

Wow 521

Chapter 521 Sweep_2

Wherever there was a gap to slip through, he would slip through; if there truly was no way to wriggle past, he'd use his will to distort the "changes" in his target.

The kinetic energy of the bullets was ferocious, but as long as he could make them deviate slightly from their intended trajectories, the end result would be vastly different.

And this required far, far less effort than Bai E's method of enduring with his physical body.

A strange scene unfolded—the density of the barrage didn't change at all, and the firing rate remained terrifying. Yet the shadow that had just been sparking all over suddenly seemed to become an invisible ghost amidst the endless barrage.

Not a single bullet could touch him, and the occasional sparks that flew up became completely inconspicuous under the terrifying blanket of gunfire.

Countless heavy machine guns firing in unison ended up seeming like shooting mosquitoes with cannons—utterly futile.

"..."

"..."

In the distance, a caravan halted at the furthest point from which the battlefield could still be observed.

The young leader of the convoy stood on the edge of the vehicle's stepping board, leaning on the open door as he gazed toward the battlefield, looking as if the ground itself had been shattered.

The terrifying might, even at such a great distance, made his heart tremble with fear.

He was no longer the naive drifter from before. With a natural talent for Spiritual Energy and having dealt with many matters in Black Street in secret, he had developed his own set of understandings about the world.

However, his broad knowledge that "I've seen all sorts of scenes" had now turned into "I've seen nothing" barrenness.

No words he possessed could describe everything he was witnessing at that moment.

The overwhelming firepower seemed even more fearsome than the weapons in the military barracks of Blackwater City.

Smart Machinery?

This unfamiliar term popped into his mind. In this era, the only beings capable of possessing such terrifying firepower were those metallic mechanical monstrosities, he thought, without considering any other possibilities.

Smart Machinery?

What are Smart Machines fighting?

From his perspective, he could only see the sky filled with bullets being fired wildly as though they cost nothing, yet within the targeted area, there was no visible large group of opponents, nor any signs of interaction or counterattack during the bombardment.

Was it because there was an excess of bullets in stock? Or perhaps just practice shooting?

Do Smart Machines even need to practice shooting?

This ludicrous thought flashed through his mind, and the man began to doubt the orders he had received.

He took out the map that marked the location coordinates from his embrace to double-check, scratching his head, "This is the correct place..."

His gaze shifted back and forth between the map in his hands and the distant battlefield, confusion spread across his eyes.

Where is the material supply that Gilder mentioned?

The earth was a vast expanse of white and clean, with only one place having anything of substance...

The man slowly raised his eyes, looking towards the battlefield at the edge of his vision that was still engulfed in conflict.

"No... It can't be, can it?"

In the same dark carriage, Nova opened her large, bright eyes to watch the ongoing battle.

Her Spiritual Energy allowed her to see through the barriers of the carriage, looking toward the scene being heavily bombarded in the distance.

A familiar presence... and its vigor was far stronger than any she had felt before.

So... so impressive.

...

"I think... I might have found where the enemy is getting their steel from," the warrior in the black leather jacket removed his gloves, raised a telescope, and stared at the distant battle, murmuring in disbelief.

They had followed the convoy that set out from Black Street all the way to this place, and upon their arrival, the convoy had stopped their advancement.

What had they come for?

The only possible source of resources in the vicinity was the Smart Machinery Factory.

This Smart Machinery Factory, situated between Blackwater City and Grey Iron City, was well-known to them as the core elite force of Grey Iron City.

However, to them, conquering this factory would cost too much, and would likely provoke a frenzied retaliation from the Smart Machines. More crucially, even if they were to strip this factory of all its resources, it would mean very little to them.

Moreover, as long as they didn't provoke these Smart Machines, there would be minimal expansionist actions from them, and the city had never considered it a significant threat.

But now... a hard bone that they were unwilling to chew on was being tackled by someone else.

The iron resources that the doctor needed weren't something the minor Black Street could provide, so they went straight for the Smart Machinery.

What force in this world has more iron resources than the Smart Machines?

"Badass."

The armored warrior spoke with a sigh and stopped to silently observe.

The doctor's interest in the streets outside Blackwater City was unusually keen. Ordinarily, now that the location of the lost "initial" had been confirmed, the straightforward move would be to simply take it back by force.

The cost of causing a disturbance just outside Blackwater City wasn't so high, and it would not amount to a dispute between the two cities' hierarchy.

But now the doctor's attitude toward Black Street suggested more of an "examination"?

Examine what?

I don't understand either.

Whatever task the doctor assigned, just do it.

I want to see with what your little street dares to challenge a medium-sized Smart Machinery Factory.

...

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

A silver stick suddenly revealed itself amidst the overwhelming firepower pouring down from all directions.

At a close enough distance, it seemed like a mere swing of one end of the stick could easily smash those firing mechanical guns.

And in reality... that was exactly what the leaping dark figure was doing.

The silver stick traced a large circle in the air, carrying with it an unmatched roaring as it swept mercilessly toward the mechanical guns below.

"Zzzzzzzz~"

Amidst a chaos of electrical sparks, the bases of the mechanical guns were instantly smashed, silencing the surging firepower in a vast quietude.

Yet this was not a fleeting moment.

The silver stick freely swung in the air, smashing its way into the interior of the factory.

Wherever it passed, destruction followed.

What appeared to be firm and reliable steel walls were forcibly breached, leaving a gaping hole.

Behind the walls, countless intelligent machines with glowing red electronic eyes were already prepared.

Their mechanically-driven steel bodies were immensely strong, yet before the whirling silver shadows, mechanical forms were sent flying in all directions.

In this moment, he was unmatched.

"Huh?"

The figure was too far away to see clearly.

But the earth-shattering presence of the silver stick left no doubt that a human was amidst combat with numerous intelligent machines, almost displaying a one-sided overwhelming power.

The warriors in black leather jackets exchanged silent, mutually understanding glances and remained silent.

It was true that any person or force confident enough to assault a Smart Machinery Factory would have a couple of tricks up their sleeves... but these particular tricks, seemed to be excessively tough.

It was the doctor's far-sightedness after all...

["Lucky Strike" energy recovery +26.]

That makes it 50 points in total...

Bai E received the panel notification with an indifferent gaze.

Once his strength reached a certain level, any armed force beneath that level would struggle to contend with him.

No matter how many they may be, ordinary shrimps can hardly threaten a giant, not to mention that the scale of armament at this factory wasn't terrifyingly large.

If the amount of firepower he'd just faced had doubled, perhaps the energy recovery rate provided by the virtual world wouldn't keep up with the consumption.

After all, during the most intense moments earlier, his Spiritual Energy reserves had steadily fallen in a tug-of-war between recovery and expenditure.

If it wasn't for the last moment activation of "Heavenly Eye" Spiritual Energy, he would have run dry by now.

The strength limit that wasn't tested against the Orc War Boss last time had now become apparent, as after about twenty to thirty cycles of depleting Spiritual Energy, the replenishment speed finally began to slow visibly.

It was still uncertain whether it was the limit of the virtual world or his personal limit, for after depleting two to three thousand points of Spiritual Energy, his temples were twitching and throbbing as if he hadn't rested for several days.

However, the real challenge that could be deemed a threat... had yet to appear.

Chapter 522 Red, Blue

Countless mechanical constructs whirled through the air, as a black mechanical gate slowly parted to the left and right before Bai E's eyes, revealing two distinctively colored medium-sized intelligences.

One red, one blue.

Their forms were low and squat, resembling human mechas flattened into the shape of tanks.

One of them wielded a sword and shield, as if a swordsman from ancient human legends had come to life.

The other, brandishing massive dual guns, stood motionless like a formidable heavy firepower fortress.

