

## Mech 3881

### Chapter 3881 Fish Abattoir

The battle between the Swarmers and the Phasers turned into an immediate massacre!

Neither Ves nor Joshua were able to pull their attention away from the grand slaughter that they had purposefully engineered.

"All of that slaughter..." Venerable Joshua uttered as he eased the Everchanger into a gentle glide. "Did we do all of this, sir?"

"Yup." Ves grinned as he reveled at the unfolding slaughter. "It is impossible for two sides to stop this confrontation. Both sides believe that the other has targeted them. The Swarmers and the Phasers aren't friends to begin with so there is no chance for reconciliation at all. Both sides will fight until one of them has buckled!"

The two fish-whale subspecies fought according to the methods that best fit their conditions.

To the Phasers, that meant exercising their phasewater abilities without any restraint!

Thousands of light blue fish-whales converged upon the battle site and immediately stimulated the most important organs of their bodies.

What distinguished the Phaser fish-whales from the other fishes was that harnessing phasewater was baked into their genetic code!

Even the most ordinary Phaser fish-whale possessed considerable talent in utilizing phasewater for offensive and defensive purposes.

While that meant that they were incomparably weak if they failed to fill their bodies with enough phasewater, the upside was that the Phase Kingdom did not need to invest any effort into training or augmenting its soldiers.

This was different from the Evolvers whose bodies were more malleable than normal but did not possess any inherent abilities when they grew into maturity.

A single ordinary Phaser fish-whale was not that intimidating, actually. They were good at area attacks but fared poorly when bombarded from range or getting attacked up close.

However, when they began to group together, the Phasers became more and more formidable.

The reason for that was quite simple.

"Their spatial abilities are overlapping." Venerable Joshua observed. "The reason why they're so hard to deal with when there are so many of them is because they can combine their efforts!"

A typical spatial storm was nothing more than an attempt to shake the fabric of space.

A single Phaser fish-whale wasn't able to completely destabilize an area of space by itself. The phasewater and energy requirements were too great for a single creature.

Yet what if another comrade joined suit?

If the second Phaser performed the same technique as the first one, then the space that had grown slightly unstable became even more dangerous!

The first fish-whale lowered the threshold of destabilizing space, allowing the second one to push even further!

The best part of it was that this was a stackable phenomenon.

The damage that ten Phasers could inflict upon an area was qualitatively greater than what a single fish-whale could accomplish.

If the difference was already great with ten Phasers, what about a hundred Phasers? What about a thousand Phasers?

As the sole continent in the possession of the Phase Kingdom, a lot of phasewater-rich fish-whales were already in the area. The invasion of the Swarmers completely alarmed them to the point where they did not hesitate to bend and stretch the space above their heads until they formed a lethal blockade!

Even though the Phaser fish-whales had to spread out their attacks across a wider area in order to prevent the Swarmers from circling around, a huge stretch had literally become a fish grinder as Swarmer after Swarmer continued to dive headlong into the destabilized areas of space!

Shredded pieces of flesh and bone exploded from the forbidden space on a continuous basis as the Swarmers did not relent in their determination to brute force their way forward!

Ves and Joshua both turned queasy at the disturbing sight.

This was hardly their first contact with death and slaughter, but the scale and magnitude of the current collision was beyond proportion!

"I thought fighting against a meat mountain like the Titania was already bad enough. This... is worse." Venerable Joshua softly remarked as he witnessed the continuous

decomposition of entire hordes of Swarmers. "Something like this would never be possible with humans. There's no way that mech pilots are willing to dive into certain death just to make their opponents tired."

Ves found the sight to be disturbing as well. Even if the white fish-whales were exclusively grown to serve as cannon fodder, the method the Swarmers used to break open the defenses of the Phase Kingdom was probably the stupidest one imaginable! The potential of so many bodies and so many lives were being squandered without ever having the chance to live for themselves.

The Hive King clearly did not show any empathy towards its footsoldiers. The elimination of thousands, tens of thousands and even hundreds of thousands of grunt fishes was not a serious loss in its eyes.

As long as the sacrifices of so many bodies allowed the Hive King to obtain an even greater advantage, then everything was worth it. Only the outcome mattered.

As for the happiness and wellbeing of the poor fish at the bottom? Their wants and needs were completely irrelevant in the Swarm Kingdom!

The lives of the grunt fishes could easily be replaced. The Swarm Kingdom only needed to invest a bit of resources and time to replace the losses that it had suffered today!

Since the white fish-whales weren't precious at all, the Hive King saw no need to take extra care into preserving their numbers.

To the aloof and powerful alien sovereign, its soldiers were literally resources that it could expend in order to achieve strategic goals!

Such a sight was a total nightmare to someone like Venerable Joshua.

Ves could already tell that the expert pilot had entered into a more contemplative if somber mood after seeing how an alien leader callously used up so many living individuals.

"Humans aren't so different from these Swarmer fish-whales as you think." He eventually said to Joshua. "Although our highest leaders aren't as obvious and direct about it as the Hive King, I can most certainly tell you that there are lots of humans that are willing to throw away the lives of their subordinates in order to get ahead. Why do you think the Vesia Kingdom was so eager to invade the Bright Republic over and over again? Why do you think the Hexadric Hegemony started a massive sector-wide war against the Friday Coalition despite the formidable strength of its opponent? Even the most optimistic warmongers could see that starting those wars will lead to the deaths of lots of good men and women, but that did not stop them from going forward."

"Good soldiers die while bad leaders get to live and enjoy all of the benefits." Joshua flatly stated.

Ves shrugged. "That's an oversimplification. In an ideal situation, both the grunts doing all of the fighting and the leaders who are in charge get to profit from their actions. Not every war is driven by greed or hatred."

"I think that still applies to most wars."

"Touché."

The two continued watching the ongoing battle. Although the Swarmers had already driven over 300,000 fish-whales to the spatial death zones erected over the Lake Continent, their efforts were not in vain!

The Phaser fish-whales that were frantically squeezing their bodies of whatever power they could muster were all beginning to flag.

There were simply too many Swarmers for them to kill! Even a killing machine could malfunction and break down if it had to operate far beyond its intended capacity!

The Phaser fish-whales might be incredibly strong at turning whole areas of space into danger zones, but the energy and other resources required to generate these attacks weren't light.

An abundance of phasewater just lowered the barrier to producing drastic effects. If the organs that tried to leverage phasewater to manipulate space were not supplied with enough energy, then how could they keep performing work?

Another factor that inhibited the Phasers from attacking without abandon was the fact that their active organs were not able to endure the heavy strain on a continuous basis!

Many of the Phasers became increasingly more tired over time as they ran their bodies and organs ragged.

At one point, the Phasers were forced to implement a rudimentary rotation system where roughly a quarter of their numbers stopped and rested their abused bodies.

However, they couldn't stay idle for long as the Swarmers made substantially more progress in forcing their way to the Lake Continent.

"The Phasers are reaching their limits." Ves observed. "If this goes on, maybe our mechs and our Evolver allies won't even need to fight against the remaining defenders. The Swarmers will just gobble them all up until there are none of them left!"

The situation of the Phase Kingdom wasn't completely hopeless, though. The fish-whales stationed at the more distant parts of the Lake Continent were constantly pouring in to contribute their fresh bodies to the defensive effort.

However, the influx of reinforcements only slowed the advance of the Swarmer hordes.

What was more frightening about the attackers was that the Hive King had yet to deploy all of the elites!

The sergeant fishes, the assassin fishes and the spitter fishes were all maintaining their distance from the devastating area attacks.

Though their eyes grew increasingly redder, the strong compulsion from their sovereign forced them into staying still while their frenzied lesser fish-whales continued to throw their lives away!

So far, it didn't look as if the elites were even needed. The storms above the Lake Continent grew less and less intense as Phaser fish-whales began to reach their limits!

Ves began to frown at the sight.

"Is the Phase Kingdom truly so weak? How was it able to survive up to this point?"

The answer soon became evident as a massive change occurred on the battlefield.

The various pools of water which presumably held phasewater deposits at the bottom all began to stir at the same time.

Hundreds of large shapes emerged from the water. Fish-whales that were larger and more formidable than the ones putting up a hard defense had made an appearance!

These 'elite' Phaser fish-whales were not only larger, but possessed a darker blue coloration.

Their large bodies were not only packed with greater amounts of phasewater, but also happened to be brimming with energy, which caused them to look like strong and noble knights surrounded by a tired mob of ragged peasants.

The space around their formidable bodies shook as they activated their powerful organs.

Soon, a much wider expanse of space became turbulent!

The bodies of grunt fishes endured all kinds of abuse!

Some were squeezed into invisible tubes.

Others charged right into invisible blades of solidified space, causing them to turn themselves into neatly-sliced sushi!

Yet despite this horrendous slaughter, the attackers still had a lot of cannon fodder at their disposal.

While the elite Phaser fish-whales managed to stem the tide for now, their appearance finally prompted the Hive King to employ its own reserves.

"The elite Swarmers are on the move!"

Throughout all of this slaughter, the number of sergeant fishes, assassin fishes and spitter fishes had reached the thousands. Combined with a couple of other variants that the expeditionary forces had never encountered, the elite Swarmer force had accumulated a lot of concentrated combat power!

Now, these fish-whales boldly charged forward as if they were confident that they could break through the reinvigorated space blockade!

"The crucial moment has arrived!" Ves leaned forward. "What happens next will determine whether we have a chance of attaining our goals today."

Ves grew tenser than ever as he saw the two groups of elites confronting each other.

At this time, he was rooting for the Swarmers to gain the upper hand. The defenders had shown great might and an awesome capacity for destruction. None of them must live in order to preserve the lives of his own troops as much as possible.

Just as the two sides began to get serious, the biggest pool of water on the Lake Continent began to stir as well.

A shadow that was larger and more menacing than the others slowly became visible.

A fish-whale head that was far larger than any of the heads of the previous elites popped out of the surface. A pair of cruel and domineering eyes beheld everything in the span of a couple of seconds.

Then, the titanic fish-whale body that was largely submerged below the water had abruptly disappeared. The sudden displacement of such a huge body caused the pool to collapse in on itself to a degree!

"Where did it go?!"

"Over there!"

It turned out that the fish-whale that could only be the Phase King had teleported himself in the middle of the formation of elites.

As soon as this creature made this bold move, its body glowed as the surrounding space began to wobble.

Then, a large globe of space around the Phase King exploded, tearing apart the bodies of hundreds of elites at an instant!

"What?! These aren't ordinary cannon fodder!"

## Chapter 3882 The Second King

"The Phasers are getting serious!" Ves uttered.

Previously, the Phaser fish-whales did an excellent job at repelling the attackers, but it didn't look as if they were strong enough to contend against the might of the Swarm Kingdom.

That impression completely changed once the upper echelon of the Phase Kingdom entered the fray!

The power of the Phase King was on an entirely different plane as far as Ves was concerned!

Just as how the Evolution King was able to wipe out half of an entire horde of Swarmers with a single energy spray attack, the Phase King unleashed just as much destruction upon the stronger and much sturdier elites!

The fabric of spacetime seemingly turned into the Phase King's toy as the massive leader exerted its prodigious strength against the surrounding enemy elites!

The bodies of the sergeant fishes and so on might be more resilient than normal, but their defenses paled in comparison to the might of the Phase King!

No Swarmer fish-whale could endure the devastating area attacks of this large and ancient powerhouse!

Although the Phase King's body was not as large and dense as that of the Evolution King, it was still an existence that the Swarmers weren't able to fight against.

None of the elites stood a chance against fighting this titanic monster!

Seeing it fight against the Swarmer fish-whales was like seeing a modern warship tear an entire force of mechs into pieces!

The sergeant fishes attempted to charge straight towards the Phase King, but their hard bodies and even harder heads inevitably broke in various ways as they collided against space walls, cut themselves in half by driving themselves through space blades or completely lost their lives as an invisible spatial disturbance completely warped their internal organs into mush!

The assassin fishes suffered even more miserable ends. Over half of their attempts to blink to the side of the Phase King completely failed, causing their bodies to fall to pieces as they encountered a mysterious countermeasure.

The other half of the red fish-whales that managed to survive the jump weren't feeling any better. Before they could do anything to harm the midnight blue body of the Phase King, their bodies already bent before warping out of shape entirely.

It turned out that the immediate space around the Phase King had already turned into a disaster zone!

The assassin fishes that jumped head-long into danger accomplished nothing except tiring out the Phase King a little.

