

Wow 571

Chapter 571: Mech Battalion, move out!_2

Humanity, of course, devised corresponding solutions to the various types of bugs that the Bug Race had unleashed, while simultaneously developing equipment.

However, capturing the sandworms that move as freely underground as they do in the air amidst the chaos of the battlefield was no easy task.

Only half of the attacks that could be precisely located and anticipated in advance; the other half of the sandworms always appeared where humans least wanted them to.

Dispersing elite infantry, main battle tanks, and tanks evenly among the rear ranks aimed to counter these underground assailants; during the confusion, the melee between humans and the Bug Race wasn't limited to the frontline clashes—both sides' rear bases also fell into the same strife.

These stealthy underground attackers truly represented a deadly blade the Bug Race wielded against the rear.

"Mecha, deploy. Eliminate the sandworms and stabilize the formation," came the stern command, resonating among the Mech Armored Corps and the related mech servitor voice systems.

This was not a general assault, the time for that had not yet come; the objective was only to deal with the sandworms within the ranks.

For individual soldiers, sandworms were certainly a difficult adversary, and even for tanks, dealing with one sandworm posed a struggle.

However, for Mechas, the titanic warriors of war, the sandworms were as laughable as slightly slippery worms.

Thus dozens of Mechas, each over ten meters tall, mobilized in unison, striding towards the marauding sandworms causing havoc within the ranks.

Alloy blades swung, the Chitin Bone Armor of sandworms providing little resistance; their bodily fluids spattered in all directions.

The lowly worker bugs, bee bugs, mantis bugs, and cannon bugs were just the usual vanguard; with enough biomass, these low-level bugs intended to consume human ammunition and energy could be had in any number.

Combat in the Bug Race's territory meant death on one hand and recycling on the other; their legions of low-level bugs seemed almost infinite.

If humanity's advance could not outpace their rate of recycling and regeneration, then just relying on a swarm of low-level bugs, the Bug Nests would have no concerns about their rear.

However, the low-level bug swarm clearly could not withstand the advance of the greatly mechanized army of Blackwater City; an hour into the battle, the human line had advanced to a perilously close distance from the heart of the Bug Nest.

It was then that the Bug Race's newly encountered behemoths—the Thunder Beasts and the Nest Guardians—almost simultaneously emerged from within the Bug Nest.

"Seven Thunder Beasts! Seven Thunder Beasts!" The scouting reports from the frontline echoed instantly; the devastating power of the Thunder Beasts had been fully demonstrated in the previous battle in which Bai E took part.

A force of impressive size had been humbled by a single Thunder Beast before; now the appearance of seven at once had all the senior officers inside the command vehicle tensed to the breaking point.

They knew Thunder Beasts were not some irreplaceable behemoth of the Bug Race, but having seven appear at once was still beyond their prior expectations.

"Mech Armored Corps, full force assault!" The order from Hamilton came without delay.

The destructive power of the Thunder Beasts was far too great for human forces to allow them to bombard at will.

"Roger that!"

Enor, the current captain of the Mech Armored Corps and a Mech Pilot in coordination with Rose, responded promptly.

Thus, the Mechas originally deployed to clear out the sandworms charged from various locations simultaneously.

As the acting commander shouldering the temporary command of the Mech Armored Corps, Enor swiftly allocated combat tasks to every Mecha in the unit.

With a total of thirty-two Mechas in the corps, they could nearly coordinate five Mechas to decapitate one Thunder Beast at a time.

However, the Guardians of the Nest, serving as protectors to the Thunder Beasts, remained the same three as before.

As Bai E had said, the seemingly less threatening Nest Guardians, in fact, represented a rarer special behemoth for the Bug Race.

Compared to Bai E's last rush to decapitate, the widespread assault on the Thunder Beasts on the battlefield this time was much easier.

The sight of over thirty Mechas charging together was breathtaking.

The first volley prepared by the seven Thunder Beasts also showcased their horrifying killing power.

"Boom Boom Boom Boom Boom!"

The combination of special seed bullets and bloated tick bullets made the artillery strike terrifyingly powerful, with a much wider damage range than that of the Bug Race's Bio-Plasma Cannon.

It was like a series of oversized fragmentation grenades, with the ejected seed shells instantly clearing everything artificial and living within the blast radius.

Two less agile Mechas were also affected by this wide-area strike.

One had its right leg instantly shattered, while the other was damaged to a degree that its self-check system immediately reported damage.

As the Mechas charged, the Mech servant vehicle fleet, serving as logistical support, quickly followed.

Perhaps they would never be of real use until the end of the battle, but when needed, the servants had to appear at their designated positions without delay.

The two damaged Mechas remained stationary for a while, with the Mecha whose right leg was shattered likely beyond salvage in this battle, while the other Mecha, which had only been hit by "fragments," might still be recoverable.

Several Mech servant armored vehicles responsible for emergency repairs ignored every chaotic element of the battlefield between them and their targets, braving the risks of rampant Sandworms and the constant danger of artillery strikes, as they headed straight for their objectives.

Bai E's gaze swept coldly through the side window, emotionless.

To prevent system disruption, each Mech servant armored vehicle had its own Mecha to prioritize, and only when their designated Mechas were fully withdrawn from combat could they attend to others in need.

Of course, to prevent rigidity, the battle command system could make temporary adjustments and flexibly redistribute resources as necessary.

Having received no command messages, it would be impossible to act against his original responsibilities.

And the target his Mech servant armored vehicle was responsible for was... W0721.

The Mechas drove deep into the fray, easily crossing the swarm of enemies.

The Mech servant vehicles roamed the edge of the battlefield, unable to penetrate deep into the danger zone.

The low-level Bug Race at the frontline, though unable to stop the advance of the human forces, still posed a threat to the weaponless Mech servants.

If Mechas embedded in enemy lines suffered damage, the responsible Mech servant vehicles would face the pressure and quickly push forward, while the surrounding main battle units would provide immediate support.

Or if the injured Mecha pilot had enough strength to withdraw, the Mech servants' repair actions could be a bit safer.

Human artillery and the Bug Race's Bio-Plasma blasts streaked past the transparent side windows, the thunder of guns mixing with the screeches of the creatures. Bai E, gripping his machine gun, felt his blood starting to boil.

The battlefield ignited his veteran's combat spirit, but under his current identity, he had to keep that impulse deeply repressed.

Bai E hadn't forgotten that he was still in an "observation period."

Any action he took could not exceed the expectations of the Observers, nor could he let them sense even the slightest threat of "loss of control."

Thirty Mechas collectively surged forward, creating carnage behind enemy lines.

The multitude of heat weaponry modules carried by the Mechas decimated the low-level Bug Race with terrifying efficiency, indirectly easing the pressure on the main battlefield units.

As the leader of the Mech Armored Corps, Enor fixed his gaze on one of the thunder beasts charging its cannon.

The third mechanical eye implanted in his forehead by the Mechanical Court allowed him to see more information than the naked eye could – predictions of the target's destructive capability, the limits of his own mech's abilities, and other data streaming before his eyes.

"Keep up with my pace," he said.

"Understood," came Rose's cool response.

As his partner, he could sense that this artificial Mech Pilot named Rose was not entirely satisfied with his performance.

But the fact that Rose could achieve such a perfect coordination with him, after undergoing Mechanical Court modifications, was undeniably impressive.

"Leave this one to me; you guys handle the others!" he declared.

Having marked his chosen target on the shared Mecha tactical system, Enor began to forcefully control his burst into a surge.

Chapter 572: the mechanical servant opens the way

Bai E's original daring decapitation attack video on the Thunder Beast had been watched over and over again by almost every Mech Pilot in the Mech Armored Corps until it was practically etched in their minds. The Thunder Beast was an opponent that every Pilot in the Mech Armored Corps had to face in this battle, and the "successful experience" of their predecessors was undoubtedly an obligatory course for them to graduate from the corps.

