

The Mechanic 731

Chapter 731 Return

Seeing that Han Xiao did not believe him, Austin said, "Psyker is only concerned about his own Civilization and will not be interested in helping you. Even if I request his assistance, he might not give me face since we don't have any relationship."

Your face isn't worth much, and to think you're a Beyond Grade A... You're also someone who likes socializing, just like me... Han Xiao inwardly complained.

As though reading Han Xiao's thoughts, Austin coughed and changed the topic. "Even if he was willing, if you don't become a Beyond Grade A Super, you won't live for long."

"Oh?" Han Xiao narrowed his eyes.

"You killed so many Grade A Supers from Bloodshed Land, but because of the rules of war, the Tyrant has been unable to make a move against you," Austin replied serenely. "However, once the secret war comes to an end, what do you think he will do?"

Han Xiao frowned in response. "He'll praise me for all my kills."

Austin was rendered speechless, an incredulous expression hanging on his face. He shook his head.

"If you manage to reach the Beyond Grade A level before the end of the secret war, the Tyrant will enter the war to deal with you, but you at least will have some hope of surviving. However, if you end up being unable to break through to Beyond Grade A, you will not be able to resist, and even if you try to drag the death sentence, the day will come when you two battle!

"Thus, to say that advancing into a Beyond Grade A Super is your only choice was not me lying to you. Furthermore, the time you have left isn't great."

Han Xiao stroked his chin, not speaking. However, Marian, who was at the side, was already dazed, and Feidin also had on an expression of worry. He glanced toward Han Xiao from time to time, his eyes showing his concern.

Become a Beyond Grade A in two to three years? That's impossible! Feidin could not even imagine how low the possibilities were.

He knew very well that Han Xiao had already reached a very high realm at this point. If he wished to take another step forward, how difficult would that be? In the past seven years, he had practically not improved a single step, and compared to his previous speed of progression that was akin to flying, even his close friends were hypothesizing that Black Star had finally met a bottleneck.

At that time, if the Tyrant went knocking, Black Star would likely die. The huge Black Star Army would also collapse along with his death.

Even if Black Star could seize the slim possibility and advance into the Beyond Grade A realm, he might not survive under the hands of the Tyrant. The Tyrant had long since advanced to Beyond Grade A, and his reputation had been earned through fighting. Thus, his combat capability could definitely crush a newly promoted Beyond Grade A.

With this in mind, Feidin was pessimistic about the future. He reached out and squeezed Han Xiao's shoulder, hoping to give him some comfort.

Deep in thought, Han Xiao must have been feeling very depressed at this moment.

"Where did you get your news from?"

"I naturally have my own sources." Austin smiled.

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes as he pretended to sigh. In actual fact, this news was not out of his expectations. Since he dared to participate in the secret war, he was already prepared for the enemy and did not leave anything to fate.

Originally, he was only considered an ordinary member of Section Zero, but he had turned into one of their trump cards, successfully attracting the attention of the Tyrant. Han Xiao had also always been wary of Heber's involvement in the war. He was not scared, however, as he still had the backing of Floating Dragon, and if the Tyrant wanted to move against him, he would have to face the wrath of the Dragon Emperor. Both sides already had a prior grudge, so Ames would never take this matter lying down.

Moreover, once the Tyrant decided to intervene, the Purple Crystal Civilization would also explode and send troops regardless of the cost to surround Heber. A Star Cluster Civilization was sufficient to threaten the life of a Beyond Grade A Super. At that time, Klent would also use this as an excuse to send troops, and the nature of the secret war would become a large-scale war of two civilizations.

Both warring parties wished to control the scale of the war, so the Tyrant had not appeared. However, Han Xiao was not too aggressive. It was okay to take a piss on someone else's head, but sh*tting would go too far.

In fact, after he carved out a name for himself, he had reduced the frequency of his appearances. Having successfully formed an alliance with Purple Crystal, he had obtained a lot of development opportunities and had completed his original intention of participating in the secret war. Thus, he wanted to avoid the situation where the winds howled around the highest peaks.

Although he might have affected the process of this secret war, just based on the strength and status of the Calamity Grades on both sides, it would be hard to change the outcome of the war. He had acted within his means and did not slave away to complete each objective the Purple Crystal set for him.

As such, Austin's words only allowed Han Xiao's speculations to turn into reality, so he was not too surprised.

However, on the surface, Han Xiao still had to thank Austin for reminding him.

"I can only help you so much. The enchantment that Lagi has given you is pretty good. I don't need to improve it. You may leave."

Austin waved his hands, telling his subordinated to send off his guests.

Seeing the situation, Han Xiao did not stay any longer as well, taking the concerned Feidin and Marian, leaving the Palace of Hidden Spells.

Austin returned to his throne, and on his round face, there was an expression as though he was watching a fascinating show.

He never involved himself in disputes, as he liked to be in the position of a bystander, watching the fights across eras even as the seas themselves turned into mulberry fields.

Pressure could be a form of motivation, and he had purposefully stated the intentions of the Tyrant to see how Black Star would behave before this looming disaster. Would he rise against it, or would he be extinguished within? Would he be a defeated dog, leaving the Shattered Star Ring to escape the pursuit of the Tyrant?

Whichever outcome it was, Austin looked forward to it.

Of course, the scene that he wished to see most would be Black Star breaking the situation of the Shattered Star Ring that had been fixed for decades, injecting new vitality into this remote Star Field.

The trio boarded the spaceship, leaving the Palace of Hidden Spells.

There was only silence on-board.

Feidin could not resist opening his mouth after a while to ask, "Do you have any hope of breaking past your bottleneck in the next two to three years?"

Bottleneck? What bottleneck? Han Xiao did not respond immediately. He only glanced at him in confusion. Suddenly, it clicked as to what he was talking about, and Han Xiao could only shrug.

"I don't know." He naturally did not mention the matter of his interface.

"What then? The Tyrant is sure to come and kill you." Feidin was a little panicked.

"Maybe we can obtain the Evolution Cube from Psyker himself," Marian suggested. "Isn't that thing capable of lowering the threshold of entering Beyond Grade A?"

"I think there's no chance of that." Han Xiao shook his head.

Austin might have been able to discuss the matter with Psyker, but he had no intention of helping Han Xiao. As for Ames, because she was probably not familiar with Psyker, she could not use her face to talk to Psyker. The Evolution Cube was Psyker's treasure. Even if he wanted to use it, he did not know the other party. There was an eighty percent chance that Psyker would just ignore him.

Furthermore, he himself did not have any real bottlenecks and merely lacked experience.

"Then, what are you preparing to do?" Feidin asked.

"Improvise."

With the players returning in Version 3.0, Han Xiao was confident that he would reach Beyond Grade A, but he was unable to explain that to Feidin.

Feidin pressed on the shoulders of Han Xiao, speaking with a solemn expression. "If this really does not work, we'll just abandon the Black Star Army and escape to another Star Field. Our influence can be rebuilt; our lives are more important."

“And you’ll come along with us?” Han Xiao jested.

Feidin paused for a moment before seriously nodding. “I will.”

Feeling the genuine intentions of Feidin, Han Xiao was a little touched.

But he shook his head and changed the topic, smiling as he said, “Don’t be frightened by what has not come. Let’s talk about the issue of the Tyrant next time. Right now, I still have a more urgent problem. I need to find a way to suppress the parasitism in my mental territory. This psychic toxin... oh, I should call it the Soul Embryo. With this thing here, I can’t even exert any energy.”

“A pity that the Magus was unable to help.” Feidin sighed.

“He just didn’t want to help. Don’t look at him having an amiable expression. In actual fact, that old chicken is extremely sly. Do you think he told me all that intelligence to help me?”

Han Xiao pursed his lips. He was not as easily manipulated as Herlous. To make him go all the way there, only to see him flap his lips a little and send them off, not even reimbursing them for fuel costs, what nonsense was this?

In the end, he still had to find his own method. If he had known this, he would not have relied on Austin at all. This was a wasted trip.

As Han Xiao thought about it, he suddenly discovered a path.

Since the reason reaching Beyond Grade A could allow him to automatically recover was their strong mental strength, this meant that each time he levelled up, his spirit should increase. Thus, even if he did not reach Beyond Grade A, he should be able to suppress the Soul Embryo.

Because the NPCs did not have an interface, they could only subtly improve themselves through grinding and training. However, Han Xiao’s leveling up was an instantaneous process, and the effect displayed was significant. Although upgrading would not allow him to clear away his negative state, it should be able to inhibit the growth of the Soul Embryo.

Han Xiao opened his interface. This trip had taken more than half a month, and the players had long returned to the Black Star Army and made their purchases. He had already accumulated a reasonable amount of experience to raise his level. This would serve to test his theory.

He did not hesitate, immediately raising his level by one.

[Apostle Mechanic) leveled up to Lv.23.

+240 Energy, +3 STR, +4 DEX, +5 END, +10 INT.

You have received 8 Free Attribute Points and 1 Potential Point.

Han Xiao connected to his mental territory, and looking down, he saw that the area of purplish black mist where the Soul Embryo was had further shrunk. It had reduced from six percent to four percent.

Leveling up is indeed effective. The stronger the mental territory, the more the Soul Embryo will be suppressed.

As he withdrew his spiritual probing, he immediately came up with an idea. It was not as though he was incapable of attacking. As long as he reasonably upgraded himself, controlling the Soul Embryo to remain below thirty percent, there would be no possibility of a troublesome sub-personality rising.

He sighed in relief. Since there was a long-term plan to suppress it, the threat of the Soul Embryo had decreased. Indeed, enchanting and stuff were all external means; the most reliable path was still to strengthen himself. A matter that a Beyond Grade A could not deal with could be resolved simply by levelling himself.

If that's the case, it's not as if I can't attack. I just have to control the time taken for battle... Oh, but to be safe, I had better look for a stronger partner...

At this time, his communicator rang. Taking it out, Han Xiao saw that it was from Sylvia, who was manning the helm at the main headquarters. There was a photo attached.

In the picture, a dark red spaceship was dragging dozens of spaceships through a traction beam into the dock. A memorable flash of dark red hair leaped into his gaze; it was Hila and Aurora who were standing at the dock, showing contrasting cold and warm expressions.

Hila's back?

Han Xiao looked at the photo, and the corners of his mouth rose.

At that moment, he had the best candidate in mind.

"Your Excellency Dragon Emperor, the ladies have already arrived at the headquarters of Black Star Army."

In the palace of Floating Dragon Island, Vilna had her head lowered as she reported the status of the two sisters to Ames.

Ames had squeezed her force field into tiny little green spheres and was playing with them on her fingers. She smiled when she heard the news. "Did they meet into any problems?"

"Well, I sent out a fleet in secret, and there were eight small bandit groups that tried to attack them, but all of them were easily killed by Hila." Because Vilna was afraid that they would meet with unforeseen circumstances, she had sent out someone to follow them for protection.

Ames nodded in response. "You've done well. Since they have successfully reached Black Star's territory, recall the troops. Black Star will naturally take care of them."

She cared more for the siblings than herself. She did not feel that normally, but now that the two sisters had been gone for more than half a month, she began to feel as though she was lacking something in her life.

By the side, Aesop shook his head. "You don't need to worry about them at all. By following Black Star, they will grow quickly."

Looking over, Ames seemed a little unhappy. "Do you mean to say that I didn't teach well?"

Aesop waved his hands in helplessness. "Hila can absorb the dead's remaining spiritual powers to strengthen her own. She did not have an opportunity to use the ability here, but Black Star is participating in the war, with countless dying every second. For Hila, the best place for her to grow and practice is the battlefield. Even I can't imagine the pace of her growth beside Black Star."

"That's right. Black Star, that b*stard, will definitely make them join the battlefield. It's so dangerous. What if Black Star doesn't take care of them?" Ames murmured to herself, obviously focusing on a different direction. She resembled a worried parent, treating her two disciples who had followed her for more than a decade like her children.

Aesop and Vilna had a bad feeling upon hearing those words.

After spending yet another half a month travelling, Han Xiao's group finally arrived back at the headquarters and met the two sisters who had been away for a long time.

In the office, Aurora ran head first into Han Xiao's arms, squirming non stop. Although they were already old, she still felt the same familiarity and closeness to Han Xiao.

"Based on the contract, we're here to work for you." Hila was expressionless.

"We're all old acquaintances. There's no need to talk about an agreement or contract. I'm happy that you guys are here to help." Han Xiao stroked Aurora's hair as he laughed. "To think that a decade has passed just like that. You're all grown up."

The emotions in Hila's eyes fluctuated slightly.

They had once been puppets under the control of the Germinal Organization, but now, Black Star had become a great figure in the Universe, while Hila had also become a Calamity Grade Super. Things were different.

Thinking back to the past, Hila felt moved. The man in front of her had changed her entire life. Without Black Star, she would have grown old with guilt and hatred for the planet and would likely never have been able to enter the magnificent universe.

"The last time we fought side by side was more than a decade ago. At that time, I could not help out at all." Hila's eyebrows rose, and she was full of spirit. "But I've finally caught up to you!"

"I've already waited ten years for today." Han Xiao patted Hila's shoulders as he smiled. He then took two steps back, raising his hands as he said out loud, "Welcome to the Black Star Army!"

Chapter 732 Cultivation Plan

In Han Xiao's previous life, Hila strength had earned her the title 'Goddess of Death'.

Ever since Han Xiao saved these two sisters from the Germinal Organization, he had always seen Hila as a very important aid in the future. After waiting for so many years, Hila had finally grown and was now a Calamity Grade. She was now starting to be helpful.

Han Xiao knew about Hila's ability very well. Being able to become stronger by absorbing the souls of the dead was something that only she could do. In his previous life, she had slaughtered countless planets and grown faster than even the players.

In his eyes, although Hila did not have the Luck Glow, she was undoubtedly a legendary character... of course, a villainous character.

Although Hila was not walking the evil path, it just so happened to be in a time of war. All the dead soldiers could become the source of her power. This was a once in a thousand years opportunity that could make Hila live up to her true potential.

He needed someone that could fight in his place, and Hila was the perfect candidate.

As for Aurora...

Han Xiao turned to look at her, smiled kindly, and said, "How's the development of your Esper ability?"

Aurora chuckled. She flipped her hand, and a golden light appeared above her palm.

"I'm not good at battles, but I can cure any physical damages, and I can also stimulate the vital forces of others and make them stronger. Try it..."

As she was speaking, a cluster of golden light landed on Han Xiao. Han Xiao felt energized as if an electric current passed through his entire body, and many buffs appeared on the interface.

"Can your power be stored?" Han Xiao asked.

"Yes, I've tried to inject the vital energy into potions. These can be stored for a long time. But I'm not as hard-working as my sister, so I'm not a Calamity Grade yet. Thus, the expiration date is a little short. The healing effect of these potions will diminish over time and can last for two months at most."

