

S. Lord 1021

Chapter 1021 More Time to Spend

Michael could spend more time with Alice and Lucia through his secondary body. It allowed him to make up for all the time he had missed out on. Of course, the situation wasn't that simple because Michael missed various of his daughter's events while fighting the Supreme Human Alliance, but he was glad Lucia didn't hold him accountable for that.

She wasn't angry at Michael and bombarded him with questions instead.

"Why did you decide to call this body 'Mike'?" Alice asked in-between some of their daughter's questions.

"I don't know. It felt like a good name that wasn't too different from my real name. Do you not like it?" Michael looked at Alice, whose entire body seemed to be writhing in discomfort. Something didn't sit right with Alice Zenovia.

"I...don't know. I – just like everyone – know Mike is Michael and vice versa. You are the same even though this body is still weaker and not influenced by the God Curses... Still, it feels like I'm cheating on you with yourself if I start calling you Mike. I know that is a stupid thought, but can we do something about that? I don't want to feel like I am feeling right now." After their earlier kiss, Alice had been a little uncomfortable, but Michael had been certain Alice was embarrassed for kissing him in front of everyone, but that wasn't the case. Evidently, Alice was challenged by a whole different problem.

"I didn't know you would feel like this," Michael responded quietly, gathering his thoughts. But I can tell everyone to call me Michael. Maybe it was a mistake to pick another name for the secondary body. After all, we are the same consciousness and soul."

"And don't call this a stupid thought. You can always talk to me when something makes you feel uncomfortable, and I will do my utmost to make you feel better. Remember, we are not fighting each other in this relationship. No, it's quite the opposite. We, as a couple, fight our problems together."

Michael tilted his head, looking lovingly at Alice, "How about you tell me everything that has been bothering you? We can solve those issues together."

"I want to help, too~!" Lucia exclaimed, charging to her parents with a vibrant smile.

Michael scooped her up and responded with an equally vibrant smile, "Look at this. Sherlock Lucia is here to solve all our problems!" Lucia giggled, and even the corners of Alice's lips curled upward. She looked at Michael momentarily and reached out for one of his hands. "Alright, let's do that. How about I tell you everything?" Alice asked with a mischievous smile on her lips.

Michael nodded, and the family of three returned to their room in the Wooden Manor, where they talked about their struggles – emotional and physical. It didn't matter whether their struggles were rational, logical, or irrational and as far from logical as possible. If it bothered them, they had to talk about it...and talk it through until they found a solution or a compromise.

At first, the little family of three talked about all kinds of things, including Michael's tiresome actions against the Supreme Human Alliance for the last few years. It was interesting to listen to Michael, but Alice slowly changed the topic to the things she wanted to talk about.

"I don't like the name 'Mike'. I mean, the name itself is okay, but not if you use it for your secondary body. I'd feel alienated or like I am about to cheat on you with this 'Mike' whenever I think about kissing you."

"So you think about kissing me a lot?" Michael teased. Alice blushed and was about to throw something at him, but Michael nodded quickly, "That was a joke! I understand what you're talking about. I will tell everyone to call me Michael. It doesn't matter if my main body and secondary body use the same name. I doubt they will ever meet up." Alice already had a cushion in her hands, ready to hurl them in Michael's face, but decided against it when he agreed to her request.

"Spend more time with Mom!" Sherlock Lucia declared, pointing accusingly at Michael.

Alice blushed again and was about to pull Lucia away when Michael leaned forward to ruffle through Lucia's hair.

"You want me to spend more time with your mother? Do you think she is lonely without me?" Michael asked while glancing in Alice's direction.

Alice huffed and puffed but didn't say anything, fearing her voice could expose her. Michael grinned at that.

"Whenever she feels lonely, she searches for me to play and hang out. I love Mom, but...I want to be more independent and be with my friends, too. I cannot be with Mom all day." Lucia looked down at her boots. She didn't dare to look at her mother, knowing her words might hurt.

"So, you want me to step in and spend lots of time with your mother?" Michael asked, ignoring Alice's deadly glare.

"Can you do that?" Lucia asked, her eyes twinkling like the stars.

"Of course. I can bother you and your Mother with my presence all day now. Doesn't that sound like a hassle?" Michael joked, only for his daughter to shake her head vigorously.

"Noo. That's not a hassle at all. I love it!!" Lucia was adamant about Michael staying with them, not even realizing that her father made a little joke. Alice looked at Michael for a while and smiled.

"I'm glad you're back," She revealed in all honesty.

"I am glad to be back as well!"

Michael spend more time with Alice and Lucia, but that didn't mean he could avoid all responsibility. He had to grow a little bit stronger and siphon the SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols from the foes the Super Awakened, Untamed Awakened, and Divine Subordinates had eliminated.

It had been a while since Michael had checked on the warehouses and the storage devices where all Awakened corpses were usually stored. That was also why he was surprised to find close to 100,000 Awakened corpses in the storage devices. Most corpses belonged to High Awakened, but there were also some precious DIvine Lifeforms stored within.

Michael retrieved the corpses in batches while using the Extraction Seed to drain the surrounding energy to supply the Seed with enough power to siphon the Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments of the Dead.

Of course, Michael procured the Awakened's stored goods as well. He wasn't going to leave the War Rune storages untouched!

He was at it for a while, but the Extraction Seed helped Michael accelerate the extraction process. If it had been the same old Michael – Michael as a Rookie Lord with 2-Star Extraction – he would have wasted weeks extracting all of this. Fortunately, that wasn't the case now.

Michael procured mountains of resources from the deceased's War Rune storages. He stored everything in the massive Mythical-grade Storage Artifact since his War Rune storage was too small to carry everything. Then he stored the Soultrait Symbols in a small box, which he gave an attendant to hand over to the Jungle Shop before storing all SoulStar Fragments away.

The massive volume of SoulStar Fragments in his possession exceeded two hundred million. To be precise, Michael reached the threshold of a quarter of a billion SoulStar Fragments.

That wasn't enough to upgrade the main body's Extraction Soultrait to 10-Star, but 250 million SoulStar Fragments was enough to start the outlines of the 10th Star. Not everything of the 10th Star's outlines were completed with a quarter of a billion SoulStar Fragments, yet it was enough to do something. As long as Michael continued providing SoulStar Fragments for the main body, he would soon acquire his first 10-Star Soultrait. Starting from that moment, Michael would grow even stronger, which would then be used to acquire even more SoulStar Fragments. It was an infinite loop, with Michael being the main benefactor.

However, the secondary body didn't benefit a lot from it. He didn't use any of the acquired Soultrait Symbols for himself because he didn't want to slow down his War Rune progression. Strong Soultrait Symbols might push Michael's combat prowess to a higher level, but they increased the energy requirements to rank up drastically as well.

It was no surprise to Michael when he reached Tier-1 shortly after finishing his business with the 100,000ish Awakened corpses. The Energy Vortex continued working while he was busy with the Extraction Seed, which pushed him to Tier-1. His strength skyrocketed, and the Energy Vortex expanded. It absorbed more energy as it expanded, accelerating several functions of Michael's perfectly purified body.

First, Michael could refine his War Rune even faster now that the Energy Vortex expanded. He didn't have to do anything and could rely on the Energy Vortex's benefits.

Second, the energy entering his body could be used to refine his body, which was what Michael did next. Refining his body with a Primordial-grade Body Refinement Technique up to the rank of his Tier wasn't particularly difficult. He had enough resources and could tap into the life force and nutrients of the Untamed Jungle as well.

