

S. Lord 991

Chapter 991 Spared

It was interesting to witness how slow traveling through space was for normal beings. The Supreme Human Alliance could equip powerful entities with teleportation devices or order Awakened with spatial Soultrait Symbols to respond to their attack on the Divine Academy, but there were a few particular points most missed.

Michael had yet to encounter someone with a Soultrait like Slipstream. In fact, even Cosmic Stream at 5-Star had been incredibly unique. Michael couldn't be certain about that, but he was confident that only one or two Hyumans with a 6-Star Spatial-type Soultrait would reside in the Supreme Human Alliance. If there had been more, the Supreme Human Alliance would have had better defenses against space travelers and more means to block the Divine Subordinates in the Novix Galaxy.

In fact, the Supreme Human Alliance would have had numerous ways to obliterate the Altors Union if there had been a Spatial Soultrait like Cosmic Stride at 6-Star or 7-Star

But there was nobody like that, or they were busy doing other things. It didn't really matter. All that mattered was that devices like the Compass Relic were incredibly rare and probably safely stored somewhere, and nobody could use them, as well as Michael, either way. Other space travelers could use them to travel themselves and maybe one more person across a few planetary systems, but what was the use of that if they couldn't jump entire galaxies within a few minutes.

Even bridges weren't that fast. That was also why Michael wasn't really concerned with the Divine Academy's destruction. The Divine Academy might not be an easy threat and posed a considerable challenge, but his Super Awakened fought well. Some overdid it a little, but Michael pulled them out easily. Slipstream had already spread across Keiros, ready to teleport anyone wherever Michael wanted.

If he had enough energy, Michael could teleport Keiros to a different place as well. But he didn't plan to do so. There was no need to destroy the entire planetary system by altering the course of a single planet. Michael had something against the Supreme Human Alliance and not the planet they had civilized.

Michael traveled to all the laboratories and considered killing the remaining researchers, but it was Jormungandr who convinced him to spare them.

[They're not infected by Blood Incursion. Force them into a Link of Loyalty, create a laboratory in the Sacred Desert or the Untamed Jungle, and get them to create a product that counters Blood Incursion.]

Michael laughed aloud, scaring the researchers shitless when they saw the insanity in his eyes. They shuddered and tried to hit the alarm, but Swallow Domain had already consumed every little means of defense.

"To think the bastards who create Blood Incursion are not even infected. It looks like every single one of you knows what that disgusting thing does to your mind and soul!" Michael roared, his eyes glimmering dangerously. The overwhelming presence of the three God Curses gushed out of him, accidentally killing a handful of researchers instantly.

Michael didn't even think about feeling sorry for them. It might be a nuisance how they died, but their corpses were still valuable. Michael unleashed True Extraction on them and sucked them dry of everything the corpses once possessed. That was enough to make an example before the remaining researchers.

"Either establish a Link of Loyalty with me and create a product that eradicates Blood Incursion without killing the victims, or something to reverse the effect of Blood Incursion, or everyone here will die..." He kicked the dry skeletons that were only shrouded in an empty husk of skin, "Like these disgusting things."

It was no surprise to Michael when all researchers accepted his 'offer'. They established Links of Loyalty with him and were thrown into the Sacred Desert where they were ordered to stay until a solution to the problem was found. Michael would provide them with everything they needed, but he wasn't confident they would fare well in their ordeal. Still, Michael wanted to give it a try.

[At least, these spineless rats studied Blood Incursion for decades. Some of those old fucks looked like they didn't do anything but study Blood Incursion. Maybe you hit the jackpot with them.] Hel pointed out coldly, but Michael only shrugged.

One way or another, Michael changed from destroying the laboratories to devouring everything with Swallow Domain, only to throw it at the bound researchers and more than ten thousand workers whom he ordered to build a large-scale laboratory. They already had the blueprints and could purchase the ingredients Michael's territory couldn't procure through the Cosmic Shop. Michael wasn't going to splurge his entire fortune researching how to reverse Blood Incursion, but his fundings were extensive enough to invest a considerable amount into it.

Michael didn't stay long in the Origin Expanse. He left right after his subjects heeded the orders. Once he was back in Keiros, Michael first studied the surroundings. He expected a few Demi-Gods or powerhouses of equal power to appear and rescue the Divine Academy, but it looked like they were too busy.

[The Undead Titans, Cosmos Beasts, Altors Union's forces, and a massive group of 600 Divine Subordinates capable of fighting Tier-8 Hyumans head-on aren't easy to face. Plus, you tend to forget how many enemies the Supreme Human Alliance has. Didn't you sell the Thorn Merchandise a bunch of Soultrait Symbols earlier?] Jormungandr said lightly, and Michael nodded.

'Since we are already talking about them. Should I sell them more Soultrait Symbols? I have more candidates to become Super Awakened and need more Origin Liquid. If the Thorn Merchandise has more, which it should have, they might want to strike a better deal. I can offer them a bunch of powerful Soultraits if they promise me to attack the Supreme Human Alliance more openly.'

[That's a possibility, but you must keep in mind that your actions destroy the balance in the universe. If you share too many Soultrait Symbols – especially powerful ones – you are going to create an imbalance that will spark the start of far more intergalactic wars than you may think. This can be problematic if you do not know who you're giving you Soultrait Symbols.] Fenrir warned.

'If you are worried about that, you should have warned me earlier. The Altors Union's deal fell through, but if it didn't, they would have hundreds of powerful Super Awakened, who've already ascended to Divine Lifeforms.'

[I knew the deal would fall through.]

'You did?' Michael asked skeptically, but it was Jormungandr who called Cap.

[That's bullshit, Fenrir! You don't care about the balance of power in the universe. I know that better than anyone. You are just a sick guy who loves playing around. You can ask your children if you don't believe me. Do you want me to search for them and ask how much you've experimented with them, the Frost Giants, the Nightwatchers, and the Demons of the Silvercliff?!]

Fenrir cleared his throat, which sounded funny to Michael, but the Beast God Curse remained silent. Maybe that was for the best.

'If the Supreme Human Alliance stirs more trouble, I will spread more Soultrait Symbols to Divine Lifeforms. They will thank me for that with Origin Liquid, which I will use to create more Super Awakened. That way, I can reprimand everyone receiving Soultrait Symbols from me if they stir trouble after the Titan War ends. That should work out if it doesn't....so be it. In that case, I will have to fight my very own creation.'

Michael shrugged. If Sylth or someone else turned evil and against him or his people, Michael would terminate them. That was fine with him. They were old enough to make a choice, and as long as they had the guts to take responsibility for their actions, everything would be alright.

Focusing back on observing the Super Awakened from above Keiros, Michael noticed a few interesting things.

First, there was the combination of Kaleb and Frederik. Even though they didn't join the fight with a single thought wasted on working with each other, their actions showed the opposite. Frederik focused on the students and ensured no High Awakened would reach Kaleb. He also ensured no Awakened could use Support Soultraits or Curse Soultraits to weaken Kaleb or strengthen the Instructors.

That was another reason Kaleb survived against the Instructors. Once Michael pulled Kaleb out of the hall, Frederik changed his stance. He still fought valiantly, but part of him pulled those fighting against the effect of Blood Incursion to the side. Michael could already tell what Frederik was going to request from him, and he was going to accept the request.

'Thinking about it from a father's point of view is truly a mess. I understand you, Frederik. But... that doesn't make it easier.'

Michael sighed deeply when he saw a few young boys and girls among the students in the Divine Academy. Frederik killed everyone who attacked them ferociously, knowing they couldn't be salvaged, but everyone – not missing a single Human or Hyuman – trying to block Blood Incursion's influence was rescued.

That was praiseworthy, but it also meant Michael had to put in a lot of effort and resources to put them all into a coma, establish a Link of Loyalty, and start working on their Blood Incursion in the same old way...except.

Michael tilted his head.

'What if they remain in a coma for a few years until you or the researchers have a better solution?' [You want them to grow older and miss most of their childhood or teenage years only because you are too lazy and stingy to give them your SoulStar Fragments?] Fenrir asked, but Michael could only curse.

'I fucking hate you. I was just asking a question. After all, I cannot rescue hundreds of struggling Hyumans simultaneously!'

[That was a joke. Calm down, buddy.]

'I am not your buddy. This relationship is a little bit too intimate to be buddies.' Michael cursed quietly, ignoring the flood of comments from the God Curses.

They were getting on his nerves. Or maybe not. The God Curses were actually entertaining to be around. If not for them, Michael would be struggling a lot more than he was currently doing.

In the first place, Michael would be in the Origin Expanse, focusing on expanding his territory rather than zig-zagging through the Supreme Human Alliance's territory, provoking their Demi-Gods, hoping for some of them to arrive.

After all, he wanted to kill a Demi-God and find out what would happen if he used True Extraction and Fenrir's Divinity on their forming Divinity. Could he extract their Divinity and Insert it into his body?