Aurora scratched her head, a little embarrassed.

Han Xiao's eyes sparkled. He looked at Aurora as if he was looking at a treasure. He saw the hope of expanding the army's business into the galactic medicine industry.

Aurora's Esper ability made her a born healer. When she was still very weak, her healing abilities were already extremely strong. Now that she was a Grade B Super, her healing ability would most likely have increased many times.

"Also, although I can't fight very well, I can regenerate very quickly." Aurora pulled out an explosive pistol from the belt of her battle suit, spun it a few rounds on her finger, and suddenly fired at her other hand.

With a bang, the beam penetrated her palm. Before Han Xiao could even be shocked by her actions, her wound healed up extremely quickly and disappeared. Her palm became white and smooth once again. no signs of it being wounded could be seen anywhere.

"See, I can protect myself now!" Like a child showing off, Aurora's face was filled with anticipation. She wanted to be praised by Han Xiao.

In the training that lasted more than ten years, other than cultivating her Esper ability, Aurora had also learned quite many shooting and fighting techniques to make up for her combat capability. As she had once been tortured by the Germinal Organization, although she looked weak and soft, she was

extremely resilient and had a very high pain tolerance. She did not even frown the slightest when she casually shot through her hand.

What a tough girl... Han Xiao smiled and praised her. "That's an amazing ability."

The name (Life Return) sure was not an exaggeration. Aurora was only Grade B now, so when she reached Grade A, her regeneration power would probably be even stronger than his. Sadly, her Esper ability did not have a high combat capability. However, her ability and Hila's ability definitely made up for each other's weaknesses.

After the three of them chatted for a while, Hila said with a serious face, "How do you plan to arrange us?"

"I shall bring you to meet the officers of the army first."

Hila shook her head. "Before you came back, Sylvia took us to meet all the high-ranking officers. She said that when you're back, you'll personally decide our positions."

During the Mutation Disaster in Version 2.0, the most senior members of the army had all met Hila. They knew that her relationship with Han Xiao was not usual, so they definitely treated them well.

"Since that's the case, let's get down to business then," Han Xiao said. "The two of you will follow me as my bodyguards first. After you know more about how the army operates, I'll then arrange official high-ranking positions for you."

"No problem." Hila nodded.

Han Xiao thought for a moment then said, "Rest a few days, then I will bring you guys along."

Hila, however, shook her head and rejected that. "There's no need; we have rested enough. Give us missions as soon as possible. I want to test my true strength."

Why are you in more of a hurry than me? Han Xiao smiled, contemplated for a while, and then nodded. "Okay. We shall head out tomorrow. I'll take you guys to war."

He planned to keep a low profile for some time while reaping the players' Experience and cultivating Hila's potential personally.

In the West Wind Star System, Star Zone 11...

This was the border Star System that had been invaded before any others. The forces of the Bloodshed Land stationed there were the largest. They had built around a hundred strongholds spread across the various Star Zones in the West Wind Star System. Section Zero had set up perimeters at some strategically important places to prevent the Bloodshed Land from invading the areas around West Wind.

Perimeter 027 was one of them, with numerous Section Zero members garrisoned there throughout the year. The Black Star Army's fleet was in it as well, and the people stationed here rotated in shifts.

Other than the occasional large-scale military operations, perimeters were where battles occurred the most regularly. The Bloodshed Land tried to penetrate the perimeters time after time. The troops at the

perimeters also sent small fleets to disrupt and attack the Bloodshed Land strongholds regularly. Those perimeters were the 'frontlines' of the war.

After the Kant Star System battle ended, the players started to explore freely. Han Xiao had yet to cancel the fifty percent off sale for those taking part in the war. The requirement to enjoy this benefit was to continue participating in the war. Hence, in the more than a month Han Xiao took to travel back and forth, most of the players were scattered across the various perimeters where there were countless battles. This was also the usual way of taking part in the secret war main storyline.

There were also players that did not take part in the main storyline. Some went to do mercenary missions, some went to explore around, and some guild players bought mining devices and small carrier ships and went to become miners on the resource planets under the Black Star Army.

More than 20,000 players gathered at Perimeter 027, participating in the daily combat missions.

Not long ago, a Bloodshed Land fleet had attacked the perimeter but failed. The stationed troops were now cleaning up the battlefield. In the military space station office, the commander of Perimeter 027, Rexson, was looking at the troops outside the window cleaning the wreckages while listening to his deputy report the result of the battle.

"The enemy lost eighty-six small battleships and nineteen heavy frigates. We lost thirty-eight battleships. As for casualties... ahem, it's unknown for the enemy. The casualties on our side are being calculated right now. The initial estimate is that the damage is very small..."

"All thanks to the Black Star Army again?" Rexson said with a relaxed expression.

"Yes. The Immortals of the Black Star Army destroyed many of the enemy battleships through close-quarter battles. Since they don't need any retreat plans, we did not suffer any extra casualties..."

The deputy swallowed his saliva. It was written on the battle report that after landing on the enemy battleships through the charge cabin, many of them instantly detonated the charge cabin and did not consider retreating at all. Some even landed while carrying nuclear bombs. These people were extremely brave.

"Ever since the Black Star Army sent a few dozen thousand Immortals, the combat pressure on our side decreased tremendously. These people are born warriors." Rexson took a deep breath.

It had been two months since the version started. A lot of players had reached level 100 and completed their Promotion Missions one after another, getting the opportunity to experience Race Evolution. The versatility of the players increased once again. The first batch of players had finally entered Grade B.

Although they were just the weakest kind of Grade Bs, the increase in their Grade still made a powerful impact. The mid-tier combatant standard of the Black Star Army instantly increased an entire level. As more than a million of those Supers were sent into the various perimeter battlefields, the situation of many of those perimeters immediately became much better.

For Perimeter 027, the twenty thousand or so Grade B players secured victories for all the recent skirmishes at the perimeter. Rexson could not have been more satisfied with the Black Star Army's players.

The first batch of Black Star Army players were no longer disposable forces like before; they had the ability to make decisive impacts to small scale skirmishes. The players discussed this on the forums. Bun-Hit-Dog mentioned Frenzied Sword's theory during his video and said that as the players became stronger with the version updates, their influence on the world would grow bigger as well, and they would be widely recognized.

Real-time feedback was an important source of fun for the players. If the attitude of an NPC was the same toward max level players and new players, it would be way too boring. The factor that attracted the players the most in Galaxy was that immersive experience as if they were living in a real world.

This time, Rexson suddenly received a notification. He glanced at it, and his expression changed drastically.

"What happened?" the deputy hastily asked.

"Quickly, make the preparations. His Excellency Black Star will be coming personally, and he's almost here." Rexson quickly walked out of the room.

Rexson summoned the high-ranking officers and went to the dock. After a while, the Blacklight Stealth entered.

Han Xiao brought along the two sisters and Feidin. Feidin had come of his own volition. He was worried about Han Xiao's mental state, so he planned to always be around Han Xiao till Han Xiao recovered, just in case.

As soon as they disembarked from the spaceship, Rexson approached them respectfully. To him, Han Xiao was someone that he would have no chance of coming into contact with usually. Han Xiao had gained the respect of all the Section Zero members through his battle results.

"No need to be so formal. I would like to know about the situation of the Bloodshed Land strongholds nearby," Han Xiao said with a smile.

Rexson was flattered. He hastily invited Han Xiao and the others into the battle conference room, opened the tactical star map, and explained the situation.

Han Xiao stared at the star map, nodded, and said, "Got it, I'm planning to attack Stronghold W-58."

Stronghold W-58 was the biggest hostile stronghold around Perimeter 027, and one Calamity Grade was stationed there. Rexson had never thought of attacking it, but once he heard what Han Xiao said, he was secretly content.

"I need some helpers. Don't worry, the merit will all be yours." Han Xiao smiled.

Rexson nodded continuously and said, "I will send the perimeter fleet to work with you."

Although Han Xiao was not his direct boss, Rexson was not willing to give up this opportunity of gaining Han Xiao's favor, not to mention that the merit of eliminating an enemy stronghold would all go to him.

"Okay, we act in one day's time."

Han Xiao nodded. He had gone to the perimeter this time to let Hila test her abilities, so of course, he was going to strike.

Manudo was the Bloodshed Land Grade A Super stationed in Stronghold W-58. He was not very worried.

Not long ago, he had received a message from spies that Black Star had appeared at Perimeter 027. He was the only Calamity Grade in the strongholds nearby. Since Black Star was already there, Manudo felt that he would not mind getting rid of a usual Calamity Grade like him on the way. His heart was half-frozen in fear.

Manudo hastily reported this to the headquarters. To his surprise, the overall commander proactively contacted him.

“There’s a very high chance that the Black Star will be attacking the stronghold you’re in now. However, don’t panic. I’m going to give you a mission.”

“Is it retreat?” Manudo saw hope.

“Of course not!” Jorde said with a deep voice. “I need you to do one thing-lure Black Star into fighting and battle with him.”

“You can just tell me if you want me to kill myself...” Manudo felt the utmost despair.

“Ahem, I will deploy the Calamity Grades around to support you. You’re not going to fight alone.” Jorde was practically speechless. The fearful name of Black Star was deeply carved into the hearts of the high-level combatants of the Bloodshed Land. There was nothing he could do about it. He could only explain, “Not long ago, Black Star fell into my trap. He’s not at his maximum strength now. I need you to test him.”

Jorde wanted to speculate what damage Psyker’s weapon dealt to Han Xiao through observing Han Xiao’s reactions during battle. He could only feel relieved after seeing it with his own eyes.

At the same time, on a desolate planet between Stronghold W-58 and Perimeter 027, Summer Night Flower and dozens of other players who had joined Klent arrived in spaceships.

They were doing the main storyline mission of the Klent faction. As warriors of the Bloodshed Land, they were deployed to the stronghold near the perimeter to take part in small scale skirmishes just like the Black Star Army players.

The Bloodshed Land had very strict rules. They were not allowed to explore freely like they could in the Black Star Army. Summer Night Flower and the others were not used to it. They could not help but to miss the treatment of the Black Star Army. Sadly, they only knew to treasure it after losing it.

This time, Summer Night Flower and the others finally had some casual time. They had gone to this planet to wait for someone.

Their position in the Bloodshed Land was not high, so their privileges could not be compared to when they were in the Black Star Army. Hence, Summer Night Flower contacted his friend who was still in the Black Star Army and told him to buy the fifty percent off products from the army for them. This planet was where they were going to make the exchange.

Chapter 733 Protecting the Law

“Brother, are you here yet?”

“Soon, soon.”

A small spaceship was parked on the brown desolate land. Summer Night Flower and the others were waiting beside the spaceship.

Very soon, another spaceship landed beside them. The people in it got out of the spaceship, looked around, and greeted Summer Night Flower.

“Where’s the stuff?” Summer Night Flower approached.

“Where’s the money?” the person helping to do the purchases replied.

“Didn’t I make the transfer long ago?” Summer Night Flower said with resignation.

“Ha, I just wanted to paint the atmosphere of an illegal trade. Didn’t it feel very dramatic?”

The person chuckled. Seeing that Summer Night Flower was expressionless, he could only wipe the smile off his face awkwardly and take him into the cabin to see the stuff.

“There, this is all the stuff you wanted. Count it. Don’t say I scammed you.”

Summer Night Flower scanned through and calculated in his mind that the quantity was all correct. Only then did he say, “No need to, I trust you.”

This time, the person helping to make the purchase rubbed his hands with a slightly embarrassed expression and said, “You know, we’ve known each other for many years. We’re quite close, right?”

Summer Night Flower was a little confused. “What are you saying?”

“I’m asking you, are we good friends that play together?”

“Why?”

“Since we’re friends, can you sacrifice yourself and let me kill you a few times to earn some bounties?” the person asked cautiously. “After all, you can’t accept the Bounty Missions from the army. Instead of letting others kill you, I can split thirty percent of the bounty with you.”

“Piss off.” Summer Night Flower was speechless. Thirty percent? How is that little bounty reward going to make up for the experience I lose from dying?

“Stop talking nonsense. You’ve brought the stuff, so I’m taking it away,” Summer Night Flower said as he was about to pick up the equipment.

This time, the person suddenly pressed on his hand and chuckled, “No, I think it’s better for me to keep it for you temporarily.”

“What do you mean? Are you trying to con me?” Summer Night Flower was furious. His friends around him all came closer with hostile looks on their faces, implying they would not hesitate to kill for the equipment.

The person helping to buy the equipment did not panic at all. He slowly said, "This is for your own good. You might be robbed very soon if you're carrying new equipment."

Summer Night Flower suddenly had a bad feeling

At this time, the sound of spaceships landing came from outside. Small spaceships landed on the ground one after another, and a huge group of players rushed out.

The expression of Summer Night Flower and the rest changed drastically. He knew that these people were there for the bounty. He turned to look at the person who had helped to purchase the equipment in disbelief. "You betrayed me?"

"Look at it yourself." The person curled his lips and took out the communicator. On it was the location of the person wanted by the army, which was the location of Summer Night Flower and the rest of the people. Their coordinates were constantly monitored. This trade was not a secret to the other players at all.

"Why didn't I know about this?" Summer Night Flower was stunned. Then he realized with resignation that his army program had automatically been uninstalled.

The Phillip sub-program of these players became a background monitoring device that sent their coordinates to the nearby Black Star Army members at all times. It was like a constant reminder to the army members nearby. Summer Night Flower and the others were as conspicuous as sheep passing through a pack of wolves, except they did not know it at all.

Only the players nearby would receive the coordinates. Summer Night Flower and the rest had only gone to Stronghold W-58 not long ago, so only the players in Perimeter 027 received the coordinates. They thought that this was just a mission reminder, so no one discussed it on the forums. Thus, Summer Night Flower and the rest had no idea.

Suddenly, Summer Night Flower realized something. With a face of shock, he said, "Wait a minute, you knew that our coordinates were exposed all long, yet you didn't tell me and even did not cancel the trade?"

"Sorry, I'm the cop."

"Speak like a human being!"

The person smiled and said, "Sigh, I have to make a living, okay? Since you're already here, it's a waste not to kill you. Like I said, instead of letting others take the bounty, just let me take it. I will split thirty percent with you."

Summer Night Flower's mouth shivered. He pointed at him and could not say a word.

So, you had an ulterior motive all along!

This was a trap!

I saw you as a friend, but you wanted to deceive me?

What happened to basic trust between people?

If the furious looks on the Klent faction players around them could turn into knives, Summer Night Flower would have been sliced into a thousand pieces.

