

The Mech 5371

Chapter 5371 The Power of Red Humanity

Every red human united as one today!

As Operation Night Jazz showcased the strength of red humanity's strongest combatants, a wave of confidence and optimism swept across human-occupied space!

As people began to feel as if they regained control over their own destiny, they began to dispel the fear and uncertainty that gripped society after the native aliens had brought them away from the Milky Way.

No matter what, the best and strongest soldiers of red humanity would always be able to lead them to victory!

The indomitable human spirit and the rich accumulation of knowledge of their original society still gave them a qualitative edge against their native alien adversaries!

Seeing how so many different god pilots demolish the ancient phase whales stationed at the Tide Stations confirmed that their human gods still remained unmatched against the leading powerhouses among the aliens!

"The Fist of Defiance is so strong!" Vincent Ricklin gushed as he sat next to the other expert pilots of the Warborn. "Punching the Phase King back then was nothing. A true man should have the guts to challenge a real phase whale! General, when will we be able to hunt one of them down?!"

The commanding officer of the Warborn Mech Division looked perplexed as he stood behind his subordinates. "Phase whales are solitary and reclusive by nature. Most of them are content to hide inside their private enclaves for the majority of their lifespans. It is nearly impossible to seek them out. The intelligence sources that I have access to have yet to track down a single phase whale."

"Oh, come on, General Ark. Back when we ran with Ves and the expeditionary fleet, we stumbled into plenty of phase whales! We just had to enter a random star system and we would fall into a hidden pocket space more often than not. There are definitely more of them hiding somewhere in the Krakatoa and Torald Middle Zones."

"Even if that is true, Vincent, if they are so easy to find, then all of the pioneers would have stumbled upon them a long time ago. We are not equipped to track any of these phase whales down. We will stick to our original mission and continue our preparations to fight the secondary alien fleets that are continuing to slip through the cracks."

The discussion soon turned in another direction. As the expert pilots eagerly gushed about their favorite god pilots, Venerable Rosa Orfan asked a question to Ark.

"What do you think about the Army of One, Ark? Do you dream of piloting a god mech like the Auto-Coordinator one day?"

General Ark shook his head. "My approach is different from the Army of One. He is a part of the strongest organization of our society. He has a virtually unlimited amount of access and resources at his disposal. Do you think that Ves can design a mech for me that not only comes with its own pocket space, but also an entire manufacturing complex that can produce all of the battle bots that I will need? Besides, I cannot effectively control or leverage them anyway."

He knew his own strengths well. He thrived when he received the trust of his subordinates. A troop of battle bots were nothing but soulless machines that did not care whether he pledged to do right by them or not. It was also not his style for him to remain in the rear while letting his subordinates do all of the work.

"What about you, Rosa? Has the Huntsman inspired you to take up spear throwing?"

Venerable Orfan snorted. "The Huntsman surely knows what he is doing, but who is profligate enough to throw out so many good spears? If I had a weapon that is only a fraction as good as his, my Riot would cling to it as if it is the greatest treasure that we have ever laid our eyes upon! I have no desire to roleplay as an ancient hunter-gatherer. Spears are for stabbing as far as I am concerned."

Her words sounded contemptuous, but her tone could not help but betray a hint of yearning and envy.

If she possessed the spear-throwing power of the Huntsman, she could easily cripple and debilitate any formidable opponent she came across in the beginning!

As the Third Armada continued its assault on the forces tasked with defending the Seventeenth Tide Station, the duo comprised of the Army of One and the Huntsman easily dominated the sister whales from beginning to end!

Even though the formidable ancient phase whales still managed to destroy dozens of battle bots with their strongest spatial attacks, they wasted a lot of energy to overcome the large amount of space suppressors active on the battlefield!

Combined with the fact that the battle bots had become many times more difficult to destroy due to the Army of One's God Kingdom and willpower reinforcement, the actions of the two ancient phase whales failed to affect the human gods in any significant fashion!

With the Auto-Coordinator continuing to send out more battle bots as soon as the whales tore apart his existing ones, the god mech clearly demonstrated its dominance in the field!

"NO ONE CAN OVERCOME MY ARMY."

The Army of One managed to contain the powerful alien leaders so well that the Huntsman experienced very little hindrances in his attempts to bleed his prey!

His Heartpiercer leisurely circled around the whales who found themselves unable to break the encirclement of the Army of One's battle bots.

As trapped and helpless as the two alien leaders may seem, neither god pilot forgot that their current adversaries sat at the top of the native food chain.

They needed to be dealt with as soon as possible in order to control for all of the variables!

This was why the Huntsman acted in a deliberate fashion. Against enormous thick-fleshed prey like these whales, he had to weaken them step-by-step.

This was why all of his spear throws so far pricked his targets all across their body.

If he concentrated his attacks, he would definitely be able to pierce through the layers of flesh and puncture a few phasewater organs, but doing so would make his prey go crazy!

The Huntsman constantly monitored his prey's mood and conditions. As a highly experienced and knowledgeable hunter, he could easily grasp the psychology of his alien adversaries.

The empowered spears did not hit any vitals, but were always positioned to bleed out a large amount of phasewater-saturated blood in different parts of their bodies.

Due to the immense size and humongous amount of blood contained within their bodies, the ancient phase whales did not show too much concern at these bleeding wounds.

It was only after the Huntsman had punctured their bodies with over a dozen spears each that they finally realized that their strength was sapping away at a worrying rate!

The loss of godblood directly weakened their ability to leverage their spatial abilities.

After all, even if their phasewater organs were responsible for most of the work, the support of all of the other phasewater in their bodies acted as an amplifier to all of the abilities they performed.

The less phasewater in their bodies, the less able they were able to overcome the space suppression field!

What was even worse was that the spears also began to compromise their physical strength!

The Heartpiercer initially threw its spears at the thickest and least important sections of their bodies.

It was only later on that the god mech strategically threw his spears at body sections that contained a lot of important muscles!

The two ancient phase whales found it difficult to rotate their bodies and use their physical motions to fight against their adversaries. The torn muscles combined with the continued hindrances of the buried spears had weakened their options to such an extent that they lost the strength to make an escape!

"SOON, I SHALL EAT YOUR HEART."

The Third Armada ultimately won the smoothest victory of all. No matter how much the two sisters tried to combine their forces, the constant bleeding had weakened them to the point where their joint abilities could no longer destroy a single battle bot!

As for using their titanic bodies to fight in a more primitive fashion, neither of them were able to catch up to the god mechs when they were in a better state.

Now that their bodies became riddled with spears, their ability to do so had plummeted!

The Army of One and the Huntsman would have been idiots if they allowed themselves to get close enough for the two ancient phase whales to launch a counterattack!

In desperation, the two ancient phase whales attempted to split up in an attempt to give either of them a chance to escape.

It was painful for these life-long alien sisters to abandon each other in what may be their final moments, but the need to preserve at least one of them trumped every other priority!

Their desperate act was futile.

Once the two ancient phase whales split up from each other, the Huntsman alone was able to suppress one of them by himself well enough!

Even though he did not have the ridiculous amount of battle bots to assist with his efforts, the Doom of Xenos and the Reign of Frost helpfully flew closer to assist in his endeavors!

"Allow us to intercede, Your Holiness."

The Huntsman did not object to others joining on his hunt. This was a battle that directly affected the destiny of red humanity. He could not afford to make a mistake and let this vengeful ancient phase whale get away!

Although it was risky for the dreadnoughts to approach an ancient phase whale that still retained a bit of combat strength, this was the most favorable opportunity for the Red Fleet to test the might of its dreadnoughts against an opponent of this caliber!

The two powerful capital ships already strengthened the space suppression effect acting on the bleeding whale, causing her to slow down and weaken even further!

The Reign of Frost compounded on her weakness by peppering the wounded whale with barrage after barrage of ice shells!

Unfortunately, their effect appeared to be minimal at best. The extremely resilient hide and thick flesh of the ancient phase whales happened to be especially resistant against cold attacks!

Much of it had to do with the sheer quantity of biomatter of the phase whale. There was so much energy and heat locked within the moon-sized body that the Reign of Frost could exhaust all of her shells and only freeze the tail section at most!

It was clear that the Reign of Frost was not suited to fight against supermassive opponents.

The Doom of Xenos was the opposite in this regard. She patiently charged her spinal cannon until it had reached its maximum charge before firing it at one of the bleeding wounds of the injured ancient phase whale!

A bright flash of light lit up the entire battlefield as a torrential energy beam struck the wound and burned its way into body of the massive victim!

By the time the Doom of Xenos finally expended her prodigious charge, the dreadnought's crew rejoiced when they saw that they had bore a considerable hole in the titanic fleshy mass!

Although the cost was great, the result was satisfying enough to make it worth the effort!

While it was clear that the ancient phase whale still had so much biomass that it would take dozens of full-powered spinal cannon attacks to defeat such a resilient opponent, the outcome at least gave the Red Fleet hope that they could do better next time!

By the time the god mechs and the dreadnoughts finished their jobs, the two ancient phase whales had finally perished without being able to launch any significant counterattacks!

Although it was a pity that the crew of the Seventeenth Tide Station had self-destructed this strategic fortification in order to deny this prize to the hateful humans, the Third Armada had won a clear victory today!

Chapter 5372 The Phoenix

The Third Armada may have won a clean victory without suffering any significant losses, but the outcome was not entirely ideal.

Capturing the aliens yielded much greater rewards than killing them outright.

Any ancient phase whale possessed a mountain of knowledge and secrets.

Red humanity may have gathered a lot of intelligence on their alien adversaries, but the mechers and fleeters had only been able to penetrate the lower and middle layers of the galactic alien community.

It was far harder for them to infiltrate the upper layers of this society and gain access to the true secrets being discussed at the top level!

The mechers and the fleeters had already suffered the consequences of failing to gather critical high-level intelligence.

If they managed to discover the Red Cabal's ploy to activate its Great Refuge Plan so soon, humanity would have been able to take actions to prevent humanity from getting split into two branches!

Even if the Red Cabal couldn't be stopped in time, humanity would have at least been able to make more adequate preparations by transferring over a large amount of resources, personnel and assets in the final days.

Red humanity wouldn't have been stuck in such an awkward position where they suffered a huge shortage in god pilots and warship hulls!

Given how many opportunities they missed due to failing to anticipate the Great Severing in advance, the Red Two needed to capture as many high-value leaders and assets as possible!

Unfortunately for the Third Armada, the sister whales did not give their human adversaries a chance.

The alien commanders left behind in the Seventeenth Tide Station acted decisively as well.

They did not hesitate to self-destruct all of the power generators and blow the entire Tide Station into so many different pieces that hardly anything useful could be salvaged!

Still, the results were not that bad. The Third Armada had managed to remove several powerful threats to red humanity and managed to tilt the war ever so slightly in its favor.

The Second Armada on the other hand wished they had it so easy.

In the assault on the Twenty-Fourth Tide Station, the Fist of Defiance and the First Flame found themselves being pushed to their limits as they continued to be outnumbered by the three ancient phase whales.

Even if these massive aliens were too unprepared and lacking in coordination, their combined power still exerted a lot of pressure onto the two god pilots!

As the Phoenix dove in and attempted to ignite the flesh of the youngest and weakest of the three whales, the powerful flames spread by the god mech slowly got torn apart by the spatial storms that scrambled the surrounding space.

There was no effective way for the First Flame to turn the environment in his favor!

The only way for the Phoenix to inflict more effective damage was to get more personal and resort to stronger attacks!

Seeing that there was no more way for the god pilot to gain the upper hand by holding back, he had made the consequential decision to unveil a part of his true strength!

"IGNITION."