The Nature Divinity gave him full access to everything. Therefore, Michael acquired everything he needed to refine his body perfectly, yet he didn't waste any energy. He surrendered the 100,000 Awakened Carcasses to the Untamed Jungle, allowing it to devour the bodies to transform them into energy and nutrients.

The absorbed nutrients and energy didn't accelerate the Untamed Jungle's growth, but it ensured everything would continue flourishing.

Life filled the Untamed Jungle, fueling Michael with excitement of the upcoming future.

Chapter 1023 Promotion Globe

Strengthening the Summons enough for them to keep up with the growth of the Untamed Awakened wasn't possible except if all Summons transformed into 7-Star Summons. Maybe that would increase their potential and grant them Innate powers strong enough to rival Awakened and their Soultraits.

However, upgrading every Summon to a 7-Star Summon wasn't possible. It was simply not feasible. However, Michael could do something else.

"How about we sell Promotion Globes in the Jungle Shop? They're not cheap, and we know only a few of them will work – the higher the star rating, the lower the success rate – but it should be worth a try, don't you think so?" Michael asked Siegfried, who studied his Lord for a while.

"My Knights won't have an easy time procuring the Promotion Globes, and their efficiency will deteriorate once they become 4-Star Knights, but I think it is worth a try. The motivation of all Sacred Knight Temple members should improve considerably after we offer them Promotion Globes to keep up with the Awakened," Siegfried nodded slowly.

He allowed the idea to rummage through his mind and come to live in his imagination. The idea was good, but the expenses would be tremendous. The price of the Promotion Globes was far from cheap. The better the quality of the Promotion Globes, the higher the price. That was only obvious, but so was a particular fact. Purchasing Promotion Globes in bulk and selling them to the Summons for the same price – converted in Jungle Points – wouldn't save anything. "Something had to be adjusted; otherwise, the Summons would be agitated instead of relieved. You cannot expect them to work tirelessly for decades before they can purchase a single Promotion Globe. They're that expensive, after all." Michael understood that point. The Promotion Globes would be much more expensive than the price he had listed for Artifacts, Spirit Armaments, and Soultraits. If Michael didn't change the pricing, a single Promotion Globe would be as valuable as a 6-Star Soultrait Symbol. But that was where the problem lay.

Michael couldn't produce Promotion Globes out of nowhere, whereas Soultrait Symbols were easy to procure. Everyone was aware of that point, but Summons would never understand his pricing of a Promotion Globe. After all, a single star rating upgrade would never be enough. They had to increase their star ratings a few times to keep up with the Awakened and push even further to surpass them.

"I can purchase the Promotion Globes and offer them for a lower price. Even if I make some losses, quite a lot of losses, to be fair, I will satisfy the Summons. However, we must add conditions before giving the Summons access to the Promotion Globes."

Siegfried listened up and waited for Michael to continue.

"I think it is only fair to demand that the Summons have to reach the peak of 'education' in the Sacred Knight Temple, the Hunter Academy, and so forth, to access the Promotion Globe purchase

option. That means the Hunters must reach 4-Star, Sacred Knights need to be 3-Stars, Architects have to become Grandmaster Architects at 4-Star, and Grandmaster Blacksmiths must advance to the 5th Star before being given access."

Siegfried contemplated it for a bit, nodded, and then shook his head.

"That doesn't seem fair. The Blacksmiths will haunt you the most for this decision, whereas the Sacred Knights will have the easiest time. I am glad for the Sacred Knights since I'm...well, their Instructor and the leader of the Sacred Knight Temple, but isn't that wrong?"

"Of course, it is. But I think you underestimate the resilience of the Grandmaster Blacksmiths...or the amount of money they earn. The Grandmaster Blacksmiths will have a much easier time procuring Promotion Globes than the rest. As for Master Blacksmiths, they can still learn a lot and should focus on studying rather than crying rivers about their lack of access to cheats," He looked Siegfried straight in the eyes.

"As for the Sacred Knights. We will start the upgrade of the first Advanced Sacred Knight Temple. One of our Grandmaster Architects had an epiphany while studying the Sacred Knight Temple's blueprints and was promoted to an Ancient Architect when he found out how to improve the Sacred Knight Temple. Once upgraded, 4-Star Knights called Saints and Ancient Knights of the Silent Goddess will be unlocked. Your Sacred Knights can then advance to 4-Star through hard work and have to work their asses off to purchase some Promotion Globes to – possibly – be promoted to 5-Star. I don't know how much their powers will change at 4-Star or 5-Star, but this is enough to motivate your people, right?"

Siegfried was stunned as it was the first time he heard about the Ancient Architect, his promotion, and the upgrades of the Advanced Sacred Knight Temple. "That sounds great. As long as the improvements of the Sacred Knight Temple work out, nobody will say anything. Even if they do, with some Promotion Globes in the Jungle Shop offered for an acceptable price, everyone will shut their mouths before approaching you. Let's say some idiots approach you...just tell me, and I will take care of it. I don't think Summons can get as many great opportunities to grow stronger and be promoted as in your territory. I have never seen anyone offering that much, at least."

Michael smiled at Siegfried's praise and decided to jump into action right away. He had enough Soultrait Symbols to offer in the Cosmic Shop but he messaged Sylth Thorn first. 'Since I cannot deal with the Supreme Human Alliance personally, I might as well create some more powerhouses to fight the Supreme Human Alliance head-on.'

Sylth messaged Michael often, hoping to obtain more Soultrait Symbols from him. He usually rejected her, but Michael decided to change his approach.

Since he needed both Origin Liquid and Promotion Globes, Michael opened his arms widely, ready to offer multiple Soultrait Symbols and Soultrait Upgrades. Michael didn't make an offer. He only said something simple in his message.

[Michael Fang: Hello, Sylth. I hope you and your family are doing fine. I am offering you Soultraits and Upgrades again. In exchange, you can offer me Origin Liquid and Promotion Globes. Feel free to negotiate with me, but keep in mind that the cosmos will transform into a wild place soon. The Primal and the Gods, both Rebels and submissive, won't treat you nicely. That being said, you need

more power to fight the Supreme Human Alliance. I heard some things, and if they're true... You need my Soultraits.]

Maybe it wasn't nice to speak like that to an ally, but Michael wasn't going to behave like the nice guy. Not in a deal like this, at least. He needed something and wanted the best possible offer!

Sylth didn't respond right away, but she didn't leave him hanging for long. Her response was cut but decisive.

[Sylth Thorn: The Thorn Merchandise is willing to buy your Soultrait Symbols. However, we also demand your safety. One of our Elderly Demon Kings told us about a young man with golden eyes golden and silver hair, looking like a Hyuman, being among the Rebels, training the vessel fated to eliminate the Primal. I guess that is you. You will be busy for a while, but if you want our full support and good prices, you need to offer more than your Soultraits.]

Michael shrugged.

[Michael Fang: I cannot promise you anything. My training keeps me away from the cosmos for a while. After that, I can help. If that isn't enough...so be it.]

[Sylth Thorn: The Thorn Merchandise is glad to make business with you!]

Chapter 1024 Unwanted Evolutions

Now that the problem with his Summons should be solved, Michael shared the haul of Origin Liquid with the Untamed Awakened. To be precise, he offered the Origin Liquid droplets for sale in the Jungle Shop where everyone with enough Jungle Points could purchase them.

That was fair, just as selling the Promotion Globes in the Jungle Shop rather than distributing them equally was the fairest option.

