

Mech 3861

Chapter 3861 Interspecies Duel

Few Larkinsons could understand what was on the Cross Patriarch's mind right now. The truth of the matter was not as complicated as they thought.

Aside from wanting to compete and measure himself against the second-strongest fish-whale of the Evolution Kingdom, Patriarch Reginald was also eager to baptize his new Whale-Cutting Saber in fish blood!

"COME AT ME, FISH WHALE!" He roared even though he knew the aliens didn't understand human speech. "I'LL SLICE YOU INTO SUSHI!"

The combative expert pilot's fighting spirit peaked as his expert mech had advanced close enough to collide against the champion fish-whale!

Though Patriarch Reginald did not participate in this campaign with the intention to duel against one of the powerhouses of the indigenous alien population, when he gazed at the powerful alien beast, he could recognize a challenge when he saw one.

Some forms of communication were universal to all races. At least that was what Reginald believed. Beasts were competitive by nature and he had no doubt that these fish-whales fought amongst themselves to see who deserved to be on top.

"Since you fish-whales understand the language of the fist so much, let me show you why expert mechs are revered in human space!"

Patriarch Reginald had studied parts of the footage brought back by Venerable Tusa like most people.

He skipped a lot of the boring parts but rewatched the battle between the Swarmers and the Evolvers multiple times.

The strength and abilities displayed by the Evolvers completely fascinated him! Although the Evolver fish-whales were completely different from humans, he saw many parallels with expert pilots and expert mechs from their individual power expression.

Each of these fish-whales functioned akin to a permanent union of expert mechs and expert pilots!

Although they did not harness the power of true resonance, the power derived from phase whale bioscience was not weak. This was especially when the fish-whales in question surpassed the size of an ordinary mech!

Though Patriarch Reginald knew better than to accept a challenge from the humongous fish king, this bladed fish-whale looked just right.

At 10 times the size of a mech, the creature that excelled at chopping enemies apart up close exuded pressure that was akin to a powerful expert pilot, but did not surpass it to the point of entering the range of an ace pilot.

In other words, the bladed fish-whale was a great sparring partner! Patriarch Reginald saw a great opportunity to practice and master the use of his new Whale-Cutting Saber!

"Accept my blade!"

As the Bolvos Rage finally closed the distance, the powerful expert mech had flared its resonance shield while raising its large and heavy saber at the same time!

The bladed fish-whale did not remain idle at this time. It maintained its challenging gaze as it prepared for the incoming in its own way.

The powerful beast was old enough to experience numerous battles where powerful enemies attempted to charge it head-on in an attempt to break his body apart.

How could he not have countermeasures against this simple tactic?

The bladed fish-whale did not make any attempts at avoiding the charge. Even if it did, it was futile as its speed was not comparable to that of the Bolvos Rage.

Instead of doing all of that, the bladed fish-whale's hide squirmed until a black substance appeared onto the surface.

Soon, they solidified into bone armor that completely hardened the front of the bladed fish-whale's body!

That wasn't the end of the transformation. The bladed fish-whale concentrated deeper and began to squeeze out additional bone material from its giant skull.

Soon enough, a long black bladed horn had extended out of its head!

This sharp horn was considerably larger and more menacing than the other blades that extended out of its body!

"Damn, that horn is long enough to impale a heavy mech with plenty of length to spare!"

"The Bolvos Rage is hastening its own destruction if it collides head-on against that horn!"

Shortly before impact, Patriarch Reginald briefly considered whether he should try to test his expert mech's defenses against this menacing horn.

"No. It's too dangerous!"

His powerful intuition detected a lot of threat from this horn. It was not as simple as it looked to his senses.

If his expert mech attacked as he originally intended, then he would just be taking the initiative to impale it onto this menacing horn!

Therefore, the Bolvos Rage ultimately veered to the left, causing it to miss the horn and the main body of the fish-whale.

The way wasn't cleared, however. There were many other blades sticking out from the rest of the fish-whale's body.

"You will serve as good target practice!"

In an instant, the expert hybrid mech zipped along the length of the bladed fish-whale and swept its heavy saber straight against the blades in the expert mech's path.

Over a black bone blades burst away from the massive organism after the Whale-Cutting Saber completed its first strike against a whale-like creature!

"Is it that easy?!"

"Those blades impaled so many Swarmers without breaking that I thought they were unbreakable. How could they have been cut with so much ease?!"

"That's easy. Our patriarch's expert mech has true resonance while that big fish-whale only has ordinary bones. There is no way that they are on the same level!"

All of the fish-whales gazing up at the duel from a distance were surprised at how easily the Bolvos Rage managed to cut off all of those sharp and hard bone blades with ease.

This was the first time a fish-whale fought against an expert mech. They were completely unfamiliar with true resonance and did not understand how such a 'small' metal fighting beast was able to display such an absurd degree of lethality.

"Haha, look at those fish gape! They truly have no idea of the power of humanity. If we had an ace mech on our side, we could have taught them a lesson more directly."

As the Bolvos Rage flew past, the bladed fish-whale looked shocked but not distressed.

It turned its massive body around and exerted a strong energy field onto the separated bones.

As soon as the energy field enveloped the blades that had been cut off from the bladed fish-whale's body, the bones quickly flew back in the other direction and seamlessly merged back onto their original places.

"Damn, that's cheating!"

"This is nothing. If Patriarch Reginald can cut them off once, he can cut them off again!"

The Bolvos Rage did exactly that. Its next three attack runs were the same as before. Since Reginald was not eager to impale his expert mech against the exaggerated horn of the bladed fish-whale, he could only steer his expert pilot to the sides of the massive creature in order to avoid its sharpest edge.

The problem was that every bone blade his expert mech damaged quickly restored to normal as if they had never been cut. Other than expending a bit of energy and other resources, the bladed fish-whale did not actually suffer a lot of losses.

Patriarch Reginald did not miss the lack of progress he was making. With the size of the bladed fish-whale's body, his dueling opponent probably had an enormous reserve of energy to draw upon. There was no point in trying to win the fight by turning it into a battle of attrition.

"I need to inflict real damage!"

This time, he adjusted his tactics. He no longer tried to charge nearly straight towards the bladed fish-whale but instead opted to circle around the massive creature.

As a fish-whale that was at least ten times the size of a regular mech, the bladed fish-whale's ability to move and turn around was a lot more limited, especially when it clearly didn't excel at mobility.

The bladed fish-whale looked aggrieved as it tried and failed to keep up with the circling expert mech.

Under normal circumstances, this rarely became a problem. Even if an enemy fish-whale reached its less-protected rear or bottom side, so what? Every part of its body was protected by wicked blades that could straightforwardly pierce through most fish-whale bodies.

The expert mech it was facing was different, though!

Even though Patriarch Reginald did not possess any passion for swords and sabers, he was proficient in the use of many different weapons. He was able to resonate with his

new Whale-Cutting Saber to a decent degree, causing its resilience and extremely sharp edge to reach another level!

This was the saber that Ketis and Professor Benedict had invested a significant amount of time, effort and resources in developing!

The original purpose of this blade was to be as hard and hard as possible so that Patriarch Reginald maximized his chances of cutting through the giant phase whale bones in the Royal Tomb.

With such an ambition target in mind, how could the Whale-Cutting Saber's sharp edge be defeated so easily?

In addition to its sharp properties, the Whale-Cutting Saber also provided Reginald with another benefit, one that he was just starting to appreciate during this duel.

While Ketis was just a young and inexperienced Journeyman, her swordmaster powers were no joke.

She had embedded a basic but highly effective set of extraordinary techniques onto the Whale-Cutting Saber.

Reginald had already come in touch with them and learned them earlier, but did not notice how much easier they allowed him to cut through obstacles until he tried the cutting techniques onto the blades of his opponent.

"The techniques actually maximize the potent cutting potential of this saber."

This was an incredibly useful benefit that instantly allowed the Whale-Cutting Saber to surpass the cutting power of his old heavy axe.

The difference between performing an extraordinary technique and not was quite massive.

In the case where Reginald did not pull off any extraordinary techniques, the Whale-Cutting Saber wasn't able to condense and carry true resonance as well as it could.

Only by familiarizing himself with the weapon over many years would Patriarch Reginald truly be able to wield it as an extension of his body.

There was way too little time for that, but executing the techniques that Ketis had prepared for this creation successfully allowed Patriarch Reginald to close the gap!

"Face my cutting blade!"

The Bolvos Rage went from circling around to launching a direct attack on the bladed phase-whale's flank!

With its powerful resonance shield, the expert mech crashed through the blades in its way and was just about to slash its glowing heavy saber across the thick and meaty hide of the bladed fish-whale.

Yet just before the expert mech succeeded in spilling first blood, the bladed fish-whale's body contracted faster than everyone could see.

Patriarch Reginald's intuition sensed a great degree of danger. He barely had time to adjust the stance of his expert mech before a massive fish-whale tail smacked the side of his Bolvos Rage!

Though the expert mech's resonance shield had absorbed much of the damage, the blow was so massive and powerful that the Bolvos Rage could not stop itself from bouncing away like a pinball!

"Damn!"

A large body had many disadvantages, but there was a reason why most of the Evolver fish-whales strove to grow their bodies as large as possible.

Their immense power could be put to use in many ways!

As Patriarch Reginald stabilized the flight of his expert mech, he studied the bladed fish-whale with a greater appreciation of the power of its body.

While the large and powerful beast could simply rely on its many blades to kill the Swarmer fish-whales en masse, that didn't mean this was its only attack method.

The bladed fish-whale's large and bloated body actually shrunk to a small extent!

Not only was its body growing denser and tougher, its ability to retaliate against enemies up close had grown. Its tail and maw was able to reach out in a remarkably fast and flexible manner and cover up all of its weak points with surprising alacrity!

Though the newly-transformed fish-whale still moved forward as slowly as ever, its brawling capabilities had actually grown twice as strong!

"How can I make this fish-whale bleed?" Patriarch Reginald frowned.

Chapter 3862 The Power of Kings

While fish-whale and expert mech exchanged blows with each other, the leaders of the respective groups hardly paid attention to the thrilling duel taking place outside.

Both Ves and the Cerebral King had become completely engrossed in their own world. Compared to the emotional narrative that the murals told in their primitive glory, how could a mere chest-thumping competition hold their interest?

Just to be sure, Ves briefly asked whether the fish-whales had a habit of dueling to the death.

They did not, fortunately. While the Swarmer fish-whales had few constraints about attacking and devouring the bodies of their fellow kind, the Evolver fish-whales had progressed beyond this stage.

The two continents under the control of the Evolution Kingdom might hold a lot of research value, but they were not particularly rich in resources.

Whether it was phasewater, energy or other nutrients required to grow fish-whales, the Evolution Kingdom was not as rich as the other three surviving fish-whale kingdoms.

This was why the Evolution Kingdom pursued a strategy of quality over quantity, seeking to grow and maximize the strength of each individual fish-whale!

While the Cerebral King did not explain all of this to Ves, the analysts who poured over the footage of Venerable Tusa's scouting run were able to deduce this much after analyzing the resource endowments of every landmass.

With this in mind, Ves had long bet that the Cerebral King was an all-out researcher who was extremely interested in learning new curiosities.

So far, that prediction appeared to be accurate.

Of course, that wasn't enough for them to treat each other as friends and happily exchange knowledge as if they belonged to the same kind.

If either of them possessed the strength to crush the other, Ves had no doubt that either of them would resort to force in order to extract information more directly!

Ves decided against doing this from the beginning while the king fish had made its own judgment of the situation.

Both of them weren't that familiar with each other, but they were both capable of estimating each other's strength.

Ves knew that the Evolver fish-whales were incredibly powerful individual combatants and that many of them could match the power of an expert mech.

The Cerebral King might not have encountered mechs before today, but the rather compact frames were made of dense metals and possessed a lot of energy for their

dimensions. They were absolutely not simple and wouldn't succumb as easily as the Swarmer fish-whales.

With that basic estimation of each other's strength, neither of them were able to put themselves above the other. Instead of letting that be a source of competition, they treated each other as equals and engaged in a fair exchange of information.

Both of them prized knowledge over many other concerns.

Ves eagerly wanted to learn about the history of Purgatory and the development of the fish-whale race.

The Cerebral King eagerly wanted to hear what lay beyond the pocket space.

Neither of them paid a direct cost to revealing different pieces of information. On the premise that neither of them sought to deceive or cheat each other, they both became increasingly more comfortable with sharing what they knew about matters of interest to the other party.

There was also a second reason why the two leaders got along with each other.

