

## Dungeon S 1531

### Chapter 1531 The System's Instance -Part 1

"So if Jin wins, the Imperial Family will reluctantly announce his lordship and perhaps see him as a force to reckon against the private corporations?" Old Fammet touched his unkempt beard.

"You mean if I lose, the Imperial Family have every reason to deny Archduke's request even though it had already been approved?" Jin yawned as he knew the conversation was getting nowhere and there was nothing he could do since it is beyond his reach at the very moment.

"Hahahah! Now that is one way to put it. Then I guess the circumstances and whoever wins this fight would prove to the Imperial Family who they could rely on. This will then keep the Imperial Family's reputation to be somewhat neutral even though they are just a bunch of gold diggers." Old Fammet heartily replied at the absurdity of this predicament they were in.

"Honestly, I did not think that far but I made sure not to pin my hopes on getting the Lordship either. It was too farfetched of such a wish to come true even though they are under my command."

"The User could still be in command of several human commanders considering they had fallen in the battle against the Giant Metal Sandworm. The Mechanoids on the other hand need to be rebuilt. the System did not have the capacity to hold their details compared to when you pit yourself against Archduke Drake." The Tactical System stated.

"No worries about that. I honestly not looking to recruit anyone else unless they have talents to boot since according to you, the number of people that can emerge out of this virtual reality is only a handful. There is no way I can bring that many people out and leaving them here in a lurch is not the way I do things." Jin remarked.

"Heh. To be frank with you, the past few days were already a miracle for me. It's fine if I could not-" Jin stopped Old Fammet from talking any further by interrupting.

"-Shh. I said it once and I would only repeat it one more time. You are now part of my team. My employees. So, I am not leaving you and Nie here. We will be the top 3 and get out of here." Jin reiterated his pledge to Old Fammet and it made him smile a little before changing the subject.

"So, if that is the case, what are you going to do? There is no way to continue this fight when our supplies are especially low. We will be losing in the next few days and that is too much of a stretch of optimism. The enemies already know our tactics right after our rodeo last night. There is no way there are going to let us repeat to do the same thing."

"Well... I am still owing the Synthesis AI Administration the condition I stated..." Jin thought about it. Instead of just random transportation, he could do a mass teleportation once more but it would eat up a lot of his Maqi forcing them into his dimensional instance. There was no way he will be able to perform those mass teleportations on a regular basis unless he had the backing of Peppers to supply him some mana. That was why he believed it might be time to use the abilities that the Cardinal Lords had bestowed on him.

He had never tried to use it because he knew it would make the Synthesis AI administration to be suspicious of him and will use any chance to eradicate him. But right now when he learns that the AI

Administrators are on board with him to change the status quo of this one hell of a virtual simulation, he was willing to gamble and use his abilities.

Still, Jin did not spur into action like he used to and instead consulted the Tactical System if there were any ramifications of using his said abilities. The Tactical System pauses for a moment to think as if appreciative of its User to ask for its opinion before making any moves. Something which proved that both the System and Jin had developed a sort of workable relationship instead of one merely giving the orders or the other running and doing whatever he likes.

"The System believed that it would be beneficial but preferably used at the last minute. We should not discount the part where Archduke Drake could still be a part to make sure the announcement can go through as soon as possible." The Tactical System stated.

"You still think Drake can do something about this?"

"That was why the System asked the User to try to hold as much as possible. It is also not wise to release the Cardinal Lords' powers in this place." The System stated.

"Are you possibly envious that the Cardinal Lords were able to grant me such abilities while you could not do much to save your user?" Jin suddenly had such a thought and he felt that maybe he tried to tease the System a little.

But to his surprise, the Tactical System kept quiet and showed how the enemy troops were already advancing early in the morning. It then suggested Jin take a quick nap while the Mechanoids will rotate with the fresh ones who they had captured and reprogrammed.

"So you are really going to avoid the topic?" Jin asked as this was the few times the System was hesitant to respond.

"... The System will try its best to make sure the base is ready for the counterattack." The System reported and started to get Old Fammet to look into remodelling the Mount Sunn workshop so that it could convert the workshop's entrances so the enemies would enter into Jin's dimensional instance if they were not able to hold the ground.

But instead of using Jin's dimensional instance, the System would create one on its own based on the workshop layout data it had received from Old Fammet. And the Tactical System was sure that it would not give mercy to the Private Corps army that was coming in droves.

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## **Chapter 1532 System's Instance -Final**

Just as Jin had expected.

The enemies were getting even more aggressive and there the lull of attacks in the night was probably the missed opportunity to finish things off. The private corpo commanders had been supplied with fresh

Mechanoid troops by the trucks. And despite not having Rocketeerz to assist them, Diamondz had once again pulled out all stops to bring out their reserve fleet of planes.

Jin might not know it but even their reserve fleet was not as large as he imagined it to be. However, to Edmond Diamondz, total victory was needed in order to heal the pride he had lost from the previous day. How could he face people if they knew that he had been bested by a suppressed Mecha Smith Master whose resources had been stripped to the bare minimum, an apprentice who was still loyal to him, a supposed low end squad from the Empire and a couple of stolen Mechanoids?

He, Diamondz Edmond. One of the leading leaders in the industry of Mechanoid manufacturing had been disgraced by a couple of no names. Rumours had already started floating around ever since his men lost control of Mount Sunn and now his marketing team had been tasked to restrict and banned the flow of information about this current battle.

Yet, because of the collaborative efforts that he embarked on with other industry leaders to make sure that this was a successful quick raid, the details and results of this operation were starting to surface to the public as well. That was why he had pulled whatever strings necessary to make sure that it will end here and now.

Back when he thought that having more men on the ground would be sufficient but it seems like air support was an inevitable need to ensure that this skirmish would not turn into a pyrrhic victory. Thus, he even delayed orders of planes and aircraft that kingdoms and countries had ordered to ensure that his agenda was met in securing Mount Sunn.