Their exaggerated color schemes undeniably proclaimed their identities—first-generation intelligences.

At the level Bai E had reached by now, besides these first-generation intelligences, ordinary intelligence constructs could hardly trouble him anymore.

Only those first-generations, direct inheritors of the Golden Age's technology, were qualified to battle Bai E.

Upon sighting the two newly-appeared intelligences, Bai E didn't hesitate. The silver staff in his hands swept forward with tremendous force and a deep whoosh of wind.

The first-generation intelligence with the sword and shield blinked across the space under nearly silent engine thrust, arriving right at the point where the path of the silver staff's swing met its full impact at the earliest stage of momentum.

The huge, red-painted longsword was promptly placed against the staff near the end Bai E was holding, just before the staff's kinetic force fully kicked in.

"Hum~"

At the moment's vibration, the staff, etherealized by Spiritual Energy, nearly revealed its slender original form amidst a sequence of flickering illusions.

The intelligence that had blocked Bai E's attack didn't follow up but, instead, sheathed its sword like a true human swordsman. Its crimson electronic eyes looked toward Bai E, and a synthesized electronic voice conveyed human speech, "You're very skilled. If you withdraw now, we will not hold you accountable."

Bai E stabilized the transformation state of the staff with Spiritual Power Enchantment, his heart pounding as he focused on the light blue panel he had intended to summon before him, which now clearly displayed the combat information he had gathered about his opponent from the strike—

[Through this attack, you've gathered the following relevant information...]

[??? (Intelligence) (Hostile): Health ???/???; Defensive Power ???; Mobility 100%; Traits: Dynamic Source Sword, Super Alloy Armor, Nano-Repair...]

Beyond the core elements like Super Alloy Armor and Nano-Repair, which were the same, the differences between each first-generation intelligence, even though they were all intelligences, were absolutely vast.

Every first-generation intelligence had its own field of expertise and a unique "personality."

Each of these beings, having inherited the grand technology of the Golden Age, was a miraculous creation that persisted from that era, each adorned with the most striking achievements of that time.

[Dynamic Source Sword: The atomic-level force field permeating the blade enables it to tear through nearly all known existing materials; its only drawback is the terrifying amount of energy consumed to maintain the field's presence.]

Cleaving force field!

This was the source of the Dynamic Source Sword's power.

To fight such an opponent meant one had to avoid its edge; any broad, sweeping attacks that collided with the enemy's weapon would only leave one at a disadvantage.

While his thoughts churned, Bai E's Spiritual Energy contracted.

The Spiritual Energy that had suffused the staff receded, causing the giant staff to vanish, leaving only the regular silver rod in Bai E's hand.

He tossed it aside and drew a broad-bladed longsword.

[Military Longsword—Quality: Blue (Light Weapon)]

[Basic Parameters: Blade Attack Power (Type: Slashing): 20~25; Energy Output Level 10; Enhancing Attribute: Armor-Piercing +3%; Durability 100/100.]

[Usage Requirements: Physique 8 (usable).]

[Trait: The dual-alloy construction is light enough to make this longsword both sufficiently lethal and not cumbersome, thus not affecting speed.]

Military longswords were quite different from ceremonial or aristocratic swords. Slightly thicker blades gave them a more robust quality, and their dual-alloy construction made them lighter, unlike the typical heavy Bug-Slaying Blades used by warriors.

Bai E, with a Level 6 expertise in light weapons plus an additional +1 level from his Weapon Master skill, was at a pinnacle level in his use of light weapons compared to most humans.

"Hum~"

A mist of Spiritual Energy spread from Bai E's body to the weapon in his hand, vibrating the blade at a high frequency as it received the Spiritual Power Enchantment.

High-Frequency Cutting.

The Magic Blade skill in the light weapons tree could add an additional enchanted coating to the weapon; normally, these only included ice, fire, and other standard attributes. However, Bai E, who also had the ability to enchant with Spiritual Energy, unlocked many more special coatings.

Of course, all these special coatings would be based on Bai E's understanding and imagination. Spiritual Energy would materialize the actual coatings based on his clarity of cognition and practical imagination.

The clearer and more grounded the imagination, the easier the enchantment would be successful and exhibit its intended effects.

High-Frequency Cutting Weapons were a new type of weapon being developed by the scientists in the research department, and there had been successful prototypes. However, due to cost issues and problems with quality stability, they were not yet ready for mass production. Bai E, having shown interest and learned about them, now effortlessly replicated the same effect.

The High-Frequency Cutting coating endowed the sword with significantly enhanced cutting ability, which translated to nearly doubling the blade's slashing attack power in data terms.

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But it still wasn't enough.

Even the speed of that AI just now seemed absolutely fast in Bai E's eyes, and simply relying on his current base attributes, he absolutely couldn't keep up with its speed.

A Level 7 specialization ability might be considered top-notch among humans, but it was clearly still inadequate when facing this AI.

The skill tree unlocked after specializing to Level 4 in light weapons didn't just include "Magic Blade"; another skill, "Graceful Dance," hadn't been unlocked then due to the nature of the opponent faced. But now, when confronted with an adversary where agility and speed were required, this skill was more than appropriate.

[Payment: 2 * reserve points, 2000 battle experience points.]

[Skill acquired——Graceful Dance.]

[Graceful Dance: Grace is the only essence of light weaponry; Insight Performance +3, Reflex Performance +3, Attack Speed +30%, Dodge +30%, Movement Speed +30%. Consumption: 10 Spiritual Energy (100 action power reserve)/min.]

Turn it on, turn everything on!

Almost all skills required the use of Spiritual Energy, yet Bai E, with his high-speed recovery of Spiritual Energy in the virtual world, had an abundance of it.

Kill!

Bai E, with all basic and combat attributes elevated to an extreme state for the moment, instantly charged out, and his response to the "Knight AI" was in sync, "No need!"

Inherent opposition in their stances necessitated no mercy or compassion.

"Swoosh!"

With a flash of silver sword light, the "Knight AI" only had time to block Bai E's lightning-quick strike with its round shield.

After the flash of the sword, an extremely fine crack immediately appeared on the round shield.

But before Bai E could launch another attack, the crack wriggled as if it had a life of its own, rapidly healing until it was as good as new, as if it had never been damaged.

The battle information list once again showed a new ability from this "Knight AI" —

[Power Source Shield: A round shield with an endless power source can repair any damage sustained at the fastest speed. Until you break through the shield's defense, you won't be able to cause any harm to the body behind it. Durability 200/200]

The strongest sword, the strongest shield.

Combined in one entity—this was the absolute power of an original AI generation.

Energy! Energy!

All its weapons needed sufficient energy to operate, and the technology of small nuclear fusion reactors from the Golden Age provided these non-megastructures with nearly infinite energy supplies.

No wonder Nova's first action when facing them was to extract their internal energy using her own Spiritual Energy.

The power that an original AI with unlimited energy could exert was indeed terrifying.

Bai E's strikes were unable to directly penetrate the Power Source Shield, and the round shield would be restored to new by Nano-Repair before he could launch another strike, equivalent to an armor with infinite durability.

The "Knight AI" had sufficiently high mechanical quality, making it very difficult for Bai E to bypass the shield's defense and strike its body with a sufficiently destructive blow.

However... if there was a possibility to defeat it, that was enough.

After all, the Power Source Shield's maximum durability was only 200, and the mechanical materials that made it were indeed stronger than the military longsword Bai E had forged from a binary alloy, but not by much.

His attacks weren't incapable of breaking through, it's just that they couldn't destroy the round shield in one hit.

What if... they could?

Shatter the round shield before its ability to recover kicks in?

A dangerous glint flashed in Bai E's eyes.