There was not much reason for competition between them. Ves was not a fish-whale and did not belong in Purgatory. He did not come here to conquer the entire pocket space. With an MTA research team and other assets on the way, this amazing phase whale enclave would fall into the hands of the mechchans sooner or later.

Since this was the case, Ves purposely put down his airs and constructed an image of a harmless nerd who also happened to lead his own organization.

Ves couldn't lie too much about the strength of his Larkinson Clan. The duel taking place above along with the strong intelligence of the Cerebral King meant that any blatant lie would soon be exposed.

It was just as well. Ves was a mech designer by profession and it was against his nature to undersell the strength of mechs.

COMPREHENSION. 'MECHS' ARE CONSTRUCTS DESIGNED TO GIVE WEAK HUMANS THE POWER OF STRONG WHALES.

"Power comparable to whales." Ves corrected the big fish. "Mechs actually pursue a different kind of strength from you fish-whales or phase whales. Your tech base is centered entirely around powerful biological organs. Our mechs derive their strength from a combination of physical machinery and human power."

EXPLAIN HUMAN POWER.

"Ah, not so fast. It's your turn to tell me more about your history and the history of your race. Earlier, you explained the traitor that has caused this phase whale enclave to fall into disrepair. What of the other kin in your batch? Are they still alive today?"

The Cerebral King turned a bit morose at the mention of its so-called kin. Once, the fish-whales of the first successful batch had all been as thick as thieves. They grew up alongside each other and reached maturity at roughly the same time.

As experimental subjects, each of them possessed different advantages. The Fusion King excelled at absorbing and manipulating energy and had grown increasingly more proficient at it over the years.

The ruler of the Hot Kingdom fully deserved this name!

This was because when the Cerebral King described the first traitor among the group, it also described how much destruction it could unleash in a fight.

FUSION KING DEPRIVING US FROM ENERGY. FOUGHT WAR IN THE PAST. ALL BROUGHT ARMIES.

"How... did this fight proceed?" Ves tentatively asked even though he could already predict the answer.

DESTRUCTION. OVERWHELMING DESTRUCTION. FUSION KING HARNESSSES POWER OF STARS. TOO MUCH ENERGY. IRRESISTIBLE.

Ves looked shocked. Perhaps it was wrong for him to dismiss the Fusion King so quickly. This energy-rich phase whale might be the strongest individual fish-whale in this pocket space!

"If the Fusion King is so strong... why hasn't he killed you all yet? Why does it only control three continents?"

The massive eyes of the Cerebral King revealed a surprising amount of emotions. Even though a huge amount of years had passed, the old fish-whale was much more emotionally attached to the memories of its childhood.

Those formative years not only shaped its initial personality, but also guided its subsequent actions.

The attack on the Hot Kingdom was the most costly attempt to pursue the grudges of the past!

FUSION KING STRONG IN TERRITORY. CAN DIRECTLY BATHE IN ENERGY STREAM. CANNOT LAST AS LONG WHEN FIGHTING AWAY FROM TERRITORY.

"I see."

The Fusion King's actions made more sense, then. It did not just capture the energy-rich continents because it wanted to control Purgatory's power source. It also sought to enhance its battle power and maximize its self-defense ability.

"What is the Fusion King's weakness in battle? Do you happen to know its weakness?"

CANNOT TELL. UNKNOWN. TOO MUCH TIME PASSED.

"Then how did you target this fish-whale in the past?"

POWERFUL ATTACKS. IMMUNE TO HEAT. WEAKER DEFENSE. MUST GO CLOSE.

Ves had already gathered that the Hot Kingdom was susceptible to attacks up close, and it was nice to hear a source confirming this suspicion.

The fish-whales of the Hot Kingdom were akin to rifleman mechs while the Fusion King was probably as powerful as a jumbo-sized version of Amaranto.

The lethality of both the regular members of the Hot Kingdom and their sovereign was undoubtedly high, especially at a distance!

After Ves asked a few more questions about the Heater fish-whales, he urged the king fish to move on to describing another surviving fish-whale of the same batch as the two kings mentioned up to this point.

The Cerebral King directed its attention towards the depiction of another juvenile fish-whale in cultivation.

The odd thing was that this fish-whale happened to emerge outside of its cultivation tank!

"This is..."

GODBLOOD BLESSED.

"What?! What do you mean by the blood of a god?! Are you referring to... phasewater?"

PHASEWATER. UNFAMILIAR.

"Oh, come on! You shouldn't be unfamiliar with phasewater. One of your subordinates outside is rich with this substance and your body holds a fair amount of phasewater as well!"

The clever king fish's eyes did not show any recognition. However, it was smart enough to figure out that they were mixing up the meanings.

PHASEWATER. GODBLOOD. SAME.

Ves frowned in puzzlement. "The blood of phase whales is red and mixed with many different particles. Phasewater is much purer. They are not the same."

PHASEWATER IS BLOOD OF GOD. IS SACRED.

Seeing that the Cerebral King insisted on this message, Ves couldn't do anything but accept this nonsense.

Although many people who first learned about phase whales thought that their veins should be running with phasewater, but the race shouldn't even be alive if that was the case!

The phase whales might as well inject their veins with pure poison to their species!

Still, Ves didn't think he could convince the Cerebral King otherwise. It was so fixated on this silly idea that it was pretty much religious doctrine as far as the king fish was concerned!

"How strong is this 'Phase King'?"

GODBLOOD KING. NOT PHASE KING. STRONG BUT UNWORTHY. DEFILES BLOOD OF GOD. HAS TOO MUCH BLOOD AND SQUANDERS IT ALL. UNWORTHY.

"How does it fight?"

POWER OF GOD ACTIVATED BY BLOOD OF GOD. MORE BLOOD PRODUCES MORE POWER OF GOD. GODBLOOD KING HAS TORN APART TOO MANY KIN.

Although Ves didn't get any precise numbers out of the Cerebral King, it was clear that the 'Godblood King' was just as powerful as the Fusion King if not more!

Although the Cerebral King looked down on the Godblood King's apparently wasteful utilization of phasewater, just having more of it than any other fish-whale was bound to amplify its abilities!

Even a crude use of phasewater could produce immense destruction as long as there was enough of it! The Godblood King must be able to fight like a natural disaster from the description of the Cerebral King!

"What is its weakness?"

GODBLOOD TOO STRONG EVEN FOR GODBLOOD KING. UNWORTHY. CANNOT FIGHT LONG. MUST RELY ON LESSER KIN TO FIGHT LONGER. KILL LESSER KIN FIRST.

Ves paid a lot more attention when the Cerebral King did not hesitate to share its own thoughts about how to defeat the Godblood King and another traitor that it despised.

"How is your relationship with the Godblood King?"

This was an important question to Ves. If both of them happened to have any friendship between them, then that would not be good for an outside visitor such as himself.

However, he didn't need to be afraid of this possibility.

The Cerebral King radiated anger as it thought back on the Godblood King. There had to be a good reason why the former called the latter unworthy!

GODBLOOD KING IS SECOND THIEF. TAKEN TOO MANY GODBLOOD WELLS. NOT ENOUGH LEFT ELSEWHERE.

Good! Ves smiled wider. His plans had a much higher chance of achieving success if the Cerebral King hated the Godblood King's guts!

He did not forget that one of his primary goals was to launch a raid on the Phase Kingdom so that he and his mech forces could plunder an insane amount of phasewater!

Seeing how freely the Cerebral King shared information about its former comrades turned enemies, the beast likely had no qualms about selling out its former kin!

In fact, with its formidable intelligence and wisdom, how could it not miss the underlying implications of Ves' questions.

The Cerebral King grew a little closer to Ves as a result. The two were hardly friends, but they were more than willing to trade favors with each other.

Perhaps this was the most effective way to establish a relationship with newly-discovered alien species!

"Are there any other surviving kings?" Ves asked as he shifted his attention to the small fish-whales in the other cultivation tanks.

The emotions of the Cerebral King roiled as its eyes stopped at a fish-whale stuck on the edge of the mural.

KING OF HIVE. HAS HIVE. HAS ATTACKED. TOO MANY WITHOUT END.

The Cerebral King's casual answer was extremely important to Ves!

Chapter 3863 Eternal Game

As the Cerebral King continued to narrate history as it remembered the sequence of events, Ves began to piece it all together into a logical narrative.

Over the course of Purgatory's history, the initial batch of fish-whales created by the phase whale known as the Flesh Conqueror grew up into nine strong fish-whales.

Whether they were treated as test subjects, slaves, minions, assistants, handymen or children, Ves wasn't sure of that. The Flesh Conqueror had obviously brainwashed its biological products to regard it as a god creature, so the Cerebral King's storytelling was colored by his fanatical bias and worship of its creator.

This was an annoying factor that caused Ves to question the reliability and accuracy of the king fish's recollection of events.

If not for the fact that the Cerebral King was a gigantic fish-whale that was more than 20 times the size of a mech and possessed enough power to match a juggernaut, Ves would have ordered Venerable Joshua to beat up this unreliable narrator!

Still, it wasn't as if this was the first time that Ves encountered the nonsense of religious idiocy. Due to his wife, he had plenty of practice filtering out the superstitious elements of what he heard.

According to what he managed to piece together, Purgatory was like a slow-moving game of survival.

After the disappearance of the Flesh Conqueror, the 9 'kings' among the fish-whales slowly realized that they had an opportunity to take over the abandoned pocket space!

Multiple kingdoms once existed that each ruled over several different landmasses. Over time, the weaker ones had fallen while the stronger ones persisted.

The Hot Kingdom and the Phase Kingdom managed to withstand the test of time due to two distinct advantages.

First, they both occupied the continents that contained two key resources, namely energy and phasewater.

Through the arrangements of the original creator of the phase whale enclave, both the Blue Light Continent and the Lake Continent happened to be the ones that generated the most of these respective two resources!

The forces that could take over these two continents could quickly build up their strength! With an abundance of energy or phasewater, the occupiers held a clear advantage over their rivals!

However, this story did not quite add up yet to Ves. Hearing how powerful the Hot Kingdom and the Phase Kingdom had become, how come their powerful leaders failed to expand their territories time and time again?

NOT ENOUGH SOLDIERS. NOT ENOUGH FOOD. HIVE KING HOLDS MOST FOOD.

"Ah. That makes sense."

Every kingdom in Purgatory held on to a key advantage that served as their strongest pillar of support.

The Swarm Kingdom that had roughly conquered half of Purgatory did not possess a lot of energy or phasewater, but it had become the most successful of the surviving fish-whale kingdoms by leaning on one overwhelming advantage.

The Swarmers captured the greatest sources of nutrients produced in Purgatory!

MOST SPAWNING POOLS. MOST FOOD SOURCES. MANY SOLDIERS. TOO MANY SOLDIERS TO KILL. MANY KIN DEVoured. TOO STRONG. CANNOT BE DEFEATED.

The expeditionary forces had become quite familiar with the Swarm Kingdom's disgusting reliance on quantity over quality. Even if their fish-whales were not that exceptional due to the limited amount of energy and phasewater as available resources, it didn't matter as long as a tide of grunt fish-whales could exhaust and overwhelm a lot of defenders!

This had led to the Swarm Kingdom rising up as the largest of them all by holding on to 9 resource-rich continents. Each of them produced resources that allowed the Swarmers to produce even more of their own kind, thereby causing them to develop an overwhelming numerical advantage!

"How strong is the Swarm Kingdom compared to the other surviving kingdoms?" Ves curiously asked.

TOO STRONG. STRONGER THAN THE REST. CAN CRUSH ANY OF US. TOO MANY SOLDIERS TO KILL.

The immensely long survival game had already reached the later stages by the time humans first arrived in the phase whale enclave. The balance between the kingdoms had long shifted to a situation where the Swarm Kingdom alone had made so many conquests that it was able to mop up its rivals at any time it wanted!

The Cerebral King did not care to hide how formidable the Swarm Kingdom and its Hive King truly were. Though the Swarmers were little more than drones to their sovereign, they obeyed and fought to the death without scruples.

Even if hundreds of thousands of Swarmer fish-whales died in a single battle, as long as the enemies suffered enough casualties, the balance between the kingdoms would definitely shift in the favor of the Swarmers in the long run!

EROSION. SWARM SOLDIERS KILL OTHERS. OTHERS KILL SWARMERS. BODIES LEFT BEHIND BUT STRONG SOLDIERS ALSO KILLED. NOT WORTH IT. LOST TOO MANY STRONG SOLDIERS. WEAK SOLDIERS REMAIN. MUST MAKE THEM STRONGER AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. CANNOT LET HIVE KING ERODE MY KINGDOM.

"So the fish-whale raid that attacked you the other day..."

The Cerebral King stared down at Ves with a desolate expression.