[I wouldn't do that if I were you.]

'Why?'

[Cause the Primal will hunt—... Actually, it doesn't matter. The Primal will hunt you either way. Go for it. Go wild!] Michael smirked at that. He didn't need anyone's permission to act as he pleased, but it certainly felt good.

Chapter 992: Demi God's Arrival

The conquest of Keiros ended less than 24 hours after they arrived. They attacked fiercely and destroyed the Divine Academy, leaving no stone unturned.

The Super Awakened stored the corpses of those they'd killed, while the survivors were pushed into an artificial coma through River of Vigor. It cost a lot more advanced healing serum than Michael had hoped, but rescuing more than 1,000 Awakened was worth it. They resisted the power of Blood Incursion and deserved a chance to survive and an opportunity to reclaim freedom.

Once the Divine Academy was destroyed, Michael expected nothing else to happen. He was certain the battles of the day were over and that he and his people could leave. But that wasn't the case.

A pair of Hyumans appeared out of nowhere. One of them was a mere Higher Lifeform, but she disappeared mere seconds after they emerged near Keiros. At least, she tried to escape with her Relic, augmenting her spatial-type Soultrait.

Slipstream might be a powerful teleportation Soultrait, but it was much more than that. At least once, it was upgraded to 9-Star. The Soultrait could control the spatial distortions in Michael's range. The range depended on Michael's mastery of the Laws of Space.

Even though Michael's mastery of the Laws wasn't great, it wasn't bad either. In fact, Michael's understanding of the Laws of Space was much more extensive than most other laws. Michael had been studying the limits of teleportation and the means to break through the concealed spatial distortions to avoid getting caught by means like the Floating Union's spatial distortion devices.

His studies progressed quickly even though he hadn't discovered anything new. But that wasn't necessary. There was no need to learn new subjects related to space laws. Imprinting the old, known

Laws of Space into his mind while also unraveling the layers of knowledge the Slipstream Symbol had imprinted into his mind was more than enough to locate foreign distortions in space and temporarily conceal further distortions of the same kind. This would have been difficult if the opposing force was a Divine Lifeform with a powerful teleportation Soultrait, but the High Awakened was probably equipped with a 6-Star Space Soultrait, which had to be boosted by a Relic to teleport a single Demi-God to Keiros.

Michael teleported the Super Awakened to the Nest with a wave of his hands and appeared behind the female High Awakened. The Demi-God spun around, unleashing a massive lightning bolt that would have burned Michael and the High Hyuman at once. If they remained at the same spot, that is.

Michael teleported further away, his attention lingering on the High Awakened. A simple use of Domination crushed the High Hyuman's mental defense, creating a massive opening for Mind Watcher to acquire as much information as Michael needed.

He slit the High Hyuman's throat after a quarter of a second and hurled her dying body toward the charging Demi-God. The Demi-God had short black hair and azure-blue eyes. He was tall and had a lean physique, and his energy system revealed a few more secrets. The Demi God's energy paths were filled with lightning currents rather than the average energy, and his body was riddled with old scars. Some scars affected his energy system, but there were only a few of that kind.

The Demi-God unleashed a lightning bolt toward the High Hyuman, splattering her dying body in countless pieces, only to retain his momentum and appear before Michael a quarter of a second later. Michael studied the Demi God and frowned deeply.

'I think I can handle him on my own.' Michael commented when the God Curses were about to channel their Divinities through him.

He activated all Seals and initiated Curse Fusion. The serpent scale armor, alongside the serpent tail, grew out of his body. His eyes transformed into a pair of predatory eyes, his hair extended, and the right side of his body...died and corroded. If not for the Curse Fusion with Hel, River of Vigor would have activated, healing the dying right side of his body. However, the Death Authority, coursing through him, restrained Death to his right side.

His hands were about to transform into claws, but Michael prevented that step. He allowed the serpent scale armor to cover his hands and applied Greater Enhancement to his body.

Michael didn't hesitate to use Foundation Break and Heavenly Beast Physique to amplify his physical prowess. Michael's body creaked and cracked, trying to get used to the tremendous power surging through him, but it wasn't like there was much time to adapt.

The Demi-God appeared before Michael, his hands clad in black lightning currents as he punched out. The Demi-God was much faster than expected, but Michael blocked the first punch nonetheless. He would have tried evading the attack, but the punch was too fast. Michael raised his arms to block the attack, only to realize the tremendous power of the Demi-God when the attack impacted him.

The punch was already enough to crush the serpent-scale armor, but the black lightning currents did additional damage. They swept inside Michael's body, burning his skin, flesh, and energy vessels. Michael's right arm was useless after the first attack, yet the Demi-God didn't slow down. There

was no way the Demi-God would give Michael an opportunity to regenerate. He unleashed a fury of punches in Michael's chest, face, and left arm, ready to kill Michael after a few attacks.

Michael blocked all attacks. The first two punches were blocked with his body, whereas the remaining blows were blocked by the Imperial Barrier's weakest form. The barrier absorbed the black lightning currents first as they impacted before the punch reached Michael. That, however, was more than fine. In fact, it was exactly what Michael needed to improve his serpent scale armor, his hand-eye coordination, and a few other factors that had been neglected in the last few years.

The corner of Michael's lip curled upward.

"If you want to survive this, you have to show me more!" Michael teased the Demi-God, who continued bashing Michael with a series of dozens of attacks within a second. Michael blocked the attacks one by one. He wasn't as fast as the Demi-God, but he had Seer with True Vision and could predict every attack a fraction of a second before it impacted. There was more to it, though. True Vision also saw how much energy and Divinity the Demi-God inserted into his attacks.

At first, Michael was certain the Demi-God would slowly increase the intensity of his attacks, but he didn't even tap into his Divinity Seed when Michael started retaliating. Once Michael finished analyzing the attack pattern of the Demi-God and the force of his punches and black lightning currents, he could counter them easily with a slightly stronger form of Imperial Barrier.

The Soultrait didn't drain any energy since Michael applied True Extraction with Insert on the Imperial Barrier, creating a self-repairing barrier, which absorbed the surrounding energy, including the black lightning currents.

A fraction of the lightning currents were absorbed and transformed into just enough energy to strengthen the Imperial Barrier and block incoming blows. That was perfect, but it was also why Michael was so confused.

"Why are you not using your Divinity? Wait..." Michael's eyes widened.

"Did they actually deploy one of their weakest Demi Gods rather than someone who's about to attain godhood?" He asked.

"Foolish!"

Chapter 993 Battle of Demi Gods

The Demi-God roared in anger and channeled more energy into his attacks.

"I don't need a Divinity to kill you, disgusting cretin!" He bellowed in between a series of heavy blows. Michael raised an eyebrow, but that seemed to worsen the Demi God's mood. Michael's barriers blocked all his attacks easily: "You are only an 8th Tier. I will kill you and get what I deserve!"

Michael blinked at the Demi-God, unable to hide his surprise. Were all Hyumans like this? Delusional, narcissistic, and lacking a few brain cells? He upped the power of his Imperial Barrier to block the follow-up attacks.

"I'm not sure if you are arrogant or plain stupid. Did you even ask your superiors about my powers, or did you come here thinking you could kill me with that kind of power?" Michael asked while channeling advanced healing serum through his body. His serpent scale armor was regrowing, and

his burned energy paths and flesh regenerated rapidly. Only a few seconds passed before Michael looked like he had never been injured.

Michael glanced over to the remnants of the girl levitating in the open space and sighed.

The girl didn't know much about their mission. She had only been told to bring the Demi-God, Lanester – or something along those lines – to Keiros and leave right after. Her knowledge of Lanester was not extensive, but it was enough for Michael to deduct a few things.

"You are merely a pesky Curse User who channels his Curse's Divinity through your body! I will rip the Divinity out of your soul and make it mine!!" "Lanester, I don't think you are aware of your situation. Don't underestimate your enemies like this," Michael sighed. He wasn't sure what the Supreme Human Alliance thought when they deployed Lanester to kill him. Did they underestimate him even after everything they'd seen him do.

[What did you expect? I mean, this guy is one of the weaker Demi-Gods, but he is still a Demi-God. You shouldn't underestimate him either.] Jormungandr pointed out while Fenrir growled.

[The Supreme Human Alliance is stupid. They could have deployed one of their Pseudo Gods. A few Demi Gods are always postponing the Final Ascension to master an Authority. The SHA should have sent one of those people to take care of you. Or maybe they're too afraid of the Primal to do that. I don't know. It's stupid to send this Lanester, though. Did they plan to kill him before he turns into a problem?]

Michael shrugged. He had no idea what the Supreme Human Alliance was thinking but considered their act as a means to stall for time. Maybe more Demi-Gods were already on their way to greet him. Was that it?