Once he was done taking care of the Awakened and Summons, Michael traveled across the Untamed Jungle. However, instead of traveling through the Untamed Jungle on Icarus or another winged monster, Michael remained on the ground. Most monsters of the Untamed Jungle ignored him because they could sense his connection to the Nature Divinity of the Untamed Jungle, but some monsters were simply too stupid to comprehend who he was.

They attacked Michael.

Michael was forced to retaliate, which was rather simple when he used the enchantments on the Mythical Spear. He twisted his body, evading the pounce of a Virodium Hyena before triggering the [Thrust], [Defense Penetration], and [Shatter] simultaneously. His Mythical Spear unleashed through a technique that resembled the Wicked Spear Arts, penetrated the Virodium Hyena's chest and pierced its heart in a single blow.

More Virodium Hyenas attacked him, but Daniel Fang chose to decapitate them before they could harm Michael.

"I could have killed them alone," Michael said, while some of the Elven Rangers, who had decided to travel with Michael and Daniel on their trip through the Untamed Jungle, noted the appearance of the Virodium Hyenas.

"My Lord, should we eliminate the threat of the Virodium Hyenas, or do you wish us to relocate them? We are close to one of the Advanced Farmlands, and our analysis discovered an unusual high

corrosion level from the Virodium Hyenas." Michael looked at the Forest Elf for a moment. He was deep in thought, trying to remember since when the Virodium Hyenas entered the Untamed Jungle. Or did they evolve from some of the average Hyenas? Michael couldn't remember, which was odd.

"Eliminate them before they cause any more problems," Michael declared before Danny added, "The Spring of Abundant Life helps the Untamed Jungle to evolve."

Michael nodded, "I noticed that too. We need to increase the number of guards in and around the Pentagon Forts and deploy more Forest Rangers to report and take out the mutated monsters whose existence harms the Untamed Jungle. I don't want the Untamed Jungle to rot from the inside out just because we're too confident. Even if the territory is well guarded and manned with powerful Awakened and Summons, we need to be careful. A single mistake and everything will be over."

Daniel patted his brother's shoulder.

"I know you carry a heavy responsibility, but you should relax a little," Danny winked at Michael, who could only sigh deeply.

"Do you think I can relax knowing I'll have to fight the Primal the next time my training is over? Once my main body wakes up, I must fight one of the strongest entities in the Universe. If I die, everything is over. The territory will fall apart, and everyone I love will suffer."

Danny sighed but didn't say anything. Michael was correct, but knowing everything depended on him didn't help him. If anything, it put even more pressure on the young man. He wasn't even 100 years old, yet the gods wanted him to kill one of the oldest beings in existence? These Gods were insane.

If they could wait for hundreds of thousands of years, they might as well wait a few more centuries or millennia. Why was it necessary to push Michael like that? Was it necessary to rush him into fighting the Primal this soon?

Daniel didn't think so, but the gods must have said something to convince Michael how dire the situation was.

Michael didn't know what his brother was thinking but could tell Danny was deep in thought. He shrugged and decided to answer whatever doubt was on his brother's mind if he was willing to ask away. However, no question escaped his lips. That was how they ended up traveling through the Untamed Jungle for a few weeks – they returned to the Wooden Manor every evening – and eradicated a few monsters with devious mutations.

There were also a bunch of plants with 'unique' mutations, but Michael only removed them when he heard the voice of the Untamed Jungle. To be precise, it was the stirring of the Primordial Tree Spirit trying to tell him that the plant could inflict immense damage to the Untamed Jungle.

Once the dangerously mutated flora and fauna had been removed, Michael focused on other tasks. He personally approached all problems in the settlements within the Untamed Jungle and the Sacred Desert to show how important these problems were. Michael gave his utmost care to each issue, showing the Summons and Awakened how important their well-being and happiness were to him. More and more Links of Loyalty grew firmer as the Summons realized that they were more than

dead replicas in his eyes. They were more than valuable assets. Their lives were important to Michael because he cared for his people, not because of the Soul Power.

"Your plan works out very well," Danny mentioned at some point.

He had been with Michael the whole time and discovered a pattern.

"What are you talking about?" "You don't have to act like that in front of me. I understand what you are doing and think it's smart," Daniel praised his brother, who looked sternly at him, "Are you not trying to act like a benevolent Lord to show how great you are after leaving them behind for years? You were too busy dealing with the Summons, which weakened their Links of Loyalty, just to transform into the best possible Lord after hundreds of millions of Links of Loyalty have been established.

Michael raised an eyebrow but shrugged.

"In your time as the Masked Saber, you should have seen how I treat my people. In fact, you have seen much more than that. It might have been a while since I had the time to put so much effort into my subjects, but it's not like I'm acting differently than I used to. To be precise, I return to my original behavior now that I have two bodies to do double the work."

Michael clicked his tongue, "And I'm not sure if I like the way you speak about my efforts of the last few years. I have been working my ass off since I became a Lord in the Untamed Jungle to help as many people as possible, to grow stronger, and to protect those I love. You are one of those, and I went through shit to get you back."

"I..." Danny nibbled on his lower lip and scratched the back of his head. A sigh escaped his lips.

"Yeah, you are right. I don't know what overcame me. Your actions in the last few days felt so different from the effort you put into the Untamed Jungle over the last few years that I forgot how you acted originally."

"Sorry about that," Danny added, "Everything feels a little bit confusing since I inserted enough SoulStar Fragments into Sword God."

Michael listened up at that.

"Enough SoulStar Fragments...for what?"

"You don't know? I started learning about the Law of the Sword. The Sword God Soultrait is teaching me all about it."

What?!

Chapter 1025 Overthinker

Michael was bothered about Danny's comment and decided to stir his main body awake. He interrupted his training with the God Curses, alarming Loki, only for Michael to wave dismissively.

It took him a moment to recognize the Primordial Curse and understand how easy it was to switch between the main body and the secondary body. Once he returned to his senses, Michael talked to the God Curses.

'Didn't you all tell me that 10-Star Soultraits won't grant me the rights of Laws and Authorities... that the knowledge of 10-Star Soultraits will only be 'helpful' to strengthen my Soultraits, but that it will never be enough to do more?'

[What are you talking about? Focus on the task ahead, idiot!] Fenrir growled, but Jormungandr and Hel noticed his confusion and accessed his mind and memories.

[Daniel is learning about the Sword Law from the Sword God Soultrait? That is...unusual.] Hel murmured.

[Maybe the last Sword God died in the Origin Expanse? Maybe he was searching for something in the Origin Expanse, just like Hel? If that was the case, the Sword God would have to seal his Divinity to enter the Origin Expanse. Thereafter, he wouldn't have access to most of his powers. After all, the last Sword God was a born god.] Jormungandr commented. [I don't know how the Sword God died, but it happened.]

The World Serpent shrugged or would have if he had shoulders to shrug. One way or another, Jormungandr didn't care much about Michael's discovery.

[The Sword God's sealed Divinity was probably a perfect target of Essence to transform into a full-fledged Soultrait, which turned into Danny's Sword God. Isn't that great? Why are you so worried?]

Michael's lips parted, but Fenrir intervened.

[You are wasting precious time. Advancing Sword God to 10-Star will help your brother create his Divinity in the future. The more he learns about the Sword Law, the better. Maybe he will become your first Demi-God! Wouldn't that be great? Stop worrying and focus on my Divinity. I do not want to waste my Essence for you if you keep interrupting this training!]