The spitter fishes managed to survive the longest by virtue of maintaining their distance, but their attacks were incredibly useless. The corrosive spit that was formulated to deal a lot of damage to organic tissue simply failed to make it through the maze of contorted space!

When the Phase King directed its large and bright eyes at the distant annoyances, it briefly concentrated, allowing it to generate a distant space storm that swept a large portion of spitter fishes asunder!

While the Phase King rampaged in the middle of the enemy elites, its prized subordinates did not remain idle either.

The elite Phaser fish-whales soared upwards and threaded through the swarms of rabid grunt fishes like a hot knife through butter!

Although it wasn't easy for them to fight their way through thousands of enemy cannon fodder, they were much more skilled and efficient about their usage of powers. After reaching the enemy elites, they relieved the Phase King of much of the burden of slaughtering the Swarmers and began to attack in a coordinated fashion that maximized their results while wasting as little effort as possible.

Even though the Swarmers still had a lot of bodies left to throw at the enemy Phasers, it was clear to see that the latter decisively gained the upper hand.



This shouldn't have been a surprise as this was the heart of the Phase Kingdom. The defenders were able to muster most of their combat assets while the Swarm Kingdom only dispatched a fraction of its total troops!

If not for the fact that reinforcements from the rest of the Spiral Continent kept pouring in from a distance, it was conceivable that the Phase King and its powerful wizard army would easily be able to sweep the peasant horde aside!

As the Phasers continued to shred the Swarmers by the thousands, Ves turned away from the bloody sight and surveyed the state of the battlefield.

As Ves began to weigh his choices, Commander Casella Ingvar opened a communication channel.

"Sir! We need to launch our offensive right away!"

"What?! Now? The Phasers and Swarmers are still in the process of fighting against each other! Their battle has only reached the middle phase."

"That's exactly why we need to take action, sir." Casella stated. "Think about it. If we wait for the fish-whales to finish their fight, the Swarmers will have probably disappeared while the Phasers remain alive but battered."

Ves slowly nodded. "That is what I think will happen as well. Isn't this the time where we swoop in and topple or at least repel the weakened survivors?"

"According to my judgment, the Phasers will still retain a lot of strength even after they have cleaned a lot more Swarmers. There are too many Phaser fish-whales for us to fight against. It is completely unrealistic for us to defeat the defenders with our level of strength. Attempting to do so will be a costly endeavor that will ultimately result in the sacrifice of hundreds of lives, not to mention the mechs they pilot. Even then, we will have only defeated a portion of the Phase Kingdom. There is still their king and many other Phasers that are still pouring in from different places. We should not fight against them all when they are free to concentrate their attacks on us. For better or worse, we need the Swarmers to stay strong in order to occupy our more immediate enemy."

Her arguments made a lot of sense. Ves too feared that the Phaser fish-whales were far from being played out despite repelling a formidable horde of Swarmer fish-whales.

However, there was one great risk to launching an attack at this instance.

"Won't the Swarmers and the Phasers figure out that we have masterminded their collision if we take the initiative to reveal ourselves? From what I have observed so far, neither the Hive King nor the Phase King are simple characters. They are just as old as the Evolution King and they can deal an enormous amount of damage to our machines."

Commander paused for a few seconds before she made her reply.

"We can't know for certain what will happen. All we can do is take a risk and proceed with raiding the Lake Continent. Now that the Phase King has brought itself and its most powerful troops in the midst of the enemy formation, the rear of the Phase Kingdom is much less guarded than usual. This is a prime opportunity for us to extract large amounts of phasewater from those water pools that the Phaser elites have previously guarded with their bodies."

Ves became swayed. The reasoning was sound and it took the current situation into account.

The Sentinel Commander was right in at least one area. The Lake Continent itself was only occupied by second-line troops at the moment!

Better yet, all of the ordinary Phaser fish-whales had already expended much of their firepower on the Swarmer hordes. Even though many of them were starting to rest and replenish their energy by gorging upon the shredded pieces of fish-whale meat that constantly rained down from above.

The recovery speed of the Phaser fish-whales weren't particularly good, so it would probably take a bit of time for them to return to an optimal fighting condition.

What Commander Casella wanted to do was to launch an immediate strike when the back-line Phaser fish-whales were still in their weakest state!

Ves no longer hesitated. He saw now as well that this was indeed the correct timing. So what if it deviated from the plan? Battles were inherently fraught with uncertainty! What mattered the most was whether Task Force Fisherman and their Evolver allies were able to adjust to the changes.

"Okay, Casella. You can launch our attack early. Make sure our fish-whale allies follow suit. I know you probably can't talk to the Cerebral King, but the fellow should be intelligent enough to understand basic gestures."

"We don't have to worry about the Phasers becoming too reluctant to attack. You can see the fury from the Cerebral King's expression. As long as we move forward, so will the Evolvers."

"Okay, then. Proceed as you think is best. Just remember that our main goal is to leave with as much phasewater that we can carry."

Just behind the curve of the asteroid, a large group of mechs and fish-whales had been waiting in place for a while.

They had carefully kept themselves out of sight from both the Swarmers and Phasers as they did not wish to expose any unwelcome clues.

Now, the time had finally come. The Minerva flew forward while glowing brighter. Commander Casella put more effort into resonating with her living mech. Her presence spread to the surrounding mechs and mech pilots, prompting them to become fully alert.

"Can we finally go forward now?" Patriarch Reginald impatiently asked.

"Yes. We have a good window of opportunity at the moment. We need to strike while the main forces of the Phasers and Swarmers are still fighting against each other."

"Good!" The powerful expert pilot boomed! "I have been waiting for this! Let us raze their kingdom and make off with their precious phasewater!"

The Bolvos Rage rapidly became active and caused a lot of nearby mech pilots to become pumped up. Soon, the high-tier expert mech led the way forward!

As Task Force Fisherman finally entered the fray, the Evolvers weren't sitting around either. They automatically moved forward as well as the Cerebral King quickly figured out the situation!

A few minutes passed as the Swarmers and the Phasers kept consuming each other's strength. Even though the losses suffered by the former were intense, the attackers weren't completely useless.

The Phase King had made a strong start but had slowed down its ridiculous mass attacks in an effort to conserve its energy.

This gave the attackers an opportunity to deal real damage, not by focusing their attacks on the powerful king fish, but by directing their actions against the elite Phaser fish-whales instead!

These powerful but precious Phasers had been nurtured by investing a lot of resources into them. The death of even a single one of them was a painful loss, but now a dozen of them had already fallen due to the unrelenting attacks of the sergeant fishes and the assassin fishes.

While all of this was happening, the party responsible for initiating had finally appeared!

The combined force of mechs and Evolvers did not settle attacking the periphery but instead headed towards the core region where most of the phasewater reserves were located!

Their entry alarmed the nearby Phaser fish-whales that were still in the process of recovering from their exertion.

A volley of energy beams quickly made short work of dozens of them while other attacks demolished even more exhausted defenders.

More and more Phaser fish-whales had fallen into confusion. They reacted far too slowly against the intrusion, allowing the combined force to cut through the befuddled defenders with extreme purpose and precision!

With the Bolvos Rage and the Cerebral King leading the charge, not a single Phaser fish-whale stood a chance of halting this assault!

Their combined strength smashed through any space warp or spatial barrier!

A lot of tired Phasers suffered headaches as their efforts to halt these powerful arrivals completely backfired!

The combined force did not even bother to hide their target. They were heading straight towards the largest lake on the continent, which also happened to be the place where the Phase King initially emerged.

"Get to that big lake and clear the surroundings of hostile fish-whales." Ves urged his troops. "It is vital for us to maintain at least temporary control over the site. According to our long-ranged scans, there's more than a thousand kilograms of phasewater stashed underneath this lake!"

A thousand kilograms of phasewater!

The battle against the Titania only yielded the Golden Skull Alliance a little over 4 kilograms of phasewater.

This was 250 times greater! Better yet, this wasn't the only lake with phasewater reserves.

There were many other pools of water as well that contained additional quantities of phasewater!

As long as the task force managed to plunder just a dozen of them, the Golden Skull Alliance would become rich beyond everyone's wildest dreams!

Chapter 3883 Too Much

The Lake Continent was rich with phasewater!

Ves could feel it in his bones and so did the other mechs that had approached the most central area. A large collection of pools and lakes had formed on the asteroid which held the greatest reserves of phasewater in the phase whale enclave!

He had always wondered how all of this phasewater came about. The Cerebral King never had a clear answer and chalked it all up to Flesh Conqueror's divine abilities.

From what Ves had managed to piece together, phasewater did not appear out of nothing. It had to be formed out of a process just like every other exotic material in the cosmos.

However, there were lots of exotic materials in existence but few of which humanity could reproduce under controlled circumstances. They were just too mysterious and worked on principles that humanity had barely scratched the surface of. Since the rules that governed their appearance were too advanced, most people and organizations had to settle for mining existing deposits.

There were only a few instances where people could obtain a source that was able to produce exotics in a sustainable fashion.

The value of Purgatory lay exactly in this! There was no race in the Red Ocean that understood phasewater better than the phase whales, so it was not inconceivable that the creator of this pocket space had also created or transplanted a wellspring that could generate phasewater on a continuous basis.

Ves would love to get his hands on these wellsprings, but he knew without a shadow of a doubt that it was impossible for him to keep his hands on such a precious strategic asset!

The mechers that were constantly looming behind his shoulders were already rubbing their thieving hands.

Even if the Simile Halifax wasn't accompanying the expeditionary fleet, as long as the MTA received any word of such a wellspring, one of its greedy members would inevitably come up with an excuse to liberate this phasewater generator from his hands.

The most he and his forces could get away with was robbing a large stash of phasewater. He would figure out the rest later.

As long as the Larkinson Clan was able to obtain an immense bounty of phasewater, he could convert most of it into all kinds of wealth and other benefits!

"C'mon! Hurry up and harvest that phasewater! Why aren't you guys moving yet?!" Ves urged the special harvesting teams that had accompanied the task force.

Numerous shuttles and mining mechs attempted to approach the lakes. However, no matter what they did, they did not dare to get too close to the biggest and most phasewater-rich lake!

One of the team leaders soon provided an answer.

"We cannot get close enough to these lakes, sir. The spatial fluctuations are too violent. Our vehicles and machinery won't be able to stay intact long enough to extract any quantity of phasewater!"

"What?! I thought we made certain that our harvesting gear is able to resist phasewater disturbances!"

The Golden Skull Alliance had prepared specialized phasewater harvesting gear a long time ago. The invasion of the Red Ocean largely centered around this precious substance, so how could any pioneer not make the appropriate preparations?

If the Larkinson Clan did not make the appropriate preparations, every clansman would probably cry if they found a rich deposit of phasewater but not being able to take it and store it safely aboard a starship!

As the various specialists started to explain the situation, Ves' expression grew grim.

There was nothing wrong with the harvesting equipment prepared by the Larkinson Clan.

The real problem lay with the immense quantities of phasewater that was buried underneath all of these pools!

The expensive harvesting equipment that the Larkinson Clan had invested in were designed to harvest phasewater from more ordinary phasewater deposits.

These deposits were usually small, mostly because the natives of the Red Ocean usually found the bigger ones and sucked them dry in advance.

Therefore, the typical deposits that pioneers encountered in the deep frontier only held up to 500 grams of phasewater or less. The fluctuations generated by such a modest concentration was not that great, which meant that most aliens tended to overlook them. Only those who put a lot of effort into scouring for this strategic resource such as human explorers with specialized phasewater detection equipment were able to sniff out these treasure caches!

This was a completely different situation, though. Ves never thought that the problem that they would suffer was having access to too much phasewater instead of too little!

Ves began to think quickly. He switched the projected feed and looked at the surrounding environment.

Aside from the big lake which served as the Phase King's personal lair, there were many other water pools around it of varying sizes. Many of them were rather small and not that impressive.

"Can you safely approach and harvest the phasewater deposits from the smaller pools of water?"

"We shall try, sir. Please wait a moment."

When a specialized harvesting mech submerged below a small pool at the outskirts of the site, Ves soon received the good news.

"It is working! Although our harvesting machines will incur a certain amount of damage from harvesting the reserves in these pools, we should be able to extract many kilograms of phasewater!"

"That's good! Proceed with emptying those smaller lakes, then. Will there be any problems with storing large quantities of phasewater?"

"No, sir." The team leader happily replied. "Our preparations concerning that should be fine. We have brought enough containers that can adequately suppress the spatial fluctuations of any phasewater put inside. However, we do recommend that we do not put too many of these containers together. They don't work perfectly and putting too many of them together might lead to accidents."

