that's quite a lot," Herlous said with a surprised tone. "Save a bit more money, and it will be enough to buy a spaceship."

"There's no need for that at the moment. The fuel, maintenance, and repairs are all costly."

Han Xiao waved his hands. He had to at least wait until his own technology was enough to repair spaceships before he bought one. Only then would he be able to save on the cost of it. In his previous

life, the players only all had a spaceship in the very late versions. Before that, only large guilds were wealthy enough to have spaceships.

Intercepting spaceships of gray organizations and selling them to the spaceship manufacturers at cost price was a way to earn money as well. He could work with the large mercenary groups if there was an opportunity. However, in that case, he would not profit much, since the people with spaceships were the main combat power in a space battle... unless he was the one piloting.

After setting the destination, the spaceship took off.

As Han Xiao knew the location of the statues, he did not have to waste any time. One of the statues was buried under the ground on some desolate planet; he just had to retrieve it. The usual method of getting it was through intel and detailed search of the entire planet, but he skipped those difficult steps.

There were no twists and turns on the trip. Han Xiao landed on the planet, headed straight to the location, and dug out the third Mysterious Statue. Other than the time spent on locating the exact spot, he did not waste a single second. According to the players' experience, he had saved at least twenty days.

However, the last statue had an owner.

For this mission, they passed through many areas, returned to the Taralam Star Cluster, and entered the East River Star System, Star Zone 4.

"Planet Secret Blue. There is a civilization on the planet. Due to unknown reasons, the galactic civilization that found this planet did not contact the local civilization, nor did they expose their existence. This means that Planet Secret Blue does not know that they once had a guest from outer space, and they also don't know what the universe is like. Hence, they are complete natives.

"However, the geographical... astronomical location of this planet is special. It's located on the path of the objects spat out by a wormhole cluster. Therefore, a lot of space trash has been landing on their planet."

Han Xiao opened up the star map and introduced their destination to the others.

"The objects from outer space allowed them to derive technology beyond their level, but due to the difference in technological level, the knowledge that they gained from it was limited.

"At the same time, this trash made them certain about the existence of other civilizations in the universe, but that's all they know.

"What's worth mentioning is that this space trash from different civilizations showed Planet Secret Blue different systems. Hence, since the early stages of development, they have been researching on magic, technology, runes, crystals, and so on. Focusing on too many things at once might not be a good thing for a developing civilization. In conclusion, their technology standard has yet to reach the level that allows them to carry out interstellar travel."

Han Xiao tapped the screen.

"The last statue is one such 'space trash' that landed on this planet. It was seen as a product of a new technology by a certain local organization. That organization has since kept it under tight security."

“Boss, what are you planning to do?” one of the Volgas asked.

“Land directly and make the request. If they don’t accept, we will beat them up until they do.”

Han Xiao’s tone was very decisive.

Herlous was stunned. “Is that a good way to do it? How about we communicate with them and give them some information about the universe in exchange for the statue?”

Han Xiao shook his head.

In his previous life, the players had thought this way as well.

Due to the difference in technology, Planet Secret Blue was divided into various organizations that fought each other. After choosing to negotiate, the organization that had the statue took themselves highly and made over the top requests. First, they asked for a ton of information about the universe, which the players agreed to. Then they asked for many advanced knowledges and technology, which the players agreed to. In the end, they even made the outrageous request of making the ‘outer space guests’ conquer other local organizations for them.

The players finally could not take it anymore. After beating them up, they finally gave up the statue. This proved that the prior negotiations were completely meaningless.

Facing people with such a mindset, if they did not show how big their fists were, they would think too highly of themselves.

Of course, if they could really satisfy that organization’s requests, they would get the statue in the end too and even trigger more missions. However, to Han Xiao, violence was obviously the most convenient method.

Therefore, Han Xiao did not want to waste time and chose to directly airdrop and make the request.

...

Located in the Northwest of Planet Secret Blue, the City of Runes was a city based upon, as its name implied, rune technology. It was located in the middle of a forest. Its buildings had engravings of runes that shone in blue and white lights. The theme of the buildings was mostly tall, thin, light, and triangular. There were tall, square towers standing a certain distance from each other engraved with energy-absorbing runes. Those towers were the energy cores of the city. There was no wall at the edge of the city, and the buildings gradually became shorter the further they were from the center, extending all the way into the forest.

Many years ago, some space trash had landed there, and on it were the secrets of the rune technology. The pioneers had derived some technology from it and slowly built that city. It was now one of the largest forces on Planet Secret Blue.

It was late at night.

In the forest more than forty miles away from the City of Runes, dozens of people constructed a temporary camp. The bonfire rune emitted a stable red light, giving out warmth. The people sat around it. They were wearing leather clothes and armor engraved in runes. The border of the camp was covered in green beast repelling runes, stopping the beasts and insects crawling in the night from getting close.

“Captain, how much can these goods sell for on the black market in the City of Runes?” A young man rubbed his hands together in anticipation.