Many others who were at the sidelines and still at the sidelines continued to watch to see if this was an endeavour that will make or break Diamondz company. But for now, the amount of manpower and material were increasing multifold with the use of the reserve fleet popping down extra troops, tanks, artillery and other supplies needed to make sure that they break the people inside.

While they could use several intercontinental ballistic missiles to level Mount Sunn to a flat piece of land, Edmond knew he was not allowed to do that. After all, this was still a piece of Empire land and the Imperial Family had already been paid millions of dollars as 'tribute' to make sure that they closed not just one but two eyes from this fiasco. No support from the Empire Army was given and the ignorance of this incident was already giving him the much needed advantage.

However, if he ever used such destructive missiles to destroy the place and its surroundings, the pressure by the Archdukes and the duke that oversee and held power over this plot of unused land would incite displeasure of the Imperial Family's attitude towards this incursion. Even as of right now, the Regent of the Empire had already pestered Edmond to finish the fight as soon as possible as the approval of the land by the Synthesis Administration had been secured at seemingly lightning speed as compared to the usual procedures.

It was as if the Synthesis Administration knew what was happening and decided to put a wedge in this delicate situation or the Archduke had already seen this coming a long time ago and had prepared to counter the Imperial Family for such an opportunity. After all, if he was able to impeach the Imperial Family, Drake might be able to put himself on top of the pedestal and rule the Empire...supposedly if he could fend off the other two Archdukes.

But considering the development so far, the Imperial Family were guessing the latter when they had no idea that this no name commander called Jin, which requested for the Archduke's debt to be paid with land, had connections with both the Synthesis Administrators and the Archduke himself. The Imperial Family who thought they wielded the highest powers in the country, never knew that powers beyond them were incidentally plotting for their demise as they continued to side with Diamondz.

What they could only hope is to ensure that Diamondz wins after all the advantages that have been given to them will turn the tide of the battle.

Yet, the Tactical System was doing its best to make sure such a scenario would never happen. Especially when they themselves had decided to take the initiative to create their very first Dimensional Instance without Jin holding their hand and to use it to beat Diamondz at their own game.

But the Grey Bear Squad Commander chuckled at the prospect. Surely, he had no doubts the Tactical System would be able to create such an instance but, in his opinion, he was hoping that such a trick up their sleeves would not be used especially since such combat dungeon instances required a bet with the Synthesis Administrators and time may or may not be at their side. If the System bet too little, all the points would be wasted and likewise vice versa where they will owe the Synthesis AI if they bet too much and could not achieve.

Right now, the current dungeon instance that he had was still more than adequate as the amount he bet on it was quite substantial even though the System told Jin he was crazy to do so. "But not so crazy after all once you see the rows of Mechanoids coming forward." Jin's wry smile was the only thing he could muster after having such an intense night. Even when told to nap, he could not help but take the opportunity to touch up his backup dungeon instance in case the first one broke off.

Yet, there was still a part of him that wondered what kind of dimensional instance the System will create. It was to the point where he felt maybe losing might not be so bad to see the stuff the almighty has in store for its enemies.

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## **Chapter 1533 Shield Tanks**

Instead of just mere Mechanoids and vehicles surrounding Mount Sunn Workshop, the enemy had finally brought proper equipment into the fray. Some kind of tanks which Jin had no knowledge of were placed in the front of the lines. It was until Nie told him more about it that he realised it was finally acting as a tank in most MMORPGs.

As the name bluntly reveals its nature, it's a shield tank where the tank itself was equipped with a shield generator instead of a barrel. While it still has machine guns and an unmovable barrel placed right at the side of it in case it requires to fight against other tanks, its general purpose was to generate a shield which would help adsorb the kinetic energy of the bullets and shells that were coming in their way.

However, according to Nie, they were not as sturdy as the name sounds. Its shield could only block from the front or wherever the generator was aiming at. This meant that their sides were vulnerable to attack

and they were generally not used for urban combat considering how streets and alleys have three dimensional space for enemies to subvert such an ability. Still, when it comes to shielding a general direction, it's no doubt useful, especially in this kind of situation where they know that the only enemies that they have are the workshop alone.

This is terribly disadvantageous for Mount Sunn's artillery as they would not be able to penetrate through their defences with the limited shells that they had, and it seems like the private corpo army was banging on that fact. Even the defensive wall that held its ground in multiple occasions on day one would be useless against this major line of shield tanks protecting them. And to make things worse. it was not just the first row that was filled with those shield tanks.

Multiple rows of shield tanks had been sighted protecting various assets of the private corpo army while they advanced safely through the killing fields that had been plaguing them since the day before. And without the forest burned to a complete waste, all that tanks needed to do was to plough through whatever was left including their own side worth of corpses.

The defending Mechanoids tried to retaliate as wisely as possible, aiming for the probable gaps that were within the rows of the shield tanks and while it seems like a success for their shots, the need to always calibrate in advance despite the aid of the System was time consuming and they could only target that many holes in the enemies' gap.

Not to mention, there were also extra shield tanks that were hiding between the rows, providing cover from the artillery attacks at certain portions which indicated to Jin that the enemies were hiding possible special forces within those heavily protected regions to push for a strong offensive.

But there was still hope within Mount Sunn regardless of the frightening defences that the enemies had put up. Jin stopped all the artillery attacks momentarily so that they could be in sync for a huge retaliation attack in view of their limited ammunition. And that could only be done with the aid of the mountain cannon which Old Fammet had used once.

Even though Jin and the others were initially afraid of the air fleet that came, they soon realised the fleet did not bother to harass the mountain itself. They merely dropped the troops and supplies and flew off even though they had fighter jets escorting them as well. It was mainly because Edmond did not want to risk those aircraft they had 'borrowed' from the client's orders to be destroyed in a fight and a show of force in terms of air superiority might cause the enemies to think twice in their defensive measures.