"I have a few more high-ranked Soultraits than you and more than one God Curse, but you should have noticed that at this point. If you didn't...well, it doesn't matter. You will be dead in a few minutes ei—..." Michael didn't finish his sentence but jumped into action instead.

He was tired of defending and used Unlimited Enhancement on Seer's Domination instead. Domination hit Lanester's mind and soul but caused little damage. Michael teleported behind Lanester when the Demi-God retaliated to the mental attack with a barrage of lightning bolts. Michael accessed the Death Authority that had blossomed inside his Soul Sphere and pressed his hand flat against Lanester's back. A moment later, a beam of Death burst through Michael's right - undead - hand. The Death beam would have inflicted massive damage to Lanester if Michael hadn't used Insert on the Death Authority, inserting Death straight into Lanester's body.

Michael's Death Authority was not weak but far from reaching Hel's level. That was okay, though. Michael tapped into the Power Authority, coiled his serpentine tail around the Hyuman's leg to pull him closer, and executed a series of ferocious punches. Each punch with his undead side transferred a tiny portion of Death and poisonous curse power into the Demi God's body. In contrast, the punches executed with his left hand focused on transferring True Extraction Essence into Lanester.

The Demi God was surprised by the sudden retaliation, but he grasped the opportunity to be so close to Michael and went all out. Lanester's entire body was covered in highly compressed lightning currents. The currents spurted in all directions for a fraction of a second before Lanester regained control. Then, the currents weaved into his skin and merged, transforming a black lightning armor.

Once the armor was created, the Demi God's speed improved drastically. He accelerated and reached a top speed more than twice as fast as before. That was enough to escape Michael's True Vision. Lanester moved around Michael with terrifying speed. He quickly released bolts of lightning from all directions, punched his shoulders, crushing his shoulder blades once his attack went through the serpent-scale armor, and moved onward to crush his arms and legs and attack his neck.

The attacks caused considerable damage, and Michael's neck broke as well. From Lanester's point of view, it looked like Michael wasn't even trying to defend, but the opposite was the case. Michael had already retaliated by focusing on the Death, poison curse power, and True Essence lingering in Lanester's body. It was a matter of fact that Michael wasn't fast enough to follow Lanester. Maybe he could restrain the Demi God and slow him down, but that wasn't his plan.

Michael regenerated faster than Lanester could injure him. That wouldn't have been an issue for the Demi God, if Michael didn't use Imperial Barrier to weaken or block deadly blows. Michael might not be physically faster, but his senses were on a whole different level. All his 8-Star and 9-Star Soultraits enhanced his energy perception, some more, others less. One way or another, Michael had the means to perceive the lethality of all incoming attacks easily.

Summoning an Imperial Barrier didn't cost any time. It was instantaneous since Michael had enough energy channeled in all Soultrait Symbols to instantly activate them whenever needed.

Again, Michael focused on destroying the insides of the Demi God. Lanester had burned the serpent tail, but Michael regrew it with an additional layer of highly tempered earth, which coiled around the Demi God when his access to energy was suddenly cut. For a quarter of a second, Michael unleashed the True Extraction Dome to suck the surrounding energy inside his body. Simultaneously, he used the True Extraction Essence within Lanester to cut his energy access. It lasted only a quarter of a second, but that was enough to slow the Demi God.

His tail coiled around Lanester's legs, giving Michael just enough time to push forward and grasp Lanester's head and shoulder with one hand each. Death moved through the Demi God's shoulder and neck and drained the Demi God's defenses.

At last, the Power Authority jumped into effect.

"I told you," Michael said eerily calmly, "You will die."

A moment later, Michael tore the Demi God apart.

Chapter 994 Beastiel Galaxies

Tearing the Demi God might have looked easy but it had required meticulous preparations. Draining the Demi God's energy was only one of many conditions that had to be met.

Once the Demi God's energy reserves were below a certain threshold, the Death and poison curse power inside Lanester weakened his body. Michael focused Death and poison curse power on the Demi God's neck and shoulders, further weakening these areas. The Divinity within Death Call was drained when the Demi God was weakened enough to unleash the Power Authority.

He used the Divinity accumulated within the Primordial Vessel in one go, pushing his raw power to a new all-time high. Lanester tried blocking Michael's attack, but his body was torn apart before his hands could tear through Michael's chest and pierce his heart. The Demi God had attempted that

with a last-ditch effort, but a double-layered Imperial Barrier covering his chest was enough to block the attack.

Actually, it wasn't as simple as Michael made it seem. He was drained of all Divinity he'd accumulated and wasn't yet adept at actively recovering Divinities. Still, the passive recovery of his recently blossomed Divinities would require a few weeks of constant energy influx to recover to their peak without help.

That was a little annoying since Michael couldn't even use Permute to transform the Void Ingots stored within Swallow Domain into Divinity Power. For that, he would have to understand more about his Divinities first. Jormungandr, Fenrir, and Hel could help him with that, but gaining a thorough understanding of his Divinities would require some more time.

[It's not like it matters. You can study our Divinities and keep fighting. As long as you don't stay in the same position for too long, you won't have any major problems for a while. Since the Supreme Human Alliance sent one of the weaker Demi-Gods to attack you, they must struggle to deploy their stronger forces. Either none of the Pseudo Gods are ready to face you and fear the Primal's intervention, or they have another plan. A plan that gives you enough time to wreak a little bit more havoc.] Fenrir issued excitedly.

Michael wasn't as excited as Fenrir, but he understood the point.

'If the Supreme Human Alliance cannot respond to me immediately, I shouldn't waste time recuperating my Divinity. It should be out there, killing more Hyumans.'

That wasn't exactly what Fenrir said, but it was also something Fenrir could have said. Michael's train of thought fit perfectly to Fenrir's persona.

Once Keiros was cleared, all corpses collected, and the survivors put into an artificial coma, Michael brought the victims of Blood Incursion to his territory. The comatose Hyumans were brought to the Sacred Desert into a large structure near the construction site of the massive laboratory. Michael wasn't in a rush, but there was no need to waste precious time in the ruins of the Divine Academy. The Hyumans were brought to the Sacred Desert within a few minutes. After that, Michael used Slipstream and teleported outside the Supreme Human Alliance's territory, where he reunited with the Super Awakened.

Michael gathered with them on an uncivilized planet in a planetary system and galaxy, which had yet to be claimed by anyone. He didn't know much about the Galaxy besides monsters ruling most planets. The Beast God Curses told him a little bit about the Bestial Galaxies and how they were marked. Since this was one of the Bestial Galaxies, Michael and other Divine Lifeforms weren't allowed, but that was fine. Michael's presence was more of a monster than that of an Awakened, either way.

The Beast God Curses altered his presence over the years, leaving little of his old presence behind. As for the Super Awakened... Higher Lifeforms were still accepted in the Bestial Galaxies. Some weaker races sought asylum in Bestial Galaxies, knowing their potential was lackluster and that they were too low to ascend to Divine Lifeforms.

Michael was a little curious about the Bestial Galaxies and how the Beast God Curses were related to them – they were very knowledgeable about the Bestial Galaxies, and Michael couldn't help but

feel like Fenrir or Jormungandr had once been in charge of a few Bestial Galaxies – but it mattered little at the end of the day. Michael wasn't going to stay long in the Bestial Galaxies. Except if...

'No. That will stir even more trouble. I don't think I should do that.'

[But you could. I don't think you understand how annoying the Supreme Human Alliance has been in the last few thousand years. A few Bestial Galaxies were destroyed and conquered by the Supreme Human Alliance. Everyone can sense that you are the Lord of the Untamed Jungle. The Links of Loyalty with millions of monsters influenced your presence, just like our connection did. If you wish to talk to some Beast Gods, we can bring you to them and request the help of Emperor Beasts, Beast Princes, and the like.] Jormungandr said.

'I don't think that's necessary, but I will keep your words in mind.' Michael thought about it a bit and tilted his head, 'In fact, how about we relay some information to the Beast Gods of the Bestial Galaxies to prepare them for what is about to happen? I mean...we are almost certain the Primal will attack me sooner or later.'

[You should message them.] Hel agreed as well.

Michael nodded slowly before using Beast Halo. He summoned Jormungandr, Fenrir, and Hel with a trace of their Essences and ignored the exclamations of Super Awakened left and right to him.

"The Beast Gods should know you. Tell them everything or whatever you want to say. I will establish a small post here to pull back and escape the Supreme Human Alliance's radars. After all, we do not wish to rely on the Altors Union for protection." Michael pointed out.

The three Beast Halos stared blankly at him while the God Curses inside him cursed a little, saying their Halos wouldn't understand them. But that was wrong. The Beast Halos created with a trace of the God Curses' Essence were near-perfectly – though weaker – replicas of the originals. They understood Michael very well and followed his orders.

'It would be great if you all would follow my orders as easily as the Beast Halos.'

[Shut up!] Fenrir roared, while Jormungandr hissed threateningly, [We are still Beast Gods. Don't underestimate our power and influence, kiddo!]