The captain was a short and skinny man that looked somewhat like a mouse. He chuckled and said, “Someone is secretly purchasing space trash in the City of Runes. These goods we gathered would at least make us 8,000 Feces.”

This was a smuggler group that sold space trash. Every once in a while, the trash from wormholes would land at different locations on the planet. Such trash had research value, and every organization was collecting them. However, they would definitely miss some of it. Hence, the space trash black market was born to purchase these objects from outer space. The smugglers were groups of people that searched for space trash and sold them on the black market.

At this time, they suddenly heard the sound of something breaking the sound barrier. The sound got louder and louder, cutting through the silence of the night like a sharp knife. They stood up and looked over hastily. A burning meteor appeared in the night sky and was heading toward them.

The smugglers were way too familiar with this sound. Surprise appeared on their faces.

“Space trash!”

The burning meteor approached very quickly and dashed right above their heads, stirring up a strong wind, shaking the forest, and rustling the leaves. Then, the meteor landed nearby, crushing some trees and making a loud noise.

Boom!

The ground trembled, and they staggered, almost falling.

Fire and smoke rose from the crash site.

“We got lucky!” The captain was overjoyed. “The landing site of this space trash is near us. We can take it away before the search team of the City of Runes arrives!”

The group of smugglers acted very quickly and arrived at the scene. Before them was a pit covered in thick smoke. In the middle of it was an egg-shaped metal object about 2.5 meters tall.

“What is this?” The smugglers sized it up curiously.

“Don’t stand there, quickly move it away.” The captain hurried.

Just as they were about to approach, a loud bang came from the forest, and a small pit appeared on the floor before the smuggler captain.

“Everyone, do not come closer!”

A deep voice came from the other side of the forest. Another group of people appeared in the forest. They were wearing metal armor, equipped with grenades and rifles. One of them was wearing infrared sniper goggles, and the muzzle of the sniper in his hands was still smoking. The sound earlier had indeed been the sound of a sniper shot.

“Troops of Iron Fire Castle!” The face of the group of smugglers changed.

The Iron Fire Castle was one of the large organizations on Planet Secret Blue. They had the technology of metal, gunpowder, and machinery. Their mechanical battle vehicles were the most dreaded on the battlefield.

They were not the only ones. With more rustling in the forest, more teams were approaching. This new ‘space trash’ was like a vortex that attracted all the teams in the forest.

Those teams had very different expressions. What they all had was alert and hostility toward each other.

The other organizations would always have operation teams in the territories of other organizations to snatch any space trash that landed near their territory, preventing opposing organizations from getting new opportunities.

If they could not snatch it away, they would... destroy it!

Chapter 447: Even We Will Have the Day When We Are Seen as Aliens

Iron Fire Castle, Arcane Institution, Crystal Mountain, Purple Sea Islands, Card Summit...

Five teams from different organizations surrounded the airdrop cabin and confronted each other. The smugglers at the side saw this and immediately backed off into the forest, observing the situation in fear.

Every time space trash fell, it would become a treasure that the various organizations wanted to get their hands on no matter what. This one had landed near the City of Runes, so the teams present knew that time was scarce. They started fighting immediately without saying anything.

Tuk tuk tuk!

The Iron Fire Castle warriors started to fire first, and bullets rained down from their rifles onto the other teams. The dark forest was lit up by the gunshots.

Gunpowder and machinery were technologies unique to the Iron Fire Castle, so most people dodged and avoided the bullets.

That was, except for the Card Summit warriors.

These people were wearing a strange device on their arms that looked like bronze plate armor. Its shape was similar to a disk, and at the side of it were many card slots. This was the core technology of the Card Summit warriors—Battle Card Disk. These people took out a shining card from the middle of the disk and placed it into the card slot. Then, something happened.

Hum!

A light, blue energy shield gathered before the disk, and bullets hit the shield and caused ripples. The shield stopped all the attacks.

Clearly, this was the product of another technology. The outer space object acquired by the Card Summit had the technology to store, transmit, and use energy through cards.

Boom boom boom!

At the same time, the warriors from the other organizations moved as well. It turned into a scrimmage of colorful energy and continuous growls.

Grenades blasted through arcane shields, sharp claws pierced metal muzzles, and sparks splashed all over the place.

Materialized spears from cards penetrated enhanced bodies, spilling boiling blood.

Radiation beams from crystals shattered Battle Card Disks, broken cards exploded into pieces, and the energy turned into an impact wave and splashed the black soil on the ground.

These were all elite warriors from their organizations. Different battle tactics clashed against each other.

No matter who got close to the 'space trash' in the middle, they would face attacks from everyone else immediately. They restrained each other, and the situation was in a stalemate.

Wu!

Suddenly, the sound of a horn came from afar. Their faces changed.

"That's the warrior horn of the City of Runes. Their search team is going to arrive soon."

Iron Fire Castle's sniper adjusted his scope and saw a huge group of creatures approaching rapidly.

