

S. Lord 981

Chapter 981 Within Expectations

The council of the Altors Union took exactly 24 hours to make their decision. A young Elder approached Michael and requested that he follow him inside. Michael had stopped infusing more True Extraction Essence into the Void Ingots a few minutes ago and got up with a smile.

"Are you satisfied with the decision?" Michael asked the Elder, who didn't expect this question. He looked at Michael through his black button-like eyes and turned around. 'It looks like you are not really satisfied, but your energy system is not in disarray either. You're not sure whether to be satisfied or not. I see.'

Michael followed the Elder and entered the large office again. The Elders were silent, while some Heads were loud, declaring how much they disliked the decision. However, the Top Head, the strongest of the Heads, silenced them with a wave of his hand.

"We came to a decision," He said to Michael as he stepped inside.

"I see that it wasn't a decision everyone approves," Michael smiled in response, but the Top Head merely shrugged, "Not everyone has to agree with our decision. We fight often because our opinion differs. That is why we've been voted to rule the Altors Union. We represent various organizations and factions but also promote our own way of living to convince others to follow our path."

'Less nonsense, please. Give me your damn answer!' Michael cursed in his mind with a bright smile on his face, "That does make sense. What did the Altors Union decide to do?"

The Top Head smiled at Michael, which crept him out, "We accept your offer and have already sent news to the Divine Lifeforms in our territory. They were told about your offer and will respond if they're interested in becoming your Subordinates. I think some, those with weaker Soultrait Symbols or those who are already at the limit of their potential, will accept your offer. You shouldn't expect too many Divine Lifeforms, though. Not many want to follow someone else, especially prideful Divine Lifeforms. It will be even more problematic for some to follow someone who's not a member of the Altors Union."

Michael nodded but thought differently than the Top Head and his people.

'I think you're underestimating your losses against the Supreme Human Alliance and my impact on other people. I know news of my actions has already spread. The Nest Leader, Sylth, and others have already heard about my actions, and they have continued spreading them. At this point, everyone should know how much I've contributed to the Altors Union's victories and that I had nothing to do with your losses. If anything, I helped you win, but you still ended up losing. That is embarrassing!'

Still, Michael was satisfied with the situation. Getting the Heads' approval had been easier than expected. He'd been certain the Heads and Elders would negotiate a lot with him. After all, it was possible to give 2,000 Divine Lifeforms a powerful 4-Star or 5-Star Soultrait in exchange for their subordination. [Maybe they think only 100 or so will accept the offer. If 100 accept the offer, they will have exactly 100 powerhouses with 21 Soultrait Symbols, if the Soultraits don't tear them apart – which they will without a fully nourished Soul Sphere. Even Gods cannot handle 21 Soultrait Symbols without forming a Soul Sphere. Of course, they can seal them and do other things with

them, but Soultrait Symbols are useless if sealed. There is wasted soul space.] Jormungandr hissed, but even the World Serpent wasn't certain what the Heads and Elders of the Altors Union were thinking about.

Michael had to control his features but nodded at Top Head.

"Do you want me to stay here to wait until the prospects arrive, or should I leave and come back later? It might take a while until everyone makes their decision and finishes preparing for everything. They might have to travel all across the Altors Union to reach the Floating Union after all." Michael asked, "How long do you think it will take before everyone has made their decision?"

Some Heads looked at him in a way Michael couldn't really describe. It was...weird to put into simple words. They didn't really look at him with hatred, but there were also traces of greed, disgust, confusion, and joy. The mix of emotions coming from them was confusing, to say the least.

"You don't have to worry about bothering us. If you wish to stay here to meditate, you can do that. It might take a month or two before everyone has made their final decision, but it could also be faster. We won't rush our Divine Lifeforms. After all, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a decision that changes everything."

Michael nodded again, "I would like to stay here then. This place is perfect to refine my War Rune."

'And to infuse more True Extraction Essence into the Void Ingots for emergency situations.'

Overall, his offer was easily accepted, and he was given enough food, water, and even a small room to stay in the Floating Island. However, Michael couldn't be bothered to use either. He stayed in the open places of the Floating Union, cross-legged and meditating – also inserting True Extraction Essences straight from his body into Void Ingot to avoid getting found out.

The weeks passed quickly, and it wasn't surprising when Michael received a notification from the Super Awakened. They were already in position and waiting for him.

[Michael Fang: Practice with your Soultraits and your Combination of Soultraits, Soul Techniques, Soullife Arts, and so forth until I'm back. I don't know how much longer this will take.]

Exactly two months after the Altors Union council accepted his offer, 600 Divine Lifeforms gathered at the Floating Union. The expressions on the faces of the Elders and Heads were impossible to read, but their energy systems showed how conflicted they were. Their energy systems were in disarray, and it almost felt like they were ready to attack Michael. At least, that was what he pinpointed from the energy systems of two Heads. They didn't really like him. But...so what? It might be a little problematic if some Heads attacked him, but Michael would be fine if they were the first aggressors. Even if he attacked them first, nothing problematic would happen Michael was not afraid of the Altors Union's council. Not even Top Head pressured him.

Of course, Top Head was stronger than him, but Michael had enough means to escape. He was prepared for it if needed.

"Hello, everyone. Is everyone present willing to become my Subordinates, or am I mistaken about something?" Michael asked into the group, but all the Divine Lifeforms did was look at the council members. Top Heads nodded, which was enough for some Divine Lifeforms to step forward. The others followed silently, which earned a surprised look from Michael.

"I...take that as a 'Yes!'" Michael mumbled while making a mental note of what had just happened.

"If nobody has anything against the proposed Link of Loyalty – everyone present should have already seen the clauses if your council didn't hide anything –, so we can get started right away," Michael said, still glancing between the 600ish Divine Lifeforms and the council.

"Please provide them with the desired Soultrait Symbols right after they were bound to you. This is only fair." One of the Heads said and the Divine Lifeforms nodded slowly, but Michael frowned deeply.

"I haven't even shared which Soultrait Symbols I have, nor do we know which are the most compatible with everyone or what kind of combination of Soultraits we can form with the existing – fused – Soultraits. We have yet to figure out who's going to obtain more Soultrait Symbols and who's going to obtain less."

Top Heads waved his hand dismissively, "You can switch everything later, can't you? There are 600 Divine Lifeforms, and you have 2,000 Soultrait Symbols to offer. Give everyone three Soultrait Symbols, and in the first 200, you establish a Link of Loyalty, and you will be given a fourth Soultrait."

"That is not how it's supposed to work, you know?!" Michael frowned deeply, but it was true that he could switch Soultraits easily as long as they weren't too firmly fused into the target's Soul. That wouldn't be the case with newly fused Soultrait Symbols, except if their compatibility was perfect. If that was the case, they might as well keep the Soultrait. Still, Michael wasn't pleased with their attitude. "If everyone wants to do it like that...okay," Michael looked at the Divine Lifeforms, who nodded in agreement with their council. "They feel like marionettes, controlled by the Heads...I wonder how much I can influence them later."

Michael nodded slowly and approached the first Divine Lifeform. He grasped his hand and released a thread of his Lord Power to establish a Link of Loyalty. Simultaneously, Michael used Mind Watcher. Since the Divine Lifeform had to submit to Michael's Lord Power to accept the Link of Loyalty, he didn't even notice as the subtle influence of Mind Watcher read the Divine Lifeform's thoughts and memories.

A few minutes passed, and Michael let go of the Divine Lifeform. He could have responded quickly and attacked the Altors Union for what he'd seen in the memories and thoughts of the Divine Lifeform, but instead of doing so, Michael proceeded. He rewarded the Divine Lifeform with four 4-Star Soultraits, which he'd retrieved from his War Rune storage and moved to the second Divine Lifeform.

The first one started blankly at the Soultrait Symbols and glanced to Top Head before fusing them into his Soul. The Divine Lifeform smiled while the others looked at him in envy. They were impatient and desired to fuse with their new Soultrait Symbols before everything went south.

The world would turn upside down once Michael was done with his business, but nobody acted like anything was wrong. Not even Michael, who read the memories and minds of all Divine Lifeforms with whom he'd already created Links of Loyalty, made a move. He established hundreds of Links of Loyalty silently. The Divine Lifeforms were happy to acquire more Soultrait Symbols, not showing a glimpse of worry as to what was about to happen to them.

