

S. Lord 962

Chapter 962 Wiped

Michael wouldn't have any problems attaining godhood as long as he worked with the God Curses. The three God Curses had verified that with him a few times already. It would take a while and some resources, and he would have to upgrade his Soultrait Symbols quite a bit if he wanted to attain godhood or become a Demi-God, but it was feasible.

Michael was happy about that because he needed as much power as possible, but it also showed him how much the God Curses were willing to invest in him. They were in dire need of him...after he attained godhood. There was something he would have to do, and Michael was fairly sure it would be dangerous.

He had to prepare for it.

The pressure on Michael increased steadily, but his time with Alice and Lucia was distressing. The same could be said about the events happening to the people in his territory. They were quite interesting and definitely unexpected.

Kaleb Zenovia had been single all his life, and not even Alice expected him to fall in love anytime soon, but the youngest of the Zenovia household fell in love...with a Princess.

Kaleb was in love with Tiara from the Silverfang Tigerfolk, but she rejected him several times already. She didn't even pay much attention to him over the years, whereas Kaleb Zenovia fell hard. Her behavior and how she kept a distance from him must have pulled some strings, striking him square in the chest.

Michael was unsure what exactly had happened between them, but he knew Kaleb was madly in love. He was loyal and persistent. Tiara rejected him for now, yet Michael could tell that her adamant nature crumbled slowly. It might take a few more years, but if Kaleb managed to break through her barriers, they would become a happy couple.

Unfortunately, the Silverfang Tigerfolk were busy with their own things. Tiara and Caesus told Michael about their plans, forcing Michael to decide what they were going to do. Even though the Silverfang Tigerfolk were primarily bound to their Princess and Crown Prince, Michael was still in full control of them. The Links of Loyalty were still with him.

The Silverfang Tigerfolk were fit to live in the Untamed Jungle but hoped to establish their own settlements. This was the same as what the Forest Elves, Berserkers, and Warlock Centaurs had requested. Well, it was similar. The Forest Elves chose to construct small settlements across the Untamed Jungle to guard the Grand Region from all potential harm. They were the best fit to protect the Untamed Jungle from mutating monsters, other Awakened, or harmful plants.

On the other hand, the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs were in the Sacred Desert. They were the most comfortable in the Intermediate Region as nothing restrained their movements. They could fight their enemies openly and gallop across the wide-open lands of the Sacred Desert. The Silverfangs desired a small space reserved for themselves, and Michael granted it.

There was no reason to reject their demand. Michael would grant them that if they felt better building a settlement to live more reclusive. It strengthened their Link of Loyalty since he cooperated with them.

The only problem with the Silverfang Tigerfolk was the power distribution. In the first place, Tiara and Caesus didn't like each other. It was a fact everyone had heard about. The main issue was that the Silverfangs were divided on whom to follow. That was clearly shown in the connection through the Links of Loyalty. Caesus carried the biggest burden of Awakened from the Silverfangs in terms of numbers, but the Links of Loyalty connecting to Michael through Tiara were stronger. Nobody had a drastic advantage over the others, but both Tiara and Caesus wanted to be the commander of the Silverfang Settlement. Michael proposed establishing two Silverfang settlements, which was rejected by the siblings, who were of the same opinion for the first time in years. It was annoying, but that wasn't Michael's business. He gave them an option and chose to let them be. They could fight each other as long as nobody died.

He had other things to pay more attention to. His control of the lands in the Origin Expanse was expanding quickly, and the Lords in the adjacent regions – and the regions adjacent to the adjacent regions – weren't strong enough to deal with him. The Dragys Lordess and the Azure Quetzalcoatl had been the strongest entities within several thousand kilometers.

The problems in the Untamed Jungle had been taken care of for the time being. Even the regions within a radius of one thousand or maybe even thousands of kilometers didn't contain as many dangerous monsters as the beasts of the Untamed Jungle. Therefore, he could focus on the threats looming outside the Origin Expanse. Unfortunately, one massive threat kept pestering Michael and his beloved.

Michael emerged from the Runic Gate to check up on the Nest like usual, only to find the weak energy fluctuations of more than a dozen Curse Users. They were all on the verge of death. He teleported to them without a second thought and released a tidal wave of the advanced healing serum accumulated within him.

"What happened?" Michael asked into the infirmary, where he put the dying Curse Users into a coma to slow down their death. He used Unlimited Enhancement on the portion of advanced healing serum coating them and used Insert to infuse bits and pieces of his life force into them.

Hundreds of Superior Energy Stones appeared all around him, but they crumbled to dust when True Extraction sucked their energy reserves dry. Michael had to apply Permute on the energy from the Superior Energy Stones to infuse into the injured Curse Users to salvage their lives. Hesta was in the infirmary when Michael appeared. She was not on the verge of death but lost an arm and looked like she had been through a rough time. Hesta was already at the 6th Tier and progressing much faster than Michael had anticipated her to advance with multiple Soultrait Symbols, but something messed her up big time.

"What happened to you and the others?" Michael asked while flooding her system with nature-attributed energy, life force, and advanced healing serum.

Hesta groaned in pain, "These bastards have been focusing on us for the last few months. We managed to take down several forts and Selena alongside the Nest Elders conquered a few planets but...the situation isn't looking all that great."

Michael couldn't make use of Hesta's intel. He had already known about the Supreme Human Alliance's actions and that the Nest managed to reclaim some of the Altors Union's planets. The Supreme Human Alliance didn't defend them well enough and continued attacking. But something must have changed.

"Wait. You're saying the Supreme Human Alliance is focusing on the Nest? Why would they do that? The Altors Union has far more powerhouses. Curse Users are dangerous to the SHA and their Blood Incursion, but there are not many."

Hesta shrugged in pain.

"I think they changed their priorities after suffering too many casualties. Our sudden power-up must have shocked them. They took a while to adjust their tactics and devise a proper tactic to deal with us...but they did it."

Michael frowned deeply.

"How many did we lose?" At that moment, Selena entered the infirmary. She'd been informed about the sudden use of energy in the infirmary and recognized Michael's energy fluctuations.

"Half of the Nest's forces were wiped out," She announced solemnly, "And the rest you can see here..."

Chapter 963 Joined

Despite obtaining multiple Soultrait Symbols from Michael years ago, the Nest had lost. "It's like Hesta said. After realizing how much our combat prowess increased, the Supreme Human Alliance focused its forces on the Curse Users. They failed to adapt quickly enough and lost five stellar systems to us, but that's nothing in the grand scheme of the cosmic wars," Selena sighed." Selena explained

"The Supreme Human Alliance stalled enough time by sacrificing five stellar systems and the forces protecting two large resource deposits to plan and counterattack. The first counterattacks failed, but once they removed their stronger forces from the frontlines with the Altors Union, it was impossible to block their attacks."

The Nest Leader was the least injured. She was already a Tier-9 powerhouse, a Demi-God with a powerful Curse and a combi of several useful Soultraits. She wasn't that easy to take out. Unfortunately, not every Curse User could fight against several Demi Gods simultaneously.

Selena sighed deeply, "The Altors Union is still on the losing side, but they have taken advantage of the Supreme Human Alliance's diverted focus. The Altors Union claimed a dwarven galaxy while the SHA was out there slaughtering the Nest. They could have helped us but decided against it."

A growl escaped her lips, "That's why we chose to terminate our contracts with them. They sacrificed half of the Nest to claim a dwarven galaxy. If their reinforcement had come to help us, we would have killed several powerhouses of the SHA without taking that many losses. But...it is how it is."