"There's not enough time. What we are not able to acquire can't be acquired by the City of Runes. Ready the explosives and destroy it!" the Iron Fire Castle captain yelled. His subordinates took out all sorts of grenades and bombs and threw them toward the airdrop cabin.

The other organizations did the same and attacked the airdrop cabin, thinking the same thing.

Boom!

The sound of an explosion trembled the night, and the firelight mixed with the black smoke covered the airdrop cabin up.

"Continue!"

Space trash that could land on planets were usually very tough. Even so, they wanted to destroy it as much as they could so the enemy organizations would not be able to research it.

Whoosh!

Just as these people were preparing for the second round of focus fire, a loud, clear sound of pressurized air expanding was heard. The hatch slowly slid open. They saw the outline of a person in the fog. Then, an unfamiliar voice appeared in their language.

“Are you guys done?”

Wafting away the fog, Han Xiao walked out in large steps. He landed with his body and did not activate the Void Dragon mechanical suit. This awful airdrop cabin had trembled so badly that it had given him a headache. Furthermore, the system had frozen after the clash, so he could not even open the hatch. It was a shame of the airdrop industry.

He had needed quite some time to restart the system, and he had heard all the clanking sound from the battle outside.

Although the various organizations in Planet Secret Blue had so-called ‘Supernatural’ weapons, their technology standard was very low in his eyes. It had very limited power, so even if he did not wear a mechanical suit, it would be very hard for them to break through his defenses.

Han Xiao did not care about the heated battle outside, but these people wanted to destroy the airdrop cabin, which was unacceptable. He had to pay compensation if rented properties were damaged!

The moment Han Xiao appeared, the whole scene froze.

It was deadly silent.

These warriors gazed at Han Xiao like they were frozen, and shocked expressions were fixed on their faces. Even the smugglers who watched from the side opened their mouth widely in disbelief.

“A—alien!”

Past space trash had all been dead objects.

This was the first alive creature!

An alien from the boundless universe!

Horror, shock, greed, and countless emotions flashed past these warriors’ face.

Everyone’s breath became heavier, and the same thought appeared in their minds.

“Have to get the alien! He’s too valuable!”

At this time, rapid footsteps appeared from the forest. A large group of City of Runes guards finally arrived at the scene. There were two hundred of them wearing their standard guard armor, one hundred melee guards and one hundred bow guards. The surface of their weapons and armor had engravings of runes that enhanced their attack, defense, and physical capabilities.

The warriors of Iron Fire Castle and other organizations’ face changed. “It’s the elite guerrilla group of City of Runes. We took too long!”

“Lay down your weapons!” the captain of the City of Runes team yelled loudly. He looked at the airdrop cabin, then looked at Han Xiao. With a little bit of thinking, he came to the same shocking conclusion as everyone else. He decisively ordered, “Surround them and evict the enemies. This is the territory of City of Runes; no one can snatch what is ours!”

The warriors of the other organizations quickly backed off with grave faces. There were too few of them.

According to tradition, they had to destroy whatever they could not obtain. However, an alien was too valuable, so many people could not make a decision. Should they really kill the alien? There were no prior examples to this. Maybe they should not do it...

The Iron Fire Castle captain's eyes were menacing, and murderous intent rose in his heart. He clenched his teeth and ordered, "Never mind all of that, our duty is to execute orders. Since we can't get that alien, we can't let the City of Runes get him. Fire!"

The sniper aimed his gun at Han Xiao's forehead and quickly pulled the trigger.

"Sh*t!" The captain of the City of Runes guards' face changed dramatically.

Bang!

The sound of a gunshot echoed.

They hurriedly looked at the alien.

Han Xiao turned his head around. There was a white mark on his forehead still emitting a faint smoke, but the bullet had not even penetrated his skin.

On Planet Aquamarine, even Grade C Supers could face firearms with no problem, not to mention Grade B. Although he was a Mechanic, his health and resistance even exceeded Pugilists, so such low firearms had no chance of penetrating his defenses.

Shock and terror appeared on everyone else's faces.

They only then realized that this person in front of them was not a dead object for them to grab if they wanted to but a mysterious guest from outer space.

His threat level was unknown!

"Zero damage." Han Xiao touched his forehead and raised his eyebrows. He could not even be bothered to wear his mechanical suit. With a stream of Mechanical Force, dozens of Black Panther mechanical beasts appeared and pounced at the people.

Everyone was his attack target, whether they were the warriors from the various organizations or the City of Runes guards.

The situation completely changed in an instant.

The mechanical beasts culled the people fiercely. They tried to fight back in a panic, but their weapons only left sparks on the mechanical beasts' armor. It was a completely one-sided battle; the mechanical beasts demolished everyone.

Whoosh!

A few sharp blade tails pierced into the sniper's chest, and blood gushed out from his mouth. Before he could scream, the mechanical beasts around him pulled their tail and tore him to pieces.

The pungent smell of blood spread in the air.