Enor, as the current commander of the Mech Armored Corps, remembered every single move Bai E had made, despite viewing him as a target he must surpass. Yet, before he could surpass him, imitation was essential.

Facing the charging Thunder Beast, the team leader's mecha, almost identically, broke free from the endless horde of lower-tier Bug Race, taking with it many forcefully "hitchhiking" lower-tier bugs as the entire mecha swiftly closed in to a perilous distance.

Raising an arm, with a single slice, another artillery bug that was in the way was instantly cut in two.

Without reducing momentum, the blade continued to slice towards the lower end of the Thunder Beast's enormous body.

The Thunder Beast's back armor was as thick as a small hill and unmatched in defense. Only its lower body had a lighter Chitin Bone Armor for mobility's sake.

However, even the unenhanced lower limb armor didn't break instantly against a strike coordinated between Enor and Rose.

Without the double bombing by rocket clusters that occurred that time, the Thunder Beast's seemingly fragile lower body was not as vulnerable as imagined.

Yet, in the Mech Armored Corps' internal tactical discussions, these were all situations they had anticipated might happen.

But that was alright, the mecha's maximum output capability was more than enough to deal with a single Thunder Beast. As long as one could operate it, there was always an opportunity.

If one strike proved ineffective, the team leader's mecha rolled to one side and casually planted a cluster of explosives beneath the body of the Thunder Beast.

The effect of the previous rocket cluster bombing could be replicated by the mecha.

The bombs, placed point-blank, detonated with precision. The giant beast's body shook violently under a series of explosions. However, the biocannons on its back, belonging to symbiotic organisms, were unaffected. The two cannon rounds, already charged, were still launched fiercely, but due to the beast's own trembling body, the direction of fire was severely off.

The rounds were off-target, but it was a serendipitous misfire.

A mecha, slowed down and struggling to break free from the sea of bugs, was dealing with countless bugs climbing onto it when it looked up to see two round cannonballs heading straight for its face.

"Boom!"

The chest plate, where the cockpit was located and also the strongest part of the mecha, took the hit.

But against the Thunder Beast's Shatter Cannon, it seemed utterly powerless.

It shattered instantly.

Pieces of the mecha's body flew in all directions as the whole mecha was nearly blown apart, its upper torso teetering precariously.

Without the Mech Pilot's control, the massive body collapsed backward with a thunderous crash, swiftly submerged by countless bugs, becoming part of the terrain.

Traversing the sea of bugs to charge at the Thunder Beast was no easy feat. Not all Mech Pilots could make an instant breakthrough like Bai E.

Indeed, the mecha was powerful, but in complex situations, the Mech Pilot's control commands often conflicted with the actual situation due to a blurred perception of feedback.

The direct consequence manifested as being stuck in the relentless sea of bugs, temporarily unable to make any progress.

Although the plan was to have four or five mechas tackle a single Thunder Beast simultaneously, this ideal scenario was hard to achieve in reality.

And the fewer than ten mechas that had successfully broken through to the Thunder Beast still had to confront the three "Nest Defenders" already waiting there.

The Nest Defenders, resembling gigantic apes, swung their hammer-like arms and violently smashed down at the charging mechas.

The group of Mech Pilots that advanced had swiftly deployed the alloy shields attached to their mechas, but unfortunately, the "Nest Defender's" blows were as powerful as the Thunder Beast's massive cannon.

The alloy shield shattered in an instant, and the supporting mechanical arm behind it was completely twisted and broken amidst a grating noise.

The hammer from another Nest Defender, smashing in from the side, landed a solid hit in the middle of the mecha, and the seemingly invincible mecha was rendered completely combat-ineffective in the blink of an eye under the coordinated attack of the two "Nest Defenders."

Such damage was beyond the Mech Servants' capability to rescue.

The mecha was certainly humanity's most powerful technological weapon, magnifying a soldier's capability, but it could not simply rely on its mechanical quality to dominate nature.

Against the Bug Race's elite behemoths, Mech Pilots who failed to fully unleash the mecha's capabilities were almost no match for them.

"Rescue! Rescue!"

The Mech Servants' comms were complete chaos.

Some mechas were trapped in the sea of bugs; others lay fallen before the Thunder Beast.

As long as the Mech Pilot was still alive, they demanded, dismissing any hardship or danger they might encounter, that the Mech Servants responsible for their mechas arrive immediately for emergency repairs.

This was, after all, the Mech Servants' duty; no one mourned their sacrifice.

Bai E's Mech Servant repair vehicle remained silent.

The W0721 he was responsible for was still fighting at the front lines, currently unharmed, so their group had no immediate tasks to undertake.

"Requesting backup! Requesting backup!"

As calls for assistance flew through the comms channel, Enor, as the commander, didn't forget to observe his teammates' situation while he focused on killing the particular Thunder Beast he had chosen.

Chapter 573: the mechanical servant opens the way_2

Overseeing the mecha battle information, he reacted swiftly, "All mecha maintenance vehicles that are not currently tasked with emergency repairs on the primary mechas should immediately repair nearby repairable mechas, and must ensure their quickest return to combat readiness."

Sitting quietly in the back of the carriage, Bai E's gaze narrowed as he patted the shoulder of the driver in the front row, "Let's go."

The driver was slightly startled, "Go where?"

Bai E pointed straight at a mecha in the midst of the insect swarm that had suffered minor malfunctions due to being surrounded by bugs and having its wiring damaged.

Mechas that returned from severe damage repairs could only regain basic mobility to preserve the mecha's core, while those that returned from minor damage repairs could rejoin the frontline battle immediately.

In this battle, if humanity wanted to win, they couldn't just think about preserving assets; they must ensure the assault was the most pressing need of humanity at the moment.

Looking at the dense swarm of bugs in front of him, the bugs that were blocked by the main combat units were showing their claws and teeth, causing the driver to feel a chill.

Just skirting the edge of the combat line had already drained all his courage, and now he was asked to charge into it...

"Are we really going?"

There were clearly two damaged mechas behind them too...

Bai E ignored him and simply gave a final command, "I'll clear the way for you, just rush over!"

As he spoke, he picked up a machine gun that a teammate wasn't using, and his whole body flipped out of the opened car window.

Standing high atop the carriage, looking at the overwhelming sea of bugs, Bai E felt a surge of emotion.

The last time he faced the swarm of bugs, he was just a piece of driftwood in a chaotic world, relying mostly on luck to survive.

But now, this piece of driftwood that appeared inexplicably in this world had acquired the capital to declare war on this world.

["Gun Fighting Skill," activate!]

"Bang bang!" Stomping his feet on the roof of the vehicle, Bai E urged the driver to move faster.

The driver and his companion in the co-driver's seat exchanged a glance, gritted their teeth, and then slammed down hard on the accelerator.

"Vroom!"

The wheels kicked up dust and sand as they instantly headed towards the battle lines.

"Dadadadada!"

An endless stream of bullets flipped over every bug in their path, and even the mantis bugs, once seen as undefeatable in the eyes of individual soldiers, were turned into sieves under Bai E's barrage of bullets.

As the power of Spiritual Energy grew stronger, the overflowing energy naturally attached itself to the high-speed bullets, adding more Spiritual Energy damage and impact to the ordinary machine gun rounds.

Watching a mantis bug in front with its scythe-like arms spread open as if adopting a hunting posture, the driver pounding on the throttle went blank with fear.

Extreme terror made it difficult for him to even dodge, but in the next moment, the seemingly invincible mantis bug stiffened and fell to the ground, easily crushed under the rolling wheels.

The driver, realizing only later, "saw" that a moment before the vehicle arrived, a series of bullets had torn through the chitinous shell on the mantis bug's back, with broken shell and bodily fluids splattering and flesh flying everywhere.

"Boom!"

The maintenance vehicle bounced high after running over the mantis bug's corpse and then crashed down heavily.

The intense vibration brought the two mech serfs inside back from their extreme state of mental tension, recalling the genuine sense of security that Bai could bring.

