

Supreme Lord 731

Chapter 731 Supreme Soldier II

They were equally fast now that the Supreme Soldier changed something about his tactic, but Michael didn't understand how the Supreme Soldier was doing it.

The Serpent Seals were active, Heavenly Beast Physique was triggered, and several Enhancement layers enhanced Sacred Constitution. It shouldn't be possible for a Lesser Lifeform to be as fast as Michael. Yet, that was precisely what happened.

Michael frowned deeply and manifested the Soul Grimoire to use several Soul Tears to amplify Enhancement, Sacred Constitution, and Cosmic Stride.

His top speed increased by a notch the moment the Soul Tears' power came into effect. The Supreme Tekur screeched and clawed at Michael several times in quick succession, but he evaded most attacks. His superior speed, combined with Spirit Eyes' Prognosis, was enough to block most attacks. However, Michael didn't evade all attacks.

He allowed two attacks to hit to insert a massive amount of Extraction's power inside the Supreme Soldier.

Michael had noticed that most beings wouldn't notice Extraction taking root inside them when one of their attacks struck. After struggling to hit Michael, the Supreme Soldier was overjoyed that multiple attacks struck his arms. His claws inflicted severe injuries. They cut deep into Michael's flesh.

'His physical strength is not on par with mine, but he is as strong as Hiraku. Maybe he is even stronger than Hiraku!' Michael noted. He had already guessed that, but it was weird that the Supreme Soldier's speed and strength doubled suddenly.

At least Michael had Soultraits that explained his power. The Supreme Soldier didn't have any Soultraits that enhanced his physical strength. Otherwise, Michael would have sensed that.

[What if it's a Soul Technique?] Danny guessed.

The Tekur race was superior to the Tritan Alliance. They had Soul Techniques and several Divine Lifeforms. It wouldn't be a surprise if they had some technique that increased their physical powers temporarily. However, such techniques usually come with a big drawback.

'What is your drawback? How long can you keep this up?' Michael asked himself while activating the Cursed Seals to drastically increase Extraction's potency. He shrouded his body in a thick membrane of True Extraction and devoured the surrounding energy instantaneously, leaving no trace for the Supreme Soldier to absorb.

Michael enhanced Extraction's power and willed the golden roots inside the Supreme Soldiers to spread out and do their work.

The Supreme Soldier tried to resist the roots of extraction inside him upon noticing them, but Michael unleashed Spiritual Domination with 10 Enhancement layers. That wasn't enough to knock out the Supreme Soldier, but it shattered his resistance for several seconds.

The Supreme Soldier couldn't resist True Extraction's roots and suffered the aftereffect. His origin energy was drained rapidly, and the same happened to the bits of lifeforce left inside his body.

'He has so little lifeforce left. Why does it feel like he's already on the verge of death?' Michael asked inwardly, even though he could already guess the answer.

[The technique he'd used to grow stronger must have drained his lifeforce!]

That was the same Michael guessed. However, it was hard to imagine that lifeforce was enough to amplify one's physical prowess to such a high degree. Once he used that technique, the Supreme Soldier easily surpassed the threshold of a Higher Lifeform. Was such an extraordinary technique truly this easy to use? Michael doubted that.

"The drawbacks have to be really harsh."

Michael focused on devouring the Supreme Soldier's lifeforce. He used Enhancement layers configured to concentrate on Extraction's efficiency. The Supreme Soldier noticed that his lifeforce was being

drained faster than before. It desperately attacked Michael, executing an onslaught of claw strikes and energy blasts.

Michael noticed quickly that the incoming attacks grew weaker. Their power deteriorated as the lifeforce inside the Tekur decreased.

Meanwhile, Michael grew more accustomed to fighting someone similarly powerful and fast. It had been a while since he dealt with someone truly powerful. The last enemies who were either equally strong or stronger were Oliver Zeus and the Peak Tier-4 High Lionhearts from more than half a year ago.

Michael was probably stronger than the Commanders of the Heart of the Blazing Lion army, but that hardly mattered. These days, the Zentika Empire barely occupied Michael's mind.

'I should have challenged Oliver and the other Professors more often, Michael reminded himself as he appeared beside the Supreme Tekur. Qi enhanced the Aethyr Blade, and Enhancement flashed in his hand. Simultaneously, a massive amount of soil shot out of the ground. The earth buried the Tekur's lower body up to his thighs inside the ground near-instantly, giving Michael a quarter of a second to sever one of the Supreme Tekur's wings.

Read the best novels at [novel:net.com](#)

The severed spot bled severely, which was enough to cast a faint smile on Michael's face as he manifested several Qi Bullets. They pierced through the open wound and exploded inside the Supreme Tekur, unleashing the compressed Qi in all directions. The Qi ravaged throughout the Tekur's body like there was no tomorrow, but it was not enough to kill the Supreme Tekur.

However, the damage was considerable. The Tekur screamed and lost control of his power for a moment. His physical prowess skyrocketed, draining his lifeforce even faster. He broke out of the earthen prison and charged at Michael, who smiled lightly as he teleported high into the air. Hundreds of azure fireballs were already waiting to dive down and destroy everything obstructing their path.

A deadly barrage ensued, with Michael observing the Supreme Soldier's final struggles. The azure fireballs impacted heavily, while the True Extraction inside the Tekur continued to drain the last remnants of lifeforce.

The fireballs exploded upon impact, wreaking havoc in the surroundings while also causing a loud commotion, but Michael didn't mind. He watched the Supreme Soldier as the Tekur jumped high into the air in an attempt to reach him. However, the Tekur missed half of his pair of wings. He crashed to the ground, where the azure fireballs greeted him.

**

"What do you think about this technique?" Michael asked his brother.

[Since there should only be Lesser Lifeforms in this dimension, it's pretty good. If every Supreme Soldier had such a technique, the Tritan Alliance's prodigies would have been eradicated in this year's Flag War. It was a good decision to enter alone.]

Michael nodded slowly. His brother was right. None of the Tritan Alliance's prodigies could survive against the Supreme Soldiers. After all, the Flag War was a battle of Lesser Lifeforms. At least, that's what it was supposed to be.

"I think that technique is pretty good if you want to surprise your enemy or if you fight someone stronger than you. It's just a little bit problematic once you're out of lifeforce. You're literally betting your whole life on winning."

[Everyone does that in a life-or-death battle. You either kill your enemy with all you have, resulting in a drawback, or you will die. If you're dead, it doesn't matter what happens to your body. Dead is dead.]

The Supreme Tekur writhed weakly in pain. His carapace was crumbling, and his insides twisted and twitched. The Tekur was not yet dead, but his condition was really bad. Unleashing the technique that had drained his lifeforce had been too much for his body. The Tekur used the technique for too long and with too few lifeforce reserves.

His current condition was the result.

Michael approached the dying Tekur and unleashed True Extraction upon it. He drained the Tekur's SoulStar Fragments, slowly tearing them out of the dying Awakened's soul.

Several minutes passed in the blink of an eye. Michael finished extracting all SoulStar Fragments and was about to tear the Soultrait Symbol out of Tekur's body when he thought about something else.

He used Mind Reader on the Tekur for the next few minutes. The minutes felt like eons for the dying Tekur, but they were over shortly for Michael. It was too short. He found out some crucial information about the Tekur race, yet he missed some intel that would have helped him in the following battles.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Tekur died before Michael could find out everything. His lifeforce was exhausted.

"Well. Whatever," Michael shrugged before proceeding to use Extraction again.

He extracted the Tekur's Soultrait, three Memory Orbs, and a portion of the Tekur's War Rune storage.

The stuff he found attracted Michael's interest. However, before organizing everything, Michael was the most curious about the Memory Orbs. If the Elite Tekur's Memory Orbs were already helpful then the Supreme Tekur's memories must be even better.

"Show me everything!"

Chapter 732 Soullife

A massive pile of SoulStar Fragments, a mountain of other goods procured from War Rune storages, and a small stash of high-quality Artifacts ended up before Michael when he finished extracting everything from the Elite and Supreme Tekur.

He ignored the Artifacts and put them in his War Rune before his eyes fell upon the pile of SoulStar Fragments.

[The Supreme Soldiers are the real treasure troves here. They're walking treasures, quite literally!]
Danny exclaimed.

Michael could only agree. He procured more SoulStar Fragments from the Supreme Soldier than three Elite provided. That was already a massive gain, but it was only a portion of the real treasures he'd found in the Supreme Tekur's War Rune storage.

"I cannot agree more. This is amazing!" Michael responded to his brother.