EROSION. UNSTOPPABLE.

The king fish conveyed those words with a strong sense of defeat and futility.

It was as if the Cerebral King was put in the position of Sisyphus who kept trying to roll a boulder up a hill, only for the rock to fall back down each time.

Ves sympathized a bit with the Cerebral King. How would he feel if he was put in the same position as this fish-whale? Being able to foresee your own doom but being unable to do anything to stop this disaster must be maddening!

However, he didn't believe the Cerebral King had consigned itself to its fate. It was still fighting against the Swarmers and still holding out hope for a change.

Perhaps the fish-whale was clever enough to recognize an opportunity today. The arrival of outsiders broke the stale game of survival that had played out in Purgatory for over a million years.

Ves did not mind playing the outside context factor that could help the Cerebral King break its unwinnable situation. The premise was that the Evolution Kingdom was able to provide enough benefits in return!

The strategy he had adopted so far and the way he approached his conversation with the Cerebral King was therefore tailored to encourage cooperation.

So far, the two hadn't brought up any topics relating to cooperation, but Ves believed it was only a matter of time before they discussed joining forces.

For now, he still wanted to gather more information. Ves needed to obtain a better understanding of all of the surviving fish-whale kingdoms before he could get a good idea on what he could do to fulfill his goals for this campaign.

"You've told me that the Swarm Kingdom is incredibly strong due to controlling much of the food supply of this phase whale enclave. Why hasn't it been able to defeat all of its other kingdoms by now? If The Swarmers launch an all-out attack all at once, they should easily be able to overwhelm any of your kingdoms! By then, the Swarm Kingdom will be able to gain access to new resources which will make its soldiers even stronger!"

If Ves was in the position of the Hive King, he wouldn't have allowed this state of balance to linger for so many years. Back in places like the Yeina Star Cluster, wars tended to last a few years to a decade at most. Fighting any longer than that was unsustainable because most states generally depleted the readily-available resources and manpower needed to supplement their losses.

Although the dynamic of warfare was different in Purgatory due to the unique characteristics of the environment and the dominant race, Ves could hardly understand why the Swarm Kingdom had reached this level of strength for tens of thousands of years but refused the final steps to win the game.

SWARM WILL LOSE TOO MANY SOLDIERS. HIVE KING TOO WEAK WITH LESS SOLDIERS. OTHER KINGS WILL ATTACK. IF THEY CANNOT DEFEAT HIVE KING, THEY WILL TAKE OVER FOOD SOURCES. OTHER KINGS WILL HAVE MORE SOLDIERS WITH MORE FOOD SOURCES. HIVE KING KNOWS THIS. BETTER TO CONSUME OUR STRENGTH SLOWLY. HIVE KING MUST NOT SHOW WEAKNESS.

"I see."

The Swarm Kingdom's greatest strength was its massive amount of cannon fodder, but its overreliance on the grunt fishes also happened to be its handicap.

The Hot Kingdom, Phase Kingdom and Evolution Kingdom might not be comparable in strength, but they were entrenched within their own kingdoms and had become extremely good at wiping out hordes and hordes of Swarmer fish-whales.

If an all-out offensive caused the Swarmers to lose 6 million soldiers, then the remaining cannon fodder was not enough to protect all of the continents that had fallen into their hands!

Even though the Swarm Kingdom would eventually be able to replenish its losses over a period of growth and accumulation, the surviving kingdoms would act before this could happen.

In the end, the Swarm Kingdom not only risked losing the landmass that it had conquered at great cost, but also risked the loss of other vulnerable continents!

The ultimate consequence was that only 3 kingdoms would remain that were both on a more equal level to each other. This was not beneficial to the Swarm Kingdom as it would ultimately weaken while its remaining rivals grew stronger!

Hence the game had developed to the current situation. The Hive King pursued a steady strategy of minimizing mistakes and revealing as few openings as possible.

The downside to this overly cautious strategy was that it took hundreds of thousands of years for the Swarm Kingdom to grind its other opponents down.

This was way too long for humans. Too many leaders and conquerors would have died before they could see their plans come into fruition!

The war between the fish-whale kingdoms plainly showcased that the fish-whales did not think and act like humans. The near-immortal life spans of the fish-whale kings gave them the leisure to pursue extremely long-term strategies that more short-lived species would never be able to enact due to their impatience.

The last thing that Ves wanted to happen was for him and his fellow humans to get sucked into this eons-long war.

He only had a week to complete his objectives for this campaign. After that, the mechers would most definitely swoop in and rudely interrupt this long-standing game so that they could take over Purgatory for themselves.

Ancient or not, the MTA was too powerful for the indigenous forces to resist!

Of course, the fish-whales didn't need to hear about their impending doom. He carefully suppressed these thoughts and more in order to prevent himself from leaking any clues that could ruin his relationship with the talkative king fish.

The two curious leaders continued to exchange information with each other.

After the fish-whale had explained the balance of powers in Purgatory, Ves proceeded to talk about the major alien races that occupied the Red Ocean.

It went without saying that he left out the fact that these alien races would soon become extinct after the Big Two's warfleets swept over their territories.

The Cerebral King became incredibly fascinated by the description of vastly different alien races that it could have never imagined before. From the puelmers to the voribugs, the diversity of life outside the confines of Purgatory intensely stimulated the clever fish-whale's obsession!

Yet before the Cerebral King could gain any more answers, Ves held up his palm again.

"I've spoken enough. It's your turn to give me information. Please answer this question for me. How did you grow so big and powerful? What gives you the capital to survive so long after many of your other fish-whale brothers has fallen?"

This was a dangerous question as Ves directly inquired about the key advantages of the Cerebral King.

Any normal human powerhouse would have become furious and refused to answer such a sensitive question!

However, the Cerebral King was different. It was not only an alien who was unaccustomed to holding these kinds of conversations, Ves and his group also made sure they did not paint themselves as a threat towards the Evolution Kingdom.

After a short pause, the Cerebral King moved its entire body as if to gesture around this entire hall.

THE LEGACY OF GOD IS MY STRENGTH.

Chapter 3864 Workshop of God

After hearing about the strengths of every fish-whale king, Ves finally succeeded in getting the Cerebral King to explain its own source of strength!

This was what he always wanted to know! Out of all of the powerful fish-whales in Purgatory, the chances that he could approach them and hold a conversation with them without getting eaten was slim!

Only the so-called Cerebral King who appeared to be a combination between a scholar, a warrior and a king was smart and rational enough to speak to conduct talks with the outsiders.

Even though Ves thought the fish-whale king was a fool for agreeing to his request, he was grateful that the isolated alien was so easy to hoodwink.

He casually adjusted his posture as his armored body sat on the extra chair in the Everchanger's cockpit for many hours on end. Even though he really wanted to stretch his body and limbs, he did not want to shift any of his attention away from this fascinating interspecies exchange.

Joshua and the Everchanger had turned into silent presences during this entire event. They both understood the precariousness of the situation and did not interject in any way to prevent the current dialogue from spinning out of control.

That said, neither of them remained completely still. Both of them kept their senses peeled and sneakily studied the Cerebral King's gigantic body in order to figure out its strengths and weaknesses.

The king fish did not appear to notice any of this. In its hunger to obtain more information about the much larger expanse of space beyond the phase whale enclave, it eagerly traded away information about itself.

It had been an extremely long time since the Cerebral King last learned anything new. What Ves had told the king fish was already a hundred times more valuable than what it had managed to learn in the last thousand years!

The Cerebral King possessed a completely different valuation of old and new information. The deep reserves of knowledge that it had accumulated over time was stale and of little value in its opinion.

Compared to everything it had learned and discovered over a span of hundreds of thousands of years, the completely new and foreign information about the universe beyond Purgatory was like a lighthouse in the dark.

Ves was like the lighthouse keeper that could single-handedly guide the Cerebral King to a greater universe where it could get in touch with much more information than it could imagine!

The longer the dialogue lasted, the more the Cerebral King showed its eagerness to learn more. It did not even hide its lack of impatience, which made it easy for Ves to recognize that he held the initiative in this conversation.

Being able to trade useless information that pretty much every human in the Red Ocean already knew for the valuable secrets of the Cerebral King was definitely a worthwhile tradeoff!

Ves leaned in while listening carefully to the Cerebral King explain its own growth.

The king fish turned to the third and fourth murals with nostalgic eyes. Both of the early images that he had painted in the past depicted what had happened after the cultivation of its species.

The Flesh Conqueror, elated with the success of its initial project, created more fish-whales based on the templates of the first generation.

While the second generation of fish-whales were weaker and less intelligent, they had one advantage.

They reproduced a lot faster and easier!

"How do they grow their population, exactly?" Ves curiously asked.

The Cerebral King gestured its massive head at one of the murals that depicted the growth environment of the subsequent generations of fish-whales.

POOL OF LIFE. YOUNGLINGS SPAWN AND GROW WHEN FED. ONLY STRONGEST WILL SURVIVE AND EMERGE FROM POOL. WILL HAPPEN MANY TIMES IF FED WITH ENOUGH FOOD.

"I see. If I am understanding this correctly, the fish-whales under you reproduce through an asexual method for the convenience of birthing lots of offspring at a time, is that correct?"

WHAT IS ASEXUAL?

"Err, never mind." Ves awkwardly replied. "Anyway, please continue with explaining the growth of your species. What I want to know is what will happen to these fish-whales as they mature. How do they grow as big and powerful as the ones outside?"

The Cerebral King slowly swished its massive tail as it contemplated a decision. Eventually, it turned around and headed towards the exit.

FOLLOW. I WILL SHOW.

Ves wordlessly commanded Venerable Joshua to follow the king fish. The Everchanger moved and hovered after the massive king fish as they both emerged out of the ruined hall.

Now that they had appeared in the open, they were able to look directly at the duel that was still progressing despite the intensity of the fighting.

Neither the Bolvos Rage nor the bladed fish-whale had managed to gain the upper hand so far. This left them unreconciled about the results they had gained so far and pushed them to fight back even harder! They were unwilling to relent and allow the duel to end in a draw!

Ves took one casual look up and felt that Patriarch Reginald the bladed fish-whale were both knuckleheads among their species. Despite all of their inherent differences, the desire to compete and win was rooted in the DNA of many races!

The Flesh Conqueror obviously hadn't wiped out this trait from the fish-whale race it had created. Perhaps the maker of this species had even reinforced this tendency, which had led to the Fusion King betraying the rules and undermining the foundation of Purgatory!

Ves wasn't too worried about the outcome of the duel. From what it looked like, neither side was weak. The duelists also looked like they possessed a high degree of control over their own attacks, which gave him confidence that they possessed at least a decent sense of proportion.

He did not detect any desire to kill from the expert pilot or champion fish-whale. The chances that the Bolvos Rage would suffer serious damage should be fairly slim as long as neither side went overboard.

When Ves glanced at the Cerebral King, the creature also didn't look concerned. It hadn't even thrown a serious glance at one of its most powerful subordinates.

The powerful fish-whale had much more important concerns in mind at the moment!

The Everchanger and the Cerebral King continued to move until they reached one of the central structures.

Although it looked a little small, Ves soon discovered that it was actually a gateway to a massive underground compound.

As they slipped through the entrance, the first humans to enter this hallowed space became fascinated by the amount of decay and destruction that had marked the interior.

The degree of destruction was much greater in this space! It was as if a stampede of fish-whales had squashed every piece of furniture and fixture inside this underground hall!

THE TRAITORS SHOWED NO RESPECT TOWARDS OUR CREATOR. THEY DARED TO DEFILE THE WORKS OF GOD. EACH OF THEM DESERVE TO DIE.

"I see."

The scope of the devastation was much greater than Ves anticipated. As they passed from one underground hall to another underground hall, he was unable to figure out what purpose they originally served.

The walls were cracked. The floors were riddled with craters. It didn't help that the entire facility was made out of organic materials. While the bone materials managed to withstand the test of time, the softer items made out of more vulnerable flesh had all disappeared for the most part.

Since this was still a vacuum environment, Ves assumed that a bunch of hungry fish-whales had ignorantly eaten it all. The species weren't exactly picky about their diet. Their digestion system could pretty much absorb any kind of flesh. Perhaps it was not impossible for them to eat bone as well if they grew particularly hungry!

Ves continued to study the surroundings until the Cerebral King stopped in front of a broken gate.

"Is this...?"

THE SOURCE OF LIFE. ENTER BUT DO NOTHING ELSE. DO NOT DEFILE THE TOOLS OF GOD.

"We won't touch anything." Ves quickly promised.

The Cerebral King had finally led him to a key site!

He tried his best to suppress his excitement as the Cerebral King reluctantly passed through the broken gate.

