The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 1001 - Skeleton Sea Tactic

In the next instant, Han Wu entered the Light God King's divine realm.

As a God King who had held his title for ages, the Light God King had developed his divine realm to an extraordinary degree. Arenas, training grounds, churches, and palaces sprawled across it so densely that they nearly covered the entire realm.

Every last one of those structures was build from Divine Essence! The Light God King's wealth was beyond measure.

Han Wu also sensed the units living within it. Their total number exceeded 100 billion, and that was only the population within the divine realm itself. The Origin Microcosm alone held that many.

A hundred billion units meant nothing to Han Wu. His core units were locusts, and their greatest strengths were devouring and breeding.

The Light God King's core units were a different story though. They weren't low-tier locusts but Light Mages, Unique life forms from birth. A single Light Mage was worth 100,000 locusts. That meant 100 billion Light Mages were equivalent to 10 quadrillion locusts.

As Han Wu did the math, he fully grasped the staggering scale of the Light God King's resources. On top of that, the Light God King had carefully nurtured those Light Mages over the years. Every one of them was powerful.

The moment Han Wu appeared above the divine realm, two Subcosm Light Mage Emperors charged toward him. Both wielded the Light Jurisdiction's power, and their pressure rivaled that of a veteran Major God. Their attacks were strong enough that even Han Wu didn't dare take them head-on.

Han Wu wasn't defenseless either. Subcosm fighters? He had those too.

At his command, a massive gate opened behind him. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King stepped through together. Both were Subcosm life

forms. Unlike the two Light Mage Emperors, however, they hadn't comprehended a Divine Jurisdiction embryo and therefore couldn't use Jurisdiction power.

They had their own advantages though. Having been born from the same source and fought side by side for years, they shared seamless coordination that compensated for their lack of Jurisdiction power.

Steely emerged behind them. He still hadn't reached the Subcosm rank, yet his actual combat strength was already close. In terms of raw destructive power, he could hold his own against a Subcosm opponent.

The giant puppet Supreme Power followed, with V controlling it. Under V's expert control, Han Wu's side gained yet another formidable Subcosm fighter.

The two Light Mage Emperors felt the pressure mount. They only had two Subcosm fighters, while the enemy fielded four. How were they supposed to beat them?

While the two Light Mage Emperors hesitated, the two Tyrannosprite Kings transformed into twin battle tornadoes and slammed into them.

A vicious four-way battle erupted.

Steely and the Supreme Power took on the Microcosm Light Mage Lords that rushed in as reinforcements.Despite their overwhelming strength, they still struggled against the enemy's superior numbers and the wide variety of skills thrown at them.

The front line quickly settled into a stalemate.

Han Wu was far from finished. His units poured through the portal. Swarms of locusts, Nuclear Locusts, and Blood Wraiths flooded into the divine realm with overwhelming numbers.

They were followed by units from other evolutionary lines, each charging into battle against the Light Mages. Even his non-core units joined the invasion. Epistians, Scorching Dwarves, minotaurs, tigermen, and half-dragons marched in formation, eager to prove themselves.

An invasion of this scale was impossible for the Light God King to overlook. He tried to rush back to his divine realm, but Jing Jing locked onto him with a Forced Invasion Card before he could make it back.

In the next instant, Jing Jing arrived inside the Light God King's divine realm as well. She saw that Han Wu had already engaged the Light God King's units and refused to fall behind.

Invoking the authority of the Soul God King, she activated the Soul Jurisdiction's effect, Soul-Body Fusion. Countless corpses answered her call. Bones tore free from flesh and reformed into soul-attribute skeleton soldiers. In moments, a massive skeleton army began to take shape.

Han Wu decided to add even more fuel to the fire. He opened a portal to his Life Microcosm, and a tidal mischief of rats flooded into the divine realm. Many of the surviving Light Mages were engulfed and gnawed to death before they could react.

At the same time, plenty of rats fell to the Light Mages' attacks. Neither Han Wu nor Jing Jing let a single corpse go to waste.

Jing Jing used her skeleton-summoning technique to raise the dead. Her skeletons had their bone attribute replaced with the soul attribute, making them far less vulnerable to light-attribute attacks or Purification.

Han Wu drew upon his Nether King Jurisdiction and cast his own skeleton summoning on the corpses. The rat skeletons that crawled out were of little value. Their abilities were mediocre at best, so Han Wu ground them down into bone sand to increase his numbers.

The Light Mage corpses were another matter entirely. As Unique life forms by birth, they retained an affinity for light-attribute magic even after being raised as skeletons. Han Wu watched the skeleton Light Mages fight their living counterparts and found the sight deeply amusing.

Under their combined efforts, the skeleton soldiers multiplied until they formed a skeleton sea. From a distance, a vast gray-white ocean of bones spread across the Light God King's divine realm, with countless skeleton soldiers rising and falling within the tide.

New skeletons were constantly shattered in brutal fighting, yet every skeleton within the sea was effectively immortal. A shattered skeleton's remains would be grounded into bone sand by the tide. That bone sand would then reshape and repair other skeletons.

The skeleton sea had become a catastrophe capable of devouring the Light God King's entire divine realm.

Chapter 1002 - Unleashing Everything

The Light God King watched his divine realm descend into chaos, and his fury boiled over. Terrifying pressure erupted from him, transforming into countless arrows of light that stabbed down θπον τηε βαττλεφιελδ.

His core units, the Light Mages, weren't harmed by the light arrows. Instead, the arrows amplified their light attribute. Han Wu and Jing Jing's skeleton sea was a different matter, though. The Purification carried within each arrow burned the skeletons to ash.

Han Wu and Jing Jing weren't fazed in the slightest. The skeleton sea tactic thrived on overwhelming numbers. For every skeleton that fell, 10,000 more rose to take its place.

Han Wu's army consisted of more than skeletons alone. He still had his locusts.

Under his command, the Nuclear Locusts he had bred carried vials of Giant Spinal Fluid in their mouths and dove toward clusters of buildings throughout the divine realm. The instant they found a concentration of Light Mages, they crushed the vials. Their bodies expanded a hundredfold, and their Self-Detonation power increased by the same magnitude. One gathering point after another was wiped off the map.[1]

The Light God King issued a decree without hesitation. "All units, gather your Light Energy and form Holy Shields."

Throughout the entire divine realm, every Light Mage manifested floating shields of holy light around them. Each shield could block one fatal blow and possessed extremely high durability.

The Light Mages, who excelled at offense but lacked defense, had transformed into tanky bruisers. With the Holy Shields active, they sounded the horn for a counterattack. Layers of wide-area Divine Skills descended upon them. Buffed to their limits by Haste, Regeneration, Super Regeneration, Light Enhancement, Sword Samba, and more, the Light Mages abandoned long-range casting entirely. They condensed Light Energy into melee blades and charged the invaders.

Han Wu watched this unfold in shock. Who would have guessed that the Light God King's core units could pivot into melee bruiser mages?

Light Mage casualties dropped sharply, while Han Wu's units began suffering heavier losses.

The Light God King relished the shift and laughed mockingly. "Han Wu! Your tactics are nothing compared to stacking multiple Divine Skills!"

Han Wu assessed the situation and responded immediately with his own decree.

Through the gate behind him, more powerful life forms emerged. Dark Locust, Sword God Akanzor, Bow God Bart, the Greed Neo Vampsprite, the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress, War Angel Alita, and even the Scorching Dwarf Hammie answered his call. Every elite Microcosm unit he had aside from the dragons charged into battle.

They used their formidable strength to hold the front line and temporarily stop the Light Mages' counterattack while the weaker units retreated behind them.

The Light God King was baffled. *What is this? The cannon fodder isn't soaking damage and splitting fire. Instead, the elites are protecting them. This is a suicide tactic. Once the elites run out of stamina, Han Wu will be finished.*

Under the Light God King's decree, the Light Mages fought with even greater ferocity.

Han Wu had withdrawn his weaker core units for a reason. At the Light Mages' current level of power, those units couldn't even scratch them. Keeping them on the front line would only increase his losses. As such, he gathered and ordered them to pool their energy and activate their totems. In an instant, over 100 billion projections of Han Wu sprang to life from those totems.

Han Wu issued another decree. All 100 billion totem projections were to unleash Formation Might in unison. The totems varied in strength, and so did the projections they produced. They were all Han Wu, however.

United by a single mind and one purpose, their Formation Might was extraordinary. A colossal projection of Han Wu took shape, gripping a massive sword in both hands.

Under Han Wu's control, all the energy in the surrounding heaven and earth rushed into the blade.

"Heaven-Earth Severance!"

The devastating strike landed.

The Light God King's divine realm didn't have Stasis protecting it and suffered catastrophic damage. The ground split apart, the sky fractured, volcanoes erupted, glaciers collapsed, and even tsunamis swept across the land. One natural disaster followed another.

These calamities had all been triggered by Heaven-Earth Severance.

Light Mages who weren't even within the strike's direct range were still caught in the cascading disasters and suffered devastating casualties.

The attack exhausted every last iota of energy from Han Wu's ordinary units. Once it ended, he had no choice but to send them back to his divine realm to rest.

The Light God King spent a massive amount of Divine Points to quell the disasters and stabilize his realm. When he sensed the casualty rate throughout his divine realm, his expression turned ugly.

The strike itself hadn't exceeded Subcosm power. It had, however, unleashed the forces of heaven and earth and triggered multiple natural disasters. The combined damage pushed Light Mage casualties beyond ten percent. In raw numbers, more than 10 billion Light Mages had been wounded or killed by that single blow.

The losses were staggering. Even if the Light God King wiped out Han Wu's units it still wouldn't make up for the damage.

"I will kill you!" the Light God King roared.

The Light Mages felt their God's fury and went berserk. They squeezed every ounce of hidden potential in them and unleashed attacks far beyond their normal limits.

Han Wu's elite Microcosm units struggled to hold the line. They fought as they steadily retreated. Their numbers were simply too few.

That was when Jing Jing stepped forward, and her Soul Jurisdiction's authority erupted. The skeleton sea that she and Han Wu had built together surged toward the massive army of Light Mages. It resembled a colossal tsunami, with countless skeletons and bone weapons flickering in and out of the churning waves.

The Light Mages fought back desperately. Their Holy Shields held for a time, but they couldn't withstand the near-endless barrage crashing down from within the skeleton sea. Large numbers of Light Mages fell and became part of it, causing it to expand yet again.

At its center, a throne of white bone appeared. Jing Jing sat upon it. The Skeleton Queen's majesty was blinding.

The Light God King ordered his Light Mages to fall back and then cast a Divine Skill. He summoned the Holy Mountain known as Blazing Cliff. A towering peak erupted from the ground, every inch of it radiating the power of the light-attribute Purification and the fire-attribute Incineration.

The skeleton sea's waves crashed against the Blazing Cliff, and countless bones were burned to ash.

Jing Jing changed tactics without hesitation. Under her control, the skeleton sea rose into a wall of bone as tall as the Blazing Cliff itself. She then constructed bridge after bridge of bone between the wall and the Holy Mountain. Countless skeletons sprinted across those bridges to reach the other side and slaughter the Light Mages behind the Blazing Cliff.

If those skeletons broke through, a second skeleton sea would form beyond the Blazing Cliff. The Light God King couldn't let that happen. He unleashed his pressure once more and turned it into countless light arrows aimed at the bone wall. If he toppled it, the skeleton sea would never cross the Blazing Cliff.

Han Wu's thinking mirrored the Light God King's. If he could destroy the Blazing Cliff, the skeleton sea would surge forward unchecked and crush every last unit under the Light God King's command.

In the next instant, he drew Peerless. All of his Microcosms appeared behind him and wrapped around him like ribbons, pouring their energy into him.

Han Wu possessed relatively few Microcosms, but each one was incredibly dense. They were far beyond ordinary Microcosms, and the total energy they provided was enormous.

His Conversion Jurisdiction converted all of that energy into Divine Points and poured them into Peerless. The entire blade blazed with brilliant light.

"Dragon Slayer! Starfall!"

The two techniques erupted in rapid succession. Starfall normally produced hundreds of millions of energy blades. Empowered by Dragon Slayer, that number exploded into the billions.

High above the battlefield, light arrows and energy blades collided in a devastating exchange.

The bone wall and the Blazing Cliff both shattered under the onslaught. The skeleton sea surged forward once more. Its waves rolled over the Blazing Cliff's ruins and spread deeper into the Light God King's divine realm.

1. Bro, stop ☜

Chapter 1003 - Wind Against Light, A Fatal Clash

The Light God King watched wave after wave of his units drown beneath the skeleton sea's bone tide. Entire districts of buildings crumbled under its advance.

Naturally, he was livid. This was his home turf, the place where his core race lived. It was a paradise built with an astronomical amount of resources. Now it was being torn apart before his eyes, and every loss cut him to the bone.

His core race fought hard, though. As the skeleton sea pushed forward, nearly every Microcosm Light Mage Lord worked together to raise walls of light. These barriers dramatically slowed the skeleton sea's advance.

Han Wu's elite units seized the opportunity and launched targeted strikes against the Light Mage Lords. Every fallen unit meant one fewer barrier and allowed the skeleton sea to advance faster.

The Light God King surveyed the battlefield below. His gaze first landed on his two Subcosm Light Mage Emperors. They were locked in combat with the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King. Neither side could break the deadlock.

He also spotted two zones of absolute devastation within his divine realm. Steely and the Supreme Power were at the center of each one, demonstrating exactly what absolute domination looked like. Even Light Mages stacked with dozens of Divine Skills were as fragile as paper under those two. They were crushed without resistance.

In Steely's and the Supreme Power's eyes, the Light Mages were nothing more than ants to be swept aside by the dozens.

Han Wu's other Microcosm units fought just as hard. They picked off Light Mage Lords one by one and pushed the skeleton sea forward.

Han Wu's Slaughter Jurisdiction reacted violently to the relentless slaughter. Its development rate climbed rapidly. At the same time, the deaths of countless Light Mage released enormous amounts of Death Energy. Han Wu absorbed it all, and a new Death Microcosm formed within his consciousness.

Watching his core units die en masse, the Light God King realized that if he didn't eliminate Han Wu's troublesome elite units soon, the skeleton sea would become unstoppable, and his core race would be devastated.

As such, he decided to spare no expense to destroy Han Wu's elite units.

Rows of Microcosm projections appeared around the Light God King. Arranged together, they formed a glittering river of stars. He reached into the river and plucked out a single Microcosm. Infused with the power of his Light Jurisdiction, the Microcosm transformed into a Spear of Victory and locked onto Han Wu's core unit, Dark Locust.

Dark Locust was a Microcosm fighter. The instant he was locked on, he could feel the terrifying power and speed contained within the Spear of Victory. He knew there was no dodging it.

Before the spear could hit him, Dark Locust chose to Self-Detonate. The explosion devastated everything around him, but failed to shatter the Spear of Victory. A single Microcosm-forged spear was that resilient.

Whether Dark Locust had Self-Detonated willingly or been forced into it, it made no difference to the Light God King. He counted it as a kill. Without hesitation, he forged

dozens more Spears of Victory from individual Microcosms and launched them at Han Wu's remaining Microcosm units.

Every spear flew as fast as a streak of light. Only a handful of Han Wu's units managed to dodge or block the attacks. Sword God Akanzor and Bow God Bart were among the survivors. The rest had been pierced clean through. Then the Microcosms within each spear detonated on impact and blew their bodies apart.

Han Wu's forces suffered devastating losses in an instant. By the time he realized what was happening, it was already too late. Numerous of his elite Microcosm units had been wiped out by the Spears of Victory.

Even though their souls were inscribed on Revival Stones, reviving them still required time. They wouldn't be able to fight for Han Wu again anytime soon.

"Damn it!" Han Wu cursed. He hadn't expected the Light God King to have such a trump card.

Each attack had cost the Light God King a Microcosm, but the exchange had been more than worthwhile. He had eliminated dozens of Han Wu's Microcosm fighters. Strictly speaking, he had come out ahead.

Pleased with the results, the Light God King turned his attention to Steely and the Supreme Power. They had already pushed deep into his divine realm.

Recognizing their strength, he drew out twenty Microcosms at once, divided them into two groups, and forged each group into a Spear of Victory.

A ten-Microcosm Spear of Victory possessed unimaginable power. It traveled faster than light, and neither Steely nor the Supreme Power had any chance to dodge. The moment they realized they were locked on, all they could do was brace for impact.

The Supreme Power gathered all its energy and hastily formed a barrier to block the incoming spear. Even so, a ten-Microcosm Spear of Victory was too powerful. It punched through the barrier and buried itself in the Supreme Power's frame. The ten Microcosms within detonated simultaneously, blasting away nearly half its frame.

Although its combat power plummeted, V was still at the controls. Drawing on his deep understanding of the Supreme Power's design, his data analysis, and the Alchemy Ring's effects, he prevented the Supreme Power from being destroyed. It immediately started absorbing metal elements from the surrounding area and repaired itself at a visible pace.

Steely fared much better. His comprehension of the sword had reached an incredibly deep level, and his instincts were razor-sharp. The instant he sensed the powerful attack locking onto him, his muscles reacted on pure instinct. He activated the Obsidrum

Warmaster bloodline at maximum speed, and all of his Obsidrum condensed into a massive blade. He then swung it directly at the incoming Spear of Victory.

A full-powered Obsidrum Judgment collided against a ten-Microcosm Spear of Victory in midair, and the two forces ground violently against each other. The recoil was tremendous.

Steely gripped the massive blade with all one hundred of his arms and held firm until he completed the strike. The blade shattered, and cracks split open across every one of Steely's hundred arms. The Spear of Victory shattered as well. Steely had won.

For the Light God King, this was only a minor setback.

For Steely, it was a feat that defied the heavens. A surge of pride and the insight gained from that collision triggered a sudden epiphany. The power of wind gathered around him of its own accord. It came in wisps and threads before rapidly swelling into a world-ending storm.

Han Wu sensed the change, and his eyes went wide. In that single clash, Steely had comprehended the Hurricane Jurisdiction's embryo. It propelled his strength forward by a massive leap. Steely had officially reached the Subcosm rank!

Chapter 1004 - One Slash Breaks the Shield

Steely had always been one of Han Wu's most exceptional units. In addition to the abundant resources Han Wu provided, he pushed himself relentlessly. That drive kept him far ahead of every other unit. Even Dark Locust couldn't compare to him.

Before reaching the Subcosm rank, Steely could already unleash Subcosm destructive power. Now that he had officially broken through, his strength exploded.

The world-ending storm swirling around him was drawn inward and absorbed completely. The energy healed all his wounds. Blades of black wind gathered around his hundred arms and condensed into greatswords infused with the Hurricane Jurisdiction's power and the might of the God-killing Obsidrum.

Even the Light God King felt a flicker of danger from Steely's current state. It was bad enough that Han Wu himself could match him. Now even one of his units was making him feel threatened. To the Light God King, this was nothing short of humiliating.

"Die!" the Light God King roared and pushed himself to his absolute limit. One hundred Microcosms were ripped from his reserves and forged into a single Spear of Victory.

Hit or miss, those Microcosms would be spent forever. The level of control required was far beyond anything an ordinary Microcosm-fueled attack demanded. The spear shot forward and locked onto Steely.

Steely sensed the lock, closed his eyes, and swung on pure instinct.

This was the first time he was using Steelcutter with the power of a Subcosm life form. All one hundred blades merged into a single greatsword of swirling black and azure. He brought it crashing down to meet the Spear of Victory.

A terrifying shockwave erupted outward. The aftershock alone killed countless Light Mages in the vicinity. Under the violent clash of energies, Steely's fused greatsword started to crack. The Spear of Victory was forcing its way through.

At the critical moment, Steely triggered his ability, Second Hand. Everything within 10,000 meters froze in time. The Light God King was inside that radius.

In the next instant, Steely drew on his Hurricane Jurisdiction embryo and rocketed forward. Within a single second, he crossed nearly 10,000 meters, reached the Light God King, and brought his crumbling greatsword down on him.

The blade made contact just as the one-second time freeze ended.

Bone-deep agony exploded through the Light God King. He retaliated with his full divine pressure. Light Energy transformed into 10,000 arrows that rained toward Steely.

Steely had no choice but to abandon his fused greatsword and dodge. Even so, the attack had left its mark. Everyone who had witnessed it marveled at Steely's power. He was the first one in this battle to land a blow on the Light God King.

The Light God King grabbed the embedded greatsword in his body and crushed it. The wound spoke for itself. A mere unit had wounded a God King. It was an absolute joke!

As the wound healed rapidly, the Light God King abandoned all restraint. He unleashed every Divine Jurisdiction effect at his command: Spear of Victory, Holy Radiant Shield, Radiant God Physique, and Lumen Aura! The combined effects drove his aura to its peak.

Han Wu and Jing Jing stepped forward in unison and shielded Steely behind them.

"You want to kill my unit? You should ask me first," Han Wu declared.

An equally ferocious aura surged from Han Wu. Peerless absorbed that aura, and its power swelled even further.

Jing Jing drew Evilspawn Ghost Blade. Nine Bone Dragon Microcosms were embedded within the weapon. Its entire body had taken on a gray-white hue, as though it had been forged from bone. Underestimating it would be a grave mistake.

In a flash, Jing Jing moved like a phantom and slashed the Evilspawn Ghost Blade across the Holy Radiant Shield. That shield was inlaid with tens of thousands of Microcosms. A single slash left a thin crack across its surface. Gray bone matter seeped into the crack and spread slowly, preventing the shield from repairing itself.

The Light God King didn't notice the anomaly. He countered immediately and thrust the Spear of Victory at Jing Jing.

A direct hit would critically wound even a Soul God King. Faced with the choice of taking the hit or retreating, Jing Jing chose to shift forms. Her crystal bones were normally impossibly hard, but under Soul-Body Fusion, even crystal bones could turn into a soul form.

In that ethereal state, she was as fluid as water, and the Spear of Victory passed right through her, hitting nothing.

Jing Jing then activated Seven Sins Avatars. Seven identical copies of herself appeared at her side. Each one matched her in strength, shared her consciousness, and wielded its own Evilspawn Ghost Blade. Together they unleashed a storm of slashes against the Light God King.

The Light God King had assumed the seven figures were simple clones with limited power. When their attacks landed and gray bone marks spread rapidly across his Holy Radiant Shield, he realized that every single one of them was real and dangerously powerful.

Before the Light God King could react, Han Wu followed up with Dragon Slayer combined with Heaven-Earth Severance. The fused strike unleashed devastating force. The Holy Radiant Shield with its tens of thousands of Microcosms shattered under the blow.

With a single slash, the shield was destroyed!

Han Wu seized the opening and activated his Minute Hand, stopping time within a 1,000-meter radius.

He had sixty seconds. In that time, he swung Peerless in a frenzy of slashes. Without the Holy Radiant Shield to protect him, the Light God King was nothing but a target.

Han Wu spent the full minute carving him apart. The terrifying edge of Peerless reduced the Light God King to shreds. No one had ever pushed the Light God King that far.

That didn’t mean the Light God King was dead, though. When the Minute Hand countdown ended, Han Wu stared at the empty spot where the Light God King had stood and exhaled. Completely shredding his opponent had made him believe for a moment that he had won.

Then the fragments of the Light God King’s body dissolved into light and reformed.

The Light God King stood once more. His face was deathly pale as though he were a bloodless vampire.

Han Wu’s one-minute rampage had clearly dealt massive damage. However, the Light God King was still alive.

: Chapter 1005

Chapter 1005 - The Fall of Light

The Light God King had never been this weak. Peerless was a World-rank Divine Weapon. Its edge was devastating, far beyond what elemental dispersal alone could negate. He had suffered grievous injuries.

The Radiant God Physique could absorb limitless Light Energy, though. With his units continuously supplying him light from below, his complexion quickly improved.

Han Wu and Jing Jing watched from the side with frowns. The Light God King’s vitality was more terrifying than a locust’s. He had been reduced to shreds, yet he had still managed to pull himself back together. He was worse than unkillable.

The greatest burden fell on Han Wu. Breaking into the Light God King’s divine realm to assassinate him had been a spur-of-the-moment decision. The battle had escalated to this point, and his units had put their lives on the line to give him this advantage. If he gave up now, their sacrifices would mean nothing.

Han Wu made up his mind and spoke with absolute conviction. “If I can’t kill you once, then I’ll do it twice, three times, however many times it takes. You will die.”

By now, the Light God King had recovered most of his injuries, thanks to the massive influx of Light Energy from his units. Han Wu had pushed him to the brink of death, a humiliation he refused to swallow.

His resolve to kill Han Wu only hardened. “As long as my light endures, I will not die. As long as I still have living units, I will never truly fall. You want to kill me? Come! One of us dies today!”

The Light God King ripped 100 Microcosms from his reserves, forged them into a Spear of Victory, and locked onto Han Wu.

At his peak the Light God King was at the very top of the Subcosm rank. The theoretical maximum for a Subcosm being was 999,999 Microcosms, but that was only an ideal. His actual count was 530,000. Most were ordinary, but some were of exceptional quality. Together, they gave him peak Subcosm strength. Compared to 530,000, 100 Microcosms was a drop in the bucket. If it meant killing Han Wu, he would gladly burn through 10,000.

The instant the Light God King locked onto him, Han Wu felt lethal danger close in from every direction. It was an attack he couldn’t dodge or evade.

The Spear of Victory shot toward him at blinding speed.

An ordinary life form would have died before it even registered the attack. Han Wu was different. The moment the lock-on took hold, his Duel and True Martial Jurisdictions responded.

The Duel God Physique allowed him to improve rapidly during combat. Under the crushing pressure of the lock-on, his instincts sharpened until he could predict the Spear of Victory’s exact trajectory. Meanwhile, the True Martial God Physique multiplied his physical abilities tenfold. Together, the two God Physiques pushed his reaction speed to the extreme.

Han Wu slashed and Peerless met the Spear of Victory edge-on. It wasn’t luck. His absolute reaction speed allowed him to intercept it.

Earlier Steely had done the same thing. He had read the spear’s trajectory through sheer instinct and blocked it with a blade forged from hurricane and Obsidrum. However, his blade hadn’t been strong enough to withstand a 100-Microcosm Spear of Victory. He had been forced to use the Second Hand and exploit the resulting time gap to bypass the spear and strike the Light God King directly.

Peerless was in another class entirely. Its blade ground against the Spear of Victory and held firm. Through sheer quality alone, Peerless shattered the spear completely, and 100 Microcosms vanished into nothing.

Han Wu had fended off the Light God King’s strongest attack head-on, and the latter was at a loss. He couldn’t win nor could he flee. His survival depended entirely on his units supplying him with Light Energy. Without them, Han Wu would’ve cut him down long ago.

“You said that as long as your units are alive, you’ll never truly die. Did I hear that right?” Han Wu called out.

A bad feeling crept over the Light God King.

“What are you planning? I’m warning you. Don’t do anything reckless. Just because you blocked my attack doesn’t mean I can’t kill you,” the Light God King barked, but the panic in his voice was unmistakable.

To Han Wu, it sounded like nothing more than the desperate bravado of a man staring death in the face.

A hint of madness flickered in Han Wu’s eyes as he said, “If you could kill me, you would have done it already. You said you won’t die as long as your units live, right? Then I’ll kill every last one of them. What will you do then?”

“You wouldn’t dare!” the Light God King bellowed.

Ten Spears of Victory forged from ten Microcosms each launched at Han Wu in rapid succession. Volley after volley tore through the air. The Light God King had thrown all caution aside. He was burning through Microcosms just to push Han Wu back.

Han Wu swung Peerless at blinding speed and shattered every incoming spear. At the same time, he signaled Jing Jing to intensify the skeleton sea’s assault.

Light barriers shattered one after another. Bone Dragons surged from the skeleton sea and threw themselves at the Microcosm Light Mage Lords. An endless tide of bone weapons and skeletons followed, crashing into every Light Mage within reach.

“No!” The Light God King grew frantic. He forged another 100-Microcosm Spear of Victory and hurled it at Jing Jing.

Han Wu intercepted it at extreme speed and said in a calm, deliberate voice, “From here on, you get to watch your units die. One by one.”

Jing Jing dove into the skeleton sea herself. Wherever she went, the Microcosm Light Mage Lords could barely react before she cut them down. This was the Skeleton Queen’s true power.

Steely, the repaired Supreme Power, the reformed Dark Locust, Sword God Akanzor, and Bow God Bart followed. Under Han Wu’s command, they all plunged into the Light God King’s divine realm alongside the skeleton sea.

Bow God Bart pinpointed the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King. He tore open a spatial corridor and teleported every available fighter to their location. Together, they ganged up on the two Subcosm Light Mage Saints.

The Light God King saw everything. He wanted to intervene, but Han Wu blocked him at every turn. Before long, Han Wu's elite units and Jing Jing's skeleton sea had completely overrun the Light God King's divine realm. Every single Light Mage was dead.

The Light God King could no longer sense his core race. The flow of Light Energy had stopped.

Peerless blazed once more in Han Wu's hands. He used Steelcutter and brought the blade down. "Die!"

That final slash ended the Light God King's life.

Back at the Light Faction's headquarters, the Major Gods had just managed to repel the invading forces. They were about to report to the Light God King when a violent sensation tore through their minds.

Their faith in the light had collapsed. The Light God King had fallen. From that day forward, there would be no more light in the Divine Civilization.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1006

Chapter 1006 - Elina's Fate

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The moment the Light God King's presence vanished, the Light Faction's members lost all will to fight. Without the Light God King, the Light Faction was nothing more than a massive, unguarded slab of meat, ripe for anyone to come and take a bite. Plenty of hungry wolves were already circling outside the headquarters.

Sun Qingnian had been monitoring the Light Faction through his informants the entire time. The moment he received confirmation of the Light God King's death, he leaped to his feet in excitement.

"Han Wu, you actually pulled it off!" Sun Qingnian exclaimed.

He immediately reopened the hidden channel and added all the anonymous faction leaders back to the group before sending a single message: “The light has fallen. Confirmed!”

That one message sent shockwaves through every faction.

Outside the Light Faction’s headquarters, gates opened at full power. Major Gods and even God Kings appeared in person, leading their units straight into the headquarters.

The Light God King was dead. What was left to fear?

The buildings throughout the headquarters had been constructed from precious resources, some of which had been taken from these very factions. Now, they had come to reclaim everything.

Old grudges and past humiliations all came pouring out at once. Players from every faction in the Divine Civilization swarmed the entire headquarters.

A few die-hard Light Faction loyalists still refused to believe that the Light God King had fallen. They tried to invoke his old reputation to frighten the invaders away.

“If you leave now, His Majesty will overlook your transgressions.”

“If you insist on staying, don’t blame His Majesty for being merciless!”

Some of the invaders hesitated. The Light Faction had bullied them for so long that their fear of the Light God King had become instinctive. The ones who had come for vengeance ignored the warnings entirely and ordered their units to charge.

Everything of value was either carried off or destroyed on the spot. The principle was simple: leave nothing behind for the Light Faction.

The bolder ones rushed straight in to claim their share of the spoils. The meeker ones waited until they confirmed that the Light God King’s presence was truly gone before they went in.

Sun Qingnian kept posting in the channel, confirming the Light God King’s death and rallying more hostile factions to join the raid. Based on the reports from his informants, he was confident that the Light Faction would never recover after that day. Their home had been gutted, and they had nothing left with which to rebuild.

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Inside the Light God King’s divine realm, the realm itself had started to collapse following his death.

Han Wu seized the chance and used Stellar Plunder on the Light God King's corpse, pulling numerous Microcosms into his possession.

Converting so many Microcosms into his own would take time. The corpse itself was also a treasure, so Han Wu froze and stored it in his divine realm for later use.

He then used his Origin Microcosm to consume and absorb the crumbling divine realm. As his Origin Microcosm expanded, the divine realm steadily shrank until only its Core remained in his hand.

It was a perfect Core, upgraded to Level 50, the maximum level, and fitted with a complete set of Rank 10 Sacred Objects. Its value was immeasurable, so Han Wu stored it in his own divine realm.

While Han Wu was handling the spoils, Jing Jing had recalled the skeleton sea into her own divine realm. She hadn't competed with Han Wu for any of the other resources because the skeleton sea itself was her greatest reward. Once she fully absorbed it, she would reach the threshold to unlock the Soul Jurisdiction's second effect.

After collecting everything, Han Wu and Jing Jing appeared inside the Light Faction's headquarters.

Their sudden arrival caught Jia Gui and Elina completely off guard. The two had been tangled up with each other the entire time.

Elina quickly put distance between herself and Jia Gui before demanding an answer from Han Wu. "How are you two out here? Did you receive a pardon?"

She couldn't fathom the possibility that the Light God King she worshipped had lost to Han Wu and Jing Jing.

"If I were you, I'd check whether the Light God King still exists. Take a look at your surroundings while you're at it," Han Wu said.

After Han Wu and Jing Jing had invaded the Light God King's divine realm, Elina had immediately gone after Jia Gui. She wanted him dead. Once the Light God King's Purification cleared her mind, the memory of her behavior over the past few days had left her feeling deeply violated. Killing Jia Gui was the only way to wash away that humiliation.

Sadly for her, Jia Gui was a master of escape. Few in the entire Divine Civilization could match him when it came to fleeing, so dodging Elina was child's play.

Elina was smart. She knew Jia Gui was in love with her, so she threatened to kill herself unless he came to her side.

Jia Gui loved her so much that despite being a coward to the bone, he actually obeyed.

Elina struck the moment he came within reach. Thankfully, Jia Gui was still a World fighter. He managed to restrain her, and the two had been locked in a stalemate ever since.

After Han Wu's warning, Elina reached out with her senses, praying for the Light God King's response. Horror gripped her when she realized that she couldn't detect him at all. It was as if the Light God King had never existed.

"Impossible! You're lying! Great light, illuminate the truth and save your children..." Elina cried out, but no answer came.

Deep down, she already knew that the Light God King had most likely fallen. She simply refused to accept it.

Jing Jing looked at Elina and drew out Evilspawn. She considered Elina a threat and wanted to end her now.

Jia Gui rushed forward to stop her, but Jing Jing listened to no one except Han Wu.

With no other choice, Jia Gui pleaded with Han Wu. "Brother Han Wu, this is the first time I've ever truly fallen for someone. Please, just do me this one favor. I swear I'll spend the rest of my life repaying you."

The sincerity on his wrinkled face was evident. Han Wu could clearly see that Jia Gui was hopelessly in love with Elina, even though his feelings were entirely one-sided. It was practically killing the old man.

By then, Jing Jing had already pinned Elina down and was about to bring Evilspawn across her throat.

"Don't kill her!" Han Wu shouted.

Jing Jing stopped immediately and waited for his instructions.