Selena's hyperactive and nonchalant nature was no longer present. Maybe it was shrouded by the seriousness of war, but Michael had a bad feeling about that.

"We're not fighting by the Altors Union's side anymore?" He asked Selena, who cursed softly.

"These motherfuckers can fight for themselves. We are going to attack the Supreme Human Alliance since they're the worst enemy to keep alive, but the Nest won't put any trust or loyalty into the Altors Union from this day onward."

'That is a little problematic,' Michael tilted his head. He had heard about the destruction of a few planets and the chaos some stronger Divine Lifeforms had swept across several stellar systems. One stellar system had been torn apart, and the dozen planets with billions of residents had each been destroyed and turned into smithereens.

Michael didn't like this. The War of Titan, as some called it, didn't have any winners. Everyone was on the losing side, sacrificing good people to gain a minor advantage. Some of them would gain anything from sacrificing several stellar systems, either.

The Nest transformed into the chess pieces of the Altors Union, only to be sacrificed by pawns to move their knights to a better position. They might have reclaimed a dwarven galaxy, but the Altors Union lost more by abandoning the Nest. They lost one of the few Demi Gods on their side and the only beings who could easily transform the power-up of the Blood Incursion into a power-corrupting substance. The Curse Users had those means on Hyumans infected by Blood Incursion.

Michael was unsure if the Altors Union was aware of their actions, but he was certain the Supreme Human Alliance knew what they did when they gave up on one of their dwarven galaxies to eradicate half of the Nest while injuring the rest severally. "If you had been a little later, five Nest Elders would have died. Thank you for helping us...It's just unfortunate that your Soultrait Symbols didn't generate the desired effect," The Nest Leader said, but Michael shrugged.

"My Soultraits worked better than expected. The deaths of so many Curse Users weren't something I had put into calculations, but I was surprised the SHA took so long to retaliate against the Nest. I didn't expect to be given several years to complete my Divine Ascension and push my Soultrait Symbols to a higher level. Or that I could progress deeper down the path of a Divine Lifeform."

Michael could have said that he'd anticipated the Nest's extinction in the next few years, but he remained silent. There was no need to say anything like that. It was a bit surprising that the SHA sacrificed an entire galaxy, but given their actions in the past, something like that shouldn't have been considered surprising.

"I think my peaceful era will end now," Michael sighed deeply. He had a nice time with Alice and Lucia, but the Nest needed him now.

Michael had always accumulated more Soul Power in his Soultrait Symbols and Curse Power in the hundreds of unsealed Seals. At the end of the day, Michael had been out hunting a few times, killing Divine Lifeforms and small armies of Higher Lifeforms whenever he was out with other Curse Users. The SoulStar Fragments came into use, nurturing and growing his souls while pushing his Soultrait Symbols to 8-Star.

It was expensive to nurture his soul while also accumulating enough SoulStar Fragments to upgrade his Soultrait Symbols, but it was worth upgrading all Soultrait Symbols to 8-Star before his Divine Ascension.

He might have had a Divine Shell already, but Michael received the same benefits as other Awakened during his Divine Ascension. His foundation received a massive boost, further strengthening and expanding his soul, which had already been strengthened under the constant pressure of SoulStar Fragments, three God Curses, and 13 8-Star Soultraits.

The four Soultrait Symbols in the core of the Soul Sphere affected him the most. Extraction, bound to Insert, didn't receive any enhancement, but since Michael had to push Insert to 8-Star, Extraction

also claimed some benefits. Sacred Constitution and Death Call, on the other hand, were already 8-Star Soultrait and didn't receive any major benefits.

But the same couldn't be said about the Soultraits in the Soul Sphere's Inner Area. Seer was already a 8-Star Soultrait, but he upgraded Greater Enhancement, Qi, Cosmic Stride and River of Vigor without hesitation. Greater Enhancement grew more powerful. The Symbol for Greater Enhancement expanded drastically, allowing Michael to accumulate more Soul Power to use Soullife Arts like Unlimited Enhancement more often. Qi evolved into Emperor Qi once upgraded to 8-Star. Emperor Qi was several times more potent than his Qi had been. Activated Emperor Qi transformed Michael's presence and scared most weaker enemies shitless. That was funny at times, but more interesting was the potency of Emperor Qi. He gained a much higher threshold of control over Emperor Qi and managed to unleash a fury of attacks just like he did with Qi, only that he had to use much less energy.

Cosmic Stride didn't evolve when it ranked up to an 8-Star Soultrait. It didn't change much either, but that wasn't needed for Cosmic Stride in the first place. In Michael's opinion, Cosmic Stride was already close to perfection. However, by upgrading it, Michael gained a much higher understanding of the Laws of Space, pushing Cosmic Stride's proficiency to a different level.

Michael could do ungodly things with Cosmic Stride at this point. It was a miraculous Soultrait... A Soultrait perfect for Michael to use.

River of Vigor didn't evolve into another Soultrait Symbol, but the amount of advanced healing serum he could produce and store increased drastically. He could overclock River of Vigor and produce even stronger healing serum, which he could then store in the serum storage. That was one of the many things Michael had done in the last few years. He stored enough healing serum to bring him back from the verge of death...lots of times if necessary.

Upgrading the Soultraits in the Soul Sphere's middle area was slightly more complicated. Taming was still easy to upgrade, but it didn't evolve...and if Michael was to be truly honest, he wasn't sure if he needed Taming in the first place. Still, he upgraded the Soultrait Symbols because he was in need of the Soultrait Symbol's pressure. It put enough pressure on Michael's Soul to pain him right before his Divine Ascension. Maybe Taming would be useful in the future. It was an 8-Star Soultrait and had more than enough space to submit a bunch of Divine Beasts.

Michael considered removing Taming, but he chose to keep it because he feared he might need it at some point.

Meanwhile, Sphere of Elements was a truly powerful Soultrait. It cost the most to upgrade this mish-mash of a Soultrait Symbol to 8-Star, but Sphere of Elements, which evolved into Galaxy of Elements at 8-Star, was truly worth it. Galaxy of Elements granted Michael a better understanding of the elemental laws of the universe and access to much more power than most natural Elemental Awakened would use in their entire lifetime.

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Upgrading Mind Watcher and Soul Grimoire was rather boring. Soul Grimoire had some interesting abilities, but its main selling point was connected to Death Call, which didn't change even after Soul Grimoire upgraded to 8-Star.

All in all, Michael's combat prowess increased drastically. Upgrading his Soultrait Symbols hadn't been simple, especially given the amount of space each Soultrait Symbol and God Curse occupies in his soul. It was bothersome to postpone his Divine Ascension until all Soultrait Symbols were pushed to 8-Star, but the result was worth it.

Michael's Soul was big enough to establish Links of Loyalty with several thousand powerful Awakened, and he could easily push one or even two Soultrait Symbols to 9-Star.

All he needed was enough SoulStar Fragments, but that could be solved easily.

After all, it was time for Michael to join the war against the Supreme Human Alliance for real.