“These are all machines!” the Iron Fire Castle captain screamed in disbelief. The technology that the alien was using had the same root as their technology. The strength of the mechanical beasts astounded their soul.

The battle lasted less than ten minutes before everyone else fell onto the ground. The floor was covered in blood, and the forest was filled with screams of agony. Other than the Iron Fire Castle warriors, Han Xiao did not kill anyone else. After all, he needed someone to spread the word.

The smugglers in the forest dodged a bullet. They were horrified, and their legs were shivering; many of them could not even remain standing.

The alien defeated two to three hundred elite warriors in the blink of an eye, how terrifying!

The chaotic situation was suppressed—these local warriors were all defeated.

The mechanical beasts returned to Han Xiao, folded into compressed orbs, and rolled into Han Xiao’s pockets automatically. This incomprehensible scene shocked the people once again.

Han Xiao looked around and coldly said, “Let me introduce myself. I’m a mercenary from space, coming to your planet to look for a wooden statue. According to my senses, that statue is in that city not far away. If you’re willing to hand it over, I can give you some information about the universe in exchange. If you reject, I will take it myself. Time is limited, so I hope to hear your response before tomorrow morning.”

Through the translator, his words became Planet Secret Blue’s language. The people were shocked. Seeing that Han Xiao had no intention of slaughtering them, they had no choice but to suppress their confused thoughts, stand up carefully, and back off, stumbling with panic.

The warriors from different organizations left in their own groups and did not fight again. They were in a hurry to report the situation; that was the most important matter at the moment.

The smugglers also ran away, and Han Xiao did not bother with them.

The political structure of this planet is very underdeveloped. One technology creates a city, and a city is equal to a regime. My appearance to them is huge news. As they don’t have any contact with the galaxy, there is no systematic Super knowledge here, only the individual power systems or incompletely information. The individual strength level is very weak. The strongest is only Grade C, and there are not even as many of them as there are on Planet Aquamarine.

With his Grade B strength, it was more than enough to crush this entire planet. Although Grade B was rather common in the universe and not too difficult to kill, it was almost invincible on lower level planets. The only advantage that Planet Secret Blue had on him was numbers.

Han Xiao smiled—Mechanics were most unafraid of being outnumbered.

However, Han Xiao did not ignore the possibility of some organizations on Planet Secret Blue having some powerful weapons.

“After hearing about me, the best result will, of course, be the City of Runes giving up the statue. However, that’s unlikely.” Han Xiao shook his head. He knew what kind of attitude these people had—proud and arrogant. They would most likely not compromise.

After waiting for an entire day, he would most likely not face smiles the following morning but a siege from their army.

However, this was exactly Han Xiao's plan. He planned to give one night to the City of Runes to gather an army so that he could destroy their confidence once and for all, saving a lot of time. Enemies being overconfident was his favorite thing to see.

Herlous and the others were still on the spaceship; him landing alone would make it easier to terrorize the enemies.

Although he had three statues and could locate the last statue, so sneaking in and stealing it seemed to be more convenient, Han Xiao did not want to go through so much trouble.

After all, he would still end up facing them alone.

Finally, this time, he did not have to use so much of his brain and could solve the problem with his fists.

If I remember correctly, winning against a siege of tens of thousands of people will trigger an achievement ability called [One Against the World], Han Xiao suddenly recalled.

He looked at the mess around him, walked up to the top of the airdrop cabin, closed his eyes, and started to wait.

...

That night, the intel of an alien landing quickly spread into the organizations of the alive warriors.

This was the first alien that had landed there!

Alive!

The City of Runes was astonished!

The whole of Planet Secret Blue trembled!

This was definitely going to be a sleepless night.

Chapter 448: The Siege

Han Xiao's arrival stirred up a storm.

Lord of Runes was the ruler of City of Runes. He had gone to sleep early but was awakened by this news. As soon as he heard, he quickly put on his formal clothes and hosted an emergency meeting.

The high officials in the city hurried to the hall in the central tower. They were all awakened from their sleep, and some were even wiping the sleep from their eyes.

Outside the balcony of the tower was the night sky. The moonlight passed through the stone railings and left a shadow on the floor.

The hall was illuminated by runes. Lord of Runes was an old and wrinkled man, but he was wearing a luxurious, elegant robe and holding a staff. The expression on his face was strange.

“Everyone knows the situation. An alien who calls himself a mercenary has landed and is looking for an outer space object in our hands. According to the intel, he used some kind of mechanical beasts and defeated two hundred Rune Guards with ease. He’s now in the forest outside waiting for our response. What do you guys think of this?”

“Aliens have a lot of information about the universe. He’s saying that he’s willing to exchange for the statue with some information. I think we can consider it...” an official said. His position was similar to the King’s Hand. “However, the object that the alien wants is definitely valuable. From his perspective, maybe he is making use of the fact that we don’t understand its value and wants to exchange it for some simple information. I feel that we can’t give in easily; it’s best to check the statue first.”

“You’re right.” The Lord of Runes nodded.