The temperature of his avian god mech increased at a terrifying rate. The flames that spread across its mech frame had already grown hot and powerful enough to burn any ace mech into a crisp, but the god mech easily endured the heat as if it was swimming in an ordinary hot pool!

The changes were not limited to a rise in temperature. The fire evoked by the god pilot contained a strong conceptual meaning as well.

The First Flame took his name from the myth of the first flame encountered by primitive humans.

When lightning struck a tree branch and set it on fire, the ignorant and savage humans grew awed and steadily began to learn its usefulness.

From this coincidental event, humanity began to make much greater strides as a tool-using race and learned how to harness the other forces of nature to grow ever stronger!

The First Flame had always wanted to embody this mythical flame.

As weak and ordinary as it may seem compared to many other types of flames in the cosmos, it had one special quality that caused the god pilot to appreciate it above anything else.

It was the flame that birthed the greatest civilization of the Milky Way!

Even as the Phoenix continued to immolate itself, its God Kingdom began to shrink and condense as if it had turned into a giant humanoid figure that was about to bestow the gift of fire to humanity.

Prometheus stole the fire and bestowed it to humanity!

For his magnificent gift, the mythical figure suffered eternal torment as a consequence!

Everyone who watched the live feed centered around the Second Armada couldn't help but feel drawn to the First Flame and his flaming Phoenix.

Even though the First Flame was fighting thousands of light-years away from most of red humanity, the observers somehow felt as if the god pilot was actually reaching out and resonating with their hearts.

So long as all of those people sincerely supported the First Flame and did not object to him in any way, they all felt as if they could fuel the fire and make him burn even hotter!

As an ever-growing proportion of human viewers wished the First Flame well, his god mech grew so hot that the space around him began to distort!

No spatial ability could affect the god mech at this point!

Every storm, every space tear and every gravity well simply burned apart as soon as they got close enough!

The three ancient phase whales started to get a headache about the god mech on fire.

The First Flame was clearly preparing a big move that would definitely make the lives of the alien leaders a lot more miserable!

However, when the god mech was burning so hot that his powerful flames faintly threatened to burn space itself, there was no way the whales could interrupt this mysterious process!

As for flying over and using their bodies to interrupt this process with physical force, none of the ancient phase whales wanted to get into close contact with the extraordinary flames!

As the primordial fire of human civilization continued to affect the Phoenix, the three alien leaders decided that it was better to turn towards the more vulnerable god mech instead.

The Fist of Defiance quietly cursed his peer even as he tried to evade the attacks launched by the three angry whales.

The First Flame could have given the Fist of Defiance a warning before he resorted to this course of action!

It wasn't even the best option as far as the Fist was concerned. He was more than capable of defeating the three ancient phases one by one so long as the First Flame continued to restrain their actions.

This was not a part of the original plan!

Fortunately, the Fist of Defiance was not entirely unaccustomed to this scenario.

The more he became oppressed, the more it ignited his fighting spirit!

This supreme fighting spirit manifested into a stronger God Kingdom and a greater amplification of the properties of the Invictus.

Even though the three ancient phase whales should have been able to gain a decisive advantage against a lone god pilot, the Fist of Defiance suddenly grew 30 to 50 percent stronger than before!

What was amazing was that this was far from his limit! If he did not hold the ancient phase whales in such contempt, they would have been able to ignite his fighting spirit even further!

All of this strength caused the originally confident ancient phase whales to question reality yet again during this battle.

"THREE-ON-ONE ODDS? NOT FAIR ENOUGH! COME ON, YOU WHALES! CALL OVER YOUR FRIENDS! I CAN FIGHT TEN OF YOU AT THE SAME TIME!"

The Invictus suddenly became the most handsome and magnificent god mech as it fearlessly approached the ancient phase whales and shrugged off all of their attacks!

The Fist of Defiance's God Kingdom turned into a giant energy manifestation of his god mech, allowing him to fight far above his weight class!

With seemingly endless fighting spirit fueling his exertions, the energy manifestation seemingly prepared to throw a punch at one of the whales, only to change his stance so that he could bodycheck his target!

The surprised ancient phase whale uncontrollably launched away from the heavy physical impact!

This not only enabled the Fist of Defiance to push one of his enemies away, but also allowed his Invictus to bounce off the massive whale's body and abruptly launch the god mech to an entirely different whale!

The younger and weaker whale clearly did not expect to become a target at this time. Though the alien leader hastily strengthened his spatial barrier and tried to warp out of the way, the energy manifestation of the Invictus had already closed the distance!

"EAT MY FIST!"

The giant energy manifestation landed a punch that easily broke through the spatial barrier and struck the head of its target!

Even though the massive skull and head bones of an ancient phase whale was among the hardest substances in the Red Ocean, the strong fighting spirit of the Fist of Defiance proved to be even stronger at this time!

Cracks occurred all across the affected bone structure as the powerful physical force delivered by the punch practically fractured half of the enormous skull!

The moon-sized alien experienced pain beyond any measure!

The normally dignified alien leader couldn't even form too many coherent thoughts as a portion of the incoming physical forces even affected his brain!

The Fist of Defiance did not let up after this. Even though the other ancient phase whales were already trying to converge upon him in an attempt to break his energy manifestation, the god pilot didn't care!

He smelled weakness and became determined to finish off his current opponent while the whale still remained vulnerable!

The energy manifestation began to launch punches in quick succession. The Invictus never seemed to tire as the god pilot was always able to summon more fighting spirit from the depths of his being.

Though the rapid flurry of punches did not deal any major damage, the repeated impacts compounded the fractured bones and prevented the injured whale from regenerating them in peace!

It was not until another ancient phase whale finally came close enough to bite the energy manifestation that the Invictus had been forced to move away.

While the Fist of Defiance was quite satisfied with the amount of damage he had inflicted, he knew that these giant whales could withstand far more damage.

How could he finish them off without giving any of these whales an opportunity to retreat and save their lives?

It was at this time that his fellow god pilot completed his transformation.

The First Flame had accumulated so much fire energy that all of the E energy around him had become dominated by this singular element!

As the Phoenix became engulfed in the fire that embodied the destiny of the human race, the god mech reached a tipping point that caused it to undergo a radical transformation!

Everything made of metal and solid matter seemed to disintegrate and convert into flames held together by sheer willpower!

In just the span of a few seconds, the god mech had actually elementalized, converting the entirety of its material frame into pure fire energy!

The legendary first-generation god pilot managed to turn into an actual mythical Phoenix, gaining untold power and mastery over the power of fire!

The Phoenix uttered a triumphant cry that resonated with the entirety of red humanity!

"KREEEEEEEEEEE!"

The mythical creature finally beheld the three ancient phase whales with burning eyes that expressed clear hatred and contempt at these alien leaders.

Before the whales could take any countermeasures against this transformed adversary, the Phoenix flew forward with fiery momentum, leaving an inextinguishable trail of fire!

Though the ancient phase whales tried to put several barriers in the way of this calamitous presence, the Phoenix burned through all of them without slowing down in the slightest!

Instead of targeting the skull-bashed whale that had just received a whalloping from the Fist of Defiance, the Phoenix instead targeted the old recluse that happened to be the strongest among the three!

The elementalized god mech easily burned through the final barriers in its way and crashed into the flank of the whale.

This time, the Phoenix's flames proved to be too powerful to extinguish!

Not only that, they burned so hot that the resilient flesh easily burned despite all of their reinforcement!

Even the phasewater that was locked inside the biomass began to evaporate at a rapid rate before they could produce any useful effects!

The old phase whale experienced pain beyond any measure as the Phoenix took maximum advantage of its incorporeal form and easily penetrated the deepest part of his body!

All of his crucial phasewater organs began to burn in rapid tempo, causing the moon-sized whale body to develop a lethally hot core for the first time!

There was nothing the ancient phase whales could do to stop all of this from happening!

By the time Phoenix finally emerged from the body of his victim, the old phase whale's body had become completely burned from the inside.

Even now, his exterior flesh had begun to carbonize as the flames continued to spread across the rest of his body.

The whale was dead!

The Phoenix only took a little over a minute to barbecue one of the most respected gods of the native aliens!

"KREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!"

Chapter 5373 MIEW!

None of the ancient phase whales were pushovers.

That became clear by seeing how much damage they could take and how much effort it took for the god mechs to threaten their lives.

Only two god pilots had displayed the capacity to inflict catastrophic damage to these resilient alien gods.

Few people were surprised by the capacity that the Destroyer of Worlds displayed.

As the god pilot famed for possessing the highest direct attack power, it would be a travesty if she could not cripple an ancient phase whale after launching a single full-powered artillery strike.

However, many viewers reacted with considerable surprise at how the First Flame absolutely dominated his opponents!

After he elementalized his Phoenix, he went on an absolute rampage!

Burning a single alien god was not enough.

The Phoenix had become enraged, and only after burning all of the enemies down would he be able to vent his fury!

The First Flame fully gave in to his heated desires and proceeded to dive into another ancient phase whale!

The poor alien leader offered even less resistance than his elder.

The ancient phase whale could do little but experience the pain of feeling his entire body becoming engulfed in flames!

From his deepest phasewater organs to his exterior flesh, the transcendent fires spread by the raging Phoenix left nothing untouched. Even his bones started to blacken as the flames refused to admit defeat against this hardy material!

Just as the Phoenix finished off his second victim, the Fist of Defiance hastily crushed the brains and pulverized a number of phasewater organs of the whale that he had already managed to injure before.

The Fist of Defiance had been forced to finish off the only remaining whale in haste to prevent his older colleague from turning this massive alien into a completely dry and blackened husk!

"CALM DOWN, MY FRIEND. YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH. THIS CARCASS IS MUCH MORE VALUABLE TO US IF ALL OF ITS FLESH AND PHASEWATER HAVE YET TO BE TORCHED IN FLAMES."

Each and every phase whale body was filled with treasures!

Leaving aside all of the valuable information they could bring, the amount of phasewater contained within their bodies and veins was absolutely astronomical!

Once Operation Night Jazz came to an end, the Red Two should not suffer from an acute shortage of phasewater for a long time!

The phasewater organs were also valuable in several ways. They could be transplanted into biomechs or installed into cyborg mechs.

The most valuable phasewater production system of an ancient phase whale held even greater promise! The power of the ancient phase whale would no longer remain exclusive to this race!

As such, it was actually an enormous waste for the First Flame to burn the crucial phasewater organs of those other two whales!

The Fist of Defiance did not blame his comrade, though.

The powerful alien leaders could not be allowed to escape and fight against red humanity on another day!

Therefore, killing the two ancient phase whales was still a much better outcome than holding back and giving either of them a chance to escape!

Fortunately, the Second Armada managed to make other accomplishments.

While the Fist of Defiance and the First Flame occupied the attention of the most powerful alien combatants, the forces under the lead of the two dreadnoughts continued to press the remaining alien defenders.

As soon as the Dominion of Man managed to get close enough, her Spark Reactor pumped as much energy into her Spatial Transfer System as possible.

Numerous hidden human infiltrators had already managed to sneak aboard the Twenty-Fourth Tide Station.

They never had the guts to do this before, but the departure of all of the phase whales and phase lords gave them a chance to sneak onto the station and deploy secretive teleportation beacons at various locations!

Now, these hidden beacons suddenly became active, emitting a lot of energy and signals that the alien space station must have certainly noticed.

It didn't matter however because tens of thousands of Dread Marines supported by hundreds of crawler bots and other heavy hardware suddenly teleported over!

Although the quantity did not sound like much given how large and expansive the Tide Stations were, the aliens obviously did not expect so much company to have bypassed all of their defensive lines at once!

With the Dominion of Man steadily teleporting subsequent waves of boarding troops across so much interference and suppression, the Dread Marines boldly spread out from their initial positions and quickly advanced to the key positions of the space station.