The next moment, frantic alarms raised subconsciously in his mind.

An aura of destruction enveloped Bai E's entire body, and the reactive Bai E rolled away just in time.

"Boom!"

A violent explosion erupted behind Bai E, the sinister cloud of destruction far more ferocious than the earlier barrage of rocket fire.

Even with Absolute Defense constantly activated, Bai E was somewhat apprehensive in the wake of that bombardment, as for the first time he felt the peak threshold that his undefeated defensive power could withstand.

But before Bai E could feel relieved at dodging that terrifying strike, the breath of destruction once again clung to his heart.

Dodge Again!

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

The successive bombardments grazed closely past Bai E's scalp, hitting the ground and instantly annihilating everything within the explosion radius.

The ground shattered, and even steel turned to dust.

The aftershocks of the explosions that hit Bai E made his organs tremble.

The damage from the hits allowed Bai E to discern the characteristics of his opponent, with the information displayed clearly on the panel—

[??? (AI) (Hostile): HP ???/???; Defensive Power ???; Activeness 100%; Traits: Energy Gathering Rifle (Dual-Wielding), Super Alloy Armor, Nano-Repair...]

[Energy Gathering Rifle: With built-in rocket propulsion, the bullets boast an impressive range and maintain their top velocity throughout the trajectory, and the gathered energy projectiles can explode with a force comparable to a small nuclear bomb, while also possessing the firing rate of an assault rifle. It is one of the finest personal weapons from the Golden Age, with an exorbitant cost.]

The bombardment akin to a small nuclear blast brought not just damage but also a forced displacement that accompanied the explosion's shockwave.

Even as Bai E tried as much as possible to move against the forced displacement, he inevitably fell into an inescapable situation under the rapid-fire barrage of the Energy Gathering Rifle.

The shooting skills exhibited by the first-generation AI, with its strongest analytical capabilities, would not be inferior to any human marksman.

The AI wielding dual Energy Gathering Rifles could precisely track Bai E's dodging route, sealing all of his escape paths after a few shots.

"Boom!"

An energy projectile hit Bai E's back accurately, the intense explosion blasted against the surface of the Absolute Defense, and after a moment of resistance, the thin Spiritual Defense Field shattered.

The solid explosion directly impacted Bai E's own flesh, and although a physical attribute of 17.3 might be considered exceptional among humans, it was still insignificant against an attack comparable to a small nuclear bomb.

"Bang!"

The dull sound threw him into the air, a charred body tumbled through many AI units from a great distance, limbs went limp, and surprisingly lost all signs of life.

Nova, who was quite a distance from the battlefield yet sensed this change instantly, suddenly widened her eyes, completely unprepared for the abruptness of the event.

The gathered Spiritual Energy suddenly contracted, and an astonishing presence swept through the subconscious of every being with a Spiritual Body projection in the higher-dimensional space like a black hole.

However, in the next moment, this presence quickly disappeared.

The distant cold sun cast down a tranquil beam of light, soothing the startled emotions.

Resist death!

When the body suffers fatal damage, it can lock in the last drop of blood to prevent death.

This was also the second time the ability of the strongest human warrior from the Golden Age revealed its effectiveness. Under the charred body, countless fresh buds of flesh were regenerating amidst destruction.

"hui~"

The AI dual-wielding the Energy Gathering Rifles, like a cowboy, brought the muzzle of one gun to its lips and gently blew, as if clearing the smoke from the barrel.

The blue electronic eyes flickered slightly, and the synthetic electronic tones carried a distinct note of mockery, "Is this the level?"

The red "Knight AI" stayed silent, merely watching the direction of the charred body amid a crowd of AI units.

"Crack~"

"Crack~"

The tender flesh buds grew wildly, the charred shell was squeezed and fell away, and the reborn body revived with fresh vigor.

"This is the level." A human voice rose from among the AI units seemingly spectating the charred body, and five black alloy arrows emerged from the gaps between the multitude of AI units and writhed like dragons...

Chapter 524 a double boom

[After your body was destroyed and reborn, your physique received sufficient exercise, physique +0.1.]

Bai E, reborn, felt a lingering sense of dread.

The strength of these two Wisdom Machines was surprisingly formidable, far beyond the level of the one he encountered last time.

The previous Wisdom Machine had only one laser-type weapon that could pose a fatal threat to him, and it took a considerable amount of time to activate, not to mention it was only used once, obviously unable to be fired multiple times.

And this time?

If it weren't for his ability to ignore death once, he would already be a goner.

Was it because Nova stole energy last time that made them seem easier to fight?

I don't know.

But actually, it's not important.

Just as Blackwater City's counterattack against the Blackrock Bug Nest, humanity's understanding of this world isn't always accurate.

But many things need to be done before anything else.

If he didn't have his current configuration, he wouldn't have been bold enough to assault this factory alone.

Let's see whose luck runs out!

Underneath the cold rage surged a spark of inspiration, and five arrows were Bai E's arrows of vengeance.

The red-painted chivalrous Wisdom Machine reacted first, its silhouette flashing as it positioned itself directly in front of an incoming arrow, the round shield in its hand directly facing the arrow's trajectory.

Even the arc-like motion of the arrow couldn't avoid the shield so closely in front of it.

"Boom!"

The arrow, capable of penetrating anything, did not spare the shield that could quickly recover, and upon touching the shield's surface, numerous afterimages followed, piercing through.

Nine strikes as one, the shadows of the arrows plunged in.

The large round shield was completely perforated, and the mechanical body behind the shield also suffered some non-penetrating damage.

The internal mechanical structure was faintly visible.

After passing through the Power Source Shield, the arrow lost its previously invincible power.

But that was just one arrow.

There were still four arrows with the same power!

Using a powerful shot combined with full-powered instant-kill arrows, he unleashed his strongest move yet, expending 75 points of Spiritual Energy in an instant for unparalleled lethal damage.

"Boom boom boom boom!"

The dragon-like arrows left behind almost imperceptible trails in the air before collectively slamming into the targeted Wisdom Machine's body.

Of course, the body structure of a First-Generation Wisdom Machine was hard enough, its "super-alloy material" a match for the current human-made elemental series alloys.

But it wasn't enough!

The arrow shadows shot through like shuttles, instantly plunging in.

Without any resistance, the body of the Wisdom Machine showed four holes about a meter in diameter each.

The Wisdom Machine, with its arms completely shattered, could no longer hold its two Energy Gathering Rifles, and erratic electrical currents roamed over its entire body.

The pair of blue electronic eyes flickered, and the electronic synthesized mechanical voice became incredibly stuttered, "How... could this... happen?"

[You delivered an extraordinary strike that instantly shattered your opponent's defenses, gaining +35 experience in ranged weapon mastery.]

[Your attack has precisely hit the target's energy core, rendering the target's body in "scrap" status, but it's rapidly recovering under the effect of "Mechanized Energy Sharing," with a countdown of 29.9 seconds.]

A new feature appeared in the combat attribute information of both the red and blue Wisdom Machines at the same time—

[Mechanized Energy Sharing: Their long-term collaboration and complementary characters and abilities allow their mechanized energy to merge and communicate without obstruction; any damage sustained by one within a certain distance will be healed by the mechanized energy of both. You must complete the synchronized "kill" within 30 seconds to truly defeat them! (Effective range: 10 kilometers)]

It was after this strike that Bai E finally saw the line of text from the drop rate appearing above their heads—

[??? (Wisdom Machine) (Hostile) (Lord)—Using "Lucky Strike" to kill may drop: Guaranteed (Steel*8000, Combat Experience 20000 points); High Probability (Technology: Fission Field Generator, Technology: Energy Gathering Bullet Manufacturing Process); Possible (Blueprint: Energy Gathering Rifle, Blueprint: Dynamic Source Sword, Blueprint: Power Source Shield)]

No wonder he hadn't been able to see the drop rates of these two First-Generation Wisdom Machines since the fight began; it turns out the subtitles only appeared after discovering how to defeat them.