The rumors in the military districts were deeply ingrained; Bai, the War God who could single-handedly traverse massive enemy formations of bugs, beastmen, and intelligent machines, was an existence akin to a war deity.

Sitting in the same vehicle as such a character, even if they were to charge directly into the heart of a bug nest, they could probably come back in one piece, right?

The boundless fear instantly turned into unwavering faith under extreme conditions, as if there were always a dazzling sun shining brightly overhead.

["Lucky Strike" energy charge +10.]

"Cover the mech serf maintenance vehicle!" The main combat unit's command system also issued a synchronized order.

Mech serf maintenance vehicles were an oddity on the battlefield; the huge mechanical arms mounted on the large rear carriages for mecha repairs drew significant attention, and all nearby soldiers could spot the presence of such distinctive vehicles immediately.

"Cover our allies!" A special forces squad leader, mindful of the order, drove a recently rescued multi-functional infantry combat vehicle, planning to break into the bug nest before that incoming maintenance vehicle to clear the way for it.

However, a large shadow whizzed by, and after the roar of the engine, only the dust and sand left swirling in its wake remained.

The special forces team leader, who had stomped on the accelerator but failed to charge into the sea of bugs before the repair vehicle, could only watch the vehicle drive into certain doom with a sorrowful expression, "What's the rush? Eager to court death?"

However, in front of the repair vehicle, the endless sea of bugs seemed to be welcoming their king, as all the creatures along its path were stiffly falling before it, their corpses carpeting the ground.

"Dada dada dada!"

It was only after the distinctive sound of gunfire reached the special forces team leader's ears and the vehicle had traveled some distance that he saw a warrior standing atop the repair vehicle, wielding dual guns and dressed in a mech servant uniform.

...

???

Since when have such fierce warriors been put into the mech servant ranks?

Am I hallucinating, or have the leaders' brains been chewed on by the bugs?

Shaking his head, the special forces team leader watched the repair vehicle burrow deeper into the sea of bugs, the bloody path it had made slowly being overwhelmed by the surging, clawing insects.

"Well..."

The special forces team leader gave a self-mocking smile and communicated helplessly with his team members through the voice comm.

...we're not needed.

While the main combat units were making a laborious advance on the front lines, a repair vehicle from the mech servant brigade had charged in.

Perhaps it was worth considering swapping their combat objectives?

...

Sitting in the command vehicle at the rear, a group of officers watched the live footage of the battlefield with solemn expressions.

The atmosphere inside the vehicle was as heavy as ink, and almost no one dared to break the dead silence.

Eventually, someone couldn't suppress their concern, "We can't make any progress..."

"We're performing worse than last time..."

At the rear of the human battlefield, under the intermittent attacks from both the sandworms and the newly emerged thunder beasts, the area had become riddled with holes.

The front lines were still holding up fairly well, but the middle and rear were close to being shattered.

The still-mysterious overlord had yet to show itself, and the mere presence of the thunder beasts had already proven to be an immense challenge for the human army.

The highly anticipated Mech Armored Corps had failed to become the swift breakthrough blade on the battlefield.

"There's no helping it, they're all new recruits."

To quickly restore the ranks, the selection criteria for regular mech pilots had indeed been lowered.

Although the numbers had barely returned to previous levels, in terms of both skill and experience, these regular mech pilots were definitely less reliable than the last batch.

Even breaking through the bug sea had become a problem for them, let alone charging forward to face the thunder beasts and beheading them.

"Why don't we send in the people from the Mechanical Court?" someone suggested.

But the idea was immediately countered, "No! They're our last trump card, specifically here to deal with the overlord. If we send them in now and something unexpected happens, we'll be at a loss when it comes to facing the overlord at the last moment. It would be a pity. It's not the final hour yet; we can still trust Hamilton's mech pilots for a while longer!"

"But..."

Looking at the mechas struggling in the sea of bugs on the screen, many officers remained silent.

Without getting past the sea of bugs, how could they even begin to tackle the thunder beasts?

If they didn't take down the thunder beasts soon, the rear of the human formations would be almost blown to pieces.

"Look! Some mechas are starting to break through!"

Suddenly, an officer excitedly pointed at one of the blurry screens.

"It seems like our Mech Armored Corps pilots are getting the hang of the battlefield rhythm."

"But why do I see a little black dot in front of the mecha... What is that?"

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The black dot moved in sync with the mecha, maintaining a fixed distance.

And before the black dot, the sea of bugs parted like the tip of an arrow, "clearing" a broad avenue.

Yue Ying's eyes shimmered slightly, a hint of a smile playing on her lips.

An officer realized something and suddenly shouted, "Zoom in for a closer look."

A technician operating the drone immediately responded "Yes," and then the screen zoomed in.

An armored vehicle... with a mechanical arm mounted on its back.

"A Mech Servant Repair Vehicle?" an officer voiced in surprise.

"No, there's a small dot on top of it."

As the image gradually enlarged, the silhouette of a person became clear.

"..."

"..."

Inside the command vehicle there was silence.

The military had high hopes for the mecha that were supposed to open the way and decapitate the enemy, but now they were stuck in the bug sea, unable to advance an inch.

Yet, a Mech Servant Repair Vehicle that wasn't even equipped with a weapon system was leading the way for the mecha.

How fresh...

The path that the mecha couldn't forge was paved by a single soldier.

What in the world kind of monstrous strength did Captain Bai have?

They always thought they had seen the extent of Captain Bai's abilities, but every time a new challenge arose, Captain Bai was always, well, Captain Bai.

"It's not right!" Someone suddenly realized the issue, "Is that mecha the one Captain Bai is responsible for repairing?"

Captain Bai's performance was astonishing, but the military didn't question his contribution to the city simply because of his strength.

It was whether he was willing to follow orders that concerned the higher echelons of the military.

"No."

"But we just asked, and it was the Mech Armored Corps commander who gave a temporary order for the repair team responsible for his mecha to go and assist others. The repair team with Captain Bai is the one responsible for the commander's mecha."

In short, Captain Bai had not committed any infraction this time.

Although the current operations were making everyone's eyelids twitch.

You are a Mech Servant, a member of a repair team; you are the logistical support for the mecha.

No one ever said a Mech Servant should be leading mecha into a frenzied slaughter.

...

"Go ahead..." Bai E, cutting through the sea of bugs, said cheerfully over the Mech Armored Corps' comms to the mech pilot inside the mecha.

Unable to participate in the war in mecha form, he could still ensure that these mecha, difficult to deliver to the needed battlefield, arrived where they were supposed to be.

"Tha... thank you~"

The mech pilot inside the guided mecha's cockpit responded with a slightly trembling voice, "We, we're going."

"Good luck!" Bai E waved toward their transparent viewport, then slapped the metal hood of the vehicle below, "Hey! Turn around!"

"Huh?" The two Mech Servants inside were slightly startled, glancing back through the rearview mirror at the endless sea of the Bug Race, "Turn around?"

They had already made it to the very rear of the Bug Race's lines, where there was a gap between the low-level bug surge point and the true main nest of the bugs; that's where they were located.

Though a few bugs smelling the repair team emerged from their underground lairs instants later, holding one's ground still seemed easier and more secure than turning back and weaving through the swarm again.

Moreover...

"Aren't there mecha over there that also need repairs?"

Above the vast battlefield where the Thunder Beasts were decapitated, under the attack of "Bug Nest Guardians" colored crimson, several mecha had completely fallen.

Some were not so severely damaged and still had a chance to be saved.

"That's not a battlefield we can partake in." Bai E glanced in the direction of the enormous crimson beasts.

Without the boost of a mecha, he didn't have confidence with only his body to take on those three crimson giants.

"Let's head back, turn around."

Bringing more mecha to the battlefield with the giants was the most he could do in his current role.

The driver Mech Servants reluctantly complied, "Understood."

The vehicle turned around, and with a rumbling engine noise, dove back into the teeming sea of bugs.