He stored some ores, a small batch of Superior Energy Stones, and other goods in his War Rune storage, leaving various tomes and scrolls behind.

After consuming the Supreme Tekur's Memory Orbs, Michael knew a lot more about the Tekur, their power, and why they were so powerful.

He searched through the scrolls and tomes until he picked up one tome and a scroll. The rest was stored in his War Rune with the other stuff.

"Who would have thought that the Tekur have such amazing techniques?" Michael murmured, his eyes glimmering brightly.

To be precise, the tome was Supreme Soul Technique, a portion of a Superior Soul Technique. It wasn't a complete technique, but it was enough to grasp what was required to unleash the fury of a Superior Class Soul Technique.

[That's very interesting!] Danny said as he read through the tome alongside Michael.

[To think that Superior Class Soul Techniques require more Soul Power than most Tekur can generate as Lesser Lifeforms. I expected the Supreme Tekur to unleash Superior Soul Techniques, but it looks like we encountered one who has difficulties using Soullife Arts alongside Soul Techniques.]

Michael said nothing. He continued reading the Superior Class Soul Technique, closing the tome and breathing deeply.

"I should have enough Soul Power to create Superior Class Soul Techniques for Extraction and Sacred Constitution. But I can only activate them once, for a short moment. Once I ascend to a Higher Lifeform, I'll be able to release them multiple times for a longer time," Michael mused to himself, the corner of his lips wrinkling into a faint smile, "Or I expand my territory and summon more than a million Summons before ascending to accumulate enough Soul Power to use the technique more than once."

[Do whatever you want. Either way, your territory will expand a lot before you ascend to a Higher Lifeform. Don't act like you won't have several settlements by the time your ascension begins] Danny grew impatient. [Now focus on the Soullife Arts!]

"Of course, you are more interested in the Soullife Arts. Do you even know what the Superior Soul Technique means?" Michael complained. "I can start creating Superior Class Soul Techniques for Higher Lifeforms once I procure more techniques to study. If used properly, I can help the powerhouses all over the Tritan Alliance either regain or expand their territories. They'll grow so much stronger than the—..."

[MICHAEL! Check the fucking Soullife Arts scroll! This is far more important than this lousy Superior Class Soul Technique!]

"Calm down a little, or I'll restrict your access to Spirit Eyes while I check the scroll," Michael responded right before expelling his brother.

[No! Wait wait wait. I'll calm down. Just...please...check the Soullife Arts scroll...]

Michael smiled lightly and did as requested. Danny regained access to Spirit Eyes right before Michael unfolded the scroll.

It was a Soullife Arts, a technique that consumed both Soul Energy and Lifeforce to provide the user with a massive physical boost. The Soullife Arts could only be used by beings with a lot of Soul Power, an incredibly high Soul Energy control, an enormous amount of Lifeforce, and unbending willpower.

Supreme Soldiers of the Tekur race were such beings. They possessed enough innate talent to activate and maintain the tortuous technique that burned through their Soul Energy and lifeforce rapidly to temporarily enhance their physical might.

The longer the technique was used, the more Soul Energy and lifeforce was consumed. Simultaneously, the aftereffect would be stronger as the Soullife Arts was used for a prolonged period. As long as the user has enough lifeforce and decent innate regeneration, the downsides of using Soullife Arts could be shortened. However, it would not be lovely, one way or another.

[That seems perfect for you and everyone about to die, either way. Anyone forced to fight someone stronger than them and unable to retreat should have a Soullife Arts. Those people, and you, would profit a lot from that technique. See. This is much better than the Superior Class Soul Technique!]

Danny was not wrong. He could replenish his Soul Power using SoulStar Fragments. As for his lifeforce...as long as he wasn't in a dead zone, Michael could recover his used-up lifeforce rather quickly.lightsnovel

It was interesting to note that all Supreme Soldiers of the Tekur race learned the same Foundation Break Soullife Arts. The Supreme Soldier he'd defeated was already older and had practiced the Foundation Break Soullife Arts longer than most Tekur. That was also the reason one of the three Memory Orbs Michael had extracted and consumed was solely about the Foundation Break Soullife Arts.

Even without having practiced the technique once, Michael knew that he could use it right away. He might not be as proficient as the Supreme Tekur, but the effect would be even better. After all, the Foundation Break Soullife Arts had been made for Higher Lifeforms. Lesser Lifeforms could only use the first stage without dying. However, Michael might be able to go further than them.

lightsNovel [Don't go overboard. The technique is impressive, but I really don't want you to die from using the second stage of Foundation Break just because you're confident that nothing will happen. Don't use it if it's not necessary...please!]

Danny sounded really excited before, but his voice turned somber and vigilant now that he read the section where all dangers and possible issues of Foundation Break had been listed.

"I will be fine. Either way, I don't think I need to push further than the first stage. At my current level, I might have to use the 1st Stage of Foundation Break to fight tens of Supreme Soldiers simultaneously, but that might already be overkill. I'm not sure. Maybe using Foundation Break alongside my Soultraits and Soul Techniques will tear my body apart. That wouldn't be the first time, though."

Michael joked a little with his brother, but he knew the situation was a bit additional severe than they'd first presumed. He learned a lot about the Tekur race's condition, including the issue they had with their collonized planets.

Michael knew that the Tekur race was on the way to colonize an entire galaxy. It was only a tiny galaxy, but that was enough to understand the power of the Tekur race. Fortunately, or unfortunately, in the Tekur race's case, they didn't manage to take control of the galaxy. They didn't realize that there were more powerful enemies in the galaxy and that the races living there were connected to powerful entities.

The Tekur not only missed their chance to colonize an entire galaxy, but they also lost control of several stellar systems. Trillions of Tekur had been killed in the last year, and far additional were about to follow. It was the first time in centuries that the Tekur race was defeated. Since their Queen ascended, they'd never been humiliated like this.

It was a great fortune for the Queen to interfere after the casualties surpassed what they could accept. The Tekur race managed to defend their planets after a while, but the landmasses they could colonize decreased drastically.

Now that their enemies had located them, the Tekur were restrained and forced to stay in their part of the galaxy. Their enemies used various means to ensure that they couldn't travel past their claimed territories, leaving only two places to expand their land.

One of the places I visited was the Origin Expanse. Since the Origin Expanse was considered an infinitely vast expanse, for nobody had recorded its edge or connection, it was the best place to go.

Unfortunately, not every Tekur manifested their War Rune early. Some were slower than others.

The Tekur race had to regrow their numbers quickly after losing so many important warriors, but they had issues finding enough living space outside the Origin Expanse.

Therefore, the Tekur race decided to concentrate more on the portals that lead to different parts of the universe, to the outskirts of the universe where weaker races were located. They believed that it would be no problem to overwhelm the weaker races as long as they deployed more Elite Soldiers and a bunch of Supreme Soldiers.

Michael believed the same. He was fairly sure that the sudden change in their tactic would be the demise of many races. However, the Tritan Alliance wouldn't fall victim to their tactics.

It was their misfortune to encounter Michael. If it had been anyone else, a single Supreme Soldier would have been enough to kill everyone.

But with Michael present? Never!

Chapter 733 Supreme Power

Michael practiced Foundation Break only once before he discovered more Tekur. The burst of power granted by Foundation Break was extraordinary. Even without using Heavenly Beast Physique or Enhancement, Michael felt like he could overwhelm one or two Supreme Soldiers.

That was verified as he engaged in combat with the group of Tekur who'd entered the range of Spirit Eyes.

Michael unleashed the Cursed Seals and the Serpent Seals to unlock True Extraction and strengthen his physique. After that, he merged the Dome of Extraction with the Extraction Aura to form the True Extraction Domain, which expanded rapidly and devoured the surrounding energy and lifeforce.

Only moments later, he disappeared, using Cosmic Stride to appear amid the crowd of Tekur. The surroundings were engulfed in a golden hue, draining the energy and lifeforce of everything in its range. The Tekur were surprised about the sudden attack, but they reacted quickly. Their Soul Techniques were activated at once.

However, Michael turned into a blur before the Tekur could strike him. He activated Foundation Break against the Elite Tekur while applying Aethyr to his hands. His fingers transformed into large, razor-sharp claws that cut through the Tekurs' carapaces like they were made out of paper. Of course, the Aethyr Claws' sharpness and destructive power did not originate solely from his physical strength or the Aethyr. The Enhancement Layers and Qi applied to the Aethyr Claws also played a major role.