Michael clicked his tongue but did as told. His main body resumed the painstaking training to grow into the Nemesis of the Primal, while his secondary body spent some quality time with...everyone. Mostly Alice and his daughter, though.

'It would be great if Daniel advanced to a proper Divine Lifeform and acquired the Sword Law in time. A Demi-God would help a lot with the Untamed Jungle's expansion...though I doubt we will have any major problems for the next few months.'

The Untamed Jungle expanded smoothly, but Michael focused on clearing and researching the mutations and evolutions of both flora and fauna. It was necessary to check everything occasionally. The Primordial Tree Spirit may tell him if something major happened, but given its focus on expansion, Michael deployed more Forest Rangers to check everything up to the finest detail.

"The danger level of the wild parts in the Untamed Jungle will increase slowly but steadily. It might look like I have everything under control, but I cannot always keep all jungle monsters in check. That would destroy my mind, the connection to the jungle monsters, and the entire ecosystem," Michael explained when he received some complaints about massive boars charging through an Intermediate Farmland, utterly destroying it.

"We do not wish to destroy the ecosystem, but we want to live with it and take advantage of it. The areas known as the "outer area" of the Untamed Jungle have long since transformed into the medius area, whereas the inner areas are now part of the core area. The reason for that is simple. The

Untamed Jungle has expanded. The region generates more energy, which is released into the surroundings. The flora and fauna in the core area are more resilient and prone to drastic mutations. However, only the strongest mutations will survive. Therefore, we have to pay attention to the mutations and evolutions. It is necessary to check on the flora and fauna and prepare for all kinds of mishaps. That might seem like a lot at first, but trust me when I say that ample preparations can decide between life and death."

He took a deep breath, but sighed instead of saying anything right away. Looking at the men and women staring at him, ordinary Farmers who want nothing more but to tend to their fields and live a comfortable, peaceful, life full of wonder, Michael could only feel foolish.

They didn't care what was happening. All they came for was a simple solution.

"We will deploy more guards around the Farmlands and upgrade the installed defenses, too. Don't worry, we will block the jungle monsters if they seek the plants and herbs growing in your Farmland. I will reimburse you for your loss as well. The Sabertooth Boars won't return again."

That was enough to satisfy most Farmers. They turned away and left for their farms. Michael raised an eyebrow and turned to Lilica, who smiled faintly.

"I felt like you needed to see this," Lilica responded with a shrug.

The Forest Elf, who had been with Michael and his territory for a very long time, had asked him to be present for today's meeting with the Farmers, but Michael hadn't expected it to be like this.

"Why?"

"Isn't it obvious?" Lilica smiled mischievously at him, "I wanted you to see that not all problems are as difficult to solve as you may think. The Farmers didn't want much. All they were hoping for was some consoling, a few pleasant words, and promises to help them against the jungle monsters. They do not care why you cannot control them at all times or about the districts of the Untamed Jungle, the mana density, and the mutating flora and fauna."

Michael pressed his lips together. He understood where this was going but was unsure if he liked it.

"Sometimes, you overcomplicate things because the last few years have been hard on you. Nobody can fathom how hard you had it in the last few years, but we want to support you. Sometimes, it might be better to ask someone else for help or to put them in charge of things you don't know. Not knowing something doesn't mean you are an idiot or anything like that. No. You don't have to try so hard at being perfect. After all, nobody is perfect."

Lilica cleared her throat.

"As long as you try your best and do what you are good at, you will be fine," She smiled, "We know you are good at many things but I hope you can rely on us more often. Also, I think it would help you if you start looking at some situations from a different point of view. Maybe your secondary body will help you with that."

Lilica's commentary wasn't as bad as Michael thought. Still, he was uncomfortable about the lecture. He wanted to do everything right but noticed in the short 'discussion' with the Farmers that his attempts were idiotic.

'Am I really that bad when it comes to overthinking?' He asked, only to recall various incidents where his mind fooled him.

Michael sighed deeply before he smiled at the Forest Elf.

"Thank you."

Chapter 1026 Storytelling

Since the danger in the Untamed Jungle was constantly increasing – some mutations revealing new, highly aggressive traits – Michael was also forced to up his power level. He decided to bind two Soultrait Symbols to his Soul Sphere. One of the Soultraits was called [Herculean], a 7-Star Soultrait boosting every characteristic of his physical prowess, and another 7-Star Soultrait called Greater Psychokinesis. It allowed him to control objects in the surroundings. The heavier the objects and the farther away, the more energy Greater Psychokinesis drained.

Both Soultraits pushed his prowess to a new height, but that wasn't as important as Michael first presumed. His mind was still focused on growing stronger and doing his utmost to come out at the top of the game, but it wasn't even like his secondary body was in need of as much power as his main body.

He connected the primal root to the Energy Vortex, which is how Michael ended up progressing much faster than anyone else, even if it wasn't necessary. Still, Michael did not want his secondary body to be weak. If something was to happen, Michael wanted to be ready to jump in and help.

But power was not everything. Although it was an important aspect of his life, there were things much more important than power. Alice and his daughter were two prime examples of the people who were the most important to him. "Tell me a story!" Lucia demanded from Michael after feasting on her dinner. She emptied several plates, shocking Michael quite a bit. Lucia was still rather small – it almost looked like she didn't age in the time Michael spent in the Supreme Human Alliance's territory – but she could eat truckloads. Her food consumption was even worse than it had been in Michael's case in the past. She ate more than her little body weighed.

"What kind of story do you want to hear? I don't know many fairy tales," Michael responded while ruffling through his daughter's hair.

"I don't need fairy tales! I am not a little child anymore!" Lucia declared, but Michael chuckled lightly.

"Sure, whatever you say, my little princess! What stories do you want to hear then?"

"Tell me something about yourself. What did you do before I was there?" Michael raised an eyebrow and looked at Alice, who shrugged lightly.

"I would love to hear more about your life, too. And I think I'm fine hearing about our past – the past I have forgotten – as well."

That surprised Michael. Alice was against listening to anything revolving around the past she had forgotten. The Blood Incursion had been very hard on her. Michael was forced to remove all memories between the day before he and Alice met up to their years together. She had forgotten everything about Michael and their events together and had been afraid to face her forgotten past before.

But she wanted to hear about her past self all of a sudden. Where did that come from? Why now?

However, Michael didn't ask those questions. Instead, he blurted out, "Are you sure?" Alice looked a little uncertain in his eyes, but a moment later, a determination was born in her vibrant ocean-blue eyes. She nodded with newfound determination.

"I am sure."

Michael needed a few seconds to digest that. He had so many questions, but Lucia tugged impatiently on his shirt. He smiled at his lovely, hard piece of work and said.

"What story do you want to hear? I have many stories, including my first meeting with your mother, my encounter with the Barbaric Couple –what everyone called Uncle Frederik and his wife when they were young and arrogant –, or the day I met and defeated Uncle Kaleb. At that time, Kaleb was too full of himself and thought he could defeat an Awakened while he was still a Normie. Up until now, I don't know where his confidence stemmed from."

Michael stopped for a moment and tilted his head lightly.

"Well, that is not the entire truth. The Zenovia household, which your Mother is also part of, is known for their excellent training. Kaleb, however, underestimated my abilities, thinking I wasn't a threat. We battled in an Archery competition, which he lost. Kaleb and I – also some others, but they're not important – made a bet against each other. I won and earned my first fortune. The day I defeated Kaleb for the first time, I met your mother for the second time."