...

"Everyone behind, hurry up and follow!" Enor gritted his teeth and roared over the comms.

Seven minus two.

A total of seven Thunder Beasts; he had personally taken down one and a half.

Out of the dozen mecha that first charged in, only five remained. Tangled up with three "Bug Nest Guardians," they were no longer able to turn their attention to the remaining Thunder Beasts.

It wasn't just about being unable to spare a hand; any slight negligence would see the encirclement they formed with their five remaining mecha instantly smashed by the three brutally formidable Bug Nest Guardians.

The key was the five of them could only manage to contain, trying to minimize further losses on their side.

Facing the new type of Bug Race giants, with their chitinous armor stronger than ever, they couldn't find any method to break through the defense.

Only the mecha jointly piloted by Enor and Rose could barely maintain a position on the front line while the other four took turns providing cover.

However, this standoff couldn't continue for long. Under the assault of the relentless information stream, Enor began to feel the mechanical eye on his forehead heat up and his brain felt as if it were being stirred by several red-hot steel needles.

Faster!

Hurry the hell up!

What were they doing, entangling themselves with those low-level bugs behind?

Enor was seething with anger.

Without their mecha to kill off the Thunder Beasts, the remaining five could fire unimpeded.

If this continued, the massive push against the Bug Race would once again end in vain.

"They're here; they're here!" Mech pilots sent to the Thunder Beast's battlefield by Bai E chimed in together.

"Go kill the Thunder Beasts; don't concern yourselves with this spot!"

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The Thunderbeast had countermeasures against close-combat units, but these tactics were somewhat futile against large Titan Units like mechas.

Therefore, even mech pilots less skilled in strength could always inflict effective damage on the Thunderbeast, the difference was merely a matter of time.

The only thing that troubled mechas when up close to a Thunderbeast was its thick carapace.

The contest was all about speed.

It was a race to see whether the human army would crumble under the Thunderbeast's barrage first or if the mechas could swiftly take out the firing Thunderbeast.

"Where are the others! Hurry up and charge in!" Enor slashed with his sword and quickly retreated after making contact.

Facing the immense strength of the double-hammer guards, only skill could ensure his prolonged endurance.

...

One... two... three...

With the addition of the Thunderbeasts, the advance of the main battle formation slowed considerably; even though the human army had expanded its personnel and enhanced its steel armament during this time, it was merely enough to withstand exhaustion and maintain the frontline against the horde.

The Mech Armored Corps could only advance the frontline once they had eliminated all the Thunderbeasts.

With high hopes placed upon them, mechas began joining the front lines against the Thunderbeasts one after another.

However, this process of joining could only be considered barely satisfactory.

Watching the black dot that moved fearlessly through the swarm, the faces of all the officers inside the command vehicle turned blank.

It would be one thing to escort a single unit, but what did it mean to almost take full charge of escorting all the lightly damaged mechas needing repair from within the insect tide?

Seven times in, seven times out?

And always leading the mechas by a body length.

Bai's value continued to rise!

The addition of new mechas undoubtedly raised the efficiency in slaughtering the Thunderbeasts by a notch, and with the fall of the last Thunderbeast under the combined strikes of several mechas, a strange fluctuation instantly rippled out from the insect nest at its core.

Familiar waves swept through every will present in another dimension, pressing down like a monstrous beast overhead, instilling terror.

"Here it comes again..." an officer in the command vehicle murmured with a light sigh from deep within the battlefield.

Even with prior anticipation of this scene, the actual occurrence still sent shockwaves at the unimaginable power displayed.

"People from the Mechanical Court can move out now," Weslin said softly.

"We have already informed them..."

The voice fell silent, and everyone through the monitoring screen stared intently at the temporarily quiet battlefield ahead.

The performance of mech pilots who had undergone special training, and the conduct of all soldiers who had been equipped with Spiritual Energy Pressure Resistance Helmets and had collectively undergone basic Psychic Pressure Resistance Training, would become crucial factors in the outcome of this battle.

The city indeed placed great importance on this total assault, but in this era, no one dared to claim that an attack launched into the unknown would surely succeed. Many things could only be understood after attempting them.

If this total assault also failed, the city would have to reevaluate the significance of the "Supreme."

Before confirming possession of truly overwhelming strength, they would no longer have the power to organize efforts of a similar scale.

However...

A scene of despair shattered everyone's perception at the first moment.

The first to move were units not belonging to any of the humans.

The insects that had been immobile during the "Supreme's" previous Spiritual Energy domain were now all capable of moving!

As if an invisible wave swept across the arena, the Spiritual Energy domain seemed to have no effect on these insects. They continued to hungrily charge towards the nearest human flesh in a bloodthirsty frenzy, their symbiotic weapons festooned with ghastly white spikes, dark and bloody.

Countless warriors at the front froze in the last moment of their charge before being completely engulfed by the endless swarm.

The hard-earned advancement that was enough to threaten the insect nest was repelled in an instant.

"Bang!"

Weslin smashed the tactical table in front of him with his hammer, his expression cold as eternal ice.

"Didn't they say the insects would also be suppressed in the Supreme's domain?"

The faces of the officers present were ashen.

"The intelligence... was incorrect..."

"Last time... were they pretending?!"

"Or perhaps the Overlord is evolving too? Is it also getting familiar with its own capabilities?"

Debating the cause of this situation was no longer important, resolving it was the far more pressing issue.

There were only two choices before them—

Continue the attack?

Or retreat as quickly as possible?

Humans had made extensive preparations for this general assault, but the insects had displayed characteristics in this battle that humanity had not understood before.

Count on the mech pilots who had undergone psychic training to counterattack? Or perhaps the elite mech pilots from the Mechanical Court with their decapitation capability?

If they could successfully decapitate the Overlord, there might still be a chance for turnaround.

"Should we notify the Mechanical Court to stop their actions?"

"Shush!" Weslin suddenly raised his palm, stopping the foolish question of the inquirer.

"Send them in!"

If the Mechanical Court's mech pilots died, they died, but such a chance to probe the true abilities of the Overlord was rare.

Last time they only discovered the Overlord's psychic control abilities, its own combat capabilities... were completely unknown.

If they could glean information about the Overlord, even if they were completely defeated this time, they would be able to respond more appropriately in the future.

And if they could really succeed in a decapitation... subduing the insect nest would happen today!

...

"Hiss-ha!"

An electric current shocked the brain, the extreme sensation of danger making Enor instantly alert.

A brief moment of darkness felt like tens of thousands of years; when he came to his senses, he found a terrifying pair of armored hammers heading straight for his "face".

Rose, operating the mech alone, took over all the permissions from the main mech pilot and fighter pilot at the critical moment, struggling to maneuver the mech to evade the attack.

"I'll help you!" Enor, the first to indicate that he had regained consciousness, took back his permissions and worked with Rose to issue orders at the last second, narrowly avoiding the encirclement by the two insect nest guards.

However, their teammates were not so lucky.

Even after going through the Psychic Pressure Resistance Training at the Arbitration Place, even just a moment of distraction could prove to be their undoing.

Faced with the attack of "Insect Nest Guards", a single lapse in attention could mean utter ruin.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

Fragments flew in all directions, as the mechs made of octanium alloy crumbled against the attack of these terrifying monstrosities as if they were paper-thin.

"Wake up! Everyone wake up!"

Enor's voice roared through the comm.

The mech pilots who underwent special training were certainly not worthless; the instant they sank into the sea of despair, they struggled fiercely to awaken.

"Huff~"

"Huff~"

Even with cold sweat on their brows upon waking, these mech pilots did not forget where they were.

Seeing three ferocious beasts baring their teeth and claws, the pilots maneuvered their mechs to charge fearlessly once again, buying time for their comrades who had not fully recovered to come to their senses.

Through the comm came commands from the higher-ups, "Engage the target! The elites from the Mechanical Court are on the way to provide support!"