Chapter 964 Meteorites

Michael's first goal was to attack the Genox Galaxy, one of the large galaxies under the Supreme Human Alliance's control. It didn't border the Altors Union directly but was separated by a smaller galaxy. The smaller galaxy, named Novix Galaxy, was neutral territory often conquered by Cosmos Beasts, pirates, and the like. Both the Altors Union and the Supreme Human Alliance tried conquering the Novix Galaxy and claiming it as their land, but they always failed. The SHA tried claiming the Novix Galaxy six times, yet it never worked out. After centuries of failed attempts, the Altors Union and Supreme Human Alliance gave up on the Novix Galaxy. Of course, that didn't mean they avoided it. The Hyumans and Altors Union still used the Novix Galaxy as their battlegrounds.

Michael chose to take advantage of that. He purchased a few Return Tokens from the Nest Leader and used a bridge to teleport to the Novix Galaxy.

It was one of the bridges Selena had installed more than a thousand years ago to support the Altors Union. It wouldn't be activated to help the Altors Union. Still, if Michael was going to wreak havoc in the rows of the Supreme Human Alliance's defenses, he might as well trick them into believing that the Altors Union attacked them.

Michael wasn't in a rush, but he didn't think about traveling by foot or using Cosmic Stride without any augmentations. He procured close to one million Superior Energy Stones over the course of several weeks, sucked them dry, and channeled their energy into the Compass Relic to use the relic at any time. Michael's plan was simple. He would travel through the Novix Galaxy near the border to the Genox Galaxy to check the borders and the defensive lines before attacking. Michael wasn't worried about being found since he was alone and capable of concealing his energy fluctuations nearly perfectly. The traces of energy he couldn't conceal may expose him as a Divine Lifeform, but that was not a problem.

Even the most precise radar would only detect him as an ordinary Divine Lifeform. If the Supreme Human Alliance chose to act against him, they may deploy a few ordinary Divine Lifeforms or one Elite to get rid of him. Michael could easily deal with that kind of threat.

His plan was simple, but Michael fleshed it out quickly. Once that was done, he used the bridge and disappeared. The Novix Galaxy was small but still a galaxy with nearly 4,000 planetary systems. That might not feel like a lot given that galaxies consisted of billions of stars, however, it was

important to note that most stars were uninhabitable. Various factors made it impossible to civilize most stars by most races. Then again, many races could live in different environments than others. Thus, the number of uninhabitable stars in a galaxy depended on the race, their level of technology, and many other factors.

The sizes of the 4,000ish planetary systems in the Novix Galaxy varied greatly. Some systems had only three planets, while others contained up to several dozen. Important to note was that small tribes of Hyumans and members of the Altors Union chose to civilize smaller planets in certain systems bordering their homeland.

Well, maybe it was also important to point out that several meteorite rings swept through the Novix Galaxy, threatening to destroy all spaceships daring enough to get too close. The destruction of thousands of spaceships trying to cross the multi-layered meteorite rings was also one of the few reasons the Altors Union and Supreme Human Alliance stopped putting effort and resources into the Novix Galaxy. It was a calm place...or used to be.

Michael's arrival changed that.

He didn't approach the Altors Union or tell them what he was about to do. Instead, he traveled through the meteorite ring with Cosmic Stride and studied the constellation of meteorites, uninhabitable planets, and so forth. He discovered a manned fort near the meteorite ring on the Supreme Human Alliance's side and chose to have some fun with them.

The first thing he did was accumulate enough energy by using Swallow Domain to devour the surrounding energy in a radius of several dozen kilometers. The batches of meteorites in Swallow Domain's range were also consumed, but Michael didn't transform them into energy using Permute.

He kept them in the Swallow Domain storage, inched closer to the manned fortress, and used Cosmic Stride to unleash the stored meteorites. Michael gave the meteorites a little push with a massive burst of energy while increasing their durability using Greater Enhancement. The meteorites transformed into a massive, oversized cannonball that teleported tens of kilometers through space, only to appear a few kilometers away from the manned fortress of the Supreme Human Alliance.

The fortress might have been manned, but the guards weren't prepared for an attack. It had been decades since anyone crossed the meteorite ring. Even the Cosmos Beasts didn't bother attacking them anymore, knowing it wasn't worth the effort. But an unknown force attacked them out of nowhere.

The guards tried to respond, but something went wrong when the Hyuman Captain, a Divine Lifeform, appeared before the first meteorite. Energy coursed through his body like a brewing storm, but the moment he was about to crush the incoming meteorites with brute force, he froze.

Michael's golden eyes flickered like a predator's eyes. That was because they'd shifted into serpentine eyes. Michael had exerted Basilisk Eyes using Seer with Unlimited Enhancement. It consumed a tremendous amount of Soullife Energy and Soul Energy to use both Unlimited Enhancement and Basilisk Eyes, but the effect was notable. The Divine Lifeform froze and didn't crush the incoming meteorites. On the contrary, the meteorites crashed into the Divine Lifeform and continued on their tracks.

The batches of meteorites crashed heavily into the Hyuman Fortress, but a protection dome blocked most attacks. That was until Michael used Insert with a trace of Beast God Poison. He inserted Jormungandr's poison into the protection dome, shattering it instantly.

It was unknown to Michael how the guards in the Hyuman Fortress reacted, but he imagined them screaming and running around like headless chickens as the last meteorites of the batches pushed through the last layers of defense. They crashed heavily into the fortress, destroying everything in one go.

The meteorites impacted heavily and crushed the thick walls, protecting the fortress from harm from the outside. They could block smaller meteorites without sustaining major damage, but Michael's meteorites were faster and more durable than the norm. Their impact punctured the heavily reinforced metal, exposing the Hyuman Fortress to the dangers of the meteorite ring.

Watching his artificially created meteorite shower was interesting, but too many Hyumans survived the attack. The space might reap their lives in the near future, maybe a few days if they were lucky, however, that was too long. They could warn the Supreme Human Alliance, which wasn't something Michael wanted to happen.

He wanted the Supreme Human Alliance to find out about his attack soon. However, he didn't want the Supreme Human Alliance to know what Soultraits had been used to attack the fortress or how many people had attacked.

That was why he jumped into action, perfectly wearing a mask and concealing his curse power. He used True Extraction Domain once to extract the last remnants of his curse power usage before descending into the Hyuman Fortress.

The tale of the Lone Hunter was about to begin.

965 Lone Hunter

The Hyuman Captain wasn't dead after getting struck by a meteorite. It shook him quite, but the Divine Lifeform didn't die. He unleashed his Projectile Defense Soultrait, a 4-Star Soultrait that protected him against projectiles and survived. But then again, the Hyuman Captain would have survived without his Projectile Defense Soultrait.

He wasn't particularly powerful, and his Soultrait wasn't overly mighty either. In the first place, his lack of combat prowess was why he had been deployed as the Captain of the Hyuman Fortress in such a place. He might be a Divine Lifeform, but his prowess was more baggage than support on the frontlines.

Michael killed the Hyuman Captain and everyone else who survived the meteorite shower. He consumed their corpses using Swallow Domain and transformed them into energy and more Essences through Permute.

It was possible to consume the entire Hyuman Fortress or what was left of it, but Michael decided against it. The Supreme Human Alliance's people would have to find the remnants of the Hyuman Fortress at some point.

Once he was done hunting the survivors, Michael traveled across the meteorite ring again. The meteorite ring was longer than expected, probably crossing a third of the Novix Galaxy. That was interesting, but it worked well against the Altors Union. Michael noticed that the Supreme Human

Alliance had far more civilized planetary systems in the Novix Galaxy than the Altors Union, even though they weren't well protected.

The Altors Union's defenses in the Novix Galaxy were also tens of times higher. The meteorite rings protected the Supreme Human Alliance from dangers that the Altors Union had to face and repel to protect their borders.