Michael's Soul Power and lifeforce were drained rapidly. He understood why the Supreme Soldier was exhausted so quickly. Fortunately, Michael could use some SoulStar Fragments to replenish his Soul Power while True Extraction drained everyone's lifeforce to recover his.

The Elite Tekur were either crippled or killed in their first clash with Michael. He left some alive intentionally to continue drain their energy and lifeforce, but the rest died at his hands in no time. At some point, he noticed that a Supreme Tekur appeared beside him. However, instead of panicking, Michael unleashed Heavenly Beast Physique alongside Foundation Break.

His Soul Power was consumed even faster, but his physical prowess skyrocketed. He twisted his body as the Supreme Soldier struck him, evading the attack quickly. The Aethyr Claw swooped upward and severed the Supreme Soldier's arm in one go. The Tekur was just about to scream aloud when Michael turned into a flash.

Several strong gusts swished past the Tekur, who sensed that he had been cut several times only after Michael appeared next to him. The Tekur's wounds burst open, releasing foundations of blood in all directions. In response to his sudden injuries, the Supreme Tekur tried unfolding its wings to shoot high into the sky. Unfortunately, his wings had already been cut off. They were spread out on the ground behind the Tekur.

Michael looked down at his arms. Faint crack-like lines spread through his skin. Blood oozed out of the cracks and trickled down to the ground.

"I didn't move that much, but my body can't handle this anymore. No wonder they say that's a technique for Higher Lifeforms."

He had no idea how strong he was at this point. However, Michael was certain he could easily defeat someone like Jason Kleora and the High Lionhearts. It felt like he could crush them within seconds. That was unexpected but amazing—if not for his body breaking apart.

"I have to regulate my use of Foundation Break."

Michael slashed the Supreme Soldier one last time before he stopped utilizing Foundation Break. He killed the remaining Elite Tekur, plundered their treasures using Extraction, and healed his cracked skin with Archangel's Grace.

"Time to rest," He mumbled as he consumed the Tekur's Memory Orbs.
lightsnovel

Digesting the Memory Orbs wasn't really 'rest', but he didn't do much while organizing and reliving the memories of those he'd just killed.

Not even an hour elapsed before Michael proceeded his mission. He traveled through the isolated dimension, finding several smaller groups with less than 20 members. Only once did Michael encounter a group with three Supreme Soldiers. They were a little bit annoying as one used a Superior Soul Technique with a Soultrait that restrained him a little bit. However, he overcame the ordeal and slayed the Tekur nonetheless.

The only injuries he'd sustained were from overwhelming his vessel. Using the Serpent Seals, Enhancement Layers, Heavenly Beast Physique, and Foundation Break simultaneously was a little bit too much for his body, but Michael didn't care too much. He had to go all-out against the Supreme Soldiers; otherwise, he would fall victim to their power.

Even if he was stronger than most Lesser Lifeforms, Michael was not invincible...yet.

Less than half a day elapsed before Michael found the first out of the four remaining Dimensional Pillars. A large group of 100ish Tekur camped near the Dimensional Pillar. Michael greeted them with True Extraction Domain and a barrage of more than 200 Enhanced Qi Bullets.

He knew the Tekur were shocked that they had yet to find an enemy. Some even thought that the Tritan Alliance gave up the competition in the isolated dimension. That made it even easier for him when he used Cosmic Stride several times before unleashing every trace of power accumulated in his body to conjure 200 Enhanced Qi Bullets.

The True Extraction Domain spread out in a small radius, devouring the surrounding power to expand on its own, whereas the Enhanced Qi Bullets reaped the lives of dozens.

lightsnovel More than half of the camping Tekur died before they could react. The Enhanced Qi Bullets pierced through their carapace and entered their bodies, only to explode inside them. The Qi spread wildly through their bodies, tearing the Tekur apart.

Michael landed on the ground and used Foundation Break instantly. The True Extraction Domain replenished his origin power quickly, but Michael didn't utilize much of it. He focused on the True Extraction Domain and his physical strength. The Serpent Seals, Foundation Break, and Heavenly Beast Physique were initiated together, and the Aethyr Claws were coated with Enhancement Layers and Qi.

Michael transformed into a flash. He disappeared from everyone's sight. The only trails he left behind were the pained screams of his enemies, the Tekur's gooey blood that spurted in all directions, and the corpses of the defeated.

The Tekur tried to restrain Michael with various Soultraits, but the Curses cast upon him were devoured instantaneously by the World Serpent and his Curse. Neither the World Serpent nor the Curse he housed would allow ordinary curses to affect him. That was something Michael found out only today, but it was a good thing.

The Cursed Seals and Serpent Seals glowed faintly as they devoured the curses cast upon him, but Michael was too focused on the debuffs and other Soultraits that had been unleashed to harm and weaken him.

The debuffs were weakened as they applied to his body. True Extraction removed their biggest impact almost immediately. As for the projectiles, mental attacks, and spiritual attacks that impacted heavily, Michael endured them well. Spiritual attacks were blocked easily. His soul was too strong for lowly spiritual attacks to inflict any harm. The Tekur attacking him didn't even have a 4-Star Soultrait. How could their spiritual attacks harm him?

Only some mental attacks hurt a little. Fortunately, Michael could pinpoint the perpetrators swiftly. He eliminated them right away by tearing their bodies apart.

Chapter 734 Golden Globe

Mental attacks had some use against Michael, but it was not like his mental defenses were low. On the contrary, Michael had the Legendary Ring Artifact, which strengthened his mental power, and several Soultraits, which enhanced his mind passively.

Last but not least, Wisdom Breaker shattered his mind into countless fragments and refined them before putting them together once again. It was incredible painful and dangerous, but it also drastically strengthened his mental defenses. Therefore, he didn't get knocked out even as one of the Elite Tekur's 3-Star Mind Stab Soultrait, amplified with a Low Elite Class Soul Technique, impacted heavily.

It hurt and was enough to distract him for a quarter of a second, but Michael pinpointed the perpetrator almost instantly and used Cosmic Stride to appear beside him. The Aethyr Claw pierced through the Tekur's skull before he could again release his Soultrait.

lightsnovel Some Supreme Soldiers tried to catch up to him, but Michael was too strong and fast. His body was on the verge of tearing apart, his skin bursting apart, blood gushing out of him from dozens of spots, but Archangel's Grace did an impeccable job keeping him alive.

Several minutes passed in the blink of an eye. Michael slumped to the ground, gasping for air.

[I told you not to overdo it with Foundation Break!] Danny shouted.

Michael wanted to say something, but he couldn't. He was in dire need of some oxygen.

His legs quivered, forcing Michael to sit down for a moment.

"That was amazing!" He murmured once he was done gasping for air.

[Amazing? I can tell your body was about to crumble more than three times in the last five minutes! What are you amazed about? Because you're still alive? What the hell is wrong with you?!?]

Michael would have loved to shove his brother from his mind for a moment, but he knew that Danny would hold a grudge against him if he avoided this argument.

"No risk, no reward," He responded lightly, knowing damn well that Danny wouldn't like this.

[No risk...no reward... Wait! Is that how you normally fight? You charge into the masses of enemies, go all-out, and hope that your enemies die. Is that it?]

Michael didn't say anything, but that was the answer enough.

[A single miscalculation and you'll die... You're the cause of 90% of my headaches. Seriously.]

Michael felt like saying, 'You cannot feel headaches,' but he kept his lips sealed. It was probably better not to provoke his brother too much.

[Can you try not to get yourself killed...please?]

"I'm already trying," Michael said before realizing he had made another mistake. He hurriedly added, "But I can change my strategy if you want."

He rested his body for a while, only for Danny's lecture to torment his mind. Michael had to listen to his brother's complaints for an hour before his brother switched to telling him where he could improve.

Even though Danny didn't have a body, he had full access to the changes and movements inside Michael. He could sense the faintest changes in Michael's body whenever he moved. This applied to every trace of origin energy that passed through his body, Michael's life force, and every single time Michael used his techniques and Soultraits.

It took Danny a few months to sense everything as perfectly as he did right now, but now that he was capable of perceiving Michael's body perfectly, he could give his brother some valuable tips.

Michael was glad his brother stopped lecturing him. Tips and tricks were more useful than lectures. Michael wouldn't change the way he approached most battles, either. He sincerely doubted that anything would change merely because Danny told him it was foolish to fight like this.

But while ignoring Danny's lecture, Michael wouldn't dare do the same with his tips and tricks. Michael went through the tips and tricks with genuine interest and tried applying them shortly. He'd rested long enough to start experimenting once again.