"Roger that!" Enor gritted his teeth, veins on his forehead bulging, "Mech Armored Corps, hold the line!"

The silhouette of a red behemoth slowly rose from the very heart of the insect nest, not far away.

Meanwhile, three sleek mechs, more streamlined and luminous, shot up from the rear of the human encampment, tracing a beautiful arc across the sky as they rushed toward the point where the red behemoth had risen.

Due to cost issues, the mechs used by Mechanical Court pilots could not be widely distributed, and those with even more formidable performance needed even more excellent operators. The primitive approach of relying solely on human brain to operate with keys and levers couldn't handle the load.

Mechas equipped with cutting-edge technology ought to possess far superior mechanical qualities.

Standing atop a vehicle, Bai E's gaze slid from one end of the sky to the other.

The mech pilots from the Mechanical Court, who bore the high hopes of the military camp, could they truly shoulder the weight of everyone's earnest expectations?

Chapter 576: To take charge during a crisis

The Mechas of the Mechanical Court made a grand entrance, soaring through the air across the battlefield. A flying kick struck directly at the shoulder of a "Hive Defender" from the Bug Race as it raised its dual hammers to smash down upon a military Mecha.

Even chitin bone armor that could not be pierced was no match for the direct force of the impact.

The terrifying behemoth was kicked over and crashed onto the ground with a thunderous fall.

The moment the Mecha, coursing with strange energy flows, touched down, it flicked its right arm, and three dark, oddly shaped blades instantly shot out.

"Pull back and provide support, let's see what these 'defenders' are made of."

The Mech Pilots of the Mechanical Court, watching from behind, had long been interested in these boisterous giants. Had it not been for the military saying their role was to deliver the final blow, they would've rushed to the front lines much earlier.

The Mechanical Court was Blackwater City's most cutting-edge power on the physical plane, scarce in number but formidable in strength, existing only to deal with high-risk matters.

They resided at the city's center, rarely mobilized.

These massive creatures of the Bug Race far outside the city, had the insectoids not reached the city boundaries, the pilots might have never had the chance to face such novel opponents in their lifetimes.

Now, presented with a rare opportunity, the nerves of the three Mech Pilots inside the Mechanical Court's Mechas were excited to the extreme.

"One each, kill them all before that Overlord arrives!"

"Roger that!"

"Let's see who's faster!"

The Flowing Light Mech Armor instantly pounced forward, its pitch-black blades vibrating at a frequency invisible to the naked eye.

High-Frequency Cutting!

This was a brand-new technology developed by the Scientific Research Institute, and due to cost reasons, only top-tier organizations like the Mechanical Court could equip it immediately after its technical implementation.

So-called impenetrable alien carapaces, when facing the creations of humanity's finest technology, were no match at all!

"Buzz!"

The blade sliced through the carapace, but not as cleanly as a knife through tofu, as one might imagine.

It only managed a shallow diagonal cut into the top layer before the three blades slid off, following the curved body of the "Hive Defender."

The vast torque from the full-throttle swing, having missed, pulled the large mechanical body sideways towards the defender's flank.

Even the mechas of the Mechanical Court couldn't avoid the inherent delay in feedback.

The only difference was that their directly connected neural operating systems allowed for a more timely reaction to the unexpected change.

The moment they sensed the imbalance of the Mecha, certain parts of the three mechas powered up almost simultaneously, forcefully pulling up their teetering bodies.

The counterattack and stabilization of the bodies happened almost at the same time, with the three mechas in mid-air performing a spin and a flying kick. The right legs of the Mechas swept across the head of the gorilla-like "Hive Defender."

The moment they landed, the rocket thrusters under their feet erupted with powerful thrusts and the three mechas leaped forward again in an unrelenting assault.

Compared to the "clumsy" military Mechas, these three mechas of the Mechanical Court were more like highly skilled Martial Artists, moving with incredible agility as they surrounded and attacked the heavily armored "Hive Defender."

After a flurry of flashing blades, the attacking stance of the Mechas almost seemed oppressively one-sided. The three Hive Defenders could only chase blindly after the afterimages left by the three Mechas of the Mechanical Court, like headless flies.

Compared to the previous performance of the military Mechas, it was a world of difference.

"Well done!"

"Worthy of being Mech Pilots of the Mechanical Court!"

"It is truly a feast for the eyes!"

As long as the Mechas of the Mechanical Court could hold the Overlord's area, the gradually awakening human soldiers and the military Mechas could easily clear out the remaining low-level sea of bugs.

Without the terrifying war engines like the thunder beasts to contend with, the elite bugs such as artillery bugs, sand bugs, and mantis bugs had been almost entirely wiped out, leaving only the worker and bee bugs on the front lines, no match for the humans.

The difference was merely one of time and casualties.

However, in a quiet corner, Yue Ying watched it all with a slight frown, not blindly optimistic.

The situation on the field seemed strong, yet those Mechanical Court Mechas were in truth walking a tightrope at the edge of a cliff.

A single moment of carelessness could lead to an irrevocable downfall.

Could they maintain such an intense onslaught easily?

No!

Perhaps they could at the beginning, but now... they could no longer stop of their own volition.

The three terrifying creatures of the Bug Race were rapidly adapting to the performance of the human Mechas. What seemed like blind pursuit was increasingly pushing the limits of the Mech Pilots' maneuvers.

If they were struggling to kill even three "Hive Defenders," what hope did they have to kill the final "Unknown Overlord"?

Through internal comms, the six elite Mech Pilots of the Mechanical Court gritted their teeth and communicated.

"Can't break through their defense..."

"These damn things have too tough a hide!"

Even though they wielded brand-new technology blades developed by the Scientific Research Institute, the potential damage they could inflict on the creatures was still limited.

Each strike could barely scratch the surface layer.

Despite trying their hardest to focus multiple strikes on the same spot, the Mech Pilots of the Mechanical Court despairingly realized a fact—

The injuries they caused seemed utterly insignificant to the Hive Defenders, not even extruding an excess droplet of bodily fluid from the wounds they inflicted.

However...

The even more terrifying and unknown behemoth known as the "Overlord" was slowly approaching.

Chapter 577: To take charge during a crisis

Apart from its large-scale psychic control abilities, no one knew what kind of close combat strength it possessed.

But just by looking at its extremely explosive muscular form and those four terrifying blade-arms, no one would doubt this point.

The Bug Race, a species that extremely craves practicality, would never evolve useless traits for the sake of so-called face or appearance.

"Perhaps, our target should not be these 'guards'."

"There is always a reason for the way the Scientific Research Institute names and identifies them, guards simply exist to protect important characters. Maybe we can bypass these guards, and first take down the real leader."

Thus, their gazes turned towards the slowly approaching crimson behemoth.

"As long as we kill it, these 'guards' will not be feared!"

Not being able to break through the defense was just a temporary state, every material has its fatigue limit.

Constant dripping wears away a stone.

As long as the striking lasts long enough, the Bug Race's carapace is not an absolutely invincible existence.

First take down the supreme overlord, let the main battle formation push through completely from behind, a whole army group's firepower focused on these three 'guard' behemoths, they won't believe they can still stand unshakable like this.

Recognizing reality, the Mech Pilot from Mechanical Court made a decision in an instant. Through the connected voice channel, he issued orders across systems to the Mech Pilots in the military camp, "Enor, lead your men to hold off these guards! We're going to behead the 'supreme overlord'! Buy us as much time as possible, victory will eventually belong to humanity!"

Enor's face lit up with excitement, "Roger that!"

With shield and sword in hand, Enor once again lifted his spirits, "Brothers! This is the final decisive battle! For the future of Blackwater City, fight to the death!"

"No retreat!"

The remaining eight Mecha still capable of fighting valiantly charged at the three behemoth-like creatures without fear of death. Without their constraints, the three Mecha from Mechanical Court would have struggled to escape from the increasingly responsive Bug Race guards.