The massive chamber past this opening looked vaguely familiar to Ves. After observing the surroundings a bit, he soon spotted the broken cultivation tanks that had once contained numerous powerful fish-whales!

This was the lab where the so-called Flesh Conqueror had originally created the fish-whale kings!

While the underground laboratory was built to be large enough to accommodate massive life forms, Ves was surprised that the Cerebral King could barely fit through the middle.

He frowned. Now that he thought about it, the gates, the corridors and numerous halls were too small to fit a massive phase whale. Did the phase whale whose remains were buried in the Royal Tomb possess a different identity than the Flesh Conqueror?

Perhaps the creator of Purgatory and the fish-whale race also happened to be the creator of the powerful clean whale that had once dominated the Red Ocean!

Of course, the other possibility was that the Flesh Conqueror possessed such an excellent mastery over its biological form that it was able to shrink the size of its body!

The Cerebral King approached one of the broken cultivation tanks. From the murals that Ves had studied earlier, he immediately figured out that the clever king fish had originally emerged from this very construct!

"Does it still do anything?"

NO. BROKEN. ATTEMPTED TO HEAL BUT FAILED.

"That is regrettable. Too much in this lab has been destroyed."

NOT ALL. FOLLOW.

The Cerebral King slowly led the Everchanger to the far side of the laboratory. The degree of destruction was much less here. There were actual giant lab machines that still looked intact to a degree!

While Ves did not see any markings nor spotted any obvious buttons or control interface, he had a strong suspicion that a couple of the lab devices were still intact and usable!

"They're... still alive!"

This was the first time since entering Purgatory that he actually came across organic technology that was still alive to his senses!

Not even the ancient space gate registered as alive to Ves. The device may have retained some of its functions, but it had lost much of its former glory. What remained intact was probably a backup option that the creator had added in the case of a calamity.

Ves guessed that the lab machines in this giant laboratory did not possess this redundancy.

He would have loved to know what the Flesh Conqueror was capable of doing if this facility was still intact.

The Cerebral King approached the biggest intact lab machine. It looked like a superfab with rounded edges that was scaled for phase whales. The sheer size and mass of this device was impressive to the tiny humans!

The king fish suddenly activated the device through unknown means. Light sources reluctantly turned on while a projected interface started displaying many different alien glyphs.

The fact that this ancient lab machine was able to boot up was already amazing to Ves. What surprised him even more was how the Cerebral King deftly managed to operate the device!

Soon enough, the king fish activated a single command that opened a giant port.

"Is this the device that is responsible for augmenting your bodies?"

YES. BLESSED MACHINE OF GOD. I AM THE ONLY OPERATOR. ONLY I HAVE INHERITED THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. I CANNOT CREATE NEW LIFE, BUT I CAN MAKE MYSELF MORE PERFECT.

"This... is a great machine. How much can you change?"

ANYTHING CAN BE CHANGED AS LONG AS I UNDERSTAND. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING. MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF GOD HAS BEEN LOST. TRAITORS HAVE DESTROYED TOO MUCH.

This explained a bit more why the Cerebral King hated the other king fish-whales. The violent breakout attempt had led to the destruction of almost every lab machine!

The only reason why this massive device was intact was because it was located on the opposite side of the exit.

When the first generation of fish-whales originally broke out of their confinement, they likely wanted to leave as soon as possible, so it was natural that they neglected to move to the rear!

As Ves studied the lab machine, he noticed that the Cerebral King grew more emotional and less stable. The significance of this lab machine to the alien creature was massive!

Chapter 3865 Resource Shortage

To the Cerebral King, this massive underground laboratory was literally the workshop of god in its eyes!

This was where the big fish initially came to life and spent its childhood years. The days when the Cerebral King and its powerful siblings grew up in this laboratory had turned into cherished memories that still affected the king fish after all of this time.

The importance of this enormous lab machine to the Cerebral King was immense!

For the creature to bring Ves and the Everchanger all the way to this large machine said much about the alien leader's sincerity.

There were numerous signs that the Cerebral King spent a lot of time here. The markings of time and the passage of lots of fish-whales showed that this location was the heart of the Evolution Kingdom!

A solemn atmosphere descended in the dark and cool chamber. The Cerebral King looked as if its mind was more on the past than the present.

Eventually, the king fish resumed his speech.

ORGAN FORGE. INSTRUMENT OF GOD. NEGLECTED BY TRAITORS. FOOLS.

"So this 'Organ Forge' is the machine you use to augment yourself and your fellow fish-whales into stronger and different organisms?"

CORRECT. ORGAN FORGE IS LEGACY OF GOD. CAN ONLY BE OPERATED BY LEARNING SECRET KNOWLEDGE.

"What secret knowledge?"

THE SECRET OF OUR FLESH.

"...I see. Can you explain this secret?"

SECRET KNOWLEDGE BELONGS TO GOD AND CHILDREN. HUMANS NOT RELATED TO GOD. CANNOT SHARE. CANNOT EXCHANGE.

Ves grimaced. This was the first time the Cerebral King directly said no to his request for information.

He stepped too far this time, it seemed. While the big whale was willing to share plenty of information, it was clear that knowledge concerning its core heritage was off-limits.

To be fair, Ves would have done the same if he was in the king fish's shoes. The ability to research, grow and apply targeted biological augmentations must be an extremely powerful advantage in Purgatory!

"I am not asking you to pass on your secret knowledge to me. I only want to understand the power of this Organ Forge and how strong you are for your ability to operate such a powerful device. You were created in this lab. How were you able to master the usage of its surviving tools?"

INHERITANCE. LEARNED FROM INHERITANCE. OUT OF ALL KIN, I RECEIVED GIFT OF LEARNING. ONLY I CAN MASTER INHERITANCE OF GOD. TRAITORS IGNORE LEGACY OF GOD. ONLY I EMBRACE THE LESSONS LEFT BEHIND.

Ves constructed a narrative from the Cerebral King's halting and unreliable narration.

According to his guess, when its 'traitorous' brothers broke out from this lab, they couldn't wait to get as far away from it as possible. This lab might have been the site of their creation, but they must have been trapped in this place for so long that they had developed a lot of resentment towards their prison.

If the Flesh Conqueror had indeed gone missing, then the lab may have fallen into neglect. If the fish-whale kings remained stuck in their places without having any ability to leave, they would definitely yearn to leave this cursed place as soon as possible!

The only anomaly was the Cerebral King. Whether it was due to its heightened intelligence or its abnormally high reverence towards the Flesh Conqueror, but the king fish had clearly remained behind and spent a huge amount of time harvesting whatever intact gains were left.

Whether this 'inheritance' the Cerebral King was referring to was actually meant to educate the fish-whales or not, Ves had the sense that the test subject had caught up to the experimenter.

After all of these years, the Cerebral King's diligent studies along with its increasing mastery of the Organ Forge had pretty much turned the king fish into the closest thing to a successor of the Flesh Conqueror!

Ves listened carefully as the Cerebral King described its augmentation cycle.

OUR BODIES ARE FLAWED. FULL OF FLAWS. MUST IMPROVE. ORGAN FLESH CAN MAKE US CLOSER TO GOD. HAVE MADE MANY KIN STRONGER, BUT FAR TOO WEAK. TOO DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE. INHERITANCE INCOMPLETE. DESTROYED BY TRAITORS. TRAITORS MUST DIE.

"Lessons from others can only make you better up to a point." Ves said. "Eventually, you must step beyond your inheritance and make your own accomplishments. Did you start with performing your own research by augmenting your fish-whale subordinates?"

The Cerebral King stared down at the Everchanger as if it was trying to understand how the human understood it so well.

YES. LESSER KIN ARE TOO WEAK. TOO MANY FLAWS, MORE THAN I. MUST BE IMPROVED, BUT TOO DIFFICULT. MANY SUCCESSES BUT MORE FAILURES. THE WEAK DIE AND THE STRONG SURVIVE. NOW ONLY STRONG HAVE SURVIVED, BUT CANNOT IMPROVE FURTHER. MY BODY CANNOT IMPROVE FURTHER.

Ves frowned. "Why can't you improve yourselves further? Is your knowledge and experimental data too limited?"

RESOURCES. CANNOT IMPROVE WITHOUT RESOURCES. CURRENT RESOURCES NOT ENOUGH.

"Ah. I understand."

It was the same as with humans. Access to resources was the root to the power of a state. A resource-rich state could easily build up a formidable infrastructure and strong military force. A state with fewer access to resources had it much more difficult!

In the old days, the Bright Republic always fell behind the Vesia Kingdom because the latter was larger and held more resource-rich star systems.

The Hexadric Hegemony occupied the best territories in the Komodo Star Sector and was nominally stronger than the Friday Coalition.

These were just a few of the examples that emphasized the relationship between resources of and power. The latter could not be sustained without the former, and the former could not be secured without the latter.

Of course, resources weren't everything. The Friday Coalition understood pretty early on that it could never beat the Hexadric Hegemony in a straight fight.

This was why the Fridaymen put a lot more effort into fostering greater trade with other second-rate states and annexing the high-level strength of as many third-rate states as possible.

By borrowing the help of others, the Fridaymen effectively managed to overcome one of their biggest disadvantages!

It was the same story for the Evolution Kingdom. The Cerebral King used its smarts to further enhance and optimize the combat potential of its body and its subordinates. It was actually quite amazing to witness how much of a difference this had made.

To Ves, the Cerebral King truly had a lot in common with mech designers! Although their tech and applications were completely different, there were still a lot of parallels to their work.

Ves wanted to know more about the specific style of the Cerebral King. What sort of 'design philosophy' had he developed after so many years of utilizing the same methods?

"I admire the work you have accomplished with your Organ Forge. Out of all of the fish-whales in this pocket space, only yours give me the impression that they have exceeded the limitations of their initial bodies. In what direction are you trying to improve their combat strength?"

The Cerebral King lifted its massive body as if to show off his enormous bulk!

GOD AND CREATOR IS IDEAL FORM. OUR BODIES MUST BE LARGE. OUR FLESH MUST BE SATURATED WITH GODBLOOD. OUR HEARTS MUST BE FILLED WITH ENERGY.

The king fish slowly deflated as a sense of failure and frustration radiated from its spirituality.

DISAPPOINTMENT. FAILURE TO COMPLETE IMPROVEMENT PLAN. LACKING IN RESOURCES. NOT ENOUGH RESOURCES. MY BODY IS HALF-COMPLETE.

"I see..."

Out of the more than 20 large asteroids in Purgatory, the Evolution Kingdom held only two of them. While they provided a decent amount of resources, they were incomparable to the continents that generated a huge amount of specific resources such as phasewater!

It made sense to Ves. The creator of the phase whale enclave did not take into account that its creation would devolve into a primitive battleground between different tribal kingdoms.

If the Flesh Conqueror truly anticipated for this to happen, then it wouldn't have clustered the landmasses that produced large amounts of single resources to this degree!

In a normal environment, this setup was more efficient than mixing everything across the different continents on an equal basis.

It was a pity that this was no longer a normal environment.

As Ves processed what the Cerebral King said about its barriers, he quickly recognized several opportunities to forge a cooperative agreement!

He smiled. "I understand your difficulties. You are stuck with two continents but do not have the strength and number to expand further. It is too difficult to gain access to additional resources without taking over additional continents. Even if you are able to gather a strong enough army to conquer the continent of one of the other kingdoms, you will lose so many high-quality soldiers that your enemies will easily be able to beat you back. The fundamental weakness is lack of resources, is that right?"

The king fish directed more attention towards the Everchanger and the human that was conveying these words.

YOUR PURPOSE?

"What if I can tell you that we can provide the resources you lack?" Ves responded as he accessed a control interface. "We have several different goods that we can trade to you. As long as you absorb them, I can guarantee you will be able to use them to move closer to your strongest state!"

The Everchanger began to project several large images in front of its chest that showed a few examples of the resources in question.

They ranged from large batches of valuable exotics to complete technological products!

The latter happened to attract the king fish's attention. It had never seen anything like the parts that Ves had selected for trade!

INCOMPREHENSION. UNKNOWN TRADING OBJECTS. EXPLAIN.

Instead of answering directly, Ves decided to make a demonstration.

"Venerable Joshua, I need you to raise the energy consumption and emissions of your expert mech to their maximum levels."

"Uhm, pardon, sir?"

"I need the Everchanger to show off its might." Ves explained. "We can't launch an attack in this important lab, so the best way to demonstrate how much energy our mechs can harness is to make you expend as much of it as possible. Try and turn on as many systems as possible as long as they don't put too much strain on the frame."