"I'll destroy her divine realm and seal all of her powers. From now on, she stays in your divine realm as a powerless prisoner. Do you agree?" Han Wu asked Jia Gui.

Jia Gui looked at Elina with a pained expression. He knew this was the absolute limit of what Han Wu would accept. Elina carried the Light God King's bloodline, so leaving her uncontrolled would invite endless trouble.

"Fine. I'll keep her locked in my divine realm for the rest of her life," Jia Gui said through gritted teeth.

Chapter 1007 - New Clone Han Guang

Han Wu personally destroyed Elina's divine realm and sealed her powers, then watched as Jia Gui brought her into his divine realm.

"If she ever leaves, or I hear that she's been causing trouble, you know what'll happen," Han Wu warned.

Jia Gui broke into a cold sweat. His fear of Han Wu had seeped into his very bones.

"Brother Han Wu, I'd sooner betray myself than betray you," Jia Gui said desperately.

Once Han Wu dismissed him with a nod, Jia Gui immediately activated his Concealment Jurisdiction and slipped away.

Han Wu and Jing Jing extended their senses outward and detected massive numbers of non-Light Faction units swarming the area. Some players even targeted them, but they quietly backed off the moment Han Wu summoned Steely and allowed him to release his full Subcosm rank aura.

Even if they didn't recognize Han Wu, they still understood one thing. A person with a Subcosm rank unit was not someone to provoke. After all, they were here either for revenge or to loot, not to fight to their death.

With Steely standing guard, Han Wu and Jing Jing summoned their own units and started hauling resources back to their divine realms. A few Light Faction members tried to resist. Each time they did, Han Wu simply gained another Divine Jurisdiction embryo and a few more Divine Aspects. At this point, he was almost hoping a Major God or even a God King would step up.

Unfortunately, few were foolish enough to try. After half a day of systematic looting, the Light Faction's headquarters had literally been stripped down to the ground, with every building either carried off or demolished. The Light Faction's headquarters no longer existed.

News of the destruction reached the War Faction while the War God King Zhong Heng was in the middle of a meeting. When he heard the report, he nearly flipped the table.

The Light Faction had been a powerful ally he had been ingratiating himself with. He had been counting on their usefulness after absorbing the resources gained from destroying

the Dark Faction. That plan was obviously dead now. The Light Faction had followed the Dark Faction into oblivion.

“Who did this?” Zhong Heng questioned his scouts.

“No confirmed identity of the perpetrator yet, Your Majesty, but we did receive one piece of intelligence. When the headquarters fell, Lord Invictus was inside,” the scout reported.

“Invictus?” Zhong Heng frowned. It took him a few seconds to match the name to Han Wu’s face. “Han Wu... That traitor! His presence at the headquarters proves he looted Light Faction resources. He’s becoming dangerously capable. We need to be on guard.”

Pious stepped forward from behind Zhong Heng. “Rest assured, Father. If Han Wu dares to interfere with your plans, he’ll have to go through me first.”

These words naturally pleased Zhong Heng. Pious always knew exactly what to say. Having an adopted son like him was more than he could ever ask for.

“Pious, contact the Destruction Clan and Nine Eyes. I need to discuss what to do about Han Wu. Also, pass a message to the Life God King. His chances of defeating the Death God King are slim enough as is. He’d better not waste this opportunity.”

“As you command, Father,” Pious said, immediately departing to carry out his orders.

Three days passed. Han Wu was still in his divine realm, sorting through the resources he had taken from the Light Faction’s headquarters. Damaged building materials and shattered Divine Weapon fragments went into the Refiner. The crystals produced were used to nurture various units in his divine realm.

Next came the Divine Jurisdiction embryos and Divine Aspects. The latter he simply distributed to units with high potential and compatibility. The former, however, required an even higher level of compatibility to absorb, so whether his units could use them came down to luck.

After dealing with the smaller items, he finally moved on to the main event: the Light God King’s corpse.

Even a God’s corpse was a treasure. A God King’s corpse was on another level entirely. Moreover, this particular God King had been extraordinarily powerful.

Han Wu was already planning to convert it into a new clone. He had created a clone from a God’s corpse and named it Han Wen, but then the Will of the Hell Civilization had taken over its body, and subsequent fighting destroyed it completely.

All that aside, the Light God King’s corpse would make for truly extravagant clone material.

He ran a full diagnostic on the corpse and confirmed it was viable. Drawing on his previous experience, Han Wu didn't hesitate to start the conversion, infusing various materials into the body to strengthen it.

The clone born from the Light God King's corpse was soon completed. Han Wu named him Han Guang[1] as he was born of the Light God King's corpse.

Han Wu also gained information about Han Guang after he completed him. As he reviewed Han Guang's attributes, his eyes went wide. "These stats are insane!"

1. Guang here refers to the character Light ☜

: Chapter 1008

Chapter 1008 - Light Spirit Orb

[Name: Han Guang]

[Rank: God King]

[Divine Talent: Child of Light (Boost all light-attribute powers by 1000%)]

[Divine Powers: Faith (Units can use Faith Points and convert them into weapons), Devotion (Brainwash units to increase their Faith level), Protect (Units can consume energy to form a Holy Shield and avoid a fatal blow), Radiant God Body (Dramatically increase affinity towards light-attribute), ...]

[Divine Essence: 130 points]

[Divine Aspect: Light, Victory, Justice, War, Regeneration]

[Divine Authority: 100% (Can form arrows of light to attack enemies or heal allies)]

[Divine Jurisdiction: Light, 480% development (Effect: Spear of Victory, Holy Radiant Shield, Radiant God Physique, Lumen Aura)]

[Techniques: Toss, Light Arrow, ...]

[Spells: Oblation (Sacrifice a Microcosm to obtain a burst of power), Light Condensation (Absorb a large amount of Light Energy to form a Microcosm), Stellar Plunder (Plunder the opponent's Microcosms), ...]

Han Wu marveled at the attributes. The Light God King had certainly lived up to his name. Every single power screamed righteous authority.

The 130 points of Divine Essence alone stunned Han Wu. He had never seen such a high number. Even with the fusion of multiple Jurisdictions, his Divine Essence points only barely passed a hundred.

Each additional point of Divine Essence became exponentially more resource-intensive. At Han Wu's level, raising his Divine Essence by a single point would cost roughly 400,000 Divine Essence—an amount that could cultivate tens of thousands of Demigod-rank units.

This comparison was actually not the best math. After all, a single point of Divine Essence on Han Wu would boost his strength by at least 1%, which alone could match those tens of thousands of Demigods. Investing in himself, however, was always the best return.

Han Wu turned his attention back to Han Guang. As the clone had already died once, his strength could no longer grow, but he was more than powerful enough for Han Wu to make use of. As a clone, Han Guang's death wouldn't affect Han Wu at all, unlike an avatar, meaning he could send Han Guang on dangerous missions without worry.

Han Guang also wore the Light God King's face. Foreign civilizations unfamiliar with the Light Faction's downfall could even show the "Light God King" some respect, though those plans could wait for a later date.

With Han Guang complete, Han Wu went on to tally all of his spoils.

The most valuable asset was naturally Han Guang, as the new clone was both a combat force and a walking Light Jurisdiction. Although Han Wu couldn't absorb the Light Jurisdiction directly due to compatibility issues, he could still use it indirectly through Han Guang.

Next were the Microcosms he had extracted from the Light God King's body. Stellar Plunder was powerful but didn't have a 100% success rate, so Han Wu had gotten lucky this time. He had claimed roughly 40% of the Light God King's Microcosms, which came out to around 220,000 in total. The space of his consciousness expanded rapidly.

Han Wu's own Microcosm count had been comparatively small, roughly a thousand, but each had been top quality, which was how he maintained his Subcosm rank strength despite the low number. The 220,000 newly acquired Microcosms were all light-attribute and lower in quality, so he planned to use Merge combined with Omniversal to upgrade them.

Third most valuable was the perfect max-level divine realm Core, which contained a complete set of Rank 10 light-attribute Sacred Objects. Han Wu planned to have Major God Jiang Ming extract the set, as the man specialized in Sacred Object research.

A complete Rank 10 Sacred Object set was worth at least 100,000 Microcosms. The Core itself could be saved as upgrade material for his own divine realm Core when he ascended to God King.

That reminded Han Wu of the extra divine realm Core he had previously received as a reward from the Will of the Divine Civilization. It was only level five and couldn't be upgraded, and he had never decided what Sacred Object to load into it.

After raiding the Light God King's vault, he had mountains of Sacred Objects to pick from. Searching through the heap, he found one that satisfied him, called the Light Spirit Orb.

Its effect was simple. Once loaded into a divine realm, it allowed core units to convert their physical strength into light-attribute orb attacks. Physical damage became light-attribute damage, and melee fighters gained ranged capabilities.

When applied to his locusts, this single Sacred Object could turn the billions of insects under his command into makeshift light-attribute mages. It was similar to the Light God King's approach of turning his Light Mages into melee bruisers. Han Wu's method was even simpler and more brutal, though. Not to mention, it only needed a single Rank 5 Sacred Object.

Han Wu imagined billions of units firing Light Spirit Orbs in unison. The only way to describe it was a light barrage.

There was another reason he chose this Sacred Object. Han Guang had the Radiant God Physique, which could absorb limitless Light Energy. If his billions of core units converted their physical power into Light Spirit Orbs and channeled everything into Han Guang, the resulting blast could disable even a God King!

Han Wu couldn't stop himself from grinning. One-tenth of his core units followed the Giant Enhancement Path. The raw physical power that defined Giants would become pure Light Energy through the Light Spirit Orb. This combination of the Light Spirit Orb, Giants, and Han Guang resulted in a weapon of mass destruction. Han Wu looked forward to the combined blow.

As he loaded the Light Spirit Orb into the extra divine realm Core, a pulse of light swept outward, and every locust in his domain entered a meditative state of comprehension. Once done, they would gain the Light Spirit Orb ability.

Han Wu continued searching through the Light God King's treasury and soon found a familiar item. A Magic Ring, or more precisely a Light Ring.

Rumor had it that the Light God King built his empire on the back of a Light Ring. Han Wu himself had once owned an Alchemy Ring and a Fire Ring, though the latter had since been auctioned off to the Blazing God King.

Curious, Han Wu examined the Light Ring's properties.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1009 - Demon King Transformation, Fourth Stage

The Light Ring could convert any element into light-attribute energy for absorption. Unfortunately, while this was practical for most players and units, it was redundant for Han Wu, as his Conversion Jurisdiction could already transform any elemental attribute into another.

V arrived shortly after. He and the Epistians had finally completed the design blueprints for the Supreme Power. The original's construction cost was enormous and required several materials from unknown sources, so building an exact replica was out of the question.

After studying the Supreme Power's operating mechanisms, V and the Epistians had produced three modified design drafts. The first was a scaled-down version with a projected strength at the Microcosm rank, and would cost 8,000 Divine Essence. The second was a further reduced version at Heavenrender rank for 1,000 Divine Essence. Finally, the third was the most stripped-down, at Sage rank for 200 Divine Essence.

Han Wu examined the blueprints. They were all rather expensive. Even the cheapest option, at 200 Divine Essence, could fund the cultivation of two or three Sage rank units. Admittedly, though, he could build puppets faster than he could raise units.

Considering his finances, Han Wu told V to hold off on mass production and build a few prototypes first. If the results were good, they could pitch the idea to the Wealth Faction for investment and only start mass-producing it once he had enough capital. Using other people's Divine Essence to build his own enterprise was Han Wu's favorite way of doing business.

While reviewing the blueprints, V noticed the Light Ring sitting nearby and got Han Wu's permission to examine it. As he studied it, V mentally combined its function with the concept of Divine Weapons, immediately coming up with several design improvements.

After some thought, V proposed using the Light Ring as the Supreme Power's energy source. This would dramatically reduce operating costs and potentially add both offensive and defensive capabilities.

Han Wu naturally approved. The Light Ring was useless to him, so any upgrade it could give the Supreme Power was a net gain. Nodding, V took the ring and left.

Not long after, a dragon's roar echoed across Han Wu's divine realm. Han Wu rushed to the source. It was the Golden Tree.

During the battle against the Light God King, Han Wu had deliberately held back his dragon forces. They were his trump cards. After returning from the White Soul Civilization, he had combined the concept of kingship he had learned there with the Golden Tree's blessings and given the dragons a bloodline ascension path. He called this operation: Raising Dragon Kings.

Black Dragon King Alpheus had led the dragons in implementing the whole thing. After days of experimentation, it had finally produced results. Han Wu arrived to find every dragon in the realm surrounding Smog, the Golden Great Dragon, as it ascended to become the Golden Dragon King.

Smog had always been powerful. When he first joined Han Wu, he had already been a mature Great Dragon. The abundant resources in Han Wu's divine realm only accelerated his growth. After ascending as the Golden Dragon King, his strength now surged to just one step below the Subcosm rank.

Han Wu was pleased that Smog had become stronger, but more importantly, this proved the path to kingship worked. The dragons could use it to produce other Dragon Kings, such as Ice Dragon Kings, Lightning Dragon Kings, Silver Dragon Kings, and more.

After ascending, Smog noticed Han Wu's presence, and a deep gratitude welled up within him. If not for Han Wu, Smog would likely still be eating and sleeping in another civilization.

Smog offered Han Wu a drop of his refined blood essence to show his appreciation. Han Wu's Defier title granted him partial Great Dragon bloodline, allowing him to absorb Great Dragon blood and gain Great Dragon abilities.

He had previously combined this with the Demon King Transformation to unlock Second Stage transformations, which included his True Black Dragon King Transformation and True Fire Dragon King Transformation.

After absorbing Smog's blood essence, a third branch appeared. The True Golden Dragon King Transformation. In this new battle form, Han Wu's body became incredibly tough, and his physical attacks received a massive boost.

While testing the new form, something unexpected happened. The abundance of high-quality Great Dragon bloodlines had the power in his body surging beyond his control, pushing his Demon King Transformation toward a higher stage.

Silver Dragon Erebard, the eldest among the Great Dragons, recognized what was happening. He called every Great Dragon to surround Han Wu and donate their purest blood essence to accelerate the breakthrough.

Erebard, Ice Dragon Leng Ning, Great Lightning Dragon Bakir, Wicked Dragon Veritas, and more all poured their blood essence into Han Wu, driving the dragon attribute within the Demon King Transformation into explosive growth.

Dragon scales of shifting elements appeared across Han Wu's skin, and his body grew larger, transforming into a full Great Dragon form. Terrifying Dragon Fear radiated outward.

Every unit in the divine realm felt it and knew their God was growing stronger. In their excitement, they all bowed and offered their Faith Points in worship.

Their Faith Points entered Han Wu's body, further accelerating his growth. Three days later, he completed the transformation. The Demon King Transformation had advanced to its Fourth Stage thanks to the blood essence of the Great Dragons.

Han Wu named it the True Holy Dragon King Transformation.

Chapter 1010 - The Destruction Clan's Assassination

Terrifying Dragon Fear radiated outward, dense enough that it felt solid. Even the ground beneath Han Wu sank under the weight of his pressure.

Han Wu had fully transformed into a Great Dragon, with scales that shimmered in every color. This wasn't just a matter of looks. Each scale contained incredibly concentrated power. He was no longer just a human with dragon blood, but an actual Great Dragon—and a Holy Dragon King at that.

In terms of raw physical power, Han Wu could confidently say that he could match a Subcosm rank enemy with just the True Holy Dragon King Transformation, and this was purely based on his bodily strength alone.

There was also the fact that he could channel terrifying amounts of multi-attribute energy. The sheer variety of elements within that energy effectively gave it the chaos attribute, which meant it could counter any other element.

While this Fourth Stage lacked the analytical and sealing abilities of the Third Stage, Fetterbane Dragonforge, the True Holy Dragon King Transformation was far superior in terms of pure destructive power, reaching the Mesocosm rank as a whole.

The Great Dragons all bowed before him. Even the proud Black Dragon King Alpheus, the Fire Dragon King Esquiem, and the newly ascended Golden Dragon King Smog couldn't resist kneeling before the majesty of Han Wu's bloodline.

The Wicked Dragon Veritas trembled in regret. Han Wu had once offered him the chance to serve him, the future Holy Dragon King, and he hadn't treasured it. The outcome was that he was demoted to the lowest of the low, a disposable underling who could be dragged out and have his dragon spirit harvested at any time.

Recently, Skeleton Queen Jing Jing had ascended and was building a Bone Dragon legion. Veritas couldn't help but wonder if the Holy Dragon King would use him as material again.

Oblivious to the Wicked Dragon's thoughts, Han Wu spent the next three days adapting to the True Holy Dragon King Transformation. He also practiced shrinking his form into a half-dragon shape better suited for close combat.

The resulting half-dragon body stood five meters tall. Though still massive by human standards, this was comparatively tiny to a Great Dragon. In this compressed form, his physical offense and defense alone were boosted to Mesocosm rank, though his energy output was slightly weaker than the full dragon form. He decided he would simply switch between the two as needed.

While Han Wu trained, a major event was unfolding in the Divine Civilization. The Life God King had located the Death God King on the battlefield between their two factions.

The two had fought for years and were extremely familiar with each other's strengths. The Life God King could never land a killing blow. Meanwhile, the Death God King had managed to kill the Life God King before, but the Life Jurisdiction's resurrection effect left the Death God King feeling helpless.

"Death, we've been at this for years. We both know where we stand. I've come prepared today. I suggest you surrender willingly and save yourself the trouble," the Life God King openly declared.

The Death God King's expression darkened, certain his suspicions that the Life God King allied with the War Faction and the Destruction Clan were about to be confirmed. Quietly, he channeled energy into the Golden Rune.

"I don't know what you're planning, but let me warn you, Life. Drinking poison to quench your thirst will only hurt you in the end," the Death God King said.

The Life God King looked impatient. “When did you become so long-winded? Yes or no. Give me a straight answer.”

“I will not lose.”

The Life God King had expected that answer, but simply needed to hear it for himself. “Then this is where we say our last goodbye.”

With that, he tore open a spatial rift, and a person radiating dense Dark Energy stepped through. The Death God King could tell from presence alone that they had fused with the Dark Jurisdiction. This was the Dark God King’s killer.

The Death God King’s gaze turned icy, and his Four Dharma Manifestations appeared unbidden at his sides. At last, the strongest being in the Divine Civilization—at least publicly—unleashed his full power. Bone-chilling pressure crashed against the Life God King and the cloaked figure like a tidal wave.

Barriers of Life Energy and Dark Energy bloomed across their bodies, blocking the pressure.

The cloaked figure laughed coldly. “Your Majesty the Death God King, the Destruction Clan would like to borrow your Death Jurisdiction. We hope you’ll cooperate. Everyone will remember your contribution when the Destruction Clan leads the Divine Civilization into a new era.”

The figure lowered his hood to reveal the aged face of Gu Feng, an elder of the Destruction Clan. The Death God King’s tension eased slightly in recognition.

“Think carefully, Gu Feng,” the Death God King warned. “If you attack me, the Destruction Clan and the Death Faction will become enemies for life.”

“Trading the Death Faction’s existence for the Divine Civilization’s future?” Gu Feng scoffed. “That’s a bargain. I don’t even need to think about it. Please, Your Majesty. Accept your death.”

Gu Feng then opened a jeweled box in his hands. For him to open such a thing before the Death God King meant that the item inside could surely turn the entire war around.

Blazing divine light shot from the box and locked onto the Death God King. At the same instant, the Golden Rune on the Death God King’s body erupted with golden light, neutralizing the divine beam.

The light from the box faded.

The Death God King stood untouched, his frosty gaze fixed on the pair.

Gu Feng and the Life God King were both stunned.

“How? Why didn’t the Source of Destruction work?” Gu Feng shouted in panic.

The Death God King didn’t bother with words. His Four Dharma Manifestations moved to intercept the Life God King while he personally charged at Gu Feng.

“Die!” The Death God King unleashed the Proclamation of Death.

A suffocating wave of mortal terror closed in on Gu Feng. If he didn’t find a way out soon, he would die.

In desperation, Gu Feng crushed a crystal shaped like an eyeball. A stream of Temporal Energy flowed out and enveloped his body. Not even the Proclamation of Death could penetrate it. Gu Feng’s body slowly faded as he was teleported away.

The Death God King refused to let it end there. One of his Four Dharma Manifestations, the Decay Manifestation, lunged at the jeweled box in Gu Feng’s hand. It applied its power of decay to time itself, ageing a small section of the Temporal Energy barrier, which allowed its hand to slip through and snatch the box.

“No!” Gu Feng screamed, trying to break free of the teleportation, but the Temporal Energy held him like chains until he vanished completely.

The Life God King eyed the box in the Decay Manifestation’s hands and chose to retreat. Their assassination attempt had failed.

Chapter 1011 - A Declaration of War

Nine mismatched eyes stared down from the ceiling of a golden palace.

Pious of the War Faction sat across from a figure who looked like Huang Shengjun. His eyes had nine distinct pupils, and his expression radiated unbridled arrogance.

Despite his appearance, this was actually the Butcher.

The Butcher had been declared dead after the divine war against the Wisdom Faction. With the Nine-Eyed Evil God’s help, however, he had escaped through a Huang Shengjun clone and had grown significantly stronger under the Evil God’s guidance.

Pious and the Butcher went way back. The two of them were discussing the state of the Divine Civilization while waiting for news from the Destruction Clan.

A gate appeared as Gu Feng teleported out of the battlefield, face twisted with rage.

The Life God King followed shortly after. “The assassination failed, and the Source of Destruction was taken.”

Both the Butcher and Pious shot to their feet, the news hitting like a thunderbolt. The Source of Destruction was the Destruction Clan’s greatest treasure. This ultimate weapon, which carried a 99% kill chance against any opponent of any rank, was now in the Death God King’s hands.

Even the Nine-Eyed Evil God and the War God King Zhong Heng would break into a cold sweat if they heard this. The Life God King was already mentally searching for a remote corner of the universe to hide in for the next few centuries.

“The Source of Destruction is useless if it isn’t charged with Destruction power,” Gu Feng assured. “Only members of the Destruction Clan can fuel it. No one else can use it.”

The room relaxed slightly, and the Life God King quietly shelved his escape plan.

“How did you manage to lose it, Elder Gu? Wasn’t that thing your lifeline?” Pious asked bluntly.

Gu Feng’s face darkened. It’s not like he had wanted to lose it. The situation had simply progressed in unexpected directions.

The Life God King stepped in to defend him. “Everything happened so suddenly. Elder Gu did his best. None of us could’ve expected the Death God King to survive the Source of Destruction’s strike.”

Every eye in the room turned to the Life God King. A 99% kill chance meant only a 1% chance of survival. The Death God King had beaten those odds.

“No one can truly withstand the Source of Destruction,” Gu Feng insisted. “The Death God King must have some kind of protective treasure on him.”

While Gu Feng had no proof of this, he stood by the Source of Destruction’s abilities.

Not that it mattered anymore. The Source of Destruction was gone, and the failed assassination had tipped their hand. The Death God King would almost certainly declare war on the Destruction Clan next.

As the Destruction Clan didn’t have a God King of their own, other God Kings couldn’t attack the Destruction Clan directly within the Divine Civilization. Even if a fight broke out, it would be between Major Gods, and Gu Feng wasn’t too worried about that. The family still carried the bloodline of the Destruction God King, after all. Their abilities weren’t shabby.

“Since the Death God King already knows we’re working together, let’s just launch a combined divine war,” the Butcher proposed. “I refuse to believe he can withstand a four-way siege.”

The four powers he referred to were the War Faction, the Life Faction, the Destruction Clan, and the Nine-Eyed Evil God.

Unfortunately, the Destruction Clan had lost the Source of Destruction, which accounted for half their total strength. Without it, they were a tiger without teeth. Still, three and a half factions were an enormous force by any standard. It was more than enough to crush the Death Faction.

The Life God King felt miserable. His condition for joining had been that the Destruction Clan would kill the Death God King. In the end, the Death God King survived, and the Life God King was now publicly linked to the Destruction Clan. He had gained nothing and picked up a whole lot of trouble.

If not for his confidence in the Nine-Eyed Evil God and the War Faction, he would’ve walked away from the Destruction Clan without so much as a backward glance.

“Then we declare war! The Divine Civilization has never seen a divine war on this scale!” Pious declared on behalf of the War Faction. War Faction members got excited at the mention of any kind of conflict.

The Butcher agreed after receiving confirmation from the Nine-Eyed Evil God.

The Life God King, meanwhile, had no choice but to join. He was already fighting the Death Faction. This just meant more allies ganging up on them.

As for the Destruction Clan, Gu Feng’s cover was blown. Not declaring war would be rude at this point.

After the three and a half factions finalized their plans, they began preparations. The next morning, news of their joint declaration of war against the Death Faction spread through every corner of the Divine Civilization.

On the surface, it was an alliance between the Life Faction and the War Faction, but behind the scenes, the Destruction Clan and the Nine-Eyed Evil God’s forces were also involved. Those aware of the truth felt that the Death Faction was doomed. No faction dared to offer them help.

Before the buzz could die down, a new announcement dropped. The Wisdom Faction and the Death Faction had allied against the combined forces of the War and Life Factions.

At Han Wu’s request, Sun Qingnian also spread word that the Blood Coliseum and the former Dark Faction members would be joining the fight.

The goal wasn't to attract more help, but to discourage opportunists from piling onto the Death Faction. The message worked. Several factions that had been eyeing an easy profit by supporting the Life Faction quietly backed off.

Picking a side was dangerous in an evenly matched fight. It was smarter in this situation to sit back and watch how things played out.

Chapter 1012 - That Seems a Bit Inhumane

The battlefield between the Life and Death Factions grew more crowded by the day.

The Wisdom Faction, the Blood Coliseum, and the former Dark Faction all deployed armies of fighters on Death's side.

Meanwhile, War Faction's members flooded in to support Life. The Destruction Clan also entered the alliance's upper command. Of these, the grandest entrance was undoubtedly that of the Nine-Eyed Evil God's Huang Shengjun legion.

A billion Huang Shengjun soldiers launched a massive assault on the Wisdom Faction's newly arrived forces. Between the individual strength of each Huang Shengjun and the combined Formation Might of a billion of them, the Wisdom Faction suffered catastrophic casualties, losing sixty percent of their forces in a single fight.

News outlets across the Divine Civilization were already predicting the Death Faction's imminent collapse the next day.

Seeing this, the Death God King held the first joint strategy meeting at the Death Faction's headquarters. Attendees of this meeting included the Death God King and his senior officers; the Wisdom God King and his staff; Han Wu and the Blood Coliseum's administrators; and several former Dark Faction Major Gods. Sun Qingnian attended as an intelligence officer as well.

The most pressing issue was the Huang Shengjun legion. A single Huang Shengjun was a watered-down Microcosm life form with the same level of combat power. Their threat only scaled with their numbers. A billion Huang Shengjun releasing Formation Might together produced an area-of-effect attack rivaling that of a Mesocosm rank fighter.

The Wisdom Faction's devastating losses made perfect sense in this light. Even the Death Faction's forces wouldn't have fared much better. The Death God King was concerned. As the divine war's principal target, he had to stay hidden.

Before this, the Life God King had lacked the means to one-shot him, as he had the Golden Rune. That differed completely from a billion Huang Shengjun combining their Formation Might to cripple him.

After much deliberation, Han Wu proposed a solution. He had known about the Huang Shengjun legion longer than most. The only thing he hadn't expected was for them to number a full billion. Regardless, the problem wasn''t as dire as it seemed.

Han Wu had been raising his own Shengjun race inside his Microcosms. After extensive cultivation, their numbers had reached three million. While that was a pittance compared to a billion, a standalone force of three million Microcosm rank fighters could still destroy most factions ranked below the top fifty.

The Origin of Mutation had already devised a strategy for using these three million against the billion-strong enemy. The answer was viral infection.

Extensive research into the Shengjun race's genetic makeup had allowed the Origin of Mutation to map their entire gene structure. With a few minor modifications, it could turn Shengjun individuals into carriers of a pathogen. Planting carriers that continuously released viruses into a population of one billion genetically identical hosts led to explosive results. The Viral Maggot incident from the past was the proof of concept.

When Han Wu presented the idea on the Origin of Mutation's behalf, he was greeted with strained expressions on the others' faces.

Even the Death God King, a being who dealt with death every day, frowned. "That seems a bit inhumane."

The other officers nodded along. "The Huang Shengjuns are obviously produced through some kind of cloning technology. Even if they've been cloned as war machines, lives are lives."

"We want to win, but we're not that desperate," another officer added.

They had always assumed divine wars were largely ones of attrition. The first to run out of resources lost. After hearing Han Wu's plan, though, they realized that no divine war was unwinnable as long as their floor was as low as Han Wu's.

Han Wu was speechless. *This is a matter of survival. How have their moral standards somehow gone up? Is being burned alive or struck by lightning any better than dying from a virus?*

At a loss, he glanced at Xu Hai, confident that his mentor would back him. Xu Hai's eyes darted away, but Han Wu's unblinking stare forced him to speak.

“Morality aside, Han Wu’s proposal would solve our current problem at its root,” the Wisdom God King relented. “The Wisdom Faction has suffered devastating losses. If we don’t settle this score, our members will be furious. Han Wu’s method would more than satisfy their desire for vengeance.”

Xu Hai’s endorsement had the others changing their minds and eventually approving the virus plan. The damage to their reputation would fall on Han Wu anyway.

Han Wu didn’t care about that. The Origin of Mutation would be handling the execution.

When it learned that its proposal had been approved, it was naturally ecstatic. It separated the three million Shengjun into two groups. One million were kept in reserve for future breeding, while the remaining two million were inoculated with various pathogen strains, cultivating dozens of diseases specifically targeting the Huang Shengjun genome.

The command center tracked the billion-strong Huang Shengjun legion’s movements. Once they confirmed the legion’s position in the T40 War Zone, the Death God King teleported Han Wu over.

Han Wu dove into the Huang Shengjun ranks, cutting through them in a rampage. The goal of this was to quietly open a gate and slowly slip the two million modified Shengjun into the enemy’s midst. He did this so subtly that the enemy never noticed.

Everything proceeded according to plan. The Huang Shengjun legion continued its unstoppable advance and claimed another stage of victory.

: Chapter 1013

Chapter 1013 - Viral Infection

The Huang Shengjun legion’s latest victory thrilled the Life God King. It was the first time he had ever gained ground this quickly against the Death God King. When they returned, he showered the legion with Life Infusion, healing their wounds and restoring their energy.

He had no idea that the nightmare had only just begun. After the battle, the Huang Shengjun legion had a short break. The Butcher conducted an inspection. When he swept the legion with his senses, he found several anomalies. Some Huang Shengjuns looked different. Male, female, young, old.

The female Shengjuns in particular stood out, but the Butcher assumed they were mutated variants. He had seen mutations among the Huang Shengjuns before, just never a gender mutation. The female Shengjuns were physically different from the males and radiated pheromones that drove the surrounding male Huang Shengjun soldiers wild.

These men had been under combat stress for days. It didn't matter if the female Huang Shengjuns were as ugly as a sow; they were still excited by them. Fortunately, the Butcher, still in Huang Shengjun's likeness, arrived before anything happened.

"What's wrong? You guys didn't get your fill of fighting during the day?" the Butcher asked sarcastically, pulling the females aside so he could take them away. "You lot, follow me. Everyone else, go back to your camp."

These few females were only the tip of the two-million-infiltrator iceberg. The next morning, the Butcher exited his camp full of vigor. When he ran another headcount, however, he was shocked to find that the numbers didn't match. Almost 30,000 Huang Shengjuns were missing.

30,000 was a tiny fraction of a billion, but it was still 30,000 Microcosm rank fighters. Even a God King did not necessarily have that many elite units. The Butcher investigated the situation and discovered that all 30,000 were dead. Every single one was a female Shengjun, their bodies all showing clear signs of abuse.

Despite understanding what had transpired, he couldn't bring anyone to justice. The number of perpetrators was far too large, and he wasn't about to kill millions of Huang Shengjuns just to avenge the 30,000 dead ones.

After disposing of the bodies, he ordered the march to continue. The legion fought just as fiercely as before and claimed a massive territory for the Life Faction. The Life Faction's territory was now twice as large as the Death Faction's.

Another three days passed. The incredible might of the Huang Shengjuns left the officers of the Life Faction and the War Faction stunned. They had never thought that they could take down the Death Faction without using their other forces.

The Butcher, on the other hand, continued to notice the discrepancy growing. The daily death toll climbed from 30,000 to 50,000, then 80,000, then finally 100,000. Something was undeniably wrong, but because the dead were mostly female Shengjuns, he didn't think too deeply about it.

On the fifth day, the legion crumbled in on itself. Over a third of the Huang Shengjuns were showing bizarre symptoms, including fainting, suffocation, full-body convulsions, and bleeding from every orifice. The Butcher immediately requested the Life God King's help.

The Life God King intervened at full power, but his healing barely worked. Treated soldiers recovered for an hour or two only to relapse worse than before. He personally examined dozens of affected soldiers; their bodies exhibited every symptom imaginable, yet his senses detected no disease. All he could do was pour Life Energy into them to extend their lives—a stopgap measure at best.

Unbeknownst to the Life God King, the actual damage wasn't to their Life Energy, but their genes. The Origin of Mutation had implanted pathogens that rewrote the Shengjun genome, creating dozens of gene-level infectious diseases. [1]

These diseases ate away at the Shengjun's maximum Life Energy capacity. It didn't matter how much Life Energy the Life God King poured into them. It was like filling a leaking bucket, simply draining right back out again.

The infected grew weaker by the hour, and the number of affected kept climbing. Finally grasping the direness of the situation, the Butcher reported it to the Nine-Eyed Evil God. The Evil God bluntly replied that his Huang Shengjuns couldn't produce females. The enemy had planted every female in the legion.

The Butcher paled. He had assumed they were mutations, only to discover they were infiltrators instead!

He immediately ordered every female Shengjun in the legion to be executed on the spot. The remaining 800,000 or so female Shengjun were killed that day. However, the infection didn't stop. More and more Huang Shengjuns developed symptoms with every passing hour.

After symptoms appeared, the infected would deteriorate and die within three days. This was the Origin of Mutation's specially designed genetic trap.

As the Huang Shengjun legion deteriorated into sickness, their combat power also naturally reduced to a fraction of its former glory. Even their combined Formation Might appeared sickly.

The Death Faction took advantage of this to launch an emergency counterattack, slaughtering massive slews of Huang Shengjuns and reclaiming vast swaths of territory.

Han Wu also joined the Death Faction's forces.

During the chaos of battle, he used Myriad Martial Caste and the Everchange Jurisdiction to disguise himself as an ordinary Huang Shengjun soldier to search for where the dead Huang Shengjuns were being dumped.