Yes. Yes. The God Curses were powerful and influential. Still, they needed Michael. Of course, he also desperately needed their help, but the God Curses had much more to lose than Michael. Actually...that was not the case. They had the exact same to lose. Maybe Michael had even more to lose since he still had Alice, Lucia, and everyone else in his territory to lose if he died.

'Let's ignore that for the time being. I think we have a lot of more important things to pay attention to. How about we do that and focus on those other things?'

[Such as?] Hel asked. She was the calmest among the God Curses.

'How to damage the Supreme Human Alliance more while gathering more allies to deal with the SHA, their Pseudo Gods, and the Primal, of course!'

Chapter 995 Laws and Authorities

Michael didn't waste any time organizing the Super Awakened and Divine Subordinates. He listened to the reports of the Super Awakened and made several mental notes about their fight in the Divine Academy, their actions, strengths, and weaknesses. Of course, Michael couldn't observe everyone

across the entire planet, but his senses and Slipstream's range of control helped Michael locate some major weaknesses.

Even with six or more Soultrait Symbols, the Super Awakened weren't omnipotent. Their combat prowess was higher than the norm, but even Michael didn't think of himself as a jack of all trades. By accepting a wide variety of Soultrait Symbols, Michael was not 'perfect' at anything. Though, if he was honest with himself, Michael was satisfied with his choice of Soultraits.

They suited each other well and created dozens of powerful combinations. However, Michael pursued something else with the Super Awakened. He hoped they would be 'perfect' at whatever they desired the most. Of course, they would have to be compatible with whatever they desired, but the combination of compatibility and desire made it easier to attain enlightenment. Michael experimented a lot with the Super Awakened but also asked them what they desired. Some hoped to become multitasking like Michael, while others wished to focus the other Soultrait Symbols around their Core Soultrait. That was something Kaleb and Frederik did. Their powers didn't 'change' a lot, but their main powers grew stronger. Sometimes, their attacks didn't look different from when they were Lesser Lifeforms because they didn't. The biggest change is the power level and mastery of their old powers.

Michael established several teams for the Super Awakened. He made sure their powers and personalities were compatible, which would make future battles much easier.

Once the Super Awakened teams had been established, Michael left them to train with each other for a week. The following week, Michael stayed with the Divine Subordinates. He collected the corpses of the enemies they'd killed and spread the Divine Subordinates across the Supreme Human Alliance's defensive lines. They weren't in small groups but instead put into groups of 30-50 Divine Subordinates. That way, they could wreak havoc wherever they went.

It was fun to teleport the Divine Subordinates around every other day, but using Extraction on the corpses they brought was even better.

Michael didn't rush anything but never stopped nourishing his soul and infusing more SoulStar Fragments into his other Soultrait Symbols. The process was long and arduous, but the gains were worth every bit of effort. With the support of 600 Divine Subordinates, whom Michael didn't give any SoulStar Fragments or Soultraits as rewards, and the Super Awakened, who received a small portion of the gains Michael procured from their hunted prey, Michael gained millions of SoulStar Fragments every other day.

At some point, Michael lost count of the SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols he and his people had acquired from the countless Hyumans they'd slain. There were simply too many enemies, and the SoulStar Fragments mountains were too massive to count. It was more like Michael couldn't be bothered anymore. Why would he have to count the SoulStar Fragments if he reinvested them into his soul and Soul Sphere a few minutes later?

Even his Aethyr transformed, slowly shapeshifted, and nourished to gain more substance – more Aether – as more SoulStar Fragments entered its system.

A year passed in the blink of an eye, and Michael became stronger. His Tier might not have improved at all, but his Divinity Seeds had blossomed and were being nourished. They were larger than the Divinities of the other Demi Gods he'd encountered in the last year and certainly several times stronger. Each of them was stronger than the half-formed Divinities of the Demi Gods. That

was only obvious because Michael had multiple full-fledged Divinities, while the Demi Gods were on their way to form them. It might take the Demi Gods decades, more likely centuries, to finish their Divinities, whereas Michael didn't have to do anything. The God Curses had to do all the work, infusing more of their Divinity into Michael. Either they did so intentionally, or they channeled their Divinity through Michael. That would naturally consume bits of their Divinity while the rest would be used to unleash their Divinities' power into the outside world.

The gains his Divinities made were nothing to scoff at. They were remarkable. Still, Michael was more impressed by the size of his soul and the amount of Soul Power entering his body. He had visited the Origin Expanse quite often in the last dozen months and had to acknowledge the massive efforts and achievements of the Silverfang Tigerfolk and the Forest Elves. They had outdone themselves. But there was more to the increase of his Soul Power.

The amount of Soul Power entering his body might be owed to his subjects' efforts, but also to the upgrades of his Soultrait Symbols. Each and every Soultrait Symbol in Michael's Soul Sphere had been upgraded to 9-Star! None of his Soultraits evolved upon upgrading from 8-Star to 9-Star, but their power mutated and evolved. The Soultrait Symbol of Insert, in fact, fused with Extraction. The Extraction Symbol expanded, thus also increasing the size of Fenrir's Wolf Divinity forming in the Soultrait Symbol, but the Symbol of Insert didn't disappear entirely. It was replaced by a small object that looked like a levitating runic enchantment. Michael wasn't quite sure why Insert didn't disappear after it fused with Extraction or why Extraction didn't change. Its name never changed. However, he could not say for sure that Insert was still usable. It was stronger than ever, especially after fusing with Extraction, and Michael's understanding of its powers skyrocketed. He was certain to unveil more of its powers in the near future.

That could be said about all Soultrait Symbols. None of them had a change in their names, but their powers evolved quite drastically.

Still, there was a difference in the upgrade of the other Soultrait Symbols' upgrades and the upgrades of Death Call, Primordial Vessel, and Extraction.

"I don't know if that's a stupid thought...but is it possible for me to form all of my Soultrait Symbols into Divinities?"

Michael sure hoped it would be possible. If he upgraded all of his Soultrait Symbols to 10-Star, which was still something out of his reach, and they could all transform to Divinites, Michael could create a Soul Sphere filled with Divinities. That would be amazing, though Michael felt instinctively that it wouldn't be this easy.

[While it is true that Demi Gods with powerful Soultrait Symbols – if highly compatible with their persona – have it easier to form a Divinity, you do not need a Soultrait Symbol to form one. Many Gods born with lowly Soultrait Symbols acquired knowledge from other things, such as Laws and Authorities, to form their Divinity. Their mastery, enlightenment, and experiences flow into their Divinity Seed, nourishing it slowly.] Jormungandr explained, and Hel added.

[The knowledge you've obtained by fusing and upgrading Soultrait Symbols help you understand the different Laws and Authorities. Still, the 'aid' given from the Soultrait Symbols is not enough to acquire a Law or Authority. Not even a 10-Star Godly Soultrait Symbols, though in that case you might actually have a fairly easy time acquiring enough enlightenment to add it to your Divinity Seed.]

Fenrir burst into laughter.

[If you had a Divinity Seed, that is!!!]

Ah right... there was that.

Chapter 996 Rebels

The lives of all subjects continued in Michael's absence. The Lords and Monster Overlords in the Untamed Jungle and the Sacred Desert still respected Michael for his tremendous power, but most of them didn't see Michael for years. Some hadn't seen him for more than a decade.

His absence in the re-negotiation meetings of various deals and businesses was easy to see. In fact, they didn't see anything - or Michael - at all. Some Lords and Monster Overlords recalled Michael's actions and heard from others how powerful he had grown, but other Lords didn't hear anything. They didn't think Michael was dead. His territories were still present, and his subjects never acted disloyally toward him. Still, something must have happened for Michael to disappear. That was what many Lords and Monster Overlords thought.

They rallied their forces, angry after everything Michael had done to them, and established an Union to move against Michael and his people. They wanted to reclaim what was supposed to be theirs. Or what they presumed to belong to them. This scenario did not only occur in the Untamed Jungle, but the rebellion in the Sacred Desert wasn't as bad. Still, the Desert Rebels were annoying as they considered the Mana Vein of the Sacred Desert as their property. They claimed the Mana Vein and moved against the Sacred Desert forces to kill everyone. Michael didn't expect the surrounding Lords and Monster Overlords to be this stupid, but he was always prepared for battle.

He ordered some Super Awakened to return to the Sacred Desert – the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs – and allowed them to wreak havoc.

That was exactly what they did.

The Warlock Centaurs gathered their forces and acted as the cavalry of the Sacred Desert. Equipped with powerful Artifacts, the combat experience of fighting Divine Lifeforms, which none of the Desert Rebels was, and powerful Soultrait Symbols, the Undying Cavalry of the Sacred Desert bulldozed their enemies.

