

Crossing 881

Chapter 881: My World!

Bang! Bang! Bang! Ling Lan slashed her sword three times. With each slash, the force behind the sword was greater than the last, and with the final slash, the team leader of this small team lost his balance and fell down from the sky.

“Damn it!” The team leader felt frustrated. Under the ferocious and fast attacks of Ling Lan, he was unable to unleash his full strength. Hence, he could only passively defend himself. ‘Is he really just a normal ace operator?’

When the team members saw their team leader falling to the ground, they exclaimed in shock.

“Team leader!” They wanted to help their team leader but the mecha operators from team 03 held them back with their unrelenting attacks. Team 03 had more mecha operators than them so each imperial operator had to deal with two mecha operators from team 03 fighting with him. However, as imperial operators, they were still able to even out the situation. They couldn’t retreat but they were not at a disadvantage too. This proved that the ability of an imperial operator and an ace mecha master were vastly different.

The team leader couldn’t allow himself to be on the losing end in front of his team members. The pent up frustration of him not being able to proactive attack came bursting out which allowed him to release his full strength. Around 100 meters from the ground, he managed to stabilize his mecha.

Ling Lan followed closely behind him. She raised her sword and prepared to kill this team leader once and for all.

Hzzg! Ling Lan felt her sword cutting through the air. Her opponent actually dodged her attack.

Everyone spectating the fight saw the team leader suddenly twisting his mecha to the left in a seemingly impossible way. This unexpected movement allowed him to evade the fatal blow.

Qi Long narrowed his eyes when he saw this. This movement was similar to the technique his Boss had taught him. ‘Did Hailiya manage to learn Boss’s ultimate technique? Did someone from their team betray their Boss and the Federation?’

The team leader looked at the data on his screen and cursed silently. That single movement destroyed two of his secondary engines. This kind of unexpected movement which go against inertia relied heavily on the mecha’s engine. But, to dodge the fatal blow, he had no choice but to make this sacrifice.

However, he still managed to turn the tides around. Even with one engine, he could fight with this mecha and show Ling Lan who was the actual boss.

The team leader raised his sword and spun it around. Then, he slashed it at Ling Lan, who had lost her balance.

“Ah, regiment commander!” This time, the members of team 03 were the ones feeling agitated.

But, their worry was for nothing. Ling Lan lost her balance but she twisted her mecha's leg and kicked her opponent's giant sword away.

Bang! Ling Lan made use of the force from this kick to distance herself from her opponent. Then, she stabilized herself.

Bang bang bang! When the team leader saw that Ling Lan was trying to distance herself from him, he started to go on the offensive. He propelled himself forward and attacked Ling Lan furiously.

Ling Lan blocked all the attacks without any error. These two instances show that Ling Lan was able to switch between attacking and defending seamlessly. Only the team leader of this God-Killers team was able to be on par with Ling Lan in this aspect.

When they saw their regiment commander blocking the attacks perfectly, the members of team 03 heaved a sigh of relief. However, this was just the beginning of their end. The members of the God-Killers got stunned by the abilities of team 03 but as imperial operators, they adapted to the situation quickly. When they saw their team leader taking control of the fight, they started to concentrate to take control of their fights too.

Clang! A mecha from team 03 didn't dodge in time and got hit. It managed to escape the fatal blow but one of its arms was still chopped off. If his teammate didn't cover him up in time, he would already be killed.

Ling Lan, who was in an intense fight with the team leader, was burning with anxiety. They needed to kill this team quickly. If they could not kill all of them before their reinforcements arrive, they would all be dead.

Ling Lan gritted her teeth. Her gaze turned cold as she decided to use the forbidden skill that Mu Shui-qing banned her from using.

"Ling Lan, this technique you thought of is very powerful, even I have to be careful when using it. However, you must know that the stronger your technique is, the greater the backlash will be. Once the backlash exceeds your tolerable range, your spiritual power will be permanently damaged, which might affect your future advancements. Please be aware of this." Ling Lan remembered the warning Mu Shui-qing gave her.

"Master, I know what can be done and what can't be done. My future is important but it's nothing compared to the lives of my comrades." Ling Lan's gaze turned resolute as she activated the forbidden skill.

The portion of her spiritual power that had been sealed got released in full force. The sudden rush of spiritual power frightened Little Four greatly. He shouted in agitation, "Boss, you're crazy."

Although Ling Lan's body was especially strong now, Ling Lan's spiritual power was even stronger. After learning the skills of the Divine Command sect from Mu Shui-qing, her spiritual power became so strong that even Little Four was in awe.

But to ensure Ling Lan's safety, Little Four sealed a portion of Ling Lan's spiritual power. He didn't expect Ling Lan to unseal this portion of spiritual power personally.

“Little Four, if anything happens to me, you’ll take control of the mecha temporarily.” Ling Lan dared to use this method because she knew that Little Four was here to help her if anything was to go wrong. If she suffered from a backlash and was unable to control her mecha, Little Four would be able to take over the mainframe of her mecha and help her escape.

Little Four wanted to say something, but when he saw Ling Lan’s resolute gaze, he bit his lips and nodded.

Spiritual power could be seen visible seeping through the cockpit of her mecha. Waves of spiritual power came crashing down on everyone. But in Ling Lan’s eyes, the time had stopped moving. No, time didn’t stop, it just got slower. It moved so slowly that Ling Lan was not able to feel it.

This was her spiritual world. In this world, her vision pierced through the cockpit of all the members of the God-Killers team and the members of team 03. She could see... the dread, the nervousness and the excitement on their faces.

“This is my world. If I want it to exist, it’ll exist. If I want to destroy it, it’ll be gone.” Ling Lan’s eyes turned cold. “Yin Yang World, devour and devote. Activate!”

The peaceful spiritual world started to swirl clockwise, warping everything in the scene into two different coloured Taichi fishes. Half of the spiritual world turned into a black fish with serene white eyes as its eyes started devouring and twisting all the energy present, draining all of the spiritual power of half the spiritual world. The other half of the spiritual world turned into a white fish with calm ink black eyes. Energy was continuously gushing out from the ink black eyes of the white fish continuously, filling up half of the spiritual world with spiritual power.

This was a frightening and powerful technique that Ling Lan had comprehended when her spiritual power exploded not long after she graduated from the military academy. It was a domain but it also wasn’t domain. The peculiar energy cycle this technique created had a peculiar way of functioning. As the Taichi ring got bigger, the energy cycle between the two sides would get faster and faster. As the speed of the energy cycle increases, the backlash Ling Lan would suffer would also increase.

At some point, Ling Lan couldn’t handle it anymore and she vomited out mouthfuls of blood. Blood splattered on the controls of the mecha, staining it red.

Chapter 882: Regurgitation!

At the same time, the small team of God-Killers members suddenly felt their heads were hit by something hard and dull. Their hands making moving around in their cockpit instantly stopped and the large sword that were moving towards their opponents’ mechas stopped as well. It was as though someone had hit the pause button on the world.

On the other hand, mecha operators in team 03 felt their minds were being cleared thoroughly as if they had meditated for a few hours. The exhaustion from their body and mind disappeared in an instant. How could they let a chance where their spiritual power was replenished go to waste? In unplanned unison, they activated their strongest techniques and ruthlessly attacked their opponents.

Ling Lan fought through the dizziness and pain that were brought from the backlash of the technique, and decisively landed her strongest attack on the team leader.

“Bang, bang, bang...” A continuous sound of swords slashing against their cockpit rang through the cockpits of the God-Killers one mecha after another. All of the mecha operators in team 03 executed techniques that went straight towards a vital point.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” ...A continuous sound of explosion rang through the air, causing the entire sky to erupt with loud noise. The broken pieces of mechas fell from the sky with smoke and fire coming out of them, smashing onto the ground with a giant thud.

Those ruthless attacks made by mecha operators in team 03 completely wiped out this small team of God-Killers. This included the leader who Ling Lan was fighting against.

Qi Long looked at the burning debris below them with a stunned expression. He felt that he shouldn't have lived past this battle. He originally thought that they would be the ones to become pieces of debris in the middle of nowhere, not their opponents.

“What are you waiting for? Let's go.” Ling Lan's hoarse and strained voice rang through all of the commlink channels of the team members.

This voice was different compared to the cold tone of voice they were used to.

“Boss, are you alright?” Qi Long still couldn't help but ask worriedly. His Boss sounded like he sustained a severe injury.