Michael hoped Lucia would pick some story, but she listened with a fully focused expression on her face. It was obvious Lucia wouldn't choose a story. She wanted to hear it all.

"I think I'll give you a summary of everything first, and we approach the details slowly once the summary is done. What do you think?" He asked, but Lucia merely nodded. Still, the foolish grin on her face was enough to tell how much Lucia liked the current situation.

"Alright then. After defeating Uncle Kaleb, it was about time to leave my home planet and travel through the wide-open space to my next destination. The Sapphirelake Military Academy. Your mother told me about this academy the first time we met and told me to apply for it. I never considered going to a military academy far away from my brother because I never expected they would accept me, but they did. I don't know what your mother thought when she first invited me since I was still a Normie, but she must have sensed something."

He winked at Lucia, who squealed in excitement. She turned to her mother and giggled while Alice listened intently.

"I invited you to the Sapphirelake Military Academy on the day I went to your school to visit Kaleb's ex-fiance. Is that what happened?" Alice asked, tilting her head ever so slightly. Michael nodded, "That's what happened."

Alice looked like she had many questions but gestured to him to move on.

"Instead of leaving my home planet right away – my brother was still at home, and I was unsure if I could leave Danny just like that – I had a lengthy talk with him and revealed more information about my territory, powers, and the Ancient Ruin I've located. Danny told me to be careful about the

Ancient Ruin and research it in the Lumina Stellar System, a different stellar system from my home planet where I encountered the first foreign races outside the Origin Expanse."

Michael considered talking more about the Origin Expanse and what was happening there, but he chose to focus on what had happened with Alice or near Alice.

"Traveling to the Saphirelake Military Academy took a while. It wasn't a short flight, and since I didn't have a powerful Spatial-type Soultrait, I couldn't jump through stellar systems and galaxies. I spend a full month in the spaceship, which wasn't that bad since I was busy in the Origin Expanse most of the time."

"Once I arrived at the Saphirelake Military Academy, I had a good time. At least for a while. My time at the Saphirelake Military Academy was rather simple, and I made some new friends. That includes Uncle Zeke, among others. Zeke and I weren't the greatest friends, but we respected each other. To be precise, Zeke was still a little bit dissatisfied with me, but that was something I had expected. He was raised in a very disciplined and somewhat stiff noble household and was supposed to become the household's next head. The pressure weighing on Zeke must have been enormous."

"I got to know new friends and started studying. Various topics in the Saphirelake Military Academy's curriculum interested me, but everything came crashing down when I entered the Lord Rift in the Origin Expanse. The Lord Rift is a small pocket dimension where only a few individuals meeting certain requirements can enter. I was hoping to find treasures in the Lord Rift, which I actually did, but I also discovered that my brother had died and that I had summoned him... I lost my brother the day the Lord Rift closed..."

Michael sighed deeply. If it hadn't been possible to retrieve his brother and grow his Living Soul a second body, he would feel bad right now. He didn't know if it would be possible for him to keep his emotions calm or if he would go crazy. "Fortunately, Danny is still with us. I will skip a few events because you must have noticed that Daniel is still with us. He is playing with you often and cannot be dead, right?" Michael smiled at his daughter, who nodded her head in confusion.

"Danny plays a lot with me. But if he died...how can he be here?"

Alice had heard about the story but she was also interested to hear it again.

"The Lord Rift rewarded me with a special item. A keychain looking like a Miniature Casket. At first, I didn't think of it as anything special. I was devastated about my brother's death and accidentally – it wasn't actually an accident – beat up some nobles and a teacher of the Saphirelake Military Academy, who had been plotting against me. I was punished by the academy and forced to participate in the Battle Exchange with the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. My 'punishment' was to succeed in the Battle Exchange and participate in the Interstellar Flag War against the Tekur, a race with a shockingly high population. The population and their shocking numbers are their strongest perk, too.

Either way, I participated in the Battle Exchange and passed, but not without Dark Heavens, a dark organizations of traitors, attacking the ancient city, killing numerous powerhouses," Michael glanced at Alice for a moment and decided not to mention what happened with Maria and the Mark of Fate. That was probably for the best.

"Many powerful allies died, which created problems for the Interstellar Flag War, especially since the Tekur were known to be stronger than most Descendants, Berserkers, and Warlock Centaurs. Still, we survived the Flag War, and I grew stronger than ever."

Michael was about to say more, but Lucia stepped in.

"Tell me how you rescued Danny, please!!!"

Michael chuckled, "You want me to skip the good parts?"

Lucia shook her head but nodded at last.

"Everything sounds so good. I want to listen to everything in detail!" She grumbled in defiance.

This time, it was Alice ruffling through their daughter's hair.

"I think your father has more than enough time to tell you about everything. After all, he won't disappear." She smiled at Michael, who nodded.

"If you want to hear about Danny first, we can go down that route. As for everything else, I can tell you in detail later."

"Yes!!!"

Michael didn't know that his storytelling sessions with Lucia would last for days. However, he didn't regret anything. Revisiting his past through the tales he told was interesting, and Michael learned a lot, not only about his persona and how much he had changed, but also about the things he had already achieved.

That didn't feel too bad.

Chapter 1027 Children's Growth

Spending time with his family for extended periods felt nice. It was also much better to talk about his tales than expected. Both Alice and Lucia were very interested in his stories, and Daniel even joined in listening at some point. Danny had heard about most of his tales, but listening to them in detail again helped him a lot.

Daniel Fang was still far from becoming a Demi-God, but listening to someone who had already fought multiple Demi-Gods, A Pseudo God and a Primal, taught him a lot. Even Michael couldn't be arrogant before the Primal, which was good to hear but also frightening.

It was good because it showed that Michael was not invincible. That made him more humane in the eyes of many. Still, it was also bad because it would be terrifying if a Primal were to kill Michael. Nobody wanted that to happen except the Supreme Human Alliance and the Primal, maybe.

Once Michael was done with his storytelling – several days had passed – Lucia met up with Frederik's boy. There weren't many children of powerful Awakened, which made it increasingly difficult for children with the gift of energy to play around. Lucia and Frederik's boy had already manifested their War Rune and were both already at the 2nd Tier. That was shocking since the children were still far from becoming adults, which was the norm for manifesting their War Runes. That being said, the two children were a decade too young to manifest their War Rune under normal circumstances, yet they did it already. They were too strong to play with children around their age because a single mistake – a light punch, a playful push, or something along those lines – could kill ordinary children.

Fortunately, neither Lucia nor Tom, Frederik's boy, cared much about the other children. They had each other to play with to their hearts' content. It didn't matter how brutal they played; they were roughly at the same rank and Tier and were thus having a hard time seriously injuring each other. Not that they didn't try. Lucia and Tom were...unique, to put it into simple words. They joined the training of the Sacred Knight Temple on more than one occasion and observed the training regime in the Hunter Academy, the Alchemist Lairs, the Blacksmiths in the Underground Forging Halls, the Farmers, Architects, Forest Rangers, Rangers, Tamers, and many more almost daily.