Yet, they had forgotten that an animal that was cornered would do anything to get out of the pinch. Jin did not care about the impending doom of a possible air strike on the mountain cannon since the priority was to slow and if possible halt the frontlines. Thus, Jin summoned Old Fammet to shoot the mountain cannon with a horizontal laser strike.

Since the enemies were so focused on the defensive, the huge thermic beam should more or less obliterate the initial lines causing the rest to come to a halt. After all, they had been travelling in such tight formations there was no way for them to move so quickly changing their course without coordinating with the other commanders that were mixed within them.

And that was the difference between Jin's small ragtag group of stolen Mechanoids and the private corpo. Unlike the enemy, Jin had absolute control of all the Mechanoids in the current battlefield, allowing him to do a massive counter attack in an instant if need be but for the private corpo army, they were mixed with mercenaries who were just following orders based on the amount of coin they were given and they might not have access to communication channels which the private corpo commanders themselves have. This meant that orders needed to be relayed at least twice.

That is in addition to the fact that the enemy also did not know the extent of the mountain cannon. It was only used once on a straight road and they assumed that it could only be used just in that particular direction. They had no idea when the mountain cannon emerge again, it was able to do such a devastating attack on their front lines.

Not to mention, immediately after that thermic beam, Jin ordered the artilleries to fire at the row that was behind the shield tanks, causing the entire army to halt in their tracks. This bought some time for the thermic beam to push for another shot before retreating back into the mountain as the artillery had been temporarily buffing to increase their firing rate so that the second line was decimated as well.

It was a reversal that the private corpos were not expecting but Jin knew that they could not do this the second time considering how much time was needed to cool down the mountain cannon which had shot twice.

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## **Chapter 1534 Stand Your Ground - Part 1**

Knowing that the victory they got would be short lived, Jin had decided its no longer possible to keep them in that impasse for too long. The enemies would eventually break out from the debris and corpses that were created from the initial wave of attack and there was no way Jin could win if he did not use his dimensional instance abilities.

The Archduke Drake had yet to respond to him and there was no information nor announcement that indicated he is currently the lord of the Mount Sunn and its surrounding land. "I am sorry System. No matter how I see the situation, I still think that your instance should be kept as the very last resort. At the very least I know that I had expended all my energy on it and you can take over once I am spent." Jin said even though he knew that he did not need any permission from the System to unleash the Cardinal Lords abilities. But since the Tactical System had been acting a little weird ever since mentioning it, Jin decided that it was better to at least tell the System.

"The System understands the predicament and realises that it is also not optimal to get surrounded."

"Then I shall-"

"But the System once again reiterated that it is not wise to brandish the User's powers so openly,"

"Huh? You said you understood the situation?" Jin had no idea what the System was talking in a roundabout way."

"Yes. The System did. However, the System proposed that your powers were to be used once we were surrounded by the enemy troops and after some fierce infighting." It was then Jin took a moment to calm himself down and relook at the situation again.

"The place will get destroyed. All those defensive systems would be-"

"They can be rebuilt. Everything can be rebuilt considering the amount of points we would be getting. Combat Medic War Maiden Page had compiled a fascinating case to sue the private corporations as long as Archduke Drake is in our favour and once, we get the title of Lordship to be announced to you."

The System explained.

"So... Let me get this right. You want them to surround us so you can limit and solidify their position for an all out attack with my powers?" Jin asked as he finally let go of the idea that he had to protect the place at all costs and instead use Mount Sunn as part of his arsenal to fight against the private corpo army.

"Yes. That way, the enemies would be away from their rear command and the distance provided allowed us to perform a two prong attack using your secondary dimensional instance as well. This will allow the User to crush not just the rear command who had been weakly guarded as well as attacking the rear and flanks of your enemies when they least expected." The System proposed.

"I see. You are right since if I used my powers right now, they would scatter."

"Yes. It might sound like a decent plan to use your powers and disrupt them but the scattering would just be a moment of distraction as their rear command would attempt to come out with a plan to defeat you no matter how strong it is. After all, they have the backing of power and material at their disposal."

"And once are able to coordinate themselves for the attack. We are left to suffer again and prolong the fight."

"That is worse since we do not have any more ammunition at that stage and all we have is two hundred strong Mechanoids against thousands." The System said and everything start to make sense to Jin who had been stressing out the moment he fell into this current predicament.

However, with their improved relationship both the System and Jin were able to realistically read the situation and come out with a battle plan that would incur the best chance of success.

"I understand where you are getting from now. Sorry to doubt you, System."

"The pleasure is ours. New but limited upgrade cards had been released for the Grey Bears as well as Mount Sunn personnel. Please use it wisely for the fight."

"Roger that," Jin said as he opened the holographic console and started to see what had been offered to him. He did however chuckle when he saw a small P.S. note at the end of the page. "Bring victory to the Panda Clan."

And with renewed wisdom from having that quick discussion, Jin had decided to enact the System's plans. Apparently, with the upgrade cards, Mount Sunn would be able to shoot the mountain cannon within the next fifteen minutes compared to the next fifteen hours. However, upon using the upgrade

cards, the Mountain Cannon would cease to work forever. This was the very last time it would be able to operate and Jin had decided to see whether it would be useful to use it now or later.

There were also upgrade cards where Mount Sunn mortars and artilleries had also been strengthened to the point where they would shatter the shield tank defences but the duration given could at most allowed two shots. And as for the personnel, the Mechanoids including the Grey Bear squads had been given additional boosts cards which could be used at their discretion without the need for Jin to approve. And that included Lynn as well.

Now all they had to do was to put up a fierce resistance before retreating back into Mount Sunn and allowing the System to perform its first ever personal intervention against the citizens of Synthesis World.