Looking at the quickly approaching players, Summer Night Flower hastily raised his hand with a face full of grief. The person helping to do the purchase thought that he wanted to fight, so he quickly jumped back a few meters. To his surprise, Summer Night Flower stood in place and raised four fingers.

“Forty percent!”

The person’s eye sparkled. He kindly reminded Summer Night Flower and said, “Remember to choose the faction revive point when reviving, or you’ll get killed another time.”

“Thank you so f*cking much!” Summer Night Flower clenched his teeth so hard it sounded like pieces of metal rubbing against each other.

Woosh!

With a familiar flash of white light, Summer Night Flower returned to Stronghold W-58. His face was filled with grief, but he had no tears to cry.

This is so tiring. I shouldn’t have come to Klent...

The moment Summer Night Flower thought that, he quickly eliminated it. He took a few deep breaths to calm himself down and convinced himself to believe in his analysis.

Although the path ahead would be twisted, he still believed that the future of the Klent faction was brighter.

“I will definitely be able to earn back the damages suffered now.” Summer Night Flower encouraged himself then left the revive point. He was not planning to become the target of the rage of the rest of the Klent players.

This time, a message appeared on the interface. It was his friend that helped to make the purchase.

“I’ll hold onto your stuff for now. Let’s find another time to meet again.”

Summer Night Flower was filled with rage.

You want to scam me another time?

“Piss of! Refund!”

Han Xiao saw this small incident on the forums. A player made a post to show off that he got the first kill of the traitor. He felt this was something worth praising, so he sent extra experience and Enas through the faction interface.

The analysis post of Summer Night Flower became popular again. Many were mocking him and laughing at it. Summer Night Flower said that him getting killed was nothing; it was just a usual faction conflict, and the storyline in the future would prove that he was right. He was clearly very stubborn.

After killing some time, a day later, Rexson gathered the troops and attacked Stronghold W-58.

With Han Xiao's current experience, he had seen many small galactic skirmishes fought around a single stronghold. He did not even need to observe the battlefield to know what would happen.

The fleets fought intensely. Han Xiao was observing from the flagship and did not participate, nor did he let Hila and Feidin participate. Seeing that there were countless deaths on both sides, only then did he turn to look at Hila.

"Try the effect of absorbing souls of the dead on the battlefield."

Hila nodded. A tint of red light flashed across her eyes. Then, black red energy covered her entire body. It was like she suddenly grew more than twenty centimeters taller and gave off a vibe of an ancient God-merciless, enormous, and solemn.

In the wide galactic battlefield, gray fog appeared in the countless spaceship wreckages floating in space. They formed countless gray snakes and gathered into Hila's hand through thousands of miles.

The remaining energy of all the warriors that died on the battlefield was absorbed by her.

Hila exhaled deeply, clenched her fists, and said, "Both the strength and range of my Esper ability are enhanced. That saved me at least half a year's time."

"Great, it works." Han Xiao was delighted. This was good news. The quicker Hila became stronger, the earlier she would be able to fight in his place. He would be able to let Hila help him get rid of those unimportant enemies.

He decided to call the quick growth method exclusive to Hila 'Gray Soul Absorption'. It was almost like a cheat.

At this time, a strange energy suddenly exploded in the middle of the battlefield. From the fleet of the Stronghold W-58, three Calamity Grades flew out. The interference of high-level combatants quickly toppled the balance of the battlefield and became something that Rexson's troops could not deal with. Originally, they were only slightly at a disadvantage, but they were now constantly forced to retreat.

Inside the flagship, the deputy exclaimed with shock, "Why are there three Calamity Grades? The intelligence says that there's only Manudo!"

However, not only did Rexson not panic, he even smiled instead.

"It doesn't matter if there's three of them. With Black Star here, even if it were thirty..." Rexson paused. Although he was extremely confident in Han Xiao, he still did not dare exaggerate too much. He coughed and then said, "Even if there were 13 of them, His Excellency Black Star would still kill them all."

At this time, the scenery viewing window of the flagship zoomed in and focused on Manudo.

In the window, Manudo did a provocative sign toward the flagship, and the flagship received a video message from Manudo. His pale face appeared on the screen. His forehead was covered in sweat, and he had a very twisted mocking expression on his face.

"Black Star! I know you're in there. Don't hide. I'm not afraid of you. Us three Grade A Supers are challenging you right here. Do you dare accept it? Hahaha!"

In the end, Manudo laughed stiffly as sweat rolled down his face. The skin on his face was even shivering as if he was about to cry, and he was barely keeping up the ferocious expression.

The people in the flagship command room had strange expressions on their faces.

The enemy is taunting us, but why does it feel so unconfident?

Han Xiao held his forehead. Taunting with such bad acting skills, are you serious?

Rexson turned to Han Xiao and respectfully said, "Your Excellency Black Star, we can't deal with Calamity Grades. Please help."

In his eyes, if Han Xiao attacked, killing three normal Calamity Grade Supers would be a piece of cake.

However, Han Xiao shook his head and patted Hila's thin waist. "These three people are yours."

Despite having to face three opponents of the same grade, Hila did not look troubled at all. She turned and prepared to strike immediately. She was someone not afraid of obstacles and was happy to conquer them. Since Han Xiao could fight multiple opponents of the same grade, Hila took this as her target as well. She had very high requirements for herself.

Furthermore, she also wanted to fight strong enemies and test her limits so that she could gain a clearer idea of where she stood in the Calamity Grade.

Manudo and the other two attacked the battleships while waiting for Han Xiao to appear. To Manudo, every second was torture. It was as if he had stepped into the execution ground and was waiting for the blade to land on his head. If not for Jorde's orders, he would have run away immediately.

Jorde was also observing the battlefield remotely, waiting for Han Xiao to appear.

This time, a dark red meteor appeared in the eyes of those people at an extremely high speed. It headed right toward the three of them. A Grade A Cannon Master beside Manudo fired from far away. High energy particle beams landed on the dark red meteor one after another, slowly reducing its speed.

However, the next moment, this dark red meteor suddenly erupted and released thousands of red energy beams that almost covered half of the entire battlefield. These energies were extremely thick, like thousands of enormous pythons. They spun their head and crashed into the Bloodshed Land fleet.

Manudo and the other two people were also hit by dozens of almost solid red energy beams. Other than having the usual heat and explosive damage, Hila's energy beams also gave the three of them psychic damages. They hastily backed away with shock.

"This energy is very strange."

"This energy beam tried to absorb my spiritual body away like tentacles with suction cups."

As the tsunami-like red energy release ended, Hila appeared. The black-red armor on her body was focused on mobility and enhancing energy release. She did not wear a helmet, but her head was covered by a half-transparent energy layer, providing life functions and a wide vision.

Manudo was shocked. He had expected Black Star to attack, but who was this woman?

“Is there such a person in the Black Star Army?”

“It doesn’t show on the intelligence. Could she be a new officer?”

“She’s very strong. I feel a sense of threat from her.”

The three of them spoke in their communication channel. They all felt the pressure.

Jorde, who was remotely spectating, was also confused. He carefully sized Hila up and was sure that he had never seen this person before, yet Black Star had sent her to fight three Calamity Grades alone. Was this because he believed in her strength?

“The Black Star Army sure has a lot of talents.”

Jorde clenched his teeth. Seeing that Black Star was not going to fight, he had no choice but to tell Manudo and the others to fight with Hila and see how strong Hila was.

At the same time, the others on the battlefield also noticed the confrontation between the high-level combatants.

The Black Star Army players saw Hila’s look and were shocked.

“Aye, this beauty looks kind of familiar.”

“I remember, isn’t this Hila who appeared in both 1.0 and 2.0?”

“That’s right. It’s her. I thought she’d died by Version 3.0, but it turns out she’s still alive and much stronger.”

“She appeared in the mid to later stages in Version 2.0. When did she join our army?”

“If I remember correctly, when Black Star went deep into the Germinal Organization’s base in Version 1.0, it was to rescue her. Could she be the captain’s old lover?”

“Oh...”

Many players let out meaningful grunts before quietly activating the video recording function.

Chapter 734 Mislead

On the battlefield, Hila released dark red energy and fought with the three enemy Calamity Grades at the same time. Hila felt the pressure immediately. She clenched her teeth and tried to hang on, barely standing her ground using the uniqueness of her Esper ability.

Han Xiao observed for a while and figured out Hila’s actual combat capability.

These three enemies are normal Calamity Grades around level 180. With Hila current strength, she’s in the upper-middle ranking among Calamity Grades. She still lacks experience in fighting with Calamity Grades, but due to her unique Esper ability, she can deal with two such enemies at most. Three is too much.

Although Hila had sufficient strength to be part of the battles that he was in, she was still some distance away from becoming the capable assistant that he wanted.

However, with her growth rate, she would be able to overcome that distance very quickly.

As he was pondering, the situation started to gradually worsen for Hila.

Han Xiao was not worried about Hila's safety. Not only did Hila have the Molding Talent that would lock her health, Aurora was around as well. It would be difficult for her to die even if she wanted to.

At the same time, a small incident was happening on the battlefield that Han Xiao was unaware of.

A small Bloodshed Land assault ship was fleeing in the battlefield, chased by dozens of Black Star Army battleships.

"Quickly run, they're coming again!"

Its shield endured attacks continuously. The spaceship was trembling as the piercing red alarm echoed within. On the spaceship, Summer Night Flower and the others were covered in sweat, panicking.

They were being chased by a large group of Black Star Army players. Phillip had sent their coordinates to all the army members on the battlefield.

Quite a number of players taking part had seen it and thought, Nice, bonuses!

Thus, Summer Night Flower and the others' nightmare began. No matter how they changed their location, it was always shown on the radar of the army players.

Originally, fighting with opposing faction players was very common. However, in this skirmish, the number of players on the Black Star Army's side was more than a hundred times the number of players on Summer Night Flower's side. Hence, it became one-sided, and Summer Night Flower's group was chased by the other players.

Summer Night Flower's mood was extremely bad. He regretted going to Stronghold W-58. He should have requested to be deployed to other strongholds that did not have to face the Black Star Army!

The Black Star Army was full of bad people that were just merciless. He was afraid.

As a player of the opposing faction, he decided to avoid the Black Star Army in the future. Even if that meant that he had to play alone in a remote stronghold, the game experience would be better than being chased by enemies all the time.

As Summer Night Flower was in a meltdown while being chased by the army players, the battle between Hila and three enemy Calamity Grades reached its climax.

The few of them kept shifting the battlefield, moving across the various areas where the fleets were fighting. With continuous explosions, people died nonstop, and gray souls entered Hila and recovered her energy.

So, this is my current limit.

While fighting, thoughts flashed through Hila's mind.

This was the first time that she had fought in a true battle with a Calamity Grade. She quickly gained combat experience and a clearer understanding of her own combat capability.

Ames and Han Xiao who had trained her all along were much stronger than her, so she could not really measure her strength. Now that she was fighting with normal Calamity Grades, although she had the lower hand, she felt amazing. She could now finally fully utilize her strength in a battle where she was not completely thrashed.

Hila thought that she seemed quite strong, but she was not satisfied with that.

I can barely deal with three enemies... but Han Xiao can fight ten at once. There's still a huge difference... Hila clenched her teeth.

She saw Han Xiao as the goal to chase after. Now that she felt the pressure of fighting three enemies at the same time, she had a deeper understanding of Han Xiao's combat capability.

If he was in my place, the battle would have already ended.

Feeling the difference between the two of them, Hila clenched her teeth and increased the output of her energy.

On the other side, Manudo was communicating with his comrades.

"This woman's ability is very strange. It gives me a Necromancer feeling, but it's not really the same."

"Her energy can cause both physical and psychic damage. After getting hit, even the vitality of my cells was suppressed, and the efficiency of cells creating energy decreased. It's as if... as if my life force is suppressed."

"What do you think, Staff Sergeant Jorde?" Manudo asked.

Jorde, who was watching remotely, nodded slowly and said with a serious tone, "I have already saved the video of her battle into the database. Although her ability is strong, it's not the focus this time. Black Star is the target that you're supposed to test."

"But he's not joining the battle. Does that mean we can retreat?" Manudo asked hastily. He did not want to stay even one second longer near Black Star.

"Maybe it's because he's training his subordinates or because of something else," Jorde said with a deep voice. "Attack harder. As long as this woman's life is in danger, Black Star will definitely do something."

Aren't you just hurrying us to die?

Manudo felt miserable.

The few of them fought intensely for a while. Eventually, Hila showed a flaw under the aggressive attacks from three enemies. Manudo's Cannon Master teammate caught the opportunity. He shot a particle cannon beam that was enhanced with many burst damage abilities right at Hila's hasty defense attempt. It shattered her armor and blasted her away.

"Er..."

Hila stopped herself from rolling in the universe. Her body was covered with black wounds and dead cells. The area around her left shoulder and half of her neck was gone, an injury a normal person would have immediately died from and was considered heavy even for Calamity Grades.

Manudo and his two teammates were just about to chase when Manudo suddenly felt alarmed and slowed down behind the other two.

Hila took a deep breath. Suddenly, thick light shot out from her eyes. Her wounds started to heal as her cells multiplied at an extremely high speed.

The flesh on her neck and her left shoulder grew back in an instant, showing her white skin under the broken armor. Energy was flowing through her entire body, and she was almost back at peak performance.

In the flagship, Aurora's eyes were shining as well. After Hila recovered, only then did the light in Aurora's eyes slowly disappear. She quickly gasped for air as if she had just spent quite a lot of energy.

Hila and Aurora's Esper abilities had a special connection. Through their blood relation, Aurora created a life force link between the two of them. If Hila was too heavily injured, Aurora would send her life force and heal her remotely.

As long as Aurora still had stamina, Hila would be able to recover at a terrifying speed. Its effect was similar to Han Xiao's Aurora Character Summon Card.

Hila fought the battles, and Aurora healed her. The number of times that she could heal depended on her stamina. It was only slightly less powerful than Han Xiao's health-stamina cycle. When the two sisters fought together, they were almost undefeatable.

Jorde was stunned, and his expression changed slightly—this reminded him of Black Star.

Black Star had this kind of horrifying recovery ability as well!

Could it be that this redhead woman had a special relationship with Black Star?

Could she be his... daughter?

Initially, Jorde did not take Hila too seriously, but he suddenly felt that he needed to do thorough research on her.

Manudo and the others stood in place and were stunned as well.

Hila felt the overflowing energy in her body, but instead of being happy, she was filled with discontent.

She had been keeping Aurora away from harm, but because of her mistake, Aurora had to use her life force to heal her. She felt that this was her fault... Although Aurora could gain that life force back very quickly, because of what had happened back in the Germinal Organization, this was still a taboo for Hila.

Just as Hila was about to attack in rage, a large hand suddenly pressed on her shoulder. She turned around. It was Han Xiao.