Their superior tech and far greater psychological preparation easily gave the Dread Marines a decisive advantage against the station defenders!

Even if the Dread Marines weren't always able to prevent the alien crew from sabotaging or destroying valuable station systems, they still managed to keep enough of the Tide Station intact to extract a huge amount of valuable intelligence and precious resources!

The Second Armada more than made up for the wasted opportunity to harvest two sets of top-quality phase whale organs with this successful capture!

It was a pity that the Twenty-Fourth Tide Station was the only one to fall into the hands of red humanity.

The aliens stationed in the other three Tide Stations under attack had plenty of time to deny the invading humans a chance to capture them intact!

"MIIIIEEEEWW!"

The two Rubarthan god pilots assigned to the Fourth Armada performed so well against their adversaries that they received the strong admiration and support of the citizens of the Rubarthan Pact!

Trillions of Rubarthan citizens fanatically cheered their two powerful god pilots on as they continually widened the gap between themselves and their two native alien adversaries!

The Deep Swimmer did not even have any chance to live up to her alien name.

The Destroyer of Worlds mercilessly struck her titanic body with two full-powered strikes from her Ragnarok.

The destructive power that could explode entire planets did not quite cause the Deep Swimmer to blow up all at once, but the actual results were not that much better for the poor ancient phase whale.

The first devastating explosion ruptured a third of her body!

Though the Deep Swimmer still retained enough intact flesh and organs to retain a measure of combat power, the second devastation explosion crippled her to the point where hardly intact flesh clung to her bones at this time!

As the Destroyer of Worlds steadily prepared for a final strike to finish off this powerful adversary, the Spacelock was experiencing more and more difficulties in containing the other whale.

"FORGET ABOUT THE DEEP SWIMMER. I NEED YOUR HELP IN SUPPRESSING THE TIDE CALLER. HIS POWER IS CONTINUING TO ESCALATE!"

As if to emphasize the male god pilot's words, the progressively stronger space ripples generated by the Tide Caller had already begun to interact with other native alien elements!

As the spatial ripples touched the many intact phasefighters, warships and defensive installations that remained intact, they harmonized with the phasewater contained within the varied objects.

Soon, all of these combat assets began to produce their own spatial ripples that happened to sync up precisely with the Tide Caller's current activity!

If that was not amazing enough, the Tide Caller managed to produce an even stronger response from two different critical elements.

The heavily injured body of the Deep Swimmer and the Sixth Tide Station contained much more phasewater than anything else aside from the Tide Caller's own body.

The spatial ripples they produced happened to be extremely strong!

The Deep Swimmer's eyes released tears of phasewater as she tried her best to cooperate with the other ancient phase whale's gambit.

As for the Sixth Tide Station, it had originally been designed and built to complement the Tide Caller!

No other ancient phase whale was able to leverage the Tide Stations better than their main creator!

Whatever the Tide Caller was doing, he could not be allowed to complete his action!

The Destroyer of Worlds partially regretted her decision to target the Deep Swimmer first.

She chose to attack the weaker of the two ancient phase whales because it was the fastest way to remove a hostile variable from the equation.

The Deep Swimmer's powerful mobility also gave her a better chance to escape or attack her Ragnarok at close range.

While the Destroyer of Worlds was happy that she managed to cripple the Deep Swimmer in a short amount of time, her act gave the Tide Caller enough time to power up his spatial tides!

"CAN YOU STOP THIS, SPACELOCK?"

"IF I COULD HAVE, I WOULD HAVE ALREADY DONE SO! THE TIDE CALLER IS OVERPOWERING MY SPACE SUPPRESSION FIELD SOMEHOW!"

The Red Two already knew that the Tide Caller was among the strongest and most eldest among the ancient phase whales.

This was why the Red Two expressly assigned the Spacelock and the Destroyer of Worlds to the Fourth Armada.

The two god pilots had been tasked with preventing the Tide Caller from escaping so that they could kill him outright!

Neither the mechers nor the fleeters insisted on ensuring the capture of this powerful alien leader because the risks of failure were too great.

That was also another reason why the Destroyer of Worlds focused her firepower on the Deep Swimmer first. The female whale had the ability to bring others into a different dimension as well!

The Destroyer of Worlds gained a greater sense of urgency. Her large and heavy mech began to fly forward and move closer to the Tide Caller so that its space suppressor could exert a better effect up close.

While the Ragnarok quickly closed the distance, its sizable mech frame began to deploy other cannons that were smaller but much faster firing than her main cannon!

Eight different secondary cannons began to pepper the Tide Caller with explosions!

The Spacelock may have been unable to suppress the powerful whale's spatial tides, but he was still able to suppress the spatial barrier, which meant that all of the shelling directly impacted alien flesh!

A continuous barrage of soundless explosions tore into the Tide Caller's flank and began to deepen the craters.

Even though the damage was mostly contained to the surface for the time being, it was easy to see that the Ragnarok would soon be able to dig a channel to the insides of the massive whale!

At times, one of the shells glowed a lot brighter.

Blessed by Emma's presence, these specially prepared shells exploded with far greater fury and caused the Tide Caller to suffer much more material damage!

However, none of these attacks managed to stop the Tide Caller from generating progressively stronger spatial ripples.

The space around the whale began to destabilize so much that the Spacelock had to focus all of his power into counteracting this effect!

He was in no position to launch any further attacks as any diversion of power would cause the Tide Caller to grow even stronger!

"HURRY UP!"

"I AM HERE."

As the Ragnarok continued to accelerate forward, the god mech showed no signs of slowing down.

Instead, the god mech accelerated even harder to the point where it no longer bothered to launch any further attacks!

The Ragnarok strangely retracted all of its formidable artillery cannons, including its sole main gun that possessed the power to destroy planets!

Instead, the Destroyer of Worlds focused her willpower in a different capacity. Her God Kingdom began to converge and concentrate.

It soon began to morph into a much larger and much more powerful version of Emma!

The proud and powerful cat that looked like the animalization of an eternal explosion exuded so much destructure power that even the Tide Caller grew intimidated by the sight!

Now that Emma had manifested around the Ragnarok, the god mech seemed to receive a powerful impulse that brought it onto a collision course with the Tide Caller!

It turned out that the Destroyer of Worlds had turned her own god mech into a projectile!

The Tide Caller became so fearful of the Ragnarok's destructive momentum that he altered his actions at the last second and began to produce a powerful spatial tide that agglomerated the power from many different contributing sources!

The unexpectedly strong spatial tide crashed against the Ragnarok, but the gigantic energy manifestation of Emma bit down and tore it in half, creating a channel for the god mech to go through!

The giant god cat seemed to slip into the body of the Tide Caller before she unleashed all of her explosive might at once!

"MIIIIIIEEEEEEEEWWW!"

The enormous body of the Tide Caller suffered a world-sundering explosion!

Chapter 5374 Rich Yields

Red humanity had won a great victory today!

Four different battles ended in four decisive victories. The Red Two's formidable strike forces managed to execute their well-prepared battle plans without encountering too many accidents!

Everyone who watched the four simultaneous live streams rejoiced at the domineering performance of the four armadas.

Many cities and states had spontaneously announced holidays so that their people could take the day off and celebrate this great pushback against alien aggression!

The First Armada had accomplished the greatest feat of all. Despite failing to secure the Tenth Tide Station before the aliens blew it up, the only organic god mech in the Red Ocean arguably committed the most shocking action imaginable.

The Geneforger successfully merged with the body of the Singularity Lord!

A god mech that was so small that it could barely be seen if it rested on the surface of the moon-sized phase whale had actually swallowed one of the largest organisms in the dwarf galaxy!

Such a feat was impossible to accomplish through any other means available to the Red Two. The bodies of ancient phase whales were highly evolved. Each part of their body tissue had been perfected to a degree where they could virtually last forever.

Perhaps it might be possible for a top team of scientists led by a Star Designer to accomplish a similar result, but it would definitely turn into a grand project that could possibly take years or decades of careful research in order to produce a satisfying result.

The right god pilot could skip over all of that complicated stuff and directly subvert the flesh of another ascended being by overwriting reality!

Unfortunately, the Singularity Lord's body sustained heavy damage over the course of the takeover.

When it became clear that the Geneforger sought to deliver the ultimate humiliation to the phase whale race by taking over the body of one of the eldest of native gods, the Space Tearer had gone crazy!

Although the Light of Sol did his best to hold the younger whale back, the Space Tearer had given up on trying to escape.

The phase whales could afford to be defeated, but what they could not accept was for the invading humans to get away with stealing such a precious body!

This was why the Space Tearer charged towards the sickened body of the Singularity Lord and began to bite into the compromised flesh with no abandon!

The Light of Sol did his best to stop this maddened rampage by resorting to more powerful attacks, but by the time the Space Tearer collapsed under all of the attacks, the Singularity Lord sustained serious damage!

A quarter of the older phase whale's flesh had been torn away. Numerous phasewater organs had been crushed to the point where they were unrecoverable.

Fortunately, an ancient phase whale contained way more biomass than that. The Geneforger still had plenty of intact alien body tissue left to pose as an ancient phase whale. It was not impossible for the god mech to regenerate or substitute the missing organic parts.

So long as the Geneforger and its assimilated biomass safely returned to human-occupied space without getting intercepted by rapid phase whales, the Evolution Witch had plenty of ways to make massive contributions to red humanity!

From extracting lots of intelligence about the native aliens from the brain to mapping out the complete power system of the phase whale race, lots of intelligence analysts and biotech researchers would do anything to get involved in the projects centered around studying the hijacked body!

Even Ves wanted to take a look at the body as well!

"It is not that easy, Phase King." He whispered in the air. "The Red Two put a lot of effort and lost a lot of expensive assets in their attempts to pull off this joint operation. The body of the Singularity Lord is one of their greatest rewards, and they will try to keep all of the good stuff for themselves. It is not easy for an uninvolved mech designer like me to gain permission to participate in one of the many confidential research projects."

Space started to wobble above his head.

Ves let out a tired breath. "The difference is in the word 'honorary'. I am not entirely an insider to the Red Association. I am someone who they brought in from the outside. I have already been making various moves that signal my intent to keep my distance from the mechers. Actions have consequences, and I am sure that they have plenty of trusted insiders of their own that can facilitate their research a lot better."

He clearly recognized that it was not his turn to examine the body of the Singularity Lord.

Perhaps he might be able to gain access if he traded another major contribution for this privilege, but Ves did not have much left to trade at this point.

Compared to the First Armada, the Second Armada did not yield as much as recovering ancient phase whale bodies were concerned.

The First Flame may have raised the confidence of red humanity by single-handedly burning two ancient phase whales with his overpowering Phoenix flames, but only carbonized remains were left of the enormous carcasses!

Even the remaining ancient phase whale that got beat up by the Fist of Defiance was hardly in a good shape. It took a lot of heavy punches to subdue the native god, and many of the alien's phasewater organs got ruptured or pulverized in the process.

The only saving grace of the Second Armada was that the Dread Marines dispatched by the Dominion of Man had captured the Twenty-Fourth Tide Station mostly intact!

Although it was impossible to maintain possession of the massive alien space station for long, the army of experts dispatched by the Red Two managed to extract a huge amount of intelligence and tech from the captured installation.

The Third Armada arguably attained the most boring and predictable results.

The joint forces had little chance to capture the Seventeenth Tide Station before the aliens blew it up, but there was little hope of doing so in the first place.

What was much more interesting was that the Army of One and the Huntsman managed to fell the sister whales without accident from beginning to end.

With the Army of One working to contain the sibling ancient phase whales, the Huntsman had been able to weaken them to such an extent that he was able to deliver the killer blows with ease.