Joshua looked enlightened. "I think I understand what you want to do. Do you want me to show off true resonance as well?"

Ves nodded. "Do it. We need to make the biggest possible impact on the Cerebral King. We cannot show this king fish that we are weak and incapable!"

"Roger that!"

The Everchanger no longer remained in a low state. Its power reactor became more active and began to channel much of its juice to one of the most hungry systems in its design, its compact energy shield generator!

Although the Everchanger's shield generator was not comparable to the larger one integrated in the Shield of Samar, it was still capable of blocking strong attacks as long as it received enough power!

Unfortunately, the shield generator model was not known for its efficiency. In order to block a powerful strike, it had to consume way too much energy. It was not sustainable for the Everchanger to rely on it as its main form of defense.

This was a different situation, though. The properties of the shield generator just happened to make its performance more dazzling to the Cerebral King!

In just a minute, the Everchanger turned from a quiet presence to a radiant expert hero mech that exuded an abundance of power!

Its frame heated up as its power reactor struggled to supply enough energy to its fully activated shield generator.

Two different shields appeared around the Everchanger, causing it to reach its most defensive state!

Venerable Joshua tried his best to fulfill his superior's demands. With both an energy shield and a resonance shield, the mech that the Cerebral King considered tiny actually radiated power that should have belonged to a fish-whale with a much larger body!

Chapter 3866 Enduring Duelists

In fact, while the Everchanger was capable of generating a lot of power, there was one expert mech in the task force that had already exceeded this level!

After Patriarch Reginald and the bladed fish-whale spontaneously initiated a duel across species, neither of them expected that it would last so long!

Over twenty minutes had passed as they battled it out against each other at a high pace.

In one moment, the Bolvos Rage swung its empowered Whale-Cutting Saber straight against the reinforced horn of the bladed fish-whale, only for the weapon to bounce back as the horn of the creature was unnaturally hard.

The bladed fish-whale had proven over and over again that its horn was not a regular piece of whale bone.

It was the crystallization of its desire to develop a blade that was hard enough to cut through the barriers that kept them boxed inside this phase whale enclave!

As the bladed fish-whale successfully blocked the Whale-Cutting Saber, it used its horn to drive forward in an attempt to slash against the expert mech while it was still recovering!

However, just as the big fish-whale was about to land its strike, the Bolvos Rage fired all of its integrated energy weapons straight at the gigantic head of the creature!

The sensor systems of many spectating mechs struggled to show the attack in question as the expert mech did not hold back much when it unleashed its energy barrage!

The bladed fish-whale roared in pain and couldn't focus on its attack anymore. Its horn missed its mark and also left its body vulnerable to a counterattack.

The powerful Bolvos Rage zipped close and chopped its Whale-Cutting Saber onto the bladed fish-whale's enormous bulk.

A copious amount of blood spilled at once as the new heavy saber tore a wide valley through the bladed fish-whale's tough but ultimately fallible hide!

However, the Bolvos Rage did not have the opportunity to make a second cut. It had already been smacked by its opponent's strong tail or knocked around by the creature's even harder head!

As the expert mech retreated, the bladed fish-whale concentrated for a few seconds, causing its large and awful-looking wound to heal in a matter of seconds!

"You're a tough one!" Patriarch Reginald cursed. "How much blood do you have in your body?!"

Based on its body mass, the bladed fish-whale could bleed all day like this and still not get deflated!

This was one of the many advantages of having a big body!

The Bolvos Rage continued to fight in an effort to deal as much damage to the bladed fish-whale as possible.

After many attempted attacks, Patriarch Reginald had pretty much given up on defeating the fish-whale in a single blow. The creature was just too thick and massive to be defeated in a straightforward confrontation.

His expert mech was already starting to show its age!

Even when it was wielding its new saber, the strength of its wielder was a major reason why it was not able to cut deeper and bloodier wounds.

Attacking the bladed fish-whale with the Bolvos Rage's integrated weapon systems was also a poor solution.

Fish-whale bodies possessed an inherent resistance against extreme heat and energy fluctuations. The bladed fish-whale was even more resilient towards laserbeams and energy beams. Any flesh damaged by the expert mech's ranged weapons quickly regenerated to the point where they no longer displayed any marks.

Faced with such a frustratingly tough opponent, Patriarch Reginald had little choice but to turn this duel into a battle of attrition.

As boring as it sounded, Reginald still understood the necessity of approach against particularly tough shells. The bladed fish-whale did not show any exhaustion despite its body getting abused in so many different ways.

From how its fighting spirit constantly escalated as the duel went on, some of the humans even thought that it was enjoying the punishment!

"Don't you think that bladed fish-whale looks crazy by now? Just look at its eyes! It looks like it wants to gobble up the Bolvos Rage!"

"These fish-whales don't have any fun around here. I'm not surprised that they are obsessed with dueling against each other. There are no drama broadcasts for them to watch or virtual games to play around here. Their civilization is so primitive that they haven't even built their own homes. These whales are poor creatures."

As the spectators kept swapping nonsense, the two sides continued to fight against each other in an attempt to outlast the opposition.

This struggle was actually quite close!

The bladed fish-whale might look brave and fearless in the face of repeated injuries, but it was actually exhausting its regenerative capacity fairly quickly.

Endless regeneration didn't exist and the bladed fish-whale had to tap into its bodily reserves in order to make up for the spilled blood and damaged cells.

On the other hand, the Bolvos Rage did not possess an exceptional degree of endurance. The high-tier expert mech was able to hit harder than many other mechs but it also consumed a lot more energy than normal.

Even though the Bolvos Rage was built to high standards, it was not capable of unleashing high-powered attack after high-powered attack without consequences.

Already the Bolvos Rage's weapon systems were showing signs of getting worn out due to the repeated stresses they endured.

In order to preserve the longevity of its weapon systems and prevent them from malfunctioning during an actual battle, Patriarch Reginald had already slowed down his use of them as the duel dragged on. His expert mech wasn't capable of supplying endless energy anyway, so this was a good way to ration its remaining energy reserves.

The two combatants continued to hammer away at each other. They even started to get creative and pulled all kinds of unorthodox attacks and strange solutions!

For example, the bladed fish-whale actually had the idea of chaining its morphable bones into a giant wrecking ball that was attached to a bone chain that extended from its tail!

As soon as the bladed fish-whale adopted this brand-new weapon, it became a lot more confident in its ability of smacking nearby enemies aside!

Though the wrecking ball did not move fast enough when the bladed fish-whale swung its tail, Patriarch Reginald was not foolish enough to think his expert mech could handle an attack of this magnitude.

Since it became a lot more dangerous for the Bolvos Rage to approach the bladed fish-whale at close range, Patriarch Reginald had to attack the giant creature from a healthy distance.

Patriarch Reginald struggled during this phase in the duel as he was not the sort of mech pilot who preferred to go around circles all the time.

It was unfortunate that this was exactly what the bladed fish-whale was trying to accomplish!

Since its energy weapons were not effective against this target, Patriarch Reginald decided to try something new and focused on deepening his mastery of the Whale-Cutting Saber.

After landing many powerful strikes on the resilient fish-whale, Reginald had quickly gained a deeper appreciation of the extremely sharp weapon and the extraordinary saber style that Ketis had embedded in the weapon.

As Reginald seriously began to practice the saber style against a live opponent, he quickly reached a state where he was able to channel an extraordinary saber technique to dramatic effect!

"Whoa!"

"Is that Dise in the cockpit or did I see wrong?!"

"Patriarch Reginald has become a Heavensworder!"

A sharp but domineering wave of energy shot out as the Bolvos Rage slashed its glowing weapon!

When the resonance-empowered energy attack landed on the bladed fish-whale's body, the damage it dealt was different from the expert mech's previous attacks!

The Bolvos Rage's more normal saber attacks only dealt shallow wounds that the bladed fish-whale could easily heal while its ranged attacks were easily dispersed and absorbed.

The extraordinary energy attack behaved in a different manner by sinking deeper and cutting through much more layers of flesh and bone!

The bladed fish-whale silently wailed in pain! This time its wounds were serious!

"Hah!" Reginald laughed as he recognized the charm of the saber style that Ketis had imparted to him. "No wonder Venerable Dise is so confident that she'll be able to surpass me one day. As long as her willpower and sword practice have become strong enough, her First Sword can cut through any matter!"

As a hybrid mech specialist, Patriarch Reginald generally did not dive too deeply into melee combat. However, he still spent a decent amount of focus on this aspect as high-tier expert mechs were easily prone to exchanging blows up close.

The Whale-Cutting Saber opened up a new possibility to Patriarch Reginald. His Bolvos Rage could gain an additional means of attacking from range, and it was different as well.

The penetration power of this extraordinary technique was impressively high even though he was just getting started!

Part of that was because Ketis had tried her best to turn the Whale-Cutting Saber into a blade that was worthy enough to carve through phase whale bone.

Another part of that was because Patriarch Reginald was a high-tier expert pilot that possessed a monstrous degree of resonance strength when compared to his peers. Just the ability to pump so much more true resonance in a sword slash meant that it was inevitable for the bladed fish-whale to pay the price for underestimating his saber energy attack!

With a perfect punching bag in front of the Bolvos Rage, Patriarch Reginald eagerly commanded his expert mech to perform technique after technique.

After sending out a dozen sharp and intensive saber energy attacks, Reginald had roughly figured out the conditions and a portion of their principles.

His will needed to align with the purpose of the Whale-Cutting Saber in order to achieve the greatest effect in battle.

With one powerful slash after another, Reginald consciously got a greater feel of the saber. He even developed the impulse to put down the axes that he favored in the past so that he could fully commit himself to wielding a heavy saber.

Reginald quickly regained his wits and did not allow himself to get attracted by temporary matters.

He had a duel to win!

"How long will you last? Your bones are sticking out, big fish. Those saber energy attacks are not that easy to block."

The bladed fish-whale was riddled with wounds, but its strong and comparative spirit had never faded!

The wrecking ball attached to the bladed fish-whale's tail had turned into a deadly weapon that looked useful against certain opponents, but was still too crude.

This was why the bladed fish-whale constantly came up with new plans. It had never been pressured by previous opponents to this degree. The creature apparently possessed a lot of control over its body and was able to alter its body functions whenever it wished.

The bladed fish-whale had a penchant for bone. As long as it was able to get its hands on supplementary bone material, the champion fish could easily reach another level.

"Look out! It's body is changing even more!"

Bladed chains extended out of its body. They stuck out like sore thumbs and featured plenty of sharp edges, making them ideal for chopping enemies that dared to get too close.

The Bolvos Rage may be strong enough to endure numerous attacks, but even Reginald had to think twice about exposing his expert mech to a continuous rain of blows.

When the bladed fish-whale rolled its body around, its sharp chains began to swing through a wide area.

Patriarch Reginald was amazed when those swinging bone chains partially blocked and weakened the saber energy attacks he unleashed.

"Damn! That works?!"

The two duelists continued to adjust their approach while evolving their various methods. It had been too long since they had fought against different but powerful opponents. The collision of new and unfamiliar techniques sparked an arms race where both sides tried to exceed each other by relying on their ingenuity!

"I won't stop until you admit your defeat, fish-whale!"

Chapter 3867 External Trade

As the duel between Patriarch Reginald and the bladed fish-whale entered a terminal phase after both approached their limits, their leaders had come to an important point in their dialogue.

After a lot of fruitful exchanges, Ves had learned enough from the Cerebral King to figure out a framework for cooperation.

The most basic level of this framework centered around the direct exchange of goods.

The Golden Skull Alliance was not poor in resources and other goodies. Its fleet was well-equipped and filled with all kinds of high-value materials and spare parts. Many of these goods were completely foreign to Purgatory and the fish-whales and could provide substantial boosts to fish-whales who had never come into touch with them before.

The Evolution Kingdom was not as rich or well-endowed, but that was only what was obvious on the surface.

Even though the fish-whale society here was shabby and primitive, Ves recognized that the Evolvers actually held a lot of unique and valuable goods!

The most prized possessions in the Cerebral King's hands were its intact lab machines and its vast pool of knowledge on alien biotechnology!

Unfortunately, the king fish had been adamant about holding onto both of them to its dying breath!

INHERITANCE BELONGS TO CHILDREN OF GOD AND NO ONE ELSE. HUMANS NOT ALLOWED TO LEARN SECRET KNOWLEDGE.

"Can you allow me to gain access to your Organ Forge? This is a fascinating piece of alien technology, and I am incredibly eager to understand how it works."

NO. ORGAN FORGE IS HERITAGE OF GOD. HUMANS CANNOT DEFILE ORGAN FORGE.

Ves grimaced when the Cerebral King stood its ground on this matter.