“It's fine. Let's retreat first.” Ling Lan stopped Qi Long from questioning her any further and made Qi Long lead team 03 to quickly retreat.

Hearing Ling Lan's orders, team 03's members didn't dare to stay there any longer so they all piloted their mechas away quickly.

Although they didn't say anything, they knew fully well what had happened just now. They could imagine that the feeling they felt was definitely because their regiment commander used a secret or forbidden technique to hold the 12 mecha operators from the God-Killers in place, which allowed them to successfully defeat their opponents.

There were many secret and forbidden techniques among the elite families in the Federation. Even if they had never seen one, they would still have been able to see the top-secret military documents before they left their military positions. It was just that after using a secret or forbidden technique, there would be an extreme backlash towards the user. This made the team members become worried about their regiment commander's injuries.

“The battles after this must be fought by all you now.” When they were flying away quickly, Ling Lan told team 03 the bad news.

Qi Long and the others immediately understood. Their regiment commander's injuries were so severe that he could no longer fight.

“Understood Boss. Just leave the fighting to us now,” said Qi Long earnestly.

He had once said that if someone wanted to hurt his Boss, they must get past his cold dead body. However, he had never reached that point yet. Every time, he could only watch as his Boss fought by himself. This time, he must take his Boss back to the base safely. He made this promise with his life.

“Then, I’ll leave it to you Qi Long.” Ling Lan chose to believe in Qi Long. After saying those words, she could no longer hold on and passed out.

Seeing this, Little Four immediately controlled Ling Lan’s mecha to fly it forward properly.

Little Four could control the optical supercomputer to fly the mecha perfectly. However, battling was something that required ample amounts of experience, something Little Four lacked. When faced with attacks, he wouldn’t be able to accurately go against them accordingly. This was why Ling Lan handed over the fighting to Qi Long and not to Little Four.

Although Little Four was a god in the virtual world, he was still a newbie when it comes to mecha battling. He was definitely unable to fight in a high-level mecha battle.

Therefore, Little Four just concentrated on controlling Ling Lan’s mecha while being frustrated with himself. If it wasn’t for the fact that he couldn’t break through the optical supercomputers of those mechas, his Boss wouldn’t have used her forbidden technique. In the end, he was still too weak.

He remembered in the database that those who were of his species and stronger were able to take control of the enemy’s optical supercomputer’s mainframe in an instant. Little Four decided that he must be as strong as them to not let his Boss feel this pain ever again.

While Little Four was frustrated, Ling Lan was unconscious in the cockpit. Her original mindspace that was full of life was no longer a vast and limitless spiritual ocean. Now, it was only an endless desolate desert.

Using a vast amount of spiritual power instantly and using a forbidden technique drained all of her spiritual power in an instant. This was why Ling Lan became unconscious. There wasn’t enough spiritual power for Ling Lan to stay awake.

Right at that moment, inside the center of her spiritual power sea, the white and sparkling egg-shape created from the time they were going to Planet Juhao, which was Ling Lan’s spiritual power core, suddenly began to tremble. The spiritual power core was originally devouring the extra spiritual power Ling Lan had continuously. Now, because Ling Lan’s spiritual power had been completely depleted by using a forbidden technique, it suddenly turned from devouring to releasing.

Soon, the dried up spiritual power sea was filled up once again. This time, it was even more pure than before. If Ling Lan’s previous spiritual power had some sort of violent nature causing her spiritual power sea to be in a state of unrest before, it was now as peaceful as a mirror surface. If no one went to touch it, they would think it was an actual sea and not a spiritual power sea.

Ling Lan regained consciousness. She looked at her own spiritual power space and couldn’t believe what she was seeing.

“Is this my mindspace?” From the violent and raging mindspace, Ling Lan entered a seemingly solidified world. Ling Lan was dumbfounded. She closed her eyes and raised her hand. Suddenly, a portion of her

spiritual power flew out from the silent and solidified mindscape and moved along with her finger's movements.

"This is the real telekinesis!" Ling Lan was overjoyed as she watched the spiritual power happily dance around her finger. Normally, she must concentrate on controlling her spiritual power to use spiritual power techniques. It wasn't like now where she only had to think it and her spiritual power would follow her whims.

'Could it be that the spiritual power core had the effect of taking in pure spiritual power?' Ling Lan finally understood the secrets of the white spiritual power core. However, if it wasn't for her luck that made her use a forbidden technique which depleted the spiritual power inside her mindscape, perhaps she would have never known what the spiritual power core could do in her lifetime, as the spiritual power core was fickle. It would definitely not spit out the spiritual power it had devoured when she still had spiritual power in her mindscape.

Ling Lan also felt the damage the training her spiritual power had done to the mindscape in the past few years was slowly being repaired because of the spiritual power core's regurgitation. Ling Lan didn't think something that was originally a huge crisis actually was a blessing in the end. Instead of being a danger, it resolved some of the underlying issues with her mindscape.

However, Ling Lan also knew that she shouldn't use the forbidden techniques too often. After all, the spiritual power within the core wasn't limitless. This time, it replenished Ling Lan's depleted spiritual power just once, and it had already caused the original sparkling white color core to become faint. Ling Lan felt that the energy within it was almost all used up. If she used the forbidden technique again, her mindscape would actually break apart.

After thinking about the consequences, Ling Lan became very afraid. If her mindscape was to break apart, even if she regained her consciousness back, she would no longer be able to live as a normal person in this lifetime and would have to live like how she lived in her past life. This was why Mu Shui-qing warned her that unless she was in a moment of life-or-death, she shouldn't use this forbidden technique.

Chapter 883: Loyal Serving the Country!

Ling Lan felt that her spiritual power didn't have any more problems now, so she wanted to continue to pilot her mecha. However, she discovered that she couldn't leave her mindscape and was stuck there.

"Little Four, Little Four." Ling Lan called for her omnipotent underling, Little Four.

"Boss, you're awake? That's great!" Little Four instantly appeared in Ling Lan's mindscape. He shouted with joy when he saw that Ling Lan had regained consciousness.

"Little Four, why am I stuck in my mindscape and unable to return to my physical body?" Ling Lan asked with a frowning expression.

Hearing this, Little Four immediately examined Ling Lan's spiritual power sea and her physical body. He felt the pure and limitless spiritual power within Ling Lan's mindscape. There were some terrifying forces in there that even terrified Little Four. Little Four ignored them and quickly searched through his

database to find the cause of Ling Lan's predicament. In the end, he found a note in the corner of his database that was related to Ling Lan's current situation.

"Boss, it might be because the spiritual power in your mindscape is too pure. Although it's still the same space, the power it is holding now is hundreds or thousands of times stronger than what it was before. Your body may not be able to withstand the spiritual power and handle it. Thus, your body instinctively rejected the original consciousness from the body." Little Four told Ling Lan the reason for her current situation.

"I can never return to my physical body anymore?" Ling Lan was stunned after hearing his explanation.

"No, as long as your body adapted to your spiritual power, your consciousness would automatically return to your physical body and take control of it once again."

"Then, how much time does my body need to adapt to it?" Ling Lan was anxious, as she didn't forget the situation her physical body was in. There were dangers at every single corner on the outside world and her comrades were probably fighting fiercely to protect her. If she could wake up then she would be able to calm the volatile situation. Then, everyone would have a higher chance of returning home alive.

"Boss, please be patient. We have to wait now. Trying to do something would be useless anyways." Little Four hurriedly left those words and left. On the outside world, there was still a huge battle going on, so he still had to focus all of his attention to control the mecha to carefully and perfectly dodge the attacks that rained down upon them like raindrops.

Ling Lan, who was not in the real world, didn't know that team 03 was in a very precarious situation. Although they managed to destroy the small team of God-Killers because of Ling Lan's secret technique and avoid being discovered by larger teams because of Little Four's scouting skills, they were still on a very active battlefield, and thus they could not avoid Hailiyuan military's blanketing search of the area, causing them to unluckily encounter some patrolling mecha operators

Qi Long looked at the enemy mechas that had already gotten around to their flanks and decisively shouted, "Break through!"

Now the situation had reached the point where the strongest individuals were occupied with each other, so they could no longer hold back anymore.

Everyone took out their sharp weapons and dove straight in.

The instant Qi Long rushed towards his opponent, he glanced at Ling Lan's mecha to check on her. He was relieved when he saw Ling Lan perfectly dodging every attack coming her way. 'It seems that although Boss is injured, he can still perform basic piloting.' He thought. However, Qi Long also knew that his Boss's severely injured body would not be able to take on the recoil of fighting a mecha battle. 'It is probably because of this reason that Boss is not taking out his sword to attack and is just focusing on evading the incoming attacks.'