After all, they were convinced nothing bad would happen. They were certain everything would be alright. The Heads had promised them that. Little did they know Michael was already prepared for what was about to happen.

[To think they would try something like that. Well, it does make sense if you think about it in a complex, shitty way. After acquiring your Soultraits, which is a once-in-a-lifetime event – something you will never do again to them, which they know –, they want to kill you to break the Links of Loyalty and acquire 600 Super Divine Lifeforms. Whether that helps them solve all issues with the Supreme Human Alliance or not...I don't know. But it certainly removes a powerful Curse User with two God Curses from the list of potential future threats.]

Fenrir's commentary was a little annoying, and it made everything a lot more difficult. Michael had to keep his calm and act like he didn't know anything after all.

Still, he was surprised about one thing.

'The Elders don't even know what is going on. They agreed to my offer, hoping everything would be alright. It's unfortunate that the two factions are working against each other...but it is even more unfortunate so that they decided to betray me. The Divine Lifeforms are not even checking the clauses engraved into the Links of Loyalty anymore. The first one didn't bother and when I changed the clauses for the second one, I knew nothing would happen. To think I could acquire 600 Divine Lifeforms without any additional clauses just because the Heads decided to betray me and the Elders.'

Nice one. Good job, idiots!

He wouldn't have done anything to harm the Altors Union if they'd silently agreed to his offer. However, now that the situation had changed, Michael would abuse every loophole possible. The Top Heads might be too strong to kill, but that was okay. Michael didn't have to kill that bastard to turn the rest of his life into a living hell!

Chapter 982 Pleasant Betrayal

Michael didn't rush to establish a Link of Loyalty with everyone. He finished the Link, asked them how they felt, and provided them with the Soultrait Symbols as requested.

Some Divine Lifeforms were impatient, but Michael ignored them. Nobody was allowed to disturb him as he slowed down deliberately whenever someone spoke up or bothered him. Once everyone realized what Michael was doing, they stopped moving and waited impatiently for their turn.

Michael had no idea how much time passed, but all 600ish Links of Loyalty had been formed at some point. The Links weren't strong or anything, but that wasn't needed. The Divine Lifeforms didn't trust Michael and forced themselves to sign the Link of Loyalty – some at least – while waiting for the Heads to kill Michael and end their suffering by returning their freedom. Michael was fine with that thought, though he wouldn't allow anyone to kill him.

"I am do–..." Even before Michael could finish the sentence, one of the Heads appeared before him. He shot across the open space of the Floating Union, unsheathed a sword, and slashed at Michael, ready to kill him on the spot.

Michael would have used Slipstream to escape the Head's attack under normal circumstances, but he knew what awaited him. The Floating Union's spatial distortion relic had been activated to

prevent his spatial movements. Therefore, Michael used the Power Authority with Curse Fusion used on Jormungandr. All Serpent Seals activated while the blackish serpent scales grew from his body. A massive tail jut from his tailbone, and his pupils distorted, transforming into serpentine slits. Simultaneously, Michael unleashed Primordial Vessel's Perfect Soul Technique to unleash as much power as possible, combined with Unlimited Enhancement. Maybe the latter wasn't required, but Michael didn't plan to hold back. The Power Authority pushed his physical statistics to another level. He, Michael Fang, was now a Demi-God. One of the ordinary Heads couldn't kill him. Michael conjured a shield from Aethyr and used his Divinity on it. The shield blocked the incoming slash, and Michael's hand, two large fangs jutting from his knuckles shooting out of them, slashed back. The Head had been certain to kill Michael with the first attack. He'd expected to take Michael by surprise, after all. But that wasn't the case. Instead, the Head's throat was slashed. He tried to escape and pull back, triggering his great regeneration, but Michael's serpent tail had already coiled around his legs. Michael attacked again, thrusting the serpent fangs, alongside Jormungandr's poison, into the man's chest. His heart was pierced and rusted from God Curse poison, killing the Head in the next few seconds.

Michael turned around with a smile. The other Heads, most of them, were ready to attack. Even the Top Head had noticed something was wrong. He'd reacted too late, though. "Did you expect our betrayal?" The Top Head asked a tinge of curiosity in his voice.

"The Heads betrayed me, not the Elders." Michael responded, which was enough for Top Head to turn to the Elders, "You discovered my plan and betrayed us...for him?" The Elders were shocked to the core, not only at the discovery but also at Top Head's accusation. "They don't know anything. They were oblivious to your plan. But you've exposed yourself now. I wonder if the Elders and Heads will keep working together. What will happen to the Altors Union after today?"

Top Head shrugged while trying to digest what had just happened, "I can kill the Elders after eliminating you. As long as everyone reports your betrayal, we can say you killed them."

"Is that so?" Michael asked, tilting his head with a knowing smile.

Top Head didn't like the way Michael looked at him. Something about it told Top Head how little control he had over the situation. He...had never been in charge of the situation. That was unexpected and unpleasant.

The Elders didn't attack the Heads for their betrayal. They stared at them in a mixture of surprise and shock and studied them. A glint of something flashed through their eyes, yet Michael ignored it. There was no need to pay any attention to the Elders. Still, it was clear that the trust between the two factions was broken. That wasn't great, as the timing was the worst possible. The Supreme Human Alliance was their enemy. They weren't supposed to be hunting and betraying each other. That also meant nobody should have betrayed or attacked Michael.

"I think we're done here. You betrayed me. Thus, you terminated our contract. I will take your lovely Divine Lifeforms with me instead of keeping them here to help you out."

Michael didn't plan to take them away but wanted to use them as bait to lure the SHA to a different location. If all 600 Divine Lifeforms of the Altors Union learned how to fight Tier-8 powerhouses, Michael could conquer entire Galaxies using their prowess. The prowess to do so was certainly enough to attract some attention. They could distract the Super Awakened and Michael as they executed a bunch of other plans.

"I don't think you're going to leave anywhere. Not with an intact body, let alone MY Divine Lifeforms!" Top Head roared, but something unexpected happened as his voice resounded.

The Floating Union, a massive floating island – spanning more than a kilometer in radius – made of Void Ingots, disappeared with a snap.

Michael snapped his fingers once and combined Swallow Domain with the True Extraction Essence inserted into the Floating Union for the last two months.

The Floating Union disappeared, leaving 600ish powerhouses floating in the wide-open space. But that was not all. Removing the Floating Union might have been Michael's priority, but the spatial distortion device installed in the Floating Union was just as important. Or, at least, removing it was.

Swallow Domain consumed the spatial distortion device as well. Therefore, Michael had an easy time using Slipstream to escape. He transformed a tiny amount of the Void Ingots, maybe one one-hundred-thousandth, and sucked its energy dry. The energy fueled his body and empowered his Energy Vortex, but more importantly was the energy infusing into Slipstream.

Top Head noticed Michael's action and charged ahead, but the Imperial Barrier used at its full power was enough to block the powerhouse for a quarter of a second. That was enough to envelop his Divine Lifeform Subordinates into Slipstream and activate the Soultrait Symbol.

Michael teleported out of the Altors Union with his Subordinates at once. They reappeared somewhere in the Novix Galaxy, where the 600ish Divine Lifeforms looked at each other in terror. "That was not what you all expected, didn't you?" Michael asked without a trace of joy, "That's what you get for trying to betray me. I don't care about who you guys are or what you've been thinking. The moment you started scheming my death, you were dead to me as well. The only reason you guys are alive is that I need your power. You need to kill enough enemies to make up my investment, gain enough interest, and die a painful death."

Their future was bleak, and their deaths were bound to be painful. Michael was going to make sure of that. He would throw them from one battlefield onto the next.

"Prepare yourself!"

Chapter 983 Torn

Top Head was in rage. His plan did not only fail but also shattered in the worst possible way. Michael was alive, the Divine Lifeforms chosen to become Michael's Subordinates – for a few minutes until he would be killed and the Links of Loyalty severed – were not there anymore and in full control of the man they'd betrayed just now, and the Elders realized that they'd been betrayed as well.

Also, the Floating Union was no more. The Floating Union was one of the most – if not the most – valuable assets of the Altors Union. The powers of the Floating Union greatly surpassed a Demi God's power. They rivaled a god's abilities!

"Why did you do that?" One of the oldest Elders asked, his voice cracking in anger. He approached Top Heads fearlessly. So what if Top Heads was stronger than him? Would Top Head tear off his head in front of everyone? Maybe, but that didn't matter at this moment.