The resources to be dropped were more than double those from the last Wisdom Machine he fought, and all it took was one skill recharge... assuming he could win, that is.

30 seconds!

Bai E drew his sword and charged towards the red chivalrous Wisdom Machine, which had recovered and was ready for battle.

The arrow's attack was effective against the other Wisdom Machine that used the Energy Gathering Rifles, but this red chivalrous one was faster and more responsive.

Attacks aimed at the blue Wisdom Machine could be completely blocked by it, and attacks on itself were likely to largely miss.

Moreover, even if one or two arrows hit, if they were blocked by the Power Source Shield, not much power would be left.

Under such circumstances, shooting arrows wasn't as reliable as the sword in his hand.

Without the five-fold shot from his instant-kill arrows, was he out of options?

Spiritual Energy surged, and the Spiritual Power Enchantment attached to his hand grew even stronger.

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The damage layer added to the weapon by the magic-infused blade could double its lethality with additional expenditure of Spiritual Energy. The damage layer enhancement amounted to an additional 210 points of slashing attack power, as Bai E cranked up his limit to the maximum of 200 points/minute of Spiritual Energy expenditure.

Such basic damage was far superior to his own arrows after a powerful strike, and with the full enhancement of instantly killing a hundred, the longsword's lethality would only be greater than the arrows'... and, it would strike faster!

Charging with his sword, Bai E swept past one of the smart mechanoids, leaving behind a faint afterimage, the scarlet electronic eyes already on full alert.

Even knowing that a companion had been seriously injured, as long as 30 seconds could be endured, the companion would be able to fully recover. The chivalrous smart mechanoids wouldn't back down in the slightest.

The best plan, of course, was to flee, but the pride and "humanity" of the first-generation smart mechanoids would not permit such a shameful act.

Only by confronting directly and fulfilling their "humanity" could they draw closer to the legendary "Soul of Ten Thousand Machines" and summon back the master of the smart mechanoids sealed by humans.

The swords swept past, and the blade light flickered.

High-frequency cutting clashed fiercely against the fission field, neither giving way to the other.

However, in a moment of crossing paths, the military longsword bypassed the Dynamic Source Sword's blockade and successfully breached the inner line of the chivalrous smart mechanoid.

The Power Source Shield in the left hand intervened immediately, but what it faced... was a slash as though accompanied by thousands of sword shadows.

"Boom Boom Boom Boom Boom!"

The recovery ability of the Power Source Shield was top-notch, capable of fully restoring itself in just a few breaths even after a lethal penetration, but... what if it faced a barrage of powerful attacks raining down on the shield simultaneously?

The maximum ninefold attack enhancement of instantly killing a hundred could be considered "one strike," or "simultaneous."

One sword falls, a myriad of swords arise.

The nine simultaneously cutting slashes broke the recovery limit of the round shield, and its structure was instantly torn apart under the force of the powerful cuts.

"Bang!"

The shield, forged from an unknown metal, shattered into pieces with a crisp crack, its remnants flying off in all directions.

Behind the round shield, a glimpse of human-like surprise and astonishment appeared in those scarlet electronic eyes.

"Sixteen seconds..." Bai E's lips curled slightly as he landed and rolled backward to dodge the instant counterattack from the Dynamic Source Sword.

Deprived of its round shield, the chivalrous smart mechanoids' swordplay became more agile, yet the first-generation smart mechanoid that had shifted from offense to defense already lost its initial arrogance.

A long guard always leads to failure; Bai E's longsword was like a venomous snake, bypassing the guard of the Dynamic Source Sword and striking at the midline for the second time.

One sword fell, and shadows of blades danced wildly.

If the Power Source Shield couldn't withstand Bai E's one strike, how could the basic smart mechanoid's body withstand this earth-shattering blow.

The sword wind was piercingly cold, shredding everything.

The disassembled mechanical structures scattered on the ground, accompanied by the convulsions and tremors of the entire mechanoid body.

[Your attack has successfully dismantled the target's entire defense, rendering the target's body into a "scrap" state, but it is rapidly recovering under the effect of "Shared Mechanical Power," countdown: 29.9 seconds.]

Another one, 3 seconds left...

Picking up the main remnant of the red smart mechanoid, Bai E threw it next to the blue smart mechanoid before reaching out to grip the iron bar again, as the Spiritual Power Enchantment began to change shape.

"2 seconds..."

"Grow!"

"Grow!"

"Grow!"

"1 second..."

[Activating "Lucky Strike."]

"Boom!"

The iron bar smashed down, shattering the earth.

The fractured ground spread outward from the point where the bar struck, extending all the way to the edge of the factory.

[Loot acquired: Steel*8000, Combat Experience 20000 points, Technology: Fission Field Generator, Technology: Energy Gathering Bullet Manufacturing Process, Blueprint: Energy Gathering Rifle, Blueprint: Dynamic Source Sword.]

"Huff~"

"Huff~"

Cold sweat trickled down Bai E's forehead like rain, soaking the only remaining half of his uniform trousers.

The temples throbbed violently, and the massive replenishment and depletion of Spiritual Energy brought unimaginable shock damage to Bai E's will, making the moment the battle ended feel like a red-hot knife stirring inside him.

Waves of overwhelming fatigue surged up, and darkness tried over and over again to take over Bai E's entire field of view.

[After an exhilarating and intense battle, your body's training has reached its limit, and you've achieved a transcendental enhancement: Physical Strength +0.2, Insight +0.2, Reflexes +0.2.]

The surge of newly birthed strength brought a sliver of lucidity into his mind, allowing Bai E to barely cling to the last thread of consciousness without fainting.

The power of Spiritual Energy burst out for the last time, merging with the iron rod to sweep across the land.

What remained of machine gun turrets, newly created Smart Machinery, and all other defensive systems were obliterated in this final strike, leaving the ground marred and scarred.

Having done all this, Bai E scanned the land with weary eyes, and after seeing no more moving threats, finally closed his eyes in contentment as his body fell heavily backwards.

"It's our turn now!" Rose threw aside everything in her hand and slammed down on the gas pedal, roaring out.

The incoming convoy in the distance was probably people called by Bai E, but she couldn't just watch Bai E's fallen body end up in the hands of some riffraff.

Take full control!

Bai E, unconscious, needn't worry about a thing, and faced with the fierce record of a single person taking down an entire Smart Machinery Factory, no one dared to harbor any unusual thoughts.

The uncollected Smart Machinery still laid scattered about, who would want to try their luck and meet the same fate?

The convoy summoned by Gilder and the player-led small town convoy, seeing this inconceivable scene, could only emit a united exclamation of awe from the uninitiated—

"Turtle turtle!"

"Turtle turtle!"

They had watched the whole process of the battle, and though from a distance, they at least knew the target of the battle and the terrifying destructive power that both sides had unleashed.

Not to mention the final peak battle, even the initial cluster rocket bombardment wasn't something these inexperienced nobodies could withstand.

And an entire factory... was just taken down by one person?

Every time their gaze occasionally swept over the closely guarded off-road vehicle, everyone's eyes held the same admiration and reverence.

"So personal might in this game can grow to be this fierce?"

"It seems our lord had been holding back when teaching us..."

Players busily moved everything transportable within the factory, all the while fantasizing about their own future development limits.

They didn't ask for much, just to have a template like this NPC's would suffice.