At first, Michael thought that it was troublesome and annoying, but his opinion changed quickly. The Novix Galaxy held far more potential than Michael had given to it.

He spent the next four months researching the meteorite ring, spreading True Extraction Essences across the entire length of the meteorite ring while destroying three dozen manned Hyuman Fortresses. Most weren't well protected, but the latter dozen were prepared against an unknown threat. They knew that something or someone destroyed the Hyuman Fortresses across the meteorite ring but aren't given ample time to prepare.

No, that wasn't quite right. They were prepared to face a threat at the level of an ordinary Divine Lifeform. However, the time they were given was not enough to deploy more Divine Lifeforms and stronger weaponry to the lackluster prepared Hyuman Fortresses. The authorities were certain the threat could be removed or intimidated by acting like they were fully prepared for an all-out war. Unfortunately, True Vision of Seer showed Michael the truth. The illusions summoned through specific high-quality devices that could fool even Elite Divine Lifeforms didn't work against him.

Michael got rid of the Hyuman Fortresses but changed his tactic a little. He consumed the last two dozen Hyuman Fortresses with Swallow Domain and transformed everything into True Extraction Essences. Thereafter, Michael looked at the corpses and used Mind Watcher to extract their SoulStar Fragments, Soultraits, and Memory Orbs. While their Soultraits were important and the SoulStar Fragments crucial to upgrade Extraction to 9-Star, Michael considered the Memory Orbs of the Hyuman Captains equally crucial. The information he acquired from the Hyuman Captains was far more important than one may think.

"The Supreme Human Alliance has been using this place to nurture Cosmos Beasts and groom them into attacking the Altors Union. It's crazy to think how far the Hyumans will go to win against the Altors Union... cleansing the battlefield and storing the deceased of the Altors Union to feed them to Cosmos Beasts. Sick bastards!"

It was no wonder that the Novix Galaxy was a dangerous place for the Altors Union, while the Supreme Human Alliance had a much easier time expanding and 'protecting' their settlements. The Cosmos Beasts, groomed by the Supreme Human Alliance, performed the goliath portion of protecting the SHA.

That would change soon. Michael's preparations worked well, but it took a while to accumulate the resources needed to change the tide of the Titan War.

Michael's move was going to be the first turning point of the war, A massive change initiated by the Lone Hunter.

One of the conditions he had to complete to initiate his plan was spreading a massive amount of True Extraction Essence across the entire length of the meteorite rings. The other plan was to accumulate exactly 50,000,000 SoulStar Fragments to upgrade Extraction to a 9-Star Soultrait.

Fortunately, collecting this many SoulStar Fragments was a little easier than he'd feared. Divine Lifeforms, especially Lords with large territories, provided close to 100,000 SoulStar Fragments, if not more. Obliterating dozens of Hyuman Fortresses, each usually manned with more than 500 Higher Lifeforms, 2,000 Lesser Lifeforms, and one Divine Lifeform, was quite easy. They were defeated easily with the right tactic but provided enough SoulStar Fragments to upgrade his first Soultrait Symbols to 9-Star. It was only one of many Soultrait Symbols in his Soul Sphere, but the difference was noticeable immediately.

Once upgraded, Extraction didn't unlock any new powers. It put an incredibly heavy pressure on Michael's soul but also aided his soul and mental power to grow. Once it reached 9-Star, Extraction was several times stronger than before. The amount of soul power it acquired from the hundreds of millions of subjects bound to Michael's Lord Powers was several times higher than before. Therefore, the power Michael could unleash with his True Extraction Essences increased a few times. 'I hope you are not going to disappoint me, Fenrir!' Michael screamed in his mind when all preparations had been completed. [Don't worry, pal. Now that Extraction is about to cross the final threshold, I can finally tap some of my true power!]

That being said, Fenrir unleashed his Divinity, merely a fragment, for the first time in eons.

The Wolf Divinity swept through Michael, flooding the gateways of his body until he was overflowing with power. His skin tore open, and his insides started to melt. Fenrir laughed like a maniac.

[Finally, some fun!!]

966 Beast God Divinity

Since Michael became the Lone Hunter in the Novix Galaxy, the God Curses and Michael had devised multiple plans to deal with powerful Hyumans and strategies to break the balance in the War of Titans. Their solution was both simple and very risky at the same time.

Fenrir goes all out. He merely used as much of his Divinity as Michael's Divine Shell could handle. That wasn't much power for a proper Divinity, even after several hundred Serpent Seals dramatically augmented his physical vessel. Still, Michael's preparations had been thorough enough to complete everything to alter the tides of the Titan War.

[This is going to be so fun!] Fenrir howled as his Divinity continued flushing through Michael. Michael groaned in pain, and he was forced to use River of Vigor's superior healing serum to regenerate while his body was melting, but it worked out. Their plan succeeded.

Michael's vision turned black for several seconds, seconds that felt like an eternity. However, his plan succeeded.

The space across a third of the Novix Galaxy tore and twisted. Time seemed to freeze as the most powerful beings all over the galaxy sensed something.

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Michael's vision returned, unfolding a beautiful sight before him. The meteorite ring, the natural border separating the Altors Union and the Supreme Human Alliance, was no more. It disappeared, extracted and crushed to smithereens by Fenrir.

Michael coughed blood, and his entire being felt like tearing apart, but River of Vigor's superior healing serum kept him from dying. If not for Jormungandr's Seals and River of Vigor, Michael would have never done something this stupid. Well, actually...he might have done it either way. Still, the World Serpent and River of Vigor ensured Michael wouldn't have to die.

He survived, whereas the meteorite ring ceased to exist. The Supreme Human Alliance and countless Cosmos Monsters who'd been hiding in the meteorite rings for centuries were now exposed to the Atlors Union...without a single Hyuman Fortress left to protect them from potential invaders. In the meantime, the defenses of the Atlors Union had been ten times higher from the get-go.

[I...might have to rest a little. Your body drains a lot more than I expected. Channeling my Divinity through you...might not have been the smartest move.] Fenrir growled suddenly. He was still excited about the damage he had done to the surrounding world, especially with the devastating aftermath his move would have. His action was bound to create a devastating domino effect that would change everything. The Supreme Human Alliance would suffer a lot. Their certain victory was not that certain anymore.

Michael felt better by the minute, but he would have to rest a little bit as well. That was fine, though. There was no enemy within a radius of several hundred kilometers—thousands of kilometers, to be precise. Maybe the Cosmos Beasts would attack him instinctively, but he didn't plan to make any stupid moves. He took a deep breath and considered his options while also digesting the information Fenrir had just provided.

'The God Curses will have issues channeling their Divinity through my bodies. I don't know if we're incompatible or if my body is too weak at the 8th Tier. One way or another, I cannot rely on their Divinity for long. No, that's not the whole truth either. I can rely on them, but then my Soultrait Symbols will change like Extraction. Wait...Why did Extraction change in the first place?'

A deep frown replaced his thoughtful expression as he sensed the subtle changes of Extraction. Tendrils of golden energy emerged from the Soultrait Symbol of Extraction. They wiggled around vigorously and attracted Michael's attention. It took him a while to remember something – a similar situation – but his eyes widened in surprise when he did.

'It costs you so much of your Divinity because the Soultrait bound to you wants to evolve. Does it not? In the first place, I don't think Jormungandr and Hel will be able to use their Divinity through me. They couldn't do that before, and you were unable to do it either. The whole reason you asked me to upgrade Extraction was to be able to use your Divinity through me and Extraction!' Michael realized, his attention picking up.