A moment of carelessness could easily result in severe damage.

They were key to the expedition against the Bug Race and could not afford the slightest risk.

The first one, wielding shield and sword, pinned down the twin hammers with its face, while another Mecha maneuvered behind to jam its rotary machine gun into the guard's forehead.

The god of fire roared, and the metal storm instantly unleashed an unimaginable terrifying impact.

The behemoth that had not had time to crush the audacious blue and white Mecha with its terrifying strength roared as it collapsed to the side, this was the restraint humans in their numerically superior Mecha could coordinate.

Of course, no matter how effective the restraint, facing the terrifying defense of the "Bug Race guards," they still were but adventurers dancing on a tightrope at the edge of a cliff.

The only hope lay in the three Mecha from Mechanical Court that had gone to behead the supreme overlord.

...

The supreme overlord's eyes looked disdainfully at the three colored Mecha breaking through the air.

Underneath its seemingly slow movement, the speed of its four blade-arms almost ignored space and time.

"Pfft!"

Like a knife slicing through tofu, colorful Mecha fragments flew across the sky.

The Mech Pilots from Mechanical Court that had thought they could behead the supreme overlord or at least hold on, couldn't withstand a blow from the unleashed true strength of the supreme overlord.

Deciding to reveal its real power, the supreme overlord no longer hid, its enormous body charged fiercely towards the eight military camp Mecha entangled with the guards.

The momentum was overwhelming, like a mountain collapsing and a tidal wave surging.

"Swoosh!"

Beneath the blade-arms, all things were equal.

The shattered Mecha fragments scattered in the air before the supreme overlord, an invincible posture chilling to any onlooker.

"Run!" The sense of danger nearly exploded the mechanical vertical eye on Enor's forehead, he called Rose to exert force along with him.

Yet, the instant they turned to flee, a crimson claw blade easily slashed through their machine.

The entire army was wiped out!

The sky above was bleak, and on the vast land stood only the four crimson behemoths, an endless sea of bugs chasing the human warriors barely conscious from the Spiritual Energy field.

Humans suffered an utter defeat!

"We need you!" from among the broken cockpit fragments, Rose's gaze turned to the black maintenance vehicle far within the sea of bugs.

Bai E was there.

...

She knew, Bai E was right there.

She also believed that Bai E could hear her voice, he had the power to turn the tide!

A calm and steady voice rose in the silent command vehicle, "This is Bai E, I request to sortie in my mecha form!"

"It's over... all over..."

"This battle, we've lost completely..."

"That giant beast, it's not an enemy we were meant to face!"

"Let's go! If we don't retreat now, we won't even be able to save these last few of us..."

Many officers couldn't stop replaying the scene of various mechas being instantly sliced apart in their minds, whether they were military mechas or those from the Mechanical Court, they all seemed to stand no chance against that tremendously terrifying ruler.

How were they supposed to defeat such a terrifying giant beast?

Once again, the lonely voice came through the communicator, unanswered, "This is Bai E, I request to sortie in my mecha form!"

Hamilton's eyes, slightly dazed, moved, as the familiar voice sparked his last bit of hope.

Bai E!

We still have Bai E!

As the entire Mech Armored Corps and the mechas of the Mechanical Court were decimated, Hamilton couldn't imagine how that warrior, who had created miracles time after time, would change the outcome.

But some unknown magic power led him to believe that only Bai E could turn everything around when the building was about to collapse.

"Permission to sortie!" Hamilton snatched the communicator, flipped the switch, and responded with a roar.

"Received." The calm voice responded immediately, and Hamilton collapsed into his seat as if he had lost all his strength.

Some officers turned their dull eyes, smiling miserably, "Still sortie? We don't have any mechas left."

"We've lost... lost..."

"We can't lose!" Suddenly, a resounding voice tried to inspire everyone, as Yue Ying, who had remained calm and seemed to have anticipated this outcome, spoke up from the corner.

She pointed to a corner of the surveillance screen. Amidst the tide-like swarm of the Bug Race, a blue and white mecha that had fallen earlier was now standing up again.

The color of its metallic coating was no longer so pure, with many areas revealing the gray-black base color of the metal itself; it was mottled and difficult to speak of, but in any case... it was still a functioning mecha.

...except for the cockpit leaking air.

The technician operating the drone immediately controlled the camera drone to approach, and through the blurry footage, a vague figure could be seen moving within.

"Psssh~"

One hand held a black repair vehicle, and the other started a flamethrower.

The mecha, which had just stood up after being patched up again, used the flamethrower to clear a large clean area around it the moment it arose.

Then the mecha took big steps forward, heading straight for the deepest part of the Bug Race's nest, where all the mecha wreckage lay.

A ruler and three guards waited with cold eyes.

Bai E, who had sent all the mechas to the final battlefield behind the Bug Race's nest, didn't just slaughter lower-ranked bugs in the swarm.

This unfortunate mecha, the first to be hit by the thunder beast's cannon and have its chest cavity shattered, was urgently repaired and fixed under his protection by two mech attendants from inside the repair vehicle.

Octametal was tough and naturally difficult to forge.

However, the alloy used for battlefield repairs was only a temporary fix and couldn't compare to the toughness of octametal.

But it didn't really matter much; facing the ruler's sharp blade, even a mecha built from octametal was only good for a one-hit shatter.

As long as it worked, the difference was insignificant to Bai E.

The mecha strode across the sea of bugs, easily reached the area behind, and on a calm clearing, Bai E controlled the mecha to bend down and place the repair vehicle that the mecha's left arm had been carrying.

The two mech attendants in the repair vehicle, with its windshield already shattered, were yelling frantically at Bai E, "Go for it, Captain Bai!"

"Damn it all! I knew you'd return to the ranks of mech pilots! They're nothing without you!"

["Lucky Strike" charge +10.]

Bai E gave a slight smile to the two fanatical believers and once again manipulated the mecha to stand and move forward.

...

Chapter 578: Level 8 Specialist!

Passing by Rose, who was severely injured from a high-altitude fall and crawled on the ground, Bai E controlled the mech to gently squat down. With two large fingers, he carefully lifted her up from the ground and placed her back in the cockpit, which was battered and exposed to the elements, before he went to pick up the final fragment that had originally belonged to the W0721 mech but now was needed by himself.

The engraving on the right shoulder of the mech—W0721.

A ship called Theseus was nearly replaced in every component during its years of service. Could this entirely new ship still be called the Ship of Theseus?

The same could be said for the mech.

Every time it was heavily damaged, it needed a large amount of new material to replace and fill in.

So how should a mech that had been endowed with a mech spirit lock onto its proper place?

W0721 had no mech spirit.

But a link existed between W0721 and Bai E.

Bai E had always been curious about how this linkage should work.

He didn't know the exact answer, but the omnipotent Spiritual Energy brought him an almost intuitive certainty.

As the W0721's shoulder insignia was set in place, Bai E could feel his consciousness instantly spread throughout the entire mech.

The discomfort of manually piloting the mech just moments ago vanished in an instant, replaced by the absolute confidence as natural as controlling one's own limbs.

In the flash of a thought, the formidable Spiritual Energy spread out from Bai E as its center.

Through the transformation of the linkage, a power more suited for a mechanical body wound through the mech like a spiritual snake.

The many minor issues left over after the battlefield's rapid repair were instantly renewed under the self-repair function of this mechanical power.

Like an invisible spirit light swiftly sweeping over the mech's body, the mech that had been patched up and stood up again from a battered state now once again radiated a reliable confidence.

A pale blue barrier, purely generated by the mechanical power, took the place of the original transparent window in the cockpit, which was made of expensive material comparable to an eight-element alloy, and also sealed off the hot and stenchy wind blowing in from outside.

"Be careful, the guards are very capable of learning; they are evolving through battle," Rose said weakly in a corner of the cockpit as she tried to secure herself and quietly tipped Bai E about the experience they got from destroying mechs.

"I know."