Qi Long didn't even consider that Ling Lan wasn't the one piloting the mecha. Instead, it was Little Four, an intelligent entity that had never appeared before them.

“Bang, bang, bang!” Finally, the two groups of mechas met up with each other. On one side was Qi Long and his team, on the other side was filled with mechas from Hailiya. Deafening sounds of weapons clashing sounded in the air.

Qi Long and the others needed to create a way for them to return home. Hailiya on the other hand needed to take down these enemies who had destroyed Base Ailan. There wasn't any so-called right or wrong on a battlefield. It was just the beliefs of the soldiers and the honor of their countries that made these two groups of people who would stop at nothing to strangle each other's throat.

Although Hailiya's numbers were almost twice as much team 03, team 03's capabilities were much stronger than these normal Hailiyan mecha operators. Soon, many Hailiyan mechas were shot down by team 03. As the situation became more advantageous for team 03, one member, who was constantly focused on the radar suddenly shouted, “Not good. Leader! Two large patrol teams have appeared. One 3 clicks east and the other 7 clicks to the west of us.”

More Hailiyan mechas began to appear in the sky. Everyone in team 03 knew that this was only the beginning. As time passes by, the sky would be filled with more and more Hailiyan patrol teams, and eventually surround them completely.

“Sh*t, they definitely have announced that we're here.” Although Qi Long already knew that this was going to be a very possible outcome, he was still distraught when what he dreaded to happen the most, happened.

“Leader, you and your protectors leave first to escort our regiment commander to the base. We'll stay behind.” Team 03's deputy leader Sun Yaofei decisively shouted towards Qi Long. Instead of all of them dying here, they might as well let their regiment commander and leader, who had a much brighter future ahead of them to leave first.

“No! How can we do that?” Qi Long didn't even think about it and just immediately rejected the idea.

“Stop being naive about the situation! Do you want our regiment commander to die here?” Sun Yaofei shouted angrily. His anger and frustrated mood made the speed of his fingers increase once again. Before he had realized, he had broken through the limit he was stuck at for decades. He then instantly and cleanly defeated his opponent.

Faced with a small team of imperial operators who could easily destroy all of them, their regiment commander decisively used a forbidden technique to save them. Now, they must do everything they could to save their severely injured regiment commander. He must let their regiment commander and leader escape from here!

Faced with Sun Yaofei's hardened resolve and attitude, Qi Long only started into his eyes. Finally, he bit his lip and shouted, “Protectors, follow me to escort our regiment commander to the base.”

“Yes, leader.” After receiving their orders, two mechas suddenly moved away from the rest of the team. These two, along with Qi Long, flew behind Ling Lan's mecha in the shape of a fan.

Little Four was moved by this act. ‘No wonder Boss didn't care about her life to save them...’ He wanted to leave something for the brave soldier fighting for his Boss, thus he imitated Ling Lan's voice and spoke

to the members of team 03 who were staying behind, "Remember, I'm going to wait for you all back home!"

Afterwards, Little Four piloted the mecha and quickly flew towards the direction where there was no patrol team. Although he was moved by the act, Little Four still felt that Ling Lan's safety was the most important, even if he had to abandon a few of them, it would still be worth it.

Qi Long and the other two mechas followed closely as they saw Ling Lan began to retreat.

Seeing this, Sun Yaofei felt happy. If Ling Lan had wanted to stay behind and fight, he would have been disappointed and angry. A proper regiment commander must be decisive in these types of situations, even if their actions seemed extremely cold-blooded. Plus, making this decision was the best for all of them because in reality, Ling Lan would be a useless burden to them if she had stayed behind. She should leave to lessen the burden of the people watching over her. Without carrying the burden of watching over her, the mecha operators would be able to calmly their enemies even at the face of their deaths. Plus, who knows if they could perhaps find a way out of the situation.

"A man should die in battle! Now is the time for us to serve our country. We will be staying behind. Do you regret this?" Sun Yaofei teared up but he still asked with a smile on his face.

"We don't regret it!" The members all shouted. If they were trash and died a peaceful death, they might regret it. However now, they were reborn from the ashes of their trash self and became qualified soldiers again. They could finally earn the honor of dying in battle. To them, this was already the greatest outcome they could possibly imagine. They would not have any regrets in this life.

Chapter 884: Dying in Battle!

"Remember, our regiment commander is still waiting for us on the other side!" Sun Yaofei shouted loudly as he rushed forward to meet with his new opponent.

The most gruesome fight of this mission finally began in the skies around this area. In order to make sure the Hailiyan mecha operators did not get past them and chase after Ling Lan's group of four, everyone in team 03 put all of their efforts into holding back their opponents. After being unable to break through team 03's human barricade, Hailiya's forces knew that if they didn't completely defeat team 03 who blocked their way, they wouldn't be able to chase after those Federation mechas that had escaped. Thus, they set up their positions and began surrounding team 03.

Qi Long and the others who were flying quickly towards the base, suddenly heard loud explosions coming from behind them not long after they had left. They felt their hearts tremble in that instant. However, instead of slowing down they decisively put their engine into full throttle, causing their mechas to instantly break through the lightspeed barrier as it moved like lightning towards Hailiya's first line of defence, while doing so, they didn't dare and couldn't look back. Their comrades were willing to sacrifice themselves to delay the enemy from chasing them just to increase the chance of them surviving. They definitely couldn't waste their sacrifice on reminiscing the past.

Sun Yaofei saw his team members self-destruct one by one and his eyes began to redden. However, he couldn't order them to retreat because the time they gave Ling Lan and Qi Long to escape was not long enough...

"Hold them back for three more minutes..." Sun Yaofei encouraged his team members again, even though he knew that after three minutes, none of them might even survive. However, he still told everyone to stand their ground. That was because the more time they could hold on, the higher the chances of Ling Lan and Qi Long escaping...

They were originally trash and useless. Even though they were reborn, they still missed out on the peak times of being a successful mecha operator, but they had no regrets. However, their regiment commander and team leader were still growing day by day with immeasurable futures ahead of them. Even if all of team 03 members' lives were used to exchange for their futures, it was worth it. Sun Yaofei thought this way and those from team 03 thought this way too. This was why they were willing to die and self-destruct to not let Hailiya's forces get past them even by one step.

In a battle where death was imminent, some of the mecha operators managed to break through their limits in this life-or-death situation. Their mecha piloting skills suddenly climbed to new heights which allowed them to hold the fort for three more minutes.

Seeing the radar indicating that there were more and more enemy mechas coming their way, Sun Yaofei knew that this was their limit. If they continued to stay here, no matter how many people they had, they still wouldn't be able to hold off the overwhelming number of enemy forces.

"Retreat!"

Sun Yaofei gave an order as he slashed away the two mechas who were surrounding him with his large sword. He then put the mecha's engine on full throttle and began to retreat quickly!

There were only three others who successfully got away from the enemy forces with Sun Yaofei. These three mecha operators' situation were like Sun Yaofei's where they had all advanced to become imperial operators after breaking past their limit in the life-or-death moment. In this battle, only imperial operators could manage to create a way for themselves to get away.

"Deputy leader, we'll leave our regiment commander and leader to you." Seeing that they had no hope of escaping, three other members who were left behind screamed out their last wishes before they decisively held onto their opponent and self-destructed.

"Bang, bang, bang!" The three continuous sounds of explosions were oddly piercing loud, as they made Sun Yaofei's heart tremble. He tried to look forward with his reddened eyes, but tears just kept blocking his vision! Out of the 21 members who had stayed behind, the only ones who were able to escape was four people including himself. The other 17 members all perished in battle. This was the most terrible loss 250 Ace Mecha Clan had ever sustained since entering Planet Haijiao's battlefield. Team 03 was completely crippled.

"Let's go!" Sun Yaofei held himself back from wanting to just curl up in a fetal position and cry as he shouted. The reason they were not staying behind and fighting to their deaths was not because they were afraid to die, it was because their mission wasn't completely yet. Protecting their regiment

commander and leader until they reach Base 013 was the most important thing they had to do, even if they were to die, they needed to die while serving that purpose.

At that moment, team 02 and 08, who were escorting the transport team, was fighting fiercely with the strongest team under the God-Killers' regiment commander, Team Luo Qi. Team 02 and 08 also had sustained a lot of injuries and deaths during this battle.