The only downside of this steady approach was that the condition of the phase whale carcasses were not ideal. All of the spears thrown into their bodies had spilled entire oceans of phasewater into space.

Even if the special properties of phasewater made it so that the Red Two could still recover the precious fluids after it had drifted off into space, the losses were still massive!

The Huntsman had also been forced to drive his spears into key phasewater organs in order to kill the two ancient phase whales as cleanly as possible.

Each destroyed organ represented the loss of another top-quality organic treasure that was valuable enough to be installed on god mechs!

As for the Fourth Armada, only destruction was left by the time the joint forces had swept the star system that hosted the Sixth Tide Station.

The Rubarthan god pilots hadn't been able to preserve much at all by the time they had defeated their powerful adversaries.

The Red Two knew what they had been doing when they dispatched the Destroyer of Worlds to this key location. The mechers and the fleeters never really held much hope that the powerful god pilot would leave much intact.

The only goals that mattered was to kill the Tide Caller and destroy the Sixth Tide Station!

The Rubarthan god pilots did not disappoint in this endeavor. The only complication that generated a bit of concern was that an odd event occurred at the end.

When the Ragnarok had turned itself into an artillery projectile and boldly inserted itself in the body of the Tide Caller before unleashing a massive explosion, the mastermind behind the Great Severing unquestionably died!

The powerful alien leader's body had been subjected to an explosion that was stronger and fiercer than anything the Deep Swimmer had suffered!

As countless torn and scorched pieces of flesh and bone blasted out in all directions, it became clear that the Destroyer of Worlds truly did not put any effort into preserving a significant piece of the Tide Caller's body.

The Ragnarok emerged from the center of this titanic explosion with a mech frame that looked like it did not come out of this explosion unscathed.

Fortunately, the damage was well within the god mech's tolerance. It had already begun to regenerate its torn and missing armor plating while the giant energy manifestation of Emma disappeared.

Even though the two most powerful alien threats had been eliminated, the Rubarthan god pilots did not relax right away.

The reason why these powerful human gods were still on edge was because the Sixth Tide Station still continued to produce progressively stronger spatial tides!

This had clearly alarmed the forces of the Red Two. The Tide Caller had already died, but his work continued to produce powerful spatial waves that induced every other alien asset to pulse in sync! The Fourth Armada did not understand what was happening at all, but it was not difficult to guess that it was undoubtedly detrimental to red humanity!

The Destroyer of Worlds eventually received an instruction from the fleet commander.

"We are unable to take control of the Sixth Tide Station in a short amount of time. Our only choice is to eliminate it. Destroy it as soon as possible."

"WITH PLEASURE."

Even though the surviving aliens still put up a lot of defenses, they were no match against a god mech!

The Destroyer of Worlds launched an artillery strike that punched through every obstacle in the way before blowing up the Sixth Tide Station in its totality!

The spread of spatial tides finally ceased. Though most people felt relieved and thought that they had stopped the Tide Caller from having the last laugh, neither of the two god pilots felt that the situation was quite right.

"THE SIXTH TIDE STATION REMAINED ACTIVE LONG ENOUGH TO PRODUCE A CERTAIN OUTCOME." The Spacelock noted.

"WHATEVER IT IS, THE THREAT IS NOT ACUTE." The Destroyer of Worlds judged.

They did not let their concerns spoil their moods. Regardless of what happened at the end, the Tide Caller was dead, which meant that the Red Cabal had suffered a heavy blow!

Combined with eliminating 4 out of 27 Tide Stations, it became extremely unlikely that the native aliens could produce an outcome similar to the Great Severing anymore!

The consequences of these daring raids were certainly serious, but what mattered was that red humanity finally managed to gain a semblance of real control over the dwarf galaxy!

No longer would people have to worry that the Tide Stations would sunder their planets or bring them to an even weirder place in the cosmos!

If the Red Cabal wanted to eliminate the humans that were trapped in the Red Ocean, then the native aliens had to do it the old-fashioned way.

The Age of Dawn had already been announced numerous months before, but it was only now that many people felt that they had truly entered the new age!

Shortly after the conclusion of the four battles, many people started to direct more attention to all of the amazing tech and wonderful new solutions demonstrated by the joint forces.

The incredible power displayed by the god mechs was too unattainable to most people, but the varied hyper technology utilized by the dreadnoughts were much more accessible!

Many people wanted to know more about the various new technology systems they had witnessed today. From the resilient azure energy shields to the exotic hyper ice cannons, each of this new generation tech had the potential to boost the combat power of a lot of forces!

Chapter 5375 The Hyper Generation

After the live feeds of the four battlefields finally shut down, the main broadcast returned to the podium where the leading figures of the Red Two became visible once again.

Fleet Admiral Stanley Argile and the Lord of Thermodynamics both looked proud.

It had been risky to broadcast the four battles as they unfolded in real time, but their gamble paid off handsomely!

They managed to showcase their power and remind everyone why the mechers and the fleeters maintained their hegemony over human society!

Ves and many other people leaned forward in order to hear what the two leaders had to say next.

"As each of you have witnessed moments before, we have developed and implemented many revolutionary technology advancements." The old Star Designer spoke first. "These changes are primarily brought by the radical changes in our environment. Constant exposure to E energy radiation has led to the formation of many new hyper materials. Many of them are still too fragile to incorporate into any combat platform, but rarer varieties have already begun to emerge that can be utilized to produce a qualitative leap in the performance of all of our mechs as well as warships."

Half a dozen projections appeared above his head that showcased select pieces of footage.

Each of them played back footage of the first-class multipurpose mechs and the warships that participated in the operation.

The dreadnoughts attracted the most attention because their use of hyper technology was by far the strongest!

While it was impossible for most people to ever become qualified to have so much power at their disposal, they could still dream.

The Lord of Thermodynamics smiled as if he could sense the collective yearning and aspirations of red humanity.

"Our goal in developing these new technologies is not to withhold them from you, but share them with you. We hope that you can make use of our new technological innovations and standards to resist the aliens at a much greater degree of effectiveness than before. As of this moment, the Phasewater Generation has come to an end so that the Hyper Generation can take its place!"

The Hyper Generation!

Ves and his wife both shared meaningful glances with each other. They already predicted this months in advance.

The Lord of Thermodynamics began to explain the central technologies and other changes that would characterize the upcoming decades.

"Phasewater technology has not become irrelevant with the passing of the mech generation that has introduced it to the masses. Superdrives, minidrives, transphasic energy shields and transphasic weapon systems will continue to hold value, especially when they can all be combined with hyper technology."

The synergies between the two could be great, as evidenced by the seemingly magical performance of the azure energy shields.

"However, the common demand for phasewater to produce these technological applications has limited their availability too much. This is why we welcome the arrival of new tech. Unlike phasewater technology, hyper technology is not dependent on the supply of a single rare and expensive material. The new technological branch encompasses a wide variety of applications, each of which can be better served by using different hyper materials. It may be costly to obtain the more high-end variants of hyper materials, but there will be such an abundant supply of lower-end alternatives that every citizen should be able to afford a product that is derived from hyper technology."

This was the charm of hyper technology!

People across human space identified so many different hyper materials in many different places that their diversity started to match that of exotic materials!

Even if the majority of those hyper materials were not that impressive, they still provided third-rate states as well as the poorer second-rate states plenty of ways to strengthen their own forces!

The Lord of Thermodynamics briefly explained the key tech that the Red Association intended to share with the public.

"During the previous battles, we have displayed many impactful technologies, of which there are three that form the foundation of the Hyper Generation. Defense is important to all of us, so let me briefly introduce the basic principles of azure energy shield technology."

The Star Designer kept his explanation as basic and truncated as possible in order to prevent laymen from getting lost.

This was not enough for mech designers and other engineers to get started with this new tech, but there was no reason for them to show any impatience.

Mech designers such as Ves and Gloriana already knew that they could access much more technical explanations and specifications by visiting the Red Association's information portal.

"I knew it." Ves said. "I knew that azure energy shields were related to the water element."

The Star Designer clearly explained that the Red Two developed a variation of a transphasic energy shield that somehow enhanced their properties with water hyper materials.

While it was unclear how water hyper materials affected a transphasic energy shield, the results were clear to see in reality!

"We understand that not everyone has access to enough phasewater to produce an azure energy shield generator. We have therefore decided to publish more generic versions of hyper energy shield technologies. They are vastly more economical and are not dependent on the supply of phasewater. Different attributes of hyper materials can produce substantially different effects. A fire hyper material can increase an energy shield's resistance against fire, heat and other associated phenomena. If hyper energy shields are not enough for you, then you may be able to meet your needs with hyper armor systems."

The Lord of Thermodynamics briefly highlighted a couple of interesting and creative examples of hyper armor systems.

For example, reinforcing metal armor with metal-attributed hypers made it even tougher and more resilient than before! This was probably the most standard and effective combination for general purposes.

Those who wanted to leverage their armor systems in a different fashion could try to make use of other attributes as well as combinations of attributes.

The Star Designer briefly touched on playing with combinations of different hyper materials.

"The use of hyper materials that are characterized by only a single attribute can already produce adequate or even excellent results. Azure energy shields are much stronger than any other variation of shield technology because water hyper materials happen to produce fantastic synergies with phasewater. However, you can produce a much greater variety of effects if you combine two or more attributes. The threshold of success is much higher, but those who persist in this research will be rewarded by developing more unusual effects to alter the performance of our existing technologies."

This was an area that Ves had yet to explore in a serious fashion. He had already experimented with it a bit, so he knew that it was absolutely not simple to find a successful combination of different hyper materials!

"Attributes of hyper materials have inherent reinforcing, neutral or conflicting relationships with each other." The old man continued. "We have already formed an extensive database that lists all known interactions that we have discovered to this day. We welcome your input and will reward you if you register a new interaction that we have yet to record."

A very meaningful diagram came into view.

Ves grew a lot more serious.

His mother had shown this diagram to Veronica before when she taught basic cultivation science!

The theoretical model also featured prominently in several of the enlightenment fruits that he had eaten as of late!

"Our universe works in ways that may sound archaic to you, but our research has confirmed the veracity of this model. The five elements of fire, water, wood, earth and metal are foundational attributes that can produce many powerful effects if combined correctly. Wood can promote the effects of fire for example, which is a synergistic effect that can possibly increase the firepower of laser weapon systems, as strange as it may sound. However, take care not to counteract the effect of one hyper material with another one. Earth absorbs water for example. Clever use of this anti-synergistic relationship can allow you to form effective countermeasures."

This subject matter was huge, but Ves did not pay too much attention to that. He was already familiar with the basic theories on the five elements.

What Ves found astonishing was that the Star Designer was willing to present this loaded subject in one of his most important announcements!

It seemed as if the Red Two gradually declassified the secrets that humanity tried to withhold from the public for a long time.

Were the mechers and the fleeters preparing to reveal the existence of the Five Scrolls Compact one day?

This was a massive change in policy and one that was bound to produce a lot of ripple effects!

After the Lord of Thermodynamics touched upon attribute combinations, he went back to introducing a slate of other tech.

The introduction of most offensive and defensive hyper technologies did not introduce any revolutionary concepts to Ves and Gloriana.

They had already been dabbling in this area and even produced a few successful technological advances.

Of course, their private research results were nowhere near as comprehensive, systematic, complete and effective as the work of the Red Association!

It was therefore good that the mechers intended to share all of this valuable knowledge.

This way, the Larkinson Clan could avoid a lot of detours and make use of a lot of interesting hyper tech developed by third parties in the coming years.

The downside was that the adoption of all of this standardized tech reduced the differences between the Larkinson Clan and other groups.