With that strength, what bugs, demons, Smart Machinery, and orc-like catastrophes? We would be the damn catastrophe!

...

The convoy swayed and wobbled.

The daylight sun shone through the window, illuminating the interior of the vehicle.

Bai E, placed as gently as possible on soft bedding, slowly woke up amidst a warm touch.

He felt a cool, soothing moisture nourishing his parched sea of consciousness.

The external Spiritual Energy carefully nourished his recently overstretched and cracked land, and his sea of consciousness, having endured a full exercise, birthed an even more condensed surge of Spiritual Energy.

[After several cycles of depletion and replenishment in a short period, your Spiritual Energy has undergone substantial training, Spiritual Energy +50/50.]

An extraordinary breakthrough.

This was a superlative leap that ordinary Spiritual Energy users could only achieve after meditating for an unknown length of time.

Spiritual Energy users were already rare, and the upgrades available to a second tier Spiritual Energy user were exceedingly slow.

That's why the process from the second tier to the third tier was so incredibly prolonged, so much so that a Spiritual Energy user might never touch the third tier in their lifetime.

And as for myself... Spiritual Energy 281/281.

The 1000 points needed for a third tier Spiritual Energy user... still a considerable distance away.

Bai E opened his eyes, and the first thing he saw was Nova's eyes, moist and gleaming.

"Wow! Big Bai!"

"Cough cough cough~" The girl's strength was no joke, and as Bai E was still somewhat weakened upon waking, he weakly patted the girl's head buried into his neck, "Relax a little... relax..."

Chapter 526 Hand-rubbed Reactor

During his coma, it was this little creature who ceaselessly nourished his sea of consciousness with her Spiritual Energy.

Having undergone countless rebirths, Nova seemed to have concentrated all of her beauty into this present life.

Only after he had finally calmed Nova's emotions did Bai E sit up and look towards his teammates in the carriage, "How's the situation?"

"We're already on our way to the ruins of the small town." You, sitting in the front passenger seat, was the first to reply, "We're scouting ahead, with a fully loaded convoy behind us, including vehicles and teams from Black Street and the small town, and everyone is intact. As for the loot... we haven't tallied it yet, but as per your initial request, we emptied out all the visible 'Computing Power Resources,' rare minerals, and any movable small machineries and machine tools."

Many creations of smart machinery pose usage barriers for humans; without skilled technicians to modify them, they are difficult to put into immediate use.

However, purely production-oriented machine tools and equipment are not fundamentally different from those used by humans, making them not particularly difficult to decrypt and use.

"That's good," said Bai E with a nod, relieved to have accomplished a significant offensive, and of course, to reap the benefits in one go.

Apart from the Computing Power Resources needed for his personal use, only those iron machine tools from the smart machinery's creations capable of producing different parts were truly useful for Li Ming Town.

Even though he already possessed advanced technologies like Fission Field Generators and concentrated energy bullet manufacturing processes, Li Ming Town still had to start from the basics and work up step by step.

While speaking, Bai E's body swayed with the movement of the carriage, then he suddenly fell silent.

His Spiritual Energy, having broken through substantially, allowed for a clearer perception of the outside world, and his keen Spiritual Energy relayed back a peculiar sensation.

...

Concentrating his mind, Bai E followed the fleeting sensation to explore, and so he discovered several "watchful" gazes.

They were watching, not admiring.

With a threat?

Bai E picked up the Compound Bow placed by his side, casually opened the sunroof inside the vehicle, and flipped out.

Without even glancing in the direction of the target, he drew the bow and released the arrow.

"Whoosh!" The arrow buried into the ground, tearing through the black leather.

Watching the finely made steel arrow with its fletching trembling by his side, the black leather-clad warrior who had been following the convoy left and right was shocked, and his pursuit steps became hesitant.

The other party had noticed them!

This arrow was a warning!

Remembering the opponent's ferocious achievement of single-handedly annihilating the Smart Machinery Factory, even the warrior who had undergone numerous surgeries and whose physical strength was beyond that of a human couldn't help but feel a sincere tremor in his heart.

"Stop chasing," said the leading warrior, waving his hand to stop his teammates, his tone solemn, "Go back and report to the doctor; we are not enough to confront him."

...

With the awakening of Bai E, there were no more disturbances along the way.

It's challenging to live in the wilderness for long in this era, but when someone as strong as Bai E leads the way, as long as one avoids the forbidden areas deliberately, the wilderness isn't that dangerous after all.

Seeing the distant convoy returning, the three players guarding the entrance to the town were overjoyed.

In the few days since the adults had left Li Ming Town, they had each made progress in their fields and couldn't wait to showcase them to the adult.

The off-road vehicle stopped in front of a fence surrounded by wooden railings, and as Bai E jumped down from the vehicle, he was greeted by the smiling faces of Yafei and the brothers Wang Wenbo and Wang Wenyan.

"My lord!"

"My lord!"

"The town has developed quite well during these days," they said.

Bai E glanced over the quietly standing row of apartment buildings in the distance.

The exterior walls hadn't been painted yet, but the basic structure was essentially complete.

The old asphalt roads had also been cleared, leaving behind a standard for posterity amidst the ravages of time.

All things considered, the place now looked somewhat like a residential area of a town.

"Of course!" Wang Wenbo gestured towards the distance, "We have basically finished the reconstruction of the residential area, and these past two days, we've been moving most of the people to the steel production plant to build infrastructure. By the way, my lord, did the equipment arrive this time? As long as we have the equipment, the steel plant won't take long to start production."

They did have some steel left by the adults, but building an entire production factory required more than just steel.

Many places needed precise parts to be connected, something they couldn't just conjure by hand.

"They've arrived," said Bai E, a smile on his lips as he looked behind him.

The heavy convoy slowly rose from the distant horizon, weighed down so much that even the wheels of the fully loaded vehicles appeared deflated, making the journey noticeably slow and labored.

"Have someone help unload and then hurry up with the production," Bai E said, patting Wang Wenbo on the shoulder and feeling extremely satisfied with the players' execution.

One day in this world is just one day, but for players, everything in the game feels like it's in fast forward, with one day used as if it were ten, planning their time with meticulous care.

Leaving these infrastructure tasks to the players is quite reassuring.

"Understood, my lord!" The Wang brothers shouted, their bodies instantly darting out.

This type of infrastructure construction also allowed them to experience the alternative thrill available in the game.

Chapter 527 Hand-rubbed Reactor_2

In a chaotic world, to create one's own safe haven also entails a sense of achievement.

"My lord," watching the two brothers cheer and leave, Yafei met Bai E's gaze with a slight nod.

"Any trouble?" As the stall expanded, Bai E had to pay attention to many things.

"Yes!" Yafei nodded firmly, "One bad news, one good news."

"Start with the bad one."

"The food we brought out is running low, even with a 20% cut across the board, at most we can only last another month."

Although they still had plenty for now, as the logistics chief, Yafei had to possess a certain level of foresight.

One month was not enough for them to find a new source of food to bridge the gap.

Bai E's brows furrowed lightly, "What about the good news?"

"We've found a type of spore bacteria colony that can be cultivated on a large scale. The colony is edible with a decent yield, but we only have a limited amount of seeds... They say it was you who gave them to us?"

Bai E looked puzzled, following Yafei's gaze towards Kuang Xin and the others behind him, "I gave it to you?"

Kuang Xin, scratching his head, replied with a grin, "It's that 'spore bacteria colony.' We didn't know what to do with it, so we just handed it to Yafei."

"Spore bacteria colony?"

Wasn't that blasted off the beastmen?

Essentially, beastmen are a type of spore bacteria colony.

The beastman spore bacteria colony obtained from a lucky hit actually eliminated the "beastman vitality"? So that the grown colony could no longer turn into beastmen, but became food edible by humans?