Right when the two sides encountered each other, the two teams were clearly at a disadvantage when going against a battle team filled with imperial operators who were more capable than them. If it wasn't for Liu Furong and others who had already reached the peak level of ace and halfway towards becoming imperial operators, along with their fearlessness, and causing the opponents a great deal of trouble by fighting recklessly, they would have been completely annihilated.

In the skies above the transport team, the officers led by Yao Jian had encountered Team Jia Na. Deputy Leader Yao Jian's capabilities were similar to Leader Liu Furong. The two mecha operators in his team of mecha operators were also two of the few ace mecha operators from team 02. This was also why Liu Furong gave the most difficult task of stopping the enemy to Deputy Leader Yao Jian. In Team 02, other than the leader's officers, only Yao Jian's officers had hopes of holding back a team full of imperial operators.

Yao Jian knew clearly of the difference between them and their opponents, so he just gave the order to try their best to hold the enemy back and make them unable to attack the transport team down below them.

It should be known that Yao Jian and his officers perfectly held back the enemy. As the three mecha operator from Team Jia Na began fighting with them, those three began to feel very frustrated. They were clearly more capable than their opposition, but they couldn't get their enemies to fight them head on. Instead, their enemies were like bees, buzzing around them constantly. If those three from Jia Na were to get close to them, they would just run away as fast as they could. If they wanted to make a move against the transport team below them, Yao Jian's team would attack them from behind. If they changed their targets to them, Yao Jian's team would evade again... It was clear that Yao Jian's team of three were obeying the rules Ling Lan had set. 'If the enemy was to attack, you would retreat. If the enemy was to focus on a different target, you would interfere. If the enemy was to become exhausted, you would attack. If the enemy was to retreat, you would give chase.' Yao Jian's team of three instilled these words into their real battle and made the three people from Team Jia Na almost spat out blood in frustration.

However, even the best way of holding back your opponents would slowly lose its effectiveness if there was a great difference in capabilities. Soon after, the three from Jia Na became used to Yao Jian's team way of fighting before they finally caught a chance where Yao Jian's team were slower at retreating. Yao Jian's team now had no choice but to fight a tough battle because they couldn't evade in time.

Seeing Yao Jian's team became gradually disadvantaged and was nearing a crisis, Song Yiqing, who was pushing the transport team to quickly move forward, bit his lip in frustration before he immediately ordered the leaders to put down the supplies in their hands and aim their beam guns towards the three people from Team Jia Na to attack them furiously. Han Jijyun was also among Song Yiqing's group and he also couldn't just watch his comrades lose their lives in front of his eyes.

Even with Han Jijyun, Song Yiqing and the others' help, Yao Jian's three man group were still under a lot of pressure from the attacks coming their way. Suddenly, one person in their team got hit in his mecha arm, causing that arm to be cut off instantly.

Seeing this, Han Jijyun, Song Yiqing and the other mecha operators attacked more ruthlessly, making the three operators from Team Jia Na feel even more frustrated. Having enough of this fiesta, Jia Na ordered one of his mecha operators to give up on his opponent to go get rid of the troublesome people below them.

Seeing one of the imperial operators splitting off from his team and ruthlessly pouncing towards his direction, Song Yiqing's expression changed instantly as the attack coming towards him was at a level which could kill him instantly.

Chapter 885: Prolonging Hope!

Song Yiqing tried his best to evade the attack from the enemy, but how could his mecha's speed be compared to the speed of an imperial mecha? Song Yiqing's ace mecha was just the standard ace mecha used by the Federation. It wasn't like the ones from 250 Ace Mecha Clan which were modified by both Lin Zhong-qing and Chang Xinyuan. They modified the ace mechas to have more power than those standard ace mechas, creating ace mechas that were much closer in specs to imperial mechas. This was why Liu Furong and the others could hold on against Team Luo Qi until now. The similar specs of their mechas made up for the vast difference in mecha piloting skills, and the difference between the two teams should only show up after fighting for some time.

Seeing death coming its way towards him at lightning speed, Song Yiqing's mind instantly went blank. A random thought suddenly popped up in his head, 'I regret the decision of helping 250 Ace Mecha Clan by shooting at those imperial operators.'

"Bang!" A loud crashing sound was heard, which woke Song Yiqing in shock.

"Bang!" It was the sound of a mecha falling to the ground. After looking at the scene Song Yiqing knew that in the most dangerous moment, Han Jijyun, who was next to him, instantly used his mecha to crash onto the imperial mecha that was attacking him. Of course, because of the difference in strength, Han Jijyun was instantly sent crashing down into the ground. However, his valiant actions still successfully pushed the opponent away and saved Song Yiqing.

"Bastard." The member from Team Jia Na was furious when his sure-kill attack was stopped by a standard ace mecha. The crash also made him feel a bit nauseous and furious. In anger, he held up his beam gun towards Han Jijyun, who was on the ground with no more energy to stand, and pulled down on the trigger.

"Ah!" Everyone began to shout in horror. Song Yiqing felt his body freeze up and his fingers cramping on the control panel. He clearly had the chance to protect Han Jijyun, but in that moment, he hesitated.

Although he lost an arm and was pushed away by his opponent, he still saw his leader being shot at by the imperial operator. The deputy in Yao Jian's team who was crippled with one arm went forth to block

the beam without a care for his own life. He wasn't able to save Song Yiqing the first time, but this time, he managed to arrive on time.

The beam instantly shot through the already depleted beam shield of his mecha. "Bang!" The mecha now had a large hole in the center of it, a mixture of oil and blood was seeping through hole. Then, there was a creaking sound, which was followed by another and another before it all burst up in flames. The debris created from it fell around Han Jijyun's mecha in circle, surrounding his mecha within a dome of smoke and fire.

This scene stunned Han Jijyun. He didn't think that those veterans, who gossiped about them and looked down on the young team leaders, would actually not care about their own lives and sacrifice himself to block the sure-kill beam...

"Huh? You're team 08's team captain? Out of all the captains, it seems you are the weakest. Are you related to Regiment Commander Ling or something and used your connections to get here?" Members from the other teams would say that to him during their resting period when they saw him.

Han Jijyun externally seemed to be experienced and steady, and was very good at strategizing, but in reality, he was more emotional than others. These words that hurt his feelings were just buried deep in his heart and were not shown externally.

If these words were said to Qi Long, Qi Long would just show a modest smile on his face, making everyone not want to continue to talk about it. If these words were said to Zhao Jun, he would just laugh it off and not think much of it. If told to Luo Lang, Luo Lang would think of those words as praise and would feel overjoyed. He would even say that he was in great relations with Boss and let them be envious of him... If it was told to Li Yingjie, Li Yingjie would definitely not let it go because he was stubborn. He would make a scene and fight with whoever told him that and take his revenge. If it was told to Xie Yi, Xie Yi would admit that those words were correct and go workout with the rest of the members. He would use his actions to prove that he had worked hard. As for Li Lanfeng, no matter what the veteran mecha operators said, he would be able to accept it with a smile. However, he would find all types of methods to make them lose layer of their skin in secret and never back down.

Thus after spending much a long time in 250, 250's veteran mecha operators all had determined what type of people these young team leaders were like. Big Leader Li should be left alone if possible, in case they get caught up in something because of it. Little Leader Li was someone they should go to when their moods were down. Leader Qi Long... It didn't feel good no matter if it was bullying an honest individual or be bullied by one. Zhao Jun was clearly someone who took nothing into his mind and was boring. Xie Yi was a masochist. He would only lead his team and increase training, making the members cry out in agony. Thus, these members who could no longer take the additional training, warned the members from other teams to stop teasing their leaders. Given the circumstances, people started to slowly stop teasing Xie Yi. They didn't want to anger an entire team just because they wanted to tease him. They didn't want to get into a fight.

After looking around, only Han Jijyun, who was not brazen and could only swallow his emotions, was an easy target. This was the reason Han Jijyun was continuously teased by 250 Ace Mecha Clan's veterans. However, because of this, Han Jijyun believed that he was the worst and was a leader who the veterans from 250 Ace Mecha Clan didn't trust. He was also constantly worried that he would be abandoned by

his comrades in his times of need. Over time, it became the source of his anxiety. This was also the reason why he reacted so strongly when he was pressured by Li Lanfeng and felt he was incomparable to Li Lanfeng.