The duo of reckless and impatient children turned the Untamed Jungle upside down at every given opportunity. They sustained many injuries as well, but their behavior never changed. Even after both broke their legs while jumping down from a large tree they'd climbed, neither changed. They continued climbing the same tree and jumped down again after one of the Healers among the Super Awakened tended to their wounds. The second time, only Tom broke his leg, whereas Lucia succeeded in jumping from one tree branch to the branch of another tree. It would have been okay if they did that at a low altitude, but for a 2nd Tier Awakened to break his legs, they must have jumped from more than 10 meters. Of course, they were children and thus prone to injuries, but Alice and Jacqueline were going crazy whenever Tom and Lucia disappeared to play. Frederik and Michael weren't as worried as the women because neither Lucia nor Tom were foolish enough to do something that threatened their lives. Even if they did something like that, they ensured to injure themselves only as much as the Healers in the settlement could heal.

There was a tad of cunningness in their actions and plays that impressed Michael and Frederik so much that they decided to stalk their children to watch them play. The children were out of everyone's sight when they started climbing the trees, only to initiate a small brawl on a thick branch six meters above the surface. Frederik and Michael looked at each other in surprise when they saw how smoothly the children fought. They hadn't learned any fancy martial arts techniques just yet and didn't manifest a Soultrait either, but Tom and Lucia could control their bodies with great precision. It was almost like they didn't notice the difference between their Tierless body and breaking through to the 2nd Tier.

"They have already adapted to their bodies and copied the techniques of the Sacred Knights, the Forest Rangers, and several sequences from the Hunter Academy," Michael mumbled, his eyes narrowed to tiny slits.

Tom and Lucia were covered in bruises and looked like a bunch of adults had beaten them into pulps, but the children merely smiled at each other. Lucia raised her hand high into the air, which summoned a small sprite. No, it was one of the Forest Pixies, which arrived on command with a small wooden bowl filled with the Greater Nature Spirit's nectar. It was filled with lifeforce and other ingredients, each aiding the healing process of young and vigorous bodies.

"Is she using the trace of Nature to do that?" Frederik asked in surprise as the children shared the bowl. The Forest Pixie took the bowl and disappeared a moment later while the black and blue bruises covering their children's bodies disappeared.

"I think so. But that is a lot more precise and powerful than I expected. The trace of Nature inside Lucia is not noteworthy. It was already surprising when I saw how much the jungle monster adore her. Not even the most aggressive jungle monsters think about attacking Lucia, even if they have the chance. Meanwhile, they attack me without hesitation."

Frederik looked at his friend, the corners of his lips curling upward.

"Are our children broken?" He asked, not even trying to hide his grin.

"Why are you grinning like that while asking such a question? What do you want me to answer?" Michael chuckled lightly, patting his friend's shoulder while focusing on his child. He didn't think Lucia would like fighting. Her connection with Nature and life was strong. Strong enough for Michael to consider giving Lucia a few Healing-type and Nature-type Soultraits once her body, soul, and mind were ready for it.

But from the looks of it, Michael and Alice, for a matter of fact, had been mistaken. Lucia was not only interested in combat, but she was already a better combatant than most Descendants were after training for a whole decade. Yet, Lucia never received any tutelage from others. Not actively, at least.

"How strong will they be once they turn 18? Can I keep up with their growth?" Frederik asked, a sudden realization kicking in.

"What if they keep growing stronger this fast? Will my little boy surpass me and become a Demi-God before me?" His eyes widened in surprise, but Michael only chuckled.

"Do you think you can become a Demi-God?" Michael narrowed his eyes as a joke, only to get punched in the shoulder.

"Be careful what you say. I can still beat your secondary body!" Frederik's eyes glimmered, but Michael only laughed.

"For now, yeah."

Chapter 1028 Old Enemies

A few months passed after Michael's secondary body was formed. He was busy in the Origin Expanse and didn't hear much about the trouble in the cosmos. Hiraku and some other Super Awakened, as well as a few dozen Divine Subordinates, talked about the situation in the Titan War sometimes, but Michael never intercepted when something went wrong, which happened more often than Michael had hoped for.

A few Super Awakened died to Divine Lifeforms as a result of underestimating their enemies. They have been fighting and defeating powerful enemies for months now, only to overestimate their power while also underestimating the possible power level of enemy Divine Lifeforms. Some Divine Hyumans might actually be weak, but that didn't mean everyone was weak. Not everyone would die from a Soultrait Combo of six to eight Soultrait Symbols. Some would block the incoming attacks or evade them. Or they would attack the Super Awakened long before their Soultrait Combo could be unleashed in the first place.

Michael chose to give the Super Awakened some free time and pull them away from the battles in the cosmos. Most of them didn't want to relax and lusted for vengeance, but that was exactly what Michael wanted to prevent. The desire to take revenge on their enemies was hard to control. Michael knew that better than most, and he could already see his friends and comrades loosening themselves and dying miserably in the attempt to take revenge.

Michael, however, did not want this to happen, which was how he forced some paid time off onto them.

They still trained a lot back in the Origin Expanse and ended up hunting some highly aggressive monsters as well, but the danger level was not as great as it would have been against Divine Hyumans.

But while they were displeased, Michael was very pleased with himself. The death of the Super Awakened was bad, but the gains he made were tremendous. Michael had no idea where the Supreme Human Alliance produced all those High Awakened and Divine Hyumans because there were way too many enemies, and it looked like their numbers would never decrease, but it was not all bad.

The Divine Subordinates and Super Awakened brought back mountains of corpses from their hunts...and they hunted a lot. The Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments, as well as the portions of War Rune storages extracted from the deceased, filled the Jungle Shop's warehouse to the brim. Simultaneously, the Super Awakened gained a lot, roughly 10% of the SoulStar Fragments from every Awakened they had hunted and brought back. That was a lot, and it most certainly motivated the Super Awakened to work harder.

Some Super Awakened managed to advance their Soultraits to 7-Star, whereas others focused on pushing all Soultraits to 5-Star and 6-Star first. Everyone had a different tactic, but the Super Awakened never failed to surprise him with their tactics and recent purchases. The Soul Spheres had already been created, but not many had started infusing SoulStar Fragments into it to form Empty Soul Sockets. That was until recently when some Super Awakened discovered a planet filled with very familiar beings. Oddly enough, the Forest Rangers and Warlock Centaur Scouts, alongside the Minor Typhoon Rocs, discovered the exact same beings in the Origin Expanse.

The Tekur were back! "Do you want us to fight the Tekur right away, or do you wish to negotiate with them first? They might be enemy of the Supreme Human Alliance, which would help us. Defeating them would decimate them and weaken our numbers drastically if we are unlucky to encounter one of the Tekur's strongest powerhouses," Siegfried Dragoon inquired when he first heard about their encounter with the Tekur.

"Do you know the Tekur? We fought them in the Tritan Alliance because they tore open a portal to one of the Berserker's planets." Michael asked out of curiosity.

"I do know them. The Tekur are considered the pest of the universe. Nobody wants to fight them because their grudge is never-ending. They're as petty as you can get. Fight them, and they will make sure to fight you until the end of time. I managed to fight and defeat one of their Lords in the Origin Expanse, but the losses were too great. Especially when more Tekur appeared out of nowhere. I was sure to have eliminated all of them, only for Assassins and smaller units of their kin to appear near and within my territory when I was still a reigning Lord." Siegfried told Michael.

Michael hadn't heard a lot about Siegfried's past and his time in the Origin Expanse, but the old man was a valuable comrade and a trusted subject. "That being said, you can never defeat all of them. Maybe you can crush one of their planets, obliterating tens of billions of their kind, but even if you burn all of their planets to ashes, you will never kill all of them. Some of them will survive, and they will grow again. This time, more resilient and stronger than ever. And they will want to hunt you!"

Michael nodded slowly while considering Siegfried's words.