"Everyone! This will be a difficult fight! You all know your roles in battle and I expect nothing else than perfection. Every mini second you shaved off being efficient in your movements and attacks mean one mini second towards victory. So do your utmost best to know that you are with the strongest commander in this world!" Jin shouted and all the Mechanoids acknowledged his battle speech by giving a resounding yes.

(Although Lynn did think that it was shameless for Jin to say that out loud.)

## **Chapter 1535 Stand Your Ground - Part 2**

The private corpo commanders did not waste any time reorganising themselves for the fight. Some of the tanks pushed through the debris that had been created with the aid of the other tanks pushing them from the back, giving them enough torque and force to push the scrap metal and corpses away.

It caused a lapse in the defences but this was as tight as they could make in order to make sure the majority of the troops were able to move through. Some at the flank decided to move in a roundabout manner, avoiding the debris entirely and it was more secure as shield tanks formed a column at the sides in order for the rest to split and subsequently converge.

For some reason, their commanders were relentless in making their formation as tight as possible despite the previous attack where it had eliminated the entire front two rows of their formation. They probably knew such a big cannon with that much firepower would not be able to be used continuously and conserving their troops was the most optimal choice in seiging the workshop mills.

However, that did not mean the workshop did not retaliate as they reorganise. Sporadic artillery shots were made to ensure that their formation organisation would take longer than usual. It seemed like everything was still going well for the workshop defence team until a swirling sound could be heard and an explosion occurred behind the grounds of the workshop walls.

They finally decided to shoot their artillery both from the self propelled vehicles as well as stationary long ranged ones. And when it rains, it pours. The barrage turned into a non stop battering of workshop grounds, causing Jin to have a change of plans for the artillery guns. Initially, they wanted to take their



time to impact the incoming army but with the new barrage of enemy shells, it was a matter of time before their artillery guns dwindle to nothingness.

The Mechanoids and the System had the same thought process as Jin and the latter had started to formulate based on the shells' landing and learning their estimated trajectory. With this number of artillery explosions, it was easy enough to get the bearings from where those long range artillery and self propelled ones were. All that was left was to destroy or reduce the number of artillery guns available so they still have a workshop wall to fight against and prolong this battle of attrition as much as possible.

All of these were done in the hopes that Archduke Drake would be able to do something regarding the lordship announcement. Even though Jin felt that it would be hard if not impossible for Drake to jeopardise his career and standing just to aid him, he still trusted in the System and gave a tiny dash of hope that such a reversal would happen for this current battle.

This was because he wanted legal grounds to make sure that they were invading his soil and Page had guaranteed the laws were grey enough for him to enact that and gain as many points and gold as possible from these wankers who knew no bounds throwing this many man and material just for the arrest of Old Fammet.

He believed that they thought Old Fammet was the cause of everything that was making them lose and they wanted him to get all of these secret blueprints and squeeze his knowledge once and for all to benefit their company and earn even more gold from this ridiculous skirmish.

Thus the Defence Mechanoids who were manning the artillery obeyed the Tactical System's orders and set the coordinates despite the rain of fire. Fearlessly not moving from their position, they

executed their orders perfectly with the help of the upgrade cards which boosted the artillery guns' strength and range, allowing them to hit far away targets and ensuring that their enemies were the first to be destroyed.

Yet that also means the advancing army had no retaliation since the heat was taken off them with the help of the long range artilleries who were busy dispatching one another. Thus, they were able to reduce the disorganisation they were in and proceeded apace towards the walls of Mount Sunn Workshop.

Even the Mechanoids on the walls knew that they could not do anything else except for the snipers who were the only fighting force against them. Only whenever possible, the snipers with anti tank rifles shot at the shield tank's threads in hopes that it was taken out and while it did not, there were not many opportunities for the Workshop Mechanoids to do anything else.

Still, one tank out of commission is better than no tanks out of commission.

So, the long range bombardment went on while the impending firefight continued to come even closer as the Workshop Mechanoids knew that it was a matter of time before they had to fall back. However, no matter how valiant, it amounted to nothing when the enemy tanks finally started shooting signalling the chance to finally retaliate.

All the (working) short range defence cannons had been activated as they were already well aimed and following the flow of the army. As usual, the forerunners were the meat shield of the advancing army and the intense shooting had begun.

Those rounds hit by both were initially inaccurate but as time passed, the shots were getting easier and easier. Although the shield tanks could provide cover all the way to the doorstep of Mount Sunn, that would be ineffective as the troops behind it could not shoot as well. It was not as if some magical barrier where incoming projectiles were blocked while the outgoing ones have no effect on it. Nothing goes through and that applied to the same for the private corpo army as well.

And the shields could not do much to protect the incoming projectiles well considering how the Mount Sunn cannons were all directed towards them. Compared to the long range artilleries, the cannons atop Mount Sunn Walls had more penetrative capabilities, some similar to tank rounds. Explosives might have widespread power and destruction but those shells that the cannons used were concentrated, making Shield Tanks to be rendered useless in a shot or two, especially in consecutive attacks where else the shield tanks had time to recover their barriers when the artillery hits. (Although that was assuming it was one shot by shot, if multiple artilleries attack at the same time, there was no way the shield tank was able to handle such hits.)

So, the tanks themselves had decided to go on the offensive as well the moment they knew their shields were not useful anymore. Even so, their immobile barrels also mean that their shots could only be used at the tank level and not against the enemies at the top. So, they attempted their best to coordinate and fire at a specific point of Mount Sunn's walls and its gates in hopes that it would weaken and break, allowing multiple entry points for their troops to go in.

And as medieval as it gets, the Workshop Mechanoids were using whatever they could to stall the tanks as well as the invading Mechanoids who also used the tanks as their pedestal to assist them in their jump up to the walls where they initiate combat. If not for the fact that there was no air superiority, the Mechanoids would never have experience hand to hand combat along with their guns.