His determination to follow Ling Lan stealing supplies was Han Jijyun's trying to save himself! He wanted to use his capabilities to prove that he could also do what Li Lanfeng could do and that he was not weaker than Li Lanfeng.

Ling Lan, who just watched coldly as a bystander, knew what Han Jijyun was worried about. This was why Ling Lan agreed to it and didn't give Li Lanfeng any chance to say no. If Han Jijyun wanted to become stronger, then Ling Lan would give him that chance. Even if this chance could lead to Han Jijyun giving up his life as the price, Ling Lan still wouldn't stop him.

However, the scene right now completely destroyed what Han Jijyun had believed in for so long. 'Isn't he a leader whom the veterans looked down on? Didn't they just bear with him because of Boss Ling Lan's orders? Didn't they hate him? Why, why, why, would they use their lives to save an incompetent leader?'

"Han Jijyun, what are you staring at? Stand up!" Han Jijyun suddenly heard Liu Furong shouting in his ears. Liu Furong who was usually calm and collected, and would never shout and insult someone. However at this moment, his voice was filled with anger.

"Why would he sacrifice himself to save me?" Han Jijyun bit his lip and made his mecha stand up with a still burning desire for an answer.

"It's because you are our hope. Our future. We would rather die here than to let our hopes and future die here," shouted Liu Furong angrily while the large sword in his hand blocked the attack from Luo Qi.

Luo Qi looked at his opponent, who was originally at a disadvantage, with a dumbstruck expression on his face. He thought he would have been able to take care of him if it wasn't for the fact that there were two mechas protecting him, interfering with his attacks.

However, from the counterattack made by the operator halfway into the imperial level made him feel that his opponent was now no longer weaker than him. Instead, he was now fighting against a similar level opponent. There was no doubt that his opponent was no longer a peak ace operator who was halfway into the imperial level. Instead, he was now a real imperial operator.

Chapter 886: Self-destruct!

It seemed that right as his team member blocked the beam shot with his mecha to save Han Jijyun and dying in the process, Liu Furong suddenly erupted all of his potential and broke through the barrier holding him back for so long, making him instantly enter the imperial level.

The accumulation of his experience for the past 20 years made him instantly reach the mid-stages of imperial level right after he broke through. Even though he was still somewhat weaker than his terrifying opponent, the difference between the two of them was not that huge anymore.

“It’s because you are our hope. Our future. We would rather die here than to let our hopes and future die here!” Liu Furong’s words echoed in Han Jijyun’s mind.

It turns out, he was wrong from the beginning! He was never hated and looked down on by anyone. Those hurtful words were actually just clumsy ways the veterans used to communicate with them.

If they had looked down on him and hated him, they would have just stopped caring about him.

Inside Han Jijyun’s mind, flashbacks of the scenes of veterans speaking to him appeared. Their eyes were filled with happiness. The smiles on their faces were warm, but there were also hints of worry and suspicion in their eyes. There wasn’t any bad intent in their eyes at all. Why couldn’t he see these signs clearly before? Was it because his mind was filled with those negative thoughts so he was blinded by that? Han Jijyun regretted everything and couldn’t help but hate himself. He couldn’t even control his eyes as it teared up uncontrollably...

Song Yiqing, still stiff from before, just stared blankly as a mecha operators from 250 Ace Mecha Clan didn’t hesitate to sacrifice his own life to save his comrades. A feeling of regret and embarrassment towards himself suddenly bloomed in his mind.

“Bam!” Song Yiqing slapped himself on the face and the pain from it woke him up from his stupor. He moved his mecha and instantly flew towards Han Jijyun. He then dragged Han Jijyun, who was still mulling over himself, into his team.

“Leader Han, our mission is to retreat. Retreat! Focus god damn it!” Song Yiqing shouted angrily at Han Jijyun. Even though he was saying those words to Han Jijyun, those words were also for himself as well.

“I know!” Han Jijyun’s hoarse voice was heard in the commlink channel of the mecha.

Han Jijyun raised his head and looked at the imperial mecha who had just killed the mecha operator of team 02. At that moment, his mind was filled with thoughts of taking revenge, but he was held back by an officer from Liu Furong’s team so he had no way of making a move on them.

Han Jijyun will remember this. He will remember how his life had been saved at the cost of someone else’s life. Han Jijyun made a promise to himself that he would no longer let his comrade sacrifice his lives to protect him.

Han Jijyun closed his eyes. When he opened them again, it was calm as a body of water. He coldly said to Song Yiqing, “Regiment Commander Song, take your clan and immediately retreat back to Base 013 as fast as possible. Don’t linger here and waste anymore time.”

Song Yiqing was somewhat stunned by the sudden change in Han Jijyun.

“Then, what about the situation here...” Team 02 and 08 were not enough to hold back this battle team full of imperial operators.

“Regiment Commander Song, I don’t want to say it a third time. Your mission is to take the supplies to Base 013 as fast as possible. It isn’t your role to provide cover fire here,” said Han Jijyun coldly.

“Understood!” Song Yiqing looked at Han Jijyun with surprise, and then immediately ordered his clan’s battle clan’s team leaders to take the supplies and quickly retreat.

Han Jijyun, who was just irresolute, hesitant and warm-hearted, now actually became so heartless. There was no doubt that Han Jijyun was ready to abandon team 02 and 08 for the supplies.

Not long after, Song Yiqing's clan went forward with the order and quickly retreated out of this battlefield. Seeing the supplies going further and further away, Team Luo Qi became frustrated.

"Regiment Commander, we still can't get past the interference in this area so we still can't contact the base. What should we do now?" A team member from Team Luo Qi asked Luo Qi in a frustrated tone.

Although Luo Qi was fighting with Liu Furong, he could still see the supplies being carried away from them. He decisively ordered, "Mai Jia, take formation and block the transport team from leaving! Everyone else cover them. Don't let Mai Jia and his team be held back by those bastards."

"Yes, regiment commander!" Ma Jia's team wanted to split off to attack the transport team, but Liu Furong wouldn't let them leave that easily. He ordered three mecha operators from his team to attack the mecha operators who were trying to chase after the transport team

The order they received was that even if they were to die, they must intercept them.

If the transport team was to have something happen to them, it would mean the end of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the base. Liu Furong and the members from team 02 and 08 knew what was more important. This was also why their regiment commander stayed back at Base Ailan to lure Hailiya's first line forces even if it meant a very high possibility of dying there.

"Self-destruct!" All the mecha operators from 250 knew this was the only way for them to hold these imperial operators back. If they wanted to take down imperial operators that outnumbered them, they must use this method.

"Damn, small fries!" Seeing ace operators coming towards them without any care for their lives, Mai Jia, who was annoyed from being held back, shouted angrily, "Use your strongest technique and destroy these small fries."

"Understood!" The two mechas beside him immediately pounced towards their opponents. Their engines began to roar and the large sword in their hands began to rotate quickly.

"Watch out!" Liu Furong heard the odd noise from their opponent's engines. He then glanced at the way their large swords were rotating and instantly shouted.

Back then when he fought with Hailiya's forces on the battlefield, he had once seen mecha operators using this terrifying technique. Anything that got sucked in by the rotation of the large sword or just slightly touched it, would be sliced into small bits even if it was met with the toughest material. He had once heard from his previous regiment commander that this was one of Hailiya's top-level techniques, Helix Whirl! Countless mecha operators from the Federation had perished just from this technique alone.

However, even though Liu Furong told his team members to be careful, the three members who were ready to die in order to intercept the enemy, didn't retreat even though they knew of the dangers. They all pounced towards their opponents without a hint of regret.

"Long live the Huaxia Federation!"

“Long live 250 Ace Mecha Clan!”

“I love 250!”

In the commlink channel, they all screamed out their last words...

“Bang! Bang! Bang!” Immediately after, three loud explosions were heard in the sky. As everyone turned their head towards the explosion, they saw three mushroom clouds which had odd hints of red in them.

“Mai Jia!”

“Bo Qi!”

“Luo Ya!”

Luo Qi’s team saw this and was stunned. They all called out to their comrades and hoped they would answer them.

After some time, one mecha flew out from one of the mushroom clouds. The mecha’s limbs were broken off and countless wires were protruding out, even the body of the mecha was severely burnt.

Chapter 887: Familiar!

“It’s Mai Jia!” The members from Luo Qi’s team shouted in surprise.

It was indeed Mai Jia. When he noticed that the ace mechas were charging at him with seemingly no regard for their life he knew something was amiss, so he stopped his technique halfway through and moved his mecha half a second earlier. This half a second allowed him to edge away from the brink of death.