While observing the battle, Bai E did not just clear up the lower-level Bug Race members, but he also kept a vigilant eye.

The guards' slow movements evolved from futile chasing at first to later having patterned predictions and combo attacks.

The evolution obtained through combat was evident, and even though Bai E hadn't completely engaged with them, he knew how troublesome these creatures were.

Swinging the combat blade in his hand, the mech surged forward like a proud dragon.

Even facing four opponents alone did not instill much fear in Bai E at this time.

The endless Spiritual Energy supported his constant expenditure, skills like Absolute Defense, the Blade of Magic, and Dance of Lightness were fully activated. Through the linkage transformation, they became mechanical power to exhibit the same effect in a way that was suited for a mechanical body.

The mech leaped high into the air, and the massive alloy combat sword came crashing down.

Even as the guard, which resembled a giant ape, raised its arms to block, the combat sword easily evaded and accurately targeted the neck of the guard beast.

"Puchi!"

The blade cut three inches into the flesh.

After imbuing the standard combat sword with the effect of "High-Frequency Cutting" using the Blade of Magic, Bai E's combat sword could, much like the cutting-edge creations held by the Mechanical Court mechs, effectively attack the bone armor of the giant beasts.

And the bone armor on the bodies of the guard beasts was not uniformly hard everywhere. For agility in movement, many of the armor's joints and limb connections had to be compromised in strength.

When it was utterly impossible to breach the defenses, it was all the same; but the moment there was any ability to penetrate, selecting the point of impact became crucial.

[As the pilot of the basic Titan-class armored mech, you used a proficient weapon attack and hit the target, "Expertise—Mechanical Rhythm" experience +1.]

[You caused 30 points of slashing damage to the target!]

[Current "Expertise—Mechanical Rhythm" experience 230/2000; at 2000 points, you can master "Expertise—Mechanical Rhythm (5/7 level)".]

[Based on the effect of your attack, you obtain the following information—]

[Bug Hive Guard (Bug Race): Health 19350/20000; Defensive Power: 1000; Attack Power (Type: Blunt) 1000~1200; Traits: Behemoth Template, Trait: Diamond Chitin Armor, Trait: Symbiotic Weapon—Rending Claw Blade; Mobility: 100%...]

[Rending Claw Blade: Crafted with a special Diamond Chitin structure, even among the special material structures of the Bug Race, this is extremely rare. The seemingly short claws can rend anything! Be careful! Don't get hit head-on by it!]

The pair of short claws near the head of the guards were their real trump cards. Bai E knew the horror of these weapons the first time he saw them, and in this battle, because they were often outnumbered, they seldom had the chance to use these symbiotic weapons.

With a single strike, Bai E did not linger for glory; he withdrew his sword and left.

Facing the onslaught from three Bug Hive Guards at once, staying in one place was simply courting death. Only by keeping himself mobile could he continue to entangle with them.

The massive mech moved as agilely as the most dexterous human, darting ghost-like between the three "Bug Hive Guards."

These behemoths, akin to giant apes, had unstoppable speed when they charged from a distance, and their powerful impacts were capable of destroying everything.

After the "special training" by other mech pilots, their hammer-like arm attacks became noticeably quicker in altering strikes.

But the huge figures still had their fatal flaw—if the attack involved frequent and unpredictable changes in position around their bodies, they could never keep up.

Chapter 579: Level 8 Specialist!_2

Like a ghostly shadow that perpetually loomed behind, the blue and white mecha exhibited a level of agility that no one could have anticipated.

No matter how the three guardians pursued the shadow to launch their attacks, it was all in vain.

Wielding its four-bladed arms, the Dominator finally stopped watching indifferently from a distance. The moment this insignificant human launched another counterattack, it was time to let him know what true despair was!

The Dominator's footsteps were heavy; each one seemed to split the earth and shatter the sky.

As it charged forward, a terrifying voice once again resounded in Bai E's mind.

The voice was arcane and hard to comprehend, but Bai E could only intuitively guess at part of its meaning— "Bind 'It'."

Thus, the pursuit and attacks of the three Bug Race guardians abruptly changed in style, ignoring the Mech Armor Alloy Battle Blade that Bai E wielded, even if they had to use their very bodies as shields to press Bai E into a corner with no escape.

If he wanted to run, Bai E certainly could have escaped at any moment.

But Bai E wanted to test the strength of the Dominator as well.

Maximizing the output of Spiritual Energy supply to the magic blade, Bai E's will hardened, and with focus, his battle blade was directed towards the Dominator's two massive arms that slashed together at him.

"No!"

"You can't take it head-on!"

The Mech Court pilots scattered across the battlefield watched with eyes wide with horror.

A mech's destruction did not mean the pilot's death.

The mechas, which were the crystallization of humanity's top technology, naturally provided exceptional care for their pilots. After all, in terms of cost, training a qualified Mech Court pilot was much more expensive than manufacturing a mecha.

Pilots who had escaped from their cockpits were scattered around, and now all their gazes were focused on the battle situation that everyone was banking on as their hope.

When they saw Bai E's mecha play the three guardians like toys, each of them was greatly heartened.

But upon seeing this mecha, regarded as the last hope, brazenly attempting to confront the Dominator's blades head-on, they were instantly terrified out of their wits.

Even the Mech Court mechas equipped with basic energy defensive fields couldn't withstand a single strike from the Dominator. Where did he get the confidence to take on the Dominator's twin blades with his ordinary military mecha?

"E!"

The sound of metal clashing echoed in midair, followed closely by the crisp sound of tearing metal.

Under Bai E's will, the shattered blade fragments shot out like flying knives, all smashing towards the Dominator's body.

[Your attack has successfully hit the target, but failed to penetrate the defense.]

[Based on the effect of your attack, you obtained the following information—]

[Dominator (Bug Race): Health ???/???; Defensive Power: 800; Attack Power (Type: Strike) 2000~???; Traits: Behemoth Template, Trait: Activated Chitin Armor, Trait: Symbiotic Weapon—Biological Bone Spur Blade, Trait—Adaptive Evolution; Action Power: 100%...]

[Activated Chitin Armor: The Dominator's will controls everything, with all the Spiritual Energy power of the Bug Race node network at its disposal, it can twist reality at will. To defend against the target's attack, the Dominator can continually bond carbon and silicon atoms to temporarily enhance the thickness and hardness of its Chitin Armor. The armor, rich in strong acid, can easily corrode any external matter that intrudes into it.]

[Biological Bone Spur Blade: At the tip of the blade is a brain that functions independently of the Dominator's will. This brain can absorb any substance that the blade comes into contact with to repair any of its damage and uses powerful Spiritual Energy to maintain a mono-molecular edge on the blade. The Spiritual Energy coating on the blade's surface forms a deadly bio-catalytic "fissure field," and the "resonance" between Spiritual Energies allows two or more "Biological Bone Spur Blades" to amplify the effect of each other's bio-catalytic fissure fields when they are close to each other. Remember, it's alive! It's alive!]

[Adaptive Evolution: With the collective will of the entire Bug Race node network, it possesses endless wisdom and can make real-time tactical adjustments and specific structural evolutions to counter the traits of its opponents. Every member of the Bug Race within the node network is controlled by this effect!]

The previous speculations about the guardians were inaccurate; their adaptability to combat situations stemmed from the Dominator's remote control, not their own abilities.

As the absolute Dominator, it was not only the commander of the entire battlefield, but also the ultimate killing beast evolved by the Bug Race.

When the twin blades joined forces, it seemed any creation of humankind would likely meet its end with one stroke.

The only flaw that could be considered a weakness was its defensive power, which was just a notch below that of the "Hive Guard."

The Bug Race also had to obey the laws of physics, so in order to maintain more agile combat abilities, the Overlord could not bear the same thick Diamond Chitin Armor as the Hive Guard.

But it was evident that the three Hive Guards were its ultimate shield.

No one could bypass the brainless, staunch support of the Hive Guards and directly take down the Overlord itself.