Very soon, a guard brought the statue over from the inventory. It had landed on the planet many years ago and had existed since the last Lord of Runes. As they could not figure out the statue’s secrets, and most of the researchers had mental issues after being in contact with it for too long, it had been sealed in the inventory and listed as an unsolvable outer space object.

Due to the alien’s request, they took the statue out once again.

This object was definitely not ordinary. The Lord of Runes was not very willing to give it up this easily, despite not being able to uncover its secrets. This was a treasure that the alien crossed unimaginable distances to retrieve after all.

“The alien gave us till tomorrow. We only have one night to consider.” The Lord of Runes squinted.

“If we can capture the alien, not only will we be able to analyze the body of a space race, but we can obtain all of his knowledge. This is an opportunity to rise above all the other organizations.” This man was the general of the army. He was wearing heavy armor and his tone was very aggressive. “He’s just one man.”

“He might have friends. Plus, he could land on our planet, which means he’s not easy to deal with. I don’t think we should fight with him,” someone else said.

The officials were divided into two sides. One side felt it was better to accept the alien’s request; the other side was very greedy and wanted to capture the alien to garner all the benefits. The latter side had more supporters. As they had seen a lot of objects from outer space, they were not completely ignorant of the outer world; therefore, they did not have a lot of respect but more curiosity.

The technology involved in these outer space objects was too advanced for Planet Secret Blue to figure out, so they could only learn the tip of the iceberg. However, ignorance often caused arrogance. Furthermore, the entire Planet Secret Blue did not have any idea of the strength level of the galactic warriors. Han Xiao coming alone gave them meaningless courage.

The supporters of conflict suggested tactics against the alien.

“We have one night, which is more than enough to gather about ten thousand guards and quietly surround that area. We can use the forbidden Runes; these most elite warriors will be able to endure it. Combined with the large rune weapons, it is more than enough to defeat the alien. He definitely will not expect us to attack him.”

The Lord of Runes' eyes flickered as he swayed between peace and greed. In the end, he made the decision—reject the alien's request. If they could capture the alien, all the benefits would belong to them.

He looked around the officials and said, "Gather the troops and bring out our strongest weapons. This is a once in a thousand years opportunity. Being too careful will only waste it. We have to capture the alien no matter what."

...

The first beam of sunlight appeared in the sky, penetrating the forest, and landed on Han Xiao, who was sitting still like a rock.

Han Xiao's eyelashes moved, and he opened his eyes. The refreshing, cooling morning fog landed on his skin and left a tint of wetness, making Han Xiao feel slightly energized after not sleeping for the night.

"It's almost daytime. The enemies should arrive soon."

A few droplets of water landed on his face. He looked up at the sky and raised his eyebrows. "Looks like it's going to rain."

Rain poured very soon, pitter-pattering on the leaves.

Han Xiao stood up and looked around the forest. The swaying trees gave out a strange atmosphere. In the dark forest, he sensed a faint, murderous intent mixed with the dampness.

Suddenly, a pressure landed on his body and slowed his movements. Han Xiao realized that he had to use more strength to remain at his usual speed, which was the effect of some kind of gravity rune.

"Just as I expected, they chose war."

Han Xiao nodded in his mind. The organizations on that planets were all like calves that would not learn their lesson before receiving a heavy beating. People with no idea of the situation would dream of controlling and gaining every benefit before them.

Fear made people cautious. Normal civilizations would make contact with the aliens carefully, but that did not mean all natives would. There were some that were humble and some that were greedy. Some savage native civilizations would even think that the aliens were demons and choose to fight them with their entire nations, which had happened countless times before.

The greedier they were, the more they liked to play with fire.

The enormous Rune Guard army appeared from the forest in all directions. One thousand rune bows were aimed at him, and one thousand melee guards were slowly approaching. These two thousand troops were just the frontlines; the majority of the troops were still deeply hidden in the forest. The City of Runes had sent out seventy percent of all their troops.

“Alien, you should be able to understand our language. I’m the commander of the City of Runes Guard Army, Backzas. You’re surrounded. We will not harm you, provided you don’t resist meaninglessly and follow us.”

The expressionless commander in gorgeous rune armor stood in the middle of the army and spoke in a cold tone. He was the general that had strongly suggested to fight the previous night. The whole night, he had been gathering the army and approaching the forest quietly. The encirclement had formed, and even the founder of the War Runes would not have a chance—that was the strongest person in the history of the City of Runes.

The soldiers looked at the alien with curiosity. He did not seem very terrifying.

“Apparently, I have no choice but to take a trip to your city personally, such an unwise choice.” Han Xiao was regretful on the surface but delighted in his heart.

Hearing this, the rune warriors became nervous. However, when they looked at the countless comrades around them, they felt confident again.

Backzas’ face became stiff.

Is the battle starting?

After gathering suggestions the previous night, they had designed many tactics for the possible methods that the alien might have. They were very prepared. Backzas recalled these tactics and felt assured.