This was not a big problem. If it came down to it, he could order mechs to holster their weapons and carry the crates while staying apart from each other.

What really mattered was finding a way to increase the loot obtained from harvesting all of the phasewater available in this site. It was incredibly frustrating to come so close to thousands of kilograms of phasewater, only to stay away from them because all of their mechs and vehicles would just get torn apart from all of the spatial fluctuations generated by this active and hazardous substance!

However, just because the human forces had trouble with getting their hands on a lot of phasewater did not mean the Evolver fish-whales suffered from the same problem.

Much of their DNA was based from the phase whale race, and if there was one advantage that the powerful aquatic race possessed, it was that they possessed an incredibly high tolerance for phasewater!

The Cerebral King quickly took the lead in showcasing how much the physique of the fish-whales were able to endure the dangers of phasewater.

It had only paused on top of the big lake for a minute. It stared hatefully at the Phase King that was violently resisting against the hordes of Swarmer fish-whales but did not choose to pursue its vendetta against the sovereign of the Phase Kingdom.

Instead, the Cerebral King resolutely dove into the big lake in order to raid the Phase King's treasury of phasewater!



The surface of the lake splashed and grew turbulent as the Cerebral King reached all the way to the bottom before devouring all of the phasewater and lots of regular water!

"Joshua! Tune your sensors below this lake! I need to see what is going on down there!" Ves quickly instructed.

"I'm trying but there is too much going on around here!"

The sensor feeds only provided Ves with a partial view of what the Cerebral King was doing. It turned out that it was madly absorbing as much phasewater as its body could handle!

Although the king fish already integrated a decent amount of phasewater reserves in its body, Ves estimated that it held no more than 20 kilograms or so after many years of accumulation.

This was an impressive amount for any living organism, but the Cerebral King was equivalent to a pauper when compared to the Phase King!

Now, the Cerebral King rapidly made up for this deficiency!

It had already prepared for this raid beforehand as its body contained numerous organs that were designed to hold and make use of phasewater. Although these organs had always been operating at minimal strength due to lack of resources, the phasewater supplied by the big lake was more than enough to meet the Cerebral King's demand!

In the end, the greedy king fish absorbed over half of the phasewater stored in this reserve alone!

The Cerebral King was like a starving dragon that had just gorged upon the biggest feast of its life. Its titanic body shook as all of the phasewater contained within began to trigger a massive transformation.

The king fish's body not only began to thrum with power, but also expanded in size as well as shape!

Ves was shocked by what was happening. Was the Cerebral King about to undergo metamorphosis while they were right in the middle of enemy territory?

It soon became clear that the transformation process was not an instant matter. The Cerebral King was definitely becoming more powerful, but it looked as if it would take hours if not days to complete its evolution.

The Cerebral King soon rose up and emerged from the surface.



Not a single mech dared to come close to the king fish's extremely active body. The big fish wasn't able to control its rapidly-rising phasewater abilities yet as the immediate space around its form was visibly shaking!

GODBLOOD! SUCCESS! BODY IS EVOLVING!

As the Cerebral King celebrated the fact that it had finally obtained the last piece of its puzzle, Ves tried to communicate with the king fish.

"Cerebral King! This is no time to get distracted! There is still a lot of phasewater left in this lake and other water pools! The Phase King and its subordinates have already noticed what we're doing. We need to get out of here quickly but we shouldn't leave all of this phasewater behind for our enemies. Can you and your fellow Evolvers help with bringing out this phasewater?"

The Cerebral King lowered its massive head.

CANNOT. TOO MUCH GODBLOOD. WILL BREAK OUR BODIES. POISON.

"That won't be a major problem for us! We can cooperate! Do you see all of those open containers that we have prepared over there? Help us fill them with phasewater and we can safely bring them away from the Phase Kingdom."

Ves instructed Venerable Joshua to interact with one of the specialized containers. The Everchanger flew over to one of the harvesting teams and picked up a container with its hands before moving it closer to the Cerebral King.

The king fish actively used one of its abilities and took hold of the container. It studied it for a moment.

WILL TRY. WILL BRING MORE GODBLOOD IF ADEQUATE.

The Cerebral King did not do all of the work itself but commanded over a hundred Evolver fish-whales to harvest all of the phasewater from the larger pools.

Although their bodies were not as robust as that of the Cerebral King, their phase whale heritage allowed them to endure a greater degree of phasewater hazards than the harvesting equipment brought by the expeditionary forces!

As humans and fish-whales worked together to take out stash after stash of phasewater, the original owners of all of this liquid wealth finally took action!

The Phase King blasted out with a mighty space shock that tore hundreds of elite Swarmer fish-whales into bloody chunks!

By now, the Phasers had largely depleted the Swarmers! The latter no longer posed as a great of a threat as before as the stream of cannon fodder had diminished.

This left the Phase King with a lot more options than before!

Its eyes had long been overtaken by madness as it had observed its property being stolen. With an invisible roar, it had commanded half of the Phaser fish-whales to stop fighting against the Swarmers and return to their territory in order to stop the thieves from making off with all of that phasewater!

"Alert! Prepare to resist the Phasers! They're about to bring down their wrath!"

#### Chapter 3884 Wrath

The Phase King and its subjects had gone completely mad!

Ves had accomplished an unprecedented feat.

He had utterly provoked and attracted the undying hatred of not just one, but two powerful king fishes in a single day!

It was as if Ves possessed a talent for infuriating aliens.

The reason why he managed to piss off both kings was because he touched both of their bottom lines.

The Hive King's greatest source of power was its ability to control millions of Swarmer fish-whales.

The Everchanger's earlier stunt with the Titania's glow had caused this unseen king fish to feel an unprecedented threat to the foundation of its rule, so it was not a surprise that it reacted so poorly!

As for the Phase King, its power was based on its near-monopoly on phasewater. The Phase King not only gorged upon it until its body was practically bursting with this substance, it also maintained a tight control on the majority of phasewater production in the pocket space.

It was because of its long-term stranglehold of this critical resource that the Phase King and its subjects had remained alive after all of this time!

Not only were the Phasers able to amplify their lethality due to their access to lots of phasewater, they were also able to deprive the other fish-whale subspecies of this critical resource.

All of that was about to change if the raiders were able to succeed in their brazen plunder!

The theft of the majority of the accumulated reserves of phasewater from the Lake Continent largely wiped out the immediate advantages of the Phase King!

Not only would the Phasers have much less phasewater in reserves to quickly power up any newborn Phaser fish-whales, the Evolvers could quickly empower themselves en masse and push the strength of their kingdom to an entirely new level!

Even if the Phase King was not as smart as the Cerebral King, the ancient ruler of the Lake Continent should likely be able to comprehend how much it would lose if it let the daring plunderers get away with their deeds!

"The Phase King looks angry! The big fish is coming right at us with half of its army!"

"Damnit! What are the Swarmers doing?! Why can't they hold back all of these Phasers!"

"The Swarmers have already lost too many of their soldiers. Their cannon fodder is nearly entirely gone. Without all of the grunt fishes trying to overwhelm the Phasers, it shouldn't be a surprise that the remaining Swarmers can't hold back the remaining defenders."

The Swarmers had not come with all of their armies. The Hive King had only sent over the fish-whales stationed at the Spiral Continent so far, and it was a question whether it would send anymore.

Even if there were more waves of Swarmers on the way, the distances were too great for them to arrive quickly enough.

This meant that the Swarmer hordes would cease to become a factor over time!

As Ves saw the Phase King heading right back to its home ground with hundreds of powerful Phaser fish-whales heading back as well, Ves' body shivered.

Commander Casella Ingvar didn't wait for Ves to issue any instructions. She made an immediate decision!

"Cease the harvesting operations and prepare to depart! Dump all of the unnecessary harvesting gear. They're not important and will only slow us down. Mechs, prepare to hold back and repel the incoming hostile fish-whales!"

Even though the combined force of humans and Evolvers had only managed to gain access to the water pools for a short amount of time, they had managed to empty out a lot of the Phase Kingdom's accumulated reserves!

This was because the Phasers had the habit of harvesting phasewater from numerous other wellsprings on the continent before bringing them back to this central site. This enabled the Phasers to better guard and protect their precious resources.

Unfortunately, who could have thought that a bunch of thieves took advantage of the preoccupation of the Phasers? Their laborious effort into collecting a lot of phasewater and storing them in a single location made it absurdly easy for the for the raiders to empty much of the Phase Kingdom's treasury!

"How much phasewater did we manage to grab?!" Ves eagerly asked.

"Excluding the phasewater absorbed by the bodies of the Evolver fish-whales, we have managed to gather around 2346 kilograms of phasewater!"

Ves' eyes almost rolled over!

Over 2 metric tons of phasewater!

The vast majority of organizations in the Red Ocean would never have the opportunity to measure their phasewater reserves with this unit of measurement.

In contrast, the Golden Skull Alliance only entered the new frontier less than a year ago and already plundered a king's ransom worth of phasewater!

This was definitely an adventure that could become a legendary tale if the Larkinsons and their allies took the initiative to publicize their deeds!

However, the risks to obtain all of this phasewater were extreme. All of this wealth already belonged to another party, and now the reckoning was about to come!

Alarms rang in the cockpit of the Everchanger as the space around the mechs began to wobble!

"Sir! Our sensors are detecting increasingly dangerous spatial fluctuations! The Phasers have begun their attacks!"

Even though the distance between the two sides was still considerable, this was not an insurmountable obstacle to a fish-whale as powerful as the Phase King.

The angry sovereign was so livid for being fooled that it did not hesitate to exert its strained body to unleash the mother of all spatial storms at the thieves!

"Spread out and keep pulling away!" Commander Casella roared over the communication channel! "Focus your fire on the Phase King! We need to stop it from unleashing its attack! Open yourselves up to me and I shall grant you my power!"

At this desperate time, the mech pilots did not show any doubt or hesitation and did what they were told.

The Minerva unscrupulously spread out its characteristic Command Field and enveloped every single mech with Commander Casella's influence!

Aside from a few exceptions, every mech pilot welcomed her power.

Whether they were Vandals, Swordmaidens, Glory Seekers or Crossers did not matter at this time. The crisis they were facing did not grant them the luxury to stick to their own tribes. After all, their pride and confidence were not enough to guard them against the might of a king fish!

A glorious sight occurred. Almost a thousand mechs glowed with the distinctive corona of true resonance!

Even though the radiance on all of these mechs was fairly faint, it was undeniable that each of them had temporarily gained a substantial boost in many areas!

Their mech frames were able to resist the spatial fluctuations a bit better now. Their weapons glowed with the blessing of a demigod. The mech pilots themselves also became more united in purpose!

Casella did not Commandeer them outright at this time as it was not necessary. It was enough for her to be able to connect with their willing minds and understand their situation while at the same time giving them direct instructions.

Under her direction, the mech pilots all executed her instructions with a lot more precision and speed.

The ranged mechs all pointed their weapons at the distant Phase King and began to fire their weapons!

Luminar crystal weapons, gauss weapons and other assorted firearms unleashed their destructive potential at the incoming king fish!

Immediately, the space between the two sides lit up as the various attacks broke through one spatial shield after another!

Normally, these attacks shouldn't have been enough to break through so many defensive layers, but as long as Commander Casella infused them with a small hint of true resonance, their characteristics had already acquired a hint of extraordinary flavor!

Perhaps a single attack enhanced with method might not make much of a difference, but when so many guns fired at once, even the Phase King had to take pause!

A lot of the elite Phaser fish-whales that accompanied their sovereign looked pained as the barriers they put up had broken.

There were still too many of them for their collective barriers to break entirely!

This was one of the more disgusting aspects about fighting against the Phasers. Their phasewater wizardry made it far too easy for them to overlap their efforts!

"Keep firing!"

A second volley of lightly-empowered attacks slammed into the remaining spatial barriers.

The consumption on the part of the Phasers was great because none of them were able to keep their space barriers intact when struck by so many powerful blasts!

Notable mechs such as the B-Man and the Gold Beacon blasted at the overlapping spatial shields with abandon!

However, with hundreds more spatial barriers to go, the time it took to wear them all down was too long!

It was a good thing that the mechs fighting under Commander Casella's direction were not alone!

"Tear these shields to shreds!" Patriarch Reginald boomed!

The Bolvos Rage opened fire with all of its integrated weapons that it could bear!

Aside from its shotgun, the high-tier expert mech opened fire with its energy weapons and its missile launcher that punched through spatial shield after spatial shield!