"That's enough. There's no training value if you carry on. It will just be a battle to see who's stamina depletes first."

Han Xiao softly pressed on Hila's smooth, soft cheeks. Nanoparticles extended from the tip of his finger and formed a helmet, replacing Hila's broken helmet and allowing her to speak in the communication channel.

Hila clenched her teeth and said, "Understood."

"Leave this to me."

Han Xiao turned around and looked at the three nervous Calamity Grades.

Manudo was panicking. Black Star finally was going to attack.

This time, Han Xiao suddenly thought of something

The enemies clearly knew of his capabilities, yet they made such a bad attempt at provoking him, so their goal should be to lure him into battle. Of course, this was definitely not because they were kind and sending him free kills.

After thinking for a short moment and recalling Manudo's nervous expression when provoking him, it then occurred to Han Xiao. Jorde was definitely behind this. That little weasel had used Psyker's psychic weapon on him two months ago, but he had gone to the Palace of Hidden Spells, so he did not take part in any battles for one and a half months. This had made Jorde anxious, so he was using this to test his current state.

Having realized that, Han Xiao had an idea and did not immediately attack. Instead, he connected to Manudo's communication channel and slowly said, "Are you sure you want to fight me? I don't know if this is your own decision or someone ordered you to do so, but think about it carefully. People are going to die from this."

Manudo gulped. The other two did not speak. Jorde did not want to be discovered by Han Xiao, so he did not speak either.

"I'm now giving you guys a chance. As long as you surrender and announce to leave the Bloodshed Land, I won't do anything to you. What do you say?" Han Xiao said.

"You want me to betray the Bloodshed Land? No way!" the Grade A Cannon Master yelled and immediately fired.

Without even moving, more than 300 Watcher Instruments appeared beside Han Xiao, formed a formation, and created a psionic shield, easily blocking the attack.

Han Xiao shook his head and deliberately said, "What's so good about Heber? Does he deserve such loyalty from you?"

"He's the only one I'm willing to follow. How dare you speak of His Excellency Heber like that?" this Cannon Master sneered. He was a direct member of the Bloodshed Land, so he was extremely loyal.

Han Xiao narrowed his eyes and did not speak anymore. He summoned the mechanical army and attacked. It swept over the entire battlefield like a tsunami, scattering all the fleets.

Facing the mechanical army that filled his vision, Manudo felt suffocated. He had no choice but to fight it.

Han Xiao activated Apostilization and joined the battle. He secretly changed the tempo of the battle, increased the attack frequency of all the mechanical soldiers, and sacrificed accuracy to do so, deliberately showing impatience.

Of course, normal people would not notice such details, but he believed that the Bloodshed Land would definitely discover these tiny changes with their artificial intelligence's analytical abilities.

Sometimes, tricking smart people was even easier than using stupid ones. All he had to do was mislead the opponents into the conclusion that he wanted them to have through details, and the opponents would fall for it easily. If they were not cautious enough, Han Xiao's efforts would all go to waste.

High-level lies are always ninety percent real and only ten percent fake. What Han Xiao wanted was to make Jorde speculate that he had become weaker.

As for the reason, it was so that he could use this opportunity to take some time off from the secret war and focus on cultivating leeks. This was the most important matter at the moment. Be it advancing to Beyond Grade A or suppressing the Soul Embryo, they all required a large amount of Experience.

He was completely uninterested in letting his sub-personality be born. It would be best to make sure it never formed.

As soon as Han Xiao struck, the battle became one-sided. Under the True Damage of [Legendary Battle Technique), the Cannon Master was very quickly shattered by the mechanical soldiers. The head of the other teammate was also blown away. Manudo was the only one left barely holding on.

Panicking, Manudo hastily sent a message and said, "Wait, wait, I surrender!"

Han Xiao received the message and stopped the mechanical army. He then waved his hand and pulled Manudo over from afar through the mechanical suit's force field.

Manudo did not dare resist and let the mechanical soldiers restrain him.

"You've made the right choice." Han Xiao smiled.

Manudo nodded continuously. He had thought it through it was clear that Jorde did not care about his life, which meant that he would die sooner or later in the Bloodshed Land, so he might as well surrender. Furthermore, he did not have another choice if he wanted to live.

Escape from Black Star?

I'm not Hadavy, I can't do it!

As the high-level combatants of the enemy were all eliminated, the battle that followed had a clear result. Rexson destroyed Stronghold W-58 and seized the loot.

After Hila absorbed all the remaining gray souls on the battlefield, she locked herself in her room and digested her first experience of fighting with Calamity Grades.

Jorde was analyzing the recording of Han Xiao's battle in the headquarters.

Losing a stronghold meant nothing to him; what he cared about at the moment was Han Xiao's state.

Very soon, he noticed something strange.

“Two months ago, Black Star never asked anyone to surrender and killed every one of our people. Even when he faced just one Calamity Grade, he never showed any mercy. Why did he ask them to surrender?”

Jorde frowned and looked at the recording a few more times.

Before, Black Star’s mechanical army’s attacks were all carefully and precisely calculated.

Today, however, the attack rate of his mechanical army increased visibility, as if he was willing to waste energy to increase the attack speed and gave up some of the precise calculations. As a result, many attacks completely missed.

This change made him feel a sense of... impatience?

“First, he asked our people to surrender, then he was in a hurry to end the battle...” Jorde pondered for a while and suddenly figured it out.

Black Star was trying to reduce the time of the battle, or he did not want to take part in the battle.

These two details made Jorde feel that he could guess Han Xiao’s current state.

Psyker’s psychic weapon might have dealt some kind of continuous damage to Black Star, and if he fought others, the damage would be enlarged. This was why Black Star acted differently from before.

“My speculation should be right!”

The threat of Black Star had decreased!

Having proved that Black Star had become weaker, Jorde was overjoyed. Although he did not know what damage Han Xiao had received, with this discovery, he could daringly adjust his strategies.

Chapter 735 Evolve! Advancing on the Path of a Tank!

The battlefield of the secret war was too broad, and the small skirmish did not attract too much attention. Jorde was the only one who paid attention to it.

Not caring about the Bloodshed Land’s reaction, Han Xiao rejected Rexson’s celebration invitation after they won the battle. He brought Hila along and headed to other perimeters to give her more battlefields for her Soul Absorption.

While Han Xiao was going around the various battlefields, a new popular topic appeared on the forums. Quite a number of players that attacked Stronghold W-58 uploaded the video with Hila in it, which made the players recall memories from long ago.

Initially, this was just a usual video, but when people realized that Han Xiao and Hila had known each other for three versions now, especially after their ‘old love’ was dug out from the Galaxy Chronicles, the focus of the topic became entirely something else. Articles with all sorts of titles started to appear.

“Shock! Black Star Did This to Hila!”

“Reigniting Old Flames? Or Has He Found New Love?”

“A Love Story That Crossed Twenty Years!”

“Who Really Is the Woman Black Star Loves the Most? Counting Those Beauties He Once Loved...”

The players' spirits were highest when talking about these kinds of topics. After all, they could imagine as much as they wanted, and there would not be any consequences. The topic gradually turned from Hila to Black Star's love history.

Han Xiao was now the most famous NPC in the Shattered Star Ring. His position was high. He was rich, strong, and rather handsome. Ever since Version 1.0, the players had never really gotten to know any storylines regarding his love life, and the players were extremely curious about it.

Not just Hila, all the known living female characters related to the Black Star Army became hot topics of the players' intense discussions. On the forums, the supporters of different female characters were split into factions and argued with each other.

“Hila's known him for the longest. It's clearly old flames being reignited.”

“Boo, us Dragon Emperor supporters will never give in!”

“You people know nothing. Sylvia is the one and only!”

“Us Herlous supporters are smiling.”

“Us Harmon supporters are unhappy. We're going to chop your heads off.”

“Come on, you guys are weak. Greetings from the Phillip supporters.”

“Us Feidin supporters announce our exit. Feidin is our husband. Black Star, you're not good enough for him!”

“Right now, Aroshia is still on the way.”

“The Germinal Organization Leader is watching you from above.”

The popular topics on the forums caused the fame of the various Black Star Army officers to grow. As the focus of the topics, Black Star also gained more attention.

Han Xiao did not pay much attention to these topics on the forums; they were all for the players' entertainment and would not cause any influence. The only possible result of it would just be more parodies...

After going to quite a few perimeters, Hila's combat capability quickly increased through Soul Absorption. In just half a month, her Ona grew by more than 400.

In this period, Han Xiao fought a few times. His Spirit Barrier and the Enchantments on his body decreased the growth rate of the Soul Embryo, but the size of the Soul Embryo still grew from four percent to nine percent.

However, many army players had already reached Grade B, and these people started to use Experience to learn Knowledges. In this half a month, Han Xiao finally gained enough Experience to level up to above level 220.

Han Xiao stopped the traveling, touched Feidin, and hastily locked himself inside the training room.

As Han Xiao opened the interface and looked at his total Experience, he smiled with satisfaction.

After seven years, he was finally at the doorstep of another Promotion.

Without hesitation, he threw the Experience into leveling up.

[Apostle Mechanic) leveled up to Lv.25.

+240 Energy, +3 STR, +4 DEX, +5 END, +10 INT.

You have received 8 Free Attribute Points and 1 Potential Point.

After leveling up twice consecutively, his level was now level 220 and at Promotion.

The Promotion mission popped up on the interface; this time, Han Xiao did not even look at it.

The Mission Completion Cards that he had been hoarding for seven years had now finally come into use!

Use [Mission Completion Card]? [Confirm/ Cancel]

“Confirm.”

You have used (Mission Completion Card)!

[Edge of Death)... completed!

(Level 220 Promotion Mission completed!

Promotion successful!

END Bonus increased! 1 END = 175 Health = 185 Stamina.]

His Endurance bonus increased by thirty after this Promotion, five more than the previous Promotion.

A hot stream flowed out from his heart and quickly circulated his entire body. Every cell in his body became tremendously more active; he could clearly feel his increased life force.

Han Xiao focused and looked at the interface notification—this Promotion also included a Race Evolution.

He had just got some luck from Feidin earlier. He was hoping to get some good options.

You have taken another step on the path of evolution. You have ascended in the hierarchy of life. Your genes have reformed. You're closer to another new beginning of life...

Race Detected: Void Distorter (Human Form)

Randomly drawing 9 matching evolutionary directions...

Drawing complete!

Please choose one of the following 9 options for your Race Evolution. Warning! The evolution process is irreversible. Please choose carefully! [Appendix— Evolution Path Feature Descriptions]

(Void Rainbow (Force Field Form)]—38% Compatibility

(Void Jumper (Mutated Form)]—44% Compatibility

(Void Spirit (Spirit Form)]—28% Compatibility

[Multi-Dimensional Shadow (Mind Signal Form)]—23% Compatibility

(Void Executioner (Human Form)]—71% Compatibility

[Magomado Blade (Human Form)]—57% Compatibility

(Void Star Pursuer (Human Form)]—75% Compatibility

[High Concentration Void Dragon Hybrid (Human Form)]—66% Compatibility

(Saint-Galaxy Human Race (Gene Limiter Removed)]—54% Compatibility

Looking at the nine options before him, Han Xiao felt a headache coming on.

Not because these options were not good, but because they were too good!

He was in a pickle.

As he had once consumed a Void Lord Core, Han Xiao had skipped an entire evolution stage. Without that, the options that had appeared would have been on the same level as Void Distorter.

However, many options were evolution paths that were higher than Void Distorter.

First, Han Xiao ignored the first four options. Those four options were not Human Forms and all had very low Compatibilities. What he was having trouble choosing from were the remaining five options.

(Void Star Pursuer) was the direct evolution for Void Distorter, a Universe Life Form that fed on universal radiation and Fixed Star energy. (Void Executioner) was more combat-focused and belonged to the upper-middle class of the Void Life system.

'Magomado' was a Void Lord that was recorded in history. It modified strong Void warriors through Void Energy and created special elite soldiers, which were called the [Magomado Blades). They were extremely strong.

[High Concentration Void Dragon Hybrid) should be the evolution path brought by the Void Dragon Pith that he had once consumed. Han Xiao was not very clear on the ultimate result of this evolution path. Could it be that the Void Dragon genes would take over his genes and turn him into a Void Dragon or some kind of mutant?

The last option (Saint-Galaxy Human Race) was one of the end points for the Galaxy Human Race evolution chain. The removal of Gene Limiter was very tempting; he would gain a ton of attributes from it.

However, compared to the Void Life options, which still had evolution potential, Han Xiao was not very tempted to choose this. Most of the evolution paths would remove his Gene Limiter at the end point, and the Void Life chain was no exception.

“Which one should I choose?” Han Xiao walked back and forth in hesitation.

As he was closer to Beyond Grade A, this might be his last Race Evolution chance before Beyond Grade A, so he was extremely cautious.

“In terms of combat capability increase, Saint

—Galaxy Human Race is the best, followed by Magomado Blade. In terms of potential, Void Star Pursuer is the best. Void Executioner is a balanced option between the two. As for High Concentration Void Dragon Hybrid, the subsequent evolutions of this chain shouldn’t be very suitable for me...”

After pondering for a while, Han Xiao once again decided to focus on potential. He hesitated between the Void Star Pursuer and Void Executioner.

The evolution direction of the Executioner would lead to Void Lord and Void Duke, while the Star Pursuer developed toward Void Precursor and Void Archangel. Both had their specialties.

“Racial Talents have minimal effects on my combat capability. Choosing something with better long-term potential is more suitable for me...”

Han Xiao took a deep breath and made his decision.

Selection complete.

Undergoing Race Evolution... Evolution complete.

Your race has been changed to: (Void Star Pursuer (Human Form)]. Your molecular structure has been improved, organ structure strengthened, metabolism changed, and adaptability enhanced.

Your potential aptitude has been improved!

You have received bonus attributes: +154 STR, +179 DEX, +323 END, +188 INT, +120 MYS, +70 CHA, +3760 Energy. Energy Level bonus attributes have been changed!

Han Xiao’s senses exploded!

As if his soul left his body, his mind slowly ascended while his body descended. It was like his body and soul were separated, but in reality, they were more tightly connected than before.

His senses seemed to have extended indefinitely, exceeding this Star System, this Star Cluster, and this Star Field. It was as if he saw the entire universe in an instant.

Although this was just an illusion, it was almost real, and it made him experience extremely high dimensional vision for an instant.

The next moment, Han Xiao’s senses were pulled right back to his body.

In extreme pain, his body structure was quickly changing. Through the changes, Han Xiao’s senses became more and more sensitive. He even gained a few more senses and could ‘see’ the world in more ways than before.

Although everything before him remained unchanged, they felt completely different in his senses.