Ever since the start of this war, the members of the God-Killers had been having a smooth time. They were never really in any serious danger. They were also the most powerful mecha clan in Hailiya so they never really tasted defeat before. Yet, today, two of their mechas were destroyed and one mecha was half-paralyzed.

“Bastards, kill those trash! Also, don’t give them a chance to self-destruct.” Luo Qi was furious. Ever since he became a regiment commander, he had never been humiliated like this before. Those trash that he looked down on destroyed three of his mechas. Additionally, he didn’t know if the mecha operators of the destroyed mechas were still alive. He was indignant about his situation. To wash away this embarrassment, he must kill all these mecha operators in the most brutal way possible. That was why Luo Qi gave the order.

That’s right, up until now, the mecha operators from God-Killers were just playing with their opponents. They were just fighting with the goal of having fun but, from this moment onwards, they would fight with all their might.

To the members of team 02 and team 08, it was like the god of death finally taking out its scythe and was inching it towards their necks.

“Leader Yang, did you see anything?” Gu Dongyang frowned as he looked at his radar. They were only three minutes late but they had lost all signs of the imperial operators.

“No. However, based on the map Leader Li gave us, they should be in this direction.” Yang Mingzhi compared the map Li Lanfeng gave them and felt that they were heading in the right direction.

“Let’s go further in front and take a look.” Gu Dongyang shoved his concerns to the back of his mind and operated his mecha forward.

‘If Leader Li is right, our regiment commander should be coming towards them from this direction. Is there enough time for us to reinforce our regiment commander? Do they have too few people?’

“Are you thinking that we have too few people?” Yang Mingzhi read Gu Dongyang’s mind.

“Yes. If we are discovered, regiment commander will be in danger,” Gu Dongyang replied.

“Normally, even 30 mecha clans might not be able to conquer a base that has a good defense system and manpower. However, our regiment commander only brought eight mecha clans with him, six of them are not from our base and Song Yiqing has a grudge against our regiment commander. No matter how you look at it, the mission of snatching supplies from our enemy’s base is equal to a suicide mission. If so, why would the scaredy-cat Song Yiqing agree to follow our regiment commander for this mission?” Yang Mingzhi asked calmly.

“Our regiment commander must have persuaded him,” Gu Dongyang replied after some thought.

‘Persuaded? I think threatened is a better word.’ Yang Mingzhi smiled. He continued, “That could possibly be the reason. Another possibility could be because Song Yiqing knew that he won’t die.” Yang Mingzhi had only followed Ling Lan for one year but he knew that Ling Lan wasn’t someone who liked to take risks. If she made a decision, it meant that there was a high chance it would succeed.

Gu Dongyang went into deep thought after hearing what Yang Mingzhi had said. He seemed to have understood something. “Leader Yang, are you saying that our regiment commander is confident that they won’t be found by our enemy? Or only a small portion of the enemy will find them?”

“If not, they won’t be able to come out of Hailiya’s territory and we won’t be reinforcing them.” Yang Mingzhi took a deep breath. There was a small number of enemies but they were dangerous. He was worried that these enemies were those imperial operators that appeared secretly on the battlefield of Planet Haijiao.

These imperial operators were the reason why the Federation lost so many bases in such a short timeframe. Of course, there were other reasons why they lost so many bases such as the commanding officers of the bases panicking after losing contact with the Federation and didn’t contact with their surrounding bases in time. The enemy made use of this window of time to attack them. But, it was undeniable that without these imperial operators, the bases wouldn’t have fallen so quickly. They would be able to withstand for a longer period of time and Base 013 wouldn’t have to have such a hard time.

“No matter what, let’s hurry over.” Gu Dongyang was still worried about Ling Lan, so he pulled his throttle and increased his speed once again.

Yang Mingzhi followed him and increased his speed too. Their team members also increased their speed and caught up with their team leaders.

After fighting with Jia Na for so long, Yao Jian finally reached his limit. Under his opponent's continuous attack, he was finally hit and his mecha flew backwards.

The huge impact injured him internally. He spat a mouthful of blood on the screen.

'Have I reached my limit already?' Yao Jian smiled in despair, as he wasn't able to break through his limit. He looked at his opponent as he chased after him with a giant sword that was coming towards him.

"Even if I go to hell, I'll bring someone with me!" Yao Jian went berserk. His fingers suddenly increased in speed so much that there seemed to be afterimages of fingers moving across the control panel.

Yao Jian's mecha twisted its body and the giant sword just barely scraped his mecha's chest, managing to evade the lethal blow. Jia Na was dumbfounded but before he could attack again, Yao Jian's mecha suddenly hugged him tightly.

Yao Jian pressed the self-destruct button without any hesitation. At the same time, he pressed the ejection button.

"Leader, Old Yao will be leaving first." Before his mecha exploded, Yao Jian shouted into the channel.

Boom! A huge explosion occurred as Yao Jian's mecha burst into flames. Jia Na was unable to break free as Yao Jian had hugged his joints. Hence, his mecha exploded too and became a pile of ruins. It hit the ground, forming a huge hole around 50 meters in diameter.

"Yao Jian!" Liu Furong's eyes turned red. There were tears in them. He was prepared for sacrifices but the death of Yao Jian caused him great agony and pain.

"Deputy Leader Yao!" All the members of team 02 screamed in grief and anger.

"Deputy Leader Yao!" The members of team 08 were sad too.

The two teams all turned crazy. Soon, more explosions could be heard. The members of team 02 and 08 chose to self-destruct out of spite to drag down more people with them.

"Leader Yang, did you hear sounds of explosion just now?" Gu Dongyang, who was flying in front, asked curiously.

Yang Mingzhi heard the sounds too. He signaled for all his members to stop flying. When the sound of the engines disappeared, the sounds could be heard more clearly.

"This is bad. Everyone, hasten your speed." Yang Mingzhi's expression changed. If he was right, those were the sounds of mecha self-destructing. He had been through many battles, so he was extremely familiar with this sound.

Chapter 888: Reinforcements!

As expected, after flying for some time, he saw the transport team moving towards their base furiously. He scanned through them but didn't see any familiar mechas. 'Where did the people from 250 go?'

Yang Mingzhi saw the ace mechas that were at the back of the transport team and hurried over. He stopped them and asked, "Where are the people from 250?"

These ace mechas belonged to the leaders from Song Yiqing's 224 Mecha Clan. When they saw the reinforcements from 250 Ace Mecha Clan, they literally could feel pressure being lifted off their bodies. They replied hurriedly, "They are holding a group of imperial operators back for us. Please hurry up and help them."

Yang Mingzhi's expression changed. He quickly called Gu Dongyang and they rushed to the direction the transport team directed them to.

Han Jijyun hid in the dense forest not far away. He turned off the engine of his mecha and watched as his team members self-destruct one by one. His expression got colder with each death. Besides that, he had no other expressions, like an ice statue in the frigid cold. People might have thought that he was a heartless person if they had missed the pain in his eyes and the drips of blood that were flowing down his hands. He had clenched his fists so tightly that his fingernails dug deep into the palm of his hand.

Suddenly, Han Jijyun heard a roaring sound behind him. He moved his mecha and saw a bunch of familiar mechas. Tears suddenly started to fall from his eyes, creating two lines of water streaks that flowed down his cheeks.

The reinforcements were finally here. He didn't have to force himself to watch his comrades self-destructing anymore.

He really hated himself for being too weak. If he was stronger, he wouldn't be a burden to everyone. He wouldn't have to hide in the dark and feel helpless. He wouldn't have to watch his comrades sacrificing themselves right in front of his eyes. If he was just as strong as Qi Long, he would at least be able to fight with them side by side.

'Why am I so weak?'

As Han Jijyun questioned himself, Yang Mingzhi and Gu Dongyang saw the brutal scene in front of them. Fires and clouds of smoke could be seen everywhere. Broken mechas parts were scattered on the ground with most of them belonging to 250 Ace Mecha Clan. This brutal scene stabbed the hearts of the two veterans.

In the air, Liu Furong was fighting with Luo Qi in a one versus one battle. The 10 remaining mechas from 250 Mecha Clan formed into a small team of their own and were battling with the last five imperial operators from Hailiya. Every single attack they made was all self-destructive. It was obvious that these mecha operators were prepared to die with the intention of dragging their opponent with them before they die. Their viciousness and fearless attitude towards death caused their opponents to hold back against them. They were afraid that the mecha operators from 250 Ace Mecha Clan would hug them and self-destruct. Hence, members of 250 Ace Mecha Clan were able to survive till now.