It took some looking around, but he eventually found the site. Mountains of the Huang Shengjuns' corpses lay piled before him. Dropping his disguise, he shifted into his Nether King form and activated his Netherworld Jurisdiction.

“Arise.”

The corpses stirred at his command, and the Huang Shengjuns stood up one by one, their dazed, confused souls still clinging to them. They were Han Wu’s undead now, bound to fight for him.

1. Think of the prion ☜

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: Chapter 1014

Chapter 1014 - Unstoppable

Stripped of their flesh, the Huang Shengjuns became skeletons. Their high base strength meant they were still Heavenrender undead, though they remained pure melee fighters, having inherited their previous weakness of having no techniques or skills.

Han Wu didn’t mind. Once a skeleton sea formed, even simple melee skeletons could unleash terrifying force. The disturbance drew the Huang Shengjun legion’s attention, and numerous sick soldiers dragged themselves out to fight the undead.

A Huang Shengjun at full health was Microcosm rank. However, with the viruses wreaking havoc on them, their actual combat output was barely Heavenrender rank. Their flesh-and-blood bodies also held more vulnerabilities than a skeleton, which meant the skeleton sea held every advantage.

Swathes of Huang Shengjuns fell in the first clash. Han Wu raised all the fallen with the Netherworld Jurisdiction from his hiding spot nearby. Broken bones were ground into fine sand, which shifted between skeleton forms for direct combat and weapon shapes for ambushes. The already crumbling Huang Shengjun legion couldn’t hold.

The Butcher recognized the skeleton sea tactic and knew the Huang Shengjun legion was in no condition to fight it head-on. He had no choice but to order a retreat. Life Faction and War Faction members sent other units forward to cover the withdrawal. Although the skeleton sea chewed through the reinforcement, the Huang Shengjun legion had managed to flee far out of reach, so Han Wu stopped chasing them and turned on the replacement forces instead.

The bone sand from powerful undead skeletons was constantly being reshaped into equally powerful new forms, and the skeleton sea’s momentum was nearly unstoppable.

Seeing this, the Life Faction's members fought back with Life Domain, flooding the area with intense Life Energy to counter the skeleton sea's death aura. The skeleton sea's power dropped by more than half.

Just as Han Wu was about to go all out and force his way through, Jing Jing arrived. Without a word, the Skeleton Queen unleashed her own skeleton sea. It dwarfed Han Wu's, and more importantly, her skeletons carried the soul attribute as opposed to Han Wu's death and darkness. Life Energy didn't affect the soul attribute, and her skeletons tore through the enemy's layered defenses with ease.

Han Wu merged his skeleton sea into Jing Jing's, forming an even larger tide. Tsunamis of bone crashed forward in waves, each one sweeping away massive numbers of enemy units. The Major Gods and lesser forces on the other side simply couldn't hold.

A Life Faction Major God erupted with Life Energy and grew towering trees to block the skeleton sea temporarily. In the brief respite, he shouted, "Get word to the Life God King! We need reinforcements!"

It took mere moments for the skeletons to fell every tree and hurl the logs back at the enemy. The defense line was demolished. The Life Faction and War Faction Major Gods abandoned the fight and fled through teleportation gates.

Vast stretches of territory were reclaimed under the skeleton sea's assault. Inside the Death Faction's command center, the Death God King and the Wisdom God King watched the advance with satisfied smiles.

Han Wu had solved the problem they had agonized so long over. All that remained was to swallow up the Life Faction's territory and find the Life God King. Killing the Life God King was the only way to end the divine war.

The aggressive push met fierce resistance soon after. Massive numbers of light-attribute units flooded into view.

Above them, former Light Faction Major Gods shouted, "Avenge the Light God King!"

Han Wu recognized them immediately. The former Light Faction had been pulled into this massive divine war and were evidently aware that he had killed the Light God King.

In theory, light and soul did not oppose each other, but at extreme intensity, light could actually harm souls. The scorching brilliance melted bones within the skeleton sea.

All the light-attribute units that charged forward had Purification inscriptions on their bodies. When they died, their corpses would be completely purified, leaving nothing behind. Neither Jing Jing nor Han Wu could raise anything from them.

"Someone has obviously coached these light worshipers," Han Wu said.

Jing Jing nodded. The skeleton sea's advance had stalled. It frustrated her enough that she wanted to charge forward and clear the path herself.

Han Wu stopped her. "I have a trump card for dealing with the old Light Faction."

With that, he opened his divine realm, and his clone, Han Guang, stepped through.

Han Guang's appearance brought blinding radiance. He activated the Spear of Victory, Holy Radiant Shield, Radiant God Physique, and Lumen Aura. Every effect of the Light Jurisdiction manifested on his body.

The former Light Faction members froze when they felt his familiar presence. The Light God King was dead, so who was this identical figure standing before them? Those deeply indoctrinated couldn't help but feel their devotion stir at the sight of Han Guang's face.

"Your Radiance, is that you?"

"His Radiance lives! He's alive!"

Cries of joy and fervent worship erupted from the former Light Faction member. They were elated to see their God King once more.

Han Guang stared down at his faithful followers with a warm, radiant smile. Behind him, Han Wu's core units stepped forward and activated the Light Spirit Orb, converting their physical power into light-attribute orbs for Han Guang to use.

As Han Guang's Radiant God Physique absorbed billions upon billions of these orbs, he maintained a loving gaze at the worshipers below. At his command, his Divine Authority transformed into light arrows that filled the sky. He then unleashed the most brilliant bombardment imaginable.

The devoted followers below were slain by the very God King they worshiped. They would never understand why.

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Chapter 1015 - The Destruction Clan's Maneuver

Han Wu stared at the ocean of light arrows below in utter shock. Han Guang's output after absorbing the Light Spirit Orbs from Han Wu's core units was truly staggering. The range

and intensity of the attack surpassed even the skeleton sea that he and Jing Jing had built together.

This spectacle brought with it a chilling realization.

The only reason Han Wu had managed to assassinate the Light God King was that he had snuck into his divine realm and trapped him there. If the Light God King had been free to call for help and absorb Light Energy from his faction members, the resulting counterattack could have obliterated the skeleton sea in one shot.

Even the thought sent a shiver down Han Wu's spine. Thankfully, Han Guang was on his side now.

Without the former Light Faction blocking them, the skeleton sea resumed its unstoppable advance. Every enemy the skeleton sea killed fed a tiny amount of development into Han Wu's Slaughter Jurisdiction. While the gains were minuscule individually, they added up, and his Slaughter Jurisdiction soon reached 100% development.

The Slaughter Jurisdiction's first effect, the Slaughter Barrier, was complete. Activating it would drag opponents into a realm filled with mountains of corpses and a sea of blood. The blood inside that realm would condense into weapons, and every enemy Han Wu had ever killed would rise as a corpse to attack the target endlessly.

It was a powerful effect, but Han Wu wasn't interested in using the Slaughter Jurisdiction to ascend to God King. He was determined to wait for a Divine Jurisdiction that truly excited him.

The Death Faction's other forces followed Han Wu and Jing Jing's charge and pushed forward aggressively, reclaiming a good amount of territory. The Death Faction now controlled three-quarters of the entire battlefield.

If the advance continued, the Life God King's location would inevitably be revealed, and the Death God King could use his Jurisdiction for a long-range kill.

Given the Life God King's resurrection ability, though, a single kill would likely not be enough. That was why Wisdom God King was already constructing a Wisdom Tower at Death Faction headquarters. His Eye of Wisdom, mounted on the tower, could deliver an extremely powerful long-range strike once they confirmed the Life God King's coordinates.

Those on the Life Faction's side weren't about to take this lying down either. While the Huang Shengjun legion was dealing with the virus, the War and Life Factions had deployed their forces. Unfortunately, they suffered repeated setbacks.

Only the Destruction Clan had yet to contribute. Gu Feng knew that the Destruction Clan would be cut loose if they didn't act soon. Without allies, the clan would become a target,

which would jeopardize their mission to find the Destruction God King in the Chaotic Starfield. So, he volunteered the Destruction Clan for assassination attempts behind enemy lines.

Members of their clan trained in their family's secret Destruction cultivation techniques from a young age. They bound their skills, Divine Skills, Aspects, and Authorities to manifest an instant death effect with a set probability on every hit. Although not specifically trained as assassins, they were every bit as lethal.

The Life God King was desperate enough to agree to this proposal.

Members of the Destruction Clan soon poured onto the front lines. Several Death Faction members encountered them, and many died to their set kill chance. The situation on the front lines grew extremely tense. Dozens of deaths forced the Death God King to slow his advance.

Han Wu was pulled into another meeting. No one at the table had a solution. Having a set chance of instant death was rare, and the Destruction Clan had practiced it their entire lives.

Some members had even optimized their abilities for rapid multi-hit attacks, stacking as many chances to trigger the kill effect as quickly as possible. Against a single target, it was still manageable, but in a group battle, it was a nightmare. The Destruction Clan only further optimized this by targeting the kill effect on Gods and ignoring the regular units.

Han Wu didn't have a good answer either. Even though his Skull Guillotine, derived from the Destruction Aspect, carried a 25% kill chance, using it would cost him dearly. It wasn't a card he would play unless absolutely necessary.

As Han Wu was mulling it over, the Death God King pulled something from inside his robes. It was the jeweled box that his Decay Manifestation had snatched from Gu Feng, the Source of Destruction.

The box was sealed to prevent unintended exposure. After days of studying it, the Death God King had given up trying to open it. Without the power of Destruction to fuel it, not even the strongest being in the Divine Civilization could crack the seal.

The Death God King had been ready to let it gather dust, but when the topic of kill chance came up, he suddenly remembered that Han Wu possessed a Destruction Aspect. He didn't know if it would work, but it was worth a try.

Han Wu carefully picked up the box. The instant his palm touched it, his Destruction Aspect activated on its own and began feeding energy into the seal. Han Wu could feel the Source of Destruction inside drinking in the power.

The Death God King's heart nearly leaped out of his chest. When he had brought it out for Han Wu to test, he hadn't actually expected it to work.

Energy flooded into the box until it reached the threshold for opening. Han Wu was about to lift the lid when the Death God King hastily stopped him.

The Source of Destruction's 99% killing chance was no joke. The only thing that box should ever be pointed at was an enemy.

Chapter 1016 - Invasion and Counter-Invasion

Han Wu's ability to charge the Source of Destruction thrilled the Death God King. This was a treasure with a 99% kill chance—practically a guaranteed death. Han Wu's charge gave it one more shot at eliminating an enemy.

While handling the jeweled box, Han Wu sensed that the Source of Destruction was on the verge of breaking down completely. Even fully charged, it could only be used once or twice at most. He informed the Death God King of this.

The Death God King frowned. Powerful treasures tended to have greater limitations. Getting one or two uses out of something like the Source of Destruction was already extraordinary luck.

"Save it for the Life God King. That thing is too precious to waste on anyone else," the Death God King said.

He knew firsthand just how hard the Life God King was to kill after fighting the man for so many years, but he was confident that even Life couldn't escape a 99% kill chance.

After deciding that Han Wu was the best option to keep the Source of Destruction safe, the meeting circled back to their original problem.

The Destruction Clan's assassinations were crippling their forces and had to be stopped. No one had a solution. The Destruction Clan's members were few, moved unpredictably, and struck without warning. Assigning bodyguards to every God and above would protect lives but destroy their momentum.

Xu Hai consulted his archives and soon found an answer. "There aren't many members of the Destruction Clan. If we eliminate all of them, the threat disappears."

Everyone gave him a weird look. That was the most obvious statement they had ever heard.[1]

Only Han Wu caught the deeper meaning. “What my mentor is suggesting is that we step outside the divine war’s boundaries. If we know their citizen ID numbers and private information, we can locate their divine realms and invade them directly.”

The room erupted in admiration for Xu Hai. Leave it to the scholar to come up with a devious scheme!

Han Wu glanced at Sun Qingnian.

Sun Qingnian immediately nodded and said, “Let me contact my sources.”

Ten minutes later, he returned with every Destruction Clan member’s private information, which he spread out on the table.

“With Super Invasion Cards and this data, we can pinpoint their divine realms and invade,” he said simply.

Everyone else was amazed at his speed. Only Han Wu wasn’t surprised. Sun Qingnian’s informant network was second to none.

“Good work, young Sun Qingnian. Excellent job,” the Death God King said with genuine respect.

Sun Qingnian’s intelligence-gathering capabilities surpassed even the Death Faction’s, and they were the second strongest faction of the Divine Civilization! Being praised by the most powerful God King in the Divine Civilization was an honor Sun Qingnian wouldn’t forget.

While reviewing the data, Han Wu came across Gu Feng’s private information. An idea formed. If he could invade Gu Feng’s divine realm and kill him, the Destruction Clan would be headless. The same approach could even work on the Life God King or the War God King.

Pulling out a Super Invasion Card, he entered Gu Feng’s citizen ID.

Nothing happened.

Han Wu was left staring at it in bewilderment.

“A God King’s divine realm is protected by the powerful Will of their divine realm and their Divine Jurisdiction,” Xu Hai explained. “A citizen ID alone isn’t enough to force entry. You need to be face-to-face with a God King to invade.”

Han Wu felt both disappointed and enlightened. It seemed obvious in hindsight. If his method had worked, the Death God King would've killed the Life God King hundreds of times over by now. Unfortunately, that path was closed.

The other attendees began launching invasions against the Destruction Clan's lesser members. One by one, the Gods and Major Gods were teleported out to lead the raids. Han Wu picked a target of his own, but before he could act, an alarm rang through his divine realm. Someone had invaded him!

Han Wu immediately guessed what had happened. The Life Faction had retaliated with counter-invasions. It was truly laughable. They had a path to heaven but chose to break down the door to hell.

After reporting the situation to the Death God King and Xu Hai, Han Wu returned to his divine realm. His senses and abilities were massively amplified on his home turf. At his realm's edge, he detected over twenty gates, all pumping enemy units into his territory.

There were goblins, dwarves, cat-spirits, minotaurs—every kind of unit imaginable. The number of gates was also growing.

"All forces, full assault!" Han Wu commanded.

Every unit in his divine realm charged toward the invaders. His strongest units sprinted ahead, afraid they'd arrive too late to claim any kills. Meanwhile, Han Wu teleported above the invasion point and counted thirty active gates.

Thirty enemy Gods and Major Gods had chosen him as their target.

"You came looking for me. Don't blame me for what happens next," he muttered.

The two sides clashed. Han Wu's units held every advantage: home turf, superior strength, and a counter for every race the enemy fielded. All thirty forces were steadily beaten back.

1. People die if they are killed (Shinji) ☜

: Chapter 1017

Chapter 1017 - Viral Maggots

The invasion had turned into a one-sided slaughter of the enemy. This was obviously not a situation that warranted Han Wu revealing his full power. Instead, he quietly contacted the Origin of Mutation and prepared something nastier: the Viral Maggots.

He had been cultivating them for a while now, and in the chaos of battle, these parasites were easily planted into enemy units without detection. The infected showed no symptoms in the early stages.

When the thirty invaders realized the strength of Han Wu's divine realm, they started to retreat with their surviving forces. Han Wu wasn't about to let them off so easily. While he couldn't stop all of them, it was easy enough to launch a counter-invasion against a dozen invaders at once.

He activated Avatar Creation and split into ten copies, each leading a group of elite units through the still-open gates to invade the enemy's divine realms.

The smartest response was to sever the invaded section of their divine realm and cut Han Wu off. A few enemies did exactly that, forcing his avatars to return empty-handed and frustrated.

Others, however, saw Han Wu's small invading force and thought they could handle him on their home turf, so they rallied every unit in their divine realm for a counterattack.

They had badly underestimated Han Wu's units. Earthsunder, Heavenrender, and even Microcosm rank fighters poured out at his command. These overconfident Major Gods couldn't sever their realms fast enough.

By the time they tried, Han Wu's forces had spread across more than half their territory. Severing away the invaded parts at that point would mean losing most of their realm. They were left with no choice but to throw everything they had at pushing Han Wu out.

It didn't work.

Han Wu destroyed six Major Gods' divine realm Cores and killed those who couldn't escape in time. The Life Faction lost six powerful commanders in a single day.

That was only the beginning. Once news of this spread through the Life Faction, no one dared invade his divine realm again. The risk was simply too high. One wrong move and they could lose everything, including their lives.

Bored, Han Wu exited his divine realm, grumbling that the Life Faction didn't have a single worthy opponent below God King rank. God Kings were forbidden from invading the divine realm of anyone below their rank thanks to the protection of the Divine Civilization. If they could, chaos would've long erupted across the civilization.

This back-and-forth continued for three days, with both sides suffering losses. On the third day, the Origin of Mutation sent a report. Three days was the Viral Maggot's incubation period. At this point, the parasites would be entering their next phase, hijacking their hosts and driving them into a frenzy. The affected would attack and even kill their own allies.

The already chaotic battlefield descended into complete madness. As the infection spread, nearly all the Life Faction's units started turning on each other. Casualties from internal fighting dwarfed those from the actual invasion.

The Life God King had no choice but to join forces with the other God Kings in his faction and use the power of their combined Jurisdictions to temporarily suppress the Viral Maggots' influence.

However, another nasty surprise awaited them. When suppressed in this way, the Viral Maggots stopped inciting violence and instead absorbed their hosts' nutrients to reproduce at a furious rate. These new parasites could spread through the air, fluid exchange, and physical contact.

It only took ten more days for the Viral Maggots to debilitate over seventy percent of the Life Faction's units. The remaining thirty percent were strictly quarantined, safe from the infection, but their morale was in shambles. They refused to fight, fearing they would catch it.

When the Death God King learned the full extent of Han Wu's handiwork, his scalp went numb. He found himself wishing he had recruited Han Wu two years earlier. The Life Faction would've been finished long ago. Still, better late than never.

The combined pressure from divine realm invasions and infections caused the Life Faction's forces to collapse across every front. The Death Faction seized massive territory. Soon, the Life Faction held a measly ten percent of the battlefield, with the Death Faction holding the other ninety.

Sun Qingnian broadcast the news across the Divine Civilization. All the observers concluded that the Life Faction was done for. Allied factions cut ties overnight, and the Life Faction's resource supply chains crumbled. If things continued, they would lose even the battle of attrition.

Faced with this crisis, the Life God King convened a meeting with the War God King and other leadership. They eventually came to a decision that went against every faction member's interest. Since they couldn't tell which units carried Viral Maggots, the Life God King ordered every Major God to treat all existing units as carriers and execute them.

Every Life Faction Major God lost their entire army, becoming generals without soldiers. How were they supposed to fight a divine war with no units?

The Life God King and War God King had an answer. The Nine-Eyed Evil God's new Huang Shengjun legion descended onto the battlefield. This time, they numbered 15.3 billion, fifteen times the previous force.

This was the Life Faction's trump card.

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Chapter 1018 - The Tables Have Turned

The new 15.3 billion Huang Shengjun legion learned from the previous billion's defeat and abandoned cautious tactics, going entirely for speed instead. Under the War God King and the Butcher's command, they unleashed Formation Might and bulldozed everything in their path. No one could stop them.

These 15.3 billion Huang Shengjuns all shared one mind. Formation Might was practically tailor made for them. Their combined destructive output reached peak Mesocosm rank. Even the Death God King, the strongest known being in the Divine Civilization, had no solution for this.

As the Life Faction didn't know the Death God King's exact location, they could only conquer territory to shrink his available hiding space. They were hoping to get lucky and encounter him early.

Unfortunately for them, the Death God King could sense everything within his faction's borders, so he simply kept relocating his command center to buy time.

Han Wu rushed to breed more gene-defective Shengjun carriers.

The Nine-Eyed Evil God wasn't falling for it a second time, though. Not only did he imbue the Butcher with one-ninth of his own power, but he also imposed strict controls. Every Huang Shengjun was branded with an ID number. Any unbranded Shengjun, no matter how convincing, was executed on sight. Han Wu's one million infiltrators were caught on the very first day.

This failure was a heavy blow to the Death Faction. Without their strongest counter, the Life Faction slowly reclaimed their lost territory.

Death seemed inevitable, and the Death Faction had no way of stopping it.

The Huang Shengjun legion was just too powerful. Even the Death God King's personal army could resist, but not defeat them. A huge number of undead legions were being slaughtered every second.

Han Wu and Jing Jing deployed their skeleton seas, but even they could only slow the advance, not stop it.

Han Wu also tried sending Han Guang out. Han Guang's devastating light arrow barrage—powered by billions of Light Spirit Orbs from Han Wu's core units—managed to kill 300 million Huang Shengjuns, but even that barely scratched the surface of 15.3 billion.

The attack only enraged the Huang Shengjun legion. Under the Butcher's command, they concentrated their Formation Might and relentlessly chased Han Guang. Bow God Bart sacrificed himself to open a spatial corridor and teleport Han Guang to safety. Unfortunately, the clone sustained critical injuries and couldn't return to the battlefield any time soon.

Without Han Guang, the Death Faction's resistance weakened further. The remaining 15 billion Huang Shengjuns devoured eighty percent of the Death Faction's territory in mere days. The tables had turned. This time, the Death Faction held ten percent while the Life Faction held ninety.

Cornered, the Death God King played his ultimate card. His Four Dharma Manifestations—Desolation, Decay, Void, and Erase—were each born from Jurisdictions he had developed before fully mastering the Death Jurisdiction and were similar to Han Wu's Avatar Creation.

The dire situation forced the Death God King's hand. Activating their ultimate ability, he transformed them into four Terminal Turrets that blanketed his remaining territory. The Terminal Turrets combined the power of their respective Divine Jurisdictions and the concept of Death as comprehended by the Death God King.

The land within that area became a death zone. Any enemy that set foot inside suffered four devastating debuffs. Desolation froze all organs and cut their energy circulation. Decay accelerated aging to the point of senility. Void summoned fatal illnesses that hastened death. Erase dissolved their souls and stripped their will.

Not even the Huang Shengjun legion could enter. No amount of Formation Might could affect the death zone. However, this was only a temporary reprieve. The Life Faction could channel Life Energy to grow vegetation and neutralize the death aura, slowly inching the zone's boundary inward. It was only a matter of time.

Those within the Death Faction were furiously racking their brains for a solution.

Meanwhile, the Wisdom God King did his best to study the Death God King's turret technique. After running endless calculations through his Great Enlightenment Ring, he

finally grasped the technique and was able to convert his Wisdom Tower into a turret as well.

The Eye of Wisdom mounted on top became a powerful weapon, absorbing energy from allied players and firing devastating blasts of Wisdom Light. Each shot killed tens of thousands of Huang Shengjuns.

Still, this was a drop in the bucket against a sea of Huang Shengjuns. The Death Faction would likely lose if they couldn't break through the encirclement.

Chapter 1019 - The Assassination Plan

The divine war had reached a critical stage. The Death Faction was treading on thin ice. All it would take was one mistake for them to fall.

Despite exhausting every option, the Death God King still couldn't close the gap against 15 billion Huang Shengjuns. Over time, the four Terminal Turrets' coverage was gradually neutralized, and the Death Faction's territory shrank to below 10%. The war would end the moment the Huang Shengjun legion's Formation Might could reach the Death God King.

The Life God King was already celebrating. All their members had sacrificed every unit to purge the Viral Maggots. It was an enormous price, but the victory and resources it brought would let the Life Faction and War Faction rebuild.

In his joy, however, the Life God King forgot a crucial detail. Not every member of his faction was loyal. Sun Qingnian had informants embedded among them.

Through those informants, Sun Qingnian obtained the Life God King's exact coordinates and rushed the information to the Death God King. It was bittersweet news. If they had known this earlier, their victory would have been decisive. There was little they could do with the intel now, though, when 15 billion Huang Shengjuns surrounded them.

While Xu Hai's Eye of Wisdom could charge a blast strong enough to kill the Life God King in one hit, there was still the Life Jurisdiction's resurrection effect to consider. One kill would only alert him. He'd just relocate, and finding him again would be nearly impossible.

The only way to end the war was for Han Wu to use the Source of Destruction to kill the Life God King for good. The problem was getting Han Wu through 15 billion Huang Shengjuns so he could reach the Life God King. Not to mention, the Life God King would detect him the moment he appeared in Life Faction territory. It was a suicide mission.

At that moment, Han Wu thought of Jia Gui, the Concealment God King. His Jurisdiction could hide Han Wu's presence even inside enemy territory.

Han Wu left the battlefield and contacted Jia Gui. After returning from the Light Faction raid, Jia Gui had quietly rejoined the Wisdom Faction as a freelancer. Having Elina in his divine realm had put him in an excellent mood, and he had even put on some weight. Han Wu found him gulping down goji tea and ginseng wine.

Xu Hai had originally invited Jia Gui to join the divine war, but the latter had refused, arguing that he deserved a break after risking his life. Given Jia Gui's significant contributions to the Dark Faction rescue and the Light Faction raid, Xu Hai had let it slide.

When Han Wu personally came to fetch him, however, Jia Gui didn't dare refuse. The Death Faction was on the brink of being exterminated and needed Jia Gui's unique talents. Han Wu practically dragged the man to the Death Faction's command center.

The Death God King took in Jia Gui's scrawny, shifty appearance and his pitifully weak energy signature with skeptical eyes. It seemed doubtful that the man could contribute anything meaningful, but since Han Wu vouched for him, the Death God King kept his expression politely expectant.

Jia Gui rushed forward and launched into an enthusiastic introduction. "Your Majesty! Remember me? You and I shared drinks back in the Heaven Stair Civilization!"

The Death God King frowned. He couldn't forget a face like that if he tried, and was fairly certain they had never shared drinks. Jia Gui didn't deserve to drink with him.

Han Wu pulled Jia Gui away and laid out the mission. "Your job is to keep me hidden. Leave everything else to me."

Jia Gui nodded. Years of working with Han Wu had taught him that staying close to Han Wu was the safest option when in danger and the riskiest when safe. Danger was everywhere in a divine war, so sticking to Han Wu was the best choice.

"Be careful. If the mission fails, leave the battlefield," the Death God King warned before they left. His implicit meaning was clear: If they get exposed, run. Don't worry about him.

Han Wu understood, but the truth was, he and the Death God King were bound by the same rope. If the Death God King fell, the Life God King and his allies would just go on to target Han Wu. This mission wasn't just for the Death Faction. It was for himself.

"Don't worry. I'll succeed," Han Wu promised.

The Death God King and Xu Hai exchanged a glance, then launched a diversionary attack in the opposite direction. The instant the Death God King showed himself, the Huang Shengjun legion converged on him and unleashed their combined Formation Might.

He teleported away before the strike landed, leaving their attack to hit empty ground. The Huang Shengjun legion did not get frustrated. Every miss just meant they were one step closer to cornering him.

With the enemy's attention on the Death God King, Han Wu sensed fewer Huang Shengjuns ahead. Jia Gui climbed onto his shoulder with the ease of someone who had repeated the action many times over. He was like a camouflage charm now.

Under the Concealment Jurisdiction's cloaking, Han Wu suppressed his aura and launched himself toward Life Faction territory at full speed.

His breakout went completely undetected. Not a single Huang Shengjun noticed.

Even the Life God King failed to sense two enemy players racing through his territory, headed straight for him. Their goal was to kill him.

: Chapter 1020

Chapter 1020 - I Accept You Wish

Han Wu ran at blistering speed. The wind battered Jia Gui's face until it felt like his skin was off.

"Slow down, brother Han Wu," Jia Gui begged, holding his cheeks together.

"Deal with it," Han Wu said sharply.

Jia Gui didn't dare argue.

Han Wu locked onto the coordinates. As he burst into range, he found the Life God King celebrating with his senior officers.

The Life God King had already considered this battle won. With 15.3 billion Huang Shengjuns, he could fight the entire Divine Civilization, let alone one faction.

When Han Wu and Jia Gui appeared out of thin air, the Life God King's first reaction was disbelief. How had Han Wu gotten in? He had been monitoring his territory the entire time and sensed nothing. His second thought was to leave. Not because he feared Han Wu, but because victory was moments away and he didn't want to waste time fighting.

Han Wu didn't give him the chance. He activated the Slaughter Jurisdiction's effect, and the Slaughter Barrier materialized!

Terrifying pressure erupted from Han Wu. The landscape transformed into one of corpse mountains and a sea of blood. The Life God King and every Major God in the vicinity were sealed inside.

There were three ways out. Han Wu could release the barrier voluntarily, they could defeat Han Wu, or one of them could use a barrier-breaking technique.

None of the people trapped inside had the third option.

All of them turned to stare at Han Wu.

Seeing this, Jia Gui immediately hopped off Han Wu's shoulder with ease and scanned the area with shifty eyes. He practically had "I'm weak, please don't hit me" tattooed on his forehead. Everyone ignored him and focused on Han Wu.

Han Wu took control of the Slaughter Barrier. Corpses rose from the mountains, weapons coalesced from the blood sea; finally, an army of the dead grabbed whatever was closest and charged. The Major Gods drew their Divine Weapons and cut through the corpses with ease. The corpses were too weak to fight against the Major Gods, and the ease of the kills had the Major Gods dropping their guard.

That was, until one of the supposedly defeated corpses behind a Major God suddenly stood, driving a blood-forged dagger into his back. Every fallen corpse around him sprang up and piled on. Over a hundred of them hacked that Major God to pieces.

That was when the Life Faction realized that the dead didn't stay dead inside the Slaughter Barrier. It didn't matter what they did. Even burning them to ash couldn't stop Han Wu's energy from rebuilding them instantly.

All eyes turned to Han Wu. The only way to stop the corpses for good was to kill him.

One confident Major God charged, swinging his Divine Weapon in a devastating strike. Han Wu drew Peerless and cut him down with a casual swing.

An unarmed Han Wu was one thing, but wielding Peerless, he was something else entirely. The other Major Gods realized this after they saw their comrade die.

The Life God King narrowed his eyes. Han Wu was stronger than he had imagined, but he wasn't afraid. After all, even the Death God King couldn't kill him. Han Wu stood no chance. As long as he was alive, he would find a way to win. That was the truth he had lived by for ages.

Stepping forward, the Life God King smiled warmly. “Young Han Wu, we meet again. I knew you were talented the first time I saw you, but the Death Faction led you astray. Their faction is about to be destroyed. A strong, reliable faction is what you need going forward. The wise adapt to the times. I’m sure you understand. I formally invite you to join the Life Faction. I promise you a position second only to myself. Do you accept?”

The Life God King believed the offer of maximum respect and power would make Han Wu see reason and switch sides.

However, he had underestimated Han Wu. Han Wu knew he had too many enemies. Even if the Life Faction accepted him, the War Faction wouldn’t. Not to mention the fact that he had sabotaged the Nine-Eyed Evil God many times over and had even killed half of the Destruction Clan members.

Moreover, the Death Faction had treated him well, and their values aligned. He would never betray them over a few pretty words and an empty promise.

“I accept.” Han Wu paused to beam at the Life God King. “You wish.”

The Life God King’s warm expression crumbled. Han Wu was clearly determined to be difficult. So be it. We’ll be enemies.

With that, the Life God King unleashed his full Divine Authority. Unlike the conventional weapon-shaped Authority, his took the form of an enormous World Tree radiating boundless Life Energy. It could heal any wound he received in real time.

He then revealed the rest of his arsenal.

[Divine Talent: Life Bloom. Boosts all life-related powers by 1,000%.]

[Divine Ability: Life Transfer. Allows the user to absorb Life Energy from allies or channel it to them.]

[Life Jurisdiction: Life Aura, Life Vestments, Reanimation, Staff of Life, Resurrection.]

Layered together, the Life God King was an absurdly durable tank with near-infinite regeneration. He was confident that Han Wu couldn’t kill him, even if he stood still and let him attack. Even if Han Wu somehow managed it, Resurrection would simply bring him back at full strength.

There was nothing Han Wu could possibly do.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1021 - The End of the Divine War

Han Wu wasted no words on the smug Life God King. Pulling out the jeweled box containing the Source of Destruction, he aimed it squarely at the Life God King.

This left the Life God King confused as to why Han Wu was pulling out a box during a serious battle. That was when he realized the box looked familiar. A few seconds later, his face went blank with recognition.

That was the Destruction Clan's treasure, the Source of Destruction!

When Gu Feng had first shown him the box during their alliance talks, the elder had bragged about its power, claiming it ignored all ranks and guaranteed death to whoever it hit. It was permanent death and total annihilation. Even the Life God King's Life Jurisdiction or Resurrection couldn't save him.

The Life God King hadn't fully believed Gu Feng at the time. He had assumed the old man was exaggerating to save face. As he stared down the box containing the Source of Destruction, however, he found himself gripped with terror.

"Young Han Wu, let's talk this through. We can negotiate. There's no need to bring that thing out," the Life God King bargained while inwardly cursing every last member of the Destruction Clan. They said that no one outside their clan could use the Source of Destruction, so why was Han Wu holding it?

Han Wu ignored his pleas, set on killing the Life God King first and thinking about everything else later. Activating his Destruction Aspect, he opened the box.

The Source of Destruction fired a beam of divine light that struck the Life God King between the eyes. With that, the Source of Destruction shattered into countless fragments. It had already been on its last legs. Dealing with an existence as powerful as the Life God King had used up all its remaining durability.

The Life God King collapsed, his Life Energy and soul both annihilated in an instant. Without a soul to contain it, the enormous energy stored in his body spiraled out of control. It expanded violently, blowing his corpse apart and scattering chunks of flesh across the battlefield. His Life Jurisdiction transformed into a beam of light for the Divine Civilization's Will to collect as the victor's prize.

Han Wu snatched up every scattered Divine Aspect shard and pocketed them.

Even if the Life God King wanted to resurrect, his soul had been destroyed, and there wasn't even a body left to return to. The Life God King had fallen. His death prompted the Divine Civilization's Will to make an announcement.

The Death Faction had emerged victorious in the divine war between Life and Death.

Thousands of miles away, the Death God King had just taken a direct hit from the 15 billion Huang Shengjuns' Formation Might and was on his last breath. He wouldn't survive another strike.

As he closed his eyes in despair, he heard the announcement: The Death Faction had won!

His eyes turned red from tears of joy. Han Wu had done it. He had actually killed the Life God King!

With the war's end, the 15 billion Huang Shengjuns were immediately ejected from the battlefield. The territory belonged to the victor. The Nine-Eyed Evil God, the War Faction, and the Destruction Clan had no right to remain. Only after every enemy force was cleared out did the Death God King finally exhale a sigh of relief.

The long divine war was over. Even the Death God King, a being accustomed to death itself, felt relief at surviving it.