[Did you figure it out?] Hel asked monotonously.

Michael squinted his eyes but didn't say anything at first. His mind rattled wildly as possibilities flashed through it. The possibilities were countless, but there was only one, maybe a few correct ones. Still, Michael was fairly sure his theory was correct.

"Channeling your Divinity through my body and the Soultrait Symbols drains consumed twice – or more times than that – the energy and Divinity as it would usually. That's not because my body is not compatible with your Divinity, but the Soultrait Symbol devours a massive portion of your Divinity and annexes it...The Extraction Soultrait Symbol is about to transform into a Divinity Seed!" Michael had already been confused as to why he never manifested a Divinity Seed. He was

supposed to manifest one upon ascending to a Divine Lifeform, but it never happened. Fenrir told Michael that it was because he already owned a Divinity Fragment and that the Nature Heart would transform into a proper Divinity once he acquired enough strength to form one.

While that might be true, but Michael finally learned it wasn't the truth.

"The more you use your Divinity through me, the more you nourish Extraction. And since that didn't happen with Sacred Constitution and Death Call I – neither Jormungandr nor Hel can use their Divinities through me now – I can assume that my Soultraits must be 9-Star to unlock this power. Sacred Constitution and Death Call will also transform into Divinity Seeds and grow into full-fledged Divinities..."

Jormungandr hissed, but it didn't sound aggressive. [That's true. It took us a while to accept our fate, but you are a perfect vessel. You are the perfect vessel our father and others have been waiting for. We found you before anyone else and claimed you. That's why you will be given our Divinities to deal with our issues before dealing with the others.]

"Your issues? Are you talking about the Primal, by any chance?" Michael asked with squinted eyes.

However, instead of answering, Jormungandr was silent. But that was answer enough.

'I see... That is something I could – or should – have expected...'

"I am not even sure if you guys want me to create the same Divinity as you have, but this is going to happen if we keep working together. Sacred Constitution and Death Call will be upgraded to 9-Star Soultraits in the future, and I'm sure I will need your Divinities to survive against stronger enemies at some point.'

The God Curses' Divinities increased Michael's prowess drastically. They might tear him apart and harm him, but their Divinities were how Michael could become a Pseudo Demi God for a moment. As long as his Tier increased, Michael could use their Divinities more often until the Divinity Seeds blossomed in his Soul Sphere. Once that happened, Michael would be constantly exposed to three growing Divinities. They would grow slowly and thus also transform Michael into a much stronger existence. He wouldn't be a Divine Lifeform anymore at this point. No. Michael would be a full-fledged Demi-God. Maybe three blossoming Divinities and one growing Divinity Fragment would push him to the same level as a Minor God. Of course, that was something Michael wasn't certain about, but his little experience showed that the Wolf Divinity channeled through his body was strong enough to get rid of an entire meteorite ring – a natural border that spanned a third of the Novix Galaxy. It had required ample preparations, but it worked out.

The meteorite ring was no longer there, and Michael's first plan to initiate the turning point of the Titan War had been executed. [Are you still too tired to attack the Cosmos Beasts?] Jormungandr asked, trying to change the topic.

'Nice try, but I will come back to ask you three about the Divinities forming in my Soul Sphere. We have to talk about it at some point and I think it will be of everyone's interest if we talk about it now rather than in a few years when I formed three fully functioning Divinity Seeds. Maybe, in a few years, the Divinity Seeds are already blossoming and growing into powerful Divinities.'

It was better to be prepared to fight a Demi God than being ignorant and believing that the Demi Gods would never attack him. That was just foolish.

Michael didn't have to talk about it right away, but he had to talk about it with the God Curses. After all, he had wanted to upgrade Death Call and Sacred Constitution to 9-Star after learning from Fenrir that the God Curse could use its Divinity through him and 9-Star Extraction. Maybe it wasn't necessary to use their Divinity at all times, especially as it drained their Divinity rapidly, but Michael knew the dangers of provoking the Supreme Human Alliance. It was better to be prepared to fight a Demi God than being ignorant and believing that the Demi Gods would never attack him. That was just foolish.

'Either way, let's deal with the Cosmos Beasts... differently, though. I don't like the way the Supreme Human Alliance groomed them.' He licked his lips in the middle of nowhere and scanned his surroundings. The space was empty, thus, Seer's True Vision revealed the accumulated energy masses in thousands of kilometers. At this point, Michael wasn't sure how far he could see through space, but one thing was sure. Michael could see A LOT.

'Help me find the strongest Cosmos Beast. Once that is done, I'll also need some help overwhelming it. The Cosmos Beast shouldn't die. We need it alive.'

Until now, Michael had only seen some Cosmos Beasts at the same level as one of the Divinity Beasts in the Untamed Jungle. Of course, Cosmos Beasts were mythical creatures and thus stronger, but that was hardly a problem. The only issue Michael would have to solve was to block the Cosmos Beasts from escaping his clutches by teleporting through the cosmos – which was something they could do easily –, but that shouldn't be a major problem.

Michael traveled alongside the area where the meteorite rings had once been. He encountered some Divine Lifeforms of the Altors Union and approached them. They approached him with vigilance, but since he used Curse Fusion to transform his body – change it to ensure nobody would accidentally consider him a Hyuman of the Supreme Human Alliance – Michael had an easy time talking to them. He discovered where the strongest Cosmos Beasts hibernated and how strong the mightiest Cosmos Beast was.

'I think I need your Divinity to weaken the Cosmos Beast, Fenrir. You'll have to help if you want me to deal with a bunch of Primal for you.'

Fenrir growled but didn't say anything. That was enough for Michael.

'Good boy.' He teased, while Fenrir went crazy. On the other hand, Hel and Jormungandr chuckled, adding fuel to the fire.

[Our little brother is indeed a good boy!]

967 Texorian Meteorite Streams

"What happened to the Texorian Meteorite Streams? How in the damn hells did they disappear overnight?!?" A massive Hyuman bellowed. His fist smashed heavily onto the table before him, destroying the innocent wood instantly.

"W-we don't know what exactly happened, but we can presume a Divinity has been used to remove the Texorian Meteorite Streams," A young woman, filled with fear, explained, "We have yet to conclude which Divinity has been used because there are no remnants left to test, but we are certain...something happened."

"So, you know that something happened? That's great. If not for you, I would have never known that SOMETHING happened! The damn Texorian Meteorite Streams disappeared. OF COURSE, 'soMeThInG' must have happened, you Tecla-brained idiot!" The Hyuman clutched a piece of the broken table and hurled it in the woman's direction.

"I didn't hire you to give me the obvious answer. You are supposed to tell me why the hell a God would suddenly side with the Altors Union. Since when does the Altors Union have good relationships with any of the Gods in the first place? Aren't they afraid the Primal will intervene? How did they convince a God to join their war?!?" The woman shrieked and hid behind a boulder in fear of turning into a victim of another rage bait. She swallowed hard and cleared her throat to continue her report. Once completed, she could escape the Hyuman's wrath.

"W-we received multiple reports from the Hyuman Fortresses...emergency notifications, t-to be precise. Your course of action was not successful. All Hyuman Fortresses across the Texorian Meteorite Streams have been destroyed. There is no survivor. T-the defenders of the Texorian Meteorite Streams are no more...j-j-just like the Texorian Meteorite Streams..." "Arggh!!!" The Hyuman roared, unleashing his energy in a moment of rage. The walls around him trembled violently and threatened to collapse, but they lasted long enough until the Hyuman calmed down.