"Why did I do what? Trying to protect 600 innocent Divine Lifeforms from slavery? Are you seriously asking me that?"

The Elder shook his head. He sighed deeply, "You can only see what you want. You're twisting our facts and promises to each other and Michael Fang. Look what your betrayal caused."

He opened his arms widely, pointing at the empty space all around them. The Floating Union had once been where they floated right now. The only object left in this place was a spaceship which one of the Elders had retrieved from his War Rune storage.

"Do you really think it was a good idea to face a Demi-God openly like this? Everyone present knew about his God Curses and that he could use their Divinities. Are you underestimating Divinities now that you've used the accumulated potential of the Void Ingots? You are a fool to believe the potential of others pushed you closer to the prowess of a Demi-God. Your strength might have grown and will continue to grow, but you will never become a full-fledged Demi-God!"

Top Head growled in anger. One of his arms shot forward and coiled around the Elder's neck. The men and women around them gasped in surprise, but the oldest Elder looked straight into Top Head's eyes. There was no trace of fear in his eyes.

"You can only hope Michael Fang isn't going to take revenge. If he does, your betrayal marked the first day of the Altors Union's destruction. Congratulations, you achieved something great. You are the sole reason the Altors Union will cease to exist!"

Top Head wanted to kill the Elder for his words, but he hurled him through the air instead. A roar escaped his lips, and he turned away in anger.

On this day, the Altors Union's Council split. Not even the higher-ups of the Altors Union could trust each other at this point.

How could others trust them if they couldn't even rely on each other anymore?

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Even though Michael had been betrayed, he didn't think about destroying the Altors Union. The Elders were even more shocked and terrified about the Heads' actions than Michael. They didn't know about the betrayal.

'Taking the Floating Union is enough to make up for their mistake. Also, 600ish Divine Lifeforms with five and six Soultrait Symbols each is a respectable force. I don't even have to deploy the Divine Lifeforms near the Altors Union's borders now that the deal fell through. Maybe the betrayal was much better than expected. I gained a lot.'

Michael shrugged. Not getting betrayed would have been a lot easier, but the Altors Union's betrayal didn't make things much harder. If anything, it transformed some of the plans he'd disposed into the garbage bin earlier into valid plans. After all, he didn't have to be considerate of the Altors Union anymore. He could exploit them now!

Michael needed the Altors Union, though in a different way than the Altors Union had been hoping for. Probably.

"Where do you want to be deployed?" Michael asked the Divine Lifeforms lightheartedly. He retrieved a bunch of Teleportation Tokens and gave one to each of the Divine Lifeforms. They might have betrayed him, but Michael needed to give them access to his territory. They wouldn't be allowed to stay there, but that wasn't why Michael gave them access in the first place.

His reasoning was simple. The Divine Lifeforms would be deployed at the Altors Union border to stir trouble and attract the Supreme Human Alliance's attention, but they were told to collect all corpses and release them inside the Untamed Jungle for Michael's subordinates to preserve until Michael returned to extract them.

Michael didn't expect all of his new Divine Awakened to survive, but all of them ought to return his investment with interest. That was the least he expected from all of them. Of course, doubling, tripling, or quadrupling the initial investment would be better. Most, as a matter of fact, would achieve the latter. Killing a pair of Divine Lifeforms would be enough to do that.

"C-can we stay here?" One of the Divine Lifeforms.

"You mean the Novix Galaxy? I don't particularly care, to be honest. But once you're done conquering the Novix Galaxy, your forces will either be spread thinly along the borders to kill as many as possible, or I will throw you into the Genox Galaxy to conquer a bunch of planetary systems before the world turns upside down.

One good thing about allowing the Divine Lifeforms to keep fighting for the Altors Union was their motivation. The Divine Lifeforms didn't like Michael. They already disliked him even before the Link of Loyalty was established, but now that their scheme failed, they loathed him. That contradicted the Links of Loyalty and caused considerable damage to their souls.

Michael didn't like that kind of self-torture and chose to decrease their hatred with a simple move. The Divine Lifeforms' lives wouldn't change much. They would continue to fight the Supreme Human Alliance and could consider themselves the Guardians of the Altors Union. They might no longer be part of the Altors Union, but the sentiment mattered little.

All that mattered was that the Divine Lifeforms could conquer a bunch of planetary systems and kill some Hyumans.

"But first, we will change a few things about your Soultrait Symbols. I sincerely doubt most of you want to keep your Soultrait Symbols. Everyone will now write down their Soultraits and exchange information with each other. You can trade your Soultraits among each other if they're not perfectly compatible with you. I won't intervene in your trades. Make sure not to waste too much of my precious time, though!"

The Divine Lifeforms didn't know what was going to happen at first, but they were glad Michael didn't torture them for their betrayal. The downside, I thought, was that nobody knew what was awaiting them. A superior with temper issues was annoying, but at least you knew what was waiting for you. A dead silent superior was the most frightening.

After all, the silent ones were the most deadly.

Michael read the thoughts and emotions of his new Subordinates through their Links of Loyalty and Mind Watcher and smiled.

Maybe he'd been betrayed, but the overall situation was still pleasant. He couldn't complain about it.

A bloody battle against the Supreme Human Alliance awaited them!

Chapter 984 Cosmic Playground

To Michael, the 'loss' of 2,000 Soultrait Symbols and a few million SoulStar Fragments didn't make a great impact. It was still considered a lot, but a few million SoulStar Fragments weren't enough for Michael to do anything special. However, the Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments impacted the hundreds of Divine Lifeforms heavily and granted various benefits.

Adding several hundred Divine Lifeforms to the attack on the Novix Galaxy changed a lot, but the tides of the Titan War changed only properly once the hundreds of Divine Lifeforms had accepted their most compatible Soultraits. It took an entire day to switch the Soultraits and optimize everyone's combat prowess, but the results were great. Michael threw the hundreds of Divine Lifeforms at the civilizations of the Supreme Human Alliance and watched them conquer several planetary systems in a few days. The shift was drastic and unexpected. The Novix Galaxy was overwhelmed and conquered, and the Supreme Human Alliance was formed to deploy more powerhouses at the borders of the Genox Galaxy. Ordinary Divine Lifeforms weren't enough to block the hundreds of Divine Subordinates on Michael's side. They had to deploy the cream of the crop, removing them from other frontlines to protect the Genox Galaxy. But even that wasn't enough in some cases. There were only so many Tier-8 Hyumans who could be spared. Michael killed a few Tier-8 Hyumans with the help of some Divine Subordinates, but it wasn't long before he left the Novix Galaxy. The last thing Michael did was use Slipstream and teleport the Divine Subordinates inside the Genox Galaxy, moving them here and there to inflict more severe damage.

At last, Michael acquired a few million SoulStar Fragments and disappeared from the battlefield to meet up with the Super Awakened.

Hiraku and the others were already waiting for him. They were impatient but focused on their newly acquired Soultrait Symbols to increase their mastery as promised.

"Is everyone ready to beat up some Hyumans?" Michael asked with a vibrant smile.

It might have been more impactful if Michael stayed around the Divine Subordinates because their combat prowess was higher, but the Super Awakened were better targets with higher potential. Most of the Divine Subordinates had already used up their remaining potential. Michael wasn't quite sure if they'd used their potential or if the Void Ingots had drained whatever was left of it. One way or another, they couldn't advance to the Mid-ranks of Tier-7 anymore. The only thing Michael could have done to help them was to provide more Soultrait Symbols. Acquiring new Soultraits and mastering their existing techniques were the only ways – other than procuring Artifacts – to grow stronger at this point. The Divine Subordinates couldn't grow stronger on their own anymore. Their Energy Pillars had been crippled by their superiors and the Void Ingots.

The Super Awakened, on the other hand, was overflowing with potential. They were still in their prime and would ascend to Divine Lifeforms in the near future. Michael would have loved to keep them away from the battlefield a little longer, but given the distraction caused by the Divine Subordinates, Michael could relax a little. The Supreme Human Alliance would focus on the Divine Subordinates and the borders to the Genox Galaxy.

That left them with more than enough borders to strike instead.

"Of course, we're ready. We have been waiting for you for months now. Some thought you wouldn't return anymore. That you've forgotten about us," Kaleb joked lightly, but the guilt in his voice was palpable. "I wouldn't forget you all so easily. I was just busy. There was some...miscommunication between me and the Altors Union," Michael chuckled, "They don't like me anymore."