Meanwhile, the three ejected factions were furious. They had been so close to victory. The 15 billion Huang Shengjuns had been on the verge of crushing the Death God King with their Formation Might. Han Wu had simply been faster.

"Life, that bastard!" the War God King cursed.

The War Faction had suffered devastating losses, their units having been slaughtered to prevent the Viral Maggot infection. It would take an eternity for them to recover from this. The whole venture had been a catastrophic failure.

The Destruction Clan had it worse. Their assassination teams in the divine war were all counter-invaded and nearly wiped out. Only Elder Gu Feng survived.

However, the biggest loser was still the Nine-Eyed Evil God. He had lost close to 1.4 billion Huang Shengjuns during the battle—a force that could've flattened several lesser civilizations.

This wasn't the end of his bad luck, though. As it prepared to use the remaining 15 billion Huang Shengjun legion to reach for glory, the Death God King used his authority to file a formal complaint with the Divine Civilization's Will.

After an investigation, the Will determined that the Nine-Eyed Evil God and his Huang Shengjun legion posed an extreme threat to itself. It locked onto their signatures, expelled them, and issued a permanent ban. Any attempt to return would be treated as an invasion and met with unprecedented resistance.

This expulsion affected War God King Zhong Heng most greatly, as his entire power base had rested on those billions of Huang Shengjuns. Without them, he was a general without an army.

He immediately contacted his adopted son, Pious, and prepared to flee to a foreign civilization until things cooled down. The War Faction's rank and file could take the blame.

"War is deception. Don't blame me for being ruthless. Once I recruit new forces out there, I'll come back and repay you all," Zhong Heng muttered as he prepared to teleport away.

Pious's eyes flickered, and he gazed at Zhong Heng with intense focus. "Father, I actually have a better idea. One that could appease the other factions' anger."

"What idea?" Zhong Heng asked.

"We can't risk having this plan overheard. Let me whisper it to you. The idea is..." Pious leaned toward Zhong Heng's ear.

Zhong Heng trustingly leaned in to listen.

A nine-star Divine Weapon halberd pierced through Zhong Heng's chest. It was so shocking that Zhong Heng didn't even feel the pain.

Zhong Heng pointed a trembling finger at Pious. "Why... why would you do this?"

"This is my idea, Father. All the blame falls on you if you die. The other factions get their closure, and the rest of us are safe." Pious paused to wipe the blood from his face. "Also, you've been sitting in the War God King's seat for too long. If you don't die, when will it ever be my turn?"

These impious words enraged Zhong Heng, but his wounds were fatal, and he could do nothing but die with his eyes wide open.

: Chapter 1022

Chapter 1022 - The Mythic Titan

The Dark Faction, the Light Faction, and most recently, the Life Faction—three longtime powerhouses at the top of the Divine Civilization's rankings—had fallen in succession.

This sequence of events had the entire civilization marveling. Old powers were crumbling, and new ones were rising, though no one could tell whether this signaled the coming of the civilization's golden age or its decline.

Some factions were already testing their luck at snagging the vacated top ranks of the Divine Civilization, seeking to increase their fame and members. Both the Death and Wisdom Factions had the same idea.

The Death Faction held steady at second place despite the heavy losses its members had sustained. The Wisdom Faction's ranking soared to ninth thanks to the generous war spoils from the Death God King. That was a meteoric rise for a faction barely a year old.

As for Han Wu, the Death God King was especially generous to the war's greatest contributor and rewarded him with the Life Jurisdiction. The Life Jurisdiction was a major Jurisdiction and one of the more valuable ones at that.

Han Wu considered two abilities it could bond with. The first was Life Infusion, which used Faith Points, Divine Points, or Divine Essence to boost a unit's potential. The second was Undying, which vastly accelerated wound recovery and stabilized vitality. He relied on it often, and it was a very powerful ability.

In the end, he chose Life Infusion for its relation to life and thus higher compatibility with the Jurisdiction.

Both their effects improved after bonding. The Life Jurisdiction massively increased Han Wu's own vitality and could store excess Life Energy as a buffer against future damage. Meanwhile, Life Infusion gave Han Wu a new option of spending his Life Energy to raise a unit's rank.

For the average Major God, burning their Life Energy to upgrade units was self-destructive, but for Han Wu, it was perfect.

Not only did Undying effectively grant him enormous Life Energy reserves, but his Conversion Jurisdiction could also transform any energy type into another. His Life Aspect could then purify that into high-quality Life Energy, which was ideal for boosting units.

He had one unit in desperate need of a boost. The Giant Enhancement Path was the only one with a sixth stage called Super Ultimate Evolution. Completing it would produce a Mythic Titan with its base strength at the Subcosm rank. Han Wu had been waiting for this.

Gathering his strongest units, he had them channel energy into him to convert and refine into pure Life Energy. Through Life Infusion, he then fed this purified energy into a Skyreach Giant that had reached the ultimate tier, making it a Heavenrender life form.

With the newly upgraded Life Infusion, its power slowly climbed, and its Life Energy slowly accumulated.

Despite his units helping him with the energy demands, the process still took three full days. The instant the required Life Energy threshold was met, the Skyreach Giant began its super ultimate evolution. The pressure of a Subcosm life form exploded out as a Mythic Titan emerged.

Han Wu’s first reaction was surprise.

The Mythic Titan was actually shorter than the Skyreach Giant. At first, he thought the evolution had failed, but then he checked its attributes and breathed a sigh of relief. It was a massive success.

[Name: Mythic Titan]

[Rank: Subcosm]

[Skills: Mythic Power, Titan Body, Giant's Ancestor]

Mythic Power granted the Mythic Titan a Divine Jurisdiction embryo from birth, which they would have to cultivate on their own to complete.

This particular Titan had awakened the Diamond Jurisdiction, a minor Jurisdiction with high potential. It could coat any body part with diamond for extreme hardness.

Unfortunately, it was still weak to high temperatures. Fire, lightning, and even sufficiently powerful light could damage it. Even so, Han Wu was still pleased. It was already a Subcosm life form. A little downside was nothing too surprising.

Titan Body allowed the Mythic Titan to freely change its size. It also scaled its powers proportionally. The bigger it grew, the stronger it became.

Giant's Ancestor was a growth skill that allowed the Mythic Titan to learn any technique from any other Giant race. Han Wu already had other Giant variants in his divine realm, so he summoned Kokkai Hanwu, as he had the nine Giant transformation types, to serve as the Mythic Titan’s instructor.

He was confident that the Mythic Titan’s strength would skyrocket once it learned the other skills of the Giant race. Its overall strength could even become on par with the other more powerful Subcosm life forms in his divine realm.

After checking the attributes of the Mythic Titan, Han Wu noticed a new, massive Diamond Microcosm in his sea of consciousness, originating from his new Mythic Titan.

It was almost the size of his Origin Microcosm. Its quality also spoke for itself, as it provided Han Wu with a lot of Diamond Energy.

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Chapter 1023 - Dharma Manifestations

The Mythic Titan's birth brought Han Wu's Subcosm rank fighter count to five. More importantly, the enhanced Life Infusion gave him a clear shortcut for accelerating unit growth, meaning cultivating powerful units was no longer a bottleneck.

As Han Wu was planning to expand his forces, the Death God King contacted him. Direct contact had been rare before the war, but was quickly becoming routine.

"I have a mission for you, if you're willing."

Why's the Death God King being so polite today? Han Wu frowned. "Please enlighten me, Your Majesty."

"After the war, Gu Feng fled the Divine Civilization with the Destruction Clan's remnants. My people have located them. They're still a threat, and I'd like you to eliminate them—if you're willing."

Han Wu immediately recalled all the grievances the Destruction Clan had caused him. It ranged from the attempted theft of his Giant Crest to the threats against Xu Hai, and even their alliance with the War Faction.

The War Faction had paid its debt with Zhong Heng's death. The Destruction Clan had yet to pay anything. Naturally, Han Wu accepted without hesitation.

He was determined to eliminate them, and he would do so with his new Mythic Titan.

The Death God King had known Han Wu would agree. In truth, he could've sent one of his Dharma Manifestations to handle it, but he had deliberately saved this mission for Han Wu. Revenge of this scale was personal.

"What are we waiting for? Let's depart. We need to strike before they change locations," the Death God King urged.

Along with the mission coordinates, the Death God King sent Han Wu a technique as an advance reward. Han Wu's eyes went wide when he saw it. It was the Death God King's personal technique for creating Dharma Manifestations.

The Death God King knew Han Wu had many Divine Jurisdictions under his belt and wanted to teach him how to turn them into Dharma Manifestations to improve his overall strength.

Although the concept was similar to Avatar Creation, it was actually different. Han Wu's avatars split his power and weakened him in the process, though he could dictate how much strength was taken away.

Dharma Manifestations, however, separated a Jurisdiction from the body and granted it autonomous consciousness. A mature Manifestation could deepen its understanding of its Jurisdiction and strengthen its effects far beyond 100% development.

For example, Han Wu's earliest Conversion Jurisdiction was already at 100%. Once he turned it into a Dharma Manifestation, it could independently increase its completion meter further beyond that. While this wouldn't grant it new effects from the Jurisdiction the way it would a God King, it could at least strengthen its existing effect further.

V ran projections. If the Conversion Jurisdiction reached 200% development through a Dharma Manifestation, the absorption speed for Jurisdiction-powered energy attacks would increase tenfold. At 300%, it was a hundredfold. Eventually, Han Wu would be able to nullify any Jurisdiction-based attack through absorption alone. Every other Jurisdiction would benefit similarly.

Han Wu was ecstatic! He held seven Jurisdictions—Conversion, Duel, Slaughter, True Martial, Everchange, Netherworld, and Life—and would likely collect more in the future. Setting aside Netherworld and Life, which hadn't reached 100% development yet, the remaining five could all be converted into Manifestations immediately.

Without hesitation, he split himself into several avatars and learned the technique. He then spent a lot of Divine Essence and resources to get started on converting the five Jurisdictions into Manifestations.

According to V's calculations, Everchange would finish first even though it was only a minor Divine Jurisdiction. The estimated time was five realm days. Han Wu could use that window to track down and destroy the Destruction Clan.

The coordinates pointed to the Beast Tamer Civilization. It was a world built around Summoned Beasts, where every individual could contract powerful creatures. Unlike the Divine Civilization's mass-unit approach, the Beast Tamer Civilization cultivated few but elite life forms.

Each approach had its pros and cons. Still, its civilization rank was far lower than the Divine Civilization's, though Han Wu would have to go there to grasp the true extent of this disparity.

Han Wu informed Xu Hai, Qin Shuang, and Jing Jing of his departure.

Qin Shuang immediately asked to come along. Lately, she had been working on her Lightning Jurisdiction, but had hit a bottleneck. She was hoping a change of scenery would help her break through. Han Wu was happy to oblige.

Then Jing Jing sent word that she wanted to come too.

Han Wu broke into a cold sweat. Taking one was a honeymoon. Taking both was dancing on a tightrope. He wasn't Sun Qingnian!

Unfortunately for him, Jing Jing arrived before he could respond. A flash of displeasure crossed her pale face the moment she saw Qin Shuang at Han Wu's side, but she quickly masked it.

Qin Shuang tensed up. They were former best friends turned rivals.

"Han Wu is mine," Qin Shuang declared, clinging to Han Wu's arm to claim her territory.

Jing Jing held her composure and grabbed Han Wu's other arm. "You have my God's present. I have his future. In the end, it will be me who stays by his side."

Trapped between them and not wanting to offend either side, Han Wu hastily changed the subject. "Let's get moving before the Destruction Clan escapes!"

Chapter 1024 - Exploiting the Beast Tamer Civilization

The three arrived at the Beast Tamer Civilization's border. Every civilization had its own rules that had to be obeyed. The only way around it was to force one's way in—basically, invade.

Han Wu chose the legitimate entry route. This was because, if he had chosen to invade, he would've faced pushback from the Will of the Beast Tamer Civilization and its natives. The risk of the mission would only increase, and he could even accidentally alert the hiding Destruction Clan in the process.

As a precautionary measure, he first sent an avatar in to probe the rules. The civilization's Will scanned it immediately. It seemed there were three restrictions for entrants.

First, entrants had to be independent human individuals. Non-human races were barred.

Secondly, all personal power was sealed upon entry, including skills, abilities, and Divine Authorities. Humans couldn't increase their fighting power. Only Summoned Beasts could fight on their behalf.

Lastly, the Will measured each entrant's soul strength and allocated Summoned Beast Slots accordingly. Stronger souls had more slots.

Han Wu glanced at Jing Jing. Although she was an independent individual and was humanoid, she wasn't actually *human*. She was still a Crystal Skeleton.

"I'm sorry, Jing Jing. The rules won't let you in," Han Wu said apologetically.

While frustrated, Jing Jing had no choice but to accept it.

Qin Shuang, on the other hand, found her spirits rising at the prospect of having Han Wu all to herself.

"Like I said, Han Wu's mine." Qin Shuang raised a triumphant eyebrow at Jing Jing.

Jing Jing didn't argue. Instead, she asked to rest inside Han Wu's divine realm.

Han Wu cautiously agreed. He couldn't help but remember the time she had tried to destroy his Core and hoped she wouldn't do it again.

"My God, please be at ease." Jing Jing reassured him. "I would not harm your divine realm."

Han Wu sighed with relief and let her into his divine realm.

Once she was gone, Qin Shuang heaved a sigh of her own as well. Despite taunting Jing Jing in front of Han Wu, she had actually been somewhat intimidated, as Jing Jing was a true God King.

Jing Jing was undoubtedly magnitudes stronger than her, especially considering she was already the Soul God King. Meanwhile, Qin Shuang's Lightning Jurisdiction wasn't even at 100%.

Much more at ease with Jing Jing gone, Qin Shuang urged, "Han Wu, let's enter and complete the mission."

Han Wu motioned for her to wait. He had tested the rules, but he also wanted to test the civilization's limits. While the Beast Tamer Civilization barred the use of personal skills inside, it was likely fine to use them outside.

Using Myriad Martial Caste combined with Avatar Creation, he produced thousands of avatars in various race forms. Among these were some that were technically half human

and half other races. There were also several that were fully human. He ordered them all to enter.

Surprisingly, every single hybrid race avatar was rejected. Only pure human avatars passed through. Interestingly, the civilization's Will treated each avatar as an independent individual. That was a massive loophole.

Han Wu created more avatars, splitting his abilities, Divine Aspects, Authorities, and Jurisdictions into separate human forms. Including the earlier batch, 107 avatars entered successfully. Han Wu and Qin Shuang then entered, which bumped the total number of Han Wu inside the Beast Tamer Civilization up to 108.

The Will didn't notice this exploit at all and measured each avatar's soul strength individually. Every one of Han Wu's 108 avatars received an extremely high rating, netting twenty Summoned Beast Slots each. That was 2,160 slots in total!

Qin Shuang received sixteen.

The civilization's average was four.

Basically, they were already at the absolute peak.

These slots were used to contract Summoned Beasts, which could be contracted through purchasing, gifts, or capturing. Han Wu, however, discovered yet another exploit.

His Summoned Beast Slots could be used to contract units from his divine realm instead of local creatures. The realization had him on the verge of bursting into laughter.

He had wanted to bring the Mythic Titan to destroy the Destruction Clan and had been rather crestfallen when he first learned the rules of this civilization, but it appeared he could actually continue as planned. Using his avatars, he summoned his top 2,160 fighters.

All five of his Subcosm elites answered the call—Mythic Titan, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King, Steely, and the Supreme Power.

Black Dragon King Alpheus, Golden Dragon King Smog, Dark Locust, Fire Dragon King Esquiem, and Silver Dragon King Erebard followed.

One powerful unit after another was summoned according to the rules of the civilization. Han Wu could use them to flatten the entire civilization easily.

As he was about to summon Umbral Mouse with his last slot, it was hijacked. Jing Jing slipped through instead.

"My God, I knew you would not abandon me!" she cried happily.

The rules restricted beast tamers heavily but barely restricted Summoned Beasts at all, meaning Jing Jing's powers were completely unsealed. Raising her hand, she called upon millions of skeleton soldiers, forming a limitless skeleton sea.

Han Wu could only sigh. "I wasn't planning to do anything to this civilization, but with things as they are, it'd be a waste not to conquer it while we're here."

Chapter 1025 - The Destruction Clan's Trail

In Wildlion City, in the Beast Tamer Civilization, stood an arena where two young men were sparring with their Summoned Beasts.

After the bout, one of them slammed his fist into the wall in frustration.

This man was Gu Bei, the most talented young member of the Destruction Clan's Gu family. The force of the slam split his fist open because the Beast Tamer Civilization sealed all personal power.

"When will this miserable life end?!" he grumbled in pain.

"Brother Bei, why are you being so careless? Did that hurt?" One of the younger generation of the Gu family worriedly tore a strip of cloth from his own clothes and wrapped Gu Bei's fist.

Gu Bei was pissed. This godforsaken Beast Tamer Civilization had too many rules. In the Divine Civilization, he could've crumbled ten walls with a wave of his hand.

His companion tried to comfort him. "Elder Gu Feng said the Beast Tamer Civilization's strict rules would protect us from pursuers."

It was true. Even a God King would be heavily restricted if they wanted to enter legally. It would be nearly impossible for them to use even one percent of their true strength.

Naturally, their enemies would suffer the same fate as well, and the strength of their pursuers would be greatly diminished.

Gu Bei scoffed. "Damn the Death Faction! Damn the Death God King! Why isn't he dead yet?!"

In his eyes, both the Death and Wisdom Factions were supposed to make way for the Destruction Clan, given that their clan had once brought the Divine Civilization to the peak of its glory.

“Brother Bei, please calm down...” the younger one coaxed.

An alarm suddenly blared through the arena. “Beast Tamers, alert! Massive numbers of undead skeletons are approaching from outside the city walls. All Beast Tamers are requested to help defend the city.”

The alarm looped on repeat. Some Beast Tamers heard the alarm and rushed to the gates.

Gu Bei followed suit. These skeletons came at the perfect time. He needed something to vent on.

“Come, let’s go kick some skeleton ass,” he said, heading for the gate with his nodding companion.

Han Wu and his companions watched from a comfortable distance behind the skeleton sea. Qin Shuang sat beside Han Wu, peeling bananas for him as her Thunder Sparrows circled overhead and scouted.

“This is already the sixth city. We haven’t found any trace of the Destruction Clan so far,” Qin Shuang said, a little put out.

“No rush. If six isn’t enough, we’ll hit seven, eight, and keep going until we find them.” Han Wu comforted her, chewing on the banana she had peeled for him.

The Beast Tamer Civilization’s natives probably saw them as villains, bandits, and butchers, but Han Wu didn’t care. There was no morality to invasions. It was a simple matter of the strong taking from the weak. Even if he didn’t, someone else would. That was the rule of every civilization. Those who were constantly robbed and taken advantage of could only blame themselves for being weak.

Jing Jing focused on directing the skeleton sea. The city’s Beast Tamers fought back hard, with powerful Summoned Beasts destroying skeleton after skeleton. Fortunately, this posed no issue to Jing Jing.

Every shattered bone was simply turned back into part of the skeleton sea. As long as the skeleton sea existed, new skeletons could be endlessly rebuilt. Before long, Summoned Beasts were being dragged into the bone tide, killed, and raised as skeleton soldiers to fight for Jing Jing.

During the fight, Jing Jing sensed something amiss. At the edge of the skeleton sea, large numbers of her skeletons weren’t just being destroyed; their bones and souls were forcibly annihilated instead of returning to the sea.

This matched the Destruction Clan’s techniques perfectly.

Focusing her senses on the area, she found two Beast Tamers whose Summoned Beasts used Destruction techniques. She recognized it instantly. After all, even the skeletons feared Destruction power, as it eliminated both body and soul. It was a brutal technique.

“My God, I’ve caught the Destruction Clan’s trail,” Jing Jing reported.

Han Wu jumped to his feet. “In this city?” *free*

“Yes. Their Summoned Beasts are using Destruction techniques. I’m certain.”

This stunned Han Wu. He hadn’t expected the Destruction Clan to perfect their Destruction techniques to the point that even their Summoned Beasts could use them.

“There’s no rush,” Han Wu said. “Just send more skeletons their way. Let them fight until their beasts run dry.”

This would drain their Summoned Beasts of energy before the real confrontation.

Jing Jing nodded and followed his orders.

Gu Bei and his companion’s Summoned Beasts hacked through wave after wave of skeletons to vent their frustrations, but their numbers only seemed to grow. There was no end to them.

“There are too many to deal with!” Gu Bei called out to his companion. “Let’s finish this wave and retreat inside the walls! Let the other Beast Tamers deal with them.”

The instant they recalled their Summoned Beasts, two terrifying auras locked onto them. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King grabbed them before they could react and carried them to the back of the skeleton sea.

Gu Bei stared at the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King in despair, already aware of who he was about to face.

“Long time no see, Young Master Gu!” Han Wu greeted him.

Gu Bei raised his head to see Han Wu, seated on a towering throne of bone, flanked by an army of overwhelmingly powerful units. Five of these units were at the Subcosm rank.

One thought filled Gu Bei’s mind. *The Destruction Clan is finished.*

Chapter 1026 - Destruction Energy

“Han Wu, what do you think you’re doing? I’m warning you, Elder Gu Feng has already become the Dark God King. You will regret it if you touch me!” Gu Bei threatened.

Unfortunately, he didn’t even believe his own words.

“I’d love to see what the newly ascended Dark God King can do to me,” Han Wu replied.

During the divine war between the Life and Death Factions, he hadn’t even feared the Destruction Clan. Now that they had fled to the Beast Tamer Civilization like stray dogs, he had even less reason to fear them.

Gu Bei’s face went deathly pale. He knew that he wasn’t getting out of this alive.

“The Destruction Clan made outstanding contributions to the Divine Civilization. We are heroes of the civilization. You can’t just kill me!” Gu Bei said, hoping that the clan’s former glory would be enough to save his life.

Han Wu scoffed. “Sure, the Destruction Clan once made enormous contributions to the Divine Civilization’s development. How many years ago was that? Fifty? A hundred? How many terrible things has your clan committed under the protection of that reputation?

“If I didn’t have a solid background, you would’ve stolen the Giant Crest from me. If I were just an ordinary guy, a single spit from your clan would’ve been enough to drown me.

“The Divine Civilization is vast. Your clan’s contributions accounted for only a small part of its development. No family gets to live off its past achievements forever. The Destruction Clan is no exception.”

Gu Bei collapsed to the ground, all strength gone from his body.

The clan member beside him still had some fight left in him. He summoned his eight Summoned Beasts at once, each radiating dense Destruction Energy.

These Summoned Beasts were special units the Destruction Clan had cultivated through secret techniques. They could wield some of the Destruction skills and were quite powerful compared with life forms of the same rank.

Unfortunately, the strongest among them was an Earthsunder life form. Against Dark Locust, they weren’t even a challenge. One burst of his Dark Authority was all it took to suppress every last one of them.

Han Wu didn’t order Dark Locust to kill them. Instead, he called the Origin of Mutation over to study those creatures that possessed Destruction Energy.

After its examination, the Origin of Mutation reported, “Vessel, these life forms have undergone genetic modification. That’s how they can wield Destruction Energy.”

Han Wu nodded. “Can you reverse-engineer the modification?”

The Origin of Mutation shook his head. “There’s too little experimental data. The odds of fully understanding how this works aren’t great.”

Han Wu was disappointed. After all, Destruction Energy was incredibly formidable. Although its killing chance didn’t have much effect against higher-ranked life forms, it was a trump card against opponents of the same or lower rank.

Imagine two evenly matched fighters who’d normally need three days and three nights of brutal combat before one finally won by the narrowest of margins.

With Destruction Energy, as long as the effect proceeded, the opponent would be annihilated in both body and soul. It was the equivalent of a cheat code for mowing down enemies. Letting such a power slip through his fingers would be a tremendous waste.

Then the Origin of Mutation added, “But... I can purify their blood into a serum and use it to cultivate units.”

Han Wu gave the Origin of Mutation an exasperated look. “Could you finish your sentences in one go next time?”

He turned to Gu Bei. If even the Destruction Clan’s Summoned Beasts possessed Destruction Energy, then the clan members themselves, who all carried Destruction Aspects, should be able to wield it even more effectively.

Gu Bei squirmed under Han Wu’s gaze. “I’m warning you. A warrior can be killed but not humiliated. Don’t you dare try anything on me.”

He was already a prisoner, but his mouth was as stubborn as ever. Not that his stubbornness could withstand Han Wu’s fists.

The Origin of Mutation guessed Han Wu’s intention and leapt toward Gu Bei. Without a word of warning, he pulled out a knife and sliced Gu Bei’s arm. As blood seeped out from the wound, the Origin of Mutation dabbed a finger in it and tasted it.

His eyes lit up. “Vessel, his bloodline is pure enough. I can work with this.”

Han Wu nodded immediately. “Don’t let them escape. I won’t have another Butcher incident.”

The Origin of Mutation was already deaf to Han Wu’s warning. Thoughts of his new test subjects had fully consumed his mind.

Gu Bei realized how dire his situation had become, but under the Beast Tamer Civilization's Will, he was no different from an ordinary person. He couldn't even kill himself.

They were inside the Beast Tamer Civilization, so opening a divine realm was impossible.

Han Wu had the resurrected Bow God Bart use his Void powers to imprison Gu Bei, the other clan member, and all of their Summoned Beasts.

Outside Wildlion City, the undead invasion continued. Powerful Summoned Beasts thrashed and leapt through the skeleton sea. Every strike killed masses of skeletons, but the skeletons only multiplied.

The skeleton sea seemed to contain some kind of inexhaustible magic. No matter how strong the opposing Summoned Beasts were, they could only watch as the endless waves swallowed them bit by bit.

By the time night had passed, Wildlion City had finally fallen.

Jing Jing had deliberately directed the skeleton sea to surround the city completely. She suspected the Destruction Clan was most likely holed up inside. Why else would Gu Bei and his companion have appeared there?

She was right. After the divine war between the Life and Death Factions, every elite fighter in the Destruction Clan had been killed during the counter-invasions. Only Gu Feng, the clan's strongest remaining member, and a group of elderly people, women, and children remained.

Fearing the Death God King would come after them inside the Divine Civilization, Gu Feng had fled with the clan to the Beast Tamer Civilization. Unfortunately, it hadn't been enough. The hunters had followed them.

As a God King, Gu Feng still held an edge even under the Beast Tamer Civilization's strict restrictions. He could draw upon his Divine Jurisdiction to access a portion of his power.

Using the Dark Jurisdiction, he carved out a Dark Space that allowed him to funnel units from his divine realm through a backdoor. They would first enter the Dark Space before he summoned them out. It was a roundabout process, but it effectively let him command his units in battle.

When the skeleton sea first appeared, Gu Feng had assumed it was a routine undead invasion. Only after summoning many units to fight did he notice something wrong. Those skeletons had unusual attributes. Normal skeletons should possess a combination of death, darkness, and bone attributes. Instead, those skeleton soldiers possessed soul attributes.

He had seen that exact pattern during the divine war. The realization hit him immediately: pursuers from the Divine Civilization had arrived.

“Damn it all! They chased us all the way to the Beast Tamer Civilization? Can’t they just leave us a way to survive?” Gu Feng roared as he led a force of elite units out to see who had the nerve to hunt him down.

Chapter 1027 - The Future Looks Bright

Gu Feng radiated dense Dark Energy as he rode his strongest core race unit, the Subcosm Calamity Crossbird.

A massive army of units brimming with Destruction and Dark Energy trailed behind him. Wherever they passed, the skeleton sea struggled to hold its ground.

When Gu Feng reached its edge and saw the three of them, he snarled, “It’s you!”

His hatred for Han Wu ran bone-deep. After the divine war, he’d learned how the Life God King had died. The Source of Destruction was the source of his defeat, and Han Wu was the one who had used it, killing the Life God King and shattering the Destruction Clan’s chance of returning to the stage.

Gu Feng never considered that part of the blame lay with him. If he hadn’t lost the Source of Destruction during his fight with the Death God King, the Life God King would never have died to it. He refused to acknowledge that and directed all of his hatred toward Han Wu instead.

“Elder Gu, we meet again,” Han Wu said calmly.

He wasn’t the same Han Wu who would cower under the Destruction Clan’s threats. Now, he had every right to speak to Gu Feng as an equal.

“You bastard. I haven’t even settled the score with you yet, and here you come knocking on my door. Fine! Old debts and new ones, we’ll settle them all today!” Gu Feng snapped.

His Calamity Crossbird immediately attacked. Feathers laced with Destruction and Dark Energy rained down on Han Wu like a storm.

Every feather carried a chance to trigger an execution effect. If any of them triggered, even Han Wu would die.

However, Han Wu had already prepared a counter. The Mythic Titan roared behind him, and a barrier made entirely of diamond materialized to shield everyone on his side.

The Calamity Crossbird's feathers struck the diamond barrier. Even with the Dark Jurisdiction's power behind them, they couldn't corrode through a barrier infused with the Diamond Jurisdiction's power. Every last feather was blocked.

Han Wu smiled. The Mythic Titan was exactly the right choice for dealing with Gu Feng.

"Ah Tai, go give that bird a taste of what you can do," he commanded.

Ah Tai stepped forward. With each step, it grew larger. By the time it fully revealed itself before Gu Feng, it stood 100,000 meters tall. The Mythic Titan possessed a skill called Titan Body. The bigger it grew, the stronger it became, and 100,000 meters was Ah Tai's current limit. A titan of that size radiated overwhelming pressure just by standing still.

Jing Jing had already quietly expanded the skeleton sea outward to clear enough space for a battlefield. Even so, as Ah Tai stomped toward Gu Feng and the Calamity Crossbird, she realized that she hadn't cleared nearly enough.

That single stomp triggered what felt like a megathrust earthquake across Wildlion City, causing it to collapse. The aftershock spread outward and split the earth into countless fissures that swallowed lives without mercy.

One stomp was all it took for the Mythic Titan to level an entire city. If it ran around the Beast Tamer Civilization, the entire civilization would fall.

Han Wu stared at the aftermath, stunned by the sheer scale of destruction.

One stomp had caused massive devastation, but Gu Feng easily evaded it on his Calamity Crossbird. He looked down at the endless fissures below, and his expression grew heavy. Wildlion City was gone. The clan members he had hidden inside the city had been swallowed by the cracks.

At that moment, he realized that he was outclassed. If this continued, he'd die here too. Gu Feng abandoned all pretense and fled on the Calamity Crossbird. In terms of raw power, his unit couldn't match Ah Tai, but when it came to speed, even ten Mythic Titans couldn't catch a single Calamity Crossbird.

"Han Wu, I swear I'll make you pay for this genocide. I'll torture every last one of your friends and family to death!"

Gu Feng was already planning his next move. The Destruction Clan's annihilation pained him, but he was still alive. With his constitution, rebuilding the Destruction Clan wouldn't be impossible if he found a safe place to settle. As long as he lived, there was hope for its revival. He told himself he absolutely couldn't die.

Han Wu watched Gu Feng flee into the distance. He wanted to give chase, but none of his five Subcosm fighters specialized in speed. They couldn't catch up.

Just as Han Wu thought there was nothing he could do, Ah Tai did something astonishing. It swung its arms, and a bolt of golden lightning crashed down onto its body. Diamond feathers sprouted across its frame, and it shifted into a birdlike form. In the next instant, it kicked off the ground hard and took flight. Despite its enormous size, even a simple flapping motion propelled it forward at incredible speed.

Han Wu was flabbergasted. "What's happening? Ah Tai had a hidden ability? Did it mutate?"

While Han Wu was trying to make sense of it, Kokkai Hanwu, who had also been summoned, stepped forward. "Master, I've taught Ah Tai the Beast Giant Transformation. Ah Tai's form is the bird variant, which is why it can fly."

The mystery was solved, but Han Wu was still surprised. He knew Kokkai Hanwu possessed all nine types of giant power, yet Ah Tai had only demonstrated one so far. If it mastered all nine, what kind of monster would it become?

Han Wu had no intention of stopping at one Mythic Titan either. Once an entire Mythic Titan legion mastered all nine powers, the sight would be glorious beyond imagination.

He watched Ah Tai soar into the distance, excitement surging across his face. This was what it truly meant for the future to look bright!

: Chapter 1028

Chapter 1028 - Ah Tai VS Gu Feng

Gu Feng flew through the sky on the Calamity Crossbird. With its speed, shaking Han Wu's pursuit wouldn't be a problem. He was glad that he managed to escape with his life, but the Destruction Clan's annihilation still gnawed at his heart.

"Han Wu, I will make you pay in blood. I swear!" Gu Feng hissed.

The oath had barely left his lips when a powerful gust of wind slammed into him from behind. He spun around and saw an enormous silhouette hurtling toward him. As it drew closer, he made out its shape. It was a colossal bird, at least 100,000 meters across.

He had only seen something that enormous minutes ago, when he faced the Mythic Titan. Its transformation was so drastic that he didn't recognize it as the same creature.

Ah Tai flapped its wings hard and closed the distance. Gu Feng assumed it was some powerful figure's Summoned Beast passing through and paid it no mind. However, Ah Tai's mission was to eliminate Gu Feng. It struck without hesitation, swinging its diamond-feathered fist at the Calamity Crossbird.

The punch's sheer force reversed the airflow around them, and the Calamity Crossbird spun through the air several times before it finally stabilized.

Gu Feng eyed the Mythic Titan warily as he demanded, "I don't know whose Summoned Beast you are, but I have no quarrel with you. Why the ambush?"

Ah Tai didn't care what Gu Feng had to say. It charged forward and unleashed punch after punch. None connected cleanly with the Calamity Crossbird, but the wind pressure from each swing sealed off every escape route.

Gu Feng ordered the Calamity Crossbird to counterattack. With each beat of its wings, feathers infused with Destruction Energy and the Dark Jurisdiction's power shot toward Ah Tai. The latter activated its Diamond Jurisdiction and formed a solid protective layer that deflected every feather.

The familiar energy gave it away. Gu Feng finally recognized the creature before him as the same Mythic Titan that had leveled Wildlion City with a single stomp.

Cold sweat broke out across his body. The Mythic Titan's power had already exceeded anything he had imagined. If he didn't go all out now, he would definitely die here. The Destruction Clan's revival remained unfinished, so he refused to die. He had to survive and carry on the clan's hope.

Gu Feng stopped hesitating and channeled his Dark Jurisdiction, pushing through the Beast Tamer Civilization's suppression to summon a vast expanse of darkness. It spread outward like a bottomless abyss until it completely engulfed the Mythic Titan.

"Sink into the abyss!" Gu Feng screamed.

He had no way to kill the Mythic Titan outright. The best he could do was use the Dark Jurisdiction's special technique to imprison it first.