The strength of these alien barriers were not that great since the Phaser fish-whales attempted to spread out their coverage over a larger area. This made it easier for overwhelmingly strong attacks to tear through the weaker spatial shields!

The Minerva did not fall behind either. It raised its notable Irvan rifle and fired an empowered laser beam that punched through half-a-dozen barriers before getting blocked!

The Everchanger joined suit as well. Venerable Joshua had switched the expert mech's design spirit over to the Illustrious One, causing the mech and its pilot to form a much greater affinity of Vitalus rifle.

The weapon no longer bloomed to life, but also acquired a mysterious radiance as it shot out green rays of destruction that whittled down the collective defenses of the Phasers even further!

While all of these attacks were quite powerful, the Phaser fish-whales were still fine!

More and more of the enemy fishes were beginning to harness their phasewater-derived abilities to attack the thieves rather than defend their own bodies.

They supplemented the effort of the Phase King and tried their best to summon a storm around the mechs and Evolvers that risked shattering everyone and everything within range!

"I cannot defend against this effect for long!" Commander Casella gritted her teeth. "My control is slipping!"

This had become very evident once the mechs in the periphery of her Command Field lost their radiance.

As soon as they lost their thin layer of protection, their frames began to warp and buckle as if giant exobeasts were thrashing them in various ways!

While the armor systems of the affected were not that easy to bend or break, the story was different when it came to their internals!

"Ahh! My mech has lost power!"

"My body is being squeezed to death!"

"My power reactor has gone out of control!"

"Eject!"

The mechs turned deathtraps were already doomed from the moment they became exposed to the attack methods of the Phasers.

Dozens of mechs exploded, fell apart or crumpled inwards as the Phase King's prodigious power defeated them in a manner that was difficult to defend against!

The mech pilots of those machines weren't better off either. Their fragile human bodies were even less able to resist the dangerous spatial fluctuations.

Yet before the Phasers could crumple more mechs with their insidious methods, the Evolvers had finally made a move!

The Cerebral King was still in the process of integrating all of the phasewater that it had plundered, but it had already gained a measure of control over its reinvigorated organs.

Power exuded from its glowing body as the space around the combined force had become a lot more solidified!

The shaking, warping and tearing effects that previously plagued the mechs and fish-whales had become a lot weaker all of a sudden!

## Chapter 3885 Angry Fish

The Cerebral King was a powerhouse among the fish-whales. It was not weak by any means before the humans had arrived.

Now, with the help of the outsiders, the powerful king fish had taken not one, but two major leaps in strength!

The first leap was obtaining a human starship-grade power reactor. This substantially increased the Evolution King's firepower and massively extended its endurance.

The second leap was absorbing hundreds of kilograms of phasewater! Even though its enormous body was not able to digest and integrate all of it right away, it had already gained enough benefits to perform relatively basic but powerful tricks.

At this time, the Cerebral King took action in order to preserve the combined force or more precisely its own soldiers.

While many of the Evolvers had taken advantage of the water pools to absorb as much phasewater as their bodies could bear, few of them were able to harness it effectively.

Their bodies also weren't immune to the damaging effects of spatial disturbances. While it became a bit harder for the Phase King and its elite Phasers to manipulate the immediate space around their bodies, they were masters of their art and were able to overcome a lot of resistance by combining and overlapping their exertions.

Such strange and inexplicable means of attack made a lot of mech pilots helpless.

Each of them spent the majority of their training on preparing to fight against hostile mechs.

Only recently did they learn how to fight against alien forces. However, there was such a great variety of alien threats in the Red Ocean that it was impossible for them to account for every possible type of enemy!

It was still possible for them to keep their cool when fighting against most fish-whales. The Swarmers they defeated before were tricky solely due to their numbers. Their



attack methods were extremely basic and their tactics and coordination were too primitive to mention.

The Phasers were different! Their ordinary members didn't seem so bright, but the elites that the Phase King had nurtured with great effort were obviously different. They not only displayed great coordination, but also possessed full mastery of their phasewater-derived powers.

The threat they posed against Task Force Fisherman was great!

Just the Phase King alone could wipe out a majority of the mechs before they could sufficiently spread out. Only the expert mechs were able to resist the spatial disturbances, and even then the strain on the willpower of the expert pilots was too great.

Out of the entire combined force, only the Cerebral King was able to match against its former brother!

"Protect the Cerebral King! Keep up the pressure against the Phase King but watch out for its subordinates!"

Task Force Fisherman and the Evolvers were already in the process of retreating from the Lake Continent.

None of them had any further thoughts about emptying the remaining reserves of phasewater. It pained Ves a lot to leave hundreds if not thousands of kilograms of phasewater untouched, but his forces had already completed their main goal at this time!

Rather than getting too greedy and risk ruination, Ves would rather settle for his existing gains and focus on getting back to his fleet alive rather than dead!

"That Phase King is really angry at us! It is chasing after us regardless of the vulnerable state of its territory!"

Ves cursed under his breath as he saw the Phase King along with half of its troupe continuing their pursuit.

The angry Phasers were utterly driven by the need to get back their stolen plunder!

The next few minutes turned into a tense affair. The large group of mechs and Evolvers desperately beat a retreat. Any machine or fish-whale with ranged attack capabilities continued to pour all of their firepower towards the Phasers, but it was difficult for their attacks to threaten the fiendishly well-protected pursuers.

However, the constant attacks were having an effect on the Phasers. The more the fish-whales had to focus on defending themselves against the incoming firepower, the less they were able to focus their efforts on attacking the fleeing group!

This led to a situation where both sides were trying their best to consume each other. Commander Casella had already lowered her Commander Field since it was no longer necessary for her to provide protection to her fellow mechs.

The Cerebral King had turned into a living dimension smoother as its massive form anchored the surrounding space.

Sure, it was only one fish-whale against many, but the power of an ancient king fish should not be underestimated.

The Cerebral King clearly didn't look good though as it was constantly fighting an invisible battle against the hundreds of Phasers that were still trying their best to kill or hinder the thieves that had stolen much of their precious phasewater!

Ves tried his best to determine how long either side could hold on. The Evolvers might be powerful in their own ways, but they were of limited help in this instance.

Only a number of Evolvers such as the silver fish-whale were able to assist the Cerebral King in neutralizing the spatial attacks launched by the Phasers.

The rest may have absorbed varying amounts of phasewater, but they were complete novices in their usage of this high-quality substance. Their organs warmed up and became filled with power, but any reckless exertion of their newly-activated phasewater-derived abilities was liable to cause accidents!

Soon, a mighty but foreign presence encompassed the fleeing group.

**VIOLATORS! GODBLOOD! DEATH!**

The Phase King had spoken!

**UNWORTHY. TRAITOR. DESERVED.**

The Cerebral King was not to be outdone, though. Even though it was under immense pressure to defend its group, it was still able to respond to its archenemy.

**ANNIHILATION! DESTRUCTION! DESECRATION!**

The argument between the two powerful aliens devolved into a shouting match that sounded painfully childish and primitive to Ves.

Fortunately, many humans were spared from listening to this tortuous alien exchange. They lacked the sensitivity that allowed them to pick up the alien speech.

Even if a handful of people such as Patriarch Reginald and Venerable Tusa possessed minds that were developed enough to hear the two king fishes hurling insults at each other, they did not understand the fish-whale language at all, so all they perceived was gibberish.

Only Ves and Joshua were able to follow the heated exchange of words. They shared helpless glances at each other as they both tried to determine how they could shake off the Phasers.

"Sir, I don't think we can keep running like this." Venerable Joshua eventually said. "I'm not sure how long the Cerebral King, but it is getting increasingly more tired. Those Phaser fish-whales have clearly lost their minds and are hellbent on destroying us so that they can take back their lost phasewater."

"What are you saying, Joshua?"

"We should turn and fight them before we get any more tired."

"..."

Ves could not make a decision. He did not have enough information and the chaos of the battlefield was affecting his judgment.

He decided to open a private channel with Commander Casella Ingvar and Patriarch Reginald Cross in order to discuss their options.

"I say we fight!" Patriarch Reginald predictably answered. "This isn't the first time that I have fought against pursuers. We can't let them drive us to exhaustion like this. The longer this chase goes on, the more our morale will drop. Only by turning around and fighting them in an upright manner will we be able to break the chase! We don't have to kill them all. We just need to inflict a blow that is heavy enough to stop them in their tracks."

"This is too risky." Commander Casella disagreed. "The Phaser fish-whales possess attack means that are difficult for us to fight against. We are not sufficiently trained or prepared to fight against these kinds of opponents. I have already felt the strength of the enemy myself when I attempted to shield our mechs from the spatial disturbances. If the fight gets intense enough, my ability to help our mechs resist the increasingly more powerful attacks will not be able to keep everyone safe."

"This is the battlefield! It is impossible to keep everyone alive! If we let these Phasers chase us while consuming our strength, none of us will make it back. If we choose to

fight them at this time, we have a better chance of ending the pursuit while retaining enough lives."

Ves frowned and tried to figure out whether it was worthwhile to stall for time or fight a decisive battle.

While this was going on, the two king fishes became increasingly more furious at each other as they traded alien barbs with each other.

ALWAYS WEAK. ALWAYS FOOLISH. PATHETIC. CAN ONLY STEAL TO SURVIVE.

TRAITOR! HERETIC! TOO MUCH GODBLOOD BUT TOO WEAK AND STUPID TO ABSORB IT ALL. FAILED KIN!

UNTRUE! MUCH MORE GODBLOOD IN MY BODY THAN YOURS! TRUE HEIR OF GOD!

LIES! HERESY! MUST DIE NOW! OUR LONG FEUD WILL END TODAY! ANSWER FOR YOUR CRIMES!

The Cerebral King no longer ran away from the chasers.

Instead, the massive creature stopped and turned around, much to the surprise of the humans.

"What is it doing?!"

"Wait... is it going on the attack?"

"Damnit, what do we do?!"

As the Cerebral King chose to confront the Phasers, everyone else had to stop as well. The other Evolver fish-whales no longer fled either. They all slowed down and gathered around their sovereign.

The actions of the Evolvers forced the humans mechs to slow down as well.

Even though Ves was tempted to order the task force to continue with its flight, he knew that was not a viable idea.

Although the Phase King looked as if it wanted to do nothing more than to tear apart the Cerebral King, it was still paying a lot of attention to the various shuttles and mechs holding sealed containers of phasewater.

The Phase Kingdom's main priority at this time was to get back the stolen goods!

If the humans carrying a lot of plundered phasewater dared to flee without the help of their alien allies, a lot of elite Phasers would definitely separate from their king and pursue the task force!

Commander Casella soon issued a bunch of new orders. "Prepare for a serious round of battle. We can't leave without defeating the Phasers. Melee units, try your best to accompany the Cerebral King without getting too close. The king fish's stabilizing field can shelter you from the enemy's spatial attacks. Take advantage of this protection and pressure the elite Phaser fish-whales when they are at their weakest. Ranged units, spread out and keep building up more distance. The Phasers aren't able to attack beyond a certain range while our weapons are not so limited in this vacuum environment. I only need you to reach a sufficient distance and fire at the enemy at full power. Don't pay attention to consumption this time. If we cannot win at this juncture, none of us will return alive!"

As everyone got into position, the Cerebral King already took the initiative to charge towards its enemy counterpart!

The Phase King did not charge forward but concentrated all of its efforts on attacking its rival! It knew that it needed to exert its full strength against its rival.

The pressure on the mechs and Evolvers diminished after that, giving them a much-needed reprieve. Although the elite Phaser fish-whales still kept up their efforts, their abilities were not as strong!

"Advance! Don't let the Evolvers fight against the Phasers alone!"

The melee mechs of the task force quickly flew forward in order to catch up with the Cerebral King and its soldiers.

Leading this charge was the Bolvos Rage!

The problem was that the powerful expert mech wasn't heading towards the cluster of elite Phaser fish-whales.

Instead, it was following nearly the same as the Cerebral King!

"Hahaha!" Reginald laughed as he completely became absorbed in the moment. "Only you can be a worthy opponent! Give me a challenge!"

The high-tier expert pilot resolutely approached the coming collision between two titanic alien creatures without fearing the consequences!

Ves became aghast at this sight. The disparity in power was way too much!

"What the hell are you doing, Reginald?! You can't interfere in a confrontation at this level!"

It was too bad that the Cross Patriarch wasn't even listening to Ves. The expert pilot only had red in his eyes and blood in his nose. He could not be persuaded to call off his approach unless the Phase King truly made him feel despair!

## Chapter 3886 Versatile Phasers

The great battle had commenced!