He spent the following hours experimenting until his body had fully recuperated. If he had applied Archangel's Grace a little longer, Michael would have been ready to depart earlier, but he was not in a rush.

Since he was the only member of the Tritan Alliance who participated in the Flag War, Michael didn't have to protect anyone but himself. Rushing from battle to battle would endanger him. Furthermore, he had various Memory Orbs to digest.

The Flag War existed to make him stronger, after all.

The Tekur couldn't run from him either. No matter where they were in the isolated dimension, they couldn't escape his grasp.

But now it was time to destroy the Dimensional Pillar.

Michael stood in front of the towering Dimensional Pillar, a faint smile blossoming on his face. The Dimensional Pillar was eerily black and thicker than the towering trees in the Untamed Jungle. Even skyscrapers were tiny in comparison. However, Michael just smiled.

He activated the Cursed Seals and gathered True Extraction at the tip of his finger. A golden glimmer enveloped his index finger. At first, the hue was only faint, but as time passed, it shone brighter. A thick membrane of Extraction's power formed around his finger. It dazzled brightly at the tip of his finger where most power congregated.

lightsnovel

Michael focused entirely on True Extraction and smiled only faintly when a faint spark crackled above his fingernail. The crackling expanded rapidly until it filled the area before Michael. Michael swallowed hard when he saw that the sparks extracted everything they touched. The surface of the Dimensional Pillar was scratched and removed just as easy as the dry soil around them was removed as the sparks impacted.

The sparks transformed into golden currents that swept wildly through the vicinity. It required considerable effort and time to control the wild currents. However, once Michael gained control of them, he compressed the currents into a small globe the size of a dot. The globe crackled wildly as if trying to escape the confinement.

Unfortunately, Michael's willpower overwhelmed the wild currents. The globe expanded as more extraction currents channeled into it, but Michael compressed it again to keep it at the size of a fingernail.

Time passed slowly.

[I know that I told you to improve your control of True Extraction, but aren't you overdoing it?] Danny asked, only for Michael to snap back.

"Now you say I'm doing too much. Is it possible to please you, or will you complain about everything I do?"

Compressing the extraction currents several times into the golden globe was far from easy. It put a heavy toll on Michael's mind, yet he didn't even think of staying silent. It bothered him even more than usual, to be precise.

Fortunately, he was done now.

Michael opened his eyes and disregarded the sweat that poured down his face in streams. He pressed the golden globe lightly against the Dimensional Pillar's surface and pushed further. The Dimensional Pillar gave in without any resistance, and the globe consumed everything in its path.

'Very good.'

The faint smile on his lips widened, and Michael released the globe. He refrained from erupting with its full power until the golden globe reached the center of the Dimensional Pillar.

The second the globe reached its destination, Michael stopped trying to control it.

The extraction currents forcefully compressed inside the golden globe before they erupted outward in an uncontrolled burst. They lunged in all directions and consumed everything in their path.

There was no loud explosion. On the contrary, an eerie silence filled the vicinity.

Suddenly, golden currents burst through the pitch-black Dimensional Pillar's surface. They spread in all directions and consumed everything in their path.

Then it happened.

A loud crack reverberated through the vicinity.

The Dimensional Pillar slowly tilted in one direction.

The cracking noises grew louder, sounding like bell chimes in Michael's ears. His plan worked out even better than expected.

At last, the Dimensional Pillar collapsed.

[That was...not bad...] Danny praised reluctantly.

Michael snorted, hoping that he could hit his brother soon.

"That's only one of four. The other Dimensional Pillars are still waiting for me!"

[And a bunch of Tekur.]

"And a bunch of Tekur," Michael agreed, the excitement in his heart rising.

The Flag War was a lot better than he had wished for.

Chapter 735 Qi's Power

Michael spent the following 24 hours refining his control with Qi and Extraction. He tried using the Soultraits differently to test their limits and how far he could derive from their original purpose.

After 24 hours, Michael had killed another 400 Tekur, and only one Dimensional Pillar remained. The Tekur noticed that something was wrong. They had either not seen a single enemy or died at Michael's hands.

Upon discovering that three Dimensional Pillars had been destroyed, The Tekur changed their tactics. They gathered near the last Dimensional Pillar and waited impatiently for the arrival of their 'invisible' enemies. Little did they know that there was only one enemy to defeat.

Michael observed the Tekur as they gathered near the Dimensional Pillar. He could have appeared at their dead angle above the Dimensional Pillar and destroyed it with an Extraction Globe, but that wouldn't have created the desired effect. Michael desired the Tekur's Soul Techniques, SoulStar Fragments, and Soultrait Symbols.

The Tekur had to be killed before the Flag War could end soundly.

But instead of slowly dwindling their numbers or putting himself in danger by throwing himself into the masses of Tekur, Michael decided to end the battle a little bit faster. Even if he was powerful, it would be incredibly difficult to defeat 70ish Supreme Soldiers. It would be easy to beat them one by one, but enduring the attack of 70ish Supreme Soldiers with Superior Class Soul Techniques and the Soullife Arts Foundation Break was not something Michael wanted to test.

He was powerful, but his body was on the verge of breaking apart whenever he used his full power. A single mistake, and he would die.

Therefore, Michael retrieved a bunch of Elemental Crystals and emptied them using Extraction. The Elemental crystals transformed into hollow crystals without an ounce of elements-attributed energy. Under normal circumstances, the crystals would shatter, but Michael ensured that nothing like that would happen.

He infused Enhanced Qi into the crystals, filling them slowly.

Qi crystals came into existence.

[You like this stuff, don't you?] Danny asked his younger brother, who could only smile.

"Of course I do. Before I manifested Extraction, I never expected to obtain a powerful Soultrait. I had to study convenient ways to destroy my enemies with means other than my combat prowess. You should know how much danger we're usually exposed to due to our Curses. The dangers are an opportunity to

grow stronger, but they're also filled with numerous possibilities to...die... That scared me a bit when I was young, so I studied a lot."

Michael didn't want to lie to his brother. It might sound better that he studied to be prepared for the Origin Expanse and to rapidly claim and expand his territory using everything he'd learned. However, at the end of the day, Michael knew that the family Curse's existence was what pushed Michael to study and train as if there was no tomorrow even before he manifested his War Rune.

And that was a good thing because he would have died even before his territory's protection barrier disappeared if it hadn't been for his training.

Michael spent the next few hours filling the crystals with Enhanced Qi. Then, he used Cosmic Stride with enough space-attributed energy to teleport the Qi Crystals into the Tekur's rows and their camps.

The smaller the objects transported using Cosmic Stride, the fewer spatial fluctuations can be sensed. Even Michael could hardly be sensed by highly perceptive Awakened whenever he used Cosmic Stride. Sensing the arrival of the tiny Qi Crystals was highly unlikely.

Exactly 30 Qi Crystals were spread throughout the Tekur's camp. Michael used Cosmic Stride to appear above them, attracting their attention momentarily. Then, the mayhem began.

Michael triggered the Qi crystals, unleashing the devastating force of the compressed Enhanced Qi.

The crystals shattered.

Shockwave of compressed Enhanced Qi swamped the Tekur's camp. It washed through the entire camp explosively and tore the unguarded men and women apart. [lightsnovel](#)

Most Tekur couldn't react fast enough to the sudden explosion. Even if they could react, it was not like they could create Soul Energy to use their Soullife Arts right away. Everyone was exposed to the devastating power of Enhanced Qi, which penetrated their carapace and entered their insides without delay.

The Tekur screamed only for a moment. A moment later, the Enhanced Qi spread through their insides. It split up into countless strands that exploded, tearing their insides apart mercilessly.

Michael watched the sudden death of close to 350 Tekur calmly. He conjured tiny Extraction Globes and used Cosmic Stride to transport them beside some of the survivors. The Tekur who survived the sudden assault had either been far enough from the nearest Qi Crystal as they exploded, or they responded fast enough to use their Soultraits.

Only a few Soultraits were useful enough to block the Qi Crystal's explosions, and the massive waves of Enhanced Qi, but a bunch of Tekur managed to make it. To their misery, the Extraction Globes couldn't be blocked easily. The Extraction Globes erupted in countless golden currents the instant they appeared behind the surviving Tekur.

The currents shot in all directions and devoured everyone daring enough to obstruct their path. They didn't look menacing. Instead, the golden currents had a warm feeling to them. To the Tekur's misery, they only looked gentle.

Some necks went missing alongside other body parts. They were devoured a quarter of a second after the Extraction Globes erupted.