The reason why he persisted in making these demands was because both of his requests were extremely important to his development and the development of the clan.

When Ves listened to what the Cerebral King had done to strengthen so many fish-whales and tried out new mutations on them at the same time. A lot of fish-whales under its command had died due to complications arising from faults in the organ designs or lack of compatibility.

The Cerebral King had performed so many experiments through trial and error that it must have accumulated an incredible amount of theories on how to augment powerful fish-whales.

To Ves, this was highly similar to how mech designers continuously iterated on their designs. No mech was perfect and even a fantastic cost-effective product would fade out of popularity sooner or later.

This pattern resulted in the need to continue designing newer and more impressive mechs. It was a never-ending arms race as mech designers constantly sought to develop mechs that were a little stronger and a little more valuable than their previous works!

This was why Ves saw many parallels between mech designers and the Cerebral King.

Alien or not, the king fish was also a designer at heart!

The Cerebral King could aptly call itself a fish-whale designer for improving the 'designs' of an uncountable number of fish-whales over the years!

Whether it was its own body or the bodies of its subjects, the smart and powerful fish-whale embodied a creator that never gave up, never lost heart and never stopped developing stronger fish-whales throughout its extremely long life!

Ves truly admired the Cerebral King's dedication to its research.

This was why he believed that the deal he proposed to the king fish would definitely catch its attention. As a fellow designer, Ves understood the frustration of generating many wonderful and powerful design concepts only to abandon them due to lack of materials!

Ves theorized that phasewater was such a critical resource to the fish-whales that it played the same role as prime materials to his own mech designs.

He had long been frustrated by the limited quantities of Unending alloy in his possession. There was only enough of this resilient and spiritually-reactive material at his disposal to clad five expert mechs with this incredibly useful substance.

As for the expert mechs that Ves intended to design after the Everchanger? None of them would excel in manifesting prime resonance as long as they did not have the benefit of Unending alloy!

This was why Ves often looked at the Minerva with regret. While he was proud that he had been able to turn it into a natural masterwork mech without relying on any gems or other shenanigans, deep in his mind the expert mech wasn't as perfect as he wished.

There was nothing wrong with its design and implementation. Ves, Gloriana and the rest of the contributing designers all tried to make the best out of the limitations they were working under. Budget contracts, time constraints, technological constraints and so on

couldn't prevent Commander Casella Ingvar from receiving a highly compatible expert command mech.

Yet... even if she never said anything, the Sentinel Commander could not have missed the fact that her expert mech was much more fragile than that of her peers in the Larkinson Clan! The lack of Unending alloy or a material with comparable properties integrated in her design was a source of tension and regret that would not just affect Casella, but many other Larkinson expert pilots that emerged afterwards such as her brother.

It was because Ves experienced these regrets that he believed that the Cerebral King would not be able to resist the temptation to grab a huge amount of phasewater.

The king fish already stated in its earlier speech that it needed a lot of phasewater to 'complete' the evolution plan of its body!

With the Cerebral King's own future and power progression at stake, it shouldn't matter whether the big fish was an alien creature that did not think like humans.

If there was one lesson that humanity learned after venturing into the stars, it was that every intelligent race was driven by their needs and desires!

With such an obvious and attractive benefit at stake, Ves believed that he could persuade this alien who he had only met a few hours ago to launch a risky and extremely dangerous attack against a rival kingdom!

However, was the Cerebral King truly that easy to persuade? Though the big fish showed plenty of desire and willingness after Ves had made his offer, the creature soon regained his composure.

As an ancient being that was the ancestors of the fish-whale race, the Cerebral King did not manage to survive this long if he foolishly gave in to his impulses all the time!

IMPOSSIBLE. ATTACKING LEADS TO DEATH. KIN TOO STRONG. GODBLOOD KING TOO STRONG. NO ATTACK. WILL ALL DIE.

Ves frowned. "Don't be in such a hurry to refuse. Think about the last time you directly fought against this 'Godblood King'. How much stronger have you become since then? With your ability to augment your body over time, you should have grown a lot stronger than before."

The enormous fish-whale shook its body.

FUTILE. IMPROVEMENT HAS STOPPED. NO PROGRESS. MY KIN ALSO TOO WEAK. GODBLOOD KING HAS STRONGER AND MORE KIN. TOO MUCH GODBLOOD. TOO MUCH POWER. TOTAL DISADVANTAGE.

"That may be true, but what if we are on your side as well? We humans may not be strong compared to your mighty fish-whales or your creator and 'god', but we can still fight by your side."

EXPLAIN.

Ves smiled wider. "It is simple. We humans will help you in two ways. First, the army of mechs that you have seen outside will fight alongside your army of fish-whales. We have enough mechs to defeat hundreds of Phaser fish-whales and we also have a few strong mechs that can fight against champion fish-whales such as your strongest deputy."

NOT ENOUGH. TOO FEW.

"That is why my second form of assistance is to make up for your current shortcomings. Your territory is not able to produce enough resources to make you and your fellow fish-whales stronger, right? Well, have you ever heard of the concept of trade?"

WHAT IS TRADE?

"We have already been trading, you and I." Ves spoke as he held his hand against his chest plate. "I provided you with information about humans while you reciprocated by telling me about your history. Now, I want to conduct a more physical form of trade. You can give me an item of value to us, and if we are satisfied, we can give you goods and resources that come from outside this phase whale enclave. Unlike you fish-whales, we are not limited by the resources produced in our own space. We have access to much more materials and more diverse varieties of them as well! We can even trade you completed products such as a power reactor similar to the one that provides endless energy to this mech before your eyes!"

The Everchanger had already wound down from its fully powered state by now, but Venerable Joshua still kept it at a relatively active power level.

Heat continued to radiate from the expert mech, giving it the illusion that it held the power of a star inside its frame!

The Cerebral King could not help but be impressed that a tiny mech was able to generate so much power without looking distressed at this degree of power consumption.

Lack of energy was one of the persistent shortcomings of the Evolution Kingdom's fish-whales!

Even if the Cerebral King was able to unleash enormous attacks that could wipe out thousands of enemy fish-whales at a time, the consumption of energy was horrible and could not easily be made up in a couple of days.

The lack of energy also limited the improvement of the bodies of its little brothers. The bladed fish-whale and the silver fish-whale might undoubtedly look extremely powerful from the perspective of the humans, but they were akin to expert candidates that had failed to take the final step and undergo apotheosis.

If the humans were truly able to provide additional sources of energy, then wouldn't these two powerful champion fishes be able to move one step closer to reaching the level of a king fish-whale?

With three king fishes belonging to the same camp, the chances of defeating the Phase Kingdom or at least pulling off a successful raid was much greater!

As the Cerebral King rapidly thought about the feasibility of this ambitious plan, it soon generated a bit of doubt due to one point of uncertainty.

The giant fish-whale stared at the projection of the power reactor. It was a metallic object that was just as unfamiliar to it as the mechs used by humans. It was based from a completely different tech base than what it had inherited from its god and creator!

DOUBT.

"What are you doubtful of? Is it this power reactor?"

UNKNOWN. CANNOT UNDERSTAND. USABLE?

"Oh, it's very much usable!" Ves quickly replied. "I know it must look confusing to you, but think of it as an organ. Instead of being made out of flesh and bone, it is made out of alloys and composites. Other than that, it functions the same as the organs that are in your body. You don't need to understand how it works or how to make it. Our intention in providing you with a complete and functional power reactor is for you to connect to these power ports here. Once you do that, this metal organ will provide you with a continuous stream of electrical energy! Oh, and don't worry about being unable to control its output. You can push these buttons here to control how much energy they provide at any time."

The Cerebral King's massive eyes shook.

HOW MUCH ENERGY? HOW MUCH CONTROL?

"One of our larger power reactors can double the energy that you consume during battle." Ves boasted even though he did not know whether this was true at all. "Our smaller power reactors aren't as powerful, but they are much smaller which you can easily implant in the bodies of your subordinate fish-whales. As long as we provide enough power reactors, we can completely upgrade the combat prowess of you and your troops! This should be enough for you to challenge the Phase Kingdom!"

If the Evolution Kingdom didn't take the bait this time, then Ves would seriously question whether the Cerebral King was actually smart!

Chapter 3868 Alien Persuasion

The Cerebral King had fallen silent after Ves elaborated on his offer of cooperation and explained the gist of the concessions that humans were willing to provide to the Evolver fish-whales.

Ves was incredibly confident in the success of this plan! He had gathered enough information about the king fish and its kingdom to know that insufficient access to resources was one of its greatest limitations.

Since the low amount of resources produced in the Evolution Kingdom was such a great constraint, relieving this condition just a little bit was enough to produce a qualitative improvement in battle strength!

This was an effect that Ves had experienced several times during his own past.

The first instance was when he initially got his hands on Cassandra Breyer's escape pod and had the bright idea of abusing its infinite resurrection property to 'produce' an endless amount of Breyer alloy!

Speaking of Breyer alloy, his perspective on this material has changed a lot since those early days. Back when he was a third-rater, he completely treated it as a miracle material that he could use to design and produce the initial version of the Bright Warrior design.

The original Bright Warriors that the Larkinson Clan produced in limited batches played a key role in winning a few difficult battles.

Although they were designed in the template of a third-class mech in almost every aspect, their abnormally strong Breyer alloy-based armor systems turned them into complete bug-like combat assets!

Clad in Breyer alloy, the early Bright Warriors had the capital to dominate any mech battle as long as second-class mechs weren't involved. Their ability to withstand almost all attacks was enough to transform many losing battles into comfortable victories!

The second instance where Ves was able to create mechs that leapt out of the strict divide between the classes was when he got his hands on a bunch of Unending alloy.

This ancient and mysterious material originated from an even more mysterious place. Even now, Ves still didn't possess a good understanding of the Nyxian Gap.

If not for dreading the pursuit of the Five Scrolls Compact, he would have loved to delay his journey to the Red Ocean by a few years in order to scavenge for more Unending alloy.

Sadly, events rarely played out as he wished. The short reunion with his parents and his battle against the most powerful spiritual sorcerers that he had ever come across had produced massive repercussions that cut his hopes of conducting a treasure hunt short.

He did not regret the choices he made back then but still felt endless pain for leaving behind such a unique treasure space. The numerous odd clues he gathered along with bumping into numerous different remnants of alien civilizations told him that the Nyxian Gap was once a center for powerful races that developed their spiritualities to a high level!

An artificial material like Unending alloy did not emerge from nothing. A powerful alien civilization must have formulated it in the past after many generations of research and development.

If Ves could have played archeologist in the Nyxian Gap for a decade, he was confident that he could have traced the origin of Unending alloy and maybe even obtain the original formula to produce more if it himself!

He quietly sighed. It was such an enormous pity that he had to abandon this chance and find different opportunities in the Red Ocean.

It was because of this experience that Ves became more determined not to miss the current opportunity before his eyes. As long as he was able to forge a successful deal with the Cerebral King, he would be able to obtain a harvest that was far greater than obtaining a few chunks of Unending alloy!

As the king fish deeply contemplated the proposal that Ves had offered, its mentality continued to undergo a lot of turbulence.

Fish-whale society was still stuck in an extremely primitive stage. The need to hide or deceive information from different fish-whales was not necessary as there wasn't much they could fight for. The Cerebral King had always been the top dog in the Evolution Kingdom by virtue of its superior biology.

Because of these circumstances, there was no need for it to learn how to hide its mood swings. This granted Ves a huge advantage in his negotiations with the king fish. Being able to read exactly what the other side thought about his offers and clarification allowed him to fine-tune his terms without giving up too many concessions.

This was a dream scenario that would never happen in human society!

Ves continued to smile even when he sensed that the Cerebral King still lacked confidence in the offer it received.

The might and prestige of the Phase Kingdom had left a deep mark in its psyche!

Although the massive king fish hadn't fought against the Phase King and its subordinates often, it had been deeply traumatized by their powerful and unstoppable phasewater-derived abilities.

CANNOT FIGHT. TRAITOR TOO STRONG. POWER OF GODBLOOD TOO GREAT. ONLY GODBLOOD CAN DEFEAT GODBLOOD. TOO MANY KIN WILL DIE IN ATTACK. CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST OTHER TRAITORS.

This was a legitimate concern, and one that Ves needed to address in order to get over this hurdle.

"Phasewater is a powerful reagent, but it is not the only source of strength that we can leverage." Ves replied. "Most of humanity's mechs have become powerful without relying on this valuable material. Instead, creators like myself use a combination of high-quality materials and powerful energy sources to develop mechs that can become strong enough to rival or defeat fish-whales like yourself. If we can provide these same resources to an individual that is already strong like yourself and your deputies, you can easily double, triple or even quadruple your combat effectiveness! Will the Phase King be able to match you in single combat by then? Even if he has access to lots of phasewater, he is still limited by his biological limitations, while you are different!"