Bai E, whose blade had been shattered with one strike, maneuvered his mecha to flip backward and fly out, escaping the encirclement of the four giant Bug Race creatures.

As he landed, he executed a roll and picked up a Mech Armor Alloy Battle Blade that had fallen on the battlefield but remained intact.

With a light flick of the blade, a pale blue screen panel appeared in Bai E's eyes.

"Current Light Weapons Mastery experience 277/5500, mastery of 'Level 7 Light Weapons Specialization' available at 5500 points." (Note: Unlocking an attached skill tree (Second-Order) at specialization level 7.)

"Tip: Your current specialization level has reached the limits of a mortal body, and you will struggle to make further progress before your abilities surpass these physical limits. To continue improving your specialization level, your Insight and Reflex attributes need to exceed 15 points each."

"Insight": 15.6/24

"Reflex": 16.5/24

A substantial accumulation of experience, attribute requirements met.

The combat power composition of a mecha is diverse, but the only thing that can be improved on the spot is the specialization level, which can be instantly upgraded through expenditure of experience.

A Second-Order Improvement Skill Tree attached to a specialization?

Bai E was curious about what it would be like.

Just frickin' boost it to the max!

"Level 8 Light Weapons Specialization acquired," with 2 latent points gained. (Stacked)

"Light Weapons Specialization (Level 8): Attack speed +40%, armor penetration +16%, detection break (special) +10%."

"Current Light Weapons Mastery experience 0/30000, mastery of 'Level 9 Light Weapons Specialization' available at 30000 points."

"Detection of character's current Level 8 Light Weapons Specialization and mastery of all tactical traits has unlocked: Absolute Mastery (repeatable), Enhanced*Magic Blade in the Second-Order Improvement Skill Tree (random pool)."

"Unlocking now requires: General/Combat experience*10000 (each subsequent skill at the same level doubles the consumption), latent points*4 (fixed)."

After exceeding level 7 in specialization, the base rates of increase experienced a qualitative leap.

The base increase to attack speed per level of specialization rose from 3% to 5%, and armor penetration from 1% to 2%, while only the special attributes maintained a steady increase alongside specialization levels, without further enhancement.

The attack speed bonus, which more than doubled compared to before, made the blade in Bai E's hand as light as the wind, and a higher likelihood of penetration made Bai E's gaze as sharp as a hawk, feeling as if he could intuitively find the weak points in the target's defenses and strike more precisely at the spots he intended to hit amidst the rapidly changing combat.

The instantaneous improvement had nearly depleted the experience Bai E had stored up over many days.

Although the stored experience seemed plentiful, after spending 5223 points of experience for the level 6 to 7 upgrade, and another 12000 for the level 7 to 8 upgrade, he was left with only 26241 points of experience.

That was not enough to raise his specialization to level 9, nor was it enough to mindlessly unlock all the skills in the Second-Order Skill Tree.

He had to make a choice between the two new Second-Order skills that had appeared...

Chapter 580: Frenzy!

Light weapons encompass a variety of types, such as swords, short guns, hand axes, etc., all falling under this specialization. The key lies in the weapon's quality and size compared to the user's strength and physique.

"Absolute Mastery" is like diving deep into the understanding of a particular shaped weapon, much like the specialty *Swordsmanship, which can significantly enhance proficiency with that type of weapon, that could be gleaned from Yue Ying.

As for "Enhanced *Magic Blade," it's an upgraded version of the original first-tier skill "Magic Blade."

By slaying specific creatures repeatedly, one's enchanted weapons can gain a permanent special attack bonus.

In simple terms, it allows one to create divine weapons by hand.

Neither of these skills offers an immediate boost to sky-high levels, but rather they are like growth abilities that can become powerful in certain aspects after sufficient "training."

To creatures of the Bug Race with alien body structures, the gains in combat from increased skill beyond a certain point become marginal.

No matter how advanced the skill, it takes but one strike from the dominator's Biological Bone Spur Blade.

In contrast, Bai E felt the "Enhanced *Magic Blade," which can inflict special damage on specific races, more suited to the current needs.

Decision made—

[Payment: 4 Latent Points, 10,000 Combat Experience.]

[Skill Acquired—Enhanced *Magic Blade.]

[Enhanced *Magic Blade: From now on, as someone who has mastered "Magic Blade," you can, upon activating Magic Blade, hunt specific targets to grant your enchanted weapon attack effects against those targets. The special attack effect's strength will increase based on the number and level of the targets slain. Current hunting target: None. Recording template: None. Basic enhancement: Final attack power +10% (No consumption).]

The Enhanced *Magic Blade is an accompanying enhancement to Magic Blade, so there are no additional costs.

And even without any special attack bonus, just learning it directly adds 10% to the attack power, which is an additional multiplication stacking at the end, a substantial gain.

A renewed spiritual light spread from Bai E once again, extending to the alloy battle blade in the Mecha's hand. The blade, already bearing the "High-Frequency Cutting" enchantment, shimmered once more with a colorful spiritual light, waiting to be bathed in blood to record information on the enemy, in order to perform targeted special attacks.

'The special attack's strength increases based on the number and level of targets slain?'

Bai E pondered quietly in his heart while staring at the three seemingly indestructible gorilla-like behemoths with a fierce gaze.

The first targets for activating the special attack effect—let's start with you!

The strong Spiritual Energy erupted once more, and even Yue Ying, commanding from afar inside the command vehicle, could keenly sense the fervent burning of spiritual energy on the battlefield.

'Such a formidable cultivation...!' Yue Ying narrowed her eyes slightly, a sense of shock rising in her heart from beneath her hood.

Bai E's Spiritual Energy was taught by her hand, and no one knew his starting point better than she did. Yet in the short time they hadn't seen each other, this human powerhouse's Spiritual Energy had soared to such levels, a rate of improvement that would be considered top-notch even among her elf kin.

["Lucky Strike" Charge +3.]

Bai E, now fully aware of his opponent's certain characteristics, held nothing back. In a melee against a greater number, reducing the enemy's numbers is always the truest wisdom.

"Buzz!"

The Mecha hummed, mechanical energy surged, and the burning of Spiritual Energy transformed into mechanical power suitable for the machine's structure after a brief 0.79-second delay.

Instant Slashing Hundred Heads!

The blue-and-white mechanical body made a swift change of direction, and the battle blade held in its hand became almost an invisible shadow in the air.

The considerable enhancement of light weapons brought a high attack speed bonus, making Bai E's strikes ghostly fast.

One slash fell, followed by a thousand more.

The endless shadow of the blade chased down the spot where Bai E's sword had struck, slashing down one after another, faster and deeper with each hit.

However, this scene, which could be seen only from a Spiritual Energy perspective, was nothing but a "moment" in the real world. The formidable bone armor of the Bug Race's guardians, never showing weakness against any attack, was deeply cleaved into by a single strike for the first time.

With a pull, flesh and blood were scattered.

[Your basic Titan-class armed Mecha made a proficient weapon strike against the target, "Expertise—Mechanical Rhythm" experience +3.]

[Dealt 500 points of slashing damage to the target!]

[The bloodthirsty magic blade has absorbed a bit of the target's flesh, generating a special attack effect in progress 2/1000.]

Withdrawing his blade, Bai E turned and slashed at the back of another guardian as he dodged the pursuit of the other three behemoths.

These behemoths, primarily in dark red hues, had such thick Vajra Chitin Bone Armor on their backs that it appeared black, and they never feared confronting enemies with their backs due to their strength. However, when facing them head-on, an opponent must deal with a pair of giant hammers as well as the slightly shorter Diamond Ripping Claws near their heads.

These tactics, based on their robust armor, had been their strategy. Even if an enemy, relying on agility, clung to their backs, they were bound to lose in a prolonged battle without breaching the armor. They were willing to use their backs as a kind of shield to pressure the enemy's movement and ensure the effectiveness of their encirclement.