In an empty patch of space that was not too far away from the Lake Continent, the confrontation quickly grew heated as thousands of combatants traded blows against each other.

Ranged mechs empowered by Commander Casella Ingvar's Command Field bombarded the spatial barriers that kept the army of elite Phasers safe.

The fish-whales under attack did not allow the strange metal enemies that reminded them a lot of their rivals from the Hot Kingdom to bombard them with impunity.

They activated their phasewater organs and channeled their efforts into focused abilities that were able to warp or tear regions of space.

In front of the power of space, hardly any barrier could stop these spatial attacks from tearing the softer and more delicate internals of tough and resilient mechs!

If not for the light degree of protection provided by Casella's Command Field, the fragile flesh-and-bodies of the mech pilots would have suffered grievous injuries from these atypical attack methods.

This bought the ranged mechs enough time to spread out and distance themselves from the Phaser fish-whales.

Although the Bright Warriors and other rifleman mechs were rather weak against the Phasers, they possessed one great advantage.

Their effective range was far greater than that of their opponents!

Commander Casella and many others keenly recognized that the Phaser fish-whales experienced increasingly greater difficulties in manifesting their powers beyond ten or twenty kilometers.

In comparison, mechs in space frequently fired their weapons at targets that were more than a hundred kilometers away!

Although the difficulty of hitting small and agile targets such as light mechs increased exponentially, none of the Phaser fish-whales were built like this. They were slow and fairly big as they were accustomed to fighting against completely different opponents.

However, were the Phasers truly helpless against distant opponents?

Several groups of elite Phasers splintered from the main group and flew towards the annoying ranged mechs that kept bombarding and breaking their spatial barriers.

Having fought against the Heaters many times over the course of Purgatory's history, the Phasers understood that the only way to make these energy attacks stop was to take the fight to the source!

This was exactly what the Phasers were doing. After they left the main group, they split up further into smaller groups so that they could chase after the individual squads of ranged mechs.

"Hah, what are these Phasers thinking? They're too slow! They'll never be able to catch up to our mechs!"

The fish-whale race may be strong in many aspects, but mobility was not one of them! Their traversal method could only be described as decent, but hardly sufficient against their current opponents.

However, the Phasers just happened to have a trick up their sleeves for occasions like these. Their bodies shimmered as they harnessed their spatial warping abilities in a different manner.

Instead of destabilizing distant patches of space, they concentrated on warping the space that just happened to encompass their bodies!

"Watch out! Their speed! They're moving faster!"

"What?! How is that possible!"

It only took a dozen seconds or so for the elite Phasers to accelerate to the point where their ability to speed forward exceeded that of light mechs!

"Damnit, they're moving as if they are organic starships equipped with warp drives! This phasewater ability is like a miniature version of warp travel!"

Although the elite Phasers weren't able to speed up to the point where they traveled at a significant fraction of the speed of light, they had become so fast that they rapidly managed to catch up to the squads of ranged mechs.

Although the various mechs kept firing at the incoming fish-whales, their potent fire mostly struck the spatial barriers that the fish-whales kept erecting.

The only upside was that the fish-whales obviously weren't capable of performing any additional phasewater abilities. Speeding themselves up and putting up spatial barriers was the limit of what they could do under these circumstances.

It was enough!

As soon as these Phasers reached their targets, they did not bother to stop or return to activating their remote abilities.

Instead, they lowered their heads and charged straight into the nearest mech in their path!

"They're charging at us like the Swarmer sergeant fishes!"

"Evade!"

Although a few mechs managed to dash aside, others weren't able to get away fast enough. Their relatively fragile frames inevitably got crushed or split apart as the heavy bodies of the fast and heavy fish-whales crashed right through their positions!

"No!"

"We need reinforcements!"

"Where are our melee mechs?!"

As the ranged mech pilots lost their cool and their coordination, a volley of powerful laser beams struck an elite Phaser fish that had just demolished an Avatar mech.

Though the first powerful positron beam only struck a spatial barrier, the second one broke right through and scorched deep into the body of the distant fish-whale!

The stricken creature could no longer sustain its phasewater abilities and abruptly slowed down as it was unable to maintain its pseudo-warp travel mode.

A third positron beam quickly ended the grievously-wounded creature.;

The Minerva had intervened!

Following after the Minerva were several units of melee mechs that quickly moved to protect the ranged mech units.



Commander Casella's Command Field became more active and established deeper connections to the minds of every mech pilot in range.

"Calm down and keep dispersing! The Phasers attacking your units are fighting no differently from lancer mechs. Each of you should already know how to deal with charging opponents. Focus on moving laterally and take advantage of the fact that the charging fish-whales are forced to follow predictable trajectories!

Several mech officers had already figured this out as well and were already in the process of adapting their units to the latest threat.

Once the mech pilots all adjusted to the latest tactics of their immediate opponents, the elite Phaser fish-whales weren't able to destroy as many mechs per attack run as before.

Each time their fast bodies charged towards their targets, the mechs in question no longer bothered to fire their weapons but put all of their effort into dashing aside or jumping upwards!

They behaved similarly like matadors that confronted charging bulls head-on. The biggest difference was that they did not have a convenient red cloth to attract the hatred of their opponents.

Instead, the mechs had to rely on their own frames to move aside at the last possible moment!

The timing of their evasion action was quite tricky.

The ones that moved too soon would get hit anyway as the charging Phaser fish-whales had enough time to correct their course.

The ones that moved too late simply couldn't get out of the way fast enough, causing at least a part of their frames to get smashed.

If the mech pilots had to make these judgments by themselves, a proportion of them would inevitably make mistakes and suffer badly against their opponents!

What actually happened was quite different. While the Minerva kept sniping down one Phaser fish-whale after another with its powerful and precise Irvan luminar crystal rifle, she also extended her influence to the mech pilots of the machines targeted by the fish-whales.

With the assistance of an expert pilot, the affected mech pilots always succeeded in grasping the right timing!

Mech after mech dashed aside, causing the charging Phasers to waste their effort and turn themselves into easy targets by the vengeful mechs!

Although their spatial barriers were quite resistant to damage, once the elite fish-whale warriors had split up from each other, they could no longer overlap them as much as before.

Concentrated fire from the ranged mechs quickly tore apart the defensive layers before raking the exposed bodies of the fat Phaser fish-whales!

Even if these elites were tougher and more resilient than the average fish-whale, it was impossible for them to withstand the simultaneous attacks of an entire mech company!

"Yes! These fish-whales aren't so tough after all! As long as we can keep dodging their charges, we can whittle them all down!"

Their opponents weren't stupid, though. After seeing that the mechs had fully adapted to their charging runs, the Phasers adjusted their approach.

A portion of them continued to perform charging attacks, but the majority had already slowed down and grouped up together into small groups.

Once a bunch of them had clustered together, a few of them concentrated on putting up spatial barriers while the remaining ones focused completely on launching remote spatial attacks!

"Damnit, they're back to their old tricks again!"

"Keep moving away!"

Now that the mechs in question had moved too far away from the Cerebral King's stabilizing presence, it had become a lot easier for the Phaser fish-whales to exert pressure onto the mechs.

Not even the protection offered by Commander Casella's true resonance was able to save the mechs from getting warped or torn to pieces!

A dozen mechs fell as they were swept by the power of the Phaser fish-whales!

However, their party didn't last long as a bunch of new opponents had entered the fray!

One group of Phasers hastily interrupted their efforts as a fish-whale that was larger than themselves slammed through the spatial barriers that protected their group!

Although these barriers were not weak by any means, they were utterly inadequate at blocking the momentum of the charging Evolver fish-whale!

The aggressive creature recently gorged itself on a lot of phasewater, causing it to look a bit drunk and less poised than usual.

The powerful Evolver fish had yet to develop any phasewater abilities due to lacking the time to explore its unlocked potential, but the space around its body had become a lot harder to affect, causing much of the attacks of the Phaser fish-whales to weaken.

Soon enough, the Evolver fish-whale ended up in the midst of the Phasers, colliding against one of its opponents while biting another nearby prey!

The surviving opponents quickly wised up and madly split away from the Evolver fish-whale. The latter looked angry as its bulky body was unable to catch up to these fleeing Phasers, but the Evolver wasn't alone.

"Charge at these isolated fish-whales!"

The fleeing Phaser fish-whales abruptly jerked and stalled in their flight as their minds suddenly became affected by their instinctual fear towards death.

Moments later, squads of Valkyrie mechs charged at them and sank their spears into their meaty forms!

Blood gushed from their puncture wounds as their bodies turned into pincushions due to the spears that had remained embedded into their bodies!

Once the mechs of the Peninent Sisters and the Glory Seekers finished their attack runs, they followed up on their efforts by pulling out their sub-machine guns and peppering the wounded and bleeding fish-whales with barrages of voluminous energy attacks!

Despite their lackluster effectiveness against large and thick opponents, the mech pilots tried their best to focus their fire on key locations such as the eyes, the mouth, the belly and other vulnerable points.

Since these Phasers were too injured to activate any of their annoying phasewater abilities, the harassing Valkyrie Redeemers and Valkyrie Interceptors quickly crippled them to the point where they turned into easy prey for the more powerful ranged mechs!

Once their targets were shot to pieces, the Valkyrie mechs easily retrieved their spears before repeating the same tactics against the other alien targets!

"Work together with the Evolvers! Let them open up the Phasers first before following suit!"

As the frantic battle continued, the humans and the Evolvers kept refining their cooperation with each additional success.

The fact that they couldn't talk to each other did not hinder them from improving their teamwork. Both groups quickly learned what the other was capable of and figured better and better ways for them to combine their strengths!

While the fight at the rear had begun to stabilize, the true focus of the battle was at the front!

In the center of the battlefield, two titanic king fishes kept attacking each other with no abandon!

The spatial fluctuations from their collisions were so violent that no mech or fish-whale dared to get within 5 kilometers of their destructive grudge match!

There was one exception, though.

Just as the Phase King was about to unleash another spatial tear, a volley of empowered energy beams struck its powerful spatial barrier.

"Hahahaha! I swear that I will tear your belly open myself!" Patriarch Reginald boldly taunted!

The Bolvos Rage was the only mech that dared to intervene in a duel between the rulers of Purgatory!

## Chapter 3887 Spatial Struggle

The centerpiece of the unfolding battle was the duel between the Phase King and the Cerebral King.

Even though they were fighting in the middle of a busy battlefield, it was quite apt to call their fight a duel.

The two beings were on another level compared to the other combatants on the battlefield. Both of their bodies shone with ancient power as they kept exerting their considerable organs in dizzying attacks against each other.

After the initial exchange of attacks, it soon became evident that neither of them possessed an overwhelming advantage against each other.

The Phase King integrated so much phasewater in its body that each of its phasewater abilities had the power to overcome a huge amount of resistance, especially at closer ranges!

Not only did the Phase King possess an abundant amount of power, it had also exercised them for so many years that it had reached an extreme level proficiency in its ability to manipulate the fabric of space!

From warping its body to speed up its movements to bending space so that any energy attack inevitably curved aside, the sovereign of the Phase Kingdom almost fully showcased the limit to how extensively the fish-whale race could employ phasewater to its advantage!

THIEF. WEAKLING. UNDESERVING.

The Cerebral King encountered one hindrance after another at first. Although it had recently made up for its enormous deficiency in Phasewater, it could never compete against the Phase King in terms of spatial manipulation!

This was why the Cerebral King quickly stopped competing against the Phase King in this manner. It solely focused on stabilizing the space around it while resorting to its more traditional abilities to inflict harm.

In one moment, it opened its maw and released a gigantic energy beam that burst through the toughest spatial barrier and raked the powerful body of the Phase King!

If not for the latter's powerful physique and its attempt to divert the incoming beam by bending the space in front of it, the Phase King would have suffered greater injury!

NOT ENOUGH. WEAK AS BEFORE. INCOMPETENT. WILL SHOW TRUE POWER OF GODBLOOD!

The Phase King decided to change its approach and concentrated deeply before channeling all of its power in a line that went all the way to its target!

A few seconds passed as the space along this line began to shake and crack. Any particles in the way inevitably splintered as an ominous black crack emerged in front of the Phase King and quickly lengthened towards the other king fish!

The Cerebral King felt an incredible threat from this space tear and channeled its phasewater-enriched organs to strengthen the space in front of it in an attempt to block the expanding crack.

It wasn't working! At best, the Cerebral King slowed down the Phase King's efforts, but how could one of the measures the latter had prepared against its fellow rivals be so easy to defeat?

FUTILE. NO SKILL. NO DEFENSE.