Mekhaz and his closest subordinates used their powers to pull the attention of all foes in their direction. Mekhaz unleashed Living Armor after upgrading it, followed by Repel and Energy Absorption to their fullest before adding his other Soultraits. Mekhaz was a Super Awakened and had thus received five new Soultrait Symbols from Michael more than a year ago. Given the additional rewards he'd been given from killing hundreds of High Hyumans and his partial contribution to the death of a handful of Divine Lifeforms, Mekhaz managed to upgrade his strongest Soultrait Symbols as well.

Repel and Energy Absorption were upgraded to 5-Star while Living Armor was pushed to 6-Star with enough SoulStar Fragments infused to form the 7th Star. Living Armor was not yet a full-fledged 7-Star Soultrait, but it was only a matter of one or two years before he would have enough SoulStar Fragments to seal the deal.

But Mekhaz wasn't in a rush. He had five more Soultrait Symbols, each of them incredibly useful. One of them was a Last Rope Soultrait, a 5-Star Soultrait ought to protect the Super Awakened from

enemies even they couldn't defeat. But until now, none of the Super Awakened had to use their Last Rope Soultrait in a last-ditch effort to survive. That was great since it meant no Super Awakened's life had been in so much danger that their Last Rope Soultrait activated. However, that might also transform into a problem in the future.

Michael mentioned that being pushed to the brink of death and surviving by sheer luck – or the Last Rope Soultrait, in the Super Awakened's case – teaches you to be more humble and appreciate your life more often. Dying was easy. A single mistake, maybe even arrogance pushing you to believe you could do something others will never, was enough to end your life. Forever.

Michael didn't want the Super Awakened to die, but he was scared to lose them by being stingy as well. Thus, his generosity created 199 overly confident Super Awakened, each of them capable of fighting an enemy above their ranks.

Mekhaz, one of the few who retained a portion of his humble attitude, was still exhilarated whenever he jumped into a battle. He used his Soultrait Gigantification to expand in size, transforming into a massive armor-coated creature, which inflicted fear and terror in the hearts of his enemies. But that was not all. One Man Army was the second Soultrait he had been given from Michael. The more enemies attacked Mekhaz, the sturdier and stronger his body would grow.

Combining One Man Army, Gigantification, Living Armor, and his other combination of Soultraits, Repel, and Energy Absorption with each other, Mekhaz transformed into a massive shield protecting his allies from all foes. That was even more true, so once his other pair of newly acquired Soultraits, Attract Projectiles and Taunting Grimace, jumped into effect.

Attract Projectiles was a Soultrait that did exactly what the name suggested. It attracted the projectiles in the Soultrait's range and forcefully altered their trajectory, pulling them toward Mekhaz, whose Energy Absorption and Repel would either block or absorb the attacks. If the projectiles were too strong for Energy Absorption and Repel, Living Armor, enhanced by One Many Army would be enough to protect Mekhaz.

Mekhaz didn't bother acquiring any Soultraits with tremendous attack power. Gigantification could be used for offense, and if Mekhaz were to be honest to himself, defending and protecting his allies was much more important than attacking. That, of course, didn't mean Mekhaz had no means of attack. Since nobody could injure the six-meter-tall Warlock Centaur, Mekhaz could bulldoze the enemies in the Sacred Desert easily.

He attracted all the attention of the surrounding enemies, which was quite easy thanks to the 6-Star Soultrait Taunting Grimace. Taunting Grimace was a powerful Soultrait that affected all enemies feeling bloodlust. Every trace of bloodlust was grasped tightly, amplified by Taunting Grimace, and diverted toward Mekhaz if he wasn't already their target.

Sometimes, the combined efforts and Soultraits of dozens of High Awakened managed to create a killing blow, which was to take out Mekhaz with one deadly attack, but it failed. Only once was it possible for a Peak Tier-6 High Awakened to strike him hard enough to break the Living Armor. Unfortunately, the Living Armor regenerated and the attack piercing the Living Armor wasn't strong enough to kill Mekhaz anymore.

The Desert Rebels were numerous and everywhere, spread alongside the borders to the Sacred Desert, but once Michael told them to bulldoze everyone going against their will, it was easy to defeat the Lords and Monster Overlords. The Lords' main settlements were crushed, throwing their

territories into chaos, while the Monster Overlords were hunted and killed. Many Awakened survived as the Undying Cavalry focused on bulldozing the main settlements, but that didn't mean the Berserkers were going to spare them.

All the Awakened could do was to surrender, die, or escape the Origin Expanse and never return. It was interesting how many subjects and Awakened surrendered after witnessing the prowess of the Undying Cavalry. Most were shocked to the core, especially about Mekhaz's horrifying appearance as a 6-meter-tall Warlock Centaur mantled in massive silver-shining armor and coated in various Repel and Energy Absorption runes.

Still, the situation was not all sunny. Some city-states were under attack, and too many good men and women died trying to protect the settlements. Since there were only 200 Super Awakened, less than half of which were Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs since they didn't meet the requirements, and there were only a few thousand High Awakened in Michael's army – many being busy with the Fae Union in the Untamed Jungle – the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs ended up splitting their forces to fight on multiple frontlines.

Some enemies squeezed through the defensive lines and attacked the settlements, but most could be repelled. Overall, the warfare with the Desert Rebels was a pleasant time for the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs. They enjoyed fighting until death, and if one thing was certain, it was one thing: The Desert Rebels gave their utmost to kill the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs.

Michael didn't intervene in their battles. He let the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs fight in ecstasy and only came over when it was time to clean up. That was all the Berserkers and Warlock Centaurs wanted. After all, cleaning up wasn't something they enjoyed. At least, not as much as fighting 'till death.

The Desert Rebels' territories were claimed by the Super Awakened, their Summoning Gates destroyed, and their treasury plundered. The Sacred Desert expanded after obliterating the Rebels and conquering their lands.

The situation in the Untamed Jungle was a little bit more tricky to deal with. Fortunately, Michael had trusted allies such as the Silverfang Tigerfolk and the Forest Elves. Of course, the jungle monsters did their fair share of work as well. They didn't stay idle while the Silverfangs and Forest Elves moved against the Fae Union.

The chaos in the Untamed Jungle didn't escape Michael's attention, but he decided against moving out. Michael could have solved all issues with the Fae Union and act like always, yet he didn't.

Michael wasn't supposed to solve all problems of his territory. Maybe some would think it was his task as the Lord of the Untamed Jungle, but his military forces, the Super Awakened and the Untamed Armies existed for a reason. Slipstream allowed him to fight in multiple places without any breaks to cross the distance between two places, but the Soultrait didn't allow him to split up and transform into millions of Mini Michaels.

The whole reason he created the Super Awakened and nourished his forces was to protect his territories from unwelcome guests and to fight the fights he couldn't fight. In this case, the Fae Union had only a handful of Divine Lifeforms, with countless Higher Awakened following their commands. Michael could have killed the Divine Lifeforms, transforming the disciplined armies of the Fae Union into headless chickens, but he hoped his people would learn to fight without him as well.

That would have been helpful in the past, it is useful in the present, and is it going to be incredibly valuable in the future. After all, Michael didn't know how much longer he was allowed to stay in the Origin Expanse.

Gods were expelled from the Origin Expanse.

Nobody knew why – not even the God Curses – but the connection to the Will and War Rune was severed once one attained the power of a full-fledged God. Some said, the Primal forced the Will to expel all Gods from the Origin Expanse for them to hunt, others were certain the Will of the Origin Expanse had another task for the Gods. But, at the end of the day, nobody had ever spoken to the Will itself. Even the God Curses couldn't be certain the Will existed in the way Michael and many others imagined.

One way or another, Michael was growing stronger and he couldn't be certain to be there for all of his subjects at all times. Maybe the Will would consider him as a full-fledged God soon since he had one Divinity Fragment and three blossomed Divinity Seeds from a trio of God Curses inside him. Or the Will wouldn't consider him a God until he created his own Divinity. Michael didn't know and he was not eager to find out.

Chapter 997 No Support?

The Fae Union was more powerful than the Desert Rebels and stirred more trouble all across the Untamed Jungle. They consisted of a few former members of the Divine Alliances and more than a dozen Lords living adjacent to the Grand Region. Most Lords living outside the Untamed Jungle didn't know Michael Fang well enough to understand how strong he was, and most didn't care about it either.

They paid no attention to the fact that the Untamed Jungle was expanding or how much the Grand Region's expansion affected them and their territory.

The Lords were certain to lose their territories once the Untamed Jungle swallowed their lands and region. It didn't matter whether the land was still rightfully theirs as the jungle monsters and terrors hibernating in the Untamed Jungle would attack them relentlessly, using the surrounding environment to advance once the Untamed Jungle had claimed everything.

Their situation was bad, to put it into simple words, and they didn't believe a single word coming out of the mouths of the Untamed Awakened, who came for negotiations. Nobody could tell for sure why the Lords were thinking like that, but they considered the fact that an Awakened knocked on their doorsteps with the intention to negotiate a treaty as a weakness.