"So, you are going to say that a God intervened in the game of mortals and Immortals, obliterating several dozen Fortresses and the Texorian Meteorite Streams?!"

"W-w-we are not sure if all of it was a God. The radars picked up a single Divine Lifeform. But... the Divine Lifeform's energy fluctuations weren't that powerful. The sensors say the being was an ordinary Divine Lifeform... It appeared near the Fortresses before they were destroyed. After the Fortresses ceased to exist, the Divine Lifeform disappeared. It only returned when the Texorian Meteorite Streams ceased to exist..." The Hyuman Overlord, who controlled the lands of the Novix Galaxy and the border to the Genox Galaxy, cursed loudly, but his interest was picked, "You're telling me the God has a disciple whom he deployed to get rid of the Hyuman Fortresses before obliterating the Texorian Meteorite Streams? That fucking bastard!"

He cursed again but fell deep in his thoughts.

"Can we inform the Primal? They don't like unauthorized uses of Divinities." The Hyuman Overlord tilted his head and waited for the young woman's reply.

"W-we can't do that yet...The Supreme Human Alliance is forbidden from using the Primal Order for a few more years. Because of the Blue Moon inci-..." "Don't tell me about it. I know why these bastards expelled us. There is no need to remind me, idiot." "Yes, Sir..."

The woman was about to say something else when she received a call. Under normal circumstances, she wouldn't take the call, but the only loud ringtone in her system was from the emergency hotline. The young woman accepted the call after the Hyuman Overlord waved dismissively. Half a minute later, the young woman ended the call. She was pale, and her eyes widened in surprise.

"Speak!" The Hyuman Overlord ordered.

"Ahh...Eh....This might be a l-little problematic, but..."

"Speak already before I beat it out of you!!!" "T-the Rangers lost control of the Cosmos Beasts. They...stopped attacking the Altors Union and started attacking our settlements and spaceships instead!" The young woman sputtered, her voice cracking left and right.

The Hyuman Overlord paled for the first time. The disappearance of the Texorian Meteorite Streams was already bad enough, but losing all Hyuman Fortresses and control of the Cosmos Beasts simultaneously was the worst-case scenario. The Altors Union had a much tighter guard deployed to the Novix Galaxy and would easily overwhelm the defenseless planetary systems inhabited by the Hyumans. "Call the Elders or the Ancients. I don't care who comes, but we need backup. Otherwise, the Novix Galaxy will be conquered by the Altors Union, and the borders to the Genox Galaxy will be fully exposed. We need reinforcement!"

The young woman swallowed hard but nodded. It was necessary to respond fast, otherwise, it would be too late.

"We need to move fast. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Gather your forces and move out!" one of the Altors Union's Commanders shouted, rallying his forces on one of the defensive lines in the Novix Galaxy. He and the other Commanders had received multiple reports about an unidentified Divine Lifeform traveling through the Texorian Meteorite Streams, but they didn't think much about it. Some received reports about the destruction of the Hyuman Fortresses, but that was good. Nobody complained about the deaths of their enemies.

However, the news about the Texorian Meteorite Streams' disappearance and the sudden change of behavior from the Cosmos Beasts shocked them to the core.

Quick research showed the Altors Union's Commanders that Divinity had been used to remove the meteorite streams, that the Hyuman Fortresses along the streams had been removed – not a single survivor was left behind – and that the changed behavior of the Cosmos Beasts was unrelated to the disappearance of the Texorian Meteorite Streams. They had yet to conclude why the Cosmos Beasts stopped attacking them, but it was a pleasant change.

The Altors Union's Commanders combined their forces and, after informing their superiors, set off to attack the Supreme Human Alliance's civilization in the Novix Galaxy. They received permission to attack and were told to conquer the Novix Galaxy in its entirety while reinforcement was on their way.

The most peaceful galaxy between the Supreme Human Alliance and the Altors Union was bound to transform into one of the most violent and busiest battlefields. It was all thanks to Michael, who disappeared into the shadows of the Novix Galaxy to observe his enemies and study the actions of both Titans.

The Altors Union might not be allied to the Nest anymore, but that didn't mean Michael couldn't exploit them. There was no reason not to abuse them as much as the Altors Union had abused the Nest. Why should he hold back if he had the means to do as he pleased?

He watched the forces of the Altors Union cross the meteorite rings, or where they had been, and charge the planetary systems of the Supreme Human Alliance.

The Supreme Human Alliance responded to the attacks, but it was at a numerical disadvantage, as its defensive forces had never been that great. It was also still waiting for reinforcement.

Michael watched the forces and acted as well. He didn't attack in the open but assassinated the strongest forces within his range, silently accumulating more Soultrait Symbols and SoulStar Fragments.

He had a few more Soultrait Symbols to acquire and Soultraits to upgrade after all!

Chapter 968 Beef with the Primal

Finding the Cosmos Queen Beast hadn't been easy. Michael wasted several days traveling around the Novix Galaxy using Cosmis Stride, only to catch and suppress a weak Cosmos Beast. Once suppressed, Michael could easily use Mind Watcher on the creation. He read its mind, acquiring all the needed information before considering killing the Cosmos Beast. Instead, Michael slightly altered Mind Watcher's usual utility. He couldn't alter memories but adjust how the beast thought.

Doing so helped Michael travel with the Cosmos Beast. The Cosmos Beast teleported to their nest, where the Cosmos Queen Beast was hibernating.

The nest of the Cosmos Beasts wasn't located in an ordinary place. It was in an isolated space that couldn't be entered easily. Michael could only enter it by clinging onto the Cosmos Beast before it teleported into the isolated space.

The isolated patch in the middle of nowhere didn't look any special, but it was a massive, hollow planet. Hundreds of thousands of Cosmos Beasts inhabited the hollow planet, transforming it into their nest.

[This is more than expected.] Hel said bluntly.

Even Michael was surprised. If the Supreme Human Alliance was in control of the Cosmos Queen Beast, which he named the strongest presence in the isolated space, they shouldn't have an issue dealing with the Altors Union in the Novix Galaxy.

'Why did they not attack the Altors Union with this many Cosmos Beasts? Not a single Cosmos Beast is a Lesser Lifeform. Even the youngest seem to be Higher Lifeforms. They're probably born as Higher Lifeforms and grow to the Peak of a Higher Lifeform as they reach maturity. The elderly are Divine Lifeforms and the Cosmos Queen Beast...she might be a Beast on the verge of attaining godhood...or am I missing something?'

[She is not even close to becoming a Beast God. Her Divinity Seed was damaged severely before she could shape it properly. The Supreme Human Alliance must have damaged her Divinity Seed to suppress her and ensure she will never attain godhood. The Supreme Human Alliance is probably not strong enough to contain a Beast God. But they seem strong enough to handle a Demi, a Beast halfway to the grand powers of a proper Divinity.]

Michael nodded slowly. The energy he sensed was similar to Selena's power level or how strong she had been before fusing several Soultrait Symbols to her. Selena was now stronger than the Cosmos Queen Beast but wasn't present. If she had been present, Michael would have had an easy time suppressing the Cosmos Queen Beast and taming her by force.