The Cerebral King launched numerous different attacks towards its opponents, but each of them collided against the Phase King's strong spatial barrier.

The burden on the latter was enormous, but it was so determined to inflict a heavy injury on the Cerebral King that it went all-out right from the beginning!

If not for its long and unrelenting efforts to master the ability to manipulate phasewater, the burden of channeling phasewater in two different but powerful manifestations would have caused a backlash!

As it was, the Phase King was so driven by the need to fight and kill one of its powerful rivals that it did not hesitate to perform at its peak!

Seeing as its initial attacks failed to interrupt the expanding space tear, the Cerebral King tried to evade it by moving to the side. Its huge, lumbering body moved to the side, though without the distinctive warp travel capabilities that many Phasers seemed to master.

The Cerebral King actually had this ability as well, but it was forced to focus all of its effort into stabilizing the surrounding space lest the Phase King gained an even greater advantage!

FUTILE. CANNOT STOP. WILL GORGE ON YOUR FLESH.

The space tear might look as if it could only go straight forward, but under the powerful and skillful manipulation of the Phase King, it turned in its trajectory and kept chasing after the Cerebral King!

It was only after it reached the last few hundred meters that the progress of the space tear slowed down. The Cerebral King focused all of its effort into holding the space in front of it together, but the Phase King's might was still too overwhelming.

The alien master of phasewater even took the initiative to move closer so that it was better able to push its spear tear past all of the resistance!

The Cerebral King's eyes shook as it kept backing away, only for the space tear to keep creeping closer.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO STRONG?

SECRET OF GODBLOOD. BODY TRANSFORMATION. HEAD START. TRUE HEIR OF GOD.

UNTRUE! HERESY! POWER OF MIND GREATER THAN YOURS!

USELESS. GODBLOOD IS ULTIMATE POWER. BODY IS ULTIMATE CARRIER OF POWER. THIS IS TRUTH!

Whether the Phase King was accurate or not, its words caused the Cerebral King to waver as it questioned its own beliefs and assumptions.

This only exacerbated its crisis as the space tear more easily crept forward.

Just as it was about to split a portion of the gigantic body of the Cerebral King, a mech suddenly crashed the party!

A powerful salvo of resonance-empowered positron beam attacks struck the spatial barrier protecting its rear!

Although the barrier was still fully intact, the power of this combined strike was significantly greater than the attacks of other mechs and fish-whales.

An aggressive expert mech that glowed red like a volcano thundered forward while unleashing another salvo of positron beams!

This time, the spatial barrier rippled a bit more as it experienced substantial difficulties in mitigating the attacks amplified by an unknown quality that the Phase King had never encountered before!

NEW THREAT. UNKNOWN FORM. METAL SURROUNDING FLESH. OUTSIDER?

Although the Phase King tried to quiz Patriarch Reginald through a form of mental communication, the high-tier expert pilot grimaced in annoyance before using his willpower to close his mind from external influences.

"I don't understand your stupid whale language, you stupid fish! All I need from you is to baptize my new saber with the blood of an alien king!"

Despite the danger and despite the immense disparity in power, Patriarch Reginald Cross never let his fear overtake his courage.

The Bolvos Rage kept firing with as much power that Reginald and his familiar expert mech could channel in their attacks.

At the same time, the expert mech continued to advance forward until it had almost reached the spatial barrier.

Just as the expert mech was about to collide with the barrier, it had raised its Whale-Cutting Saber.

The recently-forged weapon glowed with crimson resonance as Patriarch Reginald prepared to execute a special technique.

At the same time, the leader of the Cross Clan summoned all of his desire to break through the obstacles in front of him and make the intimidating king fish bleed!

"SHATTER BEFORE MY MIGHT!"

To the astonishment of both king fishes, the glowing saber flashed brightly before it struck the spatial barrier that was strong enough to withstand the attacks of hundreds if not thousands of mechs!

The barrier actually exhibited a tear!

Even though the Bolvos Rage ultimately failed to get past this powerful blockade, Patriarch Reginald did not get discouraged.

He may be battle hungry but he wasn't stupid. An opponent as powerful as the Phase King clearly couldn't be stripped of its defenses with just a handful of attacks.

"If I can't break down this barrier with a single strike, then I will launch two strikes! If two strikes aren't enough, then I will launch four strikes! One way or another, I shall strip you of your protection!"

The Bolvos Rage almost went all-out at this time!

Aside from its missile launcher and its shotgun, the expert hybrid mech utilized its formidable arsenal to overwhelm the spatial barrier as much as possible.

Resonance-empowered positron beams struck the barrier once every few seconds while Whale-Cutting Saber kept battering at the invisible but resilient spatial blockade.

Attacked from two different directions, the Phase King did not feel an immediate crisis, yet the persistent attacks from the rear forced it to keep diverting more focus and power away from its main attack.

The spatial tear inevitably grew weaker, granting the Cerebral King a much-needed reprieve.

NOT ALONE. FRIENDS. ALLIES.

USELESS! TOO WEAK! OUTSIDERS. TRAITOR.

YOU ARE TRAITOR! NOT DESERVING OF GODBLOOD! WILL STRIP IT FROM YOUR BODY MYSELF!

The Cerebral King no longer resisted as passively as before. It understood that it needed to do more to undermine the greatest strength of its opponent.

The king fish carefully attempted to study how the Phase King employed its spatial manipulation while doing its best to familiarize itself with its newly-strengthened phasewater organs.



Normally, the highly-intelligent alien creature would have taken weeks, months if not years to figure out how to harness the vast quantities of phasewater it had absorbed into its body.

However, with a ready-made example before its eyes and other senses, the Cerebral King put its powerful cognitive functions to good use and derived numerous lessons and insights from its lethal foe.

After a minute of struggle, the Cerebral King changed the way it exerted its phasewater organs and began to impose its power onto the spatial tear that kept threatening to split its body apart!

Slowly but surely, the wound in the fabric of space began to heal and recede from the body of the Cerebral King.

As the king fish saw the results of its efforts, it gained more confidence and channeled more of its improved abilities towards the spatial tear.

An invisible tug-of-war occurred between the two king fishes as both of them tried to impose their power onto the space between them. Although the Phase King still possessed an overwhelming advantage in this aspect, the Cerebral King's tenacious resistance caused the attack to stall in its progress.

While this struggle continued, the Bolvos Rage kept pounding at the Phase King's spatial barrier without any pause!

Despite the rapid drain on its energy reserves and despite the complete lack of apparent progress, Patriarch Reginald's aggression never faded in the slightest!

Instead of seeing the power of the Phase King as an insurmountable obstacle, he took it as a challenge that he had to overcome in order to take another step forward in his progress towards attaining greater power!

"No defense is impervious!"

"No weapon is ineffective!"

"No space wizardry will deny me from spilling the blood of a king!"

As the Bolvos Rage began to accumulate a lot of heat due to its repeated high-intensity attacks, Patriarch Reginald spontaneously figured out a way to leverage its saber technique in a more effective manner.

Ketis may have set him up and pointed him in the right direction, but it was up to the expert pilot to develop his strength further.

His eyes shone as his will manifested even deeper into his expert mech's weapon. The degree of true resonance amplifying the Bolvos Rage slightly broke through its previous record as Reginald reached an unprecedented peak!

"METEOR CHOP!"

The flaming Whale-Cutting Saber seemingly turned into a soaring meteor as it struck the spatial barrier with unnatural force!

Although the new technique did not exhibit the extreme cutting power of Ketis' saber style, the latest attack fully aligned with Reginald's strengths, allowing him to use the Whale-Cutting Saber as a vessel for desire to overcome the greatest barriers by force!

The explosion of power, light and heat that resulted from this blow was so violent that the two king fishes briefly shifted their attention to the expert mech.

Much to their surprise, the Bolvos Rage succeeded in breaking open a gap in the spatial barrier!

Even though the Phase King tried its best to close this gap, the Bolvos Rage quickly took advantage of the opening and plunged through the entrance without fear!

"HAHAHA! TAKE THAT! I TOLD YOU THAT I WILL SPILL YOUR BLOOD!"

However, just as the Bolvos Rage neared the gigantic body, the Phase King directed its full attention towards the approaching expert mech.

Just a second after the Phase King locked onto the Bolvos Rage, the entire machine became enveloped in a localized spatial storm!

"ARGGHH!"

Chapter 3888 Two Kings and a Fly

How powerful was the Phase King?

No human had a clear idea how much damage this powerful and ancient creature could inflict. Its attack methods were much more abstruse than those of the Cerebral King.

As a king fish that had long worked with phasewater, its ability to utilize this powerful resource in lots of destructive means was unparalleled!

Now, the Bolvos Rage had successfully angered the Phase King to the point where it had directed its hatred against the expert mech instead of its old foe!

The spatial storm that engulfed the space around the Bolvos Rage was far more powerful and violent than the ones unleashed by its subordinates!

Against the power of a king fish, hardly any enemy below its level could contend against this might!

As the localized spatial storm faded away, many people who were paying attention to the Cross Patriarch's effort tried to see what had happened.

"The Bolvos Rage... is damaged!"

The expert mech's resonance shield had collapsed!

Not only that, but much of its frame exhibited signs of heavy wear and tear. It was as if the expert mech had spent a few seconds in a giant blender!

However, despite its shabby appearance, the mech was still operational!

"I'm... not... that... easy to kill!"

Patriarch Reginald's burst of power was accompanied by the activation of a regular energy shield. Although its protective properties were not as unnaturally strong as that of a resonance shield, it was better than nothing.

If the Phase King took the initiative to launch another serious attack on the Bolvos Rage, then it would definitely be able to cripple if not outright destroy the damaged machine!

Yet before it could finish the job, the Cerebral King took full advantage of the Phase King's temporary diversion.

Only a short amount of time had passed since the Phase King directed its firepower elsewhere, but this was enough for the Cerebral King to regain the initiative!

Knowing that it was at a disadvantage if it kept contesting against the Phase King in terms of spatial manipulation, the Cerebral King made a ruthless decision.

Its massive body shot forward as it activated numerous organs that accelerated its massive bulk forward!

As the Cerebral King surged forward, it opened its maw and struck the Phase King's spatial barrier with a lengthy burst of heat and radiation!

The power of this massive was so great that the Phase King hastily had to shift its attention towards its original opponent. If it did not adapt and reinforce its spatial barrier

further, the massive energy beam was liable to collapse the already-destabilized defensive measure!

Now that the Phase King was put on its backfoot, it was unable to muster up enough power to stop the Cerebral King and the Bolvos Rage.

FOUL OUTSIDER. WEAKLING. BEGONE!

"Hahaha! I still don't know what the hell you're saying, but the more you yell at me, the more I can tell I'm doing a good job! Taste my blade, you fish!"

The hot and glowing Whale-Cutting Saber followed a blazing trajectory before striking the Phase King's tail!

However, just before its flaming blade was able to pierce through the Phase King's hide, it halted just a few centimeters above the surface.

It turned out that the Phase King covered its body with another spatial barrier!

The Bolvos Rage kept hacking at it with abandon, but it was just as difficult to shake as the previous barrier!

Compared to the minor threat of the expert mech, the Phase King was paying much more attention towards its main adversity.

The Cerebral King may have exhausted its latest beam attack, but it had built up more than enough momentum to smash the Phase King's body!

TREACHERY MUST BE PUNISHED!

In order to enhance the damage of its charge, the Cerebral King adjusted its body, causing its head to be covered by bone!

Not only that, but a horn that looked similar to the one of the bladed fish-whale poked out of its head!

As the Cerebral King sped up even more, the Phase King threw a contemptuous glance at its old enemy.

The Phase King's massive body instantly teleported half a kilometer away seconds before the Cerebral King could drive its horn through its target!

MISSED.

The Whale-Cutting Saber of the Bolvos Rage cleaved nothing but empty vacuum as its massive target had been displaced.

The Cerebral King's devastating charge also came to nothing as the king fish was unable to correct its course at such an extreme angle.

The king of the Evolvers slowed down and turned around in order to prepare for another charge!

The repeat move attracted even more contempt from the Phase King.

FUTILE ATTACK. WILL NEVER STRIKE. CAN MOVE ANYWHERE.

ATTACKS NEVER FUTILE. TRAITORS SHALL ALWAYS FALL.

The Cerebral King and the Bolvos Rage both moved forward in order to make another attempt to bleed to the Phase King, only for the latter to teleport away long before a horn was able to impale its body!

In the meantime, the Phase King did not forget about the need to take down its foes. It summoned one spatial storm after another, but neither of its targets were easy to damage anymore!