This was also the reason why the members of the 250 Ace Mecha Clan managed to destroy 6 imperial mechas.

They used the lives of over 30 ace mecha masters to exchange for the lives of six imperial operators. This was an amazing feat that no one had managed to achieve in the entire Federation's history, even their descendants might not be able to achieve it. However, to Yang Mingzhi and Gu Dongyang, the lives of the six imperial operators were not worth the lives of their 30 mecha operators as these people were their brothers-in-arms. They were comrades who fought with them, trained with them, ate with them, slept with them. Even though they were only ace mecha masters, even a single mecha operator from that group of 30 mecha operators was more precious than the six imperial operators combined.

"Kill them! Leave no one alive!" A strong killing intent appeared on Yang Mingzhi's normally gentle face as he gave his order to kill.

They couldn't just let their comrades sacrificed like this. They must let the Hailiyan mecha operators pay the price!

The mecha operators of the two teams rushed towards the six imperial operators. The imperial operators used to be confident that they could destroy the remaining mechas but now, more than double the number of remaining mechas suddenly appeared. They now started to worry. From the movements of the two leading mechas, they could feel a sense of imperial operators in them. Luo Qi knew that these two mecha operators might be more than half step into the imperial stage. They should be at pseudo imperial stage now. It would be a tough fight.

Half step imperial and pseudo imperial were both imperial stages but the difference between the two was huge. Half step imperial stage had the word 'imperial' in it but it was actually closer to ace stage. This was just the highest level of ace and the person was just half a step away from imperial stage. However, this half step couldn't be taken easily. Some people might be unable to take that half step in their entire life. No matter how hard a person worked, if they couldn't break through the imperial barrier, his piloting skills would forever be stuck at the peak of ace stage.

As for pseudo imperial, it meant that the person had already entered the imperial stage. Their mecha piloting ability hovered between half step imperial and imperial stage. As long as they were given more time to get used to the operations, they would be able to stabilize their controls and become a real imperial operator. During battles, a pseudo imperial operator had a real chance to become a real imperial operator. After all, it's just a matter of time for them to become imperial operators. This was the difference between half step imperial and pseudo imperial.

Luo Qi wouldn't have minded if more ace mecha masters came. However, now, there were two pseudo imperial operators who might be able to advance to the imperial stage if he fought with them. Luo Qi didn't dare to take the risk, so he ordered his team members to retreat.

'I will wait for reinforcements to arrive and come back again!' Luo Qi felt annoyed. He waved his giant sword and slammed Liu Furong away. Then, he controlled his mecha and retreated in the direction of Base Yaqi. The other five members of his team followed behind him closely.

"Running away? Not so easy!" These people killed many of their comrades. How could they let them off so easily? The mecha operators quickly blocked their path of retreat fearlessly.

"Damn it!" Luo Qi quickly fired a beam while signalling to his members to grab any chances to retreat.

Liu Furong was unwilling to give up too. When he saw Luo Qi firing at his teammates, he howled in anger and fired furiously at Luo Qi with his beam gun.

Luo Qi had no choice but to evade the beams, so he was no longer able to help his team members, causing only one of his team members to be able to escape. The other four were chased back into the battlefield and got surrounded by Yang Mingzhi and Gu Dongyang's teams.

After Luo Qi evaded Liu Furong's beams, he wanted to use his beam gun to help his four team members. However, when he saw his beams were all blocked by Yang Mingzhi effortlessly, he knew that this was an expert at long-range attacks. Without his beam gun, he no longer had any chance to save his team members, so Luo Qi turned decisively and retreated with the one member who had escaped.

As a regiment commander of God-Killers, Luo Qi not only needed to have powerful mecha piloting ability, he also needed to be decisive and know when to give up certain things. Because of these traits, he was able to defeat many candidates who wanted his seat and sit in the position of the regiment commander for this long. Since he knew that saving his team members was impossible, he decided to leave.

Chapter 889: Survivor!

"What a pity. He escaped," Liu Furong said angrily. The opponent he fought with was stronger than the teammates he had around him, so he must have had a particularly high status in the Hailiyan army. If they were able to kill him, they could not only take revenge for their comrades but also injure the morale of their enemies.

Liu Furong only felt it was a pity for a short while, but he quickly returned back to his calm state and joined the battle against the four abandoned imperial operators.

When Han Jijyun saw two of the enemy mechas running away and the remaining four imperial operators getting cornered by their mecha operators, he knew the danger was over, so he piloted his mecha out of the dense forest and came to the ruins. He needed to find survivors quickly to send them back to Base 013 so that they could receive treatment as soon as possible. This was why he hid just now. No matter what the end result of this battle was, he needed to send the injured soldiers back to their base, even if he had to risk his life to complete this mission.

Han Jijyun started searching carefully. Anyone that self-destructed their mecha had a very low chance of survival but he still didn't give up. Finally, he found a cockpit that managed to be ejected out of the mecha safety before the explosion of the mecha could catch up to it. It was buried in the ground at a corner of the battlefield. Han Jijyun rushed over and carefully took the cockpit out. He also saw a green line around the cockpit, symbolizing that the person inside the cockpit was still alive. Han Jijyun hurriedly linked his channel with the cockpit and said, "This is Han Jijyun. What is your situation?"

"Cough, cough. Damn it. I almost died from the fall. Leader Han, has the battle outside ended?" Yao Jian's weak voice came from the cockpit.

“Deputy Leader Yao! It’s Deputy Leader Yao! That’s good.” Han Jijyun shouted in excitement, “Leader Yang and Leader Gu had come to reinforce us with their teams. We are clearing the last of the enemy now. Deputy Leader Yao, hang in there. I’ll send you back to the base soon.”

“I’m fine. I just suffered some internal injuries. I’ve already taken the recovery fluid, so go and look for other survivors.” Yao Jian knew that even before he had self-destructed his mecha, many other people had already self-destructed their mechas. He just hoped that they were as lucky as him and managed to eject successfully.

“Okay!” Han Jijyun placed Yao Jian’s cockpit at a safe place so that he wouldn’t be implicated by the battle above them. Then, he started searching through the ruins again. Yao Jian’s survival gave him some confidence that there would be other members who were still alive.

After this, Han Jijyun found two more members who were at the brink of death. If Han Jijyun had found them just slightly later, they would have died. To save these two members who were struggling at the doors of hell, Han Jijyun fed them the precious agent that Ling Lan gave him, managing to keep them alive for the moment.

He had found three people that were still alive. But, no matter how much he continued searching, he couldn’t find any more survivors. Han Jijyun finally gave up. Out of more than 30 mecha operators who self-destructed their mechas, only three had survived. Team 02 sacrificed 13 members while team 08 sacrificed 14 members in this battle. More than half of their team members were dead.

Yang Mingzhi, Liu Furong, and Gu Dongyang led their teams and killed the remaining four imperial operators before they finally vented their anger.

Yang Mingzhi scanned through Liu Furong’s team and frowned. “Why isn’t the regiment commander with you?”

Liu Furong gritted his teeth. The moment they left the second line of defense safely and entered the area of the first line of defense, he knew what their regiment commander did to clear the path for them. If they were walking on the edge of death, their regiment commander was on the path of death.

“Leader Liu! Where is the regiment commander?” Yang Mingzhi felt that something was amiss when he saw Liu Furong hesitating to answer his question. His voice turned louder and sharper.

“Regiment commander stayed at Ailan to clear the path for us.” Liu Furong finally said the truth.

“Bastard!” Yang Mingzhi kicked Liu Furong’s mecha in anger.

Liu Furong had suffered some internal injury before this so when Yang Mingzhi kicked him, he vomited out mouthfuls of blood.

He bore with the pain in his chest and didn’t try to explain himself. Ever since he accepted Ling Lan’s order and left with the transport team, he knew that he would be despised by everybody in 250. However, Ling Lan’s cold gaze at that time prevented him from denying her orders. He had no choice but to leave.

“Which direction will he be coming from?” Yang Mingzhi took a deep breath and controlled his worry and anger.

"I don't know." Liu Furong was really clueless. Ling Lan never told him about her plans. He wanted to ask him but he had always got stopped by her piercing gaze.

"If you don't know anything, why did you follow him to the battlefield then?" Yang Mingzhi scolded furiously.