Ah Tai fought to break free, but the harder it struggled, the faster it sank. By the time it realized it was being sealed, sensation had faded from the lower half of its body.

"Brute force alone can't break this Dark Realm. Submit quietly and let the darkness consume you," Gu Feng said.

He was hoping that the Mythic Titan would sink completely into his Dark Realm, where he would convert it into his own unit.

Unfortunately, he underestimated Han Wu's core race. As a unit evolved from locusts, Ah Tai was sheltered by Han Wu's divine realm Core. The bond between them was unbreakable.

Since raw strength couldn't free it, Ah Tai did something that defied Gu Feng's comprehension. It reached into its own chest, ripped out its heart, and shoved it into its mouth. It chewed, and blood sprayed everywhere.

Gu Feng stared in disbelief. Is this thing an idiot?It's tearing out its own heart to kill itself?

Gu Feng sighed and was about to dismiss the Dark Realm when Ah Tai radiated a wave of overwhelming pressure. Ah Tai wasn't dead. It had activated Devour Heart, a gift bestowed by Han Wu's divine realm Core to all units of his core race. It increased its strength by consuming a heart, and more importantly, the heart could be its own.

Devour Heart doubled its strength, and the Dark Realm shook violently under Ah Tai's intensified thrashing. It was going to burst!

Gu Feng and the Calamity Crossbird frantically poured more Dark Energy into stabilizing it.

"For a life form like you that can only use brute force, the Dark Realm is something you can never hope to overcome for your entire life! Succumb to the Dark Realm and become my unit!"

Gu Feng admired Ah Tai with every passing moment. He could already envision converting it into his own unit and using it to attack Han Wu. Nothing in this world would be more satisfying than that!

Unfortunately for him, Han Wu's Core granted his core race another ability besides Devour Heart. The Light Spirit Orb could convert all of a unit's physical strength into Light Energy.

With no other options left, Ah Tai activated it. As Light Energy poured out, the Dark Realm beneath the Mystic Titan weakened under the intense glow.

Ah Tai immediately understood what was happening. Light and darkness were natural opposites. As long as the light was strong enough, it could neutralize the Dark Jurisdiction's power. In the next instant, Ah Tai hurled the huge ball of Light Energy downward.

Light Energy and Dark Energy annihilated each other on contact, and Ah Tai broke free. The moment it regained its freedom, it gathered every last scrap of its remaining strength into a 10,000-meter-wide orb and launched it at Gu Feng.

At that range, with an attack of that size and the force behind Ah Tai's throw, Gu Feng had no room to dodge. He and the Calamity Crossbird poured every drop of their Dark Energy into resisting it, but it wasn't enough. The massive attack obliterated their defenses.

Purified by the light, they plummeted from the sky. Gu Feng wasn't dead, but he soon would be.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1029 - Might As Well Since We Are Here

Ah Tai shrank and returned to Han Wu's side with a captive in each hand.

Gu Feng was dragged before Han Wu in a daze. *In the end, I still lost to this kid.*

"Nice work," Han Wu praised Ah Tai. The latter scratched the back of its head with one massive hand and grinned sheepishly.

Han Wu turned his attention to Gu Feng, who lay on the ground. The current Dark God King was critically wounded and had no strength left to resist. This was the perfect moment to kill him.

Even so, killing him outright felt wasteful. At most, Han Wu would gain some benefit from Sacrifice and obtain the Dark Jurisdiction and a few Divine Aspect shards. Compared to the Destruction Clan's cultivation methods for their units, those benefits were insignificant.

"Elder Gu, if you share the Destruction Clan's method for cultivating units, I may spare your life," Han Wu offered. It was the greatest concession he was willing to make.

Gu Feng snorted. "Don't play cheap tricks with me. Spare my life? Don't make me laugh. Would you really let me keep the Dark Jurisdiction and my Destruction Energy and walk away alive?"

"Of course not," Han Wu replied bluntly.

His idea of sparing Gu Feng meant destroying his divine realm, extracting the Dark Jurisdiction, shattering every one of his Divine Aspects, and then dumping him on a barren Microcosm within his consciousness to fend for himself.

Gu Feng refused. He'd rather die than live like that.

"The Destruction Clan is finished. I've failed our ancestors. If you have any guts at all, just kill me and let them judge me."

The look on Gu Feng's face said it all. Nothing could be worse than that. His lifelong wish had been to revive the Destruction Clan, yet the clan had been completely wiped out, while he was on the verge of execution. There was nothing more for him to look forward to.

Han Wu saw that Gu Feng didn't fear him and gestured to the Origin of Mutation, who dragged his two test subjects into view. Gu Bei and the other clan member were hauled out like dead dogs.

Gu Feng's eyes grew wet the moment he saw Gu Bei. In the young man, he saw a chance for the Destruction Clan's bloodline to continue.

Han Wu approached the two captives. "These two are Destruction Clan members I captured before Wildlion City fell. If you want them to take the Destruction Clan's cultivation secrets to the grave, keep your mouth shut."

Gu Feng's lips trembled. He didn't know whether he should betray his ancestors this way.

Han Wu didn't waste any more words. A glance to the Origin of Mutation was all it took. The latter grabbed the other clan member by the head and ripped it clean off.

Two surviving members of the Destruction Clan had remained. Now there was one.

Gu Feng broke. He had to do whatever he could to protect the Destruction Clan's future. "I'll tell you the cultivation method. Just promise me that Gu Bei will walk out of here alive."

"Done." Han Wu was overjoyed that he finally obtained what he wanted.

Gu Feng tried to negotiate further. "Release him first. I'll talk once he's gone."

Han Wu furrowed his brows. "Elder Gu, I think you've forgotten who's in charge here. You're the prisoner, and I'm the victor. You have my word. If you hold up your end, I'll hold up mine. Keep stalling, and the Destruction Clan dies out for good."

At last, Gu Feng caved and revealed the Destruction Clan's cultivation methods for their units in full.

Han Wu and the others listened intently, with Qin Shuang paying especially close attention. When Gu Feng described how he had raised the Calamity Crossbird, she started taking notes on the spot so that she could apply them to her Thunder Sparrows.

The Origin of Mutation listened alongside them and conducted his own analysis. He confirmed that everything Gu Feng had said checked out.

Han Wu kept his promise and released Gu Bei. Then, the moment Gu Bei had taken a few steps, he ordered his units to grab him and bring him back.

The dying Gu Feng nearly leapt to his feet. He spent the last of his strength screaming for a final showdown. “You promised me! You said you’d let Gu Bei live! You liar, you despicable, shameless...”

Han Wu was completely unfazed. “You can curse all you like. Just answer me this. Is Gu Bei alive? Did I release him or not?”

The surrounding units burst into laughter. Han Wu had technically kept his word. He had released the man, but the latter simply hadn’t made it very far before he was caught again.

“You... You... You...” Gu Feng sputtered. He couldn’t force out another word. His eyes bulged, and his legs shot straight out as his life force began to drain rapidly.

Han Wu immediately ordered his units to stabilize Gu Feng’s heart and keep him alive. The reason was simple: he couldn’t use Sacrifice within the Beast Tamer Civilization. Its rules restricted all Jurisdictions, including Han Wu’s. It was better to keep Gu Feng alive and kill him after they left.

Gu Bei was tossed back to the Origin of Mutation so he could continue his experiment.

With that, the Destruction Clan was thoroughly eliminated. The mission was complete, but Han Wu had no intention of leaving just yet. They were already in the Beast Tamer Civilization, and he had mobilized a massive force for this campaign. It would be a waste not to squeeze out a little more profit before heading home.

At Han Wu’s command, Jing Jing unleashed the skeleton sea once more and began attacking every city across the civilization. Weaker cities fell to the skeleton sea, while stronger ones fell to Han Wu’s units.

Qin Shuang benefited enormously from the campaign as well. Using Gu Feng’s methods, she modified her Thunder Sparrows and successfully bred the first Thunder Sparrow that wielded Destruction Energy.

: Chapter 1030

Chapter 1030 - Bone Maiden

Destruction Energy was extraordinarily dangerous, as it came with an inherent chance of inflicting Deathblow. Even a God could die by a stroke of bad luck. Deathblow was an effect that granted the attack a chance to instantly kill enemies regardless of rank, race, and level. Its effectiveness was affected by debuff resistance and amplification.[1]

Powerful life forms had a natural resistance to debuff attacks from weaker creatures. Against opponents stronger than the user, the actual chance of activation dropped significantly. Against opponents of the same rank or lower, it would activate far more often. The workaround was to increase the number of attacks, which raised the odds. Every Destruction Clan member operated on that principle.

For Qin Shuang, whose specialty was lightning, the answer was evident. She could merge Destruction Energy with her lightning to create Destruction Lightning, a high-frequency barrage that maximized the Destruction Energy's potential.

Beyond Destruction Energy, Qin Shuang also gained invaluable insight from Gu Feng's cultivation techniques. Roughly ninety percent of his methods for raising the Calamity Crossbird could be applied directly to her Thunder Sparrows. All things considered, this mission had been a windfall for her.

Jing Jing's gains were just as impressive. As the skeleton sea expanded, she destroyed over a dozen cities and swallowed every human and Summoned Beast within them. In the process, she amassed enormous quantities of Bone and Soul Energy. She also developed new skeleton variants based on what she had learned from her battles.

Jing Jing currently had many troop types, but only two could hold their own in high-stakes combat.

The first was the Skyreach Giant Skeleton, which relied on raw power and destruction. By stacking countless bones into an enormous frame, it turned its sheer size into a weapon and made every movement a devastating attack. It was extremely effective against weaker enemies, where brute force reigned supreme.

At Jing Jing's current level, however, size alone didn't provide much of an edge. Unless the giant skeleton could explosively scale its attributes as its size increased, as the Mythic Titan did, it was just a massive target that enemies didn't even need to aim at.

Recognizing this weakness, Jing Jing later created the Bone Dragon. The original Bone Dragons were assembled from reinforced bone she had refined. Combined with the Wicked Dragon's soul, they could reach the Microcosm rank.

After becoming the Soul God King and awakening the Soul Jurisdiction, Jing Jing no longer needed dragon souls. Her power was enough to manufacture Bone Dragons.

Bone Dragons were smaller than the Skyreach Giant Skeletons but were far more versatile. They could withstand attacks and deal damage in equal measure. Jing Jing had relied on them to destroy cities and defeat powerful Summoned Beasts.

The two skeleton types were sufficient for large-scale battles, but their massive frames made them cumbersome in tighter spaces. After careful consideration, Jing Jing decided to use herself as the template for a third variant.

For the undead, the soul was everything. It served the same purpose as Life Energy did for the living. Without a soul, an undead ceased to exist.

With that in mind, Jing Jing poured tremendous effort into designing the new soul. She implanted fragments of her own emotions into each new skeleton's soul, giving them the ability to assess situations and adapt rather than charge blindly.

The bones received equal attention. She possessed an enormous stockpile and refined them through her Soul Jurisdiction. The resulting bones weren't as strong as Crystal Bones, but they reached about seventy percent of that quality. Paired with the custom souls, each new skeleton emerged as a Microcosm undead.

Jing Jing named this new type the Bone Maiden because it was modeled as a lesser version of herself.

The first batch consisted of six. Initially, they knew only basic combat techniques and relied on their bones' hardness to kill their enemies. After a few battles, however, they began learning from experience and teaching themselves more advanced fighting techniques.

During the later siege campaigns, the Bone Maidens performed brilliantly, assassinating numerous powerful enemies on their own.

After Jing Jing and the skeleton sea conquered the hundredth city, the Beast Tamer Civilization's Will finally showed its displeasure. Every city was a source of the civilization's strength. The destruction of a hundred of them had severely damaged the civilization's overall power.

The Will poured a portion of itself into a local prodigy and rapidly elevated his Summoned Beasts. In a short time, two of them reached the Subcosm rank, while the rest advanced to the Microcosm rank.

When Jing Jing led the skeleton sea against the hundredth-first city, the prodigy conveniently appeared on the battlefield. His Summoned Beasts held the skeleton sea at bay and started to consume the bones to eliminate the threat at its source.

Jing Jing wasn't alone, though. Han Wu summoned his five Subcosm fighters, crushed the prodigy's Summoned Beasts with overwhelming force, and leveled the entire city.

That amounted to a declaration of war against the Beast Tamer Civilization's Will. However, in the face of Han Wu's brazen action, the Will didn't dare retaliate. Instead, it used the prodigy as a mouthpiece to signal its desire for a ceasefire.

The Will had the power to simply break its own rules and wipe out Han Wu's five Subcosm fighters, but doing so would mean violating the very restrictions it had set. The moment that happened, Han Wu would be freed from those rules as well. He could then force his divine realm open and launch a full-scale invasion.

The Will was certain that an unrestricted Han Wu would be far more dangerous than he was now. After confirming that it couldn't defeat Han Wu within the confines of its own rules and laws, it chose to concede.

Han Wu hadn't intended to destroy the Beast Tamer Civilization anyway. Doing so would cost him far more than it was worth, so when the Will quietly admitted defeat, he accepted its surrender.

In the end, Han Wu's group walked away with three portions of the Beast Tamer Civilization's Will. How long the civilization would take to recover from that loss was a problem for its natives to solve.

With all their spoils in hand, the trio rushed back to the Divine Civilization.

The moment they did, Han Wu unleashed his full power through the True Holy Dragon Transformation, and, as a Mesocosm fighter, he obliterated Gu Feng effortlessly. He obtained the Dark Jurisdiction, nearly half of the Microcosms in Gu Feng's consciousness, a Level 45 Core, and a collection of Gu Feng's Divine Aspect shards.

On top of that, Sacrifice worked as intended. Han Wu's eyes widened when he saw the three options. Every single one was exceptional!

1. Added this portion to clarify how it works ☜

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1031 - Bloodline of the Destruction Clan

[Option 1: Destruction Clan Pure Bloodline (Extreme affinity toward Destruction Energy.)]

[Option 2: Subcosm Life Form Umbral Destroyer (Possess a Destruction Jurisdiction embryo.)]

[Option 3: Microcosm Divine Weapon Annihilation Blade (Infused with Destruction Energy. 10% chance to inflict the Deathblow debuff with every strike.)]

All three options were tied to Destruction Energy. Han Wu could feel how deeply Gu Feng yearned for destruction. Even his Sacrifice rewards reeked of it!

Han Wu wanted all three, but unfortunately, he could only choose one. As such, he carefully analyzed each option.

Option one would grant him the Destruction Clan's bloodline and heighten his affinity for Destruction Energy. If he chose it, he was confident that he could comprehend the Destruction Jurisdiction with enough resources. That was indisputably the strongest Jurisdiction in the Divine Civilization. Possessing it would make him invincible as the Destruction God King. The temptation was enormous.

Option two offered a powerful Subcosm life form with a Destruction Jurisdiction embryo. Han Wu wasn't desperate for Subcosm fighters for now. He could always cultivate more Mythic Titans through Life Infusion.

The Umbral Destroyer's real value lay in its Jurisdiction embryo. Han Wu could kill it afterward and extract the embryo, but doing so carried a huge risk. The embryo could shatter during the extraction, and a shattered embryo would lose most of its value.
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Developing it further would also be a headache because Han Wu could only load complete Jurisdictions onto his own abilities. He would have to give the embryo to another life form to develop, and once it reached completion, there was no guarantee he could take it back. Option two looked convenient but was riddled with pitfalls.

He then considered option three. The Microcosm Divine Weapon Annihilation Blade was infused with Destruction Energy and had a ten percent chance of inflicting the Deathblow debuff with each strike. He found it a good reward since it was ready to use immediately, with no comprehension or additional resources required.

It was also very powerful. Han Wu's vault held mountains of Divine Weapons, but only one had reached the Microcosm rank: the Peerless White Blade. Adding the Annihilation Blade would give him two.

The combined boost from wielding two Microcosm weapons alongside the True Holy Dragon Transformation would theoretically push him past the Death God King as the Divine Civilization's strongest fighter.

Of course, that was only theoretical. If the Death God King went all out with the Proclamation of Death, Han Wu still wouldn't survive unless he fully developed the Life Jurisdiction and secured the Resurrection effect.

After going back and forth, Han Wu finally made his choice: the first option, the Destruction Clan's pure bloodline. It wouldn't boost his immediate combat power by much, but it held the greatest long-term potential.

The moment he selected it, a violent storm erupted inside his body as the Destruction Clan's bloodline started merging with his own.

The fusion process leaked trace amounts of Destruction Energy that ravaged his body. He cycled through destruction and reconstruction repeatedly. By the time the process was over, it felt like he had died around eighty times.

When the bloodline finally settled, he felt his Destruction Aspect stir with excitement. The Skull Guillotine, the Divine Skill attached to his Destruction Aspect, received a significant boost from the bloodline's affinity, and its Deathblow chance jumped from twenty-five percent to thirty-five percent.

Ten percent sounded small, but for anyone caught in the Skull Guillotine's crosshairs, it could mean the difference between life and death.

That wasn't all. The Destruction Aspect's upgrade also elevated his Divine Authority. Destruction Energy merged into the Divine Authority Greatsword and granted it a five percent Deathblow chance.

Han Wu let out a low whistle. The Annihilation Blade had a ten percent kill chance, and that already qualified as a Microcosm weapon. By that logic, his Divine Authority Greatsword, with its five percent chance, was roughly half a Microcosm weapon.

He had a feeling that once he developed the Destruction Jurisdiction, the kill chance on the greatsword would climb even higher. That, however, would take time and resources.

After that, Han Wu turned to his other spoils.

He fed the portions of the Beast Tamer Civilization's Will into the Golden Tree inside his divine realm. The Golden Tree absorbed them and established contract links between Han Wu and his units, similar to the bonds between Summoned Beasts and their tamers. In places where divine realms couldn't be opened, Han Wu could now summon his units through summoning arts instead.

Han Wu's greatest prize of all, however, was the Dark Jurisdiction. There was currently no Dark God King in the Divine Civilization, and Han Wu had a strong affinity for darkness. He considered absorbing it and becoming the Dark God King, but he hesitated. Although the Dark Jurisdiction was powerful, it couldn't satisfy all his ambitions.

“Maybe I’ll hold off a little longer,” he murmured.

Coincidentally, an urgent notification chimed in his mind. The Manifestation he’d been cultivating before leaving for the Beast Tamer Civilization was complete.

His first Manifestation, Everchange, materialized inside his divine realm.

: Chapter 1032

Chapter 1032 - Time Particles

In humanoid form, the Everchange Manifestation looked exactly like Han Wu, although its demeanor was somewhat stiff. Beyond wielding the Everchange Jurisdiction and possessing the ability to shapeshift into countless life forms, it had one ultimate technique. It could transform into a Terminal Turret.

In Terminal Turret form, the Everchange Manifestation couldn’t move, but it could continuously produce units. It could replicate any unit it had previously copied as a soldier of equivalent strength without Jurisdictions, Microcosms, or Divine Rings. The higher the life form’s rank, the longer each soldier took to produce.

After learning this, Han Wu had it copy the Mythic Titan template. Producing one Subcosm Mythic Titan soldier required a hundred days, equivalent to a hundred years inside the divine realm. That sounded like an eternity, but it was extremely fast. A hundred years for a single Subcosm fighter was enough to make any other faction turn green with envy.

Han Wu set the Everchange Manifestation to Terminal Turret form and left it to manufacture Mythic Titan soldiers. He then continued using Life Infusion to accelerate his core race units. Units raised that way were slightly weaker in actual combat than those who had grown through their own efforts, but future training could close that gap. Overall, it was an effective way to increase his units’ strength.

Under his relentless cultivation, the number of Subcosm fighters in his divine realm climbed to eight, and there were more than ten World fighters.

Three of the new Subcosm fighters were Mythic Titans. Once they took shape, Han Wu handed them over to Kokkai Hanwu for training, with strict orders to master all nine Giant Transformations as soon as possible.

Days passed quietly in this cycle of cultivation. Then, one day, a call request popped up.

Han Wu checked the caller and was surprised to find it was the Commerce God King, whom he hadn't heard from in quite some time.

After the divine war between the Wisdom and Slaughter Factions, the Commerce God King had caught the Wealth God King's eye and joined the Wealth Faction. He spent most of his time in foreign civilizations, raking in money. Why was he calling now?

Han Wu answered quizzically.

Commerce's familiar, friendly voice came through. "Boss Han, how've you been?"

"Not bad. How about you, Boss Li?" Han Wu shot back.

Commerce chuckled awkwardly and exchanged a few hollow pleasantries before cutting to the chase. "Han Wu, we picked up something special out in a foreign civilization. You can't find it anywhere on the Divine Civilization's market. Want to come take a look?"

Han Wu's curiosity was piqued. "That mysterious? You can't even tell me over the call?"

The Divine Civilization's market was enormous, serving billions of denizens and their countless units. A market capable of satisfying so many customers was a monster in its own right, so finding something completely unavailable there was extraordinary.

Han Wu was now eager to see what would make even Commerce so interested in it. "Wait for me. I'm on my way."

Han Wu ended the call and teleported through several gates to Commerce's location, the Mirage Bar.

The bar's owner, the Banquet God King, had previously instructed the doormen to let Han Wu through without inspection. He walked straight in and found Commerce chatting happily with other patrons.

Commerce booked a private room and got down to business. He pulled a safe from his divine realm and opened it carefully. Inside sat a small crystal vial containing four glowing particles.

Han Wu checked them against every database he could access, including the Wisdom Faction's classified archives, before the answer hit him.

"Time Particles!" Han Wu blurted out.

Those were treasures on par with Microcosm-rank weapons. Each tiny grain, barely the size of a rice kernel, could manipulate the flow of time itself.

Take the denizens of the Divine Civilization, for example. Everyone's divine realm experienced time at a faster rate compared to the outside world, with a standard ratio of 365 to one. One year inside a divine realm equaled one day outside.

Time Particles could adjust that ratio. A single Time Particle could add another day, pushing it to 366 to one. The more particles invested, the faster time moved inside the realm and the more time its units had to grow. Time Particles were so priceless that even God Kings would fight over them.

Commerce said, "I didn't expect you'd recognize them. These are indeed Time Particles. If you place them in your divine realm, you can accelerate its time flow even further. The more you put, the faster time flows in your divine realm. Given your massive locust population, every extra day in your realm means an extra day's worth of Faith Points. It's a steal!"

Naturally, Han Wu understood what Commerce was getting at, and he was very interested in them too.

"Name your price," Han Wu said.

Commerce held up three fingers.

Han Wu feigned surprise. "Three Divine Essence? You're too kind."

"Three Microcosms!" Commerce corrected. "Three Microcosms per particle. You won't find a better deal."

"Using Microcosms as currency. Only the Wealth Faction could pull that off," Han Wu remarked. "I'll take all of them. Wrap them up."

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1033

Chapter 1033 - The Auction

Han Wu bought all four Time Particles in one go for a total of twelve Microcosms. He had seized over 50,000 Microcosms after killing Gu Feng, so twelve was pocket change.

The Commerce God King beamed. Han Wu has gotten seriously rich since we last met. To think he would hand over the Microcosms without so much as blinking.

“Got anything else worth looking at?” Han Wu asked after planting the four Time Particles into his divine realm.

Commerce shook his head. “Time Particles are the best I can offer within my clearance level.”

“So your rank in the Wealth Faction isn’t that high, huh?” Han Wu observed.

Anyone else who said that would’ve earned a slap. Since it came from a big spender like Han Wu, however, Commerce let it slide.

“If you want rarer resources, you should attend the Wealth Faction’s annual auction. I have shares in several of the lots,” Commerce said, casually flaunting his status, “I could try to get you a ticket.”

Naturally, he was secretly trying to show off his position in the Wealth faction.

Han Wu didn’t even notice. He opened the Wealth Faction’s system, logged in with his own credentials, and pulled a VIP pass.

“No need. Already got one.” He flashed the VIP pass in front of Commerce’s face.

Commerce’s eyes nearly popped out. With his clearance, he could barely wrangle a few standard tickets. Han Wu hadn’t even officially joined the Wealth Faction, yet he had casually obtained a VIP pass?

“How did you get that?” he asked.

“Just log into the Wealth Faction’s system, and it gives you one. It’s that simple. Don’t tell me you don’t have one?” Han Wu said, puzzled.

Commerce’s face paled, but he still forced himself to keep up appearances. “I just didn’t want one!”

“The pass says I can bring four guests into the VIP box,” Han Wu mentioned.

“Please take me with you,” Commerce said immediately. As long as he could get into that VIP box, he’d lower his standards as far as necessary.

Han Wu agreed on account of the Time Particles.

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On the day of the auction, Han Wu brought Qin Shuang, Jing Jing, Sun Qingnian, and Commerce to the venue.

Commerce was already waiting at the entrance in a flashy outfit. His snow-white hair made him impossible to miss.

Their group of five was escorted into a VIP box with a clear view of the general seating below. The floor was packed with prominent figures from across the Divine Civilization. Any one of them would be considered a titan of wealth elsewhere. At the Wealth Faction's annual auction, however, they were merely ordinary attendees.

As they waited, Commerce took photos of the VIP box from every angle and posted them on his social feed so he could subtly show off to his business contacts. Anyone capable of entering a VIP box at an auction of this caliber was definitely at the top of the Divine Civilization. Commerce did his best to flaunt his connections and promote himself so that everyone in his circle would look up to him.

Sun Qingnian was even busier. He'd encountered wave after wave of female acquaintances on the way in. Given that they were all women, Han Wu was fairly certain they were Sun Qingnian's informants.

Han Wu had only one rule: keep them out of the VIP box. Therefore, Sun Qingnian spent the entire wait running in and out. He made seven or eight trips before the auction even started.

Commerce, who knew nothing about Sun Qingnian's true identity, nudged Han Wu. "Did your boy eat something bad? He keeps running outside."

Han Wu decided to keep quiet. If he told Commerce how many women Sun Qingnian was juggling at once, it would likely shock the worldly merchant.

Qin Shuang and Jing Jing sat quietly on the sofa, but anyone within five meters could feel the tension crackling between them.

Han Wu was fairly certain they'd attack each other if he left the room. Under the circumstances, he seemed to be the only normal person there. He turned his attention to the stage and waited.

The host took the stage. It was Shaura, the Gift God King Han Wu had dealt with before. After delivering his signature opening, he officially started the auction.

Commerce stopped taking photos, Sun Qingnian returned, and Qin Shuang and Jing Jing turned their attention to the lots.

Han Wu finally relaxed and paid attention to the first lot. Usually, the opening item set the tone, and it typically wasn't too expensive.

Shaura shouted his signature "Ura" and revealed the first lot: a Microcosm Divine Weapon called the Withered Staff. It was a wood-attribute weapon infused with Wilt-Bloom

Jurisdiction power. It had two effects. The first allowed its wielder to control trees and tree-related life forms, such as Treants. The second granted its wielder eternal youth.

The moment it was revealed, every woman in the hall wanted it. Some men did too, since youth meant more than just appearance. It also meant vitality. Nobody cared about its tree-controlling ability.

Bidding on the first lot started at forty Microcosms. The price immediately soared and continued climbing until it reached 125 Microcosms. A man who looked at least sixty ultimately claimed it.

“All that for a staff that controls trees? Is it worth it?” Han Wu muttered.

Sun Qingnian disagreed. “I envy that old man. If I had the Microcosms, I’d have fought for it.”

Commerce murmured, “That old fool’s got more money than sense. I’d love to do business with him.”

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1034

Chapter 1034 - Divine Time Stone

As the auction continued, more rare treasures were brought onstage.

Qin Shuang and Jing Jing didn’t bid on anything, but watching the proceedings broadened their horizons considerably.

After several successful lots, a new item was unveiled. Shaura lifted the cloth to reveal a fist-sized Divine Time Stone. Even from across the hall, Han Wu could sense that its energy signature was nearly identical to that of the Time Particles he’d just bought, but incomparably denser.

“Is this one of yours?” Han Wu asked the Commerce God King.

Commerce smoothed his white hair. “I discovered it first, but I didn’t contribute to the extraction. I only hold twenty percent.”

Han Wu gasped. Twenty percent of that stone was already a fortune! Based on the energy it radiated, he estimated its effect to be at least a hundred times stronger than that of a single Time Particle.

Shaura announced a starting bid of 2,000 Microcosms. He explained that placing the Divine Time Stone inside a divine realm would increase its time flow by fifty percent. One realm day could be stretched into two. Its value was extraordinary, whether one used it to cultivate or grow their units.

The moment Shaura announced the starting price, paddles shot up across the floor. The price rocketed from 2,000 to 8,500 Microcosms and kept climbing.

Han Wu was visibly shaken. These tycoons really didn't treat Microcosms like money.

A single dim Microcosm was worth at least 100 Divine Essence. High-quality ones were effectively priceless. Under ideal conditions, 8,500 Microcosms could theoretically raise eight and a half Subcosm fighters.

Han Wu did the math. If he planted the Divine Time Stone into his divine realm Core, his units' cultivation speed would double. Combined with his massive population of units, twice the time meant double the Faith Points. The additional growth would also produce new Microcosms for him. The stone would pay for itself over and over.

The moment he realized that, he raised his paddle and called out a staggering number. "10,000 Microcosms!"

Every head in the general seating turned toward his VIP box. They were all thinking the same thing: whoever was inside had to be incredibly wealthy. The previous bidders had been inching upward to 8,500. Han Wu's jump of 1,500 Microcosms in a single bid stunned the hall. It left no breathing room for competitors.

Shaura didn't know who had called out the bid. He stood at the podium and silently counted down. No one challenged it. Han Wu claimed the Divine Time Stone with ease.

The moment he received it, Han Wu immediately loaded it into his divine realm. Time inside hastened by fifty percent just as Shaura had said. Every life form continued training and growing as usual, but they now had twice as much time to do so. He had a feeling that he would be producing a lot of talented units soon.

The Divine Time Stone marked an early peak in the auction. The items that followed were rare, but none could compare to it, and their prices dropped accordingly.

Han Wu was watching contentedly when a knock came at the door. Commerce went to answer it.

A server stood outside. “The guests in VIP Box 3 have sent a fruit basket to congratulate you on winning the Divine Time Stone.”

The server carried in an enormous platter of exotic fruits and departed.

Commerce stared at it in bafflement. He’d never received this kind of treatment. Who was sitting in VIP Box 3?

Han Wu was already waving the others over to eat. Every fruit in the basket came from a different civilization. Assembling the platter alone would’ve cost a small fortune.

“Who do you think is in Box 3?” Commerce mused as he helped himself to a piece.

He started mentally eliminating candidates. It wasn’t the Wealth Faction, whose members were all working the event. It wasn’t the Death Faction either. Death Faction members carried an aura of decay wherever they went, yet every fruit on the platter was pristine.

But these two were the largest factions within the Divine Civilization. Several smaller factions filled the gaps, but he doubted any of them could afford something like that.

After a moment, Commerce considered going over to find out who was in Box 3. Even so, he needed a proper excuse. He couldn’t simply walk into someone else’s box without a valid reason.

Before Commerce could act, Sun Qingnian supplied the answer. “Box 3 belongs to the Forest Clan. They’re here browsing the auction.”

Commerce deflated. How did Sun Qingnian know more than he did?

Han Wu glanced at Sun Qingnian. Judging by Sun Qingnian’s wink, Han Wu was fairly certain there was an informant inside Box 3.

“The Forest Clan’s elites are definitely worth meeting. I hear they produce all kinds of fruit. If we build a relationship now, there’s money to be made selling fruit later,” Commerce muttered.

Business never left his mind. [1]

1. Bro, fruit? Why do I have a feeling a certain g*m-g*m fruit is going to show up ☜

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1035

Chapter 1035 - The Forest Clan

Han Wu had never heard of the Forest Clan, so Sun Qingnian filled him in.

The Forest Clan was similar in nature to the Destruction Clan. Both were ancient families that had once produced powerful God Kings. After those God Kings fell, the families withdrew from public life and kept to themselves, seeking only peace and comfort.

The Divine Civilization had many such reclusive families. They rarely appeared in public, but wielded considerable power behind the scenes. Underestimating them would be a grave mistake.

According to Sun Qingnian, the Forest Clan had a fighter who could hold his own against the Death God King for an extended period. Supposedly, that person had even survived the Proclamation of Death head-on!

Han Wu was stunned.After all, he himself was a Mesocosm fighter when he unleashed his full power, yet even he wasn't confident he could withstand the Proclamation of Death. What level had this Forest Clan fighter reached? It had to be beyond the God King rank.

Han Wu pressed for more information, but Sun Qingnian shook his head. He didn't know the details either. Everything he had shared came from his informant. Naturally, that only made Han Wu even more curious about the Forest Clan within VIP Box 3.

After the hundredth lot, the auction entered its intermission, and Han Wu led the group to VIP Box 3.

The Commerce God King straightened his white hair to make himself more presentable. Qin Shuang and Jing Jing took their places on either side of Han Wu with calm expressions.

Sun Qingnian knocked. "Sun Qingnian, Han Wu, Qin Shuang, Jing Jing, and Commerce King Li Xiulian request an audience."

"Come in," a deep voice replied.

Inside, four members of the Forest Clan were seated. There were three men and one woman. The men consisted of an elder, a middle-aged man, and a young man, while the woman was also young. The moment she saw Sun Qingnian, she shot him a look. She was clearly his informant.

The elder radiated the strongest aura of the four and was evidently their leader.

Han Wu bowed respectfully. “Junior Han Wu pays his respects to the Forest Clan elders.”

The elder glanced at Han Wu and sensed his vigorous Life Energy. Surprise flickered across his face. In a flash he appeared beside Han Wu, gripped his arm, and sent a pulse of energy through his veins. It coursed through his blood and spread to every corner of his body.

“So that’s why. Your extraordinary Life Energy comes from possessing the Life Jurisdiction!” the elder exclaimed.

Han Wu quickly pulled his arm back. He had gained a new appreciation for the Forest Clan’s methods. “May I ask the elder’s name?”

“My surname is Ye. Ye Xiao,” the elder replied.

“Ye Cang,” the middle-aged man added.

The two younger members introduced themselves as Ye Qing, the man, and Ye Hong, the lady.

“Elder Ye Xiao, Elder Ye Cang, thank you for the fruit platter,” Han Wu said.

“We saw you bid on the Divine Time Stone and wanted to express our congratulations,” Ye Cang said.

From the side, Ye Hong muttered, “Funny, because a minute ago, someone was grinding his teeth and saying he wanted to fight the buyer for 300 rounds over it.”

“Ye Hong, be quiet,” Ye Xiao snapped.

Ye Hong pouted and fell silent. The revelation left Ye Cang visibly embarrassed.

Ye Xiao smoothly changed the subject. “What brings you here?”