Whoosh!

Finally, the pain retreated. Han Xiao took a deep breath. The air he exhaled consisted of extremely tiny energy crystals flashing in a dim blue-gray light.

The moment the Race Evolution finished, Han Xiao took out a mirror immediately and checked if anything weird had grown out of his body.

Hair... still dense.

Face... still familiarly handsome.

Body... hmm, great.

Tail... nonexistent, fortunately.

Han Xiao nodded with satisfaction. Although he was human no more, he still hoped that he looked like one out of aesthetic reasons.

After checking himself from head to toe thoroughly three more times, Han Xiao then opened the interface again and spent the rest of his Experience on leveling up.

After his Promotion, the Experience needed to level up increased by a considerable amount once again. He only leveled up once.

As a Universe Life Form, the Star Pursuer had an extremely strong physique, so he gained plenty of bonus attributes from this Race Evolution.

He opened the interface and looked at his own attributes.

Level: 221

Main Class: Mechanic

Race: Void Star Pursuer (Human Form)

Attributes: 810 STR, 1316 DEX, 1658 END, 3455 INT, 654 MYS, 284 CHA, 1 LUK

Free Attribute Points: 24

Potential Points: 15

Health: 456,060

Stamina: 382,120

Energy: 35,530 (Lv.13]

(Lv.13 Energy bonus attributes: +279 STR, +374 DEX, +466 END, +544 INT, +308 MYS, +50,520 Maximum Stamina, +467% Machinery Affinity (Super Electromagnetic Sense))

Energy Rank: 29,277

Grade: A+

Grade A Bonuses: +15 END, +12 All Resistances. +15% Highest Attribute , +8% Other Attributes, +80 Free Attribute Points, +10 Potential Points

Remark: Hello, Tank; bye, Tank.

This amount of health points was nauseating to look at even for himself.

Other than the bonus attributes from the Race Evolution, he also gained a few hundred attributes from the Lv.13 Energy Rank after his energy surpassed 30,000.

The effects of this Promotion were considerable. He was once again closer to a Beyond Grade A.

After not experiencing the satisfaction of increased strength for seven whole years, Han Xiao only had one feeling.

Awesome!

He entered his mental territory to take a look at the Soul Embryo. Its growth had decreased from nine percent to less than one percent!

“Solid, how very solid.” Han Xiao chuckled.

You want to be born, sub-personality? Your only ending is miscarriage!

After checking through his attributes, Han Xiao looked at the new Racial Talents that he had gained after the Race Evolution.

Chapter 736 Plans of Expansion

Void Star Pursuer was the most direct path of evolution. Some of his old talents were kept and others were strengthened.

For example, (Advanced Void Travel] was changed to [Void Dimension Jump), and it was no longer a short-ranged blink skill.

Void Star Pursuer was a Void life form and could travel through space without relying on any equipment. It was able to distort the Void Dimension through its abilities and alter spacetime. As such, a Void Star Pursuer was able to remain in the Void Dimension for a very long time, and this skill was like a divine skill for escaping.

(Void Distortion) was changed to (Strengthened Void Distortion). Its strength increased and cooldown decreased.

(Void Molt) was strengthened slightly, but the name of the skill remained unchanged. (Void Ripple) had disappeared.

Of the four old talents, three were kept.

He had two new talents, which were the core abilities of a Void Star Pursuer.

[Radiation Absorption). The Void Star Pursuer was able to absorb radiation from the universe to strengthen its own body. This was a special ability of universe life forms.

The first use of this talent was to transform Han Xiao into a universe life form. He was now able to survive in the universe without the aid of any equipment and would be like a fish in water.

The second use of it was to allow his cells to absorb radiation in the universe and increase his attributes permanently. The actual effects of the skill had yet to be tested, and Han Xiao was not sure about its efficiency and if there was an upper limit.

No matter what, this is a new and stable growth path and also the talent with the greatest potential. The universe was filled with an endless supply of radiation, and it was akin to a buffet for him.

His other new talent was called (Cosmic Environmental Adaptation). The environment of the universe was extremely harsh and filled with radiation and nanoparticles. For a universe life form to survive in such a harsh environment, their bodies need to be extremely adaptable and have a high level of defense. For example, the Interstellar Beasts that Han Xiao had once killed had skin thick to the point it could make one despair.

This talent molded Han Xiao's body into that of a universe life form and provided him with increased defense, physical resistance, and elemental resistance.

Han Xiao tested it a bit and realized that he was twice as tanky as before.

It could be said that this talent was most suitable for him to become a meat shield.

"The talents of a Void Star Pursuer lean toward support and defense. It is extremely well rounded and suited for my combat style."

Han Xiao was very satisfied with the talents of the Void Star Pursuer.

After understanding the changes of his Promotion, Han Xiao had time to think about other problems.

Han Xiao had waited a full seven years for the level 220 promotion, and his strength had finally taken another step forward.

Han Xiao estimated that his Beyond Grade A barrier would be around level 240, and despite being happy about his promotion, he knew that this was only one of the obstacles that he had overcome. He still had a journey to complete.

After reaching level 220, the amount of experience he needed to level up had shot up again to a sky-high number. It would be difficult for a million players to support him.

After all, Skill Impartation and class knowledge was a one-off purchase, and the majority of the players had learned many different skills. Their expenditure would be lowered after the first round of purchases.

It was time for him to find a new plot of land to grow crops.

The new players from Version 3.0 were undeveloped shoots, and they had a huge thirst for knowledge and skills. This was a new market.

"Planet Aquamarine is already within my grasp, but there are a few more novice planets in the Shattered Star Ring that aren't under my control yet..."

Han Xiao opened the star map and directed his attention to a novice planet called Planet Deirdre. It was located in the Gelock Star Cluster, and it would be the novice planet for all those who joined in Version 3.0 and the smurf accounts of the other players. This was like the opening of a new server to Han Xiao.

The new players who joined in Version 3.0 naturally would not have to go through as much suffering as the players who joined in Version 1.0. They will be able to connect to the galaxy immediately. Planet Deirdre was like a galactic interchange with many resource rich planets located around it. Many large financial groups were also situated in this location. To the new players, there would be plenty of missions for them to complete.

These players who were born outside the battlefield could choose to travel from afar to participate in the secret war or explore on their own and use the ample experience provided in Version 3.0 to catch up in terms of level. They also had a third option... to join another Main Storyline mission.

The Crimson Tide was the main theme of Version 3.0, and the secret war was one of the Main Storyline missions. There were various different events in the other Star Clusters as well. As for the players on Planet Deirdre, the large storyline that they would come in contact with was the Mercenary League storyline.

This organization was the one that the Sky Ring Army and other large mercenary groups had requested Han Xiao to set up and lead. They all felt strongly about the chaos in the Shattered Star Ring and thus gathered all the mercenary groups in the Shattered Star Ring to form a super-sized mercenary group called 'Shattered Star Ring Mercenary League' or just Mercenary League for short.

The Mercenary League had been set up for a few years already, and its effectiveness was extremely obvious. With all the mercenary groups working together, the Mercenary League expanded to cover a few different Star Clusters and accepted the hiring missions from a few hundred different civilizations.

Seven years ago, Han Xiao had participated in this Main Storyline mission. Although he did not pay close attention to the changes in the mercenary world, the Black Star Army was still one of the members in the Mercenary League's council and a member of the upper echelons.

"There isn't a need to worry about Planet Aquamarine. Planet Deirdre will also be easy to manage. I just need to expand the scope of the Black Star Army's operations over."

Planet Deirdre was located in the Gelock Star Cluster, which was outside the army's scope of operations. However, with the status of the Black Star Army, it was extremely easy for them to open a sub-branch on Planet Deirdre.

He had built up the fame of the Black Star Army over three versions, and he had left a deep impression on the players. Thus, he definitely had a huge advantage in hiring new players.

There were plenty of people discussing the Black Star Army on the forums. Even a new player would be curious about the Black Star Army under such circumstances.

Han Xiao's main objective of expanding the Black Star Army was so that he could harvest his crops more efficiently. There was not even a need for him to make a personal appearance for Planet Deirdre.

If he wanted to get to Beyond Grade A quickly, he needed to expand the size of his crops.

In his plans, recruiting the players of Planet Deirdre would be an important mission.

“The army can help me hire new players, and I can prepare for my advancement into Beyond Grade A...”

The shadow of the Tyrant was looming over him. Heber was his greatest obstacle. The moment he became a Beyond Grade A Super, he would have to face this powerful opponent in battle.

This was not as simple as dealing with a doppelganger of EsGod. He would have to face a true Beyond Grade A Super, and the pressure would be completely different!

I have to groom Hila while performing some worthwhile missions, Han Xiao thought to himself.

Because of the Soul Embryo, he had sufficient reason to temporarily pull out from the secret war and complete his own affairs in a low-profile manner.

He did not only have to level up but also needed to find a way to increase his combat capabilities. He needed to make enough preparations and obtain more talents before becoming a Beyond Grade A Super if he wanted to deal with the Tyrant.

Compared to others, this was his greatest advantage. He was able to obtain new talents and increase his strength. He would never face a bottleneck.

If only I could obtain a Universal Treasure... Han Xiao lamented.

He was truly envious of Psyker’s Evolution Cube, but it was a pity that he would not have the chance to borrow it. He also wanted to obtain a Universal Treasure that belonged solely to him.

In his previous life, the players had many records of Universal Treasures, and in the later versions, there were even players who had their own Universal Treasures. However, most of the Universal Treasures were still in unknown locations, and those Universal Treasures with known locations would be heavily guarded.

If he was able to easily obtain a Universal Treasure, Han Xiao would have long gone to get one.

In his memory, there were three famous Universal Treasures in the Shattered Star Ring. They were in the hands of the three Star Cluster civilizations. Psyker’s Evolution Cube was one of the Universal Treasures that he had heard of before but had very little information **on**.

Currently, Han Xiao only knew of a single Universal Treasure that he might be able to obtain.

It should still be lying silently in the ruins of a civilization.

Its location was in the Flickering World!

What a pity... It’s still too far out of my reach. Han Xiao felt a great pity.

At the very least, he would have to wait for the Crimson Dynasty to grasp control over the Flickering World and set up a stargate before he would have the chance to obtain that Universal Treasure. He would not even be able to reach the Flickering World currently.

Thus, he had no choice but to find more talents to increase his strength.

He would still have to think about the exact details of the plan. At this moment, Han Xiao only wanted to relax. He then opened the door of the cultivation chamber and returned to the cabin of the spaceship.

Hila was currently training bitterly in the real combat training room, and only Feidin and Aurora were present in the cabin. They were chatting away merrily like best friends. Upon hearing the approaching footsteps, both of them turned around to take a look.

“Chen Xing, Feidin let you out again?” Feidin’s actions were currently extremely lady-like, and it was obvious that Chen Xing was the one controlling the body.

Chen Xing snorted, and she did not wish to talk to Han Xiao. She returned the body back to Feidin, and the aura of her body changed greatly. Feidin regained control of his body and said, “She seemed to be very afraid of you.”

Han Xiao shook his head and said, “I’ve been meaning to ask. Since both of you are sharing a single body, does it mean that both of your biological needs are the same?”

Feidin coughed awkwardly.

“Since both of you can be considered as one, does this mean that it is impossible for both of you to mate?”

Han Xiao laughed. Did this mean that they were forced into having platonic love?

“Must we talk about this? Can we talk about something else?” Feidin felt his head ache.

Aurora blinked and interrupted him. “I am actually pretty curious, too.”

Feidin was extremely sociable, and he was already very familiar with Aurora. It was mainly because Chen Xing really liked Aurora.

“Alright...” Feidin replied helplessly. “Both of us are Psychics. We can simulate our biological needs... cough, and organs. We can then use our mental bodies to mate.”

My goodness.

Isn’t this the same logic as having a wet dream?

Mating in their heads?

Is this the highest level of being a lecher?

Han Xiao had a weird expression on his face, and he pointed at Feidin.

“I never expected you to be a pervert.”

“Shut up!” Chen Xing hollered with her face flushed red before disappearing back into Feidin’s body.

Feidin then shook his head helplessly. “She is ignoring me now. I’m dead.”

So what if she ignores you. She is living in your body and won’t be able to run anywhere. In any case, both of you share the same appearance...

Aurora's body was swaying from laughing too much, and she laughed to the point tears could be seen at the corner of her eyes. She then said, "Right, I sensed your life force strengthening greatly again."

"You finally broke through your bottleneck?" Feidin's eyes lit up, and he was overjoyed.

Black Star's strength had remained stagnant over the past seven years, and he had finally made an advancement. It was definitely great news.

"You can say that." Han Xiao nodded.

"That's great. We still have hope if this is the case," Feidin exclaimed with joy.

He had been extremely worried for Han Xiao ever since he heard Austin's words. At this moment, he could not help but heave a sigh of relief.

Han Xiao then chatted with the two for a while before returning to his room.

Taking out his communicator, he sent the coordinates of Planet Deirdre to Sylvia and sent her to set up a new branch. For him to send her over to take care of this matter, Sylvia knew that this meant that Han Xiao placed a huge importance on this matter.

After thinking for a while, Han Xiao sent out a message to Bennett to check on the situation on Planet Aquamarine.

It has been ten years since he last returned.

Chapter 737 Changes

On Aquamarine Federation Mother Planet, inside a classroom of the Basic School of the Federation, many seven to eight year old students were reading the textbook out loud with the teacher.

"... Galaxy Calendar Year 694, the movement that would then be called 'The Great Government Unification' occurred. Under Black Star's influence, the structure of society changed drastically. The governments formally known as the Six Nations were replaced by the current Aquamarine Federation. This was the turning point of Planet Aquamarine's civilization progress..."

"Black Star, original name Han Xiao, born on Planet Aquamarine, former member of the Germinal Organization who later stepped onto the righteous path. He is now the protector of the Planet Aquamarine Civilization and has the highest veto power in the Federation Council. He guided the drastic civilization changes in the last twenty years, giving us the entrance ticket to galactic societies. Up till now, the Black Star Army is still working closely with the federation..."

A boy with freckles on his face raised his hand and asked, "Is Black Star still alive?"

The classroom burst into laughter.

"Of course, Nero. Black Star has a very long life span. Even after we all die of old age, he will still be alive." The teacher smiled and nodded.

"I—I thought only those who passed away would be known as great men..." The student called Nero's face blushed.

The teacher shook his head and said, "Black Star is a close confidant to the federation chairman, Bennett. That statue in the Central Garden was built by Bennett for Black Star. If you're curious, you can log into the galactic internet and search for Black Star. There's information accessible to the public there. He's the strongest person that stepped out of Planet Aquamarine. He's the pride of our entire planet."