[Even if the Supreme Tekur are more advanced than their kin, they're still not Higher Lifeforms. They have to produce enough Soul Energy to use Foundation Break. But that is not something they can do in a split second. The Tekur are too young and inexperienced to have such tremendous control of their Soul Power to produce Soul Energy this quickly. You are different, Michael. You can do it!]

Michael had consumed enough Memory Orbs to have near-

perfect control of his Soul Power. At this point, he could produce Soul Energy at will, which he used now that there were only a few enemies left.

He unleashed the Cursed Seals and Serpent Seals before going all-out. He conjured the Aethyr Blade and coated it with Enhancement, Qi, and True Extraction. Then he used Heavenly Beast Physique and Foundation Break, slowly breaking his body apart by attaining overwhelming power for a few seconds. A few seconds was all he needed to teleport beside the injured Tekur.

He sliced them to pieces without an ounce of mercy.

Some Supreme Soldiers tried to use Foundation Break as well, but they were temporarily incapable of producing Soul Energy. Some managed to control their origin energy, but most survivors had difficulties accessing it.

'Qi is quite powerful,' Michael figured. He'd always thought that Qi was mysterious, but he never noticed that it affected his enemies' force control once it entered their bodies. That was something he realized only now.

[I told you that my Soultrait is powerful! You didn't believe me!]

"Yes, yes. You are always right, Danny."

lightsnovel [That's not what I meant!]

"Yes, yes."

Michael rolled his eyes before his focus returned to the people around him.

A few more Tekur were waiting for their inevitable deaths.

Chapter 736 Shattered

It was no surprise that Michael managed to overwhelm his enemies. The Elite Tekur couldn't do anything to oppose his tremendous power at this point.

Meanwhile, even the Supreme Soldiers couldn't muster enough strength to beat Michael as long as he went all out. The worst for the Supreme Soldiers was that they couldn't even fight Michael head-on in the last battle. They struggled but couldn't use what they were best at.

The Supreme Soldiers couldn't create enough Soul Energy to activate their Superior Class Soul Techniques or Soullife Arts. The Tekur suffered the consequences of relying on external means to become powerful. They died.

[See. Using your head is not that bad. You weren't even close to dying this time, even though you had to fight far more enemies simultaneously than before. It might not be as thrilling to use your head to get rid of your enemies before the real battle begins, but it is certainly competent to use your head. You can feel the thrill of being one step away from death if your plans don't work out. However, if they work out, you should go with the flow. Being on the verge of death all the time is not that nice. You should value your life more!]

lightsNovel com Michael tried to ignore his brother, but he knew that Danny was right. At one point, Michael got addicted to the thrill of being in danger. Sometimes, he found himself not using all Soultraits and techniques to make sure that the battle would be thrilling enough. That happened far more often than he'd like to acknowledge. If anything, Michael would love to never think about his addiction to the thrill of gambling with his life.

It was just too nice...as long as everything went according to his plan. As long as Michael was the one who emerged victorious from the battles it would be fine. But a single mistake may take his life. Seeking the thrill might kill him.

Michael tried dispersing his brother's words by focusing on the corpses. He gathered the Tekur's bodies and began extracting SoulStar Fragments, Soultraits, Memory Orbs, and portions of their War Rune storage.

The stuff extracted from the deceased's War Runes was of little interest. The most interesting were the tomes and scrolls, but Michael decided to inspect them later. The Memory Orbs were consumed one after another as Michael organized the loot like usual. He digested the Memory Orbs quickly and learned something interesting.

"Since when are Tekur religious?" Michael wondered when he saw the memories of the Tekur praying.

It was unfortunate for the Tekur, but Michael overwhelmed them near the end of their prayer session. The Qi Crystals exploded a minute before the prayers would have ended.

[Looks like their prayers didn't work.] Danny noted dryly.

Michael ignored his brother once again. Instead of entertaining Danny, he focused on the memories and learned that the Tekur Queen had paired up with someone new. Apparently, the newly appointed king of the Tekur race was even stronger than their Queen. He possessed the power to grow stronger as the number of people who believed in and trusted him increased.

It wasn't even necessary to be connected to the Tekur King by a Link of Loyalty. He would grow stronger as the faith in him increased.

The Queen used this power to transform her partner into an Apostle of their God. She decreed that everyone had to pray to their God and that their faith and loyalty would be channeled through the Apostle to reach their God. That way, the Tekur would consider the Tekur King as their God's messenger, which would increase their faith in the Tekur King in retrospect.

The Tekur King would grow strong enough to deal with the enemies circling the Tekur race's lands.

"Praying killed a few hundred of your stronger believers. Funny, ain't it?" Michael mumbled without meaning it.

He stopped consuming more Memory Orbs and stored the SoulStar Fragments and Soultrait Symbols away. Interestingly enough, some Supreme Soldiers had two Soultraits. He managed to extract two Soultraits from two Supreme Soldiers, a first for Michael.

However, instead of focusing on the Soultrait Symbols, which Michael already had more than enough of, he paid more attention to the massive haul of SoulStar Fragments.

"1.1 million SoulStar Fragments. That's crazy," Michael murmured, his eyes glimmering in excitement.

The SoulStar Fragments were more than enough to upgrade Soul Grimoire to 7-Star. Of course, Soul Grimoire was an expensive Soultrait to upgrade, but Danny's Living Soul couldn't expand properly. Danny had complained a few times that his space was too narrow. He didn't want to make it sound like a major problem, but Michael knew that his brother wasn't feeling well. The narrow space within the Soul Grimoire could lead to major problems if left unattended.lightsnovel

Therefore, hundreds of thousands of SoulStar Fragments had to be used to upgrade Soul Grimoire.

That was exactly what Michael did. He began channeling SoulStar Fragments into the Soul Grimoire Soultrait Symbol. It would take a while to upgrade Soul Grimoire, but it was good that he wasn't in a rush. He had more than enough time left in the isolated dimension to be at peace and research some of the Superior Class Soul Techniques – the snippets of their techniques, to be precise.

It was only a matter of time before Michael could create a Superior Class Soul Technique for True Extraction. By then, True Extraction would transform into an even more menacing Soultrait.

Michael would be even harder to deal with, especially once both True Extraction and Sacred Constitution obtained their Superior Class Soul Technique.

Just thinking about creating Superior Soul Techniques brought a smile to Michael's face.

"The Flag War was pretty nice," Michael thought aloud.

He procured enough SoulStar Fragments to upgrade Soul Grimoire to 7-Star and would have more than 200,000 SoulStar Fragments left for other expenses. Simultaneously, he procured various Elite Class Soul Techniques, learned about Soullife Arts and had decent mastery over one, and procured enough snippets of Superior Class Soul Techniques to recreate them in a few months.

No matter how Michael looked at it, The second Flag War was a great success!

But now he could end it.

He continued channeling SoulStar Fragments into Soul Grimoire while creating several Extraction Globes.

Michael lobbed the Extraction Globes at the last Dimensional Pillar, transforming it into a mass of black rubble in a matter of seconds.

The Dimensional Pillar crumbled, and so did the isolated dimension. A tremor reverberated throughout the entire dimension, but that was something Michael had previously expected. He waited patiently until the large, purple Runic Gate appeared before him to return him to the Tritan Alliance.

Fortunately, the Runic Gate manifested after a few seconds, and Michael stepped through.

The isolated dimension behind him crumbled as he stepped out. It broke apart and disappeared, never to be entered again.

The last Interdimensional Flag War ended, and the threat of the Tekur was removed once and for all, hopefully.

Michael emerged on the other side of the Runic Gate. The massive purple gate hummed loudly, and cracks appeared on its surface. The cracks spread in all directions until the sound of breaking glass resounded through the vicinity. The gateway shattered.

Michael glanced at the gateway only for a moment. His attention was drawn to the people standing around the portal.

The powerhouses of the Tritan Alliance had previously been waiting for him...including the Matriarch of the Zenovia family.

[That is going to be fun!]

Chapter 737 Matriarch

The Zenovia household was one of the few families with two people controlling everything. The Matriarch was supposed to take care of all internal struggles. Her mission was to ensure that the Zenovia family would grow stronger with each generation.

She took care of the youngest generation's studies, training, and engagements with other families.

Meanwhile, the Patriarch of the Zenovia household focused more on external tasks. He took care of all pacts and contracts. His priority was to expand the family business, ensuring that the new generation

would have access to more resources than the last, and to improve the existing connections with the powerhouses of the Tritan Alliance.