The Cerebral King still looked unconvinced.

NOT ENOUGH. VICTORY MORE PROBABLE, BUT DAMAGE TOO GREAT. CANNOT PREVENT LOSSES. TRAITOR GOOD AT DESTROYING MANY KIN. CANNOT PROTECT MY KIN. CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST OTHER TRAITORS WITHOUT KIN. TOO DANGEROUS.

Ves grimaced a bit. To be honest, he didn't care about the losses suffered by the Evolvers because they weren't his people in the first place. He only wanted to conduct a pure transaction, not help the Evolver fish-whales prosper in this pocket space.

However, in the interest of gaining the cooperation of the Cerebral King, Ves figured that he needed to put more effort into convincing this cautious and risk-averse king fish to overcome its inertial thinking.

The Cerebral King spent so many years turtling in his territory that he had long lost his sense of aggression and fire! the thought of venturing out of the Lab Continent in order to launch a raid on another continent had long been extinguished from his mind!

A single proposal was not enough to convince this ancient fish to completely overturn his mentality. Ves had to keep chipping away at the Cerebral King's stuck mentality.

As he continued to argue with the Cerebral King, he also contemplated several contingency plans that he had formulated beforehand with his advisors.

Relying on the Evolution Kingdom to break open the Phase Kingdom was a key part of his plan, but that didn't mean it was no longer necessary to look further.

The Cerebral King's fears about attacking the Phase Kingdom were well-founded! From the king fish's descriptions of the Phaser fish-whales in combat to the Larkinson Biotech Institute own analysis of the potent phasewater abilities that these beasts were able to harness, a direct attack would definitely exact a ruinous price on every attacker!

A force of a thousand Evolver fish-whales and a thousand mechs simply wasn't strong enough to crush the Phasers occupying the critically-important Lake Continent.

The landmass that possessed the largest amount of renewable phasewater deposits was one of the biggest prizes in the eyes of the fish-whales. The Hive King and the Fusion King frequently tested its defenses because they couldn't give up on conquering an annexing the continent that was overflowing with phasewater.

Yet no matter how many attacks they launched, the large number of Phasers occupying this key landmass were able to repel all of them. The only variable of concern was how much energy, phasewater and resources they drained as they defended their territory.

If the Phase Kingdom truly had to repel a serious invasion, then Ves had little doubt that the Phase King and its subordinates would not hesitate to exhaust their reserves to demolish the massive threat to their kingdom!

No matter how Ves tried to approach this problem, he understood that there was no way that the Evolvers and the human mechs could avoid massive casualties in a serious confrontation.

If this was the case, then the only way to open up the Phase Kingdom while preventing needless losses from occurring was to provoke another kingdom to launch an attack first!

Ves instantly honed in on one of the more interesting contingency plans. He recalled that Calabast had played a large role in shaping it. This was no surprise. A plan this devious was exactly in her ballpark!

"I have a potential solution to allow us both to harvest as much phasewater as we want." He suddenly said. "The probability that we can succeed is not high, but if we can make it work, we can successfully plunder a lot of phasewater without losing too many of our soldiers."

EXPLAIN PLAN.

"It is quite simple. We find a way to lure a large horde of Swarmer fish-whales out of their territories and lead them straight to the Lake Continent. Once the Swarmers and the Phasers collide against each other, they will inevitably get locked in a ruinous battle!"

The Cerebral King conveyed a sense of disappointment.

NO. CANNOT WORK. TOO FLAWED. SWARMER KIN CANNOT BE LURED. ALREADY TRIED MANY TIMES. NEVER WORKS. HIVE KING WILL LEARN OF ATTEMPT AND STOP IT. SWARMER KIN WILL NEVER TRAVEL TOO FAR AWAY FROM THEIR ORIGIN.

Ves slowly nodded. He expected that the Swarmers would have precautions against this move, but that didn't mean it was a foolproof method!

"What if we can trick the Swarmers into launching an offensive?"

IMPOSSIBLE. SWARMER KIN ONLY OBEYS HIVE KING. WILL NEVER OBEY OTHERS. CANNOT DEFY ORDERS OF HIVE KING.

"No method is perfect." Ves repeated. "Let me trade additional information to you. Did you know that our scientists have started to study the Swarmer bodies that we have killed? We have paid special attention to their brains and have made a start into learning how they can be controlled or directed."

IMPOSSIBLE TO SUCCEED. HAVE TRIED. ONLY HIVE KING CAN ORDER THESE KIN.

"This is why we must work together! If we can combine our knowledge and conduct this study together, we may be able to develop a solution that can compromise the Hive King's control over its subordinates. Let me ask you this. How does the Hive King control its subordinates?"

POWER OF MIND. INHERITED FROM GOD. HIVE KING IS SOLE AND POWERFUL CONTROLLER. NO ONE ELSE CAN MATCH THIS POWER.

"I beg to differ." Ves shook his head. "I have a potential solution that we can use that may temporarily allow us to take control over the Swarmer fish-whales."

IMPOSSIBLE. HOW?

Ves turned to Venerable Joshua again. "Please switch the Everchanger's glow from the Golden Cat to the Titania and try to resonate with her. Let's give the king fish another show."

"With pleasure, sir!"

Soon enough, the Everchanger's aura shifted dramatically. It went from exuding a warm and welcome vibe to gaining a weaker but more domineering air that did not camouflage its compulsion to take control over certain forms of life!

It was as if the Everchanger had turned into an alien mirror of the Minerva!

The only difference was that the Minerva was designed to Commandeer mechs and mech pilots while the Everchanger vaguely gave the impression that it was capable of dominating alien beasts!

Chapter 3869 Initial Accord

When Ves and the Cerebral King eventually emerged from the underground lab continent, the duel between the Bolvos Rage and the bladed fish-whale had already ended.

That didn't mean the humans and fish-whales had stopped competing against each other.

In fact, it was the opposite!

Much to Ves' surprise, the space above the Lab Continent had turned into a giant practice yard.

Over a hundred mechs were sparring against numerous different fish-whales!

It was incredibly jarring to see how much the relations between the two forces had changed.

Before Ves entered the underground compound, his troops treated the Evolver fish-whales with a great degree of vigilance.

The expeditionary forces knew so little about the alien creatures that any action could be interpreted as a faux pas to the fish-whales. Such an accident could easily trigger a conflict that could easily escalate into a full-blown war!

Yet instead of remaining cautious and conservative, the mech pilots of Task Force Fisherman completely gave in to their urge to test their strength against the Evolver fish-whales!

Ves let out an exasperated breath. During his tentative negotiations with the fish-whales, he had to exercise all of his wits in order to get the risk-averse Cerebral King to play along. He put so much effort into his persuasion effort that he completely withdrew his attention from what was happening outside.

Hence why the current sight completely took him by surprise.

He did not panic or act rashly when confronted by the sight of so many mechs engaging in duels against different fish-whales.

First, Commander Casella or another mech officer would have transmitted an emergency alert to the Everchanger if the situation became untenable.

Second, the degree of combat between the combatants was much more controlled. The Evolver fish-whales did not unleash their most destructive attacks while the mechs did not employ their most lethal tactics and attack methods.

The lack of killing intent caused the individual spars to proceed at a lower and more placid pace than the initial duel between Patriarch Reginald and the bladed fish-whale.

If Ves had to summarize the current atmosphere above the Lab Continent with a single word, he would have to describe it as festive!

"These people have begun to party without me!" Ves complained.

The cross-species carnival might look chaotic, but it was actually well-controlled.

Mechs and fish-whales remained on standby not too far away. All of them looked ready to intervene if the combatants became too eager and lost control over their strength exertion.

The matching of mechs and fish-whales were also carefully chosen. There was no instance where weaker mechs had to fight against stronger fish-whales by themselves.

After a bit of exploration, both sides estimated the overall strength of every individual combatant.

While the task force included a lot of standard mechs that weren't too exceptional as individual combatants, they became a lot more challenging to defeat once they teamed up with each other!

This led to asymmetrical group matches where squads of four, five or six mechs sparred against single fish-whales.

The Evolver fish-whales acquitted themselves well despite having to split their focus on multiple opponents. Whether they possessed phasewater or not, the powerful organs and modifications applied by the Cerebral King had elevated their strengths to new heights!

Ves rapidly gained a deeper understanding of the combat strength of the Evolver fish-whales. Even though these casual sparring sessions did not show them at their best,

the way they managed to hold their ground even when fighting against multiple different mechs demonstrated their fantastic combat acumen!

The Cerebral King gazed deeply at its subjects and the mechs they were facing. THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY KIN ARE STRONG BUT PRECIOUS. THEY MUST NOT DIE.

"We will make sure that won't happen." Ves replied to the Cerebral King. "Once I go back, my men and I will work on preparing the goods for shipment. We will provide you with more than enough high-quality materials and power reactors to amplify your total combat power. Just make sure that you are ready to integrate our human products in your body and the bodies of your fellow fish-whales. They take up a lot of space and generate a lot of heat when they are fully active. Don't forget to prepare powerful but demanding organs that can best make use of the output of our power reactors."

UNDERSTAND. ONLY NEED SMALL CHANGES TO IMPROVEMENT PLANS. MY BODY WILL COME CLOSER TO PERFECTION.

"Also, make sure you prepare the payment for our goods. We will not hand over the power reactors and other goods until you have prepared the synthesized organs and other items that we want to obtain. If this trade goes well, we can conduct similar trades in the future. I advise you not to think about reneging on your promises. The key to a good trading relationship is to forgo short-term advantages to secure long-term benefits."

NO NEED TO REMIND. SURVIVAL AND DEFEAT OF TRAITORS MUST BE ATTAINED. TRADE MUST MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

"I agree. Both of us will be able to attain our goals as long as we trade with each other. My men and I will be making our way back now. We will come again to complete the trade. The clock that we have left behind will tell you how long you must wait until we come again."

BE CAREFUL. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE TRAITORS. IF TRAITORS LEARN ABOUT OUTSIDERS, THEY WILL ATTACK AT ANY COST.

"I understand. We are always on guard against attacks and we try not to expose ourselves. I must warn you that if the Swarm Kingdom or the other kingdoms ever find where we came from and launch an all-out attack, my troops and I have no choice but to retreat in order to defend our home base."

SAME APPLIES TO US. TRAITORS MUST NOT OBTAIN INHERITANCE OF GOD.

The two leaders continued to chat for a few minutes before they finally said goodbye in their own ways.

The Everchanger flew back up and joined its fellow mechs.

Commander Casella had already received the order to stop the party and converge every mech.

Apparently, Ves had concluded a deal but needed Task Force Fisherman to return in order to escort the promised trade goods back to the Evolution Kingdom.

Although it was possible to load a bunch of shuttles and small transports with valuable goods before sending them off to the Evolution Kingdom, they were way too vulnerable without the protection of enough mechs.

Task Force Fisherman consisted of most of the mechs that the Golden Skull Alliance was willing to commit in Purgatory. While there were thousands more mechs on standby on the other side of the portal, they were already tasked with defending the fleet and the mining sites.

"Are we leaving so soon, already? I haven't finished my duel yet! I promised to teach this fish a lesson!"

"Stop complaining and get back into formation. Time is not on our side."

Both the mech pilots and the fish-whales reacted with disappointment after Ves had interrupted the entertaining and illuminating spars. The human and alien combatants had all developed a bit more closeness towards each other, but they were still a distance away from becoming reliable comrades-in-arms.

If Ves had a choice, he would have allowed this spontaneous circus to proceed for several more hours. . com

However, the timetable for this campaign was getting tighter and tighter. The Golden Skull Alliance needed to prepare its trade goods and figure out an effective method to lure the Swarmers into attacking the Phase Kingdom.

The Evolution Kingdom had to collect the unique resources demanded by the humans. A few of the goods were so special and valuable that the Cerebral King needed at least a few days to prepare them all. As long as the Evolvers weren't ready to complete this commitment, the humans would not take their cooperation any further.

Ves had made this abundantly clear to the Cerebral King. He did not want to test the sincerity of the creature.

Right now, he was fairly certain that the Cerebral King would uphold their end of the deal. While they had to sacrifice a decent amount of resources in order to conduct the upcoming swap, the goods that humanity was willing to hand over could easily be used to enhance the king fish's direct combat strength!

"Sir, our troops are ready to depart." Commander Casella reported.