But that wasn't the case. The Nest Leader wasn't present, and Michael wasn't strong enough to deal with a Demi alone. 'Either you help me, Fenrir, or this will be a little bit more bloody than I'd like it to be.' Michael told the God Curses in a matter-of-fact tone.

The God Curses were silent momentarily, but Michael could sense that the siblings were talking among themselves. That rarely happened because they didn't see a reason to spend their precious energy isolating Michael from their chats within his mind. It felt weird to be excluded from something happening in his mind, but he accepted it. There was nothing he could do about it, either way.

[Are you going to kill the Primal?] Fenrir asked after a while.

'I need more information than that. In the first place, you guys never told me who or what the Primal are. I've asked you multiple times to tell me more about them, yet Jormungandr is the only one who told me that the Primal has been following him to seal you away. I guess they did the same to you, Fenrir, but that doesn't really explain anything to me.'

Fenrir growled but acknowledged the issue after a few moments.

[The Primal are the first existences to gain control of origin energy. They awakened their War Rune with the creation of the Origin Expanse. They were never Lords because the appearance of Lords didn't start until ten thousand years ago – or something like that. I don't know the exact number, to be precise, since I have been sealed away before the first Lords appeared. Either way, the Primal are few. They cannot procreate because their powers were born in the Origin. Their DNA is too much for anybody to handle. Some Primal tried to procreate with each other but their DNA clashes and obliterates one another, but that is a different topic.]

[Important for you is only the fact that the Primal don't like self-made Gods too much. While the Primal can be considered born Deities as the Origin Expanse gave birth to their Divinities, somewhat, the same cannot be said for others. The Will, after realizing how strong the Primal has become, expelled the Prima from the Origin Expanse before altering its ways to control the Origin Expanse. Most beings on the verge of attaining godhood, or after forming a proper Divinity, say the Will helps the creation of Gods in the hope of working against the Primal.]

'If that's the case...it is no wonder that the Primal try to capture and seal Gods. Killing Gods is not that easy, probably not even for the primal, but they can seal them away, using the same being who created them – the Will – to fight them.'

[They do not fear all Gods. Some Gods become their subordinates. Minor Gods are of no interest to them, except if they intervene in their plans in the mortal and immortal worlds. But they did not like what our father did...how he helped us create some of the strongest Divinities to exist...Divinities that can grow seemingly endlessly.]

Fenrir stopped for a moment, and Jormungandr jumped in.

[We acquired the Authorities – the specific Laws – of the cosmos and weaved them into our Divinity Seeds before it blossomed and shaped into a proper Divinity. I acquired the authority of Power, Hel claimed the authority of Death, and Fenrir's authority, which is basically something I claimed a trace as well, are the authorities of Extricate, Absorption, and Entangle.

Fenrir has multiple Authorities because he never managed to gain mastery of one of the strongest Authorities, but by tearing apart the three masteries he'd acquired and fusing them countless times before the perfect Authority had been formed, Fenrir managed to create an Authority stronger than ours.]

Michael nodded slowly.

'So, to put it simply, you guys did something crazy that angered the Primal. They went after you, caught Fenrir, and are also in pursuit of Jormungandr and Hel. That being said, I am currently forming Divinities using your Authorities as a base...which also means that the Primal will come after me once they realize what my powers are and whom I got my Divinities from.'

He was still nodding.

'In that case, I will have to fight the Primal sooner or later as long as you support me and my growth with your Divinities, either way. So why are you asking me that question in the first place?'

Fenrir remained silent while Jormungandr and Hel chortled. They made fun of their brother.

[I don't think Fenrir was thinking that far.] Hel explained that it was only for Fenrir to growl deeply.

[Y'all didn't think that far either. It was so obvious that it was well-hidden again!!]

Chapter 969 Cosmos Queen Beast

After some back and forth, it turned out that Fenrir, Jormungandr, and Hel had forgotten a simple fact. They had known that by using their Divinities through Michael and their bound Soultrait Symbols, they created seedlings of their Divinities inside Michael. But they forgot that the Primal would hunt him for possessing the same Divinities as the siblings. The reason they'd been hunted and sealed was because the Primal hadn't been strong enough to kill them. The siblings had to be sealed away once found.

But what would happen if someone with three Divinities like that were to appear? The Primal would gather and kill Michael with combined efforts before it was too late. While that might be bad, it had always been known how hard it was to find the Primal. Usually, the Primal would come and find you. After all, they could seal their powers perfectly, and it wasn't like many of them were still alive.

At the end of the day, they would probably have to gather and attack Michael to seal him away or kill him right away. But if Michael was strong enough to deal with the Primal at that point, he could solve all of their issues at once.

All Michael needed for that was enough time to get to know the God Curses' Divinities and to grow a little stronger to use the full power of the Divinities without melting to death. Dying would be rather...unpleasant. It was certainly not something Michael was looking forward to. However, what he was looking forward to was to use Fenrir's Divinity to suppress the Cosmos Queen Beast.

He didn't waste anymore time once it was clear that Fenrir and his siblings would have to use their Divinity to form a proper seedling in Michael's Soul Sphere sooner or later.

Michael traveled to the hollow planet, attracting the attention of the Cosmos Beasts. They didn't immediately attack him, sensing something about him was off. But some Cosmos Beasts attacked him once it was clear where Michael was headed. He took a deep breath and was about to retaliate against the charging Cosmos Beasts with as much violence as was needed to make an example out of them when Jormungandr made his move.

The World Serpent didn't hold back and consumed the entire curse power accumulated within the hundreds of Serpent Seals that had formed in the Living Image of the World Serpent over the last few years. The amount was tremendous, more than Michael had been forced to use to order Jormungandr to swallow the Dragys settlement.

Jormungandr's presence expanded rapidly. It gushed out of Michael, shrouded the young man, and burst into all directions. A halo formed around Michael, showing the World Serpent in its majestic beauty. A massive, several thousand-meter-long serpent appeared all around Michael, engulfing him.

The massive serpentine slits of the World Serpent lingered on the charging Cosmos Beasts, who slowed down before coming to a halt. They were frozen and stared at the massive halo slithering through their territory. Even if the charging Cosmos Beasts were several times stronger or more numerous, none would attack the massive serpent infiltrating their territory. It was too strong.

The World Serpent wasn't even at its full length. It devoured the surrounding energies to expand. Simultaneously, its halo gained some substance. It didn't completely recreate the World Serpent's body but intensified Jormungandr's presence.

Michael traveled through the Cosmos Beast nest, his attention lingering on the massive energy mass of the Cosmos Queen Beast. He could have teleported to the queen beast and considered doing that if the Cosmos Beasts had continued attacking, but that didn't seem necessary. Their entrance was much more impactful now that they traveled through the nest with light steps.

["What do you want from us?"] An unfamiliar, oddly hoarse, and hissing voice resounded through Michael's mind. Jormungandr hissed back at the Cosmos Queen Beast's attempt to intimidate Michael, with its presence entering Michael's mind, but Michael cared little. If another voice in his head was enough to intimidate him, the God Curses would have never picked him as a suitable vessel to beat the crap out of the Primal.

[Initially, I planned to suppress you and use my Soultrait to tame you. That way, you would have to obey me when I tell you to stop attacking the Altors Union and start attacking the Supreme Human Alliance. But I'm not sure about that anymore. Is it necessary for me to keep going, or are you willing to change your target?] Michael asked the Cosmos Queen Beast via Whispering Energy while continuing his path to the center of the hollow planet.