However, the Workshop Mechanoids do perhaps have an advantage when it comes to hand to hand. For their master was Jin. The Astral Panda Cultivator.

### **Chapter 1536 Stand Your Ground -Part 3**

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It's not as if the cultivators were supposedly strong and unique. In Jin's world, most cultivators had been practising their techniques since young as a sort of passing down the family's martial arts as part of their tradition of growing up.

Otherwise, those cultivation capable people would at least learn a trick or two to survive in that harsh world of theirs where results and productivity matter and cultivation allows that. However, in this Synthesis World, none of that matters since what was important and vital was whether the Mechanoids

were able to complete the mission or not. Survival was their second priority if the mission had been completed or led to failure.

So, even though Jin had only transferred basic martial art techniques to the Mechanoids less than a few hours ago via the Tactical System, the War Maidens defending the Workshop immediately used it as if they were depending their lives on it. A few rod and rifle based martial arts had also been taught since most of them were carrying rifles and pistols as their primary weapons.

The scene was amazing for Jin to look at especially when he did not have contact with his real world for weeks. (Though in his world, it had already been months.) To see the Mechanoids gracefully execute the martial arts techniques despite having no chi in time was as if he had transported back to the ancient times where barriers were formed to prevent the use of chi and everyone was just savages fighting against each other seeing who had the better and faster killing blows.

Doubtless to say, this moment of happiness was fleeting as the number of Mechanoids defending was drastically reducing not because they were losing but the fact that the other side was pouring more Mechanoids onto the walls. At the same time, the Grey Bear Squads were doing all they can to delay the inevitable.

Tellie and a few other Mechanoids were sniping from the mountain sides while Yinn continued to assist the Mechanoids in holding the fort. Tellie herself had proven to be a sniper through and through, to such a point where her shots would yield her triple or even quadruple the kill, depending on luck and timing. As for Yinn, her skills to assist with the coordination among the hundreds of Mechanoids under Jin as he only gave broad commands and expected things to get it done. If not for the coordination within their communications that Yinn provided, those broad commands amounted to nothing.

Click somehow had an upgrade skill that allowed her to create turrets from a few bodies of dead Mechanoids, enabling her to protect the walls on her end and gave assistance to nearby sections of the Workshop Walls. The War Maidens at her side called her turret the Maiden Eating Turret as every time Click placed a dead Mechanoid body near the turret, it would cause tendrils and tentacles to emerge out of its base plate and pick off parts where it would use to either replenish its ammunition or upgrade itself. Since some of the Mechanoids which Click picked had grenades or even a rocket launcher on them, the turret took those replenishable upgrades for itself and used them against the enemies. Saves the hassle of picking them up. (The only problem was that sometimes, the Maiden Eating Turret would indiscriminately try to eat Click too.)

Diaz went berserk with her killing spree as her upgrade skills somehow enabled her to produce two shotgun shells every time she kill a Mechanoid, enabling her to go on a rampage, as she took the chance to commit a bloody (or oily) slaughter any incoming Mechanoids that were coming.

The only catch was that she was supposed to only last a minute or two in this mode considering how her energy consumption had risen to the roof for her to do such a feat. But the silver lining was that she was connected to the workshop's main power supply. What was supposed to be a charging point to supply energy to a defensive cannon had been plugged into her where she could be the killing machine now that the defensive cannons on the walls were useless against close combat.

There was not much need to say about Page.

Her current skills of converting the opposing enemy's Mechanoids had been well known to everyone that Yinn had assigned her to the place where the breaches happened. This was to ensure that any enemy Mechanoids that managed to go through the wall's defences would be subjected to her nanobot conversion, enabling them to turn back and attack the enemy, closing the gap once more despite it being just a temporary measure.

And as the use of the nanobot conversion skill had been used more often, more data had been fed into her body's system enabling the Tactical System to improve the ability even further as just how Tellie's sniping skills excelled further. Her Nanobots became more sturdy and carried even more data which enabled a quicker conversion, especially to the regular Mechanoids. Enemy Mechanoids from the Special Forces or perhaps even slightly customised Mechanoids would encounter the nanobots with even more difficulty in rejecting the conversion.

But even though those customised Mechanoids did not subject to conversion, it still slowed them down as the conversion forced legs and arms to stop moving temporarily. A paralyzing effect occupies the main system's processes so that it could infiltrate with a higher success rate.

Still, the conversion was just a stop gap measure, as the nanobots that Page could create were limited and due to the numbers the enemies possessed, there was not much she could do in the long run. The only time she does her medic job was when the Grey Bear Squad Members get injured as she too felt that the other Mechanoids were dispensable as well and not worthy of her heals.

Now all they need was to stand their ground and push the enemies away for as long as they could hold.

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## **Chapter 1537 Stand Your Ground -Final**

The enemy commanders were taking a sigh of relief as they finally saw how they had successfully broken through Mount Sunn's wall. They had never expected to take such losses, especially when they knew based on corporate intelligence that the defenders only had a mere fraction of troops compared to them.

Yet, those customised mechanoids were kicking their ass from one side of the battlefield to another. But numbers forever made a difference in the fights and there was no such thing as-

"What is this signal corruption?" One of the radio operators asked another as a commander picked up the conversation between the operators.

"Any problems?" The commanders felt that they were reaching a point where victory is at their grasp and it was vital to search and eliminate any possible obstacles in the way to ensure that they could overtake Mount Sunn before nightfall.

"Nothing in particular, Sir. It's just that there was a moment of signal corruption. Could be because we are out in the wilds and the massive amount of reports coming in from the front lines." The senior radio operator chimed in as if to not let the commander worry.

However, the private corpo commander felt uneasy. For a few days, all he received were out of the norm attacks that would be considered abnormal to the veterans. If there were only one or two abnormal situations, he would have brushed it off as a special event. But considering how he heard that a commander went into battle, slashing tanks into two, platoons disappearing into thin air and never coming back. Not to mention their latest exploit was a plane that could take down an entire fleet of fighters and bombers... He was in a 'mood' where he had to accept any difference in the situation as a sign of change on the battlefield.