The forest terrain was a little bit disadvantageous for Han Xiao. He looked around and faced at the City of Runes’ direction.

I shall... head there directly!

Chapter 449: One Against the World!

Clank!

Dragging a trail of electric sparks, the compressed orbs quickly rolled out on the ground in a hundred-meter radius. With the sound of mechanical gears moving, artilleries appeared instantly and started firing at the army in all directions.

Countless troops fell in an instant!

“Hide!” Backzas yelled. He hid behind a tree, thinking that it could block the bullets.

However, the next moment, a few high-caliber Blazing Armor Penetrating Bullets blasted this tree into bits and shattered Backzas’ armor. He spat out blood from his mouth and screamed in agony before falling to the ground. Clenching his teeth, he growled, “Fire!”

Pow!

A thousand glowing rune arrows were shot at a single target.

Facing the countless arrows, Han Xiao slightly raised his finger. Twelve Sonic Spheres flew out and surround him, emitting sonic waves that turned into impact waves, deflecting all the arrows onto the ground.

Han Xiao took a step forward and headed toward the City of Runes. The first group of troops was buried by the infinite bullets and cannons.

There were both Gunpowder Artilleries and Electromagnetic Artilleries. The bullets used by the Gunpowder Artilleries were all special bullets such as Incendiary Bullets, Penetrating Bullets, grenades, gas bombs, and so on. There were also bullets enchanted by the Volga brothers such as Frozen Bullets, Oil Bullets, and others that caused all sorts of debuffs.

Boom boom boom!

The trees fell under the crossfire, opening up a path covered in the remains of the trees that were still burning.

The light rain was devoured by the flames and turned into a fog, making the field of sight unclear. The troops could only see the shadow of a person slowly walking forward in the mist.

The direction of the fallen trees showed Han Xiao's location.

The large army finally arrived, and tens of thousands of Rune Guards charged forward under command. However, the area with a five hundred-meter radius of Han Xiao was almost a death zone, and anyone that got close would have their armor shattered and their body penetrated by bullets, no matter how many there were. No one could remain standing in that area.

Heavily injured soldiers filled up the path behind Han Xiao. Their wails were almost louder than the sound of cannons firing.

Han Xiao was not bloodthirsty. The level difference between him and these normal soldiers was too huge. They each only gave him one experience point anyway, so Han Xiao was too lazy to kill them all. For those who got hit in their vital spots, they were just unlucky. Although killing was not a hobby of his, Han Xiao did not feel pressurized by it at all.

Killing some people is normal. Back then when I infiltrated the Germinal Organization...

Never mind, a real mind does not mention his past glory days.

Finally, those soldiers hesitated and did not dare get too close. It was a completely meaningless sacrifice. They were afraid.

This time, three hundred special soldiers stepped out of the crowd. They were wearing black armor that had ten times more complicated rune engravings. All of their eyes were filled with veins like they were enduring enormous pain. They were the strongest warriors of the City of Runes—Black Armor Guards. Their rune armor was the highest level equipment; only trained ace warriors could use it, yet it would still cause irreversible damage to their body. Only one in fifty elite warriors would be selected as a Black Armor Guard. One Black Armor Guard could fight one hundred enemies.

Clank!

The Black Armor Guards charged into the rain of bullets. The highest-level armor finally stopped the bullets. The City of Runes army saw hope again.

Enduring the pain, the three hundred of them unsheathed their rune swords and charged toward Han Xiao fiercely.

Han Xiao's face was calm. He snapped his fingers, and tens of mechanical beasts stampeded forward and restrained these elite warriors. Then, Han Xiao switched the Electromagnetic Artilleries to manual control, multiplying their power. He focused on the Black Armor Guards and defeated them one after another with ease.

Han Xiao's combat style at the moment was almost invincible when facing a large number of enemies unless they were at the same grade as him. The most important thing was that they were cheap.

The ace warriors of City of Runes, the fighters that had high hopes of the army on their shoulders, were defeated without making any impact. Backzas' heart sank when he saw this.

The power of the alien was beyond their expectations!

A deep sense of regret appeared in their hearts, but it was more than too late. They would not know how much they overestimated themselves till they faced such a tragic defeat.

Backzas was held onto his pierced legs and yelled, "Activate the Rune Catapults!"

Four weapons that looked like huge cannons were dragged out and aimed at Han Xiao from afar. These were the trump card of the City of Runes. The design originated from an almost completely broken weapon from an advanced rune civilization. The City of Runes had yet to gain its full technology, and the replica that they had made only had a hundredth of its power, but it was more than enough to be their strongest weapon. The entire City of Runes only had ten of them, and they had taken out four to use as the trump card against the alien.

This was their final resort; they were worried that they might kill the alien due to how strong those weapons were, but they could not be bothered about that anymore. If they still had the mindset of wanting to capture the alien alive, Backzas could already see their ending of being completely defeated.

Hum!

The four catapults shot out enormous energy arrows with a high pitch sound, carrying their last hope.

"These things are not too bad."