The work that Ves had put into the development of fourth generation luminar crystal technology did not become obsolete all of a sudden, but the introduction of the Hyper Generation enabled other parties to catch up by adopting standardized hyper weapon systems!

"Do you feel upset at this?" Gloriana asked her husband. "I know that you have spent a considerable amount of time and effort developing your new phase disruptor beams and copper beams. Our rivals and competitors should quickly be able to develop weapon systems that can produce similar results without investing so much into research."

Ves did not look displeased. "I already saw this coming. How can I be upset about it when I already had plenty of opportunities to feel this way in the past. I don't think my private research is a waste because the technological specifications released by the mechers are mainly relevant to more standardized human tech. Luminar crystal technology requires different solutions, and the process of researching new attack phase crystals has given me first-hand experience and a more solid foundation into exploring hyper technology."

The Red Association could take away his head start, but it could not erase his skills!

Now that he had developed a competence in researching hyper technology, Ves could continue to innovate in this field and develop a new head start in another aspect!

After explaining all of the hyper variations of the most common weapon systems, the Lord of Thermodynamics finally touched upon the most relevant hyper technology in relation to the current war!

Projections of the Spacelock and the Army of One suppressing the spatial abilities of the opposing ancient phase whales appeared next, reminding everyone that the best way to defeat the native aliens was to suppress their phasewater technology to the greatest extent!

"Space suppression technology is an evolution of existing technologies such as warp interdiction technology. It combines the use of phasewater with space hyper materials to efficiently generate a powerful field that can dampen all abnormal spatial phenomena. The effectiveness of this tech is powerful enough to not only prevent alien warships from activating their warp drives, but can also reduce the strength of transphasic energy shields."

Ves already suspected as much, but it was nice to receive confirmation.

The value of space suppression technology was extremely high!

Everyone who fought a serious battle against the aliens knew how annoying it was to get blocked by strong transphasic energy shields all of the time.

If space suppressors could truly cause those fancy defenses to lose a lot of strength, then the upcoming war would likely proceed a lot better than Ves originally anticipated!

Chapter 5376 Space Suppression Technology

Of all of the hyper tech introduced by the Lord of Thermodynamics, space suppression technology trumped everything else in importance.

The Star Designer allocated a lot more time on explaining the uses and implications of this new tech.

"The new age has introduced us to new possibilities but also exposed us to greater dangers. Without access to reinforcements from the Milky Way, we must defeat the native alien races by ourselves. As long as you have paid attention to the battles that have already been fought, you will know that defeating any alien force starts with blocking their warp drives and overcoming their transphasic energy shields. Space suppressors are notably effective at facilitating both outcomes, but there are many nuances to their usage."

The Star Designer entered into lecture mode and began to project several typical space suppression modules that were mainly different in size.

"We have already developed space suppressors of different scales that can be applied to infantry gear, mechs and starships. The range and suppression strength of these devices vary greatly according to scale. Other variables that determine their effectiveness are power draw and the presence of phasewater."

The projection gave everyone a more intuitive understanding of what that meant by simulating different outcomes.

The space suppressors projected several different spherical fields. The strength and range of the smallest one was miniscule compared to the one that could be produced by a starship-grade module.

Each of these fields grew stronger and reached further when they increased their energy consumption. The opposite happened when their energy consumption dropped.

The inclusion of phasewater produced the most drastic difference.

As long as any space suppressor incorporated transphasic components, the range and suppression strength improved dramatically!

There was a real qualitative difference between a regular space suppressor and a transphasic space suppressor.

Although the former was still useful enough to be valued, the latter could truly make a lot of alien lives miserable!

This meant that space suppression technology did not make phasewater technology obsolete.

The fact that transphasic space suppressors worked a lot better meant that the demand for phasewater would definitely remain as high as always!

The Star Designer addressed another important topic related to this tech.

"As you can see, the current generation of space suppressors can only produce an omnidirectional field. We have yet to develop any products that can limit their effects to a more specific direction. The simpler space suppressor modules are also indiscriminate in function. They suppress all forms of transphasic products and spatial phenomena without regard for whether they are utilized by friendly or enemy units."

That caused a lot of people to lose a bit of enthusiasm for this tech. While it still remained essential to many forces, the fact that they could also suppress the transphasic technologies of friendly units severely dropped their practicality!

It would be quite annoying to keep units with space suppressors separate from units with transphasic parts.

Fortunately, the Red Two already had an answer to this problem.

"Fear not. We have developed more advanced space suppressors that can selectively ignore most transphasic products utilized by known friendly units. They are more expensive to produce, but you can program them with the P-frequencies of all of the transphasic products that you wish to whitelist."

Everyone who has studied phasewater technology was familiar with this variable. Each transphasic object possessed a special frequency resulting from the interaction between phasewater and other matter.

The full explanation was a lot more complicated and elaborate than that, but the easiest way to understand it was to equate it to a phasewater fingerprint that was unique among different designs.

"That is useful." Gloriana remarked. "However, the need to constantly update the databases of the space suppressors with new P-frequencies adds an extra burden. I wonder how you can prevent the enemy from adopting the same P-frequencies to circumvent the space suppression effect."

Ves briefly fell in thought. "The P-frequencies of every transphasic product can be slightly changed if you mess around with them a bit. You can even change it on the fly by changing a few variables. That should massively increase the safety of using this tech."

No one was sure yet how much more expensive it was to build these selective space suppressors, but Ves was determined to equip them onto his own mechs!

The Lord of Thermodynamics continued to explain a few more basic theories, but he eventually wrapped up his technical explanations so that he could address the greater implications of this tech.

"If you have kept up with me so far, you will know that space suppression fields are more effective at close range but drastically drop in effectiveness at greater distances. Much like the gravity of a

planet, as long as you travel far enough, the gravitational force that attempts to pull you to the surface becomes negligible. Let me demonstrate what that means in a visual exercise."

All of the projections disappeared in order to make way for a basic combat scenario.

A human warship squared off against an alien warship.

Both of them possessed all of the expected pieces of tech that were common before the Age of Dawn.

When the latter produced a typical segmented transphasic energy shield, the former produced a space suppression field!

A warship equipped with a sufficiently powerful space suppressor should have been able to reduce the effectiveness of many pieces of tech installed on the alien warship. This should negate the advantages of the latter so much that it should have suffered a defeat.

However, the actual outcome was much different. What actually happened was that the human warship's space suppression field was ineffective when the enemy vessel was hundreds if not thousands of kilometers away!

The human warship needed to close the distance in order to envelop the alien warship into the space suppression field, but the aliens weren't stupid enough to let that happen!

The alien vessel took advantage of her warp drive to maintain the distance as much as possible to prolong the interception.

In the meantime, her gun batteries constantly fired back at the pursuing human vessel, eventually causing the poor ship to succumb before using the space suppressor for its intended purpose!

This was a sad display and hammered home the fact that space suppressors could not produce automatic victories right away!

"Depending on the strength of their space suppressors, warships generally cannot effectively utilize them in an offensive capacity unless they have successfully moved close to their adversaries. This is not an ideal solution. It is not appropriate to bring warships at close range from the enemy. It is much more practical to resort to other means to affect alien warships with space suppression fields."

The next few scenarios showcased a few of these solutions.

They ranged from launching missiles at the enemy that would eventually hover in the vicinity and constantly maintain space suppression fields at close ranges.

These missiles easily got shot down by the point defenses of the alien warship.

Drones and bots emerged next. They were all numerous, active and mobile, but that forced the alien warship to expend a bit more effort to eliminate all of the small but fairly expensive space suppressors.

It was the next scenario that truly jolted all of the mech designers who had been listening to the announcement.

A troop of melee mechs advanced on the alien warship. While the latter's formidable secondary and tertiary armaments managed to intercept numerous machines, the new azure energy shields made it a lot harder to eliminate them as easily as in the past!

In addition to that, space suppressors were also able to weaken incoming attacks by weakening their transphasic effects. This further reduced the damage suffered by mechs!

Once the mechs succeeded in closing the distance, they kept up their mech-grade space suppressors and concentrated their efforts to undermine the transphasic energy shields.

As the secondary and tertiary gun turrets continued to take a toll on the mechs, the large quantity of space suppression fields were having a remarkable effect!

It was true that the space suppressors equipped by mechs were extremely weak.

That did not mean that they were ineffective.

In order to compensate for this massive downside, a mech force could focus on increasing the other variables that determined the effectiveness of this tech!

Pairing space suppressors with mechs and more specifically melee mechs was a match in heaven!

Melee mechs needed to get into point-blank range in order to perform their main jobs. This also happened to be the range where the space suppressors exerted their strongest effect onto transphasic defenses!

A single mech-grade space suppressor was usually too weak to seriously weaken a transphasic energy shield, but what about several?

One of the important traits of space suppressors was that their fields could stack! The more, the better!

A standard mech squad consisting of 10 to 12 mechs could produce a space suppression field that was an order of magnitude stronger!

A mech company of 40 mechs could produce an even more exaggerated result!

Every problem could be solved as long as the quantity was great enough. Although the danger of approaching any warship was still great, the new hyper technologies introduced by the Red Association made this much less dangerous than before!

A well-equipped mech force that incorporated azure energy shields, hyper armor systems, hyper weapon systems, hyper flight systems and most importantly space suppressors could finally fight an alien warship on more even ground this time!

Even if the aliens still retained an advantage, the gap had shrunk so much that the dangers of becoming a warfighter or a linefighter had become a lot less severe!

Many different mech designers looked at each other. They understood that the role and purpose of mechs had changed considerably due to the massive implications of this new tech!

"The Red Association has not forgotten the plight of mech pilots." The Lord of Thermodynamics forcefully stated. "We are aware that far too many mechs have fallen in their attempts to defend human space from the intrusions of hostile alien fleets. Our mechs seemed out of place in battles where warships possessed the strongest offensive and defensive capabilities. Hyper technology has unlocked a new future for us where mechs can regain their relevance on the battlefield. Once your forces have adopted the innovations introduced by the Hyper Generation, the aliens will learn to fear our mechs just as much as our warships."

This was not a fanciful prediction. Ves could easily imagine alien soldiers dreading the approach of mechs equipped with space suppressors!

Even if the modules consisted of the cheaper variant that did not incorporate any phasewater, so long as the numbers were great enough, an alien warship's hull would get exposed sooner or later!

After all, the space suppressors didn't have to do all of the work. Once the melee mechs attacked the transphasic energy shields with their weapons, the enemy defenses should deplete even faster!

Ever since the Phasewater Generation came about, ranged mechs possessed a distinctive advantage over melee mechs.

The colonization of the Red Ocean had increased the proportion of space battles. Fights against alien forces became regular, and it was always difficult to get close to alien warships.

Ranged mechs possessed greater advantages in these scenarios as they could already become useful without getting too close to the dangerous enemy vessels.

Melee mechs lacked these advantages and had essentially been relegated to unwanted children in any mech force.

Their presence made a lot of sense back when battles were fought exclusively by mechs, but the insertion of warships into the mix had changed the equation!

Now that the Hyper Generation had arrived, the mechers finally managed to correct this earlier development!

"Damn, Ketis is going to be so happy after learning about this." Ves spoke. "I can already imagine that the Hyper Generation will become the golden age of the Swordmaidens. All of those swordsman mechs will be able to shred through transphasic energy shields with ease."

His wife nodded in agreement. "This will especially be the case once Ketis has completed her Storm Sword Project."

The Hyper Generation had changed the game!

Chapter 5377 Technological Transition

The explosive day had finally come to an end, but few people were in the mood to rest!

Whether they wanted to celebrate red humanity's smashing victory against the aliens or fanatically rewatch the footage of the awesome dreadnoughts and god mechs in action, plenty of individuals chose to skip sleep for the night.

They had too many topics to study and talk about!