Does a lucky hit also have this effect?

But it's a pity that it only blasted once...

"2,500 portions, go to the warehouse to claim them."

"Yes!" Yafei accepted with excitement.

Standing in the bustling town, Bai E had an idea and set a new rule—

["Li Ming Town" restoration progress reaches 10%, unlocking the first process of the town restoration plan.]

[Official Position—Logistics Department technology column unlocked.]

[Technology—Industrialized Basic Planting, Redemption Requirement—300 points of "Li Ming Town" prestige.]

Although all the technology and knowledge related to the development of power were things Bai E originally planned to teach, after all, the eventual benefits would still belong to himself.

However, everything must have a price, Li Ming Town was his, not the players'.

Players today might serve as the logistics chief of Li Ming Town, and tomorrow they might serve another power as laborers.

If they were to receive one new technology after another without any cost, it would hardly make them take it seriously.

Investment breeds attachment.

The prestige system for powers is a standard of one's contribution, only those who have made significant contributions to the power and hold a position can learn these abilities and, in turn, contribute to the construction of the power, continuing to accumulate prestige.

A healthy feedback loop is thus established.

Bai E set a very low requirement for the initial major food production task.

Basically, any player involved in the reclamation already had over 200 points, so gathering 300 points was easy.

Bai E then waved his hand and summoned the leader of the convoy that came from Black Street.

The leader was a young lad with lively eyes, exuding cleverness.

And since he was selected by Gilder, he was surely trustworthy.

"Do you have an actual position in Black Street?"

"No!" The young man shook his head vigorously, excitement on his face.

"Good, then from now on you'll be responsible for the communication between this town and Black Street, in charge of personnel exchanges and material swaps and so on. Any problem?"

"No problem!" The young man asserted with confidence, loudly responding.

He had witnessed with his own eyes how this lord single-handedly cleared out an entire Smart Machinery Factory.

Such formidable strength, even if looked at across the entire city, would be rare to find.

Truly worthy of the lord who had led them back to humanity from the hands of devils. To abandon such a lord for the embrace of the city would be nothing short of turning one's back on the light and embracing the dark.

Leave the adult and return to the city? Hah! Not even a dog would go!

"Alright."

[You have invited "Kardi" to become the Minister of Foreign Affairs between your territory (Li Ming Town) and your ruled land (Black Street).]

[The target has accepted your invitation.]

"Nova?"

"Present!"

"From now on, when Kardi needs help with transporting important materials or personnel, you'll have to lend him a hand." Black Street was probably already being watched, so having Nova run back and forth might actually help to avoid the enemy's surveillance.

Before Bai E could lock down the doctor's whereabouts and ascertain the opponent's motives, he had to make some preparations of his own.

Even the group that had just been discovered and might be doing the surveillance wasn't confirmed to be under the doctor's orders.

"Alright!" Nova accepted Bai E's request cheerfully, without the slightest bit of reluctance.

"Master! Master!" Wang Wenyan, who had left earlier, was calling out and running back.

"What happened?"

"Master..." Wang Wenyan was panting heavily, explaining while catching his breath, "Electricity... electricity..."

The folks who were eagerly unloading various machine tools and equipment just attempted to start one of the machines, only to realize a disappointing fact after much tinkering.

Damn, there's no electricity!

How can the machines start without electricity?

"Electricity, huh..." Bai E chuckled, "Follow me."

As he walked, Bai E allocated his points directly.

Learning consumes less experience, the basics only require 100 points, and it's on the same level as specialized abilities.

Now with plenty of experience in hand, Bai E did not hesitate to level up the required knowledge to max.

As for the necessary reactor materials... there were plenty just obtained from the looted Smart Machinery legacy.

[Knowledge – Miniaturized Kinetic Theory (Level 3/3): The finer the reactor, the higher-grade core materials are needed. Checking the resources currently owned by the character, you can now build a level 1 nuclear reactor.]

The so-called miniaturized power is the small nuclear reactor used by the Smart Machinery.

Their Dynamic Source Sword, Power Source Shield, and the like, all are powered by this core energy supply.

The smaller the power source, the smaller the structure it can be mounted on to support its function.

Now, they only needed to build a power station that could support the electricity needed by a fixed steel mill, so there was no need for such refined miniaturized power.

Even the most basic level 1 large nuclear reactor was enough for the current use of the small town.

The difficulty with this ability lies in the materials, not the knowledge.

With the seized materials at hand and countless pieces of knowledge in his mind to guide him, creating a nuclear reactor from scratch wasn't a difficult task.

The technology of the Golden Age possesses such fascinating charm, with many steps simplified to the point where a single person could construct a technological legion.

After staying another two days in the town, which was being rebuilt, and ensuring that everything was on the right track, Bai E took his squad and set out on the road back home once again.

The deadline for the ban mentioned by the higher-ups the last time they left the base was approaching, and their special squad no longer had the privilege to carry out missions far from the camp at will.

...

Indeed, as soon as Bai E's special squad returned to the base, the Mech Armored Corps instructor who heard of their arrival immediately came looking for them.

"Captain Bai, please don't go out again in these next two days."

Even though your mech's actual operation skill is stronger than mine, the instructor, you can't be absent all the time, right?

Many of the newly selected official mech pilots want to witness the prowess of this star mech pilot, but the instructor's reply to everyone was "can't find the person"?

"Don't worry, Instructor, there's training tomorrow, right? I'll definitely be there."

After many days, Bai E was somewhat missing his beloved mecha.

The last time he connected, the delay in converting Spiritual Energy into mechanic force was 2.03 seconds.

If he were to be fully prepared before really facing that terrifying sovereign, Bai E would have more confidence in defeating the horrific Bug Race behemoth.

"That's a promise then, rawr!" Hearing Bai E's commitment, the instructor was over the moon.

The young rookies nowadays are quite prickly, and it's not easy to reign them in without pulling out a big gun.

Chapter 528 Relaxed

Early morning, the fields outside the city.

More than twenty mechas, painted in blue and white, stood silently arrayed on the land.

In front of them, there were two other mechas of the same model, facing each other in silence.

The instructor's voice emitted from the loudspeakers inside the cockpit of each mecha, announcing the training content for all mech pilots today.

"Standing beside me is the legend of Mech Armored Corps, the goal that all of you work hard for. Today's training is very simple. Use whatever method you like... whether it's a relay or a group fight. As long as you can bring down the mecha beside me, the victor may make any request of me! As long as it's within reason, if I can't do it, I will apply to the superior! Just fight, and leave the rest to me. Understood?"

"Understood!" The crowd was fervent, and the voices from the speakers were a jumble.

During the time Bai E was away on missions, Mech Armored Corps had consecutively selected several pairs of qualified mech pilots from the reserves.

Apart from the initial batch who had been to battle with Bai E and witnessed him forcefully break through and behead the Thunderbeast, the newly selected pilots somewhat resented the "formidable reputation" left by Bai E.

All were mech pilots, and occasional sparring in daily life could result in wins and losses.

They didn't believe the same mecha could not perform spectacularly in someone else's hands.

They clamored to the instructor, expressing the desire to meet the current "legend" of the Mech Armored Corps. Not just to admire his legendary aura but more so to see if they could gain some advantage over him.

To be outmatched in a fight was to recognize the gap, but to win... one always needs something to look forward to, right?

Seeing the rivalry successfully stirred, the instructor curled his lips into a slight smirk and asked Bai in a private audio channel, "Captain Bai, any concerns?"

"None," Bai E glanced at the distant barracks and countered, "Will it be troublesome to repair if they're damaged? I heard the decisive battle is drawing near."