Most of the time, expanding the family business and improving connections could be combined. Still, it was occasionally a little bit more challenging to come to terms with some families and households. Not everyone was willing to approach other families as openly as the Zenovia family. They liked being among themselves more than being with other people who might betray them when a better opportunity arose.

Despite the separation of tasks, it wasn't the patriarch who welcomed Michael back from his successful participation in the Interdimensional Flag War. Instead, Katharina Zenovia, the Matriarch of the Zenovia household, came to appraise the guy who'd stolen her daughter's heart.

Katharina Zenovia received enough reports from her anonymous sources about how much Alice's behavior changed. Alice wasn't hiding that she dated Michael, but they didn't make any official posts about it either. It was their relationship, and it didn't matter to them if others were aware of it or not.

Of course, it had been a little bit easier on Alice because they didn't share the news of their relationship with the whole Skynet. It gave her some peace, only for a little while. Unfortunately, peace was not an option anymore. Her mother approached Michael.

Katharina Zenovia was as beautiful as her daughter. She had shoulder-long black, wavy hair, pristine ocean-blue eyes, and a fair complexion. The Matriach's beautiful lean figure was highlighted as she walked toward Michael like she was one of the Tritan Alliance's supermodels. There was something about her people couldn't grasp. Every step Katharina Zenovia took was calculated with deadly precision. Not a single action was random. It was all planned to frame her as the perfect woman and mother.

However, Michael didn't pay too much attention to Katharina Zenovia at first glance. He noticed someone looking similar to Alice approaching him, but his eyes were drawn to Alice, who walked toward him alongside her mother.

Alice Zenovia was having trouble keeping her poker face. The corner of her lips twitched wildly, and she didn't dare make eye contact with Michael. All she could do was forward him a small message using Whispering Energy.

["I didn't expect Mother to come here. Dad was supposed to be here to deal with some High Society members, the Chieftain, and the War Priestess...Sorry..."]

Michael tried hard to cover his frown.

'So...meeting your Father would have been fine, but your Mom is difficult? We will see about that, I guess.'

Michael willed some origin energy to wash over his face. That was enough to wipe away the frown and replace it with a faint smile. He took a step toward the Matriarch of the Zenovia household and inclined his head politely.

"Good morning. My name is Michael Fang. I heard a lot about you—..." Michael introduced himself as politely as possible without overdoing it, but he stopped mid-sentence when he noticed Alice shaking her head lightly.

Katharina Zenovia stared coldly at him.

"I know who you are. Everyone here does. Do you think I'm a fool?" She asked sharply, her voice not containing an ounce of emotion.

Michael's lips parted for a response, but Katharina Zenovia raised her hand.

"Enough of that. I know you're pursuing my Daughter and that she was just about to give in to her inner demon, but Alice is already engaged. Their wedding will be in a few months, and you will not be the groom. I hope you can stop your attempts to tarnish my daughter and keep a professional distance from her and Kaleb as well."

lightsNovel com Michael didn't expect Katharina Zenovia to act like this. It had been a long time since anyone had rejected him. After all, most powerhouses wanted to be on his good side because of his Soultraits, Soul Techniques, and his future potential. Yet, the Matriarch of the Zenovia family was the opposite. She didn't seem to care about his Soultraits and potential in the slightest.

That was rare and a slight surprise, but Michael was more affected by the 'engaged' part.lightsnovel

He glanced at Alice, who stared at her mother in shock.

["You didn't know that you were engaged?"] Michael asked Alice via Whispering Energy.

He had a hard time hiding how relieved he was when he saw Alice shaking her head wildly in denial. His attention returned to Katharina Zenovia, who'd been studying his reaction since the words escaped her lips.

"I don't think you heard me correctly. Let me repeat myself once," She said, her voice growing colder with every word she uttered, "I do not wish to see you talking to her again!"

The Curse residing within Michael churned as the anger in her voice reached him. The Cursed Seals were about to manifest on their own as a silent growl escaped through the depths of his body. Michael could tell that his emotions transformed slowly as the Cursed Seals tried to surface, but his smile didn't leave his lips.

He continued smiling, only to glance at Alice for a moment.

"What do you think about that? Will you do as your mother says?" Michael ignored the Matriarch and smiled gently at Alice.

Michael could only accept their decision if Alice couldn't say what she wanted. Both had to fight for their romance to strive and succeed. It was impossible to keep the relationship alive if he was the only one trying.

Alice glanced at her mother for a moment before looking back at Michael. A trace of determination glimmered in her eyes.

Katharina Zenovia seemed to notice what was going on. She stepped to the side, blocking Alice from saying anything else, and stared at Michael as if he was dead meat.

"You shouldn't ignore my warnings," She said quietly, "Nobody interrupts my plans, not even you!"

A big scowl replaced Michael's smile. His Spirit Eyes Soultrait activated instinctively when he sensed something was off. A moment later, a thick – eerily cold – aura burst out of her body. A giant glacier-blue icicle formed beside her.

"This is my last warning. Stay away from my daughter!" She threatened.

Michael was just about to respond, but it was Alice who interfered instead, "But I—..."

"Silent!" The Matriarch commanded, sealing Alice's lips with a layer of glacier-blue ice.

"I think I heard enough," Michael said, a blazing flame flickering in his eyes, "I don't think I will listen to your good-meant advice, Miss Zenovia."

The Matriarch's expression cracked for a moment, and Michael imagined seeing the corner of her lips curl upward. However, this might have also been an illusion. It disappeared the next moment, leaving the Matriarch with her ice-cold expression.

"Prove your worth then," She exclaimed in a whisper, releasing the glacier-blue icicle with a burst of energy.

[Beat the shit out of your mother-in-law! You can do it, bro!]

Chapter 738 Coward?

The glacier-blue icicle was one of the most straightforward creations that could be made with an Ice Affinity, but it was much faster and stronger than most attacks that came Michael's way.

lightsNovel Michael could only react in time because Spirit Eyes was active. Prognosis helped him predict the attack early enough to conjure an azure fireball and apply ten Enhancement Layers that focused on enhancing the fireball's heat.

He lobbed the fireball at the icicle, which instantaneously burst through the azure flames. Without Insert, the azure fireball would have been useless against the glacier-blue icicle. However, with Insert utilized, the searing hot flames invaded the icicle when they touched.

The glacier-blue icicle melted right before the impact.

Katharina Zenovia raised one eyebrow when she noticed that Michael managed to block her initial attack, but she didn't seem as shocked as the other powerhouses watching the confrontation.

Michael frowned deeply.

'Is she already a Tier-6 Lord? Even Oliver's attacks weren't like that.'

Danny didn't have a pleasant answer for him. Therefore, Michael had to change his tactic.

'If I have to fight you to prove my worth, you might as well watch me when I go all-out,' He thought before intercepting whatever the Matriarch of the Zenovia household was trying to do next, "One second, please."

Next, he ignored the Matriarch and manifested the Runic Gate. A moment later, Michael disappeared into the Runic Gate, leaving the others alone.

The Matriarch snorted and glanced at Alice, "Your boyfriend is a coward."

Alice looked at her mother and tilted her head, unsure whether to frown deeply at her or to try convincing her mother that Michael was a good guy. But then again, Katharina Zenovia wasn't even trying to get to know Michael. She rejected him right away.

"Now you call him my boyfriend? Mother, I don't understand what you're trying to do, but is that really necessary? And what is this talk about in relation to engagement? You know as well as I do that there was never an engagement for me. Didn't you tell me that it was fine for me to get closer to Michael in the first place?"

The Matriarch clicked her tongue, "You are a little fool, sweetheart.

"I allowed you to get close to him, but you never asked me about my opinion of Michael Fang. Hooking up with him was certainly not something I permitted, sweetheart."

Katharina Zenovia sighed deeply. Her ice-cold expression melted and transformed into a complex expression.

"You know better than anyone that Michael is one of the most important beings in the Tritan Alliance. At this point, being close to him will produce various benefits. Yes, you are dating him right now. But what happens when you break up with Michael later? Everyone with a closely tied relationship with the Zenovia family will evade us. They will be afraid that Michael will blacklist them from future Soultrait Auctions. Everyone would choose Michael Fang over the Zenovia household without thinking twice."

Alice wanted to say something, but her mother raised her hand to stop her in her tracks.

"Having Michael by our side can be a blessing. However, everyone would approach us because of him, and they would leave us when he leaves as well. Michael would drag everyone who's already with us along as well. Everything our household worked for in the last few centuries would crumble just like that.