"There is no need to blame Leader Liu. No one can stop our regiment commander when he makes a decision, not even you, Leader Yang." A cold voice sounded behind them. It was Han Jijyun who had finished searching for survivors.

"I just want to know which direction our regiment commander will be coming from so that we can go and reinforce him." Yang Mingzhi knew that Ling Lan was a resolute person. He blamed Liu Furong because he was angry at himself. Because before this mission, Ling Lan stopped him from going and allowed Liu Furong to go instead.

Han Jijyun looked at Yaqi's direction. He said with certainty, "Regiment commander will come from Base Yaqi's direction."

"Why? They have found you. Base Yaqi will definitely be on alert. They'll search this area." Yang Mingzhi was confused.

"The transport team is on the way back to Base 013 now. Who are they supposed to be looking for?" Han Jijyun replied indifferently.

Yang Mingzhi's eyes lit up. "Regiment commander wants to make use of this?" Yaqi would definitely want to catch them. Hence, they would send all their soldiers out and chase after them. During this time, Ling Lan, who was behind Base Yaqi, could sneak past them. Of course, Ling Lan had to enter the first line of defense first.

"I believe that our regiment commander will succeed." Han Jijyun looked at the direction of Base Yaqi firmly. 'His boss is not a weak person like him. He will definitely escape and come back to Base 013 alive.'

"Since that's the case, Leader Liu, Leader Han, bring your teams back and lead the transport team back to the base. We'll stay here and wait for our enemy." Yang Mingzhi thought for a moment before making this decision.

Han Jijyun didn't reject this suggestion. He looked at Yang Mingzhi and nodded. Then, he brought his team and Liu Furong's team back to the base. Their team members were all injured and had reached their limit. Of course, Han Jijyun didn't forget the three survivors he found.

Chapter 890: Creating Miracle!

After Han Jijyun and his team disappeared from his sight, Yang Mingzhi sighed. "Leader Han has finally learned to be vicious."

Gu Dongyang looked at the ruins and said calmly, "Our regiment commander brought him out so that he can understand this point. In a battle, being soft-hearted is equivalent to harming yourself. Plus, being a soft-hearted advisor, would mean innocent soldiers would have to die needlessly."

“Killing prisoners of war is the first step to being someone brutal. He still has a long path ahead of him to be someone like that.” Yang Mingzhi was someone who watched these new soldiers grow slowly. He felt that letting them become team leaders was not a good decision but from the looks of it now, the person who understood them the most was their Boss. Ling Lan understood her friends well. She knew how well they could handle stress. Han Jijyun always felt that he was weak but to Yang Mingzhi, he was already good enough. However, after knowing when to be vicious, Han Jijyun became an even better soldier.

He said this because when Han Jijyun was searching for survivors, he found imperial operators from Hailiya who were still alive. Based on his past actions, he would treat them fairly and bring them back to the base for treatment. But, after this battle, he understood the pain of losing his comrades and finally understood that some people just couldn't exist together.

He hesitated when he found these people but in the end, he still hardened his heart and killed these people. He tried to conceal his actions but it couldn't escape Yang Mingzhi and Gu Dongyang's eyes as they were very experienced soldiers. Many veteran mecha operators noticed this too but they kept quiet and pretended they didn't see anything, as they wanted Han Jijyun to get used to this brutal battlefield. They hoped that he would have a stronger heart and become a vicious person when needed.

Every good soldier started from the bottom by killing prisoners of war. This was how other countries trained their soldiers too. Compared to the battles thousands of years ago, the probability of prisoners of war surviving became almost nil.

After moving for some distance, Han Jijyun met Zhao Jun's team. Zhao Jun saw the badly damaged mechas from team 02 and team 08 and frowned, as he knew he was too late.

“Where's Boss?” When he scanned the crowd but didn't see Ling Lan, he got agitated.

“Boss and Qi Long's team 03 stayed back at Base Ailan to hold back the enemy. They're coming back soon. You will be able to fetch him if you go now.” Han Jijyun calmly told Zhao Jun his thoughts. He stopped using words such as 'maybe', 'probably', 'should be'. If an adviser didn't even believe in what he had said, how could his men believe in the advisor?

“I understand.” Zhao Jun quickly led his team and rushed forward. Fortunately, he wasn't too late.

The moment Zhao Jun reached the boundary of Base 013 and Base Yaqi, he saw Gu Dongyang's team 09 waiting there, but Yang Mingzhi's team was nowhere in sight.

Gu Dongyang saw Zhao Jun too. Before he could greet Zhao Jun, his radar's alarm rang. After some time, numerous mechas suddenly appeared in the air above Base Yaqi. They filled up the entire sky like dark clouds and moved towards them.

Gu Dongyang knew that their teams wouldn't be able to handle all these mechas so he quickly shouted, “Retreat!”

Zhao Jun's team didn't even have the time to recover their breaths before they had to immediately leave. They immediately followed Gu Dongyang's team and retreated with them. Zhao Jun's goal of joining this war was to find a way to break through his mecha piloting stage. He was not here to look for death. In the face of so many enemies, staying behind would mean sure death. Hence, he didn't hesitate

when he heard Gu Dongyang's command and retreated with his team. However, he was still frustrated. If he had a chance, he would definitely fight with his enemies.

Zhao Jun and Gu Dongyang quickly reported this situation back to Base 013 using radio waves. Base 013 reacted quickly and immediately sent out full-sized mecha teams.

Just as the soldiers from Yaqi were about to catch up with the transport team, the reinforcements from Base 013 had arrived. The soldiers from Yaqi collided with the mecha operators from Base 013 and a fierce fight ensued. One side was protecting their chance of survival while the other was trying to destroy it.

This was the moment Zhao Jun had been waiting for. When he saw the reinforcements, he instantly changed the direction of his mecha. He had already set his eyes on his target for a long time. It was the regiment commander of Base Yaqi's Ace Mecha Clan.

Gu Dongyang wanted to attack the regiment commander too but when he saw Zhao Jun rushing at the regiment commander like a dog rushing forward to its favorite treat, he smiled and turned his mecha to face another regiment commander. As a veteran, he was happy when new soldiers had the courage and determination to improve.

This was the first huge battle Base 013 would experience after all the bases got attacked by Haliya. While they were fighting, Yang Mingzhi and his team concealed themselves along the border of Base 013 using the chameleon system. They watched indifferently as Gu Dongyang and Zhao Jun's team retreated to the base. They also ignored the huge army from Haliya when they flew above them. They wanted to fight too but they knew that they had a much more important mission, fetching their regiment commander.

Before Zhao Jun had reached the ruins, Yang Mingzhi and Gu Dongyang had already formed an agreement beforehand. Yang Mingzhi's team would conceal themselves and reinforce their regiment commander while Gu Dongyang's team would help them to attract the attention of Yaqi's soldiers away from this place.

Batches of mechas flew passed them. Yang Mingzhi waited for a while then confirmed that there were no more enemies coming their way. After that, he ordered his team members to turn off their chameleon system and wait patiently for Ling Lan's arrival.

"Beep beep beep..." An alarm rang in all the 24 mechas.

"Leader, mechas appeared in Base Yaqi's direction again." One of the mecha operators looked at the red dots on his radar and got nervous.

Just as Yang Mingzhi was about to ask his team members to activate their chameleon system again, he noticed that the red dots didn't move in a straight path. They moved to the right for a while before changing directions to the left.

He tried to zoom in on the mechas that appeared in his screen. The distance was too far so the image was quite blurry. However, he still managed to see the first three mechas moving in a zigzag, dodging the beams behind them.

“Those are our people.” Yang Mingzhi shouted immediately, “Follow me.” If he was right, these mechas belonged to his regiment commander and Qi Long’s team.

Yang Mingzhi and his team members operated their mechas and dashed forward. After a few seconds, they could finally see the three mechas clearly. It was the mecha of team 03’s leader, the mecha of team 03’s deputy, and the modified mecha of their regiment commander.

Yang Mingzhi was elated and sad at the same time. He was happy that Ling Lan was fine. However, he could tell that only the team leader and one member of team 03 managed to stay alive. This meant that almost the entire team 03 got annihilated. Actually, he already predicted that team 03 would be annihilated when he heard Han Jijun saying that their regiment commander kept team 03 with him. This was why he got angry and kicked Liu Furong.

This was a suicide mission with almost no hope of survival. Luckily, their regiment commander was a creator of miracles. He managed to come back alive.