"But if they hold a grudge, they will hate me already. I fought and killed them in the Interstellar Flag War. The first time, I was too weak to kill all of them. Some will remember me and probably resent me a lot if they're as petty as you said. If they hold onto grudges like no other race, they will recognize me and attack." Siegfried frowned but nodded slowly, "In that case, let's send someone else for negotiations. I don't think they will work because Tekur isn't known for sharing their living space with others, but the least we can do is request negotiations. If they deny them and attack, we can retaliate without any qualms."

Michael was unsure if that was necessary, but he nodded.

"Let's deploy one of our Forest Elves or Silverfangs, though. I somehow doubt they like humans and maybe not even Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs, given their encounters in the first few years of the Interstellar Flag War."

Siegfried thought about it for a moment and agreed, too.

"That might be for the best."

Now that they came to a conclusion, Michael deployed an escort of Forest Elves to follow Lilica, who was going to negotiate with the Tekur. Nobody expected anything great and Michael was actually certain the Tekur would attack the Forest Elves, but he trusted Lilica to survive. She was strong and not so easy to fool.

However, Michael didn't expect the escort of Forest Elves to get attacked by the Tekur even before they reached the borders of their territory. Assassins of the Tekur must have invaded the outer areas of the neighboring territory with the intention of inflicting as much harm as possible.

Little did they know how stupid it was to attack Lilica and her escort in open lands. The escort was full of powerful Awakened with multiple Tracking Soultraits, Danger Sense Soultraits, and the means to retaliate with both brute force and deadly tactics.

Lilica spiked the Assassins with a barrage of arrows the moment they initiated the attack. That was how the war with the Tekur began both inside the Origin Expanse and outside in the wide-open cosmos.

Chapter 1029 Burn

One thing was sure: The Tekur burned very well.

Their bodies were easily ignitable, and there were so many of them. Of course, the Divine Subordinates and Super Awakened made use of that. The first thing Michael did after Lilica and her people had been attacked was to burst into laughter.

Why?

Because the Tekur Lord in the Origin Expanse wasn't a Divine Tekur or a Demi-God. No. The Tekur Lord, located close to Michael's territory, was a Higher Lifeform. The Assassins who attacked Lilica were also higher lifeforms, but barely. They were 4th Tier Awakened and weren't ready for the rude awakening. They quickly realized Lilica and the Forest Elven escort were stronger than they looked at first glance. Lilica and the others obliterated the assassins quickly and moved forward to

investigate the Tekur Lord, the size of his settlements, and the number of Summons and Awakened located in the respective settlements. When Michael heard about the millions of subjects and more than five thousand Awakened, we were a little surprised, but we shrugged in disinterest when Lilcia said that only 100 or so reached the 5th Tier.

The Tekur Lord and his people wouldn't be difficult to deal with. That was why Michael deployed Most Divine Subordinates and Super Awakened out of the Origin Expanse. They didn't need to deal with the Tekur and could help their comrades with the bigger enemies in the cosmos instead. They were brought to the planet civilized by the Tekur. It was a massive planet, yet most of it had already been civilized by the Tekur. Their numbers were ginormous as a basic scan discovered signals of the same life in hundreds of billions, probably even more. A more advanced scan would probably discover trillions of Tekur. But their numbers mattered little as only a handful of the lifeforms were Higher Lifeforms or Divine Lifeforms.

Their numbers were great but their potential so-so. Their Soultraits were especially weak compared to the Awakened from the Tritan Alliance.

Still, the numbers were great for Michael's main body. He would gain death energy and energy shares for every death caused by his people. Also, Michael would gain a lot from every Awakened slain. After all, Michael was going to drain SoulStar Fragments from every Awakened. That was going to push his fortune to a completely different level. "Failure is okay as long as you escape with your lives. I know some of you dislike losing more than anything, but I sure hope you value your life enough to say, 'The Tekur do not deserve the honor to kill me.'. Reserve that honor for a God, a Primal, or the course of time, okay?!" Michael roared toward the Super Awakened, not even batting an eyelid at the Divine Subordinates when he said that on the day of their departure

Only a handful of Super Awakened stayed back because they were either pregnant, their child would be born soon, and they wanted to stay back to be with their beloved to witness such a miraculous day, or they wanted to become the Guardians of the Origin Expanse's territories. After all, some powerful enemies may attack Michael's territories at all times. All it took was one surprise attack. The Guardian ensured nobody would suffer from the departure of the Super Awakened and Divine Subordinates. The Guardians would protect the Untamed Jungle and Sacred Desert with his life on the line!

That was great, as it alleviated some of Michael's worries. With a bunch of Super Awakened protecting the territories, alongside the jungle monsters, of course, Michael could join the Untamed Armies to beat the living shit out of the Tekur.

In the past, the Tritan Alliance had been worried about fighting the Tekur, but that was mostly owed to the Tekur's Soul Techniques and the fact that all of their Soldiers and Elite Soldiers had been Lords with millions of subjects. The summoned Tekur couldn't use any Soul Techniques and didn't own any Soultraits or Spirit Armaments either. In fact, most Tekur Awakened didn't even have powerful Artifacts, nor did their Summoned Soldiers carry well-maintained equipment. Their equipment was old and of much lower quality than anything Michael had given to his people.

On one hand, that showed how badly the Lord treated his people, or how poor he was, and it showed how difficult it was to fulfill your responsibility as a Tekur Lord – summon millions of

Summons to increase your Soul Power in order to strengthen your Soultrait's power – while treating everyone decently enough to strengthen their bond.

Lilica and the other Forest Elves were disgusted at what they discovered upon returning, and the Untamed Armies immediately jumped into action.

Michael had already ascended to a Higher Lifeform after months of Energy Vortex working continuously in the energy-dense Untamed Jungle. OF course, Michael helped a little bit with some Energy Stones, and some energy drained from the primal root, but the means didn't matter. All that mattered was Michael's ascension to a Higher Lifeform. He would join the Untamed Armies and help them beat the living shit out of the Tekur Lord. How dare he think he could attack the Forest Elves and stay alive?!

The Untamed Armies contained more than five million combatants at this point. That number should have been enough to crush any territory of a Higher Lifeform easily. However, the Tekur wasn't an ordinary race. They bred much faster than Goblins, and almost all members of the Tekur race awakened a War Rune. More than seventy out of one hundred Tekur would manifest a War Rune and become Lords in the Origin Expanse. Not many managed to become powerful Lords due to the lack of strong soldiers and Awakened in their row – Soul Power is their most important resource to fight – but the Tekur Lord in front of them was probably an Elite Tekur given the millions of subjects residing in his territory.

The Armies split up with the Golden Queen Bee, the Golden Stinger Wasps, The Behemoth Elephant, and Sun Demos' monkey army, merging into the armies of the Forest Elves, Silverfangs, Berserkers, Warlock Centaurs, and humans. The Behemoth Elephant charged forward head-on, approaching one of the massive Tekur Nests – they couldn't afford to build massive walls because their settlements expanded too often as their population expanded on a monthly basis.

That being said, the Behemoth Elephant pushed forward and squashed the defending Tekur Soldiers. They were minced to insect mash while the Golden Stinger Wasps and Golden Queen Bee teleported everyone around, moving the Awakened and strongest Summons throughout the Tekur Nest. They brought the powerhouses to where they were needed the most. That was especially so for the Elementals, the Elemental Empress, and the Red Dragon. Their firepower was needed everywhere, and that was where the Golden Stinger wasps brought them.