"Good. Let us set off and return to Fort Fishblood. Make sure our route does not bring us too close to any Swarmers. At this stage, we truly cannot afford to attract the attention of any of the rival fish-whale kingdoms."

The large group of mechs finally made its way back to the Gate Continent.

The Cerebral King and all of the fish-whales in the vicinity saw them go. Their alien expressions were mixed and showed plenty of curiosity and desire.

Just like the Cerebral King, the Evolver fish-whales were much smarter than other ordinary fish-whales. It was surprising for them to develop a fascination for these mysterious outsiders.

Once the group of the mechs traveled far enough for the everpresent fog to obscure their forms, the Cerebral King turned back to its subordinates and commanded them to perform numerous chores.

The humans had not held back in their demands. The Cerebral King and the rest of the Evolution Kingdom had to put in a lot of work in order to please their new trading partners!

Time passed by as Task Force Fisherman uneventfully completed its trip back to Fort Fishblood.

Many of the soldiers guarding the ancient space gate were surprised to see the task force return so soon. They had set out into Purgatory in order to raid or conquer the Phase Kingdom. The dispatched mechs returned way too soon to complete such an ambitious attack!

It was only when the mechs of the task force came home and shared a few of their experiences that everyone became excited.

Even though the Evolver fish-whales were aliens that were doomed to stand on the opposite side of humanity, no one cared about that right now. The people had all grown fascinated by the first peaceful contact between the Golden Skull Alliance and an actual alien society.

As numerous mechs landed inside Fort Fishblood and switched off so that the mech technicians were able to service them, Ves and Venerable Joshua exited the cockpit of the Everchanger and walked together for a time.

Both of them discussed their observations of the Evolution Kingdom and the Cerebral King in particular.

As an expert pilot that was sensitive towards life, Joshua possessed a slightly different perspective towards the king fish!

"Sir, that Cerebral King or however you call it is not simple." Joshua said with a touch of concern. "I always get the feeling that the fish is holding back how smart he is. For example, it always understood your speech even as you began to string increasingly longer and more complicated sentences. Meanwhile, the fish-whale always stuck to short and simple phrases."

Ves nodded in acknowledgement. "This incongruity hasn't escaped my attention. It's just not worth raising this topic in front of the king fish. All of the analysts at our disposal are constantly pouring over the transcripts of my talk with the alien leader. The Cerebral King may be a secret in front of my eyes, but it is impossible for it to fool over a hundred different human professionals!"

"I see. That is reassuring to hear, sir. Will we truly trade away all of that stuff you mentioned?"

"Yes. We can't fight alongside each other unless we prove our sincerity to each other. It doesn't matter what goods we trade, but if we cannot even conclude a single deal, it is out of the question for us to raid the Phase Kingdom together."

What would happen next would serve as a test for both the humans and the fish-whales. Both of them had to bring out a portion of their more precious goods in order to satisfy each other's demands!

Ves already began to furrow his brows as he thought about his biggest concession.

"Do we have a spare starship-grade power reactor in our inventory?"

Chapter 3870 Fishing for Concessions

"So let me get this straight, Ves. You made contact with a powerful alien leader. Not only did you manage to convince it to conduct a major trade deal, you also persuaded it to get onboard your insane plan to raid the Phase Kingdom."

"Correct. The last part is conditional on our ability to lure the Swarmers to the Phase Kingdom. Before our task force returned to Fort Fishblood, the Cerebral King had transferred a lot of data about the fish-whales and more specifically the Swarmers. I've already passed this data repository to the Larkinson Biotech Institute."

"And what is this I hear about our mechs getting pulled into spontaneous duels and sparring sessions against the Evolver fish-whales?"

"Hey, nothing went wrong. Everything went fine as far as I could tell. The language barrier and cultural differences aren't as difficult to deal with as we thought. As long as we approach each other with good intentions, we will be able to forge new friendships by focusing on what we have in common."

This was a lesson that Ves had applied in many different contexts. While he was surprised how easily his troops managed to break the ice with their fish-whale counterparts, he had no reason to reject this development.

Calabast looked suspicious at what she heard. She never put her faith in luck and happenstance. If something favorable or unfavorable occurred, there had to be an underlying reason why it unfolded in a specific manner!

"These fish-whales have never encountered a race other than themselves in their lives. They adapted to the existence of humans and mechs remarkably quickly, don't you think? Doesn't that make you wonder whether they have contacted outsiders before?"

Ves tapped his armored finger against the table. "I did, but I soon rejected it. The fish-whales genuinely behaved as if they haven't met outsiders before. The fact that they did not act aggressively is not an automatic sign that they are plotting a conspiracy. I think our glows must have played a key role in convincing the fish-whales to hang out with our mechs. The fish-whales shouldn't have much experience with this phenomenon."

This was a plausible explanation. Those who did not have any experiences with supportive glows often reacted positively to them during their first encounters. That may have fostered additional trust from the fish-whales.

Ves and Calabast continued to argue about other related topics. The spymaster did not hold back in grilling Ves about the dubious decisions he made during their first proper contact with the Evolver fish-whales.

Meanwhile, their pets engaged in a different sort of conversation.

"Meow?"

"Squeak."

"Meow meow."

"Squeak squeak!"

Lucky curiously sniffed Arnold's form that was currently clad in a custom protective suit that accommodated his extra legs.

The mutated beast turned design spirit had done well since the Larkinsons adopted him. His chubby form had grown a little fatter, which was a sign that he was not short of nutrition these days.

What was more impressive about Arnold was how his spirituality had grown by leaps and bounds. Not only did he possess more spiritual weight, he also became affected by the high-quality spiritual feedback provided by Venerable Tusa Billingsley-Larkinson.

"Squeak squeak."

"Meow meow."

"Squeak!"

"Meow!"

When Lucky jumped on top of Arnold's suited body, the gem cat acted smugly as he pretended to ride the mutated arganid clisenta.

Arnold initially tried to shake the annoying cat off his back, but the cat was too good at staying in position!

"Squeak!"

Three different copies of Arnold appeared in the blink of an eye.

No matter how good Lucky was at sticking onto an exobeast's back, there was only one of him and three of Arnold!

The identical copies Arnold did not last long. They barely appeared for a second before two of them disappeared.

Lucky lost his grip and floated in the air as the Arnold that was originally beneath its paws disappeared from existence.

"Squeak squeak squeak!"

The Arnold that had initially appeared to the left couldn't help but gloat. He had become a lot more proficient in his abilities as of late! the two pets continued to fool around, their owners began to discuss the deeper repercussions of the first dialogue between the expeditionary forces and the Evolver fish-whales.

Calabast picked up a secure data pad from the table and scanned through the list. "This trade deal you've managed to negotiate with the Cerebral King requires us to transfer a lot of valuable goods to the Evolution Kingdom. Let's see what you have promised. I see you have already taken the initiative to transfer a basic map of the Red Ocean as well as short encyclopedia descriptions of all of the major races that occupy it. You even threw in additional entries related to phase whales in the information package!"

Ves looked confused. "What's wrong with that? We don't have to pay anything to pass off information."

"You idiot! You are reducing our greatest advantage over the fish-whales! The knowledge that we hold of the galaxy outside of Purgatory is one of our most desirable negotiating chips. How could you have given it away so easily?"

"There are several reasons why I chose to give the Cerebral King an idea of what is outside." Ves calmly explained. "The alien leader didn't sound like it, but I could sense the intense curiosity and fascination he held of the outside universe. If I did not satisfy its curiosity, I doubt it would have been willing to increase the scope of the trade deal to this extent. Once I threw in this concession, the big fish became a lot more open to trading its more valuable specialty goods."

Calabast crossed her arms and sighed. "Maybe you are right, but you didn't have to give them a map. That is one of the more valuable pieces of basic information that we could have traded away."

"I don't think so. I mean, the fish-whale race has been stuck in Purgatory for all of their lives. What does it matter if they get a basic map of the Red Ocean? I'm not stupid, you know. I made sure that the map isn't detailed enough to be used for navigation. One of the reasons why I gave away this map was because I wanted to increase the Cerebral King's desire to cooperate. If I dangle the hope of escaping Purgatory in front of its fish head, the creature will have extra reasons to cooperate with the only party that has managed to breach the divide!"

The map was like an appetizer to the alien. Ves intended for the transmitted information to satisfy the Cerebral King's demand for information but at the same time generate even more interest towards the wonders of the Red Ocean!

Giving them additional information about the phase whales was a calculated move on Ves' part. UPDATE FROM . COM.

He wanted to give the fish-whale hope that he would one day be able to meet one of his 'gods' in the flesh!

Of course, Ves also reminded the Cerebral King that the phase whales weren't that easy to find. The elusive organisms were good at hiding and had a habit of disappearing into pocket spaces.

Ves hinted that the only way the Cerebral King could seek them out was if it absorbed a huge amount of phasewater!

"Hm, that is actually quite clever on your part." Calabast smirked. "Lying about the amount of phasewater it takes to achieve warp travel is a devious lie. There is no way the Cerebral King can gather enough phasewater by relying on the meager sources in its own territory. Its desire to escape this pocket space and seek out its creator will fuel its desire to obtain more phasewater."

To be honest, Ves wasn't sure whether the Cerebral King bought this story. Even if the creature doubted that it needed so much phasewater in order to travel across the stars, there was no harm to possessing too much phasewater.

The more phasewater the king fish possessed, the faster it moved and the stronger its phasewater-based abilities.

The information package that Ves had handed over to the Cerebral King made it clear that the outside universe was not a safe place!

Even though Ves had conspicuously left humanity's invasion out of the picture, the dwarf galaxy had never been a paradise of peace and civilization.

As Calabast listened to Ves as he explained his reasoning and motivations, she tentatively nodded.

"I wouldn't have resorted to such direct measures, but then again you didn't have much time on your hands. The choices you've made are forgivable since you had to resort to haste and immediate benefits in order to convince the Cerebral King to agree to a more extensive deal. Still... these other concessions are not trivial either. Let's see what you have promised. Aside from the information package that you have already transferred over, you also agreed to transfer 2,000 tons of low-grade exotics, 2 million nutrient packs, 30 mech-grade power reactors and a single starship-grade power reactor."

"Do you have a problem with that?" Ves asked.

"This is way too much, Ves!" Calabast snapped. "The information you have transferred to the Evolvers has reduced our information advantage. The materials that we are in the process of shipping over will skew the balance of power between us and the fish-whales. The Cerebral King can quickly make use of the power reactors and other materials to increase its battle strength. The goods that the king fish has promised in return are much more difficult for us to convert into advantages. It will take years of dedicated research before they can be used to empower our mechs. That won't help us in the short term!"

"You have a point, but it shouldn't make a difference. The reason why I agreed to give them those power reactors is because it is to our benefit that they gain an immediate power boost. The stronger they become, the greater their confidence. You should have seen how reluctant the Cerebral King looked whenever I talked about attacking the Phase Kingdom. Only by boosting the strength of the Evolvers can we convince them to overcome their institutional inertia and accept that the circumstances have changed!"

Giving the Evolvers power reactors was like giving wings to a tiger. As long as the Cerebral King was smart enough to make proper use of the energy output of the reactors, the fight against the Phaser fish-whales shouldn't be as one-sided as before!

Calabast scrolled through the list displayed by the data pad. "Let's move on to the concessions that you have extracted from the fish-whales. In exchange for the concessions that you have made, the fish-whales promised to provide us with basic information about fish-whale organ design and production. The Cerebral King has also agreed to supply us with 50 sets of partial Evolver fish-whale skeletons, 30 normal fish-whale organs and 1 'king-grade' fish-whale organ."

"That's right. Do you have any questions regarding these demands?"

"Let me ask you this. Why the fish-whale skeletons? They're not actual phase whale bones, you know! This is literally biojunk!"

"Maybe you're right, but I beg to differ." Ves replied. "The bones of the stronger fish-whales are quite tough and hard. They are also decent carriers of my design philosophy. Even if they aren't as useful as I hoped, I can still use them as raw materials for totems and other remarkable products."

Calabast didn't fully understand this argument, so she decided to move on to complaining about the next points.

"And the organs? What do you intend to do with them? Are you thinking about integrating them in our mechs? I seriously don't see how you can make it work. These organs are designed to strengthen fish-whales. There is a huge distance between this and augmenting mechs!"

Ves chuckled. "I think you are misunderstanding something here, Calabast. While I do have the intention to figure out whether it is possible to integrate those ready-made organs in future biomechs or cyborg mechs, that is not my main purpose. My actual goal is to combine our possession of the finished goods with the basic knowledge on organ design that we've received to reverse engineer this application of phase whale biotechnology!"

The woman finally comprehended his underlying motive.

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

Ves grinned. "Exactly."