The lessons in the afternoon quickly ended, and the students headed back home. Nero followed the crowd and came to the school gate.

The school was located in the middle of a tall building. When looking around the wide square from the school gate, the entire city could be seen. Tall buildings stood next to each other like a fictional forest of metal, and anti-gravity suspended vehicles traveled along the planned routes.

In the past ten years, Planet Aquamarine had always been in continuous contact with galactic technology. Some common devices in the universe were gradually being integrated into the daily lives of the people. Planet Aquamarine had now built many cities with advanced technology. The styles of the cities were also gradually changing under the influence of galactic financial groups.

It was prospering.

Various private anti-gravity suspended vehicles waited outside the school for their children. Nero boarded one with no license, crossed the city, and entered the government building of the Aquamarine Federation.

Nero followed a secretary-looking man into an office, where Bennett was reading documents. Compared to ten years ago, he had more wrinkles and was gradually showing signs of aging. As he heard the sound and looked up to see Nero, he smiled.

"School ended? Sit down first. After I'm done with these, I'll take you to eat."

"Yes, Dad." Nero put down his small school bag and sat on the sofa obediently. He shook his legs and looked around.

Ten years ago, with Han Xiao's permission, Bennett had become the Aquamarine Federation Chairman and completed the unification of the governments on the planet. After the initial turbulent stages, Planet Aquamarine had begun its stable development while recovering from the damage suffered before.

As peace was perfectly achieved on his mother planet, Bennett's goal was accomplished. As the federation chairman, he needed to form a family. Thus, he got married and had a child. He was a Pugilist, after all, so his physique was more than good enough to carry out the process of creating a human. Nero was his son.

"Dad, the teacher told us about Black Star's story today," Nero said excitedly.

"Oh? What did he say?" Bennett was rather interested.

Nero repeated what he could remember with his innocent voice and then asked curiously, "Dad, is Black Star your friend?"

Yes, I've known him for close to twenty years." Bennett was feeling a little nostalgic.

“Is he really that amazing? More amazing than you, Dad?”

Nero’s eyes opened wide. In his mind, his father, the federation chairman, was the most amazing person in the world. “He’s much more amazing than me.” Bennett laughed.

Beep beep!

This time, the communicator rang.

As Bennett saw who was calling, he was a little surprised. He waved at Nero.

“Come here. Aren’t you very curious about Black Star? Come and look at him.”

After placing Nero on his knees, Bennett then picked up the video call. Han Xiao’s face appeared on the screen.

“It’s been a long time, almost ten years.” Bennett smiled.

“It sure has.” Han Xiao nodded. As he saw Nero, his eyes sparkled. “This child is...”

“Hmm, this is my kid, Nero.”

Bennett smiled and rubbed Nero’s head. “Come on, that’s your uncle.”

“Hello, Uncle,” Nero greeted obediently.

Han Xiao was surprised. “When did you get married? Why didn’t you tell me?”

“You’re so busy. I didn’t want to disturb you for something so small.”

“What are you talking about? We go way back. How could you not even tell me about such good news? I’m very disappointed.” Han Xiao showed a dissatisfied expression.

Bennett chuckled and did not mind it.

Although he did not say anything, he knew that Han Xiao was on a different level compared to him now.

The daily matters of Planet Aquamarine were undoubtedly small matters to Han Xiao. Bennett did not want to disturb him for these trivial matters, so they contacted each other less and less.

“You’re the person in the textbooks...” Nero stared at Han Xiao with curiosity.

“Textbooks?” Han Xiao wondered.

Bennett smiled and explained.

Han Xiao laughed. He did not expect to be written about in history textbooks.

This feeling of being remembered by people... actually felt quite good.

After chatting for a while, Bennett suddenly said, “I’m thinking about letting Nero be your godson. What do you think?” Han Xiao was a little surprised. He nodded. With his relationship with Bennett, he was willing to be this kid’s godfather. Bennett patted Nero and said, “Quick, greet your godfather.”

“God... father.” Nero’s tone was a little stiff. To him, Han Xiao was a stranger whom he had never met before, so addressing him as ‘Godfather’ was rather difficult.

Bennett smiled and let go of Nero, telling him to go aside to play.

“What’s the matter?”

“Nothing, I just wanted to ask about the situation on Planet Aquamarine,” Han Xiao replied.

Planet Aquamarine was one of the birthplaces of players that sent manpower to the Black Star Army continuously. It was equivalent to his logistics base and was very important to him.

Before opening new leek fields, he wanted to check the situation of the old one.

Bennett nodded and explained the current situation of Planet Aquamarine in detail.

Thanks to the Black Star Army, Planet Aquamarine was now shifting from a planet surface civilization to a galactic civilization and had been trying to colonize the nearby uninhabited planets.

A large number of new players had started in Version 3.0 on Planet Aquamarine and were recruited by the Black Star Army subdivision.

Overall, the situation was great.

Han Xiao was quite satisfied. “You’ve done a great job. You don’t have to worry about Planet Aquamarine anymore. Do you want to come to the galaxy?”

If he remembered correctly, Bennett had some longing for the universe, so Han Xiao proposed to invite him.

However, to his surprise, Bennett shook his head and rejected him.

“I have decided to stay in the Aquamarine Federation. The galaxy... I don’t want to go there anymore.”

“Why? I remember you were...”

“I have new wishes now. The Aquamarine Federation is still small. I hope to help it grow and devote the rest of my life to it.” Bennett smiled with deep wrinkles. “I’m old and have a family and a kid now. I don’t want to fight and kill anymore. I’m very satisfied with my current life.”

Upon hearing what Bennett said, Han Xiao did not want to persuade him anymore.

Everyone had different goals. Bennett had spent the first half of his life in wars and chaos, so now that he had found somewhere he belonged, he had a home where he could feel at peace. Han Xiao chose to respect that.

“Understood.”

“Actually, I have one more thing to ask from you,” Bennett said.

“What is it?”

“I’m still very worried about Nero. He has a very bright future and shouldn’t be staying here with me. After I pass away, I hope you can bring him along your side, take care of him, and raise him.” Bennett’s eyes were filled with fatherly love.

“What? Why are you planning these things out of nowhere?” Han Xiao felt numbness on his scalp.

“After all, I’m different from you. My life span is finite, and I don’t know when I will die. So, I wanted to tell you this as early as possible.” Bennett smiled wholeheartedly. “Can you promise me that?”

“No problem, I have enough money to raise one person.” Han Xiao raised his brows and made a joke to ease the atmosphere. “After you die, do you want me to ‘take care’ of your widow as well?”

Bennett’s mouth twitched. “No need to trouble you for that.”

After chatting casually for more than half an hour, only then did Han Xiao end the call. His smile dissipated, and he sighed.

Not everyone had a long life span like him.

Getting old and dying was the common fate of normal people.

Bennett was getting older. Sooner or later, he would pass away.

No matter what, he did feel quite sorrowful.

Nonetheless, even if he passed away one day, the cause that he loved and had devoted his life to would remain.

“The Aquamarine Federation...”

Han Xiao nodded.

With his protection, the Planet Aquamarine Civilization would go much, much farther than it did in his previous life...

With the popularity of the previous two versions, Version 3.0 became an exploding period for new players. According to statistics, there were more than ten million new players entering the game currently, and it was still growing.

Due to the fact that China had won the championship of the previous Pro League, the Shattered Star Ring attracted the most players. In just three months after Version 3.0 was released, there were already close to two million new players.

Half a month later, in the Gelock Star Cluster, Planet Deirdre...

The public airport hall had become a square for the players. Some opened stores, some asked to team up, and some provided boosting services. All sorts of players were gathered there.

It was noisy and crowded. The wall was transparent. The entire Planet Deirdre surface could be seen from there as well as the beautiful sky filled with stars.

As a galactic transit station, there were a lot of job opportunities on Planet Deirdre. Over the three months, the million or so new players had leveled up extremely quickly because of the Version 3.0

mission reward standard. Their level average was now above level 30, and some had already reached more than level 40.

Unlike the Version 1.0 Planet Aquamarine players, the players on Planet Deirdre became galactic residents as soon as they were born. Their information channels were rich, and they could search for galactic information easily.

After exploring for three months, the Planet Deirdre players found many ways to develop themselves.

At this time, among the boisterous public airport hall, there was one team that was discussing their future direction.

“We should join the Odegen Financial Group and help them fight the nearby galactic pirate groups. This is a planet’s main storyline. It’s definitely the best choice.”

“What kind of future can joining a financial group give? It’s better to become freelance mercenaries. Those senior player guides on the forums all say that becoming a mercenary is the best.”

“I’ve done the research. The biggest mercenary group in the Shattered Star Ring now is the Mercenary League. I heard some people triggered new main storylines there. If we’re going to be mercenaries, we have to join this organization.”

“Then we might as well go to Colton and join the Black Star Army to participate in the secret war main storyline.”

“The Black Star Army is good indeed, but flights between Star Clusters are rather expensive.”

“I don’t think we should go there. We have new main storyline missions here. There’s no reason to travel there.”

“How about we do something challenging? Killing and crimes are always profitable. Let’s become galactic pirates...”

“Hehe, you think we can afford a spaceship?”

“Are you stupid? Since we’re going to become galactic pirates, we can rob one if we can’t afford it.”

This player team discussed the matter for some time when they suddenly realized that the noisy environment around them had suddenly become quiet.

They turned around with shock.

In the entire hall, be it players or NPCs, everyone was looking up with their mouths wide open and their faces filled with shock.

What’s going on?

This player team looked up as well. When they saw what was outside the transparent ceiling, their eyes widened immediately.

An enormous armed satellite fortress appeared out of nowhere and filled the entire field outside the transparent ceiling. The size of this public airport was not even one twentieth of this armed satellite fortress!

Thousands of battleships guarded the satellite as it slowly approached, stopping in the outer orbit of Planet Deirdre.

The armor of these battleships all had the same symbol. For those players that often visited the forums, they recognized the symbol immediately.

It was the insignia of the Black Star Army!

The Black Star Army had moved an entire satellite subdivision there!

The million or so new players in the airport were in disbelief and at a loss.

Isn't the Black Star Army fighting a war in another Star Cluster? Why are they here?

Chapter 738 Purple Crystal's Thoughts

The Black Star Army was already a famous organization in the Shattered Star Ring, and the sudden appearance of a satellite base caused a huge commotion on Planet Deirdre.

The Gelock Star Cluster had nothing to do with the secret war. The various financial groups located on Planet Deirdre and new players were extremely puzzled about the intentions of the Black Star Army.

A couple of battleships then left the dock and welcomed the arrival of the Black Star Army satellite base with caution.

The various financial groups immediately sent out a communication request, and they all wanted to talk to the commander of the fleet.

Very quickly, their requests were approved, and all the financial groups were pulled into a conference chat. Sylvia's appearance then appeared on all their communicators.

It's her! Black Star's Chief Administrative Official!

As one of the important officers of the Black Star Army, Sylvia's fame was not low, and many financial groups recognized her. Seeing such an important figure leading the group, they could not help but feel uneasy and felt that the Black Star Army was scheming in some way.

"I am Sylvia, the commander of this fleet." Sylvia nodded and introduced herself.

"Why did you descend without informing us? Are you planning to go against the rules of the merchant world and snatch the business on Planet Deirdre?" one of the financial groups who seemed to be the leader of the group asked with an unfriendly tone.

The Odegen Financial Group was one of the largest financial groups on Planet Deirdre, and the one speaking was the person in charge, Carver.

The others shared the same thoughts as Carver. Planet Deirdre was like a treasure bowl to them, and they did not wish for others to snatch a piece of the pie from them.

Sylvia smiled and said, "Please do not misunderstand anything. Although our Black Star Army is an armed organization, we will not use force to coerce any legal financial groups. Furthermore, your operations on Planet Deirdre do not attract us in the slightest. All of you can be at ease."

Hearing that, the faces of Carver and the others became unnatural. They treated Planet Deirdre as a treasure bowl, but the benefits from the planet were no more than peanuts to the Black Star Army. Sylvia had very obviously stated that they were not even interested in the little benefits of the planet, and this made Carver slightly embarrassed.

"Then, what is the purpose of your visit?" Carver asked with doubt. "You've even shifted an entire satellite base over. If I don't remember incorrectly, the Gelock Star Cluster isn't part of the secret war."

Sylvia cleared her throat and said in a loud voice, "As an important member of the Mercenary League, our Black Star Army has decided to expand our mercenary operations toward the Gelock Star Cluster. Planet Deirdre is the planet that we have chosen to set up a branch on. We will take over the mercenary operations in this entire region, and all of you can treat us as an agency for the Mercenary League. If any of you need manpower in the future, you can make an application with us."

The eyes of Carver and the others lit up. If the Black Star Army did not interfere in their operations on Planet Deirdre and only expanded their mercenary operations, there would only be benefits for them.

If a reliable mercenary group was set up on Planet Deirdre, the security of the region would be improved, and more people would be attracted to the planet.

Furthermore, with the Black Star Army around, they would not have to find other insignificant mercenary groups, and their safety would be ensured.

Currently, the Mercenary League was on their way to monopolizing the entire mercenary world in the Shattered Star Ring, and Carver felt that the Black Star Army was only expanding the operations of the Mercenary League as one of their members.

"We understand. We don't have any opinions." Carver was no longer as wary as before.

Sylvia then continued. "Very good. I have something to request. I hope that all those present here will make use of your influence to announce the news of our Black Star Army setting up a branch in this place. We will be able to open up this market very quickly with all of your help."

As an organization that came from the outside, even if the Black Star Army was a huge conglomerate, Sylvia would still ease up their relationship with the local organizations. This would help to make their operations more efficient.

Carver began to hesitate upon hearing that.

At this moment, Sylvia added, "Of course, we will provide all of you with a discount should any of you need mercenaries in the future."

"Don't worry. We will definitely help you with the announcement." Carver immediately agreed without hesitation.

Everyone on Planet Deirdre could see the gigantic satellite fortress floating outside the atmosphere of their planet whenever they lifted their head.

Just as everyone was filled with fear over the appearance of the satellite fortress, the financial groups made a public announcement that the Black Star Army had gone to Planet Deirdre with friendly intentions and had a cooperative relationship with the different financial groups.

The moment the announcement was made, everyone heaved a sigh of relief and was overjoyed.

The security situation in the galactic transit station was truly a problem, and the Black Star Army might be able to improve this situation.

Of course, not everyone welcomed the Black Star Army. For example, some small mercenary groups on Planet Deirdre felt immense pressure.

They all knew that their lives in the future would not be good, and all the mercenary missions would be snatched up by the Black Star Army.

However, the Black Star Army quickly released news that they were recruiting manpower and gave priority to the local mercenaries.