But then again, not everyone was like Michael, trying to push as many Lords and Monster Overlords into submission as possible. Most would kill each other and exile the subjects of the Lord who had lost the war.

Michael was a little different in that regard. He always hoped to claim more subjects in other ways. That was not because Michael hated the subjects he summoned, but he considered it unnecessary to summon billions of subjects when the other Lords had enough loyal and hard-working subjects. As long as Michael treated them fairly and showed everyone how much he tried to salvage the situation without violence, everyone would like him.

Of course, Michael wasn't liked by everyone. It was impossible for all beings across the cosmos and Origin Expanse to like him. That was especially true for the Lords in the Untamed Jungle, who had

been forced to submit to the Primordial Tree Spirit. Michael was still unsure how it happened but three Lords managed to escape the Primordial Tree Spirit's grasp when Michael was busy fighting a pair of Demi Gods.

The three Lords were three of the Fae Union's five heads and were responsible for the mess happening in the Untamed Jungle. Michael was frustrated by their actions because he thought he had treated them well. Unfortunately, that had not been the case.

He shrugged once he realized how many Lords were members of the Fae Union and accepted their change of attitude and considered to attack them. At least the three Lords from the Untamed Jungle deserved to be bulldozed by Michael. Still, he held back and allowed his subjects to fight in Michael's stead and obliterate the three Lords of the Untamed Jungle.

"The borders are getting bombarded at all times. It doesn't affect the Untamed Jungle much since the excessive energy that was supposed to nourish the Untamed Jungle to expand faster is being used to negate the damages inflicted on the jungle outskirts. Still, we have to do something before their attacks worsen. For now, the Untamed Jungle can handle the aftermath, but it's unclear how much longer we can stay back and watch," Lilica asked into the rounds, her words resonating with the thoughts of the Awakened and subjects standing around her.

"Michael granted us permission to act as we please. He trusts us, and I do not wish to betray his trust. We have to remove the threats to the Untamed Jungle and our people without losing too many good men and women. If possible, the forces of the Untamed Jungle shouldn't have a single casualty to report," Lilica thundered, and everyone around her nodded. They stomped on their feet, the sound reverberating throughout the Untamed Jungle.

A little flash shot through the clearing and a familiar little demon with vigorous golden eyes and a vibrant smile appeared before Lilica.

"Auntiee~ Throw pets and snakes and little wolfies at the bad people. Serpi can bite them!" Lucia exclaimed, jumping around while Alice rushed behind the little girl.

"You think the Azure Serpent should bite the bad guys?" Lilica lowered her body and ruffled through Lucia's silky hair. The little girl was growing too fast for her own good. In fact, her body developed fast, but her mind was already much farther than the mind of an ordinary child. She her mental age might already be on par with a teenager's.

"Yes yes~!" Lucia exclaimed while Alice caught her. Alice lifted her daughter up and carried the little demon in her arms without breaking eye contact. Lucia kept staring at Lilica, who tilted her head.

"We cannot control the jungle monsters. Only Michael has control of them. Your plan sounds great, but your father told us to handle this problem independently. With our resources. If we ask him for help, the mission would lose all its value. Of course, the threats would be removed, but we are supposed to learn how to fight without Michael."

Lilica didn't expect Lucia to understand her. Still, Lilica revealed her thoughts so that everyone could listen. The others had to hear and understand why Lucia's plan wasn't going to work.

"Resources? I don't know...what do you mean? I...am I a resource as well? I can help too. Father taught me how to control the jungle monsters. He says I have the talent in me. The Untamed Jungle will protect and listen to me..."

Lilica's eyes narrowed to tiny slits trying to understand what Lucia was saying. She quickly gave up and looked at Alice, who smiled lightly.

"Lucia was born with a trade of the Untamed Jungle's Nature in her. I think that's the Authority, which the Primordial Tree Spirit absorbed in the past before altering and augmenting it. Michael taught Lucia how to control the Nature in her. To be precise, he told her how to talk to the forest and the Primordial Tree Spirit and to never hesitate to ask for help." Everyone listened up to look at Lucia and turned to Lilica a moment later.

"I don't think it counts as 'asking for Michael's help' if we ask Lucia to order the Azure Quetzalcoat and the other Divine Beasts, maybe even some High Beasts, to attack the other Lords in the Untamed Jungle. They can take care of the three Lords while we beat the shi-..." Tiara said, only to shut her mouth when everyone looked at her, "While we take care of the other Lords of the Fae Union."

Lilica looked at Lucia, who was still smiling as brightly as before. She was always like that. A happy little child with slightly violent tendencies when it came to people hurting her friends. Looking at it from that direction, Lucia wasn't much different than her father. She liked to play with others and considered everyone as her friends until they weren't, Until they did something stupid and hurt the people she liked. From that moment onward, these 'friends' would become her nemesis and she would do everything in her might to do something against them.

It wasn't possible for a little child at Tier-1 to do anything against the Divine Lifeforms and various High Awakened of the Fae Union, but she could ask her monster friends for help.

Chapter 998 Trap

The Red Dragon circled above the clearing of the Kulik Clan, which was the Clan established by one of the three Lords of the Untamed Jungle, who went against Michael and his people. The Red Dragon roared at the top of her lungs, but she didn't attack yet. She watched the clan members calmly, studied them intently, and waited for the moment. Some members of the Kulik Clan tried attacking her, but none of them was strong enough to reach her with their projectiles. The Divine Lifeforms didn't visit the border settlement yet and probably wouldn't come here anytime soon. Therefore, nobody should be strong enough to harm her.

Even if the Divine Lifeform appeared, not all of them could travel smoothly through the air. Some races weren't made to be flying around. The Kulik, a race that seemed to be made of high-density metal - living metal – was one of such races. They might be able to fly once they ascend to Divine Lifeforms, but they would be slower than the rest, and their energy would be drained much faster than others. After all, it required more energy to carry a heavier body through the sky.

The Red Dragon considered unleashing a fury of flames to burn the Kulik Clan's border settlement to a cinder, but that wasn't necessary. She led the Minor Typhoon Rocs across the battlefield and showed the Silverfangs, Humans, and Forest Elves riding on her back what awaited them.

Rebecca and the others had already inspected the map connected to the Untamed Jungle and were aware of the location of every single enemy living above the root network of the Primordial Tree spirit. The root network spanned all across the Untamed Jungle and expanded even further. No one restrained the Primordial Tree Spirit's growth underground, after all.

"I don't think this will be a problem. We can easily spot and perceive the locations of their spatial distortion devices and can destroy them. The only issue would be the Divine Lifeforms. The Divine Beasts and Azure Quetzalcoatl have to fight in different locations simultaneously. That seems fine at first glance, but one of the Divine Lifeforms has a spatial-type Soultrait. As everyone should know, these types of Soultrait Symbols are a pain in the ass." Rebecca mumbled to the others.

"What do you suggest? I think we can bombard the bases from above with the Rocs and the Red Dragon, destroy the spatial distortion devices, and teleport our allies inside the settlement with the help of the Golden Stinger Wasps or the Golden Queen Bee. Once the High Beasts Hordes, Sun Demos and his subordinates, and the other forces invaded their settlements, only the Divine Lifeform capable of teleporting became a problem. But that guy is something we can handle fairly easily as well. Since others have been using spatial distortion devices against us, we can do the same." Tiara asked, to which Rebecca responded with a nod.

"I think that's valid. But it might be easier if we kill the Divine Lifeforms first. That is not going to be easy, but it certainly won't be as difficult to pull off once the first few steps have been completed."

"How do you want to kill the Divine Lifeforms? I don't think they'll leave their territories so easily. Furthermore, only the Divine Beasts and Azure Quetzalcoatl are as strong or stronger as their Divine Lifeforms. To be fair, we do not even know how strong their Divine Lifeforms are. They're weaker than the Azure Quetzalcoatl, otherwise, they would have had an easy time against the Dragys Lordess even if Michael hadn't intervened, but that's all we know."

"Actually, we do know a little bit more. Our Scouts saw some fights of the Divine Lifeforms. They might not have gone all out, but we stored the Scouts' memories in a memory crystal, and I watched them with my Perfect Analyzation. It is safe to say that only one of the three Divine Lifeforms is in trouble. The others can be defeated by the stronger Super Awakened. I think you and your brother could deal with the weaker Divine Lifeforms while the Azure Quetzalcoatl has to fight the other one." Tiara groaned when her brother was mentioned, but she didn't throw a fit like usual. This was a lot more serious than her family feud. Of course, the family feud was far from simple...and far from over, however, Tiara and Caesus could put aside their differences when it came to protecting the Untamed Jungle and Michael's legacy. They owed Michael too much to disappoint him by quarreling in times of danger.