Han Xiao pressed his hands together. Mechanical Force gushed out, and a colorful, bubble-like energy shield appeared, covering an area of three meters around him.

The energy arrows hit the bubble, but there were no explosions; they slid on the surface of the bubble and flew away, blasting ten-meter-wide pits on the ground hundreds of meters away.

[Skewed Energy Field Generator]. This was the equipment that Han Xiao had created using [Advanced Energy Theory]. It could skew energy attacks to a certain extent. He had purchased this knowledge during the nine months of doing hiring missions.

“These four cannons are a little bit threatening to me. One shot would probably cost me about 200 health.” Han Xiao looked at these catapults. They were quite far away and exceeded the shooting range of his artilleries. Han Xiao nodded. A specially made set of compressed orbs flew out and turned into machinery parts midair.

These parts combined and connected with each other. Very soon, a medium-sized Electromagnetic Rail Cannon landed beside him. It was almost two men tall.

Han Xiao sat in the control seat, quickly locked onto the target, and started charging. The blinding electric currents gathered in the cannon’s barrel.

Hum!

A blue electric beam crossed a thousand meters and penetrated three Rune Catapults instantly; everything in its path was melted.

This was the Giant War Cannon Style that Han Xiao rarely used. It was usually Cannon Master equipment specifically used to deal damage. This medium-sized Electromagnetic Rail Cannon was very powerful, and he spent quite some time to build it. It was used to deal single target damage, and every shot cost tens of Enas. It was equipment that he had specifically made to deal huge damage together with [Flaming Will]. In one hiring mission in the past, the local organizations had to fight against a space monster that had more than 50,000 health. Han Xiao had gotten lucky with [Flaming Will] and dealt five times the usual damage. At the same time, he had triggered True Damage from [Lethal Shot], dealing 14,885 damage in one shot. It was still his highest single damage record.

“What power is this?” Backzas’ lips were pale, and his face was filled with horror.

The alien was outrageously powerful; the tactics that they had discussed the night before all became jokes.

This shot was the last straw that shattered their hopes. The City of Runes army finally collapsed; they threw away their armor and escaped in all directions. Some even sat frozen on the ground with a blank mind, even forgetting to run away.

You have defeated enemies outnumbering you more than 10,000 to 1 alone.

You have received [One Against the World] Achievement Ability.

[One Against the World]: When in battle, if you’re alone, you will receive an 11% increase in all attributes.

“A rather good Achievement Ability.” Han Xiao nodded. Some abilities could be obtained through hidden challenges—they were called Achievement Abilities. Most of them had quite good effects.

[One Against the World] was obviously an ability suited for lone wolves, and it was very useful to players. As long as they had this ability, they would receive free attribute boosts when hunting other players. The only problem was that the method of getting it was not so player-friendly. For the players to face 10,000 enemies alone, it was not as easy as it was for Han Xiao.

Seeing the defeated and escaping enemies, Han Xiao collected his weapons and continued walking toward the City of Runes.

He believed that this battle was more than enough for the City of Runes to realize the difference in their strength.

...

The Lord of Runes did not sleep that night; he was anxiously waiting for the battle report.

Only half an hour had passed after the decided time of starting the battle, and the battle report came from the frontlines. The Lord of Runes fell onto the ground and sat there in terror.

One man against an army of tens of thousands of soldiers.

The army was overwhelmingly defeated!

The target was completely unharmed!

The face of all the officials present changed dramatically. Horror had crept onto their faces.

Chapter 450: Golden but Poor!

The City of Runes was surrounded by forests. Looking down from the high places in the city, the white city was surrounded by a dense green. However, now, a conspicuous, empty path appeared in the forest.

Smoke rose in the rain, and the residents of the City of Runes could see it clearly from afar.

“What happened there?”

“The faint sound of explosions kept coming from that direction earlier. Could the Iron Fire Castle have launched an attack?”

“I woke up to arrange the goods before sunrise, and do you know what I saw? Groups of Rune Guards walking into the forest in that exact direction.”

Seeing the smoke from far away, the City of Runes’ residents wondered what had happened. The intel regarding an alien appearing had yet to spread.

“It’s him... it must be him...” In the crowd, a short and skinny man was terrified. The people around him noticed his reaction and guessed that this person might know something, so they asked him about it.

“That’s an alien! He landed outside the city last night. He speaks our language and made a request to the Lord of Runes...” This person was the head of smugglers from the previous night. He poured out

everything that he had seen. More and more people gathered around him to listen, and they could not believe it.

“A battle definitely broke out there. This means that the Lord of Runes did not accept the alien’s request.” The head of smugglers gulped. The crowd exchanged looks and saw panic in each other’s eyes.

This time, a commotion broke out in the distance. A Rune Guard ran back with all his might, his face still covered in the cannon ashes. He kept looking back with terror like there was some kind of monster behind him. Then, more and more defeated soldiers ran back after him.