Operation Night Jazz touched everyone's lives no matter whether they were commoners or leading figures.

The god pilots who disappeared from everyone's sights had finally shown what they were made of. Soon, they would be returning home and exert their power and influence over a society that had already undergone a lot of changes.

The mech industry and many other sectors had even more reasons to become excited. The release of so much technological innovations and specifications spurred the enthusiasm of a lot of mech designers and other related professionals.

Once the Lord of Thermodynamics had finished his presentation, the Red Association had promptly published a lot of technical documents that detailed all of the designs and related knowledge introduced by the Hyper Generation.

The quantity of learning material released by the RA was much higher this time than in previous generations.

This did not surprise anyone as hyper technology introduced an entirely new field that could profoundly change the way that existing products worked.

While the focus definitely rested on mechs and starships, anyone with a bit of sense could easily imagine that hyper technology would never be contained in these narrow categories!

The markets for implants, designer beasts, artwork, infantry gear and so much more were about to get completely upended in the following years!

Existing product lines had all become obsolete due to the fact that they did not make any meaningful use of the possibilities presented by hyper technology.

Old market leaders that failed to keep up with the times risked surrendering their market share to smaller but more innovative startups!

This was an opportunity for any business that sought to squeeze into the market.

Sadly for Ves, this transition came at an awkward time for him. His entire clan had already decided to shift their focus to the upper zones.

A number of important lead designers were about to undergo years of deep immersion EdNet training, which meant that they wouldn't be available to update the existing product lines of the LMC!

Ves and Gloriana could do the work themselves, but that would detract from their important studies. They needed to consider these matters carefully.

As husband and wife continued to skim over all of the technical documents, they remained quiet as they absorbed all of the interesting new designs and theoretical knowledge at their own pace.

"Miaow-"

Clixie yawned as she rested on the untouched bed.

"Meow."

Lucky had grown bored as well. The gem cat lifted off from the bed and phased through the apartment wall.

Ves ignored the antics of the cats. Much of his thinking capacity had become preoccupied with internalizing all of the new ways he could make his mech designs stronger.

He grew relieved that all of the extra effort spent on incorporating rudimentary applications of hyper technology had not gone to waste.

Working together with local Terran development companies had been a fortunate decision. The researchers and developers over there had done an excellent job at developing and refining hyper products without receiving any guidance from the RA.

That said, the Greenaxe and the Bloodripper could clearly use an update in order to bring their other mech systems up to standard.

One of the greatest benefits of the latest technology dump was that it encompassed a broad range of mech systems.

As much as Ves had worked to improve his luminar crystal weapons by incorporating hyper technology, he did not have the time or expertise to do this for every other mech system.

Therefore, Ves had not put any special focus on improving the armor system, the flight system, the sensor system and so on. This meant that his recently developed expert mechs could only be considered partial hyper mechs at most.

"There is no need to recall our two babies and upgrade them right away." Gloriana remarked as she continued to study the working principles of space suppression technology. "Certainly, much of the Greenaxe and the Bloodaxe has become obsolete overnight, but it is not as if they have lost parity in the field. Everyone else will still be using lastgen products for the foreseeable time. It will take years for other parties to gradually phase out their lastgen technologies. Besides, it is not our human competitors that we have to worry about, but the aliens that are everyone's common enemies."

His wife raised a lot of good points. It was not easy to digest all of the newly released technologies.

Mech designers like Ves needed to put a decent amount of time into studying and mastering the new tech. The more complicated their work, the more they needed to go in depth.

Then they needed to apply what they had learned in their design projects. Whether they chose to design new mechs or update their existing ones, it would takemonths before they could complete a modern mech design.

Then they needed to find a way to make their new mech model enter into production. This was not as easy as before because the manufacturer needed to find a way to source all of the required hyper materials.

The market for hyper materials and especially ones that were aspected towards specific attributes was still in its infancy.

Supply was still too scarce because many parties were still stuck in the starting phases.

Fortunately for Ves, the T Institute had already set up a decent 'production center' for many varieties of sympathetic materials.

Ves could even instruct the Premier Branch to establish a much larger production center next to Diandi Base.

He was not sure whether it was necessary or wise to do so. Regardless of what happened, as long as he wanted to produce hyper mechs en masse, he would have to establish a cooperation with other material suppliers spread throughout human-occupied space.

There was no need for Ves to personally deal with all of these logistical issues, but he could not ignore these complications at the design stage.

Ves took another look at the projected equations and theories.

"From what I have seen so far, there is little here that can stop the native aliens from stealing our hyper tech. I can bet you that the puelmers have already gained access to these very same

documents straight away. No matter whether they have received any help from the cosmopolitans or not, there is no way that all of the intelligent aliens will ignore the massive benefits of adopting hyper tech."

His wife did not look too concerned.

"Alien R&D is inferior to ours. Their scientists and researchers have stagnated for too long. The puelmers are known to be excellent imitators, but their ability to innovate is much worse. Our ability to improve our tech and develop new solutions will always be faster than that of our alien competitors. We only need to put enough time and effort to stay ahead of the curve."

He agreed with her assessment for the most part. Red humanity possessed a significant advantage in the fields of hyper technology and to a lesser extent E-technology. Ves knew that a lot of parties had already revived their ancient cultivation heritages. The mystical knowledge could help them develop more advanced applications such as general cultivation elixirs.

Even so, the constantly evolving arms race between red humanity and the native aliens would never become too lopsided.

Sooner or later, the aliens would begin to roll out warships upgraded with hyper tech.

"It takes a lot more time to design an up-to-date warship, and it takes even longer to construct the new hulls." Ves spoke his thoughts. "The vast majority of warships that are currently in use by the aliens will remain lastgen for the foreseeable future. Only the most elite fleets will receive their upgrades faster than anyone else, but they are usually taken care of by the Red Two and the first-rate superstates."

In short, Ves did not have much reason to worry about falling behind. He could take his time to master all of the new hyper tech and gradually upgrade all of his existing works to the new standards.

"It is also good that we have yet to complete the Jupiter Project and the Blood Star Mark II Project." Gloriana noted with a smile. "We will have to delay their completion by a month or two in order to incorporate advanced versions of all of the new hyper technology, but your uncle and grandfather will thank us for the additional effort that we have put into their expert mechs."

That was also true. Ves knew that he would have to revise his other ongoing mech design projects as well. There was no way he was willing to complete the Fey Project or the Supremo Project when their technological standards and specifications had already fallen behind.

Ves was not too worried about the additional workload. So long as he did not try anything fancy, he could mostly get by with plugging in the updated hyper technology into his existing designs.

He could also solicit even further help from development companies. Designing and customizing mech parts and mech systems was their bread and butter. They experienced an even greater urgency in keeping up with the latest technological improvements. It wouldn't take long before they released new generation products that other mech designers could readily incorporate in their own works!

There was one new branch of technology that was not as readily available to everyone.

Ves couldn't help but notice its absence in the information package released to the public.

"Huh. There is hardly anything related to E-technology here. The Lord of Thermodynamics briefly mentioned it during his presentation, and a few of the documents here mention it in passing, but none of them have described any concrete application in this field."

Gloriana rolled his eyes. "Not everyone has your powers, Ves. Hyper technology is simpler to get started with. You only need to play with hyper materials. E-technology is much harder to work with. If I did not have my own companion spirit, I would not even be able to manipulate E energy, let alone perceive its existence. In the absence of systematic theories and instruments that can facilitate research and development, E-tech will likely remain obscure."

The implications of that were considerable. Ves immediately thought of all of the advantages of being one of the few individuals who possessed a competency in this technological branch.

His eyes lit up. "My spiritual engineering work is a lot more difficult to replicate by others! My works will continue to have a competitive advantage so long as rival mech designers are unable to beat the value proposition of living mechs and design spirits. More importantly than that, the aliens are at an even greater disadvantage. They have no background in cultivation science and E-technology as far as I am aware of, so it will be practically impossible for them to close this technological gap!"

He understood why the mechers did not take the initiative to share too many details about E-technology. They probably regarded it as the enduring advantage that would continue to secure red humanity's technological superiority in this dwarf galaxy!

Ves recognized his importance in this picture. Pure E-technologies such as kinship networks and companion spirits had to remain in human hands as much as possible.

It was not for nothing that the Survivalist Faction sponsored his promotion to a tier 3 galactic citizen. The mechers strongly regarded his unique works as red humanity's core advantages.

E-technology may even create the breakthrough that red humanity needed to attain a decisive victory against the native aliens!

Ves gained a renewed sense of purpose. He became more eager than ever to put his own spin on the new possibilities introduced by the Hyper Generation!

Chapter 5378 Q&A Session

After the Hyper Generation came into existence, a lot of debating took place in many different circles.

Many people started to develop their own ideas. They wanted to share their many thoughts with their friends and colleagues in order to obtain useful feedback.

There were also a lot of other people who started to harbor doubts about their understanding of all of the fancy new tech.

As a teaching professor, Ves keenly experienced the wave of curiosity and excitement that had swept across Terran society.

The Eden Institute was already hard at work in setting up brand new courses centered around teaching the basics of hyper technology!

These new courses were bound to become popular in the upcoming semester!

Curiously enough, the school also planned to open up numerous advanced public courses for mech designers who already graduated a long time ago. The offered classes would not only enable professionals to learn different aspects of hyper technology in a structural manner, but also gather a lot of like-minded colleagues together so that they could exchange ideas.

Ves did not have any interest in signing up to these public courses, but many other local mech designers who did not possess a background in hyper technology had already registered for them the next day!

As he walked across the campus of the Eden Institute, he heard plenty of interesting conversations.

"Do you think it is simple for you to design a mech with an azure energy shield? You need to secure a supply of phasewater first! This is a restricted good, and I know your father isn't high enough in the totem pole to obtain a quota for it. You should forget about working with this high-end tech and learn how to work with regular hyper energy shields instead."

"I regret my decision to specialize in the design of ranged mechs. Sure, they are still useful enough, but they have been relegated to a support function by the Hyper Generation. I was so sure that phasewater technology would continue to remain dominant for at least two more centuries. The mechers have ruined everything!"

As Ves entered the classroom and stood in front of his familiar batch of students, even he couldn't go around this topic either.

"The semester is almost over." He spoke in front of the fourth and fifth year students who had signed up to his Advanced Manual Superfab Operation course. "I have already worked with hyper technology beforehand, and I can teach you plenty of the lessons that I have learned from my own experiences with processing hyper materials. However, the time that we have left does not allow for a change in the curriculum. In order to help you along the way and figure out how hyper technology plays into your craftsmanship, I will permit you to ask questions related to this topic in the following hour."

Although a few of the students wondered how much a fairly young Senior Mech Designer like Ves actually knew about hyper technology, there were plenty of other students who did not hesitate to raise their hands!

"Professor, can you demonstrate how to fabricate a hyper product?!"

Ves responded with a rueful smile. "I would love to do so, but I need hyper materials in order to fulfill your request. Alexa, has the storerooms of this workshop facility received any hyper materials as of late?"

His teaching assistant shook her head. "No, sir. Hyper materials are constantly being identified and excavated in the wild, but the supply of mech-grade hypers is so limited at this early stage that they are already claimed by the ancient clans and the key institutions that work under them. The mech militaries have priority because of the early batches of hypers. The mech armies that are assigned to prospective warlords urgently need hyper technology to reduce their loss rate."

Numerous students looked at Alexa with envy. Her true identity as well as her recent entry into the Larkinson Clan had become known. There was no reason to hide this information, and it would be much easier for the both of them to operate in the Eden Institute with their current identities.