“Nothing in particular. We simply wanted to pay our respects,” Han Wu answered.

Qin Shuang and Jing Jing had mostly come out of curiosity to see whether the Forest Clan looked any different from ordinary people. They didn’t. They had the same noses, mouths, and two eyes as everyone else.

“What do you mean, nothing? I have business!” Commerce burst out. “Elder Ye Xiao, Brother Ye Cang, I’m the Commerce God King. I specialize in trade. That fruit platter was absolutely divine. If we marketed it to the wider player base, it would sell like wildfire!”

Ye Xiao and Ye Cang smiled politely but turned their attention to Han Wu. They could tell he was the strongest in the group. He was overflowing with Life Energy and possessed

numerous Jurisdictions. Naturally, they assumed he was the leader and that Commerce was his white-haired errand boy.

“Young Han Wu, do you share this sentiment?” Ye Xiao asked.

Han Wu shook his head, then nodded. “Not exactly. Before coming here, I hadn’t planned to ask for any fruit. That said, if the Forest Clan is willing, we’d happily buy some to save for later.”

Ye Xiao smiled. “Since you enjoy fruit, come visit us after the auction. We’ll feed you until you’re full.”

Sun Qingnian whispered a warning, “The Forest Clan’s invitations shouldn’t be refused.”

Han Wu didn’t understand why, but he followed the advice. “Then it’s a deal.”

The Forest Clan members lit up with excitement. They looked ready to leave immediately and start preparing for their guests, but the auction wasn’t over yet.

Han Wu continued chatting with Ye Xiao and soon had the old man laughing. Qin Shuang and Ye Hong hit it off instantly and chattered nonstop. Jing Jing stood silently to the side.

Meanwhile, Commerce cornered Ye Cang to discuss the fruit business, promising the best possible prices. Ye Cang’s reaction was lukewarm. He neither refused nor showed much interest.

When the intermission ended, Han Wu said his goodbyes and returned to his own box.

The moment the door closed behind him, his legs buckled, and he nearly collapsed.

Everyone panicked.

Qin Shuang rushed to his side. “Han Wu, what’s wrong? Are you sick?”

Jing Jing scooped him up and prepared to carry him outside to find a healer.

“I’m fine. Put me down,” Han Wu said as color gradually returned to his face. “The Forest Clan is no joke. The elder, Ye Xiao, is a Mesocosm fighter. The middle-aged one, Ye Cang, has also stepped into the Mesocosm rank. The two younger ones are both Subcosm fighters. The strange part is that I couldn’t sense any of their divine realms!”

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1036

Chapter 1036 - The Undying Tree

Han Wu's words stunned everyone in the room. None of them doubted his judgment. The Forest Clan's strength simply left them in shock. Even the younger members had Subcosm power. The family's overall strength was almost absurd.

The Commerce God King seemed especially mortified. He'd been pitching Ye Cang on a fruit business the whole time, practically treating a Mesocosm powerhouse like a fruit farmer. The fact that the Forest Clan hadn't beaten him on the spot was a testament to their good upbringing.

"Don't panic. I only detected it because of my senses as a Great Dragon. They probably didn't notice. Since they haven't asked us for anything, they most likely want to keep a low profile. Let's not expose them," Han Wu said, recovering his composure.

When he'd first sensed the Forest Clan's true power, he'd suspected they were assassins sent after him. After all, he had no shortage of enemies. Thankfully, they had shown no hostility over the course of their conversation, in which case it was best not to meddle.

The Commerce God King and the others all nodded and agreed to follow Han Wu's lead.

The auction continued under Gift God King Shaura's energetic hosting. Both the VIP box guests and the floor bidders threw themselves into the bidding. Every lot sold at a minimum of three times its starting price. Not a single item went unsold.

Qin Shuang set her sights on a Microcosm Divine Weapon that could harness lightning, called the Lightning Orb. However, she didn't have any Microcosms of her own, so Han Wu bid on it for her. It cost 3,500 Microcosms.

Setting aside its attributes, those resources alone could've raised three Subcosm rank fighters. Han Wu didn't even blink at the price.

Qin Shuang beamed. With the Lightning Orb, her comprehension of the Lightning Jurisdiction would accelerate tenfold, and the lightning she unleashed would be over a hundred times more powerful. Once she mastered the Lightning Jurisdiction, she could start studying other Jurisdictions and deepen her foundation.

Jing Jing watched from the side with a flicker of envy in her eyes. Then she reminded herself that she had the Evilspawn Ghost Blade, which matched the Lightning Orb in both power and growth potential. Better still, Han Wu had forged it with his own hands, making it more meaningful than any auction item. The envy vanished with a puff at that thought.

The auction pressed on and soon reached the final lot. After delivering a fiery introduction, Gift God King Shaura pulled the red cloth free.

It was a tree. A sapling, to be precise. Shaura announced it as an Ancient Divine Tree, specifically the Undying Tree.

True to its name, the Undying Tree's greatest property was that its fruit granted a temporary immunity to death. Han Wu felt a faint connection between the Undying Tree's fruit and his own undying ability.

As the last item, the Undying Tree triggered a bidding frenzy. While everyone knew that true immortality didn't exist, and that the effect was temporary, even being briefly unkillable was enough to drive people wild. Who wouldn't want to live forever? The Undying Tree offered a plausible path.

The bids started at 30,000 Microcosms, but shot up to 200,000 within moments. Han Wu listened to the bids soar and marveled at how many wealthy players the Divine Civilization had. Despite hitting 200,000, they were still going. Some people were betting their entire fortunes!

After hitting 200,000, the regular bidders went back and forth with low increases for a time, only for the Forest Clan's VIP box to cut in with a bid of 250,000 Microcosms! The jump of 50,000 in one go instantly silenced the weaker competitors. Several families immediately dropped out. They simply couldn't compete at that level.

Still, the price kept climbing. 300,000... 400,000...

Han Wu could hardly believe it. With that many Microcosms, who needed an Undying Tree? Investing those resources in raising fighters would've netted enormous returns! That was just his wishful thinking, though.

The bidding finally slowed at 450,000 Microcosms, with only two bidders remaining. One was the Forest Clan in their VIP box. The other was a regional tycoon in the general seating.

When Sun Qingnian spotted the tycoon, he instantly dispatched an informant to investigate. The intel came back fast.

"That guy's bluffing. His assets and personal strength combined can't cover 450,000 Microcosms!" Sun Qingnian reported.

Han Wu and the others were shocked at his audacity. Daring to artificially inflate the price of a lot at the Wealth Faction's annual auction was practically a death wish.

The Wealth Faction's back office caught on at the same time. Shaura received the notification and announced that anyone wishing to continue bidding would need to pass their asset verification first.

Naturally, the tycoon panicked. He didn't have the money. He'd simply been driving the price up to bleed the Forest Clan dry. When the verification team approached, he leaped to his feet and bolted for the exit.

Unfortunately for him, the Wealth Faction's security wasn't just for show. Every guard on duty was a Microcosm fighter, and they caught him before he could reach the door.

"I forfeit! I'm dropping out! Isn't that enough?" the tycoon screamed.

It wasn't. Deliberately disrupting the Wealth Faction's auction carried severe consequences.

He was dragged from the hall, shrieking like a pig being led to slaughter. Harsh punishment awaited him.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1037

Chapter 1037 - Borrowing Money

Han Wu was savoring the schadenfreude of watching that tycoon get hauled away when a knock came at the door. Opening it, he found Ye Hong standing outside, her cheeks flushed as she fidgeted nervously.

"Ye Hong, come in!" Qin Shuang called out.

Ye Hong slipped inside, closed the door, and stated her purpose. She was there to borrow money.

Han Wu almost burst into laughter. The Forest Clan had two Mesocosm fighters, but they wanted to borrow money from him? He thought he had misheard her.

The Undying Tree's price had been artificially inflated to 450,000 Microcosms. That was a lot, but it wasn't beyond what a Mesocosm fighter could afford. At worst, Ye Xiao or Ye Cang could extract some Microcosms from their consciousness.

When Ye Hong saw him smile, she immediately assumed he was mocking her and stood up to leave, her expression hardening. It hadn't even been her idea to come borrow money. Her family had pushed her into it. Now she was being laughed at.

Han Wu realized his mistake and jumped to his feet. "Please don't misunderstand. I was smiling because of something unrelated. It had absolutely nothing to do with the Forest Clan's situation."

That only made it worse. In Ye Hong's eyes, the timing was too convenient to be a coincidence. Han Wu was clearly mocking the Forest Clan.

Han Wu turned to Qin Shuang and Jing Jing in desperation. "Help me out here. Explain to her, please!"

Qin Shuang dutifully pulled Ye Hong aside and talked her down. Jing Jing backed her up. Between them, they managed to extract a promise from Ye Hong not to tell her family about this.

Han Wu exhaled with relief. He also silently cursed himself for not controlling his expression and almost bringing misfortune upon himself! Thankfully, Jing Jing and Qin Shuang were with him.

"I understand why you're here. How much do you need?" Han Wu asked, eager to make amends.

"150,000 Microcosms," Ye Hong said. Even she seemed to realize how outrageous that number was, and her face turned an even deeper shade of red.

Han Wu shot to his feet. "150,000 Microcosms? What do you take me for, a walking bank?"

"Aren't you?" Ye Hong asked flatly.

Han Wu's retort died in his throat. With his assets, he couldn't exactly deny it. He was, by any measure, seriously wealthy.

"150,000 Microcosms is too much. I can't afford it," Han Wu said, playing at being poor.

In truth, he could afford it. He just didn't trust the Forest Clan enough after only two meetings. Powerful people could also default on debts, but were harder to collect from.

Unless they gave some guarantee to confirm that they had the means to repay him, he would never lend them the money.

“You’re lying. Grandpa Ye Xiao already told us you’re a Mesocosm fighter. You’re just hiding part of your strength with some kind of concealment technique,” Ye Hong said with a knowing smirk.

Han Wu froze. Being caught playing poor was embarrassing enough to make him want to crawl into a hole. Flaunting his wealth with his initial bid had only led to people seeking him out to borrow money!

Deciding to try a different angle, he snapped back, “As far as I know, Elder Ye Xiao and Elder Ye Cang also have Mesocosm rank strength.”

That silenced Ye Hong. He’d used her own logic against her. How does he know that?

“Our situation is different,” she said, left with no choice but to explain. “The Forest Clan’s power is tied entirely to the trees we bond with. The stronger the tree, the stronger we become. We don’t produce Microcosms inside our consciousness.”

She revealed her power to prove her point. Han Wu saw a towering tree connected to Ye Hong that stretched into the heavens. The tree had consumed the entirety of Ye Hong’s divine realm, transforming the land into soil for its growth. In return, the tree lent her a portion of its strength.

Everything clicked. Ye Hong’s Subcosm power didn’t belong to her. It came from the tree. The same was true for Ye Xiao and Ye Cang. None of them had Microcosms in their consciousness. That was why they needed to borrow money.

Han Wu relented after seeing her earnestness. Opening his consciousness, he pulled together Microcosms from the ones he’d taken from Gu Feng and the Light God King, and scraped together 150,000 of them.

Ye Hong thanked him profusely and scurried back to her VIP box.

This loan didn’t actually bother Han Wu at all. In fact, he was secretly hoping the Forest Clan would “forget” about the 150,000 Microcosms. That would give him a legitimate excuse to go collect on the debt later.

With Han Wu’s 150,000 Microcosms, the Forest Clan passed the Wealth Faction’s asset verification. The Wealth Faction then re-auctioned the Undying Tree. This time, the Forest Clan managed to secure it for 350,000 Microcosms.

The Forest Clan was ecstatic.

This was an Ancient Divine Tree. Most viewed the Undying Tree as a source of an Undying Fruit, but the Forest Clan saw it as a God—both a pillar of faith and a source of power. They would gladly offer their divine realms to help it grow. With the Undying Tree, the Forest Clan gained another foundation to build on.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1038 - Reclusive Families

After the auction came the banquet, and the Wealth Faction went all out to celebrate their success. Ingredients from every civilization were laid across the tables. Han Wu even found Great Dragon meat on his plate.

Han Wu had reached Demon King Transformation Stage Four, the True Holy Dragon Transformation. This meant he could call himself a Holy Dragon King, which technically made him one of the Great Dragons. Finding Great Dragon meat on the menu thus invoked a flash of anger in his heart, but he suppressed it with reason.

Great Dragons ate others, and others ate Great Dragons. This was just the natural order of the strong preying on the weak. He could not resent the Wealth Faction for it. The best he could do was not partake in the meat.

Ye Xiao approached him with a raised glass and thanked him for the loan. “If you hadn’t lent us the money, the Forest Clan wouldn’t have been able to afford the Undying Tree. We could’ve even been thrown out as frauds.”

With that, the old man produced two items. The first was 100,000 of Han Wu’s Microcosms, leftover from the Undying Tree’s final price after the re-auction. The second was a compass needle that pointed toward the Forest Clan’s hidden realm. Pouring a hundred Divine Essence into it would teleport the user to their secret territory.

“We look forward to your visit. The entire Forest Clan will receive you warmly,” Ye Xiao said.

Han Wu turned the compass needle over in his hand. During the auction, he’d looked up the Forest Clan through the Wisdom Faction’s archives. The records mentioned that the clan had withdrawn from public life after the Forest God King’s fall. The three Divine Trees the Forest God King had cultivated at the peak of his power had vanished along with them.

If his guess was correct, those three Divine Trees were still alive and thriving within the Forest Clan’s hidden realm. Several centuries in the Divine Civilization translated to tens of thousands of years in a divine realm.

He could only imagine how powerful those trees had become under the Forest Clan’s care. Ye Xiao’s strength alone told Han Wu plenty. He was looking forward to the visit.

As Han Wu was about to ask Ye Xiao about tree-cultivation techniques, a commotion drew his attention. He looked over and saw a young man grabbing Qin Shuang's wrist. She was being harassed.

Jing Jing tried to intervene, but an old man cloaked in lightning blocked her. The Commerce God King attempted to reason with them and got backhanded to the floor. Sun Qingnian was nowhere in sight, probably off meeting one of his informants.

Han Wu abandoned his conversation with Ye Xiao, rushed to Qin Shuang's side, and slapped the young man's hand away.

"*Oho*, someone's got guts. A strong hand too." The young man sneered.

The lightning-cloaked elder forced Jing Jing back and stepped forward. "Insolent brat! You dare raise a hand against Lord Di Hong? Cut off both your hands, kneel before him, and kowtow a hundred times. If Lord Di Hong is in a forgiving mood, he may spare your bloodline. Otherwise, it's death to your entire clan!"[1]

Han Wu almost laughed. That was quite the threat.

"Who do you think you are? What makes him so special?" Han Wu asked bluntly, seeing no reason to be polite.

"How dare you speak that way?! You have no manners at all! Bring your elders out here. I want to see which family raised such a lawless wretch!" the elder roared. He was nothing more than a loyal guard dog.

Jing Jing had swallowed the humiliation of being blocked, but she couldn't accept them insulting Han Wu. Han Wu was her God. No one got to disrespect him in front of her.

"Insult my God and die!" Jing Jing snarled. The Soul God King's aura erupted from her body.

The elder sensed a fellow God King's pressure and matched it with his own. The power of a Lightning God King poured off him.

Soul and lightning clashed. The elemental matchup was brutally unfavorable for Jing Jing. Lightning pierced straight through her Soul Energy, causing her to stumble back several steps. Her rage only grew. As she was preparing to unleash more power, Han Wu grabbed her arm.

"Easy," he said.

Jing Jing forced herself to stand down.

Han Wu stepped forward and faced the elder. "You're the Lightning God King?"

“Indeed, I am.” The elder puffed up his chest, assuming Han Wu had recognized him and was about to back down.

A bright smile stretched across Han Wu’s face. “Then you can die.”

Even without the Demon King Transformation, he had peak Subcosm strength. He closed the gap in a single step and drove his fingers in a tiger-claw strike toward the Lightning God King’s chest. This was a martial technique called Heart Gouging Black Tiger Claw. The True Martial Jurisdiction amplified the blow.

Space cracked in layers ahead of his hand, locking the Lightning God King in place. The old man couldn’t dodge or even move. All he could do was watch as Han Wu’s claw inched closer to his sternum.

Despite being pinned, the Lightning God King could still channel every scrap of lightning in his body into a ferocious current aimed at stopping Han Wu’s advance.

Han Wu didn’t dodge. Instead, he took the Jurisdiction-empowered lightning head-on and kept pushing forward. Flesh and bone in the Lightning God King’s chest caved under his strike. He only needed one more second to rip the old man’s heart clean out.

Then a thunderous shout rang across the hall, and an invisible force wrenched the two of them apart.

The Lightning God King staggered back, gasping heavily. Five bloody puncture wounds gaped in his chest. The pain twisted his face into something inhuman.

“You little bastard, you’re dead!” He tried to charge forward, but the invisible force held him fast.

The person who’d intervened stepped out of the crowd. It was the Information God King, the Wealth Faction’s second-in-command. Beside him stood the Wealth God King Zhao Zihong, and behind them was the Gift God King Shaura. The three made up the Wealth Faction’s leadership.

Even the Lightning God King dared not act up in front of all three.

The young man, Di Hong, also dropped his arrogance long enough to bow. “Di Hong of the Chaos Clan pays his respects to the Wealth God King.”

That introduction told Han Wu everything he needed to know.

This was yet another reclusive family from the Divine Civilization, and based on the Lightning God King’s guard-dog behavior, the Chaos Clan was extremely powerful.

1. Ah, I was wondering when the arrogant young master cliché was going to happen ☜

Chapter 1039 - Settling It with a Duel

Wealth God King Zhao Zihong acknowledged Di Hong's greeting with a nod before shifting his attention to Han Wu.

Through perception alone, the Wealth God King could tell that Han Wu had reached peak Subcosm rank. It had only been a few days since they'd last met, yet Han Wu had improved again. His growth rate was truly frightening.

"Wealth God King, this boy attacked me unprovoked and publicly flouted the Wealth Faction's authority. His offense is unforgivable. I request permission to expel him," the Lightning God King said, playing the victim.

Han Wu scoffed. "Not a bad guard dog."

The Lightning God King's face went purple with rage, but the invisible force kept him in check.

"I'm aware of what happened," Zhao Zihong said. "You're both honored guests of the Wealth Faction. I suggest we let it go and move on."

He knew perfectly well that Di Hong had started it by harassing Qin Shuang and thus deserved punishment. However, the Chaos Clan was a powerful, reclusive family, and the Wealth Faction had no choice but to give them some grace.

That meant asking Han Wu to swallow a loss. After all, Di Hong hadn't actually succeeded, and Han Wu had already wounded the Lightning God King.

Di Hong shrugged. "No objections from me. Whatever the Wealth God King decides."

"I disagree," Han Wu said flatly.

The crowd gasped. Han Wu had rejected the Wealth God King's solution to his face.

Zhao Zihong's expression stayed neutral. "Then what do you propose?"

"The wrongdoer should be punished," Han Wu said, glaring at Di Hong and the Lightning God King.

Di Hong studied Han Wu with a mix of mild amusement and contempt.

“Who do you think you are? You want to punish Lord Di Hong?” the Lightning God King barked, rushing to his master’s defense.

“I don’t think I’m anyone special. I just want certain parasites who coast on their family’s reputation to learn some manners. It’s not like I’m his father. I’ve got no obligation to tolerate him,” Han Wu said coldly.

Di Hong’s eyes narrowed. The amusement drained away, and sharp killing intent took its place.

“It seems a peaceful resolution isn’t possible. I have another suggestion. Let strength decide,” Zhao Zihong said. “Might makes right. That’s an iron law in every civilization.”

“Perfect. I’d love to show a certain frog in a well just how powerful a reclusive family can be,” Di Hong said icily.

“Lord Di Hong is peerless!” the Lightning God King fawned. “I, Lei Bing, am willing to fight at your side!”

“Agreed,” Han Wu said.

He had yet to participate in a proper fight since gaining his new strength. This was the perfect opportunity to test it out.

“Very well. Before the duel begins, both sides need to sign an agreement. Regardless of the casualties or outcome, neither party may hold anyone else responsible. This is entirely of your own volition,” Zhao Zihong said.

A contract materialized before both parties. Zhao Zihong had personally drafted the contract, and the terms were fair. Han Wu didn’t hesitate to sign and press his handprint to the page.

Di Hong hesitated. He saw Han Wu as below him and didn’t want to dignify this nobody with a formal duel.

Lei Bing read his master’s reluctance. “Worried about your image, Lord Di Hong? Bring me along. You won’t need to lift a finger. I’ll handle everything.”

“That works.” Di Hong nodded. “Sorry for the trouble.”

“No trouble at all! Serving Lord Di Hong is the honor of a lifetime,” Lei Bing flattered.

Di Hong signed and pressed his handprint. The duel was set.

Zhao Zihong provided an enormous arena capable of holding trillions of units in combat. Every guest could enter spectator mode and bet on the outcome.

Di Hong and Lei Bing entered first. Han Wu studied his options. Although Jing Jing was the strongest of his companions, her soul attribute had a massive disadvantage against the Lightning God King.

As he weighed his choices, Ye Xiao stepped forward. “The Forest Clan is willing to support you.”

He was offering to let Han Wu pick one of the Forest Clan’s members to fight alongside him.

Han Wu was grateful. The Forest Clan knew that helping him could anger the Chaos Clan, but they’d stepped up anyway. That told him everything he needed to know about their character. The loan had been worthwhile.

The matchup was tricky, though. One opponent wielded lightning while the other had chaos powers. Both were dangerous, and both could hard-counter a Forest Clan member. He wasn’t about to put them in that position.

“Thank you, but I’d rather handle this myself,” Han Wu declined before turning to Jing Jing. “You’re the second-strongest person on this team. Will you fight alongside me?”

“Yes!” The excitement in Jing Jing’s voice was unmistakable. She’d been waiting for an opportunity to fight beside him again.

Qin Shuang also wanted to join, but knew she wasn’t strong enough yet.

“Wait for us to come back. When we do, you’ll be able to claim the title of Lightning God King, and you won’t have to stress over mastering other Jurisdictions anymore,” Han Wu said with a grin, teasing a smile out of Qin Shuang.

With that, he stepped into the arena with Jing Jing.

While Han Wu had been busy outside, Lei Bing had already deployed surveillance nodes across the field to counter his every move. The moment Han Wu and Jing Jing entered, both sides opened their divine realm gates.

Waves of units poured from Han Wu’s divine realm. They were organized by species into neat formations. It made for a spectacular sight.

A flood of bones came from Jing Jing’s divine realm, pooling into a skeleton sea. Skeleton soldiers of every type rose from the depths.

Lei Bing’s units marched out in rows from his own divine realm gate. Every single one of them was a Thunder Colossus. They towered at five meters tall, were clad in heavy metal armor, and hovered in mid-air. The lightning they gathered overhead condensed into a vast thundercloud that stretched across the sky.

Both armies faced each other. The battle was about to begin.

: Chapter 1040

Chapter 1040 - Unit War

The two sides squared off across the battlefield. The units wasted no time.

Lei Bing's towering Thunder Colossi floated in the air, launching thousands of lightning orbs at Han Wu and Jing Jing's army with every wave of their arms.

Jing Jing's soul-attribute skeleton sea was weak against lightning, so Han Wu ordered his defensive core race, the Iron Abyss Bugs, to the front.

Their massive bodies stacked together into a living wall and absorbed every lightning orb. Iron Abyss Bugs had innate resistance to elemental attacks, so Thunder Colossi's lightning was nothing more than a tickle.

However, defense alone wasn't Han Wu's style. While the Iron Abyss Bugs held the line, their leader, the Earthsunder Golden Scarab, climbed atop the wall. Its attack power was unremarkable for its rank, but it had a crowd-control ability that Han Wu loved.

On command, the Golden Scarab unleashed its signature technique against the hovering Thunder Colossi. "Forced Defecation!"

The mighty Thunder Colossi felt their stomachs churn violently, and some nearly lost the electromagnetic force keeping them airborne.

When the Golden Scarab intensified its ability, the Colossi at the front could no longer hold it in. The sound of something wet and splattering erupted behind them.

Lei Bing's face went white. Defecating on the battlefield was just asking to be annihilated. Any creature's focus collapsed during the act, and in a life-or-death battle, a single lapse could be fatal.

Han Wu seized the moment. All of his units released light orbs in unison!

At his command, billions of light orbs rained down on the incapacitated Thunder Colossi like a meteor shower. Many were knocked from the sky and crashed into their own waste. As they were too badly wounded to stand, they could only suffocate in their own excrement.

The spectators stared in disbelief, their hands over their noses. The scene was beyond revolting.

Furious, Lei Bing threw his reserves forward with orders to annihilate every last one of Han Wu's units.

On average, about eighty percent of Lei Bing's Thunder Colossi were at Heroic rank, with the remaining twenty percent at Lord rank or higher. Han Wu's units were more numerous but averaged slightly lower.

This gap mattered little to Han Wu, though.

When Han Wu saw the reinforcements charge in under a canopy of crackling lightning, he simply deployed his signature strategy, the Self-Detonation tactic. Thousands of Nuclear Locusts flew out, each carrying a Giant's spinal fluid in its mouth. Upon reaching the Thunder Colossi formations, the locusts bit down on the vials, triggering their giant transformations.

Golden lightning flashed across half the battlefield. Most spectators assumed Lei Bing had unveiled some new technique, unaware that Lei Bing himself was bewildered as well.

Once the golden flash faded, the Nuclear Locusts—now a hundred times their original size—dove into the Thunder Colossi formations and detonated. Mushroom clouds bloomed one after another. Each cloud represented tens of thousands of dead Thunder Colossi.

Han Wu had merely sacrificed a few thousand Nuclear Locusts. The exchange rate was devastating for Lei Bing.

But it was Han Wu's next action that truly broke Lei Bing.

Invoking the Netherworld Jurisdiction over the Thunder Colossi corpses, Han Wu quietly commanded, "Arise."

The dead Thunder Colossi from both the explosions and the excretions rose as undead, this time loyal to Han Wu. They also differed from regular undead in that they retained parts of their memories thanks to the Netherworld Jurisdiction and could still channel lightning through their shattered metal armor to hover in the air.

These filthy Undead Colossi charged at their former comrades like walking biological weapons. Lei Bing's surviving troops were driven back. It wasn't so much a matter of being injured as being disgusted.

Lei Bing was both enraged and baffled. This was his first time seeing such tactics. The Divine Civilization has changed a lot in the time I spent training in seclusion with the Chaos Clan!

As a veteran God King, he managed to regain his composure relatively quickly. His losses so far were all cannon fodder, and his true elites hadn't moved yet. If he held firm, victory could still be his.

He ordered his surviving units to channel their lightning into the massive thundercloud overhead. The cloud swelled with energy before birthing pure-elemental lightning snakes that lashed down at Han Wu's forces. Everything they touched was destroyed. Even the Iron Abyss Bugs took heavy damage.

"Kid, your little tricks are meaningless in the face of absolute power!" Lei Bing gloated.

Han Wu snorted. "We'll see about that."

His healers, the Vampire Bats and the Blood Wraiths, surged forward to treat the wounded. At the same time, a squadron of Great Lightning Dragons flew through his divine realm gate, each carrying a platoon of half-dragons on its back.

Their roars shook the arena; their Dragon Fear rippled outward.

Every living thing in range flinched, including the Thunder Colossus.

Great Dragons were among the noblest life forms in existence. Their mere presence could intimidate nearly anything, though this effect only lasted about a minute against creatures of this caliber.

Lei Bing studied the Great Lightning Dragon squadron with sharp eyes.

"Hmph. Impure mongrel Great Dragons are barely worth showing off." He sneered, though his eyes were red with envy.

Di Hong eyed the Great Lightning Dragon squadron with keen interest from behind Lei Bing. Even though their bloodline was impure, they still reached the minimum standard to be called a Great Dragon. A force of over three hundred Great Dragons was wasted in enemy hands. They would be better off with him!

"Lei Bing, leave the Great Dragon squadron to me," Di Hong instructed, wanting to take them for his own. "Focus on the rest."

With that, his divine realm gate appeared behind him. A million humanoid elemental creatures stepped through, each shimmering with prismatic light. They were Chaos Spirits, and every single one of them was Lord rank.

"Chaos Spirits, deploy Chaos Prison. Lock down those Great Dragons," Di Hong commanded.

A torrent of Chaos Energy surged forward, weaving into cages that encased the Great Dragons. No amount of thrashing broke them free.

Chaos Energy was the natural counter to all elemental energies, and those cages nullified the Great Dragons' lightning.

With the Great Dragons neutralized, Lei Bing's confidence soared. "Don't worry, Lord Di Hong. I'll make this brat understand what it means to be crushed!"*eel*.

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: Chapter 1041

Chapter 1041 - Stop Pretending

More lightning snakes rained from the thundercloud and tore into Han Wu's forces. Without the Great Lightning Dragons to suppress them, his units were being fried.

Han Wu's heart winced with every death. He had painstakingly raised each of his units. It was unbearable to watch them die for nothing.

However, the lightning snakes were pure elemental entities, and Han Wu was struggling to find a counter to them with just his units. He was considering whether to use his Conversion Jurisdiction when a pack of dogs charged through his divine realm gate.

These weren't ordinary dogs; they were the Heavenly Dogs, the ultimate evolution of Han Wu's Devourer Path. Their Moon Eater ability allowed them to swallow anything and convert it into strength.

Without waiting for orders, the Heavenly Dogs opened their mouths and activated Moon Eater against the rampaging lightning snakes, swallowing them whole. The violent Lightning Energy didn't harm the dogs at all. If anything, they looked refreshed, as if they'd just eaten a five-star gourmet meal.

They continued to use Moon Eater even after the snakes were gone, devouring the thundercloud itself. Vast sections of it vanished under the pack's appetite.

The spectators were dumbfounded. These Heavenly Dogs can digest pure energy? Is there anything they can't eat?

With the lightning snakes neutralized, Han Wu's medics rushed in to save many of the wounded units, drastically cutting his losses. Meanwhile, the Heavenly Dogs had found their paradise. They continued to eat the thundercloud until it was nearly gone.

Han Wu had overcome Lei Bing's lightning snake strategy.

Having no choice but to change tactics, Lei Bing deployed his elite forces with a wave of his hand. This included one Subcosm Thunder Detonator King and fifty Microcosm Thunder Commanders. These were his real prizes from training with the Chaos Clan.

"Kid, let me teach you something. While connections matter, strength matters more. Numbers mean nothing. A single Microcosm Thunder Commander is enough to make you bleed," Lei Bing declared proudly, confident in his elite forces.

"Oh, really?" Han Wu stopped pretending. With a single call, his Subcosm fighters materialized behind him one after another.

Steely, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King, Supreme Power, and four Mythic Titans born with the Diamond, Gravity, Flesh, and Steel Jurisdictions surrounded him.

Han Wu stood at the center. Wielding Peerless in one hand and his Divine Authority greatsword in the other, he himself radiated the aura of a peak Subcosm fighter. This made nine Subcosm fighters in total on his team.

Lei Bing's side buckled under their suffocating pressure.

But that wasn't all.

Next to file through the gate were Han Wu's Microcosm fighters. Dark Locust, Bow God Bart, Sword God Akanzor, War Angel Amelia, and more—every one a Microcosm powerhouse. Together they rivaled a major faction's forces.

Han Wu wasn't quite done yet.

A dragon's roar echoed from his divine realm. Then, Black Dragon King Alpheus, Fire Dragon King Esquiem, Gold Dragon King Smog, Silver Dragon King Erebard, and Lightning Dragon King Bakir stormed out. The five Dragon Kings, while technically Microcosm rank, had the overall strength of Subcosm fighters.

This lineup shook even Di Hong, much less the Lightning God King. Di Hong had assumed he was dealing with a frog in a well, but he was belatedly realizing that Han Wu wasn't a nobody at all! He was a dragon that had just woken up and was preparing to swallow him whole.

The spectators erupted in cheers. This was an army fit for a divine war!

“Lord Di Hong, what do we do?” Lei Bing asked, frozen in mid-air. Han Wu’s roster was beyond anything he’d imagined.

“What else can we do? Surrender and cut our losses,” Di Hong said coldly. As proud as he was, he recognized the gap in their strength. There was nothing he or Lei Bing could do to fight against Han Wu. Conceding was the smartest move.

Lei Bing raised his hand to surrender, but Han Wu immediately and loudly rejected it. This shocked Lei Bing.

“Kid, I’ve already surrendered! What else do you want? Push me too far, and I’ll do something desperate!” Lei Bing threatened.

Han Wu didn’t flinch. “If you can do something desperate, then why not face me in a fair fight to the death? The agreement’s signed. You’re not leaving this arena alive.”

With that, he ordered the total assault.

Steely was the first to charge in. Its hundred arms unleashed a storm of blade winds that tore through the Thunder Colossi's defense line and crashed straight into Lei Bing’s strongest unit, the Thunder Detonator King. It wanted to test the sharpness of its wind against the ferocity of the Detonator King’s lightning.

With the Thunder Detonator King occupied, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King intercepted Lei Bing’s fifty Microcosm Thunder Commanders, cutting through them with brutal efficiency.

Supreme Power and the four Mythic Titans targeted the remaining Thunder Colossi floating overhead. Their task was to clear out the regular units.

Han Wu saved the Lightning God King for himself.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1042 - Fall of the Lightning God King

Lei Bing hadn’t expected Han Wu to be this strong. He could hardly believe his eyes. Despite technically being a Major God, Han Wu’s army surpassed Lei Bing’s.

It didn't seem possible, but the truth was laid out before him. His units were firmly pinned down. They couldn't be recalled to help him.

That meant he'd have to face Han Wu alone.

Before engaging, he sent a private message to Di Hong, "Lord Di Hong, please back me up when the moment comes!"

Di Hong didn't reply, preoccupied with his own dire situation. Han Wu's Great Dragons and Jing Jing's skeleton sea were closing in on his Chaos Spirits. Over a hundred Bone Dragons lurked within the sea of bones.

Han Wu gave them no time to coordinate. He surged forward toward Lei Bing and swung Peerless. "Stellar Rain!"

Billions of energy blades shot forward.

The Lightning God King threw up his Lightning Jurisdiction to block them.

Savage lightning crackled outward in thousands of branches, shattering the incoming blades, but at the cost of enormous amounts of energy.

Han Wu remained unfazed. Hundreds and thousands of Microcosms surrounded him, generating energy and channeling it into his body. His Conversion Jurisdiction transformed all of it as necessary. His reserves were effectively limitless.

Lei Bing summoned his own Microcosms. Although he had far fewer than Han Wu, each one was a high-quality pure lightning Microcosm that could act as a battery for him. Despite this, he could tell that Han Wu would outlast him if Lei Bing kept staying on the defense. Lei Bing had to strike back.