This scene gave the residents a very bad feeling. A middle-aged man realized that his brother who served in the army was running back as well. He hastily caught him and asked him what had happened.

“The people above rejected the alien’s request. They wanted to capture the alien... The army of tens of thousands of soldiers lost to the enemy who was alone. Thousands of us died, but we couldn’t even touch him. It’s terrifying. Everyone is escaping. You guys should too! He’s coming to the city!” Fear was still lingering in this guard. He quickly explained the situation and ran away frantically.

The people were shocked, panicked, and outraged. They almost wanted to beat up the Lord of Runes—why did he not accept the alien’s request? Why did he have to mess with the alien and bring danger to the entire city?

This time, a group of soldiers walked out from the direction of the central tower. They pushed away the residents and cleared a path. The Lord of Runes rushed to the edge of the city together with a group of officials, and the guard behind them was holding a strange sculpture.

The alien was going to enter the city very soon, so there was no time to escape. The Lord of Runes had no choice but to take the statue and ask for mercy. According to the intel from the frontlines, the alien did not chase the running army and was not hurt. Maybe the alien did not like killing. What he was doing was a total bet. His greed toward the alien had completely vanished, and he only hoped that the alien would leave after taking the statue and forgive them.

Seeing this, some residents followed behind. Along the way, more and more people joined in and formed a wave behind the Lord of Runes, wanting to see what happened with their own eyes.

Thousands of people came to the village at the edge of the city. They looked in the direction of the forest anxiously.

The Lord of Runes kept wiping off his sweat, apprehensive.

Ta, ta, ta!

The footsteps on leaves and soil came from the forest and gradually got closer. As the distance between them shortened, the residents and the Lord of Runes felt more and more uneasy. Not long after, Han Xiao finally walked out of the forest and came to the edge of the City of Runes.

As soon as he appeared, countless eyes focused on him with curiosity, fear, worry, and other emotions.

Seeing the large crowd and the group of people who clearly were government officials, Han Xiao’s eyebrows twitched. His lips curled up as he could guess what their plan was. They had realized that they

had messed with someone that they should not have messed with, and now they were offering the statue in exchange for forgiveness and mercy.

But isn't it too late to yield?

The Lord of Runes took the statue from the hands of the guard, walked forward hastily, observed Han Xiao cautiously, and said with a shivering voice, "Thi—this should be what you are looking for..."

Not knowing what the alien was thinking, the Lord of Runes did not dare say anything else. Although he was a ruler, he had absolutely no confidence in front of someone that could easily destroy an army of tens of thousands of soldiers.

Although Planet Secret Blue did not have a proper Super system, there were some that had discovered the path of Supers. The War Rune Church was the gathering ground of these people in the City of Runes and had a high position. However, even their founder could only barely face one thousand Rune Guards, and it had taken him a very long time to defeat them. The efficiency of killing was completely on a different level from the alien before them.

After the battle report came, the Lord of Runes had wanted to request the warriors of the War Rune Church to stop the alien but had immediately been rejected. The War Rune Church knew that there was nothing that they could do, so they did not even give the Lord of Runes a chance to speak... despite them receiving huge funds from him every year.

Han Xiao touched the statue. The information on the interface was correct, so this was indeed the last lost statue.

When he reached out to take the statue, the Lord of Runes' body shivered visibly. His eyes met with Han Xiao's eyes, and he lowered his head in horror.

Glancing through the nervous crowd, Han Xiao said calmly, "Don't worry, we don't kill innocents."

Hearing Han Xiao's words, they breathed a sigh of relief.

"By the way, who's your ruler?"

The residents pointed at the Lord of Runes simultaneously. Before the Lord of Runes could relax, his face turned stiff, and he gave a very forced smile.

"You're the one that sent the troops to attack me?" Han Xiao asked. "Why didn't you accept my request?"

The Lord of Runes shivered and did not dare to respond.

"According to the fair-trade rule of the mercenaries, you have attacked me. If you want to settle it, you have to pay compensation." Han Xiao narrowed his eyes. "What do you want to pay in exchange for your life?"

The Lord of Runes was covered in cold sweat. He was both furious and anguished. This was the first time that he had been threatened—who would dare speak to him that way normally?

Plus, you killed and injured so many of our men, yet you're the one asking for compensation?

"We have a lot of outer space objects..." The Lord of Runes clenched his teeth in his mind. He had no choice but to endure it and ask his subordinate to make a list of their inventory to give to Han Xiao.

Han Xiao scanned through roughly and was a little disappointed. The local currency of Planet Secret Blue was completely meaningless to him, and the only things that were acceptable were the outer space objects. However, the inventory of the City of Runes was really filled with trash. Most of it was trash. A small portion were products from rune civilizations that were close to rubbish and had basically no value. After looking through the list from head to toe, he came to a conclusion—looking at the list was a complete waste of time as these people were extremely poor!

Han Xiao threw the list away and shook his head. "These things can't buy your life. Sorry, I will have to make you pay for your mistake."

The Lord of Runes' face changed drastically.