Fenrir chortled. [You're putting it very lightly. The Top Head and his people would love to tear you into shreds. They hate you. There is no way you can make peace with them now. Not that you should. You should have ripped off their heads. It's unfortunate how weak you are. I am still wondering how you are supposed to deal with the Primal.]

'You are always talking about the Primal, but what about Gods like Beelzebub and the Supreme Human Alliance? Didn't you say you and the others never managed to harm the Supreme Human Alliance?'

[That is a different topic. The Hyuman Gods were still active before I was bound to the Extraction Symbol. But the rules of the cosmos have changed. Gods don't play in the cosmic playground anymore. At least, that's what it looks like. Jorm and Hel told me about a few things I've missed in my time as a Soultrait Symbol in the void of nothingness, but the sentiment is clear. The Primal are still fucksters, and they're worse than before.

From the looks of it, the Supreme Human Alliance's only protectors are their Demi-Gods. Once you ascend and become a full-fledged god, you won't be allowed to intervene in the course of mortals and immortals. It is very restrictive and something I, among many, loathe. I didn't become a Beast God to be restrained by anyone. Neither did Jorm, Hel, and most other Gods. That is even more so true for Infernal Gods.]

Jorm intervened. [Fenrir, shut up. There is no need to talk this much about such a topic. Michael will learn more than enough about it in the future.

Fenrir growled, but neither of the God Curses cared much about the empty threat. Hel spoke up.

[Since you can tap into our Divinities, you are already considered a Demi-God on the verge of attaining godhood. Once our Divinities blossom, you will have some time until you are considered a full-fledged God. The Divinities will grow until other Gods or the Primal intervene. You might not even notice it at that point, but your prowess and control of our Divinities, which you've annexed by then, will put you on the pedestal with all other Gods.]

Michael couldn't quite believe that he would soon be considered a god. It didn't make sense how easy it was... well. No. It did make sense. Attaining godhood wasn't even his own effort. It didn't require any effort from his side. The God Curses were helping him, At the same time, he had the Nature Heart, a full-fledged Divinity Fragment which absorbed more and more energy as Michael grew stronger. It was only a matter of time before the Nature Heart would transform into a proper Divinity and become one of his many Divinities. He wasn't creating his own Divinity through the efforts of centuries of studies and hard work. Why?

Because it wasn't needed. Why should he do something when he had already acquired the Divinities of three Major Authorities and two fused Medi Authorities?

'How long do you think I have before the first Hyuman Gods consider me a big enough threat to ignore the Primal's warning? Or how long will it take for the Primal to arrive?'

[The Hyuman Gods have the right to intercept any attacks of a God. They should have sensed us already but can also sense how we – God Curses – are using our Divinities through you. That means you are not a Godly threat just yet. If anything, you are still fairly far from that. As for the Primal... I don't know. Some of them might appear at any point. They might not have noticed you but will certainly come and find you once you become a nuisance.]

Great. That was a good start to the first attack of the Super Awakened.

Not.

Michael didn't like where his God Curses were going. Unfortunately, he couldn't stop them. All he could do was prepare for the worst.

And that was what he did. Alongside the Super Awakened, of course.

Chapter 985 Mind Demon

Kaleb trained with the Super Awakened, he ate with them, and slept by their sides for months. He was one of them, yet Kaleb was having difficulty considering himself a Super Awakened. At least he didn't feel like them. There was no doubt that he was strong. Everyone was aware of that. He had always been powerful. Born with a 7-Star Soultrait, Kaleb had been a powerhouse and would have always been.

However, his life had changed drastically in the last few years. Many memories of the past were missing, and if he was honest with himself...it had been a hard time. Kaleb wanted to deny that sometimes, but his life hadn't been easy since Michael rescued him and Zeke. He was still strong, but Kaleb didn't feel special. Michael was always around them. He was stronger than everyone but didn't show off. Yet, even though Michael never thought about showing off his great power, everyone knew of his capabilities. That was fine, and Kaleb could have overcome the devastating sensation of inferiority. He could have become Michael's friend again, maybe even as close as Michael had always said they had been in the past.

But Michael didn't make his life easy. No, Michael didn't do anything wrong. It was just...difficult watching him unleashing one miracle after another.

Michael Fang was not a mere Divine Lifeform. He controlled a Grand Region and an Intermediate Region, was in control of a Guardian Beast at the 8th Tier, and was in charge of all jungle monsters in the Untamed Jungle. He had a second heart, a Divinity Fragment, that would transform into a proper Divinity at some point, and several God Curses, who could channel their Divinities through Michael and allowed him to copy their Divinities. Michael, barely half a year older than Kaleb, would attain godhood as long as he stayed alive for another century. He didn't even have to do anything and could sit back and relax in the Origin Expanse while everyone else focused on expanding his territories and growing stronger. Even then, Michael would be the strongest. There was no need for him to lift a finger to grow.

Maybe it would have been faster if he had ordered his people to kill some Awakened and bring the corpses to him to extract them for their Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments, but that was all Michael had to do. Yet, Michael did much more than that. He never stayed idle and charged ahead whenever a powerful enemy appeared before them. Michael was the first to give his utmost and risk sustaining lethal injury as long as that meant he could protect his people.

He was the strongest, yet he never forgot his kindness and generosity. But that made it even more difficult for Kaleb to hate him. He would love to hate him because it would make everything so much easier. Kaleb...wouldn't have to loathe himself for being jealous of Michael, the influence he had on other people, his powers, and the respect and unbreakable loyalty everyone gave him without a second thought.

Even Tiara was dead loyal to him. She was already busy taking care of her race and trying her utmost to give her people everything they needed to grow stronger, but that didn't stop her from being loyal to Michael. Tiara and Michael connected something nothing could replace. No one could replace Michael. Tiara would always consider him the brightest star in the darkest night. He was her everything.

Michael was the reason she regained everything she'd thought to never see again. Because of Michael, Tiara could grow stronger. She stayed by his side, first as his Battle Maid when Michael was still weaker than her, then as partners in the fight against the countless forces attacking them in the Untamed Jungle. At this point, Tiara wasn't his right hand anymore. She was too busy with her people to retain the duty. Still, losing her position as Michael's right hand crushed her. She was not herself anymore for several months.

But that was Michael's decision, and Tiara had to accept it.

'Why is he so perfect? Make him do a mistake or something like that. There is no way Michael is without fault!' Kaleb cursed, watching Michael help the Super Awakened get used to their new Soultrait Symbols.

The fights against the Supreme Human Alliance had yet to start for the Super Awakened, but Michael wasn't in a rush. He wanted to inspect them first to assess their combat prowess. He had to know what enemies they could deal with and what types of enemies were too much.

The assessment didn't take long. Every Super Awakened was strong enough to fight and kill someone an entire Tier above them. The Higher LIfeforms had a hard time dealing with Divine LIfeforms, but most were already close to advancing to Tier-6 or had already advanced to Tier-6 in the first place. That made it much easier to deal with Divine LIfeforms.

Furthermore, Divine LIfeforms didn't take High Awakened seriously in most cases. They would fight them half-heartedly, expecting the High Awakened to die with a simple slap. The Super Awakened were supposed to abuse that until they reached the Mid or Late ranks of Tier-6.

Kaleb was already strong enough to fight a Divine LIfeform but was only one of many. He...wasn't special.

Since he joined Michael's territory, Kaleb had given his utmost to grow stronger and transform into a proper powerhouse... an especially powerful Awakened of Michael's Subordinates. He wouldn't feel so bad to be near Michael all the time then. At least he could pull his weight and be considered a crucial link in Michael's forces.

But Kaleb wasn't alone with that. He was only one of countless hard-working Awakened. He might have had an advantage with 7-Star Frozen Nova and still had an advantage over everyone else, but the gap between him and the other Super Awakened wasn't noteworthy. Some worked even harder than Kaleb.

That irked him almost as much as Michael being his age and on the way to attain godhood. How was that even possible in the first place? Shouldn't it be harder to attain godhood? Well...for most that was a hard thing to do...but for Michael? ...

'I need to grow stronger. I have to become someone useful. Otherwise, will I be able to contribute to the Supreme Human Alliance's destruction? What...if I'm not needed... Why am I even alive then? Michael could have killed me. His effort has to be worth...something.'