An endless stream of individuals immediately responded, especially the players located on Planet Deirdre.

The Black Star Army was a hot topic of discussion on the forums, and even the new players had a certain degree of understanding toward the benefits, storyline, and events of the Black Star Army.

The Black Star Army had already accompanied the players for two whole versions. With the players adding on their imagination and the legends of the Black Star Army becoming a part of the Galaxy Chronicles, many of the new players naturally felt a sense of belonging toward the Black Star Army.

In the eyes of many new players, the Black Star Army was like a player army in the Shattered Star Ring.

Because of their location, many of them did not wish to travel all the way to the Colton Star Cluster. Since the Black Star Army had expanded to the Gelock Star Cluster, most of the players no longer hesitated and joined.

The players who were hesitating were mainly concerned about the Main Storyline mission. The way they saw it, they would have to participate in the secret war storyline if they chose to join the Black Star Army. However, they did not wish to give up the freedom to explore other storylines.

However, after listening to the explanation of the other players who had joined the army, they realized that they were completely wrong. They needed to file for an application if they wanted to join the secret war. If they were not willing to join the secret war, the army would not force them, and they could choose not to trigger that storyline.

The players who did not join the war would be ordinary mercenaries in the Black Star Army, and they can choose the missions that they wanted to do while enjoying the benefits of the army.

Furthermore, they were surprised to realize that the Black Star Army was an upper echelon of the Mercenary League. They would be able to trigger the Main Storyline mission of the Mercenary League as well, so joining the Black Star Army was akin to giving them the choice between two Main Storyline missions.

There were some other players who wanted to participate in the Main Storyline mission on Planet Deirdre—helping the Odegen Financial Group chase away galactic pirates in the vicinity.

However, they were shocked to realize that the Odegen Financial Group had actually cancelled this mission. The Main Storyline mission of Planet Deirdre had mysteriously disappeared!

After asking around, the players finally understood what had happened. After all the galactic pirates in the vicinity of Planet Deirdre caught wind of the Black Star Army's arrival, they immediately abandoned all their bases and escaped.

These galactic pirates were all frightened away by the Black Star Army!

There was not a need to even hesitate.

In just three days, over ninety percent of the players on Planet Deirdre had chosen to join the Black Star Army.

The benefits of the Black Star Army were truly too alluring to the new players. Not only was there a large amount of equipment and tools, they also had a full set of basic and advanced knowledge. There was no need for them to farm for NPC favorability all around to learn that knowledge.

The current level and needs of the players were akin to the players in Version 1.0, but they could enjoy the benefits of Version 3.0. This was an irresistible temptation that the players could not reject.

As Sylvia recruited the players on Planet Deirdre, Han Xiao's interface received all the benefits.

The first thing all those new players did was learn knowledge.

He had the reward from the [Bloodline] mission, a Political Asset, and received a thirty percent bonus for experience. His experience pool, which had dried up, was very quickly replenished, and he had sufficient experience to level up once again.

After expanding his crops, the speed of harvesting experience had increased greatly. According to this efficiency, level 240 was not too far away.

The players in the army could be split into two different groups. The first were those who had reached Grade B and the second were the new players who had an average level of 20 to 30.

While the spending power of the new players could not match the old players, they had a huge hidden demand. Han Xiao decided to allow them to remain on Planet Deirdre and not force them to participate in the secret war. With their current strength, completing recruitment missions might be more efficient than participating in the secret war.

The Mercenary League's Main Storyline mission would be more suitable for those newbies.

Han Xiao then thought to himself, The player market has doubled, and all these new players will have to learn all the various knowledge from scratch. However, their levels are still low, so I must groom them slowly.

Class Knowledge was a necessity, and the new players would have to learn them eventually. He was not in a rush at all. Ring ring!

His communicator suddenly rang; it was Ralph.

“Black Star, I heard that you set up a branch in the Gelock Star Cluster,” Ralph inquired.

You sure receive news very quickly. Do you have any issues?” Han Xiao raised his brows.

“Cough cough, I am only asking out of curiosity.” Ralph coughed dryly.

In truth, Purple Crystal hoped that the Black Star Army would always remain in Colton and did not wish for them to expand outward. However, this was not the time to talk about this.

Han Xiao then asked, “Why have you called?”

Ralph’s expression then turned solemn, and he said, “It’s like this. We received news that the Crimson Dynasty and Federation of Light have come to an initial agreement. We do not have much time left and must speed up our progress.”

The negotiations are about to be over?

The secret war would be over when the Crimson Dynasty and Federation of Light completed their negotiations. It was no wonder that Purple Crystal was feeling anxious.

“What is the reaction of Bloodshed Land?”

“They have become more active and sent out all their high-level combatants,” Ralph said. “Without your presence to suppress them, we have suffered quite a huge loss.”

Han Xiao immediately understood what was going on. Jorde had been misled by him, resulting in such a situation.

“We urgently need you to return to the battlefield. We are planning to launch another large-scale mission. Black Star, we need you to...”

At this moment, Han Xiao interrupted him. “I am sorry. I do not wish to participate in the upcoming mission.”

Ralph was stunned. Black Star was an important part of their strategy. If Han Xiao did not want to go, would that not disrupt their entire strategy?

Han Xiao thought for a moment and said, “You should know that regardless of the outcome, Heber definitely won’t let me off.”

Ralph fell silent. Purple Crystal did indeed know about this but did not inform Han Xiao about it. It was not that they did not care about Han Xiao’s life and death. However, the upper echelons were extremely pragmatic and would make use of Han Xiao as much as they could.

Seven years ago, Purple Crystal had recognized Han Xiao’s potential and begun to invest in him. However, seven years had gone by, and the upper echelons of Purple Crystal no longer thought that much of his potential after witnessing his growth stagnate.

Although they still placed great importance on him, the thoughts of the upper echelons had changed, and they no longer felt that Han Xiao would become a Beyond Grade A Super.

Purple Crystal would not allow the Tyrant to take revenge on one of their meritorious subjects, but the upper echelons had their own considerations. Although the chances of Black Star becoming a Beyond Grade A Super had been lowered, he was still a peak Calamity Grade Super, and there was still value in roping him in. Thus, they wished for Black Star to seek protection from them when the Tyrant took action. This would improve the relationship between both parties and would be extremely beneficial to the upper echelons.

As for the safety of Black Star, Purple Crystal was not too worried. Black Star had the Dragon Emperor behind him, and their presence was like the icing on the cake. They might also have a chance to form a relationship with Ames because of it.

Han Xiao was not too bothered by this. Both parties were only working together for their respective benefits, and Purple Crystal did not owe him anything. He slowly said, "Thus, I have to think of a way to break past the Calamity Grade bottleneck in this remaining time."

"I understand."

Since Han Xiao had laid his cards out openly, Ralph did not force the matter.

As for the situation in the secret war, Ralph understood it extremely clearly. Purple Crystal knew that they would not be able to chase out all the enemies and would probably lose a portion of their territory near the border. Their retaliation was only an attempt to reduce their losses.

Under such circumstances, Han Xiao's refusal to participate in the war was something that Purple Crystal could accept.

Black Star probably knows this as well and thus made such a request... Ralph thought to himself and felt that Black Star was only finding an excuse.

After remaining stagnant for a full seven years, he did not think that Han Xiao would be able to make a breakthrough in the near future.

However, there was no need for him to spell things out so clearly.

"I will convey your message to the upper echelons," Ralph said. "However, you can choose to be absent, but your Black Star Army must still participate."

"Naturally."

Han Xiao then heaved a sigh of relief after hanging up.

Purple Crystal and Bloodshed Land temporarily would not bother him, and he would be able to pull out of the secret war and find some talents to prepare for Beyond Grade A.

Chapter 739 Guests

Molding Talents were something that could not be obtained easily, and Han Xiao had obtained all his Molding Talents through abnormal means.

Although the [Prey] mission was a good chance to obtain a talent, he had not triggered the next phase of the mission after such a long time. He almost thought that Thousand Shadows had given up on him.

However, the mission had not ended, so Han Xiao did not know what was going on. Thus, he naturally could not count on it.

There were many different missions for him to obtain talents in his memories, but the rewards were usually ordinary talents. There were not many rare talents, and Han Xiao had to consider which missions he should do.

He first struck out all the missions outside of the Shattered Star Ring.

Some talents did not really increase his combat capabilities and would only waste his time. He also eliminated those.

After striking out all the missions that he deemed unsuitable, Han Xiao picked a few more valuable missions.

Although the talents from those missions would not be able to cause his combat capability to have an earth-shattering change, it would still increase his combat capability to a certain extent.

I will probably need a few months to complete these missions... The war won't be over so soon, so I should have enough time...

He was currently level 221 and would need to complete a Class Advancement at level 225. He had saved a few Mission Completion Cards during the version update period, and he still had a few leftovers after using one at level 220. Thus, he was only lacking experience points.

The amount of experience needed after level 220 increased exponentially, but with his two plots of crops, he would only need a few months to accumulate enough experience.

He could complete some missions while waiting for his experience to accumulate.

Han Xiao then called Hila, Aurora, and Feidin over to explain his plans to them.

"Right." Han Xiao suddenly thought about something and said to Aurora, "Help me create some recovery medicine. I want to give them to the high-level officers of the army. It should be able to save their lives during a critical moment."

The Bloodshed Land had begun to go all out. In order to prevent the upper echelons of the army from getting injured, he wanted to provide them with some protection. Aurora's life force medicine had a divine effect and was akin to a second life.

Aurora was able to freely control her Esper abilities already, and creating medicine would not cause too much exhaustion.

"No problem!"

Aurora was extremely excited. I can finally be of some help!

Hila originally wanted to persuade her otherwise, but upon seeing Aurora's excited appearance, she chose to remain silent.

Since it was Han Xiao's request and was not too difficult, she decided to just let Aurora do as she wished. She had personally witnessed Aurora's growth, and she was no longer as overprotective as before.

Han Xiao spent a day settling all that he needed to before taking the three on his journey to farm for talents.

Three black, curved spaceships exited the desolate universe belt and entered the Shattered Star Ring from some deserted region.

In the cabin of the leading spaceship, Colin looked out of the window and spat out a rotten fruit from his mouth. His mouth was filled with purple juice from the fruit.

“After almost six years of flying, we are finally here.”

As he said that, he slapped the defrost button on the spaceship.

Psh...

A few dozen low temperature life sustaining chambers began to defrost, and the doors to those chambers opened. Cold air filled the entire spaceship, and many people of different heights and races walked out of the chambers.

“We slept for three years?”

“Is it time to change shift, or have we reached?”

Those fellows who had just woken up from their sleep put on their clothes and walked toward the cockpit.

Upon hearing the sound of footsteps, Colin pointed to the star map without turning back. “We have arrived in the Shattered Star Ring. All of you adjust your bodies quickly so that we don’t delay the mission of our boss.”

“Don’t worry, I just need to suck some blood to recover,” a tall, skinny man said while licking his lips.

“Baron Orozen, don’t blame me for throwing you out of the spaceship if you dare touch my subordinates.”

“Why should I listen to you?” the pale-faced Orozen sneered coldly.

“Because I am the captain His Excellency EsGod appointed. Or do you want to fight?” Colin glared ferociously.

Orozen chuckled eerily before shrugging his shoulders to show that he would submit.

Colin then snorted and said, “You’d better behave in a low-profile manner. I remember that you were a fugitive who escaped from the Shattered Star Ring. I don’t want your stupidity from the past to expose our location before the completion of the mission.”

“That bounty was over sixty years ago. It may have been removed already,” Orozen replied indifferently.

Everyone present on those three spaceships were members of Fallen Ark and were wanted criminals from different Star Fields. They had all been sent out to complete a mission in the Shattered Star Ring.

Colin had the nickname ‘Corrosive Poison’ and was the captain of this team. He had once spread a plague in many different colonial planets in the Ancient Star Desert, which had resulted in the death of

over three billion people. He was a wanted criminal of twenty-three Star System civilizations and two Star Cluster civilizations. He had then joined Fallen Ark and followed EsGod.

Orozen had the nickname 'Baron' and belonged to the blood race. He was another Grade A Super in the team and had hunted in many different Star Fields. He was an extremely ferocious character and was a wanted criminal in five different Star Fields.

Especially the Shattered Star Ring.

He had once eaten a high-level official during the ceremony of a Star System civilization in front of the entire Star System. That incident had caused a huge commotion, and he had joined EsGod after escaping from the Shattered Star Ring.

This group of individuals had set off six years ago and had only just reached the Shattered Star Ring. As wanted criminals, they would not dare to openly use stargates and spent most of their time in the desolate universe belt.

These three 'Light Marten' spaceships were equipped with top grade hyperdrive engines and were created specifically for travel between Star Fields. The ship's highest speed was level 17.89 warp speed. If it travelled within a Star Field at top speed, it would be able to travel from one Star System to another within minutes.

Although the lowest grade among the group was a Grade B Super, they needed to rest in a life sustaining chamber in order to endure the load from travelling at warp speed.

This small team was only able to travel through various Star Fields to arrive at the Shattered Star Ring by relying on a warp speed engine.

One of his subordinates then asked, "Captain, which mission shall we complete first?"

They had two different missions in the Shattered Star Ring.

"Are you an idiot? Of course we'll take care of the easier one first!" Colin replied impatiently. He then opened a file on the holographic screen.

There was information about two individuals in the file, Harrofal and Han Xiao.

They were the two of joint hands to deal with EsGod.

"Harrofal, Grade A Super in the Tyla Civilization, vice principal of the Tyla Mechanic School. He is a researcher.

"Black Star, Han Xiao. The leader of the Black Star Army and ally of Purple Crystal. A Beyond Grade A seed... Eh? This fellow's battle record had been updated again. He is a powerful individual and is said to be one of the top fighters among the Calamity Grade Supers in the Shattered Star Ring."

Orozen smiled calmly upon hearing those words. "Black Star? I never heard of such a character when I was in the Shattered Star Ring. He is no more than a newbie who only appeared recently.

"The Shattered Star Ring is only a remote Star Field," Colin said emotionlessly. "The strength of the Supers in this place cannot be compared to the three Star Fields in the Central Galaxy."

Colin and the others who usually spent their time in the Central Galaxy looked down on the Supers from a remote Star Field like the Shattered Star Ring. As the most ferocious criminals in the galaxy, they were all used to being arrogant, and they did not even place some Beyond Grade A Supers in their sights.

Since seven years ago, EsGod had been muttering about trees every day. They all felt that EsGod's mental illness must have become worse for him to send them to the Shattered Star Ring to find the coordinates of some wormhole.

"Harrofal will have the data that we want, so he is the key target," Colin said. "If we can get the data successfully, we won't have to find Black Star. After all, Harrofal is much easier to deal with than Black Star."