The instructor waved his hand expansively, "Don't worry! Fight all you want!"

"Okay."

Bai E and Rose exchanged a glance, a tacit smile in their eyes.

Although it had been nearly half a month since they last operated a mecha, the muscle memory they'd developed was hard to forget so quickly.

On the contrary, after this break and returning to the mecha, Rose suddenly felt a new level of comprehension in the operation of the mecha.

And when paired with Bai E, they couldn't be that far off, could they?

...

"Let's begin," the instructor's light words kicked off the battle.

He then withdrew to the back, driving his mecha alongside the personage of Mechanical Court.

With Bai E returning to the squad today, the personage of Mechanical Court, who had long been absent from the Mech Armored Corps training, took time out to come.

"Wonder if this kid's skills have become rusty..." The instructor looked at the single blue and white mecha standing alone, his tone somewhat wistful as he deliberately struck up the topic.

"Rusty?" The personage from Mechanical Court's tone took an uptick, his eyes narrowing, neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

Even in just a simple standing posture, he sensed something out of the ordinary.

That feeling was like the prelude to a relentless slaughter during judgment missions in Mechanical Court alongside other senior executioners.

Whether it was becoming rusty or even more skillful, it would soon be clear.

"Buzz!"

The sound of engines running merged into a continuous whir, and the mechas of Mech Armored Corps, having been in an irregular formation, instantaneously dispersed.

Despite not restricting relay fights or group brawls, the training mechas weren't equipped with many types of weapons, only basic combat swords and a machine gun that couldn't breach most of the mecha's defenses, making the weaponry options limited for the pilots to choose from.

To rush forward together would not only likely hinder each other, the unfamiliar coordination could also cause accidental injuries to teammates.

The two mechas at the forefront of the formation glanced at each other, nodded, and decided to take the initiative to strike first and test the "legend's" mettle.

Acting first naturally meant losing more opportunity to observe the opponent, but where could you have the chance to leisurely watch and then analyze your opponent on the actual battlefield?

Adapting on-the-fly was a basic skill of every warrior.

As elites who had distinguished themselves from the reserve mech pilots, they were both confident in their abilities.

The two mechas, one left and one right, boldly attacked!

The alloy combat swords traced arced trajectories in the air, and their two different feinting methods undoubtedly required the target of their combined strike to expend more effort to counter them.

Since everyone was piloting mechas of the same technical standard, in terms of strength, speed, and even weapon configuration, there was no chance of miraculous feats of strength or absolute speed.

Apart from the title of "Captain's Mecha," there was no difference between the mechas.

However... with a light retreat backward, the swords of the two mechas missed their mark at the same time.

And taking advantage of the moment one mecha's sword swung down in a slanting chop, the Captain's Mecha, not yet fully withdrawn, surged forward again, the sword slashing toward the opponent's right arm holding the sword, ferocious and ruthless.

"Clang!"

Apart from a few areas, the arm armor's protection was second only to the chest plate.

The mecha struck solidly by the combat sword emitted a loud noise, but that was the full extent of the "Captain's Mecha's" counter.

The slight dent was the only result of that retaliation.

Chapter 529 Relaxed

"Is it crooked?"

Retreating to one side, the instructor squinted his eyes.

There was nothing wrong with his student's movements, a standard chop, but it was slow, and the follow-up left a substantial opening exposed.

Based on the level of the Mech Pilot group that Bai E belonged to on the battlefield, they should have been able to dismember his arm with one strike.

But now...

The instructor glanced to the side; he spoke up because he wanted to see what this VIP from the Mechanical Court thought, yet the Mechanical Court dignitary remained silent.

The battle on the field continued.

The captain's Mecha, with a sword strike to the Mecha's forearm, retreated instantaneously, preemptively dodging another strike coming from a different Mecha from behind.

Therefore, the Mecha that had just been hacked at didn't even have time to plan a counterattack before it was smashed in the chest by a blow from its ally.

"Damn!"

The voice boomed!

The chest armor was sturdier, no injuries inflicted, but the disadvantage was apparent.

This is why the weapons used for training were low-power weapons: their inability to easily break through defenses allowed for more thorough and detailed exchanges of blows.

To clearly determine a victor would require a drawn-out battle... or indeed, a vast disparity in skill.

In regular Mecha sparring sessions among peers, a point system based on hits would determine the winner, but not this time.

Inside the doubly hit Mecha, the two Mech Pilots made eye contact, fury blazing in their eyes.

They knew there was definitely a gap between themselves and the "legend," and had even braced themselves to be knocked down in one move.

However, under these tickling blows, no gap emerged, only the mediocrity of the opponent was apparent.

"Aim properly, don't fucking hit me again!" With a brief communication through the team's voice chat, the two Mechas once again lunged from left and right.

Bai E sighed softly and pulled his Mecha to the right.

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!"

The alloy sword drew countless arcs through the air, the dense sword light seemingly forcing the captain's Mecha to avoid its edge, left with no choice but to dodge repeatedly.

After endless dodging, the two attacking Mechas unwittingly created a disparity between themselves.

One after the other, as if they were working in concert.

When one would reveal an opening with a strike, there seemed to always be the other coincidentally ready to take its place.

One strike followed by another, as if without end.

The instructor, who had been watching intently with squinted eyes, couldn't believe how the situation on the field had somehow evolved to this phase.

He had brought Bai E here to give these kids a taste of the power at the very top.

Yet instead of demonstrating the gap, these kids had been getting more and more in sync, more and more adept as they fought on.

Perhaps Captain Bai had intended to give these youngsters a chance to show off... but had he unwittingly become caught up in the performance?

With no disparity in Mecha performance, once caught in such a situation, it would be exceedingly difficult to break free.

Hmm... These pairs of kids have potential too, being able to push Bai E to this extent. How had it gone unnoticed before?

"..."

Realizing this, the instructor froze for an instant, identifying a blind spot he hadn't noticed before.

"That's not right..."

Had these kids ever worked together before?

It wasn't like he hadn't tried having them spar in groups before, but those sparring sessions were not exactly fruitful.

Controlling a Mecha was already a challenging task, and battles were best handled in a one-on-one scenario without any external influence to fully utilize the Mecha's power, which had been concluded as the most suitable arrangement for Mech Pilots in previous generations.

However, now...

Lost in thought, the instructor came back to his senses and, like seeking assistance, turned his gaze to the dignitary from the Mechanical Court next to him.

A cold smile flickered across the Mechanical Court dignitary's usually silent disposition, "You just realized?"

From the beginning, Bai E's plan wasn't to quickly end the fight.

Helping the instructor train these rookie Mech Pilots in teamwork was Bai E's real intention.

Through his own suppression, he had the Mech Pilot teams learn the essence of seamless teamwork in battle.

This intangible change, even they themselves hadn't noticed.

...

However, just as the coordination between the two mechas was becoming increasingly tacit, and the captain's machine was constantly facing dangerous situations under their pincer attack, the moment the pilots saw a glimmer of victory, the situation changed abruptly.

In the very moment the mecha, forced to lose its balance and fall by a single cut, touched the ground, the captain's machine braced itself with one arm and executed a whirlwind sweep kick on the spot, driving back another mecha that had already closed in.

Subsequently, with both arms propping on the ground, a reverse V-shaped flying kick struck instantaneously, solidly hitting the chest of the pursuing mecha.

The immense force instantly flipped over the huge figure, which had become unstable due to the pursuit, and the captain's machine, pressing down on the opponent from above, then extended both hands in a twist, easily removing the head of the fallen mecha.

"Beep! Beep! Beep!"

The piercing alarm bell rang loudly, and the cockpit was bathed in a flashing scarlet light.