Michael had long since noticed the Mind Demons of some Super Awakened. He didn't intervene, but they were obvious. Their Links of Loyalty showed Michael exactly what was going on inside his subjects. Their doubts and worries were imprinted in his mind.

But Michael didn't do anything to help the Super Awakened, who doubted their prowess. Maybe those with inferiority complex could be helped by encouraging them and telling them how great they were but that could backfire as well.

Michael wasn't going to risk that. Instead, he was going to show them how great they were.

The Super Awakened's first fight was about to begin.

The fight against their Mind Demons and the Supreme Human Alliance.

Chapter 986 First Brawl

Michael teleported them inside the Supreme Human Alliance's territory. Nobody really knew their exact coordinates, but it wasn't like their exact position changed anything. Only Michael had to know all of it to use Slipstream in the case of an emergency.

But there was no emergency ahead, other than them attacking the Divine Academy flooded with Divine Lifeforms as instructors. The Divine Academy was massive and covered the entire planet - albeit a relatively small one. Still, there was not a single weak entity on the planet. Even more interesting was that the entire planet was protected by several Tier-8 Hyumans, various fortresses and so forth.

At least, it was supposed to be like that. There were supposed to be several Hyuman Fortresses, several dozen devices concealing the Divine Academy and protecting it from prying eyes, and so forth.

Michael released them onto the small planet called Keiros and told them to act as they pleased. He mentioned the Blood Incursion and that it was possible to find victims who've been resisting Blood Incursion but not to hesitate if they've already fallen victim to it. Blood Incursion was devilish, and Michael would have loved to help everyone, but he was only one person. No matter how strong he was, it required too much time, effort, and resources to rescue a single Blood Incursed Human. The longer the Blood Incursion had befallen them and the easier it had affected them, the more time and resources would be needed.

Once Michael disappeared, countless explosions resounded throughout the surrounding planetary system.

"Our Lord is a very...unique person," A Berserker pointed out as the explosions unfolded, and everyone nodded in unison.

"I guess he destroyed the Hyuman Fortresses with some of the power he'd accumulated in his God Curse. I heard he used his God Curse to take something from the Altors Union and has been using the energy accumulated within the stolen objects to play around," Lokai said, her eyes trailing the explosions. Some were larger, while others were small, almost inconspicuous. "If that's how our Lord fights, I would much rather avoid becoming his playmate," The Berserker laughed, and the others joined with a chuckle.

Kaleb tilted his head but shrugged at last. He turned to the Divine Academy's main hall, coated his body in the Frozen Nova Armor, and released a burst of energy to close the distance. He kicked the

ground while circulating a massive amount of energy through his body and moved forward. A small blob of Frozen Nova's power gathered at the tip of his fingertip. It was a trace of its essence, further augmented by one of his Soultraits. Kaleb released it toward the nearest wall of the Divine Academy's main hall. The tiny blob splattered and disappeared. At first, it looked like nothing major happened, but the wall was frozen and cracked suddenly. Kaleb snapped his fingers, and the wall, made from a material that could endure the physical and elemental attacks of a newly ascended Divine Lifeform fairly easily, crumbled.

Kaleb jumped into the main hall through the massive hole and pointed at it with a smile, "I like this panorama window. Sorry if I broke something."

He grinned at the sight unfolding before him. Hundreds of students were being taught about the way of the Supreme Human Alliance. They were meditating with several Instructors seated at the upper end. The Instructors' eyes were closed as their entire focus lay on the surrounding energies. They only opened their eyes when Kaleb conjured several icicles made of Frozen Nova Essence. The icicles nearly pierced their eyeballs and would have exploded, freezing their skulls and brains in one go.

Unfortunately, the Instructors caught the icicles and crushed them before they could do any major harm. But that didn't mean they didn't inflict any damage. Kaleb might have hoped for the Instructors to die quickly, but he had expected them to respond accordingly. That was why he had enhanced Frozen Nova, pushing it to its strongest form, using multiple Soultraits and an almost perfect Soullife Arts simultaneously.

Most of his Soultraits were compatible with each other, but Frozen King, Emperor Poison, and Perfect Mastery worked especially great with each other.

Both Frozen King and Emperor Poison were 6-Star Soultraits, Frozen King granted access to the ice element of various attributes. It also strengthens all existing types of Ice Elemental Soultraits, including Frozen Nova. Emperor Poison didn't seem to work well with Frozen Nova, but it was oddly compatible with Kaleb and Frozen Nova. Once applied to Frozen Nova, the Emperor Poison accepted various freezing properties of the Frozen Nova's ice. It augmented them and pushed them to an even higher level.

Emperor Poison could create various poisons, but most of them were lethal once they reached the bloodstream. However, there were also some poisons that required a mere touch to kill the target within a minute. Even Divine Lifeforms struggled to block the poison. That was exactly what happened as the Instructors grasped and shattered the icicles.

Emperor Poison had been applied to the icicles, freezing the target's hands right after the poison was applied, slowly corroding their frozen hands before proceeding to move onward. Under normal circumstances, frozen hands couldn't nourish poison well, but Frozen Nova and Emperor Poison worked almost perfectly together. The altered poison worked better under such circumstances. It spread faster in the cold.

Kaleb ignored the meditating students, most of them were either around his age or not much older and younger. It was a weird sight and tried to make him remember something he had already forgotten. The Instructors looked at Kaleb and jumped up. Their Artifacts manifested all over their bodies, but they reacted a little slowly.

To be precise, they didn't react slowly. It was just that Kaleb was much faster and stronger than before. He might only have advanced to Tier-6 a few days before Michael arrived, but his body was stronger than the norm. His 6-Star Soultrait, Frost Titan, had already transformed and shaped Kaleb's body, pushing him closer to a perfectly attuned creature. His attunement toward all ice elements couldn't be any better at his rank and Tier.

He unleashed a fury of attacks and activated Elemental Summon to summon a massive Glacia Giant, which blocked one of the Instructors for a moment. The remaining enemies encountered a wave of poisonous ice, which they blocked with their energy membranes. However, instead of blocking them perfectly, the poisonous ice penetrated their defenses and poisoned their energy membranes, slowly draining their energy. They were forced to infuse more energy into their defenses to maintain the energy membrane as it decayed and froze simultaneously.

Kaleb controlled Frozen Nova precisely and triggered Infinite Ice, a Soullife Arts that allowed Kaleb to create and control a near infinite amount of Frozen Nova's ice with little energy. Maintaining the Soullife Arts drained his Soul Power and Lifeforce rapidly, but that was a fair exchange. After all, Infinite Ice allowed Kaleb to weave Frozen Nova's ice like water and gas. He shaped it at will, transforming it into whatever he desired. Several arms sprouted from his upper body, each wielding a massive frozen sword. It jut from his Frozen Nova Armor and was clearly made from his Soultraits, but it responded and moved like the average arm of a powerhouse like Kaleb.

He appeared before the first Instructor and released a series of dozens of slashes in quick succession. Glacia blue arcs filled the air, but none of them inflicted any damage. The Instructor blocked the blows with his Divine Sword Artifact. Still, the damage was done. Not to the Instructor, but his weapon. The Divine Sword Artifacts blocked and shattered the frozen arms, but they didn't inflict any serious injuries on Kaleb. Before the blade could reach him, it was already growing heavier.

The Emperor Poison and Frozen Nova had infested the blade, seeking for the tiniest flaws and openings to invade. When they didn't find the flaws, they created them. Kaleb was suffering, not from injuries caused by the enemy who couldn't reach him, but by his own actions. The Soullife Arts drained him quickly, and he understood it was time to end the fight. Thus, he used one of the most controversial Soultrait Symbols in Michael's possession. He didn't acquire it from Michael directly but purchased it to cope with one particular fact. What would happen if someone stronger than him appeared, or someone with a 9-Star Pyro Elemental Soultrait were to appear and he didn't want to flee?

Would he have to die?

Not necessarily. The answer was simple.

Demon Seal, a simple 5-Star Soultrait, was the answer he'd sought.

Kaleb unleashed the Demon Seal he'd engraved inside his Energy Pillar for the last few years. He'd infused his excessive energy alongside the Frozen Nova Essence into the Demon Seal, knowing deep down that the more energy he was going to store inside it, the more destructive the Soultrait was going to be.