"Did you hear that, students? The supply of hyper materials will become a lot less constrained in a few years, but that time has yet to come. I think this is a good reminder that you must always think about the availability of materials in all of your projects. Just because you are Terrans doesn't mean that you have unrestricted access to all of the resources in your wish list. Phasewater will remain as scarce as always. The higher classes and tiers of hyper materials cannot be naturally formed. It is difficult to create the conditions necessary to spawn them, so I can imagine that it will be troublesome to obtain the potent hypers that you need to produce a high-end mech."

That caused a lot of students to look thoughtful or concerned. They thought that obtaining hypers would be easy because so many of them were being formed in the environment.

That was true, but only up to an extent. E energy radiation could only do so much. It took a much higher concentration of E energy in order to induce the transformation of higher tiers of hyper materials.

Ves and the T Institute had already experimented in this area. The most important finding that they had made was that it was troublesome to raise the upper limit of the concentration of E energy radiation.

The only reliable method that they could employ was to expose materials to the strong and active glows of various design spirits, but multiple living mechs or totems could not effectively stack this property.

What this meant was that the highest tiers of hyper materials that the T Institute could produce in-house was solely dependent on the strength of the design spirit.

More powerful design spirits such as Gaia could induce the transformation of high-tier hyper materials with much greater ease.

Less developed design spirits such as Kalo were much weaker. His glow could not produce any hypers that were strong enough to make them practical in first-class mech design.

Oh well.

The students continued to ask different questions. Most of them were rather basic, but Ves patiently answered them anyway.

His favorite student eventually received an opportunity to ask the question that was burning on his mind.

"Since you have already started to work on hyper technology, can you tell us how hyper technology relates to your specialization? Are there any strong synergies between hypers and living mechs?"

Ves grinned back. "That is an excellent question, Mr. Robar-Fulton. I cannot divulge everything, but I can tell you that living mechs can leverage hyper materials in multiple ways. I truly want to reveal the strongest and most useful interactions between the two, but this is strategic knowledge that is related to the success of my armed forces, so I will stay mum on that. One benefit that I can share with you is that exposure to different attributes of hypers can steer the growth trajectory of a living mech."

That caused Klaus and numerous other students to perk up. They all developed an interest in living mechs, though most of them had not signed up for his Introduction to Living Mech Design course in this semester. They could only try their luck next time.

"Can you give us a concrete example?"

"There are many different attributes that can imbue special properties to various mech parts and mech systems. Many of them are rather basic and common, but there are also weird ones that can be particularly useful. For example, a hyper material that has an aggressive quality can make a living mech fiercer in battle. Another hyper material that is related to accuracy can help to increase the hit rate when firing a ranged weapon. The effects grow stronger with better hypers. They tend to attract greater concentrations of E energies of the same attributes."

Ves did not explain much more because the students needed to complete their courses on both living mechs and hyper technology to understand the full picture.

"Sir, how will hyper technology affect the balance between ranged mechs and melee mechs?"

"Every mech designer has formed their own opinion on this subject." Ves replied with a smile. "I do not have any strong preference for one or the other, so my judgment is not as biased. As far as I am concerned, ranged mechs have not suddenly become a lot less valuable. They are still as useful as before. What is different is that melee mechs have caught up to them, which is good news for many professionals who have decided to earn a living by working with them. It is rather good that the Hyper Generation rolled out so soon. If the Phasewater Generation persisted for another decade, the piloting community would become much more skewed towards ranged combat."

In the past few years, mech pilots who worried a lot about their future had decided to specialize in ranged combat. None of them wanted to turn into cannon fodder and be forced to make suicidal charges against warships that could resist their melee attacks with ease.

The Hyper Generation restored the romance of melee mechs!

"What about first-class multipurpose mechs, professor?"

"I do not have any personal experience in designing first-class multipurpose mechs, but I think that there will be a trend of shifting their focus back onto melee combat." Ves replied after a bit of thought. "No multipurpose mech is evenly balanced. Most designs are skewed towards ranged combat. Oh, that is not entirely the case in Terran space. I almost forgot about your Destroyer weapons. You Terrans are really lucky, you know. You can already equip your melee mechs with the strongest offensive technology. Once you are able to combine it with hyper technology, your advantages in melee combat will only become more pronounced!"

That caused all of the Terran students to smile with pride. While the more valuable Destroyer weapons were harder to obtain, they were more than worth the price!

Ves suspected that Destroyer weapons happen to synergize better with hyper technology than other weapon types. He had already learned that Destroyer weapons were mystical in nature.

Though Ves had little understanding of the nature of Destroyer particles, he speculated that they could become a lot more potent if they were exposed to E energy of the right attributes!

If such a major change took place, then Terran melee mechs would become significantly deadlier than the melee mechs developed by others!

Ves started to feel greedy about this tech. He wanted to get his hands on a few Destroyer weapons so that he could pair them up with a few of his expert mechs.

It was not impossible for this to happen. His secret cooperation with the Streon Ancient Clan could help in this regard, and he could turn to the Devos Ancient Clan for help if he wanted to act more openly.

However, the supply of higher tiers of Destroyer weapons was not high. Each of them demanded progressively greater quantities of Destroyer particles to build.

Only god pilots could produce these special particles. That was only a moderate hurdle in the past, but the problem now was that the Terran Alliance only had access to a single god pilot!

There was no way that the Light of Sol would agree to pump out Destroyer particles day and night.

Destroyer weapons were destined to become even rarer than before, which meant that the cost of obtaining them would become a lot greater than in the past!

Ves put these powerful weapons out of his mind. His clan did not have to obtain a Destroyer weapon in order to field a strong melee mech. Ketis had already been working on more cost-effective ways to increase the offensive power of her swords. She could even imbue her weapons with qualities that no Destroyer weapon could replicate.

Chapter 5379 Extending an Invitation

Ves enjoyed the little impromptu Q&A session. He formed a lot of new thoughts and became exposed to different viewpoints in the process of satisfying the curiosity of his students.

Still, his class had to go on, so he urged his students to set aside what questions they had left and practice their skills with the superfabs.

It was satisfying to see how far his students had come. All 100 of them had already received enough guidance and practice to pass his course.

The study load was not light, but the students did not dare to slack off and skip their homework in a course taught by a tier 3 galactic citizen.

Ves already knew that the less talented students such as Klaus Robar-Fulton had shortened their sleeping hours in order to squeeze additional hours of practice time in their schedule.

Their devotion to their studies was admirable, but it was not healthy for them to work at such a high intensity for a sustained amount of time.

Regardless, Ves had become so satisfied with all of his students that he thought about inviting them to join his clan.

This was not a simple matter, though. Even if the students were willing, most of them had already accepted obligations to work for a clan or another organization.

Alexa had already told him how troublesome it was to cancel or transfer these obligations.

It was much easier if Ves started with the kids who failed to obtain sufficient backing. Their overall learning abilities were not as good, but that also meant that they appreciated the opportunity to join the Larkinson Clan a lot more.

Ves chose to invite the student that he had been laying his eyes on since the start.

The young man visibly looked apprehensive as he entered his professor's office. Klaus Robar-Fulton was not stupid, so he already had an inkling on what this meeting was all about.

That just made him more nervous, though.

"Sit down." Ves gently spoke as he leaned back against his luxurious chair. "You're not in trouble or anything. On the contrary. You have done well enough in all of the three courses that I am teaching."

"I can still do better, professor. My grades are not the highest."

"That is because you are being limited by your augmentations and other factors that are outside of your control. You have done the best you could under the circumstances, and that is already good enough in my book."

The two talked for a little bit. Ves gave his feedback on Klaus, which caused the student to feel flattered.

"Let us get down to business." Ves eventually said. "You are in your fourth year of studying mech design, correct?"

Klaus nodded. "That is the case."

"I see potential in you. Once you have finished your studies and graduated from the Eden Institute, I would like you to join my clan and assist in my work. If you show enough compatibility with my design philosophy, then I would be happy to pass on my core teachings to you. No matter whether you have decided to specialize in living mechs or not, my clan welcomes any mech designer who is both smart and sincere in his work."

Silence ensued as Klaus took in the invitation. It was one thing to anticipate it. It was another thing to hear it being offered by the professor he admired a lot!

Admirably enough, Klaus did not immediately jump at this opportunity, but showed enough rationality by asking for clarification.

"Can I ask what you see in me aside from the traits that you have already mentioned? To be honest, professor, I do not entirely understand why you have chosen me over the other students."

Ves smirked. "That is easy to explain. My clan has a preference for recruiting particular kinds of people. We seek those who possess sufficient competence but do not entirely feel at home in their current societies. We welcome professionals who have enough ability but cannot gain enough opportunities due to heavy competition. You have also taken my Frontier Wisdom classes, so you are also a lot more prepared for the more... active lifestyle that we Larkinsons pursue. If you are ambitious and not afraid of taking risks, then I believe you will fit in nicely."

The Terran student gained a bit more confidence in himself. The professor did not select him on a whim, but genuinely wanted him to join the Larkinson Clan.

"I... would love to work for you and join your clan. I have been fantasizing about it for weeks. Your invitation is a dream come true as far as I am concerned." Klaus eventually responded.

"This is not a decision that you can make lightly, Klaus. While everyone assumes that my clan has a bright future, it is too new and its foundation is much poorer than many Terran organizations. It is also largely comprised of second-raters and will remain so for a long time. I may even ask you to assist in the design of second-class mechs. Will that be a problem?"

"No! Absolutely not! Well, I do not have experience in designing such mechs, but I can be a quick study. Let me assure you that I do not look down on second-class mechs at all. If they have been responsible for making you so good, then it would be stupid if I dismiss their value."

Ves smiled. "That is nice to hear. Don't worry. Our clan will still have plenty of second-class mech designers who will continue to work on such mechs. I am not in the habit of wasting resources, and a first-class mech designer such as yourself should be working on first-class mech designs."

They talked a bit more. Ves wanted to make sure that Klaus did not regret his decision to commit to the Larkinson Clan. There was one topic in particular that needed to be mentioned.

"I am sure that you have already heard that you will need to sever your ties with the Terran Alliance in order to join the Larkinson Clan. We do not want to bring in any people with conflicted loyalties. Once you become a Larkinson, you have accepted the identity of one. We have found that it is difficult for most Terrans to make this step. Will this be a problem for you, or are you confident that you can let go when the time has come?"

No Terran could give a certain answer to this question, and Klaus was no exception.

"I do not know what it takes to pass your loyalty test. I can only promise you that I will try my best." Klaus replied in a measured tone.

"That is good enough for me. You can consult with Miss Alexa Streon on this particular topic. She has gone through the same ordeal."

There was not much more for them to talk about. As much as Ves valued Klaus due to his notable spiritual potential, that did not necessarily mean that the student could realize it. There were far too many people who failed to develop their potential to the fullest and eventually settled into mediocrity.

Nonetheless, that was not a reason for Ves to ignore young talents. His clan needed to recruit a lot of capable mech designers in order to remain active in the mech industry. Klaus may be the first of many first-class mech designers to enrich the Premier Branch of the Larkinson Clan.

After Ves finally dismissed the young student, Alexa Streon entered his office a moment later.

"Is he to your liking?" The new Larkinson asked as she sat down on the same seat that Klaus had just vacated.

"That remains to be seen. He won't be the only Terran who I will extend an invitation to. Whether he or any of the others will be able to inherit my design philosophy is not certain."

"You have given me Maia. I think that it should not be a problem for you to bestow similar boons to your other students."

"I am not going to extend the same courtesy to other recruits." Ves shook his head. "You are different because you bring much greater value to our clan. Besides, you are only a small step away from becoming a Journeyman. Before you have met me, you have already spent years on trying to search for a way to design a living mech like the Ouroboros. Your circumstances are far superior to that of a newly minted Novice Mech Designer. If Klaus and the other young talents want to receive a companion spirit from me, then they will have to earn it, either by making steady contributions, or by demonstrating shocking talent."