"We can use Pesolt's Astral Space Cage for the fight," Tiara nodded slowly. A plan was forming in their minds, and it wasn't even 24 hours after their thorough research and planning that they set the plan into motion.

They destroyed all spatial distortion devices in the border settlements using overcharged elemental crystals, mythical flames, massive tycoons, and other means while intentionally ignoring the main settlements of the three Lords. The High Beasts, Sun Demos, and more than a hundred thousand jungle monsters and Elementals were teleported inside the border settlements to wreak havoc. They tore everything apart and moved quickly through the settlements, destroying everything in their path. At first, it looked like the Divine Lifeforms wouldn't move, but when the Divine Beasts, followed by their strongest High Beast underlings, attacked one of the border settlements, they jumped into action. The Divine Lifeform with a spatial-type Soultrait teleported himself and the allied Divine Lifeforms to the settlement the Divine Beasts attacked.

However, instead of attacking as three Divine Lifeforms of the Untamed Jungle, the Divine Lifeforms of the Fae Union had gathered their forces to block all attacks simultaneously. They appeared together in the border settlement, ready to overwhelm the Divine Beasts with their numerical advantage. The Divine Beasts weren't weak, but they were not strong enough to fight against five Divine Awakened. Fortunately, they didn't have to do that. The Divine Beasts roared and attack head-on alongside their subordinates and they were just about to collide when the scenery around them changed drastically. The underlings of the Divine Beasts were replaced by Golden Stinger Wasps, who switched locations again without delay. Tiara, Caesus, and Pesolt replaced the Golden Stinger Wasps, a young Forest Elf who'd just ascended to a Higher Lifeform. He wasn't strong, but his main Soultrait was strong. Michael had enhanced it a while ago, thinking the Soultrait Symbol was worth being nurtured to the peak.

A massive serpent, the Azure Quetzalcoatl, replaced a fourth Golden Stinger Wasp. It appeared and roared aloud, taking the five Divine Lifeforms by surprise. The Kulik with the spatial-type Soultrait was just about to change their plans and disappear with his allies when he realized something. A new spatial distortion device had been installed and activated right after the Azure Quetzalcoatl appeared. He couldn't use his Soultrait anymore and was forced to either fight the Divine Beasts, the two Silverfangs, and the Azure Quetzalcoatl with his allies or to turn around and flee.

The latter would inflict tremendous harm, but they would all survive. Their losses would be tremendous, but nobody expected their border settlements to survive either way. Not after falling victim to a trap like this.

Two of the five Divine Lifeforms turned to escape using their Soultraits. They were confident in their capabilities.

Unfortunately, no member of the Fae Union expected their leaders to disappear.

They were pulled into a different space where Tiara, Caesus, the Divine Beasts and the Azure Quetzalcoatl appeared as well.

The Cage Battle of life and death was about to begin.

Chapter 999 Caged

Astral Space Cage was a tricky Soultrait Symbol. It was powerful if used against weaker opponents but troublesome and complex when used against someone stronger and on multiple people simultaneously.

Astral Space Cage pulled all targets in the Soultrait's range of effect into a massive pocket dimension. The pocket dimension wasn't anything special. In fact, it was an expansive, transparent, flat ground that stretched endlessly across the cosmos. At least, that was what it looked like. The full extent of the pocket dimension had yet to be discovered, but it was large. The surroundings of the pocket dimension looked like a vast, open space, revealing the beauty of the cosmos to all targets.

That was the most important aspect of the Astral Space Cage. However, of almost equal importance was that the Astral Space Cage pulled only a specific number and combination of targets into the pocket dimension. First, the User of Astral Space Cage was also pulled into the pocket dimension AND for every foe, dragged into the pocket dimension, the User had to select an ally with Astral Space Cage.

That being said, for pulling five allies – two Silverfangs, two Divine Beasts, and the Guardian Beast inside Astral Space Cage's pocket dimension, Pesolt had to drag six foes into the pocket dimension. After all, Pesolt was also pulled inside, even if he was way too weak to fight the five Divine Lifeforms.

Other than the five Divine Lifeforms, Pesolt dragged another High Awakened into the pocket dimension. A moment later, he used two of his other Soultraits, Haste, and Speed Exchange, to accelerate. Haste pushed his momentum to a higher level by consuming considerable energy every second, while Speed Exchange did the same by consuming lifeforce.

Pesolt wasn't going to face the Divine Lifeforms head-on – he never planned to do so – but he wasn't allowed to die. Astral Space Cage would deactivate with his death, releasing the five Divine Lifeforms back onto the Untamed Jungle. That was unacceptable. Thus, instead of facing anyone, Pesolt allowed his energy and lifeforce to be drained after turning around to flee from the scene. He didn't look back and charged in the opposite direction of the battlefield. One of the Divine Lifeforms noticed something was off with the Forest Elf. There was no reason to bring a Higher Lifeform into a battle of the Divine. The appearance of the two Silverfangs was already weird, but both were strong. They were 6th Tier Awakened and radiated tremendous power. Their power level was high enough to consider them Pseudo Divine Lifeforms. That was why bringing a 4th Tier Awakened into a sealed space like this was even more illogical.

"The Elf brought us to this place. Killing him should bring us back!" He exclaimed, releasing a bullet of highly compressed energy to kill the Forest Elf. The energy bullet hurled through the air at shocking velocity but didn't cross a long distance. Long before the bullet could reach Pesolt, Caesus jumped before the bullet and cleaved it in two halves. The bullet split apart and dissipated while Pesolt continued running. He might not be faster than a Divine Lifeform or at the same level as one, but at the expense of his energy and lifeforce, Pesolt's speed reached an incredibly high level.

The High Awakened on the Fae Union's side channeled energy through his body and was about to rush behind Pesolt to catch up to him and slaughter the Forest Elf when the blade of a silver dagger glimmered before his eyes. The dagger pierced his eyeballs and penetrated deep into the unfortunate High Awakened's skull, killing the High Awakened on the spot.

"You didn't even try saving him. Why?" Caesus asked lightly, but the confusion in his voice and eyes was apparent.

"He is baggage in this space. Just like your little Forest Elf. But you have to protect your little elfie, while we don't have to protect anyone but ourselves. That makes you weak," One of the Divine Lifeforms replied, but it was evident that Caesus wasn't satisfied with that answer. He looked at his enemies in pure disgust.

"You guys disgust me," He cursed, "But that might be a good thing. It would be a great loss if I were to like my enemies."

Caesus cleared his throat and snorted, "Since that's not the case and you guys are disgusting, I won't have a problem killing you!"

He unsheathed a pair of sabers and charged forward, the power of Descendant, which 1-Star Blessing of the Children had evolved after being upgraded to 7-Star, alongside his other Soultraits, Tightened Bond, Heightened Senses, Power Imbalance, Divine Tiger Physique, and Weapon Manifestation surging through his body.

Caesus had fewer Soultraits than some other Super Awakened, but the average of his Soultrait's star level was much higher than the other Super Awakened. In the first place, Caesus didn't require as many Soultrait Symbols as others. It would have been enough to push Descendants to 8-Star or higher to transform Caesus into a Super Awakened.

Blessing of the Children hadn't been powerful, but the upgraded version had shown the Crown Prince of the Silverfang Tigerfolk how to unleash the true power of his Soultrait. Blessing of the Children allowed Caesus to tame monsters and consider them his children, which then granted him a minuscule portion of their power. That wasn't anything special with only a few tamed monsters, but as the monsters gave birth to offspring, Caesus power level increased further.

All Descendants of him and his children were included in his Soultrait Symbol. As for the increase in power remained on the same level no matter how many generations of offspring had been given birth to. That might not seem like anything special, but given the choice of children, Caesus tamed Goblins, Spiders, and other monsters who gave birth to many offspring at once every cycle or would breed like rabbits.

The biggest problem was that Caesus couldn't tame anything powerful at first. However, with Tatjana's help – the help of the Eye of Evolution, to be precise, Caesus could evolve his monsters and thus gain more power in return. Years had passed since he discovered his Soultrait's secret power, and it came as no surprise that Caesus was now the godfather of millions of monsters, each of them either stronger than the first monsters Caesus had tamed or evolved to grow stronger and give birth to even stronger monsters.

Caesus' main monsters were now a Goblin Emperor with a harem of hundreds of powerful Goblin Shamans, Goblin Queens, and many more powerful Goblins, but also a Bloodshed Spider Queen, which gave birth to Bloodshed Spiders, monsters capable of advancing to the 4th Tier.

Caesus was not a mere 6th Tier Awakened at this point and Tightened Bond, a 6-Star Soultrait that strengthened his bond with all tamed monsters and their offspring, and his other Soultraits helped him a lot to push his prowess closer to the 7th Tier.