Compressing every single drop of energy his Microcosms could provide and temporarily draining them dry, he activated one of the Lightning Jurisdiction's ultimate techniques, Infinite Railgun. He condensed a single shot that rivaled the power of a Mesocosm technique.

"Consider it your honor to die under my Infinite Railgun," Lei Bing roared, firing the shot.

A hyper-compressed lightning sphere flew from his palm, expanding as it traveled. The electromagnetic field it generated pulled everything around it inward. Han Wu was caught directly in its path and couldn't escape the pull.

"Die!" Lei Bing screamed. He was desperate to prove his worth to Di Hong.

Han Wu was sucked into the attack. Crackling static filled the air. Lei Bing was certain that even a Subcosm fighter couldn't survive the blast.

Then a low dragon roar cut through the noise, and a rainbow-colored dragon silhouette appeared inside the sphere of lightning.

“Another Great Dragon? Where did it come from?” Lei Bing was stunned. The pressure rolling off this dragon belonged to a Mesocosm life form. Great Dragons were almost always stronger than most other species of equal rank.

Then he noticed a chunk of his Infinite Railgun was missing—not destroyed, but consumed. The Great Dragon had opened its maw to drink in the hyper-compressed Lightning Energy. Han Wu’s Holy Dragon King worked with the Conversion Jurisdiction to help him absorb and transform the Lightning Jurisdiction’s power. This worked far faster than just the Conversion Jurisdiction alone.

After swallowing the Infinite Railgun, he let out a loud burp. Lei Bing’s mind went blank. His ultimate attack had been eaten like a snack.

“Who-who are you?” he stuttered, a foreboding feeling in his gut.

Han Wu didn’t answer. Instead, he shrank down into his half-dragon mode. In this form, his energy attacks weakened, but his physical strength soared.

Then, Peerless appeared in his right hand, and the Divine Authority greatsword in his left. This alone answered Lei Bing’s question.

“Impossible! Are you a God or a Great Dragon?” Lei Bing asked in fear.

Han Wu crossed a hundred meters in a single step. Peerless came down in a single stroke. There was no special technique, just the raw speed and power of his True Holy Dragon Transformation.

The strike carved a spatial rift through the air.

Lei Bing saw it coming, but knew he couldn’t dodge. Han Wu was simply too fast.

Turning to Di Hong with desperation in his eyes, he cried, “Lord Di Hong, save me!”

Di Hong glanced over, then looked away. His Chaos Spirits were crumbling under the attacks of the Great Dragons. He had no time to care about Lei Bing.

The feeling of abandonment didn’t last long before Peerless landed. It only took one strike for Lei Bing’s head to separate from his body.

But he wasn’t dead yet. At the last second, he’d converted himself into a pure elemental lightning form to drastically reduce the damage. Seeing this, Han Wu followed up with the Divine Authority greatsword.

Han Wu's Destruction Aspect had upgraded after absorbing the Destruction Clan's pure bloodline, granting the greatsword a 5% chance of inflicting Deathblow.

This chance wasn't high, but it was enough. Lei Bing's luck ran out.

The effect triggered, severing his Life Energy and extinguishing his soul. The previously gloating Lightning God King had been reduced to a corpse.

Han Wu immediately used Stellar Plunder to claim forty percent of Lei Bing's Microcosms and the complete Lightning Jurisdiction.

The Lightning God King of this generation had fallen.

Chapter 1043 - Summoning the Parents for the Match!

Lei Bing's death shocked the spectators. Nobody had expected a God King to die at the hands of a Major God. The Wealth Faction's three leaders watched Han Wu's performance with admiration.

"I see the future of the Divine Civilization in him," the Wealth God King said.

"He killed the Light God King, the Life God King, and now the Lightning God King. Perhaps I should write a feature piece introducing this God King Slayer to the Divine Civilization," the Information God King mused. "Might make some of those schemers think twice."

"Good show! Deserves a tip!" The Gift God King tossed an object through the spectator barrier. It flew straight into Han Wu's palm.

Han Wu caught it, feeling slightly bewildered. At least until he read its properties.

[Rulebreaker Stone: Override the Divine Civilization's rules and allow one unit to break past the rank limit of its master. Single use.]

Han Wu was stunned. Some of his most powerful units were already at the Subcosm rank. However, per the Divine Civilization's rules, even his strongest units were capped as Major Gods because Han Wu was a Major God.

This Rulebreaker Stone could promote one unit from Major God to a God King, granting them a complete Jurisdiction. The resulting power boost would be massive.

The only question was which unit to give it to.

Shelving the decision, Han Wu pocketed the stone and shifted his attention to Di Hong.

With Lei Bing dead, Di Hong's resistance was collapsing. Dragon Fear affected the Chaos Spirits and hampered their full strength.

Silver Dragon King Erebard had even comprehended a Chaos Jurisdiction embryo by combining water, fire, earth, and wind. Its chaos attacks outclassed the Chaos Spirits themselves.

Erebard led the Great Dragons and the skeleton sea forward to shatter the Chaos Spirits' defense.

Di Hong demanded a truce. If he had to lose, he wanted to lose with dignity.

Han Wu and Jing Jing ignored him. A truce only made sense in an even fight. Di Hong was in a hopeless position. There was nothing to discuss. They would kill him and his units right here.

Di Hong knew his impending fate the moment Han Wu and Jing Jing refused to negotiate. Fortunately, he still had one last card to play.

Pulling a token from his pocket, he crushed it, and a portal tore open.

A towering figure stepped through. "Who dares harm my son?"

This was Di Hong's father, the patriarch of the Chaos Clan, Di Bin.[1]

The spectators booed. It was a duel. For the loser to call his father for backup was blatant cheating!

Di Hong didn't see it that way. With his father behind him, his arrogance returned.

"Father, he's trying to kill me! He already killed Lei Bing!" Di Hong pointed at Han Wu.

Di Bin glared at Han Wu like he was already looking at a dead man before glancing at Jing Jing. "What about the skeleton, son? What do you want to do with her?"

"Bring her back with us. I'll punish her personally," Di Hong said with a grin. With his father here, he felt invincible.

Di Bin nodded and turned to Han Wu. "You have impressive strength for your age, but you should never have crossed the Chaos Clan."

Chaos Energy gathered in Di Bin's palm. Han Wu could tell it wasn't a true Chaos Jurisdiction, but multiple elemental Jurisdictions mixed in a specific ratio. Even so, the pressure it radiated was more terrifying than the real Chaos Jurisdiction.

"Die!" Di Bin flicked a bullet composed of Chaos Energy at Han Wu.

It was small, but Han Wu felt it lock onto him. It couldn't be dodged!

Gritting his teeth, he crossed Peerless and the Divine Authority greatsword. He then poured everything he had into a combined strike, using both Heaven-Earth Severance and Steelcutter at the same time. The two attacks formed a cross-shaped slash that collided with the bullet.

The explosion was catastrophic. Space itself cracked and groaned. The cracked space healed itself, revealing a still-standing Han Wu. A massive crater was in the ground just ahead of him.

Di Bin was surprised that Han Wu had neutralized his attack, but only mildly. He gathered more Chaos Energy in his palm. This time, the sphere was larger, about the size of a fist.

Han Wu's brow furrowed. Di Bin was undoubtedly stronger than him. Even that mere fist-sized sphere was a lethal blow.

"To my aid!" he called.

Eight Subcosm fighters, five Dragon Kings, and Jing Jing converged on his position. The skeleton sea became Jing Jing's energy reserve. They then poured everything they had into Han Wu's body. Han Wu pulled from his Microcosms as well.

The combined energy nearly tore him apart, even in his True Holy Dragon Transformation form.

Di Bin launched the sphere. The attack locked onto Han Wu again.

Han Wu summoned his clone, Han Guang. After converting every drop of energy in his body into Light Energy through the Conversion Jurisdiction, he funneled it into Han Guang. Han Guang's Light Jurisdiction included the Radiant God Physique, which allowed him to absorb unlimited Light Energy.

Under that immense power, Han Guang activated his technique, condensing a thousand Microcosms into a single Spear of Victory. Its power was far beyond his normal limits.

Han Guang hurled the Spear of Victory at the incoming sphere. There was no explosion. Instead, the two forces neutralized each other. The Light Energy inside the spear burned through the elemental Jurisdictions in the sphere until only a tenth of its power remained. That remnant flew toward Di Bin.

Di Bin snorted. A wave of pressure shattered the remnants of the spear.

Still, Han Wu's potential was undeniably terrifying. If Di Bin didn't kill him, he would only become a problem in the future.

Di Bin resolved to hold nothing back!

1. Ah yes, 1043 chapters in and we finally get to the "Can't win, let me call my dad, and my dad's dad" cliché ☜

Chapter 1044 - Everyone Has Elders

Multiple elemental Jurisdiction energies poured from Di Bin's body, blending into Chaos Energy that radiated outward with crushing pressure.

Han Wu could feel it. If he didn't bring out his real trump cards, he would die under Di Bin's next assault.

He activated the Minute Hand.

Time froze. Everything in range became locked in stasis for one minute, including Di Bin at the edge of the effect. Di Bin couldn't move, but his consciousness kept working. As he fought against the interrupted flow of time with raw willpower, the timer began draining at an abnormal rate. One minute quickly shrank to thirty seconds.

If Han Wu did nothing, the timer would simply continue to drain abnormally fast.

"Omniversal!" Han Wu cried, invoking his genetic ability.

Omniversal layered onto the Minute Hand and stabilized the time flow, though it only bought him those thirty seconds back. There was no time for hesitation. He had to kill Di Bin.

Although he regarded it as wasteful, he unleashed the Skull Guillotine, which locked onto both Di Bin and Di Hong. The Destruction Clan's pure bloodline had boosted its Deathblow debuff chance to 35%.

Despite the decently high chance of inflicting the debuff, luck wasn't on his side this time. The 35% triggered only on Di Hong, the weaker target, annihilating him instantly in both body and soul. Di Bin, the real threat, was untouched.

There were twenty seconds left. Running was pointless. He couldn't escape Di Bin's range in twenty seconds. So, Han Wu charged forward instead with his Divine Authority greatsword in hand and hacked at Di Bin in a frenzy.

The sword's 5% Deathblow chance was his only hope. Unfortunately, the actual trigger rate lowered when used against a higher-ranked life form. He struck Di Bin over a hundred times in twenty seconds, but not once did it trigger.

After lasting through the stasis, Di Bin's Chaos Energy exploded outward and blasted Han Wu away.

Di Bin immediately checked on Di Hong. His son was beyond saving. The Skull Guillotine had severed his Life Energy and obliterated his soul. No resurrection technique in existence could bring him back.

"You killed my son! I'll bury all of you alongside him!" Di Bin went berserk. All his restraint vanished, and he released all of his Chaos Energy.

Steely and the Origin of Mutation leaped in to buy Han Wu time. Steely's Second Hand had a wide range, but its duration was short. Meanwhile, the Origin of Mutation's Hour Hand lasted longer, but its radius was too small. Neither could get close to Di Bin through his Chaos Energy.

Moreover, without Han Wu's Omniversal to reinforce their time abilities, even a successful stasis wouldn't hold at normal speed. The two of them failed.

The Great Dragons rallied behind Silver Dragon King Erebard as the latter unleashed its Chaos Jurisdiction embryo and tried to match Di Bin's Chaos Energy head-on. But the gap was too wide. Even with the strength of the Great Dragons and the number advantage, they couldn't neutralize his Chaos Energy.

Bow God Bart burned his own Life Energy to tear open a passage behind Di Bin. Dark Locust dove through and Self Detonated, but its dark-attribute explosion didn't even scratch Di Bin. Mere Dark Energy without a jurisdiction couldn't break through Chaos Energy woven from multiple Jurisdictions.

Every attempt failed. Han Wu was running out of options and hope.

Di Bin advanced on Han Wu, his Chaos Energy brushing aside every Subcosm attack in his path.

"Die!" he roared, reaching for Han Wu's throat.

His fingers were inches from Han Wu's neck when a lethal chill struck from behind. Di Bin dodged on pure instinct, barely avoiding a killing blow.

Then, two figures materialized behind Han Wu.

One radiated chilly death while the other radiated warmth. Han Wu spun around to see the Wisdom God King and the Death God King.

“Sir, how did you…” Han Wu stammered before realizing this was like the Wealth God King’s doing. Xu Hai and the Death God King wouldn’t have arrived so soon otherwise.

Han Wu’s assumption was correct. Zhao Zihong was a merchant who honored contracts and respected the rules. As a merchant, however, he couldn’t personally intervene against Di Bin without damaging the Wealth Faction’s interests.

When Di Bin appeared, Zhao Zihong dispatched the Commerce God King and Sun Qingnian to call for reinforcements, then open a priority passage to get them into the arena. This way, it looked like the Wisdom God King and the Death God King had acted on their own. Even if Di Bin complained later on, Zhao Zihong could deflect all responsibility.

“Relax. Your mentor and the Death God King have your back,” Xu Hai said, placing a hand on Han Wu’s shoulder.

Di Bin sensed both God Kings’ auras but felt no fear. Xu Hai’s pressure was Subcosm rank at best and was a minor threat. Only the Death God King radiated a pressure that matched his own.

If the Death God King intervened, killing Han Wu would come at a serious cost. It wasn’t something he wished to risk, but the fact of his son’s death was undeniable, and the situation was beyond negotiation. In his mind, Han Wu had to die to avenge his son.

“This boy killed my son. The blood debt demands blood. I advise you not to interfere, lest you damage the relationship between the Death Faction and the Chaos Clan,” Di Bin said. The implicit threat in his words was clear. If they protected Han Wu, the Chaos Clan would become their enemy.

The Death God King understood the stakes. The Death Faction was the Divine Civilization’s second-most powerful faction, but reclusive families had more power than most knew.

If the Divine Civilization was a tree, factions were the canopy and the reclusive families were the roots. Nobody knew how deep or how far those roots spread.

The Death God King knew he was only the strongest being on paper in the Divine Civilization. There were undoubtedly even more powerful beings hidden among the shadows of the reclusive families and clans.

Di Bin was one of them. His threat potentially carried enough weight to destroy the Death Faction entirely.

After mulling it over, the Death God King said, “I understand the pain of losing a son, and I respect the Chaos Clan’s strength.”

Di Bin smiled. Without the Death God King in his way, Han Wu was a dead man. Di Bin could simply kill anyone else who tried to interfere.

Then the Death God King’s tone shifted. “But everyone has elders, don’t they? Han Wu is my Holy Son. His life is mine to protect, and today I will protect him.”

: Chapter 1045

Chapter 1045 - Macrocosm

The Death God King’s declaration caused Di Bin to scowl. He’d been played.

“Death, you think you’re the strongest in the Divine Civilization? Since you won’t listen to reason, I’ll kill you too!” Di Bin released his Chaos Energy at full power. His aura climbed to the peak Mesocosm rank.

The Death God King stepped forward with a serious look, shielding Xu Hai and Han Wu behind him. Dense Death Energy rose from his body. His Four Dharma Manifestations answered his call and materialized alongside him, amplifying his presence further. He was a peak Mesocosm fighter as well.

Their pressures collided.

The arena floor split apart, and the space around them trembled as if on the verge of shattering. The spectators marveled.

It seemed the Death God King truly deserved his reputation as the Divine Civilization’s strongest public figure. Astonishingly, Di Bin alone could match him. That showed that the reclusive families were no joke.

Han Wu watched anxiously, wanting to help with his own Mesocosm power.

Xu Hai held him back. “Trust your godfather. He hasn’t shown his full strength yet.”

If someone else had said these words, perhaps Han Wu would not have believed them. However, this was Xu Hai. His words were almost certainly the truth. Han Wu calmed himself and observed.

The standoff intensified. Di Bin threw everything he had into his aura, drawing on both his Microcosms and his units' energy reserves.

The Death God King matched him step for step, always staying just slightly ahead.

Di Bin was fuming. As the patriarch of the Chaos Clan, losing to the Death God King was equivalent to his clan losing to the Death Faction. If news spread amongst the reclusive families, his clan's reputation would be gone!

Pushing past his body's limits, he overloaded himself, forcing out even more pressure.

The Death God King stayed steady. Every time Di Bin escalated, he matched it.

"Surrender. You can't beat me," the Death God King said. He was offering Di Bin an exit. Di Bin was the patriarch of a reclusive family with deep roots. The Death God King preferred not to push things to the extreme unless absolutely necessary.

Di Bin refused, clouded by anger. "Keep resisting me if you can. The moment you let up, I'll rip that kid's head off. I'll kill every last one of you for what happened to my son!"

With that, his aura surged higher. He was overloading his body to fight the Death God King to the death.

The Death God King sighed. He'd given the man enough chances. Di Bin just wouldn't take any of them.

Fine. No more restraint.

The Four Dharma Manifestations merged into the Death God King's body. His aura blew past the Mesocosm ceiling and crashed into the Macrocosm rank.

The pressure was instantaneous and absolute. Di Bin was crushed flat against the ground. The spectators shot to their feet with gasps of shock. The Death God King had reached the Macrocosm rank!

Han Wu stared at the Death God King's back in surprise. In the past, the Death God King had struggled to fight against one of the Thirteen Guards, but it appeared that he had been faking it.

"After the war against the Life Faction, the Death God King resolved his inner demons[1]. His strength surged, and he broke through to the Macrocosm rank," Xu Hai explained.

"No wonder he was so confident," Han Wu said, glancing at Di Bin.

Di Bin lay pinned under the pressure, his dignity shattered. This peak Mesocosm fighter had run wild only for a Macrocosm force to flatten him before countless, much weaker

spectators. A century's worth of building their clan's reputation had been reduced to nothing, just like that.

"Do you yield?" the Death God King asked. He was reluctant to kill Di Bin because doing so meant having to rip the Chaos Clan's roots out completely.

"Just keep holding me down." Di Bin spat. "The moment you let go, that boy is dead."

The Death God King's brow creased. This man is impossible. Does he really think I won't?

"This is it. Promise to leave Han Wu alone, and I will release you," he offered one last time. "If not..."

Di Bin's expression twisted. Only one thought consumed his mind: break free and kill Han Wu to avenge Di Hong. The Death God King's words hardly even registered to him.

Still, having been defeated, he had no other option but to comply.

"Fine. I won't touch Han Wu. Let me go," he said in a suspiciously flat voice.

The Death God King believed him. A Mesocosm fighter's word meant something. If not, their reputation would be in shambles. So, he lifted the pressure.

Di Bin immediately put some distance between himself and the Death God King.

"I won't harm you anymore," the Death God King assured him. "As long as you don't hurt Han Wu."

Di Bin laughed maniacally. "As long as I don't hurt Han Wu? Save that line for the ancestor of the Chaos Clan!"

With that, he pulled out a purple-gold token from his pocket and crushed it.

A passage appeared behind him. An even more frightening aura radiated from the passage as an elder with snow-white hair stepped forward. He was hunched over and appeared to have one foot already in his grave.

When the Death God King saw the old man, however, he stepped back numerous paces and went into a defensive stance. His expression was grave.

Han Wu was taken aback. Who can make the Death God King react like that?

Di Bin revealed the answer as he threw himself to the ground before the old man. "Unworthy descendant Di Bin was unable to avenge our fallen clansman. I beg our ancestor to display his might and uphold the Chaos Clan's honor."

The spectators booed furiously. When the son couldn't win, he'd called his father. Now the father couldn't win either, so he'd summoned the clan's ancestor. How many generations of backup did the Chaos Clan have on speed dial?[2]

"Who killed my Chaos Clan's heir? Kill yourself now, and I, Di Zangtian, might leave you with a complete corpse," the old man said.

Ten types of elemental Jurisdiction energy erupted from his body and merged into a Chaos Energy so dense it overwhelmed even the Death God King's Death Energy.

1. Never thought I would see this term here ☜

2. After the ancestor, there's the ancestor's father too, probably, or the matriarch. ☜

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1046 - The Divine Civilization's Chosen One

The pressure radiating from Di Zangtian was immense. Even a Macrocosm fighter like the Death God King was struggling. Di Zangtian was an ancient monster beyond his level.

Still, Han Wu was his Holy Son and had contributed enormously to the Death Faction. If the Death God King couldn't protect him, he could never show his face again.

He pushed his Death Energy to the absolute limit to shield the people behind him.

Xu Hai stepped forward. His Subcosm power was useless in direct combat, but combat had never been his specialty. As he activated his Wisdom Jurisdiction at full power, a strange energy spread outward and seeped into Di Zangtian's Chaos Energy.

The mighty Chaos Energy started disassembling itself, separating back into ten separate elemental Jurisdiction energies. The pressure on the Death God King eased dramatically.

Di Zangtian's rule-breaking intrusion into the duel forced Wealth God King Zhao Zihong's hand. He'd wanted to stay out of it, but this had truly gone too far. The impartiality of the contract was at stake. If he kept turning a blind eye, the reclusive families would think the Wealth Faction was weak.

Zhao Zihong descended into the arena. His aura formed a membrane between the Death God King and Di Zangtian, temporarily separating their energies. The pressure on the Death God King vanished instantly.

Di Zangtian glared at him. “You want in on this too, little Zhao?”

“Elder Di, this duel was conducted under my verification. Di Bin’s interference was one thing, but your presence crosses the line. I’d appreciate it if you gave me some face and let this matter rest,” Zhao Zihong said evenly.

“Bullshit! The Chaos Clan members don’t die for nothing!” Di Bin snarled, emboldened by his ancestor’s presence.

Zhao Zihong smiled with disdain and raised a hand. A crisp slap echoed across the hall. Everyone heard it. It didn’t hurt, but the humiliation was staggering.

“I’m speaking with Elder Di. Nobody asked you to interrupt,” Zhao Zihong said.

The authority in his voice left Di Bin momentarily speechless. Then he remembered his ancestor was with him. He had no reason to fear Zhao Zihong!

Before Di Bin could do anything, Di Zangtian pressed a hand on his shoulder to silence him. “You dare slap my descendant in front of me? Has the Chaos Clan been quiet so long that you think we’re pushovers?”

His words alone radiated killing intent. The Chaos Clan had laid low for a long time. With the Divine Civilization in upheaval, this seemed like the perfect time to return to the stage. If the Wealth Faction could serve as a stepping stone, all the better.

“I’d never think that,” Zhao Zihong replied calmly. “By the way, the Wealth Faction recently welcomed a few honorary directors. Let me introduce them. This might be a good time for you to reminisce with them too.”

Gates opened around him, and powerful auras stepped through one after another.

Ye Feng, the ancestor of the Forest Clan. He was a Macrocosm fighter. Behind him loomed the projections of three colossal Divine Trees.

Lu Sansi, ancestor of the Creation Clan. Even though he was somewhere in the middle of the Mesocosm rank, behind him stood a Macrocosm mechanical construct that served as his personal bodyguard.

Long Qi, ancestor of the Ancient Dragon Clan, was also a Macrocosm rank fighter. He was one with his dragon form, and he had hundreds of Mesocosm Great Dragons as his units.

Any of these three could match Di Zangtian. Beyond them, several more fighters emerged. None had reached Macrocosm rank, but each stood at peak Mesocosm. Their families were well known in reclusive family circles.

The appearance of so many powerhouses at once triggered a cosmic phenomenon. The Will of the Divine Civilization itself projected down and settled onto Zhao Zihong's body to investigate.

Han Wu trembled behind the Death God King. The combined pressure of these powerhouses overwhelmed him. He'd thought he was close to the Divine Civilization's peak, but he had clearly been mistaken. In front of these monsters, though, he was nothing but a child playing in the mud.

The Death God King was struggling too. He was practically the weakest of these Macrocosm fighters. It wasn't a disgrace, though. These ancestors had lived for ages longer than he had. Reaching Macrocosm at his age was already an extraordinary feat.

Di Zangtian's face darkened as the auras of multiple peers locked onto him. He assumed that the Wealth Faction was weak. It seemed he was wrong.

More concerning, however, wasn't the appearance of these ancestors. It was the Will of the Divine Civilization choosing to descend upon Zhao Zihong.

The Will of the Divine Civilization was the civilization itself. Out of everyone present, the Will had picked him. That meant Zhao Zihong was the Divine Civilization's chosen one. If Zhao Zihong wanted Di Zangtian trapped, there was no way he could leave.

After much contemplation, he forced a smile. "I was only joking, boy. There's no need to take it so seriously. Since the agreement was signed, the Chaos Clan will honor it. No objections."

The groveling drew quiet snickers from the assembled ancestors. A fighter of his age and caliber, yet he still had to bow before his juniors. The humiliation had to be unbearable. Regardless, even if Di Zangtian was ready to die, he had to think about the Chaos Clan. He was the strongest and most senior member left in the family.

"Since Elder Di agrees, then everything is settled," Zhao Zihong said amiably, ever the merchant.

With that, he ruled in Han Wu's favor, pointedly declaring that the duel's victor bore no responsibility. He even warned that the Wealth Faction would answer on Han Wu's behalf if the Chaos Clan ever sought retaliation.

Di Bin and Di Zangtian's faces were like dark thunderclouds, but they had no choice but to swallow their resentment down.

Before they departed, Di Bin took Di Hong's body. He didn't bother with Lei Bing's corpse. It wasn't certain whether he forgot in his rage or simply considered Lei Bing an unworthy dog. Either way, it didn't matter.

Han Wu finally exhaled after they left. He survived!

Chapter 1047 - Tallying the Spoils

The reclusive family ancestors departed one by one. Before leaving, each exchanged a few private words with the Death God King. Nobody but the Death God King knew what they said.

Han Wu was about to claim Lei Bing's body when a gaze locked onto him. It was Long Qi, the Ancient Dragon Clan's ancestor. He'd sensed the aura of a Great Dragon and the Defier title on Han Wu. Before leaving, he left Han Wu a mental imprint with a simple message: *Come visit the Ancient Dragon Clan's hidden realm when you're ready.*

Feeling honored, Han Wu vowed to visit once he settled his affairs.

With the Chaos Clan gone, Xu Hai and the Death God King prepared to leave. The Death God King, now aware of Han Wu's talent for attracting trouble, pressed a black token into his hand before departing.

The Death God King would sense the moment Han Wu crushed it and could arrive almost instantly as long as it was within the Divine Civilization. If it were outside the Divine Civilization, the delay would depend on the distance.

It was a lifeline! Han Wu thanked him and tucked the token safely into his divine realm. *free*

One last piece of business remained. When the Forest Clan met up with their ancestor Ye Feng, they told him that Han Wu had lent them 150,000 Microcosms and that they had only repaid him 100,000. A debt of 50,000 remained.

Ye Feng condensed a portion of his power into a card and asked Zhao Zihong to pass it to Han Wu.

The Forest Clan naturally gravitated toward the Life Faction due to their nature. But the Life Faction was gone. Han Wu's close ties to the Death God King marked him as part of the Death Faction in Ye Feng's eyes, making the ancestor slightly reluctant, but a debt was a debt.

As Han Wu was about to leave, Zhao Zihong handed him the Forest Clan's card. Han Wu pocketed it, gathered Qin Shuang, Jing Jing, and the others, then returned to his divine realm.

Back home, he presented Lei Bing's Lightning Jurisdiction to Qin Shuang like a trophy. Although deeply moved, an overwhelming guilt also filled her. The entire conflict with the Chaos Clan had started because of her. Her beauty had drawn Di Hong's attention, which sparked the entire chain of events.

Han Wu waved it off. "It isn't your fault. Di Hong crossed the line, and he paid for it. Focus on getting stronger. Once you ascend into a God King, you'll be able to speak for yourself."

Qin Shuang nodded firmly. Taking the Lightning Jurisdiction, she stood on her toes, kissed Han Wu on the cheek, and fled the room. Han Wu smiled as he touched his cheek.

Jing Jing watched the scene with a pang of annoyance. Then she reminded herself that Qin Shuang's lifespan could never match an undead's, even after becoming a God King.

Han Wu's future ultimately belonged to her. The thought calmed her down slightly. Still, she couldn't help but worry that Qin Shuang would surpass her after mastering the Lightning Jurisdiction.

Excusing herself, she hurried back to her own divine realm. She'd collected plenty of Thunder Colossus bone fragments from the battle. Perhaps absorbing them would let her create several powerful lightning-resistant skeletons.

Once everyone left, Han Wu finally tallied his gains. He'd spent a lot of Microcosms at the auction, but using Stellar Plunder on Lei Bing had covered the cost with a small profit on top.

He planned to merge the low-quality Microcosms in his consciousness into higher-grade ones to boost their energy output. Beyond that, his haul included the Divine Time Stone, the Rulebreaker Stone, Lei Bing's body, the Forest Clan's card, and two pending Sacrifice rewards from killing Di Hong and Lei Bing.

It was an impressive gain. Despite being the greatest winner of the entire incident, he didn't feel like celebrating. Every prize had been hard-won at the edge of death. If not for the Death God King and Zhao Zihong, he'd be dead.

He sighed, reminded himself to be more careful in the future, and got to work. The Divine Time Stone went into his divine realm first. Time inside hastened to twice its normal rate. One day outside now equaled two years inside. It was perfect for raising units.

Next came the Rulebreaker Stone from Gift God King Shaura. This allowed him to promote one unit to God King immediately. Several of his units had comprehended Jurisdiction embryos, but none had developed one to 100% yet.

Maybe I should wait, Han Wu thought.

Then he remembered the Dark Jurisdiction he had been saving.

The Dark Jurisdiction was a complete Jurisdiction, meaning any compatible life form could develop it to full mastery relatively quickly. Among his units, the strongest dark-attribute candidates were Black Dragon King Alpheus, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, and Dark Locust.

The Umbral Mouse was the most compatible, but had no offensive capabilities.

After careful consideration, he chose Dark Locust. While it wasn't the strongest candidate, it was both part of his core race and one of the original locusts he'd raised from the beginning. It was also his Saint.

Dark Locust had fallen behind as Han Wu grew stronger, but Han Wu had never once considered abandoning it. Dark Locust's Self Detonation ability had been one of his most important damage-dealing methods since day one.

The decision was final. The Dark Jurisdiction and the Rulebreaker Stone would both go to the Dark Locust. Han Wu would make it the first God King in his divine realm.

Chapter 1048 - Advancing to Mesocosm Rank

Absorbing and fully developing the Dark Jurisdiction would take Dark Locust two to three years of divine realm time, which was roughly a day and a half outside. Han Wu could wait that long.

While he waited, he turned to his other rewards. First was Lei Bing's corpse. Deathblow had caused it to lose every single shred of vitality, meaning he couldn't turn it into a clone.

Since not even a sliver of Lei Bing's soul remained, there was nothing for the Netherworld Jurisdiction to restore. All he could do was refine its flesh and extract Divine Essence from it. By Han Wu's calculations, it could produce at least ten units with the rank of a Major God.

Then came the Forest Clan's card. When he activated it, three Divine Tree projections appeared before him.

The first was the Fusang Divine Tree, which was somehow both a tree and a blazing inferno, radiating extremely powerful light attribute energy.

Next was the Skyreach Tree. It was tall enough to pierce the sky and brimmed with potent Life Energy.

Lastly was a tree he was familiar with, a World Tree. World Trees absorbed the powers of the world they grew in. This projection could crystalize its host's power into fruit for other life forms to consume—an approach that didn't align with Han Wu's method of raising units.

There were three projections, meaning three choices. Han Wu could pick one as his guardian tree and draw on a tenth of its strength. It was far more valuable than 50,000 Microcosms.

After a few seconds of thought, he chose the Skyreach Tree. Life Energy from the Skyreach Tree flowed into his body, and his power climbed steadily. At this rate, it was only a matter of time before he reached the Mesocosm rank in his regular form.

His Life Jurisdiction also absorbed the incoming Life Energy, increasing its development. By his estimation, the Life Jurisdiction would reach 100% in a year or two. Once that happened, he would be able to make full use of it.

Han Wu allowed himself a moment to bask in the feeling of growing stronger.

Finally, he looked at the two reward selections from his Sacrifice. These came from killing the Lightning God King and Di Hong.

Neither of the two was regular prey, so he greatly looked forward to the options.

He opened the first selection. Three options appeared before him.

[Option 1: Thunder Hammer. Microcosm Divine Weapon brimming with Lightning Energy.]

[Option 2: Thunderfield. Those who have comprehended this technique may use it. The Thunderfield is formed via the Lightning Energy released by units. With it, the user can construct pure Lightning Energy entities based on their existing comprehension and use them for combat purposes.]

[Option 3: Thunder Vanguard. Subcosm life form.]

Han Wu frowned at the three options. This selection was undoubtedly from the Lightning God King. After all, all the options related to lightning! Moreover, none had any affinity with him.

Fortunately, they were compatible with Qin Shuang.

Matching each option to her situation, he eliminated the Thunder Hammer pretty quickly. Qin Shuang already had a Microcosm Divine Weapon, and she didn't use hammers.

The Thunder Vanguard was a melee bruiser unit with high health and attack that had nothing in common with Qin Shuang's long-range, high-speed style. Moreover, she was still a Microcosm life form; controlling a Subcosm life form would be risky.

That left the Thunderfield technique. Not only did it pair well with any Lightning units, but it was also quite a versatile technique. After selecting it, he sent it to Qin Shuang.

He then checked the second selection, the one obtained from killing Di Hong.

[Option 1: Chaos Energy. Blend multiple elemental energies in a specific ratio to produce a powerful force that can partially counter any elemental attribute. More elements mean greater power.]

[Option 2: Crown of Dread. 9-Star Divine Weapon. When equipped, this weapon will release an overwhelming pressure that frightens most life forms. Ineffective against Subcosm rank and above.]

[Option 3: Divine Spring of Life. Microcosm treasure that summons a spring rich in Life Energy to nourish all living things.]

As Han Wu glanced through the options, he immediately eliminated the Crown of Dread. A 9-Star Divine Weapon didn't meet Han Wu's standards, and he already had Dragon Fear for intimidation. The Divine Spring of Life was also redundant with his Life Infusion ability. *oom*

That left the Chaos Energy technique. He had no choice but to accept it. Still, it was an interesting reward.

During his fight with Di Zangtian, Han Wu had felt firsthand how ten elemental Jurisdictions blended into Chaos Energy had suppressed even the Death God King.

While Han Wu didn't have elemental Jurisdictions, his Conversion Jurisdiction could produce dozens of elemental energies. Mixing them per the technique's formula produced a respectable Chaos Energy. Although this wouldn't be as strong as Di Zangtian's Jurisdiction version, it was at least half as powerful. That was enough to fight Mesocosm opponents.

He practiced the technique and picked it up quickly. It didn't take long for him to even derive several powerful combat skills from it. With this in his arsenal, his survivability increased yet again.