The Cerebral King had learned how to harness its phasewater abilities even more. It became easier for it to dampen the storms and solidify the surrounding space to a stronger degree.

As for the Bolvos Rage, now that Patriarch Reginald personally experienced the fury of the Phase King, he had become a lot more respectful towards its power!

From the moment the Phase King intended to engulf the space around the Bolvos Rage with its power, the expert mech jerked aside and avoided the latest spatial attack!

"Your tricks have grown old, fish! I can spot your attacks before they even take shape!"

This was not an exaggeration. While his strengthened senses allowed him to detect specific areas that the Phase King was beginning to manipulate, his highly-developed battle instincts never failed to issue him a warning an instant before the Phase King was able to manifest its power once again!

The Phase King finally understood that this fight was not as easy to win as it thought.

While this high-level confrontation continued to deplete the strength of the two kings, the other combatants weren't taking it easy either.

A large amount of melee mechs as well as Evolver fish-whales had taken the fight to the enemy!

With Commander Casella focusing most of her efforts on commanding the rear elements of Task Force Fisherman, it was up to other leaders such as Commander Melkor to lead the remaining elements!

The Gold Beacon kept firing beam after beam towards one of the bigger elite Phaser fish-whales. Though the attacks kept hitting against spatial barriers, Melkor never thought that the attacks were futile.

"These Phasers may look strong, but time is on our side." He reminded his fellow Avatars. "Take the fight to the enemy but don't take excessive risks. The Phaser fish-whales have already expended a lot of effort into killing the Swarmers. The enemy fish are easy pickings as long as we push them to exhaustion. Let the Evolver fish-whales take the lead!"

Compared to the smaller and more fragile mechs, the Evolver fish-whales were considerably larger and more robust.

Led by the bladed fish-whale, the wave of advancing Evolvers eagerly collided their bodies against the multitude of overlapping spatial barriers!

Although the defensive measures succeeded in stopping the momentum of plenty of Evolvers, more fish-whales continued to slam against the barriers, overloading them all in rapid succession!

"We're through!"

This wasn't the first time the Evolvers fought against the Phasers, so the former already knew the best way to overcome the annoying spatial barriers.

The damage of a charging fish-whale was not comparable to many other attack methods!

As the wave of Evolvers were able to meet their opponents, the Phasers reacted against this threat in different ways.

Some erected a second energy barrier that stopped or at least stalled the incoming Evolvers.

Others generated spatial blades that caused the charging fish-whales to cut themselves.

A particularly powerful Phaser fish-whale even warped the space in front of two of its opponents, causing the Evolver fish-whales to inadvertently collide against each other!

Most of the elite Phaser fish-whales preferred to pool their powers together in order to generate unstoppable spatial storms in the path of the incoming enemies.

"This again!"

"They're not as strong as we fear! Just do your best to go around them. These fish-whales are having a much harder time manipulating space in their favor. Take advantage of that and keep getting closer!"

The elite Phaser fish-whales were finding it difficult to channel their abilities. Even though many of them had moved away from the Cerebral King, the powerful Evolver leader still exerted a residual stabilizing effect at this distance!

This caused the Phasers to take much more time to pull off their phasewater abilities. They had to overcome greater resistance to manifest their powers, which caused crucial delays that granted more breathing room to their opponents!

After getting past these hurdles, the first wave of Evolvers and mechs succeeded in reaching the leading elements of the Phaser fish-whales!

Numerous Phasers blinked away while others decided to fight back more directly.

Fish-whales traded blows against other fish-whales!

While the Evolvers displayed a variety of strange and uncommon attacks, the Phaser fish-whales all fought in similar ways.

They stimulated their phasewater organs, allowing the Phasers to constantly turn the immediate space around them into a danger zone that constantly attempted to tear at the bodies of its closest enemies.

In addition to that, whenever they concentrated at a point before their heads, they were able to generate miniature holes in space that were able to inflict a lot of crippling damage, especially if they manifested inside the bodies of hostile fish-whales!

As the battle between the two sides kept unfolding, Commander Melkor and the others soon noticed that the elite Phaser fish-whales were being led by the largest of their subspecies!

The bigger fish-whales possessed a sense of age and authority that was not as obvious in the other Phaser fish-whales.

Task Force Fisherman eventually decided to dispatch specific units to take down these apparent 'princes' of the Phase Kingdom.

One of them was a nasty-looking fish-whale that exhibited a lot of old scars on its hide. It was probably one of the oldest surviving subordinates of the Phase King and possessed a lot more phasewater in its body than its fellow Phasers!

At this time, Vincent Ricklin saw his opportunity to shine.

He had paid a lot of attention to his idol from the Cross Clan. Patriarch Reginald wasn't a match against the Phase King, but that did not stop the expert pilot from fearlessly harassing this ancient beast!

Though Vincent couldn't bring himself to join this epic struggle, he figured that it was enough for him to challenge other Phaser fish-whale on the battlefield.

"Your opponent is me!" He declared as his B-Man pointed its blunt mace in the direction of a particularly fat Phaser fish-whale.

In order to add more force to his statement, the brave expert candidate fired the integrated gauss weapon modules of his custom mech, bombarding the spatial barrier in front of the Phaser fish-whale with powerful projectiles!

The B-Man shook as it repeatedly discharged projectile after projectile.

Combined with the attacks of other mechs and Evolvers, the Phaser fish-whales huddling behind the barriers readied themselves for a tough fight!

Other notable mechs and mech pilots also picked their targets!

The Quint piloted by Isobel Kotin provided fire support from a distance while the various Enlightened Warriors piloted by the guests of the Larkinson Clan boldly took part in the leading wave.

Meanwhile, the Everchanger took up a central position, using its inspiring presence and its versatile glows to inspire friendly mech pilots and fish-whales.

The Dark Zephyr was nowhere to be seen, but no one thought that Venerable Tusa was shirking this battle.

The battle between the two sides soon reached its most intensive phase!

## Chapter 3889 Poking Fish

As the battle between the human-alien coalition and angry Phaser fish-whales continued to unfold, the battle lines began to get more blurred.

The situation around the ranged mechs and fish-whales was the most optimistic. The Phaser fish-whales didn't have enough good solutions to counter or contain the ranged units that could persistently fire at them from any range.

The forward mechs and Evolvers had to brave a lot more risks. The majority of Phasers were still clumped together and provided constant support to each other!



Defeating this main group of Phaser fish-whales was key to tipping the battle in the favor of the coalition!

"The Phasers are putting up a tough fight."

The Everchanger took up a position closer to the front of the battlefield. Venerable Joshua was not in a hurry to intervene at this time. He was incredibly aware that his actions directly affected the survival of the patriarch of the Larkinson Clan!

If possible, Joshua didn't want to go into the thick of battle with such an enormous burden looming behind his shoulder, but the Phasers might not allow him to get away with taking potshots at distant enemies with the Everchanger's Vitalus rifle.

"Don't be in a hurry to go in. Our troops are managing well enough on our own." Ves told the expert pilot. "We need your expert mech to act as a reserve in case these Phasers unveil an unpleasant surprise."

Ves also thought it was better to get a greater overview of the two sides before committing one of his strongest assets into battle. None of them possessed a good understanding of the Phaser fish-whales.

Before meeting them into battle, Ves thought that the Phasers were much simpler and more uniform.

This was because Ves and the rest of the expeditionary forces only had a limited amount of information at their disposal. The scouting data provided by Venerable Tusa back then gave the impression that the fish-whales of the Phase Kingdom were all ordinary.

It was only now that they learned that they had underestimated the strength and diversity of the Phasers.

Their ordinary members might not be so exceptional, but the elites that had hidden underneath all of the water pools of the Lake Continent were different!

Their bodies were larger. They absorbed more phasewater. They trained their phasewater abilities to a great degree of mastery. Their coordination and teamwork was not inferior to that of a well-trained military mech troop.

These were the main troops that the Phase King dealt with other powerful and tough opponents. They were the backbone of the Phase Kingdom and had demolished many attackers that had attempted to take over the Lake Continent.

Their battle effectiveness was quite formidable! If the Evolvers only relied on themselves to fight these powerful phasewater wizards, the fight would definitely skew in the favor of the Phasers.

Task Force Fisherman wouldn't fare any better either. There were too few mechs and many of them weren't in the right configurations to counter these alien threats.

Fortunately, neither the humans nor the Evolvers were fighting against the Phasers by themselves today.

"Let the Evolvers take the lead!" Commander Melkor reiterated to his Avatars. "The bodies of the Evolver fish-whales are much bigger and tougher than our mechs. Even if they get attacked, they can handle the punishment. What we need to do is to take advantage of the distraction that they can provide and hit the preoccupied Phasers from the flanks!"

Commander Sendra of the Swordmaidens issued similar instructions.

"Our swords can cut through the bodies of the Phasers, but if we go up first, the enemy fish-whales will definitely smack our mechs with their tails or bite them in half. Let the big fat Evolvers take the brunt of the blows. We'll play the part of the patient hunters that strike only when we see a good opportunity."

Every human commander recognized that their mechs weren't suited to take on the body attacks of fish-whales head-on.

Their power was too great.

Only defensive space knights with sturdy shields and even sturdier construction could tank the blows of the elite Phasers, but it just so happened that Task Force Fisherman was lacking in these mechs. They were deemed too slow to take part in an operation that required a lot of mobility!

Considering the current situation, everyone recognized that it was the right decision to have the Evolver fish-whales play the role of defensive knights in this instance!

No one spoke anything about how it was dishonorable to allow their allies to take the brunt of the damage while their mechs picked off their targets at favorable angles.

The fish-whales were only temporary allies by circumstance. Although there were plenty of humans who had come to respect the friendly and dependable Evolvers, they were ultimately alien beasts.

From the perspective of humanity, indigenous alien populations were not on the same level. So what if the expeditionary forces exploited the Evolver fish-whales? It was better to risk their lives than the lives of precious human mech pilots!

Due to this deliberate approach, the various mech units did not lose too many mechs at first.

Bright Warriors and Second Swords circled around but kept their distance until they spotted the elite Phasers getting locked into battle against their Evolver counterparts.

The melee-oriented Evolver fish-whales were quite deadly when they were able to get close to their opponents, but the elite Phaser fish-whales weren't necessarily helpless in this range!

Contrary to their initial impressions as wizards, the elite Phasers were able to enhance their battle performance by utilizing their phasewater abilities in a different fashion.

From summoning small spatial tears to covering their bodies with form-fitting spatial barriers, the Phaser fish-whales proved to be quite adept in beating up the Evolvers at closer ranges!

This was where the mech pilots of Task Force Fisherman attempted to make the difference.

Despite being a newlywed who had just tied the knot with the only expert pilot of the Glory Seekers, Commander Sendra of the Swordmaidens had no intention of shirking this battle!

Sure, her new hubby Brutus vehemently tried to convince her to pull out of the Purgatory Campaign, but Sendra was a Swordmaiden, not a Sentinel!

If her overprotective spouse thought that his attempt would work, then he clearly didn't understand the Swordmaidens well enough!

Even if she and her sisters shared many similarities with the Hexer people, the Swordmaidens were ultimately different!

Right now, Commander Sendra completely put her sappy new husband out of her mind. She pursued and married Brutus for fun and to fulfill her ambitions, but these were matters that didn't pertain to the battlefield!

Right now, Sendra held back her new Second Sword mech and observed how her small unit of Swordmaidens were approaching their hunts.

She became satisfied when she spotted that none of the mech pilots under her command showed any impatience.

They carefully chose their targets and stalked them while maintaining a low profile.

It was only when the Phasers truly started brawling against their Evolver counterparts that the Swordmaidens struck!

Their large greatswords were normally considered to be too large and unwieldy to be employed in battles against other mechs, but in this situation their superior reach and damage potential happened to convey great advantages!

Four of the new Second Sword mechs showed what they were capable of by attacking a large elite Phaser from both sides. The sword-wielding mechs dove in and used the momentum of their short charges to put a lot of extra force behind their attacks!

The first pair of Second Swords that charged towards the exposed Phaser fish-whale performed nearly identical chops!

Blood gushed from the parted flesh as the extremely sharp blades parted through the hide and underlying tissue without encountering too much resistance!

The Second Swords that successfully wounded the Phaser fish-whale didn't stick around and retreated quickly enough to escape the retaliatory tail smacks from the injured creature.

When Commander Sendra studied the effect of the attacks on the big fish-whale, she frowned in disappointment.

"These fish-whales are built to take a lot of hits. Chopping and slashing these big fat bodies isn't enough!"