Alice shook her head. She didn't want to listen to her mother anymore, "Who says that we will break up? What if we'll be together forever?"

The Matriarch chuckled, seeing how defiant her daughter had become. She was not the woman everyone had gotten to know as Frozen Duchess. Alice Zenovia, standing in front of the Matriarch, was no more than a foolish girl in love.

"Sweetheart, you don't have to look at me like that. I taught you enough about High Society to know how fragile trust is and that everyone is always scheming. As for love...love is dangerous. Your love might burn fiercely, but the flames will dwindle, and your love will cool down. That might not happen to everyone, but our lifespan is far from short. You might be able to become a Divine Lifeform, Michael certainly will. By that time, you barely age. What happens if your love prevails for a century only to end in chaos?"

Alice couldn't help but think that his mother was exaggerating. She couldn't imagine that love wasn't permanent. It may develop and change over the course of the decades and centuries, but Alice was sure that love would prevail over the course of time.

She had much more to say to her mother, and the same could be said about the Matriarch, but Michael's Runic Gate appeared before them already. He returned from the Origin Expanse with a faint smile.

The Matriarch cleared her throat and reverted to her eerily cold expression, "The coward has returned. What a surprise."lightsnovel

Alice's frown deepened. What exactly was her Mother trying to achieve? If that was her attempt at becoming friends with Michael...she was terribly mistaken. Even testing his love and power like that felt wrong.

The Matriarch winked toward Alice, who could only sigh inwardly.

Katharina Zenovia didn't have to be friends with Micahel. However, she had to know how much Michael liked her daughter. Was he ready to go up against the entire Zenovia household for Alice's sake? Would he take responsibility for whatever may happen?

It would be easy for him to oppose the Zenovia household in the future as he ascends to a Higher Lifeform, but he was not a Higher Lifeform yet. His actions as a Lesser Lifeform played a major role in determining whether Michael was the right man for Alice or if their love was nothing special.

[Did she just wink at Alice?] Danny asked Michael, who nodded inwardly. He'd noticed the wink as well.

'Yup.'

[Either way, beat her up!]

Michael couldn't hide his smile when he heard his brother. Both knew very well that Katharina Zenovia was a 'little' bit stronger than Michael. Of course, that didn't mean Michael would give up easily.

He raised his left arm where a massive azure tattoo had appeared. The tattoo glowed brightly and dissolved as an azure figure emerged from his palm. The Elemental Empress emerged before Michael. She turned around and transformed into a blazing inferno before coating Michael. A tight armor of compressed azure flames coated Michael.

The azure flames expanded and compressed. They twirled around his fingers and every strand of hair, engulfing everything with deadly precision before stagnating for a second.

"You brought reinforcement?" The Matriarch asked, trying to hide her surprise at the arrival of an Elemental Empress.

Even if she had never seen an Elemental Empress, Katharina Zenovia had heard enough about them to immediately recognize one. She glanced at Michael for a moment only to sense something around him.

"You didn't expect me to hold back against one of the strongest Lords in the Tritan Alliance, or did you expect that, Matriarch?" Michael questioned behind the Matriarch.

The azure armor before her dispersed, displaying that Michael was no longer there. She spun around and noticed Michael standing next to Alice. He grasped Alice's shoulder and disappeared once again. Alice emerged far away near the Berserker Chieftain, who'd appeared at some point.

Simultaneously, a pillar of azure flames erupted underneath Katharina Zenovia. She engulfed her body in an ice crystal instead of evading the attack with a simple side-step. It would have been an embarrassing sight to be forced to retreat by a mere Lesser Lifeform.

Unfortunately, Michael was far from normal. He wasn't an ordinary Lesser Lifeform, and the same could be said about Zenoa. The Elemental Empress' flames were far from ordinary. They were mythical flames that could burn through everything as long as they didn't extinguish.

Michael utilized Enhancement on the azure pillar to significantly reinforce the flames' heat. He emerged before the pillar and released an Extraction Globe coated in azure flames. Insert had also been applied, creating a deadly combination for someone too proud to move aside.

"I hope you don't hold me accountable for responding to your attack with an attack," Michael spoke lightly, but the anger in his eyes was apparent.

He was getting a little bit annoyed at parents trying to control their children.

'I only want the best for you.'— Or do you want the best for yourself?

'You have to do that. It's important for your growth.'— Or is that what you wanted to do instead?

'I only departed you to protect you!' — Or are you a coward?

Michael realized too late that he projected his parents in Katharina Zenovia.

They were not the same, but Michael could only see their parents in the Matriarch at this moment.

Chapter 739 Crimson

Katharina Zenovia unleashed a chilly aura in all directions, destroying the blazing pillar that was about to melt through the ice, shrouding her. In the meantime, the Extraction Globe didn't sustain any severe damage. It was affected by the chilly aura but didn't burst apart just yet.

However, the Extraction Globe erupted once it was close enough to damage the Zenovia household's Matriarch considerably. Dozens of golden currents shot in all directions, devouring everything obstructing their path.

Katharina frowned slightly when she noticed that her chilly aura was affected by Michael's Extraction Globe. She lost control of her chilly aura in every spot touched by the golden currents.

'A Lesser Lifeform can do that much?'

A frown surfaced on her face as realization struck her. However, Michael was not yet done. He unleashed the Cursed Seals alongside the Serpent Seals, only to trigger Heavenly Beast Physique, Foundation Break, and Enhancement.

Michael's physical might increased drastically, and his skin burst open. He used Cosmic Stride to appear next to the Matriarch, whose expression turned more serious as she sensed the sudden increase in Michael's power. An Aethyr Blade coated in Qi and several Enhancement layers manifested in his hands, but that was not all. Michael focused True Extraction's might on the tip of the Aethyr Blade and thrust the blade toward the Matriarch's chest.

The Matriarch conjured a large ice shield before her, only to realize that the Aethyr Blade's tip pierced neatly through it. The Aethyr Blade was coated in Enhancement layers, and Qi was already powerful, but True Extraction added a significant boost to the weapon's piercing power.

True Extraction extracted everything it touched, significantly decreasing the difficulty of piercing the ice shield. Unfortunately, that was still not enough to pierce through the entire shield. Merely, the Aethyr Blade's tip managed to pierce the shield neatly. That was all Michael needed. He channeled a significant amount of fire-attributed energy through the Aethyr Blade while also tapping into the Elemental Empress' power.

The Aethyr Blade transformed into a blazing blade for a second until Michael unleashed the compressed flames through the blade's tip. He used Insert to combine True Extraction with the azure flames as they burst from the blade, taking the Matriarch by surprise.

She didn't want to move but was forced to take a step to the side to neatly evade the stream of flames. Katharina Zenovia struck Michael with an ice sword she conjured in her hands, but Michael was nowhere to be seen again. Only his blazing armor was left where he'd been standing a moment earlier.

He appeared beside the Matriarch, his eyes glimmering dangerously. The Matriarch noticed a subtle change in Michael's demeanor at this point. She grasped that Michael was angry and that he was having a hard time differentiating this fight from his life-and-death battles in the Origin Expanse.

He was ready to fight with his life on the line. Even if his body had to crack and break, Michael would move onward because he thought that his life depended on it.

'Did I overdo it?' Katharina Zenovia wondered, only to shrug lightly, "Cool down a little."

Her voice was no more than a whisper, but the effect was enormous. A wave of ice engulfed Michael, nearly extinguishing the flames coating him instantly. The cone of ice shrouding Michael was highly

resistant to flames and rapidly swallowed the heat surrounding it, threatening Michael and his companion. Their lives were on the line the moment the ice cone engulfed them.

Michael was forced to recall Zeroa into his body to ensure that she wouldn't die instantly. The azure armor dispersed, and a big tattoo of the Elemental Empress formed on his arm.

"You did very well. I was forced to take you seriously. That was better than expected," Katharina Zenovia acknowledged. Glancing down at her feet, she sighed lightly. "You managed to make me move as well. That's not something a Lesser Lifeform can do easily."

Michael would have frowned if he could move his body, but he couldn't even use True Extraction in the cone of ice at this moment. It felt like his entire being, including his soul, had been temporarily frozen.

"That's very arrogant to say as a mere Higher Lifeform," An unfamiliar voice resounded beside Michael.

A young man with crimson hair and eyes appeared next to Michael. He pressed his fingertip gently against the ice cone, shattering it instantaneously with a light burst of white flames.