He might have to recharge it every single time to unleash the same prowess as today, but Kaleb was tired of being an ordinary folk. He wanted to retain the glory and praises of the Zentika house. He wanted to be special again. Thus, Kaleb paid the price.

The ice spreading throughout the entire main hall of the Divine Academy shattered. It shot in all directions, only to freeze in time and be sucked in Kaleb's direction. Kaleb's Soultrait devoured the ice, shaped his body, and altered his skin color for the duration of the Demon Seal's active augmentation.

Kaleb's skin turned glacia blue and the white in his eyes transformed into a sapphire. At least, that was what it looked like as the scenery around him changed. His presence increased manyfold and the Instructor facing him opened his eyes in shock. His eyes bulged further as a massive claw, glacia blue in color, pierced through his chest.

The Instructor froze to death and shattered as Kaleb pulled his claw back.

His body cracked as the changes continued, and horns jutted from his body.

Momentarily, he contained the power of a Greater Demon King.

That was enough to deal with the remaining Instructors.

Chapter 987 Same Tactics Different Power

Frederik and more than a dozen Super Awakened watched Kaleb in awe. They followed Kaleb when he charged into the building but slowed to study the surroundings intently. Kaleb wasn't vigilant, but that wasn't needed with the power he'd unleashed. His first barrage of attacks was already enough to push the Instructors of the Divine Academy into a tricky situation. Neither expected an attack on their educational center like this, and they responded too slowly. Frederik and most others knew Michael was the reason they could attack the Divine Academy in the first place, but nobody thought about that at this moment. Everyone was flabbergasted at the power Kaleb unleashed. When he transformed into a Greater Demon King, the Super Awakened retreated in fear. However, they couldn't stay back and do nothing for long. Kaleb's presence might be terrifying and the sight of him smashing Divine Lifeforms into smithereens was shocking, to say the least, Kaleb's actions were also loud enough to pull the students of the Divine Academy out of trance.

Under normal circumstances, pulling the students out of trance might have been great, but Frederik and others had been hoping to avoid hunting the students. Most of them were innocent and had been affected and transformed by Blood Incursion. They were like Kaleb, Zeke, and Alice. Innocent and forced to do things they would have never done if they had been given a choice. But nobody was given a choice through Blood Incursion.

The students got up – those in the first few rows tried to stand up, only to become victims of the massacre between Kaleb and the Instructors – and turned to the Super Awakened to charge. Frederik and some others curse, whereas Lokai, Thaor, and the remaining Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs push forward. Michael, Rebecca, and a handful of researchers had told everyone about Blood Incursion, how devastating it was, and that it wasn't possible to rescue many people during a mission like today's.

They could try and rescue those they'd known in the past, or everyone still rebelling against the corrupting powers of Blood Incursion but had to remain decisive against those attacking them. That

was not only for their safety but also for the safety of their allies. It was not okay if they endangered their own lives, but it was unacceptable to put their allies' lives at risk.

Michael made that clear more than once, and everyone acknowledged his sentiments. Thus, Frederik jumped into action. He glanced at Kaleb's fight – massacre might be the better word for it – one last time before focusing on the task ahead.

'I will give you all a quick death. Your suffering will end soon. Just endure it a little longer.' He spoke in his mind while gathering his power.

It had been a while since he upgraded Enhanced Wind and Wind Mastery to 5-Star, but it was only recently when Michael pushed enough SoulStar Fragments into him to transform Aeroan into a 7-Star Soultrait.

Frederik never understood how he deserved a friend like Michael, but it was Michael who thanked Frederik for always giving his utmost to grow stronger while simultaneously wasting no time and effort to expand the territory, socialize with the other Lords of the Untamed Jungle to learn about their traditions, their standing among their brethren, their feelings about Michael's actions, and much more.

Frederik was among the most hard-working Awakened among the Super Awakened, and he was also a loving father and husband. Despite training almost all day, Jacqueline and his little baby boy spent enough time with Frederik. Frederik Kolbenheim never rested. If anything, meditating could be considered his only 'rest' and even during that time, Frederik was growing stronger.

Michael was of the opinion that Frederik deserved this kind of reward, which had nothing to do with the rewards the Super Awakened had received. It was an independent reward and a necessity to ensure Frederik would stay one of the strongest Super Awakened. He and Hiraku were the leading forces of the Untamed Awakened, the Super Awakened, and Michael's military forces, after all!

Frederik gathered the power of Aeroan within him while ensuring Enhanced Wind would augment Aeroan as much as possible. Simultaneously, he relied on his Wind Mastery tap into his other Soultrait Symbols, combining Aeroan with Eye of the Storm, Energy Typhoon, and Maximized Efficiency.

Frederik's Energy Pillar was no more. It had been replaced by an Energy Typhoon, which wasn't quite unlike the Energy Vortex. It aided Frederik's War Rune refinement and accelerated the process, but the most important part was the Energy Typhoon's ability to create the purest wind-attributed energy. In fact, it could only create wind-attributed energy. Energy Typhoon, combined with a Primordial graded Body Refinement Technique he'd bought after years of saving up, was enough to attune his body perfectly to the wind-attributed energy. It was much better than his Inheritance technique, which felt like a cheap copy of some Superior graded techniques. Frederik's standards were on a different level at this point.

He took a deep breath, tapped into his Soultrait Symbols, and created four compressed wind blades. The wind blades didn't look any special, but they were different. Two were weaker and didn't feel like anything special to a Higher Lifeform, one was a little special and would harm Tier-4 powerhouse, and the last was incredibly powerful. It was almost like Frederik's power was accumulated within the final wind blade.

Still, Frederik released all of them with a burst of energy. They heeded his command and whizzed through the air. The weakest wind blades burst to the sides while the strongest shot forward, beheading a Tier-6 Awakened before he could even channel energy through his body. He continued running while his head slid to the ground. The fountain of blood spurted through the surroundings long after the strongest wind blade with terrifying velocity had already beheaded three more victims.

The slightly weaker blade didn't attract much attention. Everyone was either focused on the Super Awakened or the strongest wind blade. The Tier-4 Blood Incursed Hyuman didn't even notice when the blade reached them. It was too slow and inconspicuous to attract their attention, yet once it appeared before them, it was just as deadly as the high-velocity wind blade. Multiple students were killed, given a quick death, in the first few seconds of Frederik's attack.

He did the same with the weakest wind blades. He was a bit ashamed to attack Lesser Lifeforms, but the Hyuman students had bloodred eyes and had already lost themselves in the Blood Incursion. Killing them quickly was the best death he could give them.

'The Supreme Human Alliance has to die. I won't rest before the SHA ceases to exist.' He swore to himself, imagining his little son having to go through the same thing as Kaleb, Zeke...or Lincoln.

No. The Supreme Human Alliance was not allowed to stay!

Coming to a conclusion, though the result was obvious – it had always been – Frederik channeled more energy into his attacks. The high-velocity wind blade accelerated and beheaded more enemies while his other attacks surprised more helpless Hyumans.

The others weren't surprised by Frederik's combat prowess, but the efficiency with which he killed his enemies was several times higher than it used to be. Frederik had yet to reveal the names of his other Soultraits, and since his attack pattern didn't change much – he was still using wind blades, like always – nobody could tell what exactly had changed.

All everyone could tell was that something was different.

Chapter 988 Blood Reaper

Frederik levitated above the ground, studying the Divine Academy's students as they charged the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. Not everyone attacked them at once, but every student did their fair share of work. Some used their Soultraits to strengthen their allies, while others focused on weakening their enemies. But there were also those with Soultraits that couldn't be used well in combat. They had been kidnapped and forced into Blood Incursion because their Soultraits were useful for tasks other than fighting. After all, a massive organization such as the Supreme Human Alliance desperately needed more than just combatants. They had to be managed, financed, equipped, and so forth.

Frederik studied the men and women intently and beheaded everyone attacking the Super Awakened. They were their enemies if their Soultraits were active and applied to affect the Super Awakened.