"Tell the other commanders in the field to brace and report on any changes in the battlefield, I am not taking any chances. You! Find out where the signal corruption came from and search for its origin." The commander said but the radio operator was dumbfounded. How could he find the signal corruption when it could only be some sort of coincidence based on what he said? The senior radio operator had no choice but to serve his superior's paranoia and acknowledged that order.

Meanwhile, on the frontlines, the defending Mechanoids were trying their best to hold off the enemy but it was pretty obvious that their last defensive line was getting thinner and thinner that their only way was to either retreat or die defending.

However, their directive from Jin was to retreat into the Mount Sunn workshop since the Tactical System had already prepared the first ever System made customised dungeon instance

As Jin sounded his retreat, he also released the dungeon instance, causing all of the entrances and exits to be transformed into the mouths of the deadly monster (figurative speaking.) Only to his defending Mechanoids and Grey Bear Squad, any corpo soldier or mercenary who were rushing into the workshop had been teleported into the instance. Thus, there was no need for Jin to worry about the safety of Old Flammet and Nie as they prepared for the next phase of the fight.

Unlike the dungeon instance Jin had created, where he blocked off all communications to and from their enemy headquarters, the Tactical System created one where all communications were still available to the soldiers that entered. Initially, both the System and Jin wanted to block off communications to make them suffer but Jin eventually decided against it mainly because the soldiers would view it as a major threat like the mysterious 'teleportation bomb' their soldiers were previously susceptible to and might not wish to take further action.

However, if panic came through the intercoms, there would be more likely to send in reinforcements to assist with the annihilation of enemies within the Mountain. With that plan in mind, the System even wanted to modify Jin's dungeon instance where the soldiers trapped with the Giant Metal Worm were crying for help. If there were reports and correspondence from two different battlefields, it could be possible to create chaos in their headquarters allowing them to be distracted for the next phase of attack that Old Flammet and Nie had been hastily working on.

Everyone on Jin's side thought that the battle would take days and maybe at least a week, hoping that time would be on their side. However, the loss of their forest through the aggressive napalm attack was something they thought would be the last resort of the private corpos. So, now they were mostly

improvising everything including the next phase of attack to slow down the fight further if they could afford it.

But right now, the remaining Mechanoids and the Grey Bear Squad could take a quick breather as the System handles the soldiers and mechanoids that were pouring in, hoping to stomp the workshop quickly and take control of it.

"You should take some rest," Lynn said even though both of them were panting inside the Workshop Control Room.

"What? And let the System have all the fun within the dungeon instance?" Jin smiled as he pointed at one of the monitors which the System had taken over within the control room's CCTV wall of screens. "It seems like I can catch up with some buddies when I am in the dungeon instance. At this rate, I honestly don't want to know how the System is able to bring them into the picture but I really want to know what they have been doing without my directive."

"The System had its ways. A portal will be opened for you in a minute." The Tactical System reported while Lynn interrupted.

"Trust me, Qiu Yue had been quite a slave driver, probably worse than you. She is the epitome of efficiency and I believe your buddies are dying to see you. Don't tire yourself too much, you are currently a Grade 2 Cultivator, not a high grader. Pace your fatigue or we will lose command in this fight that never seems to end."

"Don't worry. Old Fammet and Nie would be fixing that problem. Get me out if there are any problems." Jin said as he saw the portal open. Aside from reloading his machine gun and carrying a conventional sword with him, he took a deep breath and jumped into the fray.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

## **Chapter 1538 Catching Up -Part 1**

"Master Jin!" A voice so familiar came the moment the Dungeon Supplier entered the dungeon instance. Jin's eyes lit up as he heard those voices as if they were something nostalgic.

But in this dungeon instance, the only happy thing that could happen was their reunion as the demise of the enemy was tragically the main event.

As the frontline commanders entered the Workshop with their Mechanoids, they were surprised that they did not close their gates to the workshop entrances. It was as if they were being welcomed to take the workshop while the defenders went helter skelter. Perhaps, due to their rush of adrenaline, the private corpo commanders did not care and wanted to end this as soon as possible, demanding his troops to move in as soon as possible.

They never knew that they were going into a death trap.

At first, the returning fire felt sporadic as the defenders were trying to run away from them, causing the Mechanoids to give chase but once the shots stopped, it was then the Private Corpo Mechanoids began to analyse the situation they were in.

"Error. Master Blueprint invalid. The current interior does not match with the Master Blueprint." One of the leading Mechanoids stated to her commander.

"What are you talking about? Perhaps, this is some secret room that stinky Old Fammet did not submit. That means we were right in trying to chase them down. Keep your guard up and search for the nearest exit." The Private Corpo Commander said as he too started to calm down and look around.

Based on their surroundings, they were in some sort of storage facility as bulks of containers were in sight stacking high within the room, leaving visibility to the minimum. It was not so constrained as there was sufficient leeway to move through the containers but the lack of lighting made it hard for the commander to manoeuvre.

He does have night vision but for some reason when he turned it on, everything turned extremely bright as if the lights were on and he immediately knew that the containers were painted with a counter against night vision, causing him to see properly. The commander tried to borrow the sights of his Mechanoids but it was of no avail. Even their other vision modes had been compromised and the only thing they could use was standard vision with their torchlights on.

Yet, the commander was wary of attacks as he was not some newbie leader who just came out of grad school. He might not be the most veteran of them all but there were a few missions under his belt so he knew that this current place he was in was prone for ambushes. Thus, he immediately tells the rest of his Mechanoids to increase the sensitivity of their other senses by putting more processing speed in those sensors.