Ves knew he could make it easier for mech designers to get started with living mechs by bestowing them with related companion spirits, but doing so robbed them of a necessary journey.

Mech design was all about innovating and figuring out ways to mechs that were different from what was available. People who entered the industry needed to develop the right work approach from the start if they wanted to make great achievements in the future.

Ves was willing to ease their journey and give them a shortcut in order to increase their success rate, but he did not want to give them a cheat sheet and allow them to gain all of the answers without expending any actual effort.

The two did not linger over this topic for a long time. They had much more interesting topics to talk about instead.

"Have you witnessed the majesty of god mechs?" Alexa asked.

"Of course." Ves chuckled. "I do not think that any red human has missed the show. I am truly impressed by god mechs. Their power exceeds that of ace mechs to such an extent that they do not even bear a strong relation to each other anymore. I understand even more why your grandfather yearns to become a god pilot so much. The total fusion between an exquisite grand work and the willpower of a god is beyond anything I have witnessed."

The former member of the Streon Ancient Clan released a sigh. "That is true. The current god mechs are even stronger than they were back in the Age of Mechs due to the addition of new variables such as E energy radiation and hyper technology. Some of the god mechs wouldn't have been able to defeat those ancient phase whales so comfortably without the recent changes."

"Tell me honestly, sir. How much progress do you think my grandfather needs to make in order to attain the same level of strength?"

"Too much." Ves honestly replied. "While he carries the label of a peak ace pilot, his shortcomings are still too great. It is no wonder that he has no confidence in his ability to survive the Mech Body Merger Process. Now that I have witnessed several god pilots in action, I can better appreciate the extent of the gap. I am being frank, your grandfather is still too... ordinary of a pilot. He still needs to do a lot of work before he is qualified enough to make the jump."

The younger woman did not look too surprised after hearing this answer. "The birth of every god pilot is an aberration of nature. Humans aren't meant to be able to transcend this far. That it has happened at all is a miracle in the truest sense. Miracles aren't known for being common or easy to replicate. My grandfather has always known that it takes superhuman effort in order to catch up to the likes of the Light of Sol."

How many ace pilots remained stuck at the final threshold? How many of them had died in their unrelenting journey to shed their mortality and become an ascended being in full?

Ves cared a lot about the Ouroboros. He deeply wanted it to evolve, but now that he had witnessed multiple modern god mechs in action, he realized that his living mech still had far too many shortcomings that were holding it back.

Fortunately, Ves had given the ace hero mech a long overdue update. It shouldn't take much longer for the Ouroboros to finally grow past its previous limit and evolve into a more proper third order living mech.

The changes that should happen to the famous Terran mech should be a lot more drastic given its monstrous accumulation...

Chapter 5380 Awakening the Beasts

The conclusion of Operation Night Jazz and the introduction of the Hyper Generation still generated massive shockwaves throughout human and alien society.

Ves corresponded with a lot of people from different parts of society. His expansive network provided him with many advantages as he was able to solicit many different opinions.

Although his contacts in the middle parts of human society were plentiful, he did not have a sufficient amount of contacts in the upper parts.

He had years to build up his network in various second-class states such as the Hex Federation and the Colonial Federation of Davute. His penetration of first-class society was much less comprehensive.

Ves tried to compensate for this shortcoming as much as possible. One of the main reasons why he chose to settle in New Constantinople VHI for a time was because he wanted to foster deeper contacts with the Terrans.

The Eden Institute served as an excellent place for Ves to measure the pulse of the Terran Alliance. Its students and professors came from various different clans and backgrounds. Visitors regularly came from other places in order to take supplementary courses or to collaborate on various research projects.

Every Terran had a story to tell. Though Ves knew that a lot of people only agreed to talk to him because of his perceived usefulness, he didn't mind. What mattered was that he could gain the information he wanted to hear.

Through all of these talks, Ves vaguely sensed several undercurrents running through Terran society.

The Streon Ancient Clan kept itself mum for the time being, but it was already making moves that were hard to obfuscate. The Streons had stepped up their efforts to procure supplies and war materiel, so much so that the price levels of these goods rose faster than before.

No one had any clue that General Axelar Streon was planning the heist of the century.

Perhaps the only other sign that hinted at this great undertaking was the gradual spread of Gaia worship.

The Terrans possessed a strong affection towards Old Earth. Humanity's ancestral home planet was the totem of their culture, and their permanent separation from this sacred symbol had traumatized these people.

It did not surprise Ves at all that cults centered around Gaia or Old Earth emerged as a result. They were still small-time for the most part. No official institution expressed any concern that these wacky groups of people would get up to mischief. The Terrans had endured the rise and fall of so many different faiths that they formed a well-established set of routines against their potential threat.

If these upstart cults ever stepped over the line, the ancient clans could easily squash them with only the slightest amount of effort!

"Interesting."

Ves had a feeling that these strange new cults had the shadow of a True God behind them. That made them a lot more significant than the ones founded by cheap charlatans.

The gradually unfolding oddities of the Age of Dawn had sparked a resurgence of the mystical side of reality.

Although only a small proportion of people had become initiated to this profound secret, Ves noticed many signs that a lot of states and organizations were gradually inoculating the masses to sights that defied common sense.

Broadcasting the battles of Operation Night Jazz was just one of many steps. The deliberate portrayal of god pilots as war deities did much to expand people's tolerance for unexplainable phenomena!

Ves only managed to gain a deeper insight in these changes after he met with Jovy again.

When he teleported back up to the Tarrasque and met with Jovy in his mech workshop, the two immediately engaged in a substantive discussion.

"The god pilots are on their way home, right?" Ves asked.

Jovy nodded even as he directed most of his attention towards the design of a virtual first-class multipurpose mech. "Operation Night Jazz yielded a lot of results. Our highest priority is not to cause any further trouble in the core of alien space, but to return in safety and digest all of the gains that we have attained from raiding the four Tide Stations. It is also important for us to recall the god pilots as quickly as possible in order to defend against the inevitable counterattack."

The mention of that last word put Ves on edge.

Anyone could see that the aliens suffered a heavy blow. Their Tide Station Network had been rendered inoperable and a lot of highly respected ancient phase whales died at the hands of human gods!

The surprise attacks had shaken the confidence of the local alien community. The Red Cabal which previously held an undeniable position of authority over the other alien races suddenly suffered a major decapitation strike that betrayed a lot of weakness!

The implications were many. The surviving leaders of the Red Cabal needed to make a big move in order to stop this event from collapsing their prestige even further.

"Are the aliens planning to initiate a counterattack?" Ves guessed.

"They are already attacking our border regions, my friend. That said, the aliens were not in a hurry. The Red Cabal was previously content to grind our forces down by throwing a large amount of cannon fodder fleets at us. The thought process behind this is that it takes time to mobilize all of the more powerful alien warfleets and transfer them to the frontlines. Their arrival may also be delayed by several more years if they have chosen to upgrade their existing warships with stolen human technology. The native aliens are aware of the disparity in technology, so the longer they delay, the more time they have to close this gap."

Ves rubbed his hairless chin in thought. "This strategy only makes sense if the aliens believe that time is on their side."

"The native aliens control the vast majority of the Red Ocean. Their population base and access to resources are far greater than our own. They are not wrong to hold this assumption. We are fine with this for the time being as we need more time to mobilize the strength of our territories. We do not want the frontline battles to escalate until we have completed the transformation of the greater beyonder gate."

The Deep Strike Plan could not truly start until red humanity gained a means to rapidly teleport a deep strike force behind enemy lines.

Perhaps this was one of the other reasons why the Red Two urgently wanted to attack the Tide Stations.

Not only would they be able to destroy a powerful tool that could potentially interfere with the operation of the greater beyonder gate, but they could also steal a huge amount of high-level knowledge on teleportation, spatial displacement and many other relevant subjects!

While the gains were massive, many more native aliens had become fully alerted to the threat posed by the invaders who came from another galaxy!

Jovy sighed as he turned away from his incomplete mech design. "Attacking the native aliens in such a high-profile manner has its downsides, you know. We have slain a handful of the greatest and most respected 'gods' of this dwarf galaxy. This has shocked the entire alien community. Even the more complacent sentient individuals who think the war is too far away from their home planets have become a lot more serious about the threat we pose."

"We alerted them all. We showed that despite our limited numbers, we can make them bleed. I bet the phase whales have become so outraged with the deaths of so many of their eldest leaders that they are gunning for our blood."

The serious expression on Jovy's face showed that he held the same thoughts.

"We could have laid low and let the aliens think that we were fish on the chopping block. We did not do so in the end because the chance to take out the Tide Station Network as well as many ancient phase whales is too precious to us. While we are more than satisfied with the gains, the greatest consequence is that we have fully awoken the beast that is called the phase whale race."

Ves understood what Jovy meant. The phase whales were individually powerful, but they were highly reclusive and isolationist in nature. They bred slowly and spent centuries engaging in their private experiments.

Relatively few phase whales actively participated in the greater alien community. The Red Cabal was an exception rather than the rule.

Now that this powerful race had suffered massive and unprecedented losses, many of the isolated phase whales that previously ignored what took place outside had become fully alarmed!

It was conceivable that many of these phase whales would soon choose to end their isolation and take active part in the counterattack against the human invaders!

"It is not just the phase whales that will be out for blood, but also the other major alien races." Jovy elaborated. "While we regularly belittle the inferior capabilities of the native aliens, their ability to gather intelligence is quite decent. The hidden archships that are secretly operating in our space are gathering large amounts of signals on a constant basis. The Deep Strike Plan is not a secret to our

adversaries. They know that in five or so years from now, we will gain the capability to directly launch attacks on their core star systems. What do you think they will do in response?"

It was not difficult to game out this scenario.

"It is not tenable to defend all of those star systems." Ves spoke. "There are way too many of them that any defensive forces will only spread themselves thin. In this case, the best defense is offense. It is best to cut off the deep strike raids from the source by attacking human space. If they can push far enough to destroy our greater beyonder gate, the threat of unblockable raids will automatically disappear."

"Hm, you have a good grasp on strategy. Your assessment matches our own. Now that we have woken the beasts, our adversaries will quickly move to intensify their attacks on our border regions in the short term. We will not only see an increase in the quantity of alien raiding fleets, but also a substantial rise in the quality and power of attacking starships. On top of that, the phase whales will begin to participate more actively in these attacks as well."

That sounded incredibly concerning, but red humanity wasn't completely hopeless in this fight.

"The Hyper Generation came at a good time, then. All of those azure energy shields, hyper weapons and space suppressors will come in really handy. The incentives of the New Elites Program will also encourage a lot of human forces to volunteer as linefighters. As long as we can withstand the upcoming counterattack, our chances of winning should improve."

The mechers had thoroughly considered every aspect of this conflict. They had made deliberate moves and already anticipated what the aliens would do in response.

Still, for all of their analysis and foresight, the aliens could still prevail so long as they mustered up enough hard power!

Fortunately, red humanity still had a powerful batch of protectors.

"The losses will be great in the coming years, but so long as our god pilots are anchoring the frontlines, we have a fair amount of confidence that they will hold."

"Are you sure about that, Jovy? What if fifty or so phase whales decide to gang up on one of our god pilots? As powerful as our greatest champions may be, I do not think it is easy for them to fend off so many angry whales."

The RA Senior shrugged his shoulders. "This is why we cannot pin all of our hopes on the god pilots of the present. Their quantity is too low. Our Association is in the process of investing massive resources into raising many more mech pilots. The more god pilots we can produce in the coming 50 years, the greater the likelihood that we can save our civilization. We cannot conquer the entire Red Ocean with only 8 god pilots."