Frederik's wind blades inflicted tremendous damage. Their momentum didn't decrease even after they cut through the necks of dozens of enemies. The energy influxes entering his body were annexing and used to refine his War Rune and replenish his energy reserves. Taking a deep breath, Frederik unleashed one of his Soullife Arts through Aeroan. The wind blades turned invisible

simultaneously and accelerated again. Hundreds of students died at his hands in the following minutes. Some High Awakened tried attacking him, but the projectiles were blocked, and the mental attacks endured with ease. Eye of the Storm helped him keep his composure and enter a trance-like state, drastically increasing his combat power. Maximize Efficiency did exactly what the name suggested. It maximized the efficiency of Frederik's intended attacks. If he desired to kill a Divine Lifeform, the Soultrait would aid the creation of the strongest possible attack, whereas trying to kill tens of thousands of enemies would end up with the creation of wind blades like the ones Frederik had already conjured. The wind blades were precisely calculated to consume little to no energy while completing their designated task.

But while Frederik did something amazing, he wasn't the only one on the battlefield. Almost 200 Super Awakened were spread all across Keiros to attack and conquer the Divine Academy.

Just as Frederik thought the large hall would be conquered in the next few minutes, he and the others saw more students and Divine Lifeforms entering. The commotion attracted their attention, and they came to help.

Frederik hesitated only for a quarter of a second before he attacked, but the others didn't hesitate at all. Thaor used his Crimson Aura with Red Giant, which he'd pushed to a 6-Star Soultrait not long ago. Unleashing the same old combo as usual, Thaor's body expanded until he was five meters tall. His muscles bulged, and the plastered stone underfoot cracked wildly as he pushed forward.

He activated 5-Star Master of Combat, his old Soultrait that he had upgraded once, to inspect the battlefield with extraordinary perception, and he went above and beyond by activating his newly acquired Soultraits: 6-Star Reaper, 5-Star Blood Power, 5-Star Diamond Bones, and 6-Star War Core.

Both Reaper and Blood Power temporarily enhanced Thaor's power whenever he killed or injured someone. Reaper absorbed the souls of the deceased, drained the power they'd accumulated in their lifetime, and transformed it into Thaor's power. A portion of it would be pushed into his Energy Pillar to refine his War Rune faster than the norm, but most of it amplified Thaor's power level.

Blood Power was similar, but it was easier to apply. Every cut inflicted to an enemy by Thaor would both replenish his stamina and energy, but also increase his power level by a fraction. The power-up wasn't immense, but it increased the amount of blood spilled out of the wounds inflicted by Thaor.

The longer a battle lasted, the stronger Thaor would grow. That wasn't very useful in an ordinary spar or a short fight, but every warfare was a golden opportunity for Thaor. As long as the battles lasted long enough, Thaor could easily kill Tier-7 Divine Lifeforms...en masse. Since the increase in power granted through Blood Power and Reaper were immense and too much for the body to endure at some point, Thaor was forced to accept 5-Star Diamond Bones, which altered his bone structure forever, strengthening it over and over again. Diamond Bones had an active effect too, but the permanent change had been the priority. Still, Diamond Bones was a powerful Soultrait that came in handy, not only because it helped Thaor grow stronger through Reaper and Blood Power but also because it augmented the damage inflicted through his punches and kicks. Diamond Bones altered and reinforced every single bone in his body after all.

War Core was a little bit more complicated, but it was also partially used to ensure that Reaper and Blood Power wouldn't augment Thaor too much for his body to handle. His Energy Pillar was slowly transforming into a War Core, a large marble that refined energy faster during combat. The

more ferocious the fight, the faster the War Core worked. But that was only one of its multiple effects.

The War Core augmented Thaor's combat prowess and raw power but also increased his chance of attaining enlightenment during combat, drastically in deadly fights. It pushed Thaor to his limit and helped him to go above and beyond.

That was exactly what Thaor demonstrated in the battle against the Divine Academy. First, he attacked the High Awakened students charging fearlessly at him. Thaor crushed some of them, smashed their heads into smithereens, and squashed some of them to death. Their deaths filled Thaor with power, which he unleashed onto the Hyuman students without a trace of hesitation.

The Supreme Human Alliance's actions had caused fear and destruction all over the Tritan Alliance. If not for Michael, the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs would have ceased to exist...or they would have been forced into slavery, which wasn't much better than death to the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. If not for Michael, the Hyumans would have won.

Thaor filled that thought with anger. His help wasn't needed, which was acceptable, but it wasn't okay for the Supreme Human Alliance to continue to exist. Thaor was more than willing to give his utmost, even his life, if that's what it needed to obliterate the Supreme Human Alliance.

The Divine Lifeforms in the hall had been taken care of. Kaleb killed them all, transforming them into ice statues before smashing them into countless little pieces, ensuring they were dead and would never see the light of life ever again.

Kaleb's transformation ended and he reverted back to his original appearance before collapsing to the ground. A faint smile blossomed on his lips, but smiling was already exhausting enough. He felt like every cell of his body had been frozen and drained of its lifeforce and energy. He lay there, struggling to retrieve a healing potion and remove the cap of the glass vial.

Still, no matter how painful moving around was, Kaleb was happy. He was alive and managed to kill a few Divine Lifeforms without anyone's help.

He was strong enough to be of use.

That felt great!

Frederik, on the other hand, was still full of power. He cleansed the hall of Lesser Lifeforms, obliterated the Tier-4 High Awakened and ended the lives of those High Awakened who didn't expect their heads to be severed from their dead angle.

Chapter 989 Studies

The Divine Academy was bigger than a single massive main hall. Countless halls were spread across Keiros, filling the planet with the training grounds and resources needed to accomplish a few things. First, the Divine Academy was where all prospects with enough potential to become true powerhouses were trained. They received resources and the necessary Ancient Ruins to unlock their hidden potential.

But the most important aspect of the Divine Academy were the laboratories. The Divine Academy had multiple laboratories used for two particular tasks: To produce Blood Incursion and inject it into the students sent to the Divine Academy.

Michael knew of multiple places like this one, but the Divine Academy was the biggest. That was also why so many Divine Lifeforms protected it.

Keiros was located near the center of the Supreme Human Alliance's territory and protected by dozens of Hyuman Fortresses. However, compared to the other Hyuman Fortresses, these were protected much better. Each Hyuman Fortress was manned by a dozen Divine Lifeforms, each possessing a powerful Soultrait, some even two. But that was not all. The Hyuman Fortresses were also equipped with various devices used to weaken Demi-God, restrain their power temporarily, and ensure certain powers were more effective against them.

Michael didn't know everything about the devices in their possession, but he didn't care too much either way. He used Unlimited Enhancement on Galaxy of Elements, added Emperor Qi, Soul Tears of Soul Grimoire, True Extraction, and the compressed pure energy within the Void Ingots obliterate the enemy forces.

To be precise, Michael consumed the Void Ingots stored in the Swallow Domain storage via Permute to unleash Swallow Domain again. He swallowed the Hyuman Fortresses – without wasting his precious energy on devouring the Higher Lifeforms and Divine Awakened. Michael left them alive but killed them swiftly. Emperor Qi Swords en masse were more than enough to kill the Higher Lifeforms while using his other Soultraits was probably overkill when it came to eliminating Tier-7 Divine Lifeforms. But Michael didn't care. He used as much power as he thought to be necessary to eliminate his enemies before they could sound the alarm. The explosions created by Galaxy of Elements exposed him a little, but Michael moved fast enough through the planetary system to devour the Hyuman Fortresses built throughout it within seconds. Michael didn't stop the time, but his actions were fast. He first devoured all Hyuman Fortresses, wasting a precious portion of the stored Void Ingots, before slaying the Hyumans.

Michael's actions were fast and precise. He'd calculated the danger level dozens of times to ensure the Super Awakened wouldn't suffer from defeat. Maybe there were many Divine Lifeforms on Keiros and in the planetary system, but the Tier-8 powerhouses had been deployed to the Novix Galaxy's border. The sudden appearance of 600 Divine Lifeforms strong enough to fight Tier-8 Hyumans came as a surprise, forcing the Supreme Human Alliance to stretch their defenses thin.

Thus, since the inner areas of the Supreme Human Alliance hadn't been attacked for centuries, the SHA's authorities chose to remove the Tier-8 Hyumans from defending places like the Divine Academy. There was no need to be afraid of the attack of powerful enemies. The Divine Academy was protected by more than enough Divine Lifeforms even after the Tier-8 powerhouses left.

Unfortunately, that wasn't true. The Supreme Human Alliance suffered a major backlash for their actions, but that was expected. Either the Supreme Human Alliance would have ignored the border to the Novix Galaxy, which would have cost them the Novix Galaxy and exposed the Genox Galaxy to the Altors Union, or they would be forced to change their tactic, stretch their forces thin all across their frontlines and fight more defensively than they did until now.