Michael didn't inspect everything up to the finest detail, but the fierce flames burning everything to a conder were impossible not to see. That being said, Michael focused on the battle ahead. He wielded the Mythical Spear and wore the Void Scale Armor. However, that was not all. He also revealed more than a dozen jagged Void Scales, which were only sheathed and loosely attached to the Void Scale Armor. He unsheathed them simultaneously, using Greater Psychokinesis, and released them in all directions, piercing the throats, eye sockets, and hearts of the Tekur Soldiers around him.

The Mythical Spear whipped around and thrust through the enemies' hearts, killing their Awakened on the spot, but the Void Scales, controlled through Greater Psychokinesis, caused more harm.

Then again, the Red Dragon did the Goliath portion of the work, but that was no surprise. The Red Dragon's mythical flames were super effective on the Tekur and the organic materials they used to

construct and expand their Nest settlements. Carrying around the Elemental Empress, the Red Dragon, and Zeroa combined their power to burn entire Nest settlements in the following days.

Meanwhile, Michael focused on fighting the strongest Tekur alongside the Sacred Knight Temple.

Chapter 1030 Among Sacred Knights

Michael had considered adding more Soultrait Symbols to his arsenal but was against it. There was no logical reason not to add anymore Soultraits since his Energy Vortex had expanded drastically after his High Ascension. Other than that, Michael could hunt many more enemies with another 6-Star or higher Soultrait. The energy increase from an additional Soultrait Symbol would be rebalanced by the increase in enemies hunted due to the extra Soultrait.

Still, Michael didn't do it. Why? Because he liked the challenge.

His main body didn't have many challenges left, and the number would dwindle even further once his training period was over. It was a fact which annoyed Michael only a little. Being incredibly powerful was great and all, but having a hard time defeating your opponent was also enticing. Michael couldn't help but feel like he would miss out on something grand if he inserted more Soultraits into his Soul Sphere this soon. Maybe it would help him in the future, but Michael was unwilling to rush into anything with his secondary body. He wanted to enjoy his life. At least the secondary body should enjoy everything while the main body continues working tirelessly. At the end of the day, that kind of mindset would help both the main body and the secondary body stay mentally and physically fit. The secondary body would cause the mental health package, whereas the main body would overflow with great power.

Michael wielded the Mythical Spear and thrust it into the neck of a Lesser Lifeform. The Tekur collapsed before him and was trampled to death before the gaping hole in its throat could end its life. The Tekur charged at Michael and his people, but a massive wall of Holy Power quickly blocked them.

The Sacred Knights beside Michael raised their shields and cast Holy Guardian, a holy technique that created an invisible shield that stopped all rapidly charging enemies. The Tekur in the invisible shield – it could still be penetrated as long as you moved slowly – were slowed down, thus blocking the advances of the Tekur behind.

Some tried flying across the battlefield, but Holy Guardian also affected the enemies high in the air. The Tekur slowed down, granting the Sacred Knights and their comrades enough time to slash and stab the Tekur before them.

"There might be more enemies, but the Sacred Knight Temple will prevail and succeed!" Siegfried roared, brandishing his massive broadsword to simultaneously cleave through several Tekur, including two Higher Lifeforms. Michael raised one eyebrow but moved forward as well. Greater Psychokinesis worked well in the Holy Guardian shield. It disrupted the Sacred Knights, forcing them to concentrate more and maybe use some more Holy Power to maintain Holy Guardian, but the damage caused by the pointed Void Scales and Greater Psychokinesis were worth the additional consumption.

Michael passed through the piles of fallen enemies and watched as more enemies fell. However, the Sacred Knights were forced to pull back not even a minute into Holy Guardian. They retrieved their

Holy Power without prior warning, resulting in a small backlash. Some older Blessed Squires, who had been too unfortunate to never receive another promotion even after their Tier advanced to the 2nd, were swallowed by a mass of Tekur. It looked like the mass of Tekur moved in unison as they dived into the group of Blessed Squires, devouring them in one go. The Blessed Squires couldn't be seen anymore, but their screams resounded through the vicinity. Unfortunately, or fortunately, in their situation, the screams didn't last long. They ceased seconds after the Tekur mass had swallowed them.

Michael faintly sensed the loss of several Links of Loyalty, but as unfortunate as it was, Michael had already gotten accustomed to this sensation. At this point, hundreds of millions of Summons resided in his territory. As if that wasn't enough, each jungle monster was connected to him through a similar Link of Loyalty as his Summons and Awakened too. It wasn't uncommon for Links of Loyalty to sever. In fact, Michael was the reason for many severed Links of Loyalty as he also killed the highly aggressive mutations and evolutions of jungle monsters.

But while it was obvious to get accustomed to the loss of Links of Loyalty, Michael didn't feel great at the sight of his trusted Summons' deaths.

He cursed and charged the mass of Tekur alongside several Holy Knights. A pair of sledgehammers appeared in the hands of two Holy Knights while a third wielded a massive War Axe. They would probably cause more damage than Michael, but that didn't mean his help was useless.

Michael's Void Scales attached to the backside of the War Axes and sledgehammers, and he pushed them forward with Greater Psychokinesis, the instance the Holy Knights attacked. Their sledgehammers and War Axe cleaved down like usual, but the force was several times higher due to Michael's help. The weapons accelerated and smashed and cut deep into the Tekur mass, crushing several Tekur with one blow and cleaving through many at the same time.

Michael didn't have Seer or a Soultrait working like Seer in this body, but that was also why he ended up focusing more on his perception. He trained his perception to work like Seer since he didn't own a Soultrait like this. That helped him improve and grow stronger than before. He didn't have to rely on a Soultrait like Seer to perceive the energy frequencies and their fluctuations in a large range anymore. Even the faintest details were unraveled to his perception, improving his combat prowess considerably.

That was how Michael ended up knowing which Summons and Awakened were left unscathed in the Tekur mass and which foes were about to die or were already killed by the Holy Knights' fierce blows.

The Tekur screeched loudly, but Michael didn't care. He circulated Soullife Energy through his body and triggered Foundation Break. The technique was dangerous for most Higher Lifeforms, but Michael didn't mind the dangers since he had already attained perfect mastery of the technique with his main body. Foundation Break wouldn't kill him after all if he didn't make a mistake.

His speed increased drastically, and he accelerated suddenly. His top speed was enough to unleash a flurry of devastating thrusts further augmented by the [Thrust] enchantment on the Mythical Spear.

He killed six Tekur in the mass before they could retaliate. Poisonous green mist conjured before Michael as one of the Tekur Awakened used his Soultrait, but Michael ignored it. He smiled as Siegfried used Purification, another Holy technique of the Sacred Knight Temple. It drained a considerable amount of Holy Power from Siegfried, but the poisonous green mist was no more dangerous, even before it could cause any harm.

"Thanks," Michael said lightly before turning away as he saw something from the corner of his eyes. Fueled with enough energy to kill a Higher Lifeform, a glist of light came their way at high velocity. It was too high to be blocked easily.

"Wall!" Michael bellowed, and the Sacred Knights moved instinctively. They stopped their attacks and unleashed the Holy Shield technique, which expanded their shields, which were tuned to holy power, and drastically increased their defenses.

They stopped fighting and jumped into full defense without any hesitation.

A moment later, a spear of light impacted hard on a Sacred Knight's shield, piercing the Holy Shield and their shield before dispersing right after.

"That was a close one."