The injured Phasers even managed to stem the bleeding, thereby preventing them from becoming weaker over time.

"If slashing them doesn't work, how about stabbing them? There has to be a way for us to cripple these big fish!"

The subsequent pair of Second Swords performed straightforward lunges that allowed their long blades to sink deep into the body of the target.

Even if the elite Phaser's body was larger than that of a heavy mech, the creature definitely suffered a grievous blow as the greatswords pierced through a lot of fat and meaty tissue before puncturing a few of the key organs that directly affected the fish-whale's battle effectiveness!

The creature let out a silent roar of pain as it somehow lost control of its powers due to suffering crippling damage to one of its phasewater organs!

Unfortunately, the Second Sword responsible for inflicting this critical attack became affected by an outburst of unstable spatial fluctuations, causing its frame to warp and bend while at the same time lose its grip on its greatsword!

"Pull back, Ennegan! Leave the greatsword behind!" Commander Sendra hastily ordered.

The Second Sword jerkily tried to move away fast enough to escape the violent tail thrashing from its opponent, but the damage to its frame had crippled its mobility!

Sendra winced as the violent Phaser managed to smack the mech in question with a large and meaty tail!

The blunt force trauma inflicted on the Second Sword had exacerbated its existing damage, causing numerous parts to fall from its frame while its entire left side had become deformed to the point where they were rendered useless!

The damaged mech already flung away as if it had been hit by a giant rod. When Sendra studied the Second Sword's telemetry, her heart sank a little.

"Ennigan, eject from your mech! It's useless now!"

Seeing that she was not receiving anything from the crippled mech, she drove her own Second Sword forward and moved to intercept her subordinate's machine.

When she saw that the rear of the mech had been damaged and deformed to the point where its cockpit was unable to eject, she regained her hope.

Sendra's mech took great care in removing the obstructions.

"Can you eject now, Ennigan? Just eject from your cockpit."

When the damaged but still intact cockpit finally shot out of the back of the ruined Second Sword, Commander Sendra finally sighed in relief.

She returned to a more central position and continued to study the attacks inflicted on the fish-whales.

While the Evolvers were able to inflict massive damage by smacking the bodies of their opponents with their prodigious bulk or using their mouths to bite off huge chunks of flesh, the mechs of the task force had to be more precise about their attacks due to their more limited damage potential.

Eventually, the Swordmaidens and the other mech forces learned that the only way for them to truly hurt the elite Phasers was to target their internal organs!

"Don't bother slashing the Phasers with your swords. They can take cut after cut without losing any wind. Work together to puncture their bodies. As long as we sink our blades in the right angles, we might get lucky enough to damage something important! Just be

careful about hitting their crucial phasewater organs. The backlash from damaging them is both random and dangerous!"

As the Swordmaidens increasingly learned how they could effectively cripple the elite Phaser fish-whales, they finally lived up to their reputation as killing machines!

Even Commander Sendra decided to go in. Newlywed or not, her thirst for battle was no less than any other Swordmaidens!

"Hahaha! I wish Brutus was here! I bet I can kill way more fish-whales than him! A blade is much better than a rifle when fighting against these giant fish!"

### Chapter 3890 Inadequacy

Vincent Ricklin threw himself into the fight for the same reason as many of his other comrades.

He was looking for his chance today.

The opportunity to fight in a real battle wasn't exactly common. Outside of wars, only incidental encounters with hostile forces could give the mech pilots of the expeditionary fleet the opportunity to fight while putting their lives on the line!

Numerous people had already heard that the Golden Skull Alliance would be taking it easy after the conclusion of this campaign.

Though there were many mech pilots who felt relieved at the opportunity to spend a few years away from any battlefields and danger zones, they were also cognizant that long-term idling was not conducive to developing their strengths.

There was a limit to how much they could improve through training!

Even if Vincent had heard that the Larkinson Clan would make different arrangements concerning this issue, he felt a lot more pressured than ever to step up and prove himself worthy to his fellow Larkinsons!

The B-Man's glow pumped him up even further. Vincent had always felt more confident ever since Gloriana delivered his new custom mech to him. As an expert candidate and a mech pilot in the prime of his life, his opportunities were much greater than other people!

"If Imon was able to become an expert pilot, then so can I! There is no reason for me to fail!"

The chances that an expert candidate was able to advance to expert pilot was fairly high, but the amount of time it took to complete this transition was a crucial detail that many people overlooked!

Some only took a couple of years to reach apotheosis. Other expert candidates took as long as two to three decades, which meant they wasted their prime years in which they could have made a lot of progress in furthering their strength as expert pilots!

The saddest expert candidates of all were those that remained stuck in their halfway status for the rest of their careers!

When Vincent thought about the possibility of his body growing older and less muscular while continuing to disappoint Raella and his buddies, he felt increasingly more urgent to make the most out of this major battle!

"These fish-whales better give me the challenge I crave!"

As his B-Men approached the front of the battlefield, his mech was already contributing to the battle by firing its gauss weapons at numerous targets.

The rounds fired by his custom mech inflicted considerably more damage to the fish-whales than the energy weapons wielded by other mechs.

At first, the B-man's integrated gauss weapons kept colliding against spatial barriers. This was anything but ideal as Vincent gained no satisfaction from damaging these invisible obstacles.

The expert candidate adjusted his approach and waited until the first line of mechs and Evolvers collided against the Phasers.

"Damn, those big Evolvers are really good at breaking those spatial barriers."

With the help of all of those friendly fish-whales, the elite Phaser fish-whales became a lot more vulnerable than before!

At the very least, once they became entangled by melee attackers, the Phasers had no opportunity to focus on erecting overlapping spatial barriers anymore. The Evolvers and the human mechs didn't allow the Phasers to activate their greatest phasewater abilities!

Vincent's B-Man began to strike these targets with carefully-timed shots.

In the past, he would have picked random opponents and let loose with all of the guns at his disposal. It was only after he received Patriarch Reginald's guidance that he paid a lot more attention to his timing and target selection.



Each time a salvo struck a Phaser fish-whale, the beast inevitably jerked. If Vincent was lucky, one of his attacks managed to penetrate deep enough to damage an important organ.

However, the Phasers were so big and massive that they had too much buffer in the way. It was as if they had evolved to specifically deal with massed ranged attacks!

It took dozens of rounds just for his expert mech to fell a single elite Phaser fish-whale!

As the battle continued to heat up, Vincent barely felt any satisfaction from the results he accomplished so far. He felt too detached from the action as his B-Man stayed behind and provided moderate fire support.

Sure, his efforts were not in vain. He managed to save numerous mechs from getting bitten or thrashed by the giant Phaser fish-whales. He was making a real difference in the battle, yet in his heart, he felt as if he was having it far too easy.

He glanced towards the Swordmaiden mechs that cleverly pounced on vulnerable and distracted Phaser fish-whales.

He took a deep look towards the center of the battlefield. His mentor and role model was the only mech pilot who had the guts to intervene in the titanic clash between two powerful king fishes!

Vincent looked on admiringly as the Bolvos Rage boldly hacked its heavy saber against the Phase King!

Patriarch Reginald could have adopted the same approach as Vincent and kept his expert hybrid mech at a distance, but the powerful expert pilot chose a different path, one that emphasized maximum aggression!

Not every hybrid mech pilot preferred to fight up close, but those who did so often turned into fearsome combatants!

Though the B-Man never stopped firing at targets of opportunity, Vincent's attention was no longer directed towards the battlefield.

He started to think about his approach towards fighting.

This was hardly the place and time for a mech pilot to become absentminded, but the Phaser fish-whales were far too busy to care about a single hybrid mech firing at them from a distance.

While it was difficult for human opponents to ignore the B-Man's muscular appearance and dazzling white-and-gold coating, the fish-whale race possessed completely different aesthetic tastes!



This granted Vincent enough room for him to do something extremely rare for someone with his air of confidence.

He began to reflect on himself.

"Is this how I should fight?"

His journey as a mech pilot was much more irregular than the majority of the clansmen serving in the mech legions.

The Larkinson Clan generally preferred to recruit younger talents or those with existing military backgrounds. Vincent managed to squeeze in with the help of Raella, but he knew in his heart that he would have never been able pass the requirements if he tried to follow the normal procedures.

Over time, the Larkinson Army constantly revised its recruiting standards upwards, causing the quality of mech pilots to constantly improve.

Vincent felt out of place with these soldiers. It was one of the many reasons why he did not join one of the mech legions and preferred to work in the clan's competitive scene.

In fact, once Vincent left his past life behind, he never wanted to step onto the battlefield again.

It was strange that the Larkinson Clan had a way of drawing him back to the battles which he grew tired of. He developed a strong sense of belonging and felt compelled to do his duty.

This was especially the case when he advanced to expert candidate!  
Freewebnovel.com!

Becoming an expert candidate completely changed his role in the Larkinson Clan. The old Vincent would have been able to get away with sitting on the sides. The new Vincent was expected to lend his strength for the good of the Larkinson Clan.

It was inexcusable for a powerful pilot and a potential expert pilot to continue fooling around in mech arenas!

"I miss those days." Vincent sighed.

He had lost his passion for the Larkinson Championship Series as soon as he reached a new level of strength. There was no way for him to fight a fair duel against any of the mech pilots that took part in this engaging hobby.

"Was that the point where I have fallen astray?"

When Vincent recalled what he had done since he became an expert candidate, he did not feel satisfied with how he spent his time.

"Old habits die hard."

He continued to fool around and never put in as many hours in training as the other expert candidates of his clan.

While notable pilots such as Isobel Kotin trained with the Quint to the point where she slept in its cockpit during marathon sessions, Vincent spent just as much time in the simulators as playing games or going out in Twilight City!

Thinking back on how he squandered his time, Vincent grew slightly remorseful.

"Spending more time on training doesn't necessarily make a huge difference, but it is better than wasting my time on distractions."

Expert candidates were still humans that had slightly exceeded human limitations. Vincent's ability to learn new piloting skills and improve his existing ones had skyrocketed, so he was not a bad mech pilot by any means!

"I still feel as if I'm missing something, though." Vincent frowned.

What was he fighting for? Why should he invest more time in training? Was it truly worthwhile for him to struggle so much in the hopes of reaching apotheosis?

His heart and mind fell in doubt.

An ordinary mech pilot or expert candidate would never question his motivations. Becoming an expert pilot was a dream to them. Whether they were third-raters or first-raters, every human that had taken up the piloting profession yearned to become one of the heroes and protagonists of this age!

Becoming an expert pilot wasn't even the ultimate endpoint for these ambitious mech pilots. They considered this stage to be their first step to attaining the rank of god pilot!

Vincent rarely if ever set his sights so far. How could a simple kid from a remote third-rate state possibly match the legendary feats of the few humans who had managed to make it to the top?

He would already be satisfied for life if he was able to become an expert pilot!

That had been his mindset for years. It wasn't until recently that he began to develop a hunger for more.

The first turning point was when he received the B-Man.

The B-Man was a much more impressive mech than the Adonis Colossus, but also preserved much of what he liked from his previous custom mech.

Even now, the mech had a way of pushing him to go further. If he piloted a more ordinary mech, he wouldn't have felt so uncomfortable for adopting his current approach to this battle.

The second turning point was getting in touch with Patriarch Reginald.

Previously, Vincent admired the older but much more powerful leader from afar.

As the patriarch of the Cross Clan and the son of an ace pilot, Reginald lived a much more impressive life!

Although his journey was filled with ups and downs, Vincent had watched enough action dramas to know that the main characters often succeeded in powering up after overcoming all of these challenges!

While Vincent liked to boast about himself, he never really thought of himself as a main character of a long-running story. There were much more qualified people in the Larkinson Clan that fit this role.

Ves, Ketis and Joshua were the most obvious choices. No one would ever think about putting Vincent's name on this list!

Normally, Vincent didn't have a problem with this. Standing out also meant taking responsibility, which he didn't like. He was quite comfortable with his current status in the Larkinson Clan. He was strong enough to receive preferential treatment but not exceptional enough to carry the hopes and dreams of his fellow clansmen.

"I am truly satisfied with continuing to live like this?"

Vincent seriously questioned whether he was making the best of his life and career.

When the expert candidate threw another glance towards the Bolvos Rage struggling to injure the formidable Phase King, he became inspired by his mentor's bravery and ambition.

Compared to a muddle-headed expert candidate like Vincent, Patriarch Reginald knew exactly what he wanted and what he needed to do to attain greater strength!

"How can I possibly compare to Patriarch Reginald?"

Vincent felt more inadequate than ever!