The white flames washed over Michael, the horrendous heat taking him by surprise. Somehow, he expected to be swallowed alive and burned to a cinder within a second, but that didn't happen. The flames flushed past him and retracted back into the crimson-haired guy's finger without harming Michael.

"Who are you?!" Katharina asked, her voice filled with vigilance.lightsnovel

She knew better than anyone how powerful the ice cone was. Even fellow Tier-6 Lords would have issues breaking out of the Eternal Ice Prison, like the guy in front of her.

However, the guy didn't pay any attention to her. Instead, he appraised Michael from head to toe.

"So, you're the one who killed those idiots who joined the righteous path? I thought Quinn and Raven exaggerated when their report about you reached me, but it looks like I was mistaken. I didn't expect to

find someone like you in a backwater galaxy like this," The crimson-haired guy mumbled, the corners of his lips curling upward into a fiendish smile.

He disappeared from Michael's sight for a quarter of a second, causing him to tense up badly. He tried using Cosmic Stride to create some distance from the crimson-haired guy, but the Soultrait failed him.

"Your teleportation Soultrait is useless right now," The crimson-

haired man said, reappearing next to Michael. A white flame flickered around his finger before leaping toward Michael's chest. His Spirit Armor Set burned alongside his shirt near-

instantaneously, revealing Michael's well-built body.

lightsNovel The crimson-haired man frowned deeply at first, only for repulsion to wash all over his face.

"Two Curses with access to several Seals. That's a shame," He murmured, "I guessed that you had one Curse with one or two Seals, but that is a little bit too much. I wonder if you'll survive Purgatory."

Michael couldn't help but feel a bit apprehensive about the crimson-haired guy. His look at the Cursed Seals and the Living Image of the World Serpents was overflowing with disgust.

"What are you talking about?"

The crimson guy shrugged lightly, his attention pulling to Michael's golden eyes, "Not much. Just concentrate on yourself. I'm going to help you."

"Help me?"

Goosebumps spread all over Michael's body.

"I'm going to remove what tainted you. It's a little bit dangerous, and you might die, but it's worth the risk. Removing those disgusting Curses to free your Soul is necessary!"

Michael's mind went blank for a moment. He had no idea what was happening but could tell the crimson-haired guy was dangerous.

"I will bring you to a better place. The Supreme Human Alliance has been waiting for someone like you for a long time," The crimson-haired man explained, the devilish smile on his face widening, "All you have to do is endure the agony and survive."

A instant later, white flames engulfed Michael. They didn't hurt at first. Only when they invaded Michael's body by tearing open his pores did the agony start.

The world around Michael went white.

Unbearable agony was all that followed alongside his desperate scream.

Chapter 740 Purgatory

Michael had no idea how much time passed. He could only tell that his insides were torn apart and burned to a cinder. At least, that's what it felt like as the white flames flooded his body.

However, Michael was not the only one in pain. His Curse released a terrifying roar that resounded through his insides. Yet, instead of sounding menacingly, the Curse sounded in pain. Even the World Serpent wasn't much different. It hissed in pain and wiggled around as if trying to escape the white flames.

Michael could endure the pain. It tore him apart and threatened to kill him, but Michael was certain that he was familiar enough with pain to tell that he would survive. However, his brother was different. Even Danny's Living Soul was affected by the white flames. It was unclear how the white flames managed to enter the Soul Grimoire, but they arrived at the Living Soul of his brother. That filled Michael's heart with worry.

Danny's scream tore through Michael's mind, affecting him severely. Michael didn't even think twice as he allowed the Curse and the World Serpent to do whatever had to be done to get rid of the blazing

flames. Even if it would cost him a few body parts, Michael would sacrifice them without hesitation as long as the World Serpent of the Curse could keep Danny safe and sound.

Every second felt like aeons as the pained screams swept through Michael's entire being, but Michael calmed down just a little as he sensed that the World Serpent was about to use the opportunity to emerge and kill the crimson-haired man.

In the meantime, the situation around Michael didn't remain idle. The others didn't remain idle as his pained scream swept through the surroundings. The War Priestess appeared before the crimson-haired man with her glaive ready to sweep down and be drenched in blood. The Chieftain was also there alongside the Matriarchs of the Zenovia household and the Seraph family.

They'd moved near simultaneously to stall the crimson-haired man and rescue Michael.

lightsNovel Crimson, the crimson-haired guy, noted the attackers and glared at the War Priestess with disgust. He didn't retrieve the Purgatory Flames that purified the corruption spreading through Michael. Instead, he lifted his other hand and manifested an Artifact. It was a simple-looking sword that didn't attract too much attention. The flickering flames engulfing Michael were much more apparent.

However, the Sword Artifact wasn't as simple as it looked like. Not in Crimson's hand, at least. He flicked and turned into a blur. Crimson disappeared from everyone's sight for a quarter of a second before he returned, his Sword Artifact drenched in blood.

The Seraph Matriarch observed that something was wrong at first. She was the most familiar with injuries and had a Soultrait that let her pinpoint the severity of wounds before they could be healed. Her healing method was highly efficient. Unfortunately, she had to sense a particular possibility that the wounded would survive. That wasn't the case right now.

The target's probability of survival was 0%.

She swallowed hard, her eyes falling upon the War Priestess, who suddenly slowed down. Her glaive crashed to the ground, and her legs caved in without warning. The War Priestess had been about to attack Crimson viciously, only to collapse to the ground, her arms slipping from her shoulder.

Her arms had been severed with two simple strikes that followed rapid thrusts and slices into her chest and abdomen. The cuts were made with deadly precision, inflicting deep wounds into her vital organs before the attacks ended with a clean strike through the War Priestess' throat.

The War Priestess gaped for air, but nothing could be done anymore. Her body grew weaker by the second until she stopped moving altogether. The Leader of the Warlock Centaurs had been killed. She died just like that.

Katharina Zenovia attempted to freeze the War Priestess to rescue her, but she was too late. Crimson flicked a small Purgatory Flame toward the lifeless body, burning the remnants alive without any qualms.

lightsnovel

It was only at this moment that everyone present realized that Crimson was on a different level than them. He was not a mere Higher Lifeform. The Purgatory Flames and his movements were not something an Higher Lifeform could create. They were something only Divine Lifeforms were supposed to be capable of. Higher Lifeforms weren't supposed to be this powerful.

Crimson was not a Higher Lifeform. It had been an eternity since he crossed that threshold.

He was already a Divine Lifeform!

Crimson was overjoyed at the sight of the burning remnants of the disgusting creature that had been daring enough to attack him. His devilish smile would have widened even further if it hadn't stretched from one ear to the other. His head flicked to the Zenovia and Seraph Matriarchs, and a small scowl plastered his face all of a sudden.

"Your minds have been corrupted. You cannot be salvaged anymore," He uttered in aversion before releasing two Purgatory Flames toward the two powerful women of High Society.

The two women attempted to retreat, but the Purgatory Flames were faster. They arrived at the two women and began to burn the two women mercilessly. The flames expanded and were about to engulf the women when time slowed down.

The fabric of space was torn open next to Katharina Zenovia, and darkness gushed out of it. The darkness lunged at the Purgatory Flames, threatening to devour the women and engulf them. A fierce battle between the white Purgatory Flames and the darkness ensued. The Purgatory Flames looked like they were about to emerge victorious for a moment, but the darkness expanded as it drained the energy within the Purgatory Flames.

Katharina Zenovia and Giuliana Seraph slumped to the ground, their legs losing the last bits of energy residing within them. Their attention pulled to Michael, surrounded by tendrils of darkness that devoured the Purgatory Flames coating him.

He took a deep breath, and his legs were about to cave in after the last traces of the Purgatory Flames had been drained, but he didn't surrender to the desire to fall asleep. Instead, Michael materialized Archangel's Grace alongside Heavenly Realm to swiftly tend to his wounds.

He consumed thousands of SoulStar Fragments to tend to the Living Soul, which had been on the verge of burning into particles of ash and smoke. It was not enough to fully heal Danny, but the Living Soul was no longer in danger.

A heavy sigh escaped Michael, whose entire being was overflowing with anger and wrath. However, now Michael wasn't the only one angry. His Curse and the World Serpent were even angrier than Michael could ever be. Michael was, at least, capable of protecting himself with all his might. The Curse and the World Serpent were weakened drastically by being sealed within him.

Even the World Serpent couldn't tap into the full extent of its power while residing within Michael. However, manifesting its real body would attract too much attention. Beings it couldn't handle after being injured would come after it.

The World Serpent couldn't afford to show its true prowess.

Fortunately, that was not necessary.

Rescue had already come.