The downed group of mech pilots did not even have time to respond with a counterattack before their mecha had already lost most of its ability to resist.

With the loss of one mecha, the other was also unable to escape the grasp of doom.

In just an instant, the tide of attack and defense reversed.

However, upon witnessing that desperate counter-attack by the captain's machine, the remaining pilots were even more excited.

A simple cooperation between two groups of mech pilots had pushed this "legendary" figure to such an extent. If it hadn't been for their carelessness due to their proximity to victory, the so-called "legend" would have been suppressed to death.

"Watch us!"

Two more mechas charged into battle.

That V-shaped revenge kill just now was indeed cool, but an instant of high-intensity operation inevitably led to a high load on the pilot.

The captain's machine must have entered a brief state of overload by now, and although taking advantage of this moment might seem like an unfair win, since the instructor had said that winning by overwhelming numbers or any means of beating the opponent was still a win, why not seize the opportunity?

On the battlefield, learning to seize opportunities is equally a fundamental requirement for a warrior.

"Swoosh!"

"Ratatatatata!"

The cooperation between the second group of mechas appeared to be more thoughtful, with one attacking from a distance and one up close, one wielding a sword, and one with a gun.

Though the training-supplied machine guns couldn't penetrate armor, they still inflicted certain damage and impact force when they hit the body.

In their regular score-based sparring sessions, these would all count as points.

Yet facing the captain's machine, which always used its companion's form for cover, the mecha at the rear soon abandoned the idea of sniping from a distance.

Thus, after another period of "suppression—pursuit—turnaround", two more freshly downed mechas lay on the vast earth.

The remaining pilots were visibly starting to doubt themselves, but there were always braves full of self-confidence, "This time, let's go up three at once!"

The first two groups of mechas didn't exert enough pressure!

Looking at the last two battles, they were just a little bit short...

Three mechas lay heavily wounded on the ground.

"... just a little bit short!"

Three mechas lay heavily wounded on the ground.

"I don't believe it!"

Even the mechas standing further away began to offer long-range firepower support for their comrades engaged in close combat.

But the captain's machine, holding a shield in one hand and a sword in the other, stood as an everlasting bastion, invincible. Regardless of how many mechas approached, they only ended up being counter-killed after seemingly overpowering advances.

Each had its own way of dying...

The damaged mechas lay scattered all around, giving the maintenance-serving mechs a headache.

"..."

"Good, good, good!" The instructor's excited voice resounded in the ears of every mech pilot.

Amazing!

Too amazing!

The instructor was touched to the point of tears.

Compared to the past absolute dominance over multiple opponents, casually counter-killing after the others had unconsciously learned to cooperate seemed even more graceful, exuding the demeanor of a peerless grandmaster.

And more so...

Was Captain Bai actually helping them train?

For the Mech Armored Corps about to go into battle against the Bug Race, the training camp led by Captain Bai was of immense significance.

If his young charges could learn to coordinate intricately, then they would clearly have far more tactical options when facing the titanic bugs of the Bug Race.

"You kept clamoring to meet Captain Bai, and now... Our Captain Bai has wasted an entire day with you during this training camp, surely you've seen the gap in strength, haven't you?"

Chapter 530 Smart Machine Counterattack!

All mechas had broken down, and all mech pilots stood in the open field.

Facing the instructor's lecture, everyone remained silent.

Perhaps at the very beginning, they only felt that the so-called "legend" was nothing special, that it could be suppressed when ganged upon by two or three mechas.

However, when the same script played out from beginning to end, even a fool could see the problem.

This "legend" had been letting them.

If one paid more attention, they could even discover that not only was he letting them, but he was also intentionally guiding them on how to collaborate when attacking a strong enemy, demonstrating the strength of 1+1 being greater than 2.

The gap... was unimaginably wide.

How confident must one be to casually pull off such a bold move?

And yet, the other side had done it with such ease.

The gap between this group of "Legendary Mechanics" and them was indeed even greater than that between humans and dogs...

Elite mech pilots, selected from the elite, were speechlessly convinced.

["Lucky Strike" charge +50.]

"I'm going to head back if there's nothing else," a gentle voice appeared in all the warriors' headsets.

The moment he received the panel notification, Bai E knew he had achieved his goal for this field training.

Simply defeating them might only bring about dissatisfaction and the desire to challenge, but this kind of instructional sparing truly demonstrated its value.

If it wasn't for that charge, would he bother spending a whole day tangled up with these rookie regular mech pilots?

As soon as he returned to the camp, Bai E set down Rose.

"I'll drive it to the storeroom myself; you go ahead and leave," he said.

Back at the camp, Bai E didn't have much to do, but with the imminent departure, it was always good to strengthen the link with his mecha and reduce the delay time of his Spiritual Energy converting into mech power.

"Got it," Rose said, giving Bai E a look that was somewhat resentful, as if she had been led on and then abandoned.

In the hangar, the lights were bright.

The mech servants, having just received the notice from their superiors, were fully prepared, waiting for the mechas to return one by one from outside.

Of course, they possessed the technical reserves for quick field repairs, but a more meticulous comprehensive inspection and in-depth maintenance had to be done in a professional hangar.

Now it wasn't wartime, and as long as the power system could barely function, a mecha crawling back was always better than undergoing field repairs.

Seeing the first mecha return on its own without too many scars, all the mech servants couldn't help but look on enviously and admiringly.

They got the message—today, only two mechas would be "alive" to return.

One belonged to the instructor, and the other... had single-handedly taken down all the other mechas.

Undoubtedly, the mecha in front of them was that legendary mecha piloted by the Legendary Mechanics!

The mech servants who were otherwise idle eagerly anticipated what kind of extraordinary figure would emerge from the cockpit.

"Tick-tock~"

"Tick-tock~"

As the seconds ticked away, not a single figure appeared on the silent mecha.

"Could it be that they've already left?"

"With so many eyes watching, where could they have gone?"

After hesitating for a moment, the hangar manager opened the communication channel with the docked mecha through backend privileges.

"Hello, this is the hangar control desk."

After some "zzz" static noise, a clear and gentle male voice responded, "This is Bai E, pilot of mecha W0721. What's the matter?"

Excited yet still with a restrained tone, the hangar manager asked, "I was wondering if your mech sustained any damage during the recent field training. As per usual practice, we need to perform a full inspection of the mecha after it returns to the hangar. I'm wondering if now... would be convenient?"

"Oh~" Bai E was taken aback, having completely forgotten this matter, "That would be fine. Come on ahead."

It couldn't be more suitable.

The longer the link was established, the more Bai E felt he could sense fluctuations in the mecha akin to human emotions, like joy... or sadness.

When the mecha was in good condition, it was joy; when damaged, sadness.

In a full day of constant battle, even Bai E couldn't dodge every attack.

Although bullets fired from machine guns couldn't penetrate the defense, they still left many dense white marks on the mecha's body.

Sliding down the cockpit ladder, several mech servants immediately came over, humble and not daring to look directly at Bai E, beginning their inspection work while averting their eyes.

'Am I really that intimidating?' Bai E pursed his lips, happy for the peace.

Watching the massive mecha being grasped by huge mechanical claws, with various mechanical tentacles entering and exiting its body, Bai E was momentarily captivated.

Even a simple excavator digging the soil could hold his attention for quite some time, let alone such a sci-fi styled giant humanoid weapon.

Even after having operated one several times, Bai E's interest in mechas had not diminished.

Time ticked along rapidly.

In a moment of distraction, a hangar worker who seemed to be the leader approached Bai E with the utmost respect, "Sir, your mecha is fully prepped and we await your next use."

"Hmm... Thank you," Bai E nodded his acknowledgment and then re-entered the mecha's cockpit.