He found the Cosmos Queen Beast at some point. She looked like a Leviathan, a several hundred-meter-long serpent with a pointed snout, purple heavy-plated scales covering her body, two massive horns jutting from the back of her head, covering openings that might as well be ears, and a whitish belly. The scales on her belly were infused with a tremendous amount of energy. Each scale must contain several times more energy than an Ancient-grade Energy Stone.

It wouldn't wonder Michael if each scale was as valuable as Primordial Energy Stones or Liquid from the Origin – Origin Droplets. Given how many scales had already been harvested, Michael could only presume that the Hyumans had collected quite a few scales over the years.

[Fight against the Hyumans? Aren't you one yourself? Do you want to fight me?] The Cosmos Queen Beast asked, but she didn't sound aggressive. In fact, Michael's words didn't seem to reach – or affect – her in the slightest.

[I am not a Hyuman. Even if I were, I wouldn't be on the Supreme Human Alliance's side. They're disgusting, and I would prefer if you didn't affiliate me with them. Either way, what do you think? Do you want to bash the Supreme Human Alliance, or must I help you understand how big a mistake it would be to keep attacking the Altors Union?] Michael didn't have to remind the Cosmos Queen Beast. Jormungandr's presence was more than enough to show the Cosmos Queen Beast that Michael was not alone and that he was much stronger than his Tier suggested. Even if he was 'only'

a Tier-7 Divine Lifeform, Jormungandr's power demonstration put Michael on a whole different level.

[Is that a threat?] Michael shrugged. The Cosmos Queen Beast sounded more reasonable than expected. He'd planned to use force and suppress her, but it would be best if he didn't have to resort to that. Fenrir could save some of his power for a later date. Every bit of Divinity would be needed in the near future, so splurging it uselessly wasn't necessary.

[I'd appreciate it if I could convince you to fight the Supreme Human Alliance without a fight.]

[I'm afraid the situation is not that simple. The Supreme Human Alliance ripped a trace of my soul out of me when I was born. They raised me and altered my soul, preventing me from attacking Hyumans. Even ordering the Cosmos Beasts to attack the Supreme Human Alliance would kill me.] Michael frowned, but he nodded slowly. Still, 'altering soul' picked his interest. The term was something Michael was quite familiar with at this point.

[Blood Incursion?] Fenrir asked, while Michael only smiled when he inserted a trace of True Extraction Essence into the Cosmos Queen Beast without warning.

[Yep. Blood Incursion.]

Chapter 970 Freed

[What do you think you're doing?!] The Cosmos Queen Beast thundered.

She opened her massive eyes and stared at Michael, who regarded her calmly.

[I am trying to help you, so calm down. I know what they have done to you and can solve it. They didn't alter your mind, did they?]

[You can help? Yes...they didn't change anything about my brain. My mind is as clear as ever.]

Michael nodded slowly. He perceived the changes within the Cosmos Queen Beast, but he wasn't 100% certain if the Queen Beast's mind had been affected. Given the Cosmos Queen Beast's age, he would have to use Mind Watcher to study her mind for over a month, maybe years. That wasn't feasible. They needed a faster solution.

Fortunately, the Cosmos Queen Beast didn't seem fond of the Supreme Human Alliance. That was a big enough indicator to say that the SHA didn't alter the Comps Queen Beast's mind. Of course, he could be mistaken, but with the beast's help, Michael had a rather easy time solving most of their problems. [The Supreme Human Alliance used a method and resource called Blood Incursion. However, since you are a beast, they had to use a different version. At least, that's what I think. It makes everything much easier for me, to be honest. I can solve your problems.]

The Cosmos Queen Beast's eyes lingered on Michael for a while.

[What do you want from me?]

Michael frowned.

[Didn't I already say what I want? I hope you can attack the Supreme Human Alliance and ignore the Altors Union. Since you must be in control of the Cosmos Beasts, you should have no problem commanding them. And you dislike the Supreme Human Alliance for enslaving you. Don't you want revenge?]

The Cosmos Queen Beast didn't say anything for a while. She considered whether she should exchange one devil for another by accepting Michael's help. He could understand that point of view. However, if he was in the Cosmos Queen Beast's situation, he would instantly accept the offer to take revenge on the SHA. The SHA enslaved her since birth. No matter how bad the devil replacing the SHA would be, it couldn't be as bad as being enslaved for hundreds of years. The Supreme Human Alliance was worse than any other devil. The Cosmos Queen Beast came to the same conclusion.

[If you can help me regain freedom, I will also help you. That is only fair. I do wish for vengeance, too.]

That was the best possible solution. He wouldn't have to become a bad guy for attacking the Cosmos Queen Beast and might as well be able to turn her into a trusted ally. With that in mind, Michael started to work. [Don't reject my powers. No matter what happens, you have to endure it.] Michael announced before using Extraction and Insert simultaneously. Since they didn't have much time and the souls of monsters couldn't be filled with powerful Soultrait Symbols, Michael had to flood the Cosmos Queen Beast with SoulStar Fragments while simultaneously cutting out the spots of Blood Incursion. Michael's moves had to be deadly precise, allowing him to cut out the spots while filling the gaps. It was difficult, close to impossible, without inflicting horrifying pain on the patient, but Michael didn't have to pay much heed to the Cosmos Queen Beast's pain. The Cosmos Queen Beast was a Demi. She could endure some pain.

Time passed eerily slowly for the Cosmos Queen Beast. The Cosmos Beasts, connected to their Almighty Mother, sensed and shared her pain, putting them through tremendous pain, but Michael paid little attention. The children tried attacking Michael once, but Jormungandr's hues were strong enough – with enough substance – to repel the Cosmos Beasts and hit them barely strong enough to keep them at bay. They tried attacking again, but the slaps on their wrists intensified the second time. Some were knocked out right away, while others started bleeding from several spots.

Still, it wasn't until the Cosmos Queen Beast ordered them to stop before they stopped.

The Cosmos Queen Beast was still in pain, but she could sense the changes in her soul as Michael worked on her. He put effort, time, and resources into fixing the Cosmos Queen Beast's condition and didn't hurt her even though he had the means to do so. If he'd wanted to, he could force himself into her mind and soul and suppress her. He couldn't go against Blood Incursion's influence while it was still within the Cosmos Queen Beast, but it was possible to work against it now that most of its influence was no longer there.

But Michael didn't do that. He didn't even think about doing something like that. Instead, Michael was more focused on helping the Cosmos Queen Beast quickly. He was unsure how much time had passed, but Michael was satisfied with the result once he was done.

[How do you feel?]

[Probably like someone tore and twisted my soul, cutting out a few pieces and forcing raw bits and pieces of souls into me. I feel different, yet like nothing has changed. Does that satisfy your curiosity?]

Michael shrugged.

[So, you are fine. That's good to know.]

[Yes, I am fine. Finally, I'm free! Vengeance is on the way.]

That was good to know. It would have been a little problematic if the Cosmos Queen Beast had changed her mind after gaining freedom. Well, Michael would have had to resort to violence then. It was good that he didn't have to.

[When will you start attacking the Supreme Human Alliance?] Michael asked, but the Cosmos Queen Beast laughed.

[I already did. The instant I regained full control of my soul, I commanded the Cosmos Beasts. The first has already attacked the Hyuman settlements.]

Michael smiled from one ear to the other. That was even better than expected.

[Have fun with your new luxurious snack. I hope Hyumans taste better to the Cosmos Beasts than the Altors Union's members.]