Everyone nodded.

"We can then steal the Evolution Cube after completing our first mission."

Chapter 740 Swaggering through the Novice Village

After a few days of travelling, the Blacklight Stealth arrived at the spot reserved for it at their destination.

The view from inside the porthole showed a planet with green vegetation and yellow earth. Blue oceans could be seen on the planet's surface, but the yellow earth made up the majority.

Aurora stared at the planet curiously.

"Phillip, what sort of planet is this?"

"Database search, hum... Search complete.

"Planet Nalun, sitting in the Star Zone 6 of the Colton Star Cluster in the Shattered Star Ring, the planet's number is S-0706812. It was discovered and recorded by the Galute Civilization. There are signs of civilization within, but they are considered fairly backward, yet to have developed interstellar technology. Observation priority is rated as four, hum ..."

Planet Nalun consisted of an indigenous civilization, but their level of science and technology was still quite ancient, without aircraft mounted nuclear cannons, far from the stage of space exploration.

"Why did Han Xiao bring us here then?" Aurora wondered.

"He definitely has his reasons. Just ask him when you see him." Feidin smiled.

At this moment, Han Xiao was not aboard the ship. While the trio were seated in the spaceship, he was streaking through the universe with just his flesh in order to be exposed to the cosmic radiation. This was to obtain attributes through the Void Star Pursuer's talent [Radiation Absorption]. As a result, his travelling speed was slower than theirs.

The spaceship was suspended above Planet Nalun, and before long, the void beside it started to twist and warp. Han Xiao jumped out from the void dimension. He yawned and quickly opened the hatch to fly into the cabin.

Whoosh!

Jumping into the cabin, Han Xiao exhaled a stream of hot air.

The moment he got out of the vacuum environment, his body started to emit white smoke as though he was being cooked.

Because the cells in his body were continuously digesting the cosmic radiation from the universe, his body was like a burning furnace. The surface of his skin was hot enough to even fry eggs.

Opening his interface to take a look, Han Xiao was pretty satisfied.

This is indeed a mid to high levelled evolutionary species. Its talent shows good growth, and as long as enough time is accumulated, the bonus will be considerable.

After some practical tests, Han Xiao understood how the mechanism of [Radiation Absorption] worked.

After evolving into a Void Star Pursuer, his body cells had transformed, and now he possessed the ability to absorb cosmic radiation. If his physical body was exposed to outer space for a period of time, it would trigger [Radiation Absorption], which would permanently increase his Strength, Ability, or Endurance by one to three points or increase his energy capacity by five to ten points.

If [Radiation Absorption] was used continuously, the effect would be weakened, and one would need to expose themselves in outer space for a longer period of time before they received the increased attributes.

However, if it was not triggered for a day, the time needed to expose oneself to trigger the effect would also return to the initial state.

This absorption process could be dismantled into three steps—absorption, storage, and digestion. Since cells are not bottomless and only had limited storage and digestion capabilities, this situation occurred.

This was a racial talent that would allow one to obtain considerable benefits just through the accumulation of time. It could be strengthened on the go and would definitely be worth the time. [Radiation Absorption] was the talent that Han Xiao was the most satisfied with at this time.

At this point, the total bonus attributes accumulated by the talent consisted of sixteen Strength, thirteen Dexterity, twenty-one Endurance, and sixty-eight Energy, as well as a huge boost to his attack.

Returning to the cockpit, Han Xiao greeted the three of them.

“You guys have waited a long time. We can start now.”

“Why did we come over to this planet?” Aurora asked.

“To be Samaritans.”

Han Xiao only smiled and switched to manual mode, turning the spaceship into stealth mode as they entered the atmosphere of Planet Nalun and slowly descended.

This was the first stop that he had chosen. Planet Nalun had three huge continental land plates, but only one of them hosted a civilization. The other two continents had yet to be discovered by the locals. Even their maritime era had not yet started, let alone venturing into the universe.

Other than the Galute Civilization, which discovered Planet Nalun, he should be the second visitor to grace this planet.

This civilization pursued the path of magic, with several kingdoms ruling over the continent. They followed the old aristocratic method of kings and lords, conquering other kingdoms for land. One of the biggest kingdoms was the Ocean Boundary Kingdom.

Ocean Boundary Kingdom.

In his previous life, the players had discovered a profession mission, which could benefit Han Xiao.

The spaceship descended to an altitude of around one kilometer above sea level in its stealth mode, sweeping across the ground under the control of Han Xiao. From their point, towns built out of stones and bricks flashed by.

The Planet Nalun's local civilization did not possess the ability to discover interstellar spaceships.

Very quickly, the spaceship circled the entire planet once, completing its scan. Phillip created a map of the entire planet.

Hu!

The trees swayed as the spaceship landed amid a dense forest within a mountain range.

The four of them disembarked while keeping the spaceship in a stealth state, in case it was spotted by the locals. Taking out his newly created map, Han Xiao swept his eyes over it before explaining,

"Our destination is nearby. This area belongs to the Ocean Boundary Kingdom. We're heading to an area called Stone Heart City. Let me see... oh, it's that city."

Pointing into the distance, Hila, Aurora, and Feidin looked to where Han Xiao had pointed.

They saw that, on the edge of the mountain, was a city built on one of the hills, with the gray stone of the surroundings as the main color of the city.

"Follow by my side and keep a low profile. None of you shall make a move," Han Xiao instructed.

Because Grade A Supers were a top tier combat power in the universe, they had a crushing power when facing a surface civilization. None of them could be defeated on Planet Nalun, and if they were not careful, an entire city could be wiped out instead.

In order to perform his mission, Han Xiao required everyone to stay low-profile, at least on the surface to integrate into this segment.

While they did not understand the intentions of Han Xiao, Hila and the rest nodded in response.

"Phillip, imitate the appearance of the Naluners."

A few mechanical orbs rose up, directing blue rays of light toward the four of them.

A matrix of data flashed across, and a simple simulated illusion was quickly generated on the four humans, turning them into Naluners. The body structure of the locals was similar to that of a human, albeit with darker, rougher skin and a lot of wrinkles.

After adjusting the translator channel, Han Xiao took the three alongside the mountain path toward Stone Heart City.

The afternoon sun shone lazily down.

The four of them moved extremely quickly and soon came to the scattered villages and towns outside the city. The area was undergoing plowing, and farmers were in twos or threes, working hard in the field. The air was filled with the stink of some sort of monster feces.

Having gotten used to the magnificent scenery of the universe, the group of them rather appreciated the primitive scenery of this surface civilization. It had a different flavor to it, as every Universal Civilization had once experienced such a period. The fires of civilization were weak at the beginning, and it was because they were cared for generation after generation that they finally blazed up to the universe level.

Being involved in war within the universe daily, only seeing battleships and armor, it was refreshing to suddenly come over to such a backward civilization to roam around.

There was no need to care about any enemies there. They could walk as they liked.

“The environment here is not bad. There’s no air pollution.” Han Xiao took a deep breath before shaking his head. “Even the smell of sh*t here is so fresh...”

“I’m getting the feeling that you’re becoming more perverted,” Feidin said honestly.

“No, no, in this regard, you’re still much better.”

The few of them idly chatted all the way to the entrance of Stone Heart City. The guards could not see through the camouflage of interstellar technology, which allowed Han Xiao to blend into the crowd and enter the city.

With a muggy wind blowing at them and noisy chatter in their ears, the group faced a messy stone street full of natives, which showcased backward town planning.

“What are we here for?” Aurora whispered in a small voice.

You’re the only one that keeps asking. Just follow me. We’ll get the job done.”

Using two fingers, Han Xiao pinched at the supple cheeks of Aurora’s face, pulling it a little before letting go. Aurora cradled her reddened cheek with teary eyes.

“Sis, he bullied me!” Aurora immediately turned her head to complain.

Unfortunately, Hila’s eyes remained straight ahead, as though she did not witness anything.

The few of them walked toward the notice board in town. Phillip translated the Nalunese for them into their language, and Han Xiao approached an old notice that had been left for many years.

As per the notice, a manor in Stone Heart City was believed to be haunted, and there were ghosts within. The owner of the manor hoped that someone would be able to go and solve it.

This notice had been placed here for a long time.

The location of the mission was a small manor. After Han Xiao and the rest expressed their intentions, they were quickly welcomed by the owner of the manor and seated in the main hall.

The moment they sat down, the owner could not wait and began speaking.

“This is great. Finally, there are people who are willing to help once again. This notice has already been up there for a good few years, and I’ve received at least a hundred people who have applied for this role, with five wizards among them, but no one has been able to solve this problem.”

“Relax, we’re different from them,” Han Xiao said, and the translator immediately changed his words into Nalunese. “Then, are you... are you guys wizards?” The manor owner looked hopefully at them.

“We could be counted as such. Tell me the specific situation first.”

“O-Okay.”

On Planet Nalun, there was a lifeform that resembled something like a ghost or a spirit, which the indigenous people named a ‘demonic spirit’. A few years ago, a demonic spirit had appeared in the manor and would occasionally go out at night to haunt.

Planet Nalun’s professions lay in the Mage system, which they termed as ‘Poposot’. When translated to the universe language, it meant ‘Wizard’. This Super system was very weak, with the wizards mainly utilizing potions or materials to cast spells. They were probably only at the Grade D level, but they appeared mysterious and powerful in the eyes of the indigenous people.

Exorcising the demonic spirits was the job of wizards. A few decades ago, the majority of wizards had mysteriously disappeared, causing them to be rarely seen and their heritage to thus be lost. Their Super system was cut off and could only be explored through obscure magic books.

Luckily, the demonic spirit in this manor was relatively weak, thus the owner and his family could still live here for several years.

The moment the owner finished speaking, Han Xiao’s interface pinged.

You have triggered a Chain Mission: [Planet Nalun’s Devil King]!

Mission Introduction: You have heard from the people that the wizards of Planet Nalun have mysteriously disappeared.

There should be more than meets the eye.

First Chain Mission Requirements: Extinguish the demonic spirit in the manor. Reward: 200,000 Experience

Because this was a chain mission, the initial rewards were very low. In his previous life, the players also only found out about this mission during free exploration in Version 3.0.

Each civilization would have a great number of trivial tasks. This mission was also very hidden; it was only discovered when a player who loved to perform storyline missions happened to discover this mission by chance. It was discovered that the reward of this was a talent that could boost one’s

psychological resistance. While the strength of Planet Nalun was akin to a weak chicken, the talent reward was pretty good.

At this moment, because the new version had just been opened, Black Star Army had been continuously farming the players like leeks, and thus, no one had gone to explore Planet Nalun.

Because of the soul embryo in his mental territory, Han Xiao decided to get another talent toward psychological resistance and thus went there, where the power level was not even at the level of a novice village.

He was clear about the flow of tasks and would be able to omit a lot of exploration time needed.

“Leave the demonic spirit to us. We’ll resolve it tonight,” Han Xiao said while glancing at the corner of the room, where a transparent magic eyeball was suspended, watching the conversation of several people talking.

Only the manor owner was unaware of the existence of the magic eyeball. The moment they stepped into the room, Han Xiao and company had immediately seen it.

At their level, such a clumsy, low-levelled magic eyeball was just like a living man squatting in the corner and murmuring, “You can’t see me.”

They could only lie to themselves.

“Leave it alone.” Han Xiao waved a hand to stop Feidin. He knew who was paying attention to the manor, and attracting their attention was a key step in this mission.

At the same time, within a hidden meeting area deep beneath Stone Heart City...

The room did not have any windows, only a few kerosene lamps providing a faint light. From the darkness, a husky voice spoke.

“The sentry on number thirteen reacted. Someone has accepted the reward from the manor and wants to deal with the demonic spirit.”

“Most likely, they’re people who have picked up a few wizard books and think themselves actual wizards,” a youthful voice helplessly replied. “Alas, there’s no way they can handle the demonic spirit.”

They said they would move at night. Tomar, you shall follow after them.”

“I got it. I’ll protect them, lest they mess up and anger the demonic spirit, ending up hurt.”

The conversation came to an end, and the sound of gears rang in the room for a while before stopping.

Deep at night, Han Xiao made the manor owner and his family leave before they went to the back garden of the manor.

This was an abandoned area surrounded by stone walls and fences, and the door was locked with several padlocks.

Using the keys given to open the door, Han Xiao strolled in. Inside was an abandoned warehouse area with several bams.

There was a cold, viscous atmosphere floating in the air, as though there was an airflow constantly brushing past their skin.

If it was a normal person, they would start to get nervous for no reason, as though they had entered a haunted place. However, toward Han Xiao and the rest, it was useless.

“There are faint abnormal mental signals coming from here. I spotted them during the daytime,” Feidin whispered. “Should I get rid of them?”

In front of this great Psychic master, the demonic spirit paled in comparison. Let alone getting rid of one, getting rid of a thousand was just a thought away for him.

“Wait for it to appear.” Han Xiao shook his head, glancing vaguely in the direction of a barn. He had perceived a living person squatting there. This was his true goal.

“Alright, we’ll follow your lead.”

Feidin was helpless.

While he had his doubts, his role currently was a bodyguard, and his job was just to follow Han Xiao everywhere.

At this moment, Tomar stood near the barn, leaning against the wall as he watched the four of them ‘secretly’.

He was a youth dressed in a black, hooded suit, which covered his face with shadows. He looked like an assassin, just that there were many small bags hanging around his waist, which contained spellcasting materials.

Upon seeing Han Xiao and the rest looking around as though they were on an outing, Tomar could not resist rolling his eyes, showing disdain.

Too unprofessional. They don’t even know to arrange the Spiritual Light Powder in advance. Where did they get the idea to come and help someone exorcise the demonic spirit? It seems like they’re going to suffer today...

As he thought, there was suddenly a gale of cold wind. The dust rolled up like a tornado, and a pale blue phantom emerged, roaring toward the air.

“Dammit, only a few years and the blue shadow demonic spirit has mutated!” Tomar exclaimed, and he began to get worried.

He had only studied witchcraft for five years and could not guarantee that he could protect himself in the hands of this demon, let alone those four laymen.

Upon seeing the indifference on their faces, Tomar angrily cursed before reaching for his casting kit. Regardless of his hidden identity, he was about to rush out and help.

“Plop...”

At this moment, Feidin carelessly sent out a mental wave, hitting the demonic spirit.

The blue phantom-like spirit body was akin to a broken mirror, shattering and collapsing into pieces like blue snowflakes, disappearing without a trace.

Tomar, who had just dashed out, was stunned rigid at this scene.

What just happened? Was the demonic spirit destroyed in one go?

Aren't wizards supposed to fight with potions and materials? What is this situation? The books never mentioned such a thing!

Tomar looked blank.