What he did not know was that the defenders who had been hiding were dying to hear that command from him. Following that command, they instantly started blasting hideous rock metal instrumentals throughout the facility and this caused the Mechanoids who were tuned up their sensitivity began to tremble at the spot, allowing them to be vulnerable to ambush attacks.

And that was what the defenders were waiting for. Equipped with custom earplugs to prevent ear damage and using the System to communicate like mind telepathy, the defenders jumped out of tiny crevices between the containers and ripped the heads off their enemies. The movement was so swift that the first wave of defenders could hardly be seen nor heard.

Only when the second wave came, there were silhouettes of these shadowy figures slicing through air, cutting the Mechanoids' heads with ease. They were not using guns but conventional weapons to cut their numbers down.

It was only through a fortunate glimpse with a shine of the torchlight that the commander finally saw what was causing such a menace to his troops. However, he could not believe his eyes that a rat was fully equipped from head to toe rushing towards him. This bewilderment seeing a rat intelligently swooping towards the commander caused him to utter the word "Rat!" before his head could leave his neck.

"Tsk. Come on, I am a mouse! A down to earth Mousefolk!" Poppy grumbled as he saw the man pronounce the word Rat rather than Mouse. (After all, they were all wearing earplugs)

"You honestly cannot blame them. You are probably so ugly that you are mistaken for a rat." Pippy teased and Poppy grumbled.

"You guys still haven't gotten over that fact?" Jin asked as he watched from the sides as his Were Mice were killing the remaining Mechanoids now that their commander had fallen. "How else am I going to entrust you guys to fight alongside the new Demon Rats that we had recruited?"

"Urghh, if it's the master's orders. We will do our best. Besides, Mistress Qiu Yue also forced us to have a 'make peace' event between the current group of survivors and the new Demon Rats. She wants to show us that the Demon Rats were inherently not evil. Just that the top people were evil." Poppy sighed as he flew with his new flying gear. (It's still literally like the gear those soldiers used in the Attack of Giants, just more modernised)

"Then you should listen to her." Jin smiled as he could feel that Qiu Yue was really taking the Boss role seriously. In contrast, the real Dungeon Supplier could be content being the Boss in the shadow. It was hectic but the adventure he had in the Synthesis World was second to none for now.

"Everyone's dying to learn what had happened to you and they thought that you abandoned us," Pippy said.

"You could say I am just taking an extended vacation." Jin shrugged.

"Ignore Pippy, he was just too lazy to learn that Moloch had given out notices that you are away due to circumstances," Poppy replied and even as the rest of the Mousefolk finished off the remaining Mechanoids who were putting up a meaningless struggle, Jin continue to interact and learn what had happened to them when he was away.

## **Chapter 1539 Catching Up -Part 2**

As the fighting devolved into Mechanoids repeating their orders based on their ranks, Jin continued to ask Pippy and Poppy about the situation in the Farming World. Apparently, Qiu Yue had been working so hard that everything was going apace.

The remnants of the Northern Army, led by General Matt of the Northern Bulwark, had started to lead the people who were living in the Town of Wecha including those who escaped to Wecha during the massive operations against the Demon Rats. They began to reoccupy the towns after the cultivators and Jin's army of minions had previously cleared them of the Demon Rats.

This was to prevent the strain of resources that the Town of Wecha had been enduring but also allow the citizens to take back what was rightfully theirs. After all, Demon Rats were not the only plague that they had to contend with. This was the Farming World and thus monsters as well as predators were constantly growing in the wilds. The Northern Bulwark was tasked to ensure that the escort of those villagers was done safely.



At the same time, they saw ships upon ships coming to embark on the sole remaining seaport that the Northern Bulwark was holding on to. It was then they found out they were the Southerners who were so well equipped that the soldiers thought it was an invasion until they realised that they were here under the orders of Qiu Yue.

Though the first wave of ships that came ashore were soldiers, they were here to set up a temporary encampment in order to assist with the subsequent waves of ships that were coming. This was because Qiu Yue had managed to micromanage and get resources as well as expertise to be shipped from the South to assist with the North.

Now that the South had a solid bedrock foundation by using the technology from Jin's System, the craftsmen learnt the ways of modernisation. And they started to build stoned pavements for the seaport and upgrade the town in order to accommodate future interactions between the South and North.

Obviously, General Matt was a little edgy that the South had troops more equipped than the North but the Goblin and Orc minions who were working with them assured them that they were not of a threat right now.

And as they upgrade the town's infrastructure, they also performed road works to connect between towns and the first town was no other than their main trading road hub, Wecha. The Southerners might have been expecting a fight but they never realise that their fight was not with the Demon Rats but it was a fight to create progress and modernisation for another country. Nevertheless, the Farming World was still producing a few monsters that could rival those itching for a good fight.

According to the System, the spirit of Yggdrasil had started to recover but since its life energy had been severely mined and used by the Demon Rats, it also meant that the Demon Rats had been corrupting the surrounding areas even though it was 'accidental'. They were not deliberately causing harm to the environment but it was due to their nature where waste was tossed aside like waiting for your mother to pick up that dirty clothing you left hanging on the sofa but she ignored you to do so. (\*Author's note: cough definitely not me I swear. But I know some people...)

This in turn caused monsters to grow and they were the side effect of such methods. The Demon Rats were well armed not solely because of such rebellion but they had noticed that the more they mined Yggdrasil's life energy, the more such occurrences of monsters emerged. They had been improving their weapons and equipment in lieu to deal with such nonsense as well.

It's just that the Northern people had no chance to see all these happening since they were locked up in their own towns. Even Gold and Weslie, the renowned Scholars of Farming World acknowledged that it was a problem they eventually had to deal with and that was why they were surprised that the Southerners were here to assist the Northern Bulwark in the security of the Northern Region as the townsfolk start to heal.

Weslie also noted that the Queen of the West did not provide too much assistance mainly due to such a problem as well. It might not look like it but the weakened Yggdrasil spirit had somehow caused nature to grow mutated plants that caused even more monsters to occur and their adventurers and army had to deal with it.