Divine Tiger Physique helped Caesus stay close to his bloodline and the powers he'd inherited. It wasn't something he needed, per se, but it strengthened his entire body gradually. It was not unlike Sacred Constitution, only that it helped him nourish his bloodline's powers simultaneously as well. Weapon Manifestation was his weakest Soultrait, but it was also quite useful. The High Awakened with the silver dagger in his skull would certainly approve of Weapon Manifestation's usefulness. Power Imbalance might seem like a less useful Soultrait, but it was actually much better than most of his Soultraits. Alongside Heightened Senses, Caesus could now transfer his power to different aspects of his body, mind, and soul. Descendants increased his power by a portion of his descendant's prowess, but since most of his monsters were physically attributed, Caesus's mind and soul were weaker in comparison. Power Imbalance could solve that issue. With Power Imbalance, he could easily configure the power distribution throughout his body, mind, and soul. By creating several settings, Caesus could prepare for all kinds of scenarios.

He did that when he charged at the closest Divine Lifeform. They'd analyzed the enemies before and unraveled some of their secrets and powers. Caesus took advantage of that and activated the Agility Setting.

The Divine Kulik was powerful and had a highly durable body, but he was slower. Caesus was a flash to the Kulik, who could barely see his enemy before he appeared before him.

Caesus licked his lips and changed into the Power Setting, transferring all power used to amplify his agility into raw power. A moment later, his sabers cleaved down, cutting deep into the metallic body of the Kulik. However, given the Divine Kulik's natural constitution and his state as a Divine Lifeform, the sabers caused little damage.

Caesus clicked his tongue and activated the Enchantments engraved into the saber blades. The blades heated up to the point they started to melt. It was hot enough to force a reaction from the Kulik, whose eyes widened in surprise. The sabers cut deeper into the Divine Kulik's shoulders, yet the damage wasn't enough. The blades were molten before the shoulders were cut off, forcing Caesus to alter to the Agility Setting again and retreat. But before he could retreat, the Divine Kulik grasped his arm, twisted it, and punched him in the face. Caesus was barely fast enough to switch to the Tank Setting, increasing his durability and endurance to the peak. He raised his arm and used Weapon Manifestation to manifest a spiked shield, which still counted as a weapon, fortunately. The Kulik smashed the spikes with his punch, but the shield blocked most of the impact. It still shattered, but what was left of the attack didn't bother Caesus much. He managed to escape Kulik's iron grasp with another melting blade appearing in his free hand, but Caesus was forced to activate the Agility Setting, retreat for a moment, and switch to the Regeneration Setting, which healed his arm within seconds.

"This will be harder than expected," He murmured, only to hear his sister shout from the side.

"For you, maybe, but that was expected. At least I expected you to suffer, loser!"

Okay... challenge accepted!

Chapter 1000 Tiger

Tiara twisted her body, evading a burst of darkness. It would have hit her if she hadn't instantaneously used Inner Force to alter her momentum. She grinned deviously at the Divine Lifeform before her and triggered Silvarean Tiger. The Soultrait had been pushed to 6-Star, just like Inner Force, more than a year ago, granting her more access to the deepest secrets of the Silverfang Tigerfolk.

Her bones cracked, and she transformed into a full-fledged Tigress with bright, glowing eyes and matte silver. Her speed increased, and she pounced at the Divine Lifeform, which retreated upon sensing an impending feeling of danger and death. The Divine's eyes narrowed to tiny slits as he slapped the Tigress in the face. At least his attack was supposed to strike Tiara in the face. It didn't hit the target quite right.

The Tigress dissolved, and Tiara appeared beside the Divine Lifeform. The dispersing mist of the other Tigress was Tiara's Soultrait, Misty Doppelganger.

The Divine didn't expect the Tigress to disperse into mist, but he reacted quickly. His body spun around to face Tiara head-on, only for a mental attack to strike him hard. Under normal circumstances, a Divine Lifeform would have no problem blocking mental attacks with a simple technique, but the Divine didn't sense the attack.

Spirit Whip was a Soultrait that Michael had pushed to 6-Star after adding the Mental Concealment Soultrait to it. He used Insert on 4-Star Spirit Whip to create a perfectly concealed mental attack,

Soultrait. The Soultrait was now much stronger than it used to be, but it was still not omnipotent. The mental fortitude of a Divine Lifeform was still much stronger than the power most Higher Lifeforms could unleash through Spirit Whip.

Fortunately, Tiara could use Overclock. Overclock was Tiara's strongest Soultrait. It was a 7-Star Soultrait that allowed her to unleash the power of Soultraits with much higher potency. A double Overclock drained three times the amount of energy as unleashing the full power of the targeted Soultrait, but it released twice the power of the said Soultrait.

That was exactly what she had done with Spirit Whip. Double Overclock was already enough to stun the Divine for a quarter of a second. It drained a considerable amount of energy, but Tiara didn't have to worry about that. Michael had prepared the perfect Soultrait for that case.

Tiara had been gifted a Soultrait called Energy Heart. It was a 6-Star Soultrait with one purpose; to store energy. Tiara's Energy Heart was filled to the brim, but not for long. She accessed Energy Heart to use triple Overclock on Silver Streak, the Soultrait that had formed from advancing 4-Star Thrust - after combining it with equally lethal Soultraits. The Tigress' paws transformed into silver streaks as she accessed her Soultraits. Her attack impacted the instant the Divine regained full control of his body. He conjured a thick membrane made of an unknown liquid all over his body, but triple Overclocked Silver Streak, unleashed by the Silvarean Tiger of the Silverfang Tigerfolk, was enough to pierce through the liquid membrane. Tiara's claws dug deep into the Divine Lifeform, ripping his chest apart. He escaped death by instinctively pulling back, but his condition was bad. Another Divine Lifeform jumped into the battle, replacing the injured Divine, who retrieved a brilliant golden potion. He crushed the cap and swallowed the content in a hurry, only to find out his injuries didn't heal. Blood continued gushing from the claw marks all over his chest.

Tiara roared in excitement even though she was under pressure. Her Soultraits worked as intended. She didn't have a clue what kind of potion the Divine had tried to use, but Silver Streak's bleeding effect worked perfectly fine.

Tiara unleashed Silvarean Tiger again and transformed back into a bipedal creature. However, her tiger form wasn't fully dissolved. Her body was still shrouded in a fur coat, protecting her from various attacks. She also didn't lose the physical gains from Silvarean Tiger. On the contrary, it felt like Tiara was more flexible in her half-transformed form. Tiara's claws elongated and a bright silver hue shrouded them. She used triple Overclock with Spirit Whip on the unscathed Divine Lifeform before him as he attacked her. The attack nearly killed Tiara on the spot, but a double Overclock with Inner Force salvaged her life.

Her heart was beating wildly, but she pounced on the Divine Lifeform when his expression turned into horror and confusion. The Spirit Whip struck the target several times. The first attack wore his defense down, the second hit crushed the defense altogether, and the following whiplashes were enough to affect the Divine Lifeform and weaken him.

Energy Heart was already on the verge of getting sucked dry, forcing Tiara to either go all out and kill the Divine Lifeform or switch to defense, but neither was necessary. The Titan Black Bear, one of the Divine Beasts of the Untamed Jungle, appeared next to Tiara. The Divine Lifeform before her had been the Divine Beast's foe, and it didn't take the Divine Lifeform's sudden disinterest well.

The Titan Black Bear roared at the top of its lungs and swatted the Divine Lifeform across the Astral Space Cage. The Divine Lifeform couldn't block the attack as he was still affected by the

Spirit Whips and ended up crashing hard onto the ground, where Caesus was already standing. One of his blades pierced deep into his chest while the other blade swished across the Divine's throat.

The Divine Lifeform couldn't be beheaded with a single strike, but his throat was sliced open.

"The Kulik should have been just like that," Caesus cursed, his attention drifting to the injured Divine Kulik. That bastard was still not dead, but he didn't fare well. Caesus had been given his utmost to deal with the nuisance.

"Why don't you kill your little friend first before taking our prey?" Tiara asked while the Titan Black Bear charged past her. The Divine Beast couldn't care less what happened to his foe. He had been given a mission by the human he loved the most, and he would do everything in his might to help the little Princess of the Untamed Jungle get whatever she wanted.

The Titan Black Bear rushed to the Divine whom Tiara had injured and attack with full might. Meanwhile, Tiara cursed a little before she rushed up to Caesus to help him kill the Divine Kulik.

"Since you couldn't kill him, I will make a contribution to this kill. The loot is mine!" Tiara demanded, but Caesus couldn't care any less.

"You are getting greedier by the day, sister. Don't you think we owe Michael a little bit more? This is one of our first fights without Michael, yet you are only talking about the gains. I thought you've improved. It's sad to see you like thi—..."

"Shut it, Caesus! Nobody asked the loser to speak up. It's a waste of precious oxygen to talk to you." Caesus shrugged and zipped his mouth. There was no way their relationship could improve at this point. Maybe in the future, but Caesus wasn't confident about that.

Maybe his relationship with his sister was fated to never recover.