The Supreme Human Alliance chose to switch to defense, inevitably thinning their defenses. Maybe that would have worked under normal circumstances, but Michael didn't give them normal circumstances. Everything he did was an anomaly, more or less.

Gathering 199 Super Awakened and teleporting straight to the inner area of the Supreme Human Alliance was certainly not normal. Nobody expected that, even though Michael's actions had been confusing and weird.

Still, destroying the Hyuman Fortresses – swallowing them – and killing the Divine Lifeforms and High Awakened manned on the fortresses wasn't all he did. He removed the defense system all over Keros, which also consumed a fraction of the stored Void Ingots' energy. After that, Michael chose to visit the laboratories.

He wasn't excited to visit some of the laboratories where Blood Incursion was created, but it was necessary to go there. Destroying the place instantly was also not the right choice. He could have done so, but finding out more about Blood Incursion may help him learn more about easier ways to produce a countermeasure.

Once he learned how Blood Incursion was created up to the finest details of its production, Michael may be able to find a way to reverse Blood Incursion with something else. Maybe Rebecca could find a method to accelerate the reversal of blood incursion or make it cheaper. Preferably both if possible.

With that in mind, Michael teleported to the nearest laboratory. The first thing he did was to welcome the researchers with Emperor Qi Swords. He killed them without a second thought. Since Mind Watcher reached 8-Star, Michael didn't even need the targets to be alive. It was enough if the targets died less than one hour ago. That condition was fulfilled, giving Michael more than enough time using Mind Reader to search through the researcher's mind and find out as much as possible.

That wasn't enough. Thus, Michael used True Extraction Essence to extract as many Memory Orbs as possible. The situation wasn't too great because Michael would much rather avoid consuming the Memory Orbs of those responsible for the creation and mass production of Blood Incursion, but there was no other way.

Michael consumed close to a hundred Memory Orbs of the researchers and started his own research.

A few hours – in which he was also forced to pay attention to the other laboratories, his Super Awakened, and a few other things – passed. The information he acquired through Mind Watcher and the Memory Orbs was intense but Michael had to digest everything properly and study more to find out if Blood Incursion could be reversed and what kind of aftermath the reversal of Blood Incursion would have on those infected for a short time and those infected for decades, if not centuries.

[If I'm not wrong, we can create a slow-processing poison that works against Blood Incursion. It will affect the mind and soul of the victims, but you can also configure the poison to have certain effects that drain the target's energy and nutrients to heal him faster. The victim's soul and mind would be regenerated as it is destroyed, thus slowly removing the Blood Incursion's effect, but the problem is that they need lots of energy and nutrients to survive.] Jormungandr came up with a solution, but Michael only shrugged.

"Maybe that's something we can focus on in the future. For now, this is a little bit too tricky. I'm not good with poison. Then again, if you want to work on it. Why not?"

Chapter 990 God Call

"The Divine Academy is under attack," A solemn voice resounded through a massive volcano.

"I know. I've heard about it. I also know a Demi-God, a Curse User, did it. He used his God Curses' Divinity and killed hundreds of Divine Lifeforms up until this point. What have you guys been doing?" A second voice, annoyed and unwilling to continue talking, rang out from the center of the volcano.

"We cannot remove our Demi-Gods and 8th Tier Divinees from the front lines to deal with this Demi-God. He has a powerful spatial Soultrait that seems to pass through intergalactic spatial distortion devices. We do not know how he did it, but we think it is related to his Divinities. He has multiple God Curses and can channel their Divinities through his body. We—...:" The first voice coming from an elderly man at the edge of the volcano pleaded.

However, before he could finish his request, a young man emerged from the magma pool at the bottom of the active volcano. He levitated and ascended slowly until he reached the old man.

"I am about to consolidate my Divinity, and you, or the higher-ups of the SHA, want me to leave at this moment and risk damaging my Divinity to deal with a mere Demi-God. I hope you are not serious right now. Even if I don't damage my Divinity, I would risk my life by intervening in the games of the cosmic playground. Do you think I'm willing to risk an encounter with the Primal to get rid of your stupid problem?" The man asked, his ruby eyes staring deep into the soul of the old man.

"I...didn't you finish creating your Divinity. The others told me to report to you, saying the God Curses of the Curse User have something you're looking for." The recently reborn God raised an eyebrow, resulting in droplets of magma trickling down his temples. He studied the man for a moment, and his hand shot forward. His fingers coiled around the old man's forehead, who screamed in pain as the smell of burned skin and flesh filled the air.

Foreign memories flooded God's eyes and mind, informing him with every bit of intel he needed to know.

"The Curse User has a nature-attributed Divinity Fragment and control of two, probably three God Curses? You are not sure about the third, but your research shows that one of the God Curses is the Beast God Fenrir, and the other one is...Jormungandr, right?" He let go of the old man, who had to nod fervently even though he was in unbearable pain.

"And the last one is presumed to be Hel, who didn't appear directly, but the Death Authority was perceived right before the appearance of two Undead Titans. The Demis managed to kill the Titans, indicating the Death Authority wasn't strong enough to keep the Undead Titans alive... It is almost like the Death Authority was channeled through a Divine Lifeform, who cannot yet handle a full-fledged Divinity." The God with the ruby eyes murmured, the corner of his lips curling upward.

His golden hair sparked brightly and ignited. It burned fiercely but didn't burn to ashes. No, his hair would never cease to burn if he didn't want it to crumble and burn to ashes. The young man licked his lips in ecstasy, his eyes drilling into the elderly man.

"I don't need Fenrir, but are you certain about the high-quality Nature Divinity Fragment and Jormungandr?" The young man's Divinity wasn't weak but wasn't perfect either. He had known how to complete the soul forging of his Divinity for a long time, but he never finished the process. Why? Because he had been searching for the final ingredient to create a perfect Divinity. A Divinity with one, if not multiple Authorities.

"Jormungandr's Divinity has been found. We are certain it is the World Serpent. Ancient documents verified our guess a few days ago. It is also the reason I came looking for you," The elderly man said with the last bits of courage in his body, "I hope I'm not too late. We know you said not to bother you and that you would finish your Divinity at last, but we thought you might want to check out this young Demi-God. Since he has access to multiple Divinities and a Divinity Fragment, it shouldn't be a problem to attack and research him. After all, your Divinity can still be altered."

The God's Divinity was formed not too long ago and was thus volatile. That being said, he could break it open and alter it for another year or two. All it required was some preparations.

"The Primal doesn't care about something like that. If you want me to kill that Demi-God, you will have to wait for a little. I need to break open my Divinity without damaging it," The young God declared in a matter-of-fact tone, shocking the elderly man.

"Break open your Divinity? Is that really nec—..."

"I told you I need time. The reason doesn't concern you. Will the Supreme Court wait or deploy others to hunt this Curse User?" The God intervened.

"We...do not think our average Demi-God can kill this Curse User. Even stalling him endangers the Demi-Gods and may lead to many unnecessary deaths. He has too many Divinities, Soultraits, and tricks up to his sleeves." The elderly man explained hesitantly.

The young God raised an eyebrow but nodded. That made sense. Not all Demi-Gods were the same. In fact, some of the strongest Demi-Gods were strong enough to fight the weakest Gods head-on. It was no surprise that the average Divinity feared someone with multiple Divinities.

"Stall him for a year, and you won't have to see him again. The Supreme Court doesn't have to worry about his existence anymore after that. I will claim his Authorities and then rip him into shreds!"

The elderly man didn't know how to respond but nodded. He knew his life would end if he spoke up now. The young God had something up to his sleeves, and he wouldn't change his plan now that he had found a way to acquire one, maybe even multiple authorities. **

The senses of the universe stretched far and with unfathomable detail, and those attached to it could perceive everything. Every use of a high-ranked Soultrait, every application of a Mythical Artifact, and every execution of a Divinity and the aftermath of its use were reported in shocking clarity. The beings connected to the cosmos core could sense everything, including the intentions of the Gods. They perceived what was about to happen. It was almost like they could see into the future.

...

Somewhere in the center of the universe – in the midst of nothingness near the Beginning of All – a pair of pitch-black eyes opened for the first time in hundreds of thousands of years.

The period of the Origin Awakening inched closer.

It was only a matter of time before everything would change. Their time was coming.