Gold theorised that it could be Yggdrasil's response to the Demon Rats. "She's angry and her anger caused nature to mutate or as I quote Gold," Poppy said and Jin nodded his head.

"Apparently, Qiu Yue had been secretly researching monster occurrences in the South and did not take any chances when it comes to security," Pippy added.

Thus for the Southerners, they were used to such attacks since they had always been invaded by monsters due to their harsh living environment and with equipment provided by the grace of the System (including the harsh training for the recruits), they were able to settle more monster attacks while teaching the Northern Bulwark Army how to deal with such threats as well.

"I see, I see. It's great that the Farming World is still doing well. I cannot wait to get out of this place and see what else Qiu Yue has done. Pippy, Poppy. A pleasure seeing you guys again. Likewise, the rest of you too." Jin shouted at the end as the Mousefolks cheered upon clearing up this particular group of Mechanoids and their commander.

"No problem Bossman. It's a pleasure to be under your wing and Zeru Sensi." The Mousefolk leader and vice leader took a bow as Jin stood up and decided to move to the next area while the Mousefolk cleaned up the place to wait for the next group.

Occasionally missing content, please report errors in time.

## **Chapter 1540 What A Joke**

"What is this place?! There is no data on this place in the master blueprint! Command! Command! Shit! It's jam!" One of the private corpo commanders complained as he kept trying to connect to the headquarters.

Even though the System had generously allowed communications within its dungeon instance, it did not mean that the people attempting to talk to their headquarters would not have a problem doing so. If every commander were flooding requests from the command, it would no doubt cause confusion.

'Commander, we have to move forward as the doors behind us close." One of his Mechanoids suggested.

"And move in blindly without any reinforcements?! Are you boltheads broken? Can't you see what is in front of us?!" The commander's voice trembled as he pointed to the other end of the room. Both the mechanoids under him and his eyes could not believe what he was seeing.

Humanoids that were buffed to the extreme with the features of a bull. And if that was not enough to crack his head that such abominations were around, it seemed as if the Minotaurs were having a blast ...erm having tea.

Yes, he was unable to comprehend the current situation.

The monsters were having tea and the Minotaurs were cosplaying doing so. But do not be fooled by this scene as in their background, scores of Mechanoids had already been annihilated. Commander's heads

had already been severed and were placed on a cabinet right behind them as if they were trophies to be displayed.

Even though the Minotaurs were aware of the presence of their enemies within the room. They were enjoying their roleplaying to the point that they did not care of the Mechanoids who had raised their rifles while waiting for the order to shoot.

It was not until a sudden doorbell rang which broke the tension and everyone looked at the side of the room, seeing a human coming out of it. (Those bells that were placed at the top of the door, to signal that someone entered the room, that kind of bells.) That was when all of the Minotaurs began to take notice of him and acknowledge him based on their roleplays. The female maids bowed while the gunky muscular males nodded their heads.

"Oh, did I come at an inopportune time?" Jin asked as he saw the commotion as well as the group of Mechanoids with a stranded commander holding it out at the edge of the room. It was then an animated puppet emerged from the cattle of Minotaurs.

"Master Jin!" Moloch waved his frail looking cotton arms and beckoned him to have a seat. And like the rest of the Minotaurs, Jin did not care for the Mechanoids and walked towards the puppet as invited.

"Commander, that is our way out." The leading mechanoid said and the commander spoke in sarcasm. "Well thank you miss obvious. How are you proposing to get there? Can't you fucking see all that broken Mechanoids and beheaded commanders on their cupboard?!"

"HEY!" One of the Minotaurs who were enjoying tea shouted back. "You either stay there and shut up or come here and die under our hands. Our VIP is here and you are making too much of a ruckus."

"Hear! Hear!" All of the minotaurs bang their tables for a moment before returning back to their allocated roles.

"So that human is their guest. Perhaps we can get out of this if we play our cards right." The commander said as he attempted to speak out once more asking for Mr Jin if he heard his name correctly.

But the moment he said his name, all of the Minotaurs who returned to roleplaying immediately reversed their role once again and guns were brought out from each and everyone on the other side of the room. The Mechanoids tensed up as they aimed their barrels at each of the Minotaur's heads. Even though they outnumbered them, the Mechanoids did not have confidence that they were able to win since there was no data on these humanoids at all. (Since Humanoids never existed in their world before.)

"I assume you want out?" Jin, who stretched his head out from the back, shouted in response.

"Yes. I am just a contracted worker. Let me out peacefully, I will pay you all the points I have. Heck, I will even throw in an additional agreement not to harass or ever target you and your friends from Mount Sunn Workshop. Just give me your names and in the event I am within a few hundred metres of you guys, I will disappear." The commander said and suddenly all of the minotaurs chuckled for a while.

"That's an interesting proposal. But what if I deemed your points insufficient? Would you in turn give us your Mechanoids as collateral?" Jin asked as he turned his chair towards the commander and the rest of the Minotaurs inched away to allow Jin to have full eye contact with the commander.

It was then the commander felt that his luck had turned for the better. The humanoids had no idea that they were making his job so much easier by allowing a clear view of their VIP for his snipers and riflemen (or Rifle Mechanoids? lol) to have such a beautiful aim at every part of his body.

"I do not think that's possible. As a mercenary squad commander, I would have nothing to put on the table if I do that. That's basically asking me to lose my livelihood." The commander remarked but he was only doing so to give his Mechanoids extra time to position themselves slowly in case their shots missed.

"Then it looks like our conversation has to end early," Jin said as he sighed and started to sit up to turn his chair back. But the moment he moved a muscle, it was met with bullets from every single Mechanoid who was waiting for a sign.

It was then the commander thought he had bagged a win so they could get out of this unscathed.

Hah. What a joke.