As he trained, he also absorbed the Skyreach Tree's energy. A year and a half of divine realm time later, he was a Mesocosm fighter in his base form. Naturally, he was even stronger in his True Holy Dragon Transformation.

He was still a far cry from being a Macrocosm fighter, but he was in no rush. After all, he was young. Time was on his side.

The Skyreach Tree also completed the Life Jurisdiction's development, and its effect revealed itself.

Han Wu eagerly checked it. Surprisingly, it was Resurrection. If Han Wu ever died in battle, the Life Jurisdiction would bring him back. His survival rate had just skyrocketed!

Chapter 1049 - Dark Locust's Ascension

Another year passed within the divine realm. With Han Wu's unlimited supply of Dark Stones, Dark Locust had finally developed his Dark Jurisdiction to completion.

The newly unlocked ability was Dark Clone. Dark Locust could use Dark Energy to make clones that possessed half of his original strength and had the ability to Self-Detonate.

The difference was that, unlike Dark Locust himself, the clones couldn't revive after detonating. The ability had one major advantage: as long as there was enough energy, Dark Locust could create an unlimited number of clones. He could stockpile a batch of Dark Clones within his own Microcosm and release them all during battle.

However, Han Wu had higher expectations for Dark Locust. He took out the Rulebreaker Stone and used it on Dark Locust. The latter endured the Rulebreaker Stone's power and gained the opportunity to ascend, becoming the Dark God King. He didn't disappoint Han Wu's expectations and chose to ascend.

Han Wu immediately felt a massive wave of Dark Energy rush toward him from beyond his divine realm. The sheer density of the energy dyed the sky itself black.

Han Wu was currently at his dormitory at Imperial College, so the anomaly drew the attention of the students and lecturers alike. They followed the flow of Dark Energy to its source and traced it to Han Wu's dormitory. A *Do Not Disturb* sign hung on the door, so no one dared to enter.

Based on the energy flow's direction, they concluded that Han Wu was ascending to become the Dark God King. What they didn't know was that Dark Locust was the one truly ascending, not Han Wu. The enormous stream of Dark Energy merely passed through Han Wu's body before flowing into Dark Locust within his divine realm.

Under the power of that massive influx, Dark Locust finally ascended from a Major God to a God King. His strength surged to the Subcosm rank in one go, making him the ninth Subcosm fighter under Han Wu's command.

Han Wu was ecstatic. He hadn't become a God King himself, but having one of his units do so was just as good.

After completing his transformation, Dark Locust shifted into a humanoid form and knelt reverently before Han Wu. Even now that he was a God King, Han Wu remained the most revered being in his heart.

Han Wu nodded in satisfaction and helped him to his feet. As one of Han Wu's earliest units, Dark Locust's growth to this level was nothing short of extraordinary.

"Keep working hard from now on," Han Wu said.

"I obey, my God." Dark Locust spoke with deep deference.

As the Dark Energy dissipated, the students and lecturers outside assumed that Han Wu had completed his ascension and offered their congratulations.

Han Wu was too focused on what was happening within his divine realm to hear any of it, so he never came out.

Before long, the Wisdom God King arrived, thanked everyone on his student's behalf, and dispersed the crowd. He then entered Han Wu's dormitory.

After receiving Xu Hai's message, Han Wu hurried out to greet him. The moment Xu Hai saw him, confusion crossed his face. The earlier aura had unmistakably signaled a God King's ascension, yet Han Wu showed no trace of a God King's aura. What had happened?

When he voiced his confusion, Han Wu laughed and explained that he wasn't the one who had ascended. It was his unit, Dark Locust, who had ascended to become the Dark God King.

Xu Hai didn't know whether to praise Han Wu for his generosity toward his units or scold him for being wasteful.

To think he gave a Dark Jurisdiction of that caliber to a unit instead of using it himself!
Then again, Xu Hai had witnessed the strength of Han Wu's units firsthand. He couldn't

exactly call it a mistake. *As long as the Dark Jurisdiction didn't go to waste, I suppose it's fine.*

After passing along the congratulations from the students and lecturers, Xu Hai revealed the real reason for his visit. The first semester of the third year was about to end. Han Wu had barely attended any classes all semester. Finals were approaching, and Xu Hai's colleagues had asked him to personally persuade Han Wu to take the exam. They wanted Han Wu to set a good example for the other students.

Han Wu had no objections. With his current strength, taking the final exam was practically the same as being handed first place. As long as his classmates didn't mind, he was more than happy to earn some extra resources.

Xu Hai chuckled at that and told Han Wu that this exam wouldn't be what he expected. This time, students wouldn't enter a single civilization to compete against each other. Instead, a special civilization would be duplicated for each student. Everyone would tackle the challenge alone, and the rankings would be determined by completion time.

Han Wu shrugged. No matter the format, he was confident that he could take first place.

Xu Hai liked that confidence. His student was powerful and ambitious. What was wrong with a little confidence?

Having confirmed Han Wu's participation, Xu Hai left to prepare the exam grounds for the third-year students.

Han Wu returned to his divine realm and continued fine-tuning his forces to squeeze out every last bit of strength he could.

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Three more days passed in the Divine Civilization, and Han Wu welcomed his second Manifestation, True Martial.

The instant the True Martial Manifestation separated from Han Wu's body, it revealed its true nature as an absolute combat junkie. Its first act was to head straight for the Underworld and scour the soul information archives for more martial techniques to study. This was its form of cultivation, and it would further the development of the True Martial Jurisdiction.

Han Wu let it do as it pleased.

Soon, the day of the final exam arrived.

Following the class notice, Han Wu showed up to class on time for the first time that semester.

Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian arrived shortly afterward. On the other hand, Jing Jing simply skipped the exam on account of her God King status.

Imperial College accepted her absence. She was already a God King, so a test like that wouldn't benefit her as much as training within her own divine realm.

Han Wu sat in his seat and noticed several classmates looking at him. Whenever he turned to look back, they quickly averted their eyes and pretended they hadn't been staring. He found their behavior strange.

Sun Qingnian leaned over and explained, "It's because of the rumor that you ascended and became the Dark God King. A lot of them assumed that someone of your status wouldn't bother showing up for an exam like this."

"They're right. I don't think much of it," Han Wu said. "But my mentor asked me to come, so how could I refuse?"

Sun Qingnian smiled bitterly. "Xu Hai is using you to pressure the rest of the class. With you sitting at the top, every student in our year is going to feel like there's a mountain hanging over their heads."

While they chatted, Saliya arrived and read out the exam rules. Every student would be teleported into an identical labyrinth. What awaited them was a defense battle!

: Chapter 1050

Chapter 1050 - Defend Yourself

After entering the labyrinth, Han Wu discovered he couldn't move. He was pinned in place as a series of rules belonging to this civilization scrolled before his eyes.

[Rule 1: The host cannot move, attack, recover, or take any defensive action on their own.]

[Rule 2: Every day, a wave of random creatures will enter the labyrinth and follow a set path to attack the host. The host must build a defensive line to protect themselves.]

[Rule 3: Killing invading creatures grants Energy Points and treasures. Energy Points can be used to draw units and establish a defensive line. Once a unit is placed, it cannot be moved, but it can attack or defend against any invading creature within its range. Treasures can be used to strengthen units.]

After reading every rule, Han Wu felt numb. Previously, he had been brimming with confidence. He had been certain that he could handle any challenge, but he wasn't so sure now. The main problem was that he couldn't move, attack, defend, or recover. He was nothing but a target waiting to be hit. It was humiliating. His units were his only hope.

He started with 100 Energy Points, which was enough to draw units and set up his defense. Every ten Energy Points granted him one draw, so he immediately pulled for ten units.

Luck wasn't on his side this time. Eight of the ten draws were Common locusts. The other two were a Bomber Locust and a Bloodfang Bat.

Since this civilization was different, Han Wu checked the units' attributes through the local civilization's Will.

[Locust: Common life form. Attack method: Gnaw (single target). Range: 1. Damage: 1. Attack interval: 1 second]

[Bomber Locust: Elite life form. Attack method: Self-Detonate (multi-target). Range: 5. Damage: 10. Attack interval: 1 minute. After Self-Detonating, it will regenerate one minute later and attack again.]

[Bloodfang Bat: Heroic life form. Attack method: Corrupted Blood Arrow (single target). Range: 10. Damage: 20. Attack interval: 2 seconds. Skill: Crimson Halo. Absorbs blood within the halo's range to heal the host.]

Among the three, only the Bloodfang Bat had a decent rank.

Han Wu was considering how to arrange his defensive layout when a warning sounded.

[Creatures invading in three minutes. Species: Goblins. Quantity: 100.]

[Goblin: Common life form. HP: 100. Movement speed: 2. Attack method: Wooden Club Strike (single target). Range: 2. Damage: 4. Attack interval: 1 second. Invading creatures will only target the host.]

After the warning, Han Wu received another notification.

[Based on the host's base attributes, HP has been set at 589,000.]

A long health bar appeared above Han Wu's head representing his total life. Once it hit 0, the exam would be over.

Han Wu looked at his 589,000 HP, then at the goblins' pathetic four points of damage. Even if he stood still and let them wail on him, it would take them forever to kill him.

Besides, he had his units. Although most of his draws were garbage, they could still handle goblins.

Han Wu carefully started constructing his defensive line. He considered the labyrinth's layout and his own safety, then positioned the Bloodfang Bat close to him so that it could attack enemies while healing him. He placed the Bomber Locust next to him as well. If enemies swarmed him, it could clear the area with a Self-Detonate.

As for his weakest and most numerous units, the Common locusts, he arranged them at the portal entrance. That way, they could attack the invading creatures the moment they appeared.

While stationing the locusts, his consciousness touched two of them simultaneously, and the word Merge appeared above both.

Han Wu thought he was seeing things. He focused his consciousness on another pair, only for the same word to appear again.

This civilization didn't fully seal my abilities. At least Merge still works, he thought.

He then tested his consciousness on the Bomber Locust and the Bloodfang Bat, but the Merge prompt didn't appear. Apparently, different species couldn't be merged in this civilization.

Han Wu turned his attention to the eight locusts. When his consciousness touched two at once, the prompt appeared again. This time, he went through with it. The two locusts merged into a single, slightly larger locust. It was now an Elite locust, and its Damage had increased from 1 to 2, but its other attributes stayed the same.

Han Wu refused to accept such a meager result. He merged the remaining three pairs, but the outcome was the same every time: each merged locust grew slightly larger, and its Damage increased to 2, while nothing else changed.

He selected two merged locusts and performed a second Merge. This time, the change was noticeable. The resulting locust was now a Unique life form, and its body was twice the size of the Elite ones. Its Damage climbed to 4, but everything else remained the same.

Still unsatisfied, Han Wu took the two Unique locusts and merged them a third time. The resulting unit was a Heroic locust with a Damage attribute of 8. Although that number didn't sound particularly impressive, this Heroic locust was the final product of merging the eight original locusts into one.

After some deliberation, Han Wu placed it at the portal entrance. When the invading creatures emerged, this Heroic locust would be the first to strike.

Soon, the countdown hit zero, and the first wave of invaders marched through the portal. Goblins strode in without a care in the world, their stubby wooden clubs held high.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1051

Chapter 1051 - The Second Wave

The goblins ran straight into the locust the moment they stepped through the portal.

Han Wu had placed it directly outside the entrance, its mandibles wide open to chomp down on anything that emerged. Although each bite dealt 8 damage, the goblins were fast. By the time the locust finished one attack and prepared for the next, its target had already changed from the first to the third. At that pace, after all 100 goblins passed through, the locust would land only fifty attacks, each dealing a measly 8 damage.

It's absolute garbage. Han Wu let out a bitter laugh. The ordinary locust's performance was painful to watch. His core units were really trashy at the base level. Thankfully, years of his careful cultivation had already changed his locusts' future.

The goblin army reached Han Wu without taking any further damage along the way. They raised their little wooden clubs and bared their teeth at the immobile Han Wu.

[-4, -4, ...]

Damage numbers floated past his eyes.

At the same time, the Bomber Locust and the Bloodfang Bat sprang into action. The Bomber Locust had a range of five, but every goblin was packed tightly around Han Wu. A single Self-Detonate hit nearly all of them, dealing 10 damage. It was powerful, but the recharge time was painfully long. The next detonation was a full minute away.

On the other hand, the Bloodfang Bat attacked rapidly and dealt 20 damage per hit. It could kill a goblin in ten seconds at most. More importantly, it possessed the Crimson Halo, which drained blood from nearby wounded goblins to heal Han Wu. The goblins were hitting hard, but the Bloodfang Bat's healing outpaced their damage output.

As the goblins fell one by one, Han Wu collected the Energy Points and treasures they dropped. The 100 goblins yielded 200 Energy Points, which was enough for twenty draws. They also dropped one treasure: an Agility Stone. It increased a unit's attack speed by

reducing its attack interval by twenty percent, but it only worked on units with an attack interval of five seconds or longer.

Han Wu didn't hesitate. He slapped it onto his Bomber Locust, reducing its attack interval from one minute to forty-eight seconds.

On top of that, the reward for surviving the first wave arrived. Because the Crimson Halo had fully restored Han Wu's HP, the system treated it as if he had taken no damage at all. He earned an S rating, and the corresponding S-rank reward was a piece of equipment for himself.

[Cloth Armor: All incoming damage reduced by 2.]

Han Wu put it on and mumbled that it was better than nothing. He then looked up at the warning still hanging in the air.

[The second wave will arrive in ten minutes. Strengthen your defensive line. The second wave's invading creatures will be revealed at the three-minute mark.]

He sighed and spent his 200 Energy Points on twenty consecutive draws.

His luck hadn't improved much. Sixteen of the twenty were Common locusts again. The remaining four were an Elite Bomber Locust, an Elite Glutton Locust, a Unique Mechanical Locust, and a Unique Dark Cursed Bug.

Han Wu selected the new Bomber Locust and merged it with his existing one. The new life form was a Unique Magma Locust.

[Magma Locust: Unique life form. Attack method: Self-Detonate (multi-target). Range: 10. Damage: 40. Attack interval: 48 seconds. Skill: Magma Burst. After Self-Detonating, it leaves behind a pool of magma that deals 5 fire damage per second for 20 seconds.]

The Glutton Locust was next.

[Glutton Locust: Elite life form. Attack method: Devour (single target). Range: 10. Damage: 10. Attack interval: 5 seconds. Skill: Devour. If Devour deals the killing blow, the locust absorbs the corpse's energy, and its Damage attribute permanently gains 1 point.]

One was an AOE attacker with a damage-over-time burn effect. The other could permanently grow stronger by devouring its kills. Both had high potential.

Han Wu nodded and moved on to the last two.

[Mechanical Locust: Unique life form. Attack method: Gnaw, (single target). Range: 10. Damage: 20. Attack interval: 5 seconds. Skill: Mechanical Detonation. After killing 10 or

more enemies, it releases a single blast dealing 50 damage. It then requires 1 minute to repair itself before it can attack again.]

[Dark Cursed Bug: Unique life form. Attack method: Shadow Nail (single target). Range: 40. Damage: 2. Attack interval: 1 second. Skill: Shadow Stun. Shadow Nail has a 40% chance to immobilize the target for 3 seconds.]

Han Wu studied the numbers. The Mechanical Locust was a charge-up attacker. Its damage output was slightly higher than the Magma Locust's, but its overall stats were average. The Dark Cursed Bug's strength lay in its long range, but its damage output was pitiful. Its real value came from the Shadow Stun effect, which slowed the enemy's advance.

After careful consideration, Han Wu placed the Glutton Locust near himself and positioned the Dark Cursed Bug and Mechanical Locust at the portal entrance.

He then merged the sixteen Common locusts into a single Lord life form. Even at Lord rank, its stats hadn't changed much. Its Damage had maxed out at 16, which still left it weaker than some Unique life forms.

So this is what my locusts would look like without any cheats, he thought as he stationed the Lord locust at the portal entrance alongside the others.

Three minutes remained until the second wave, so the invading creatures were revealed.

[Hardened Abyss Demons: 200.]

[Hardened Abyss Demon: Elite life form. HP: 300. Movement speed: 3. Attack method: Twin Axe Cleave (single target). Range: 2. Damage: 4. Attack interval: 0.5 seconds.]

Their stats were slightly better than the goblins, but the overall improvement wasn't dramatic. Han Wu wasn't worried.

Soon enough, the Hardened Abyss Demons marched through the portal. Unlike the goblins, who had sickly green skin, these demons had crimson hides that made them look festive. They strode in with axes slung over their shoulders, every bit as arrogant as they looked.

The Lord locust at the entrance lunged and bit into the first demon, dealing 16 damage. The Mechanical Locust and the Dark Cursed Bug opened fire right behind it.

Until it had killed ten enemies, the Mechanical Locust was limited to basic attacks that dealt 20 damage per hit. The Dark Cursed Bug peppered the demons with Shadow Nails, considerably slowing their advance. The Lord locust kept biting away, one bite after another.

Together, the three units chipped away at the Hardened Abyss Demons' health.

Han Wu knew that their firepower wasn't enough to kill any of the demons at the entrance. The real killing force was the lineup waiting beside him. He knew what awaited the demons once they reached him.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

: Chapter 1052

Chapter 1052 - Sacrifice

The Hardened Abyss Demons closed in on Han Wu.

Between the Magma Locust's Self Detonation, the Glutton Locust chewing through them, and the Bloodfang Bat's Corrupted Blood Arrows and Crimson Halo, every Hardened Abyss Demon died.

Crimson Halo fully recovered all the damage they dealt to Han Wu. By the time the battle ended, Han Wu had once again cleared the wave with a full health bar. His rating for the second wave was still S rank.

Han Wu earned 600 Energy Points but no treasures, so he selected a Blood Stone that increased HP by ten percent from the clearance rewards.

If any other student taking the final exam obtained the Blood Stone, its effect would have been negligible. A student's HP was calculated based on their personal physical stats. Han Wu's Mesocosm strength converted into 589,000 HP, while his classmates had maybe 2,000 or 3,000 at best.

Han Wu loaded the Blood Stone. His HP surged by ten percent to a staggering 647,900. His already massive health pool grew even larger.

Just as he was about to spend Energy Points on draws, he suddenly thought of something. If Merge isn't fully blocked, then maybe Sacrifice isn't either. They are both powerful abilities with the Exclusive rarity, after all.

He tentatively reached out toward his divine realm. Sure enough, he sensed the products of 300 Sacrifices, and he could extract them normally. However, every single one was a unit, and they were all the lowest tier of locusts.

He could obtain one locust per unit killed. The locusts were extremely weak and completely useless on their own, so Han Wu could only use Merge to combine them and raise their rank.

In the end, he obtained one Earthsunder locust along with a few High Lord locusts. Even as an Earthsunder life form, the locust's stats remained completely flat. The only attribute that changed was its Attack, which had reached 256. It was extremely powerful compared to Han Wu's other units, but unfortunately, it was pathetic compared to other Earthsunder life forms.

Han Wu was certain that any other unit would easily reach 256 Attack at the Lord or High Lord rank. Locusts had to reach the Earthsunder rank to match that number. That alone proved how garbage they were.

Still, these were freebies from Sacrifice, so he wasn't going to complain. He stationed the merged locusts at the portal entrance, where they would continue serving as the first line of attack. He then positioned the other units drawn from the pool elsewhere based on their skills.

Before long, the third wave arrived. This time, the invading life forms were 1,000 Little Dwarfs. Their stats were low across the board, with only their 250 HP and 2 Agility.

Stats that pitiful made them nothing but free kills in front of the newly merged locusts. The Earthsunder locust alone wiped out 500 Little Dwarfs. The survivors reached Han Wu, only to be annihilated before they could even touch him.

This time, Han Wu cleared the wave with a proper full health bar. Thanks to the Blood Stone, he finished with 110% HP, which earned him an SS rating!

Under normal circumstances, SS-rank rewards were far better. When he opened his, he received a fortress with 10,000 Durability. Until that value was depleted, he wouldn't take any damage. Nonetheless, for someone with 647,900 HP, the fortress amounted to a measly 10,000 extra HP. It wasn't much of a reward for him and couldn't even compare to the Blood Stone. Unfortunately, the reward had already been decided, so he could only accept it.

He then checked the rest of his rewards from the wave. The 1,000 Little Dwarfs had dropped 2,000 Energy Points and ten treasures: Little Dwarf short spears that each boosted a unit's Attack attribute by 1.

Han Wu merged the ten treasures into a powerful one that added 10 Attack, then equipped it on the Dark Curse Bug. As a result, its Shadow Nail got a noticeable attack boost.

Afterward, Han Wu spent his remaining Energy Points on draws. Out of 200 pulls, 175 were Common locusts and only twenty-five of them were the other types of his units.

Han Wu didn't find that disappointing at all. Through Sacrifice, he soon extracted another thousand Common locusts from his divine realm and merged them all.

Something unexpected happened: he somehow merged a Microcosm locust.

The Will of the Civilization informed Han Wu that this was the locust's maximum rank and that it couldn't be raised any further.

Han Wu stared at the Microcosm locust. Its stats were still terrible overall, but it had a monstrous 1,024 Attack.

Locusts really are garbage. That was one of his thoughts.

After merging the Microcosm locust, a new Microcosm appeared in his consciousness sea. It was the smallest and most unremarkable Microcosm among all the ones he possessed, yet it was a real Microcosm all the same, born from a Microcosm locust.

An idea struck Han Wu. Maybe locusts aren't as worthless as I thought. If I look at them from a different angle, isn't this simply an easy way to create Microcosms?

Han Wu grew eager. If I maximize the breeding of Common locusts, how many Microcosms can I harvest by the end of the final exam?

With that thought, he waited for the fourth wave. This time, the invaders were Bloodthirst Bats.

[Bloodthirst Bat: Elite life form. HP: 200. Movement speed: 10. Attack type: Bite (single target). Attack range: 1. Damage: 8. Attack interval: 0.5 seconds. (Invading creatures only target the host.)]

[Skill: Lifesteal. Attack damage restores lost HP.]

Han Wu saw right away that the Bloodthirst Bats relied on speed, high attack frequency, and lifesteal recovery. Their other stats weren't impressive.

What excited Han Wu most was their sheer number. There were 5,000 of them. If he killed them all, Sacrifice would produce 5,000 locusts, which basically equaled five Microcosms. He could already see a path to greater riches opening before his eyes.

"This final exam is getting more and more interesting!" Han Wu muttered with excitement.

The Bloodthirst Bats swarmed in. The Microcosm locust guarding the portal struck first, but its attack frequency allowed it to handle about ten percent of the bats. The Dark Curse Bug behind it provided some backup, which let the locust pick off a few more.

The surviving Bloodthirst Bats fought through layer after layer of defenses and finally reached Han Wu. They bit down hard, but the fortress absorbed the first wave of attacks.

Then the Magma Locusts unleashed a barrage of explosions.

By the time the fortress dropped to 300 Durability, every last Bloodthirst Bat had been wiped out.

This round, Han Wu's rewards were enormous. Energy Points, treasures, and clearance rewards were all secondary. He immediately extracted the 5,000 locusts from Sacrifice, merged them, and produced five Microcosm locusts. That was five Microcosms!

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 1053 - Raising the Exam's Difficulty

Six Microcosm locusts now stood outside the portal. Their stats were abysmal across the board, but their 1,024 Attack was quite respectable. Against the invaders at this stage, they were essentially one-hit killers.

After arranging the locusts, Han Wu began drawing more units and checked his treasures and clearance rewards. The draws remained dismal, with over eighty percent being Common locusts.

Han Wu gave up on expecting anything worthwhile. He merged the locusts and stationed them near the portal as a cleanup force. The remaining units were distributed across the front, middle, and rear positions based on their roles.

After merging the special units he had drawn, Han Wu finally obtained a stronger unit. It was a Blood Wraith, the ultimate form of his recovery and enhancement evolution line. He placed it close to him so that it could continuously restore his HP.

[Blood Wraith: High Lord life form. Attack type: Corrupted Blood Rain (multi-target). Attack range: 100. Damage: 400. Attack interval: 1 second. Skill: Crimson Halo. It absorbs blood within the halo's range to heal the host.]

With the Blood Wraith in place, Han Wu could keep his HP at peak levels indefinitely.

Then there were the treasures. The 5,000 Bloodthirst Bats had dropped 100 Bloodthirst Fangs. Han Wu merged them into one powerful treasure that boosted Attack and added poison and lifesteal effects. He equipped it on the Dark Curse Bug, which had the fastest attack speed among his units.

He obtained another SS rating for the current wave. He received a summoning scroll that allowed him to summon one unit from his divine realm, provided it was no higher than the Sage rank.

For an ordinary student, that would have been excellent. For Han Wu, it was useless. He had too many Sage life forms to even keep track of, so he randomly picked a Nuclear Locust from his massive roster.

[Nuclear Locust: Sage life form. Attack type: Nuclear Detonation (multi-target). Attack range: 200. Damage: 2,000. Attack interval: 1 minute. (After Self Detonation, the Nuclear Locust reforms 1 minute later and can attack again.)]

It was simple, brutal, and effective. Its huge range and high damage output were the Nuclear Locust's greatest strengths. With it deployed, Han Wu was fairly certain that nothing in the next ten waves would get anywhere near him.

Before long, the fifth wave arrived. It was a Mammoth Legion, numbering 1,001 creatures. One thousand were Elite Mammoths, while the last one was a miniboss, a Heroic Duramammoth.

Han Wu shook his head in mild disappointment. He had been hoping for greater numbers, but the fifth wave had sent fewer creatures his way.

He checked the miniboss' stats panel but only bothered looking at its HP. The Duramammoth had 5,000 HP, a figure worthy of a miniboss. It could survive two Nuclear Detonations and then some. However, its movement speed was slow, and Han Wu wondered whether it could even survive the Microcosm locusts guarding the portal.

As the fifth wave descended, the Mammoths marched proudly out of the portal. Their 1,000 HP was laughable, and their movement speed wasn't fast either. All 1,000 of them were annihilated and devoured before they could get past the six locusts at the gate.[1]

Only the miniboss was strong enough to survive. The Duramammoth tanked the hits from the locusts, the Dark Curse Bug, and the Mechanical Locusts all at once before forcing its way through that brutal gauntlet. The effort cost it dearly, and it lost 3,400 HP in the process.

When the miniboss entered the Nuclear Locust's attack range, a single Nuclear Detonation ended the fifth wave. The Duramammoth died without ever seeing what Han Wu looked like. It was quite a humiliating end for a miniboss.

Han Wu just shrugged and went back to setting up his defenses for the next wave.

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Inside Imperial College, the third-year lecturers monitored every student's progress through surveillance feeds. Han Wu's progress was leagues ahead of everyone else, advancing at more than twice the pace of the second-place student, Qin Shuang.

The lecturers turned their attention to Han Wu's channel and studied his unit lineup. What they saw was both expected and surprising. That roster was stronger than most students' rosters would be at the fiftieth wave.

"This final exam is way too easy for Han Wu," one lecturer said.

His remark resonated with the others.

"Well, obviously. Han Wu is the Dark God King now! If the Dark God King struggled with a little exam like this, that'd be an embarrassment to all God Kings," another lecturer gushed, praising Han Wu without a second thought.

He didn't even realize that Han Wu himself hadn't become the Dark God King. That title belonged to Dark Locust, a unit of his core race.

"That's not what I meant. I'm thinking that we should raise the difficulty for Han Wu. It'd keep him from getting bored," the first lecturer suggested.

Every lecturer turned to look at Han Wu's advisor, Saliya. As long as she approved, they could make it happen.

Saliya knew Han Wu was wasting his time at the current difficulty. However, as his advisor, she had a responsibility to him. An exam was still an exam, and they couldn't just change the difficulty on a whim.

She was about to refuse when the Wisdom God King came down to inspect and overheard the suggestion.

Xu Hai glanced at the feed, where Han Wu looked on the verge of falling asleep from boredom, and waved his hand. "If I remember correctly, this final exam has a hundred waves. After the hundredth wave, students can choose Infinite Mode, right?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," Saliya answered respectfully.

Xu Hai nodded. "Skip the remaining ninety-five waves. Throw them all at Han Wu at once, then open up Infinite Mode for him."

Saliya felt a flicker of panic. "Your Majesty, wouldn't that be too extreme a jump in difficulty?"

“For an ordinary student, sure. But for Han Wu, it’s just right. Go ahead and raise the difficulty. Save him from dying of boredom,” Xu Hai said as he watched Han Wu yawn from boredom.

He was Han Wu’s mentor and the future chancellor of Imperial College. His word was final, and Saliya had no choice but to comply. She immediately notified the civilization where Han Wu was stationed and switched the attack mode. Han Wu deserved a final exam that matched his strength.

As Saliya adjusted the exam difficulty, one lecturer quietly slipped out of the monitoring room, hurried back to his divine realm, and called an unregistered channel.

“The plan worked. It’s your move now,” he informed.

A raspy voice echoed from the other end. “Well done. Payment has been wired to your account. I’ll throw in a Profound Water Divine Pill as a bonus. It’ll help you comprehend your River Jurisdiction.”

“I can’t thank you enough. If anything like this comes up again, please don’t hesitate to call me,” the lecturer said excitedly as he accepted the incoming mail.

Inside was 100,000 Divine Essence and one Profound Water Divine Pill. The lecturer swallowed the pill immediately, already fantasizing about comprehending his River Jurisdiction and ascending to a God King.

As the pill dissolved, an unknown toxin spread silently throughout his body. By the time he realized it, the toxin had already reached every part of his body. He didn’t even have a chance to call for help before he died in his divine realm.

On the other end of the channel, Di Bin watched the lecturer’s icon go dark in his contact list and exhaled.

“Dead men tell no tales,” he murmured to himself. “As long as the Wealth Faction can’t trace it back to anyone, it has nothing to do with the Chaos Clan. I won’t let a once-in-a-lifetime chance like this slip away.”

The life forms he had arranged had already been smuggled through special channels into the civilization that Imperial College was using for its final exam.

1. What? You have 6 locusts with 1,024 Attack each. It wouldn’t even get past them... ☜

Chapter 1054 - Replicate and Avatar Creation

When Han Wu received the notification that the difficulty was increasing, he was thrilled. The current difficulty was like water to him: bland, tasteless, and easy. He desperately wanted it cranked up, preferably with even more creatures.

As if answering his prayers, a massive horde of creatures came rushing toward his territory.

The portal opened, and creatures poured out in a continuous stream, practically squeezing against each other in their rush forward. Some of the smaller ones were wedged so tightly between larger creatures that their feet didn't even touch the ground. The surging horde simply carried them into Han Wu's zone.

Facing this tsunami of invaders, Han Wu finally felt the excitement. The original six Microcosm locusts, along with a newly merged seventh, tore into the horde and devoured creatures one by one with savage efficiency.

Naturally, Han Wu's Energy Points skyrocketed.

With all ninety-five remaining waves converging at once, there was no longer any break between waves. He had to direct his units while simultaneously drawing new ones.

His luck hadn't improved since entering this civilization. Over eighty percent of the units he drew were locusts, and the remaining twenty percent consisted of other types, generally of low rank. Thankfully, he had Merge, which allowed him to combine units of the same type to strengthen them. Under his efforts, the quality of his defending force gradually improved.

Drawing units with Energy Points was simply too slow, though. His real powerhouse was Sacrifice. As the invading creatures grew stronger, Sacrifice's rewards started to change. Instead of receiving only locusts, Han Wu started obtaining other varieties of his core race.

It was precisely those units that allowed him to keep pace with the rapidly escalating difficulty of the exam. With all ninety-five waves flooding in at once, the challenge had spiked enormously.

Before he could deploy enough units to hold the line, a wave of extremely powerful life forms came crashing through. They were the creatures intended for the 100th wave: 10,001 Virus Drakes.

An Earthsunder Virus Drake King led the charge, followed by King Virus Drakes. Thanks to their Drake bloodline, these creatures were inherently stronger than other life forms of the same rank.

As the boss of the 100th wave, the Virus Drake King had certain stats boosted tenfold.

[Virus Drake King: Earthsunder life form. HP: 2,000,000. Movement speed: 1,000. Attack type: Bite (single target). Attack range: 100. Damage: 10,000. Attack interval: 1 second. (Invading creatures only target the host.)]

[Skill 1: Virus Infection. Bitten areas become infected. The host takes 1,000 virus damage per second for 10 seconds. It stacks up to five times.]

[Skill 2: Tail Slam. After five attacks, the Virus Drake King unleashes a tail whip that deals 1.5 times its bite damage and reduces the host's defense. Deals double damage to structures.]

[Skill 3: Wild Rush. The Virus Drake King charges at double its movement speed and deals quintuple damage. After the charge, it requires 2 seconds to recover from the impact.]

Facing the monstrous boss, Han Wu immediately deployed the Iron Abyss Bug he had just merged. It was the pinnacle of the defensive evolution line. Its massive frame occupied a significant amount of space, and every stat and skill it possessed focused entirely on defense.

[Iron Abyss Bug: Earthsunder life form. Attack type: Summon Shield (single target). Attack range: 100. Durability: 5,000. Attack interval: 3 seconds.]

[Skill 1: Iron Shield. It grants the shield an iron attribute, rendering it immune to physical damage below 1,000.]

[Skill 2: Abyss Shield. It grants the shield an abyss attribute, rendering it immune to magical damage below 1,000.]

[Skill 3: Shield Reflect. When the shield takes damage, it counters with a force equal to 30% of the damage received. If the shield shatters while absorbing an attack, it releases a shockwave that deals 40% of the damage received to all creatures within range.]

The Iron Abyss Bug bought Han Wu some breathing room. Even so, the sight of the Virus Drake King shattering shield after shield still made his heart race. At that rate, the boss would reach him in less than three minutes.

Under the Will of the civilization's restrictions, Han Wu couldn't fight back directly. If the Virus Drake King broke through the Iron Abyss Bug's defenses, he would die.

I need to figure something out, and fast. Han Wu realized the danger and immediately searched for a solution.

The Will had locked all his Divine Aspects, Divine Authority, Divine Jurisdictions, and personal strength, along with most of his abilities. After some testing, he discovered that only those with the Exclusive grade, such as Merge and Sacrifice, still worked.

His mind raced. He had more than just those two Exclusive abilities. He also had Replicate and Avatar Creation!

He immediately tried using Replicate to copy the Iron Abyss Bug's attributes. If it worked, he could deploy shields himself and slow the Virus Drake King's advance.

It worked. Exclusive abilities were indeed exempted from the Will's restrictions. In an instant, Han Wu went from a helpless host incapable of doing anything to someone who could summon shields just like the Iron Abyss Bug.

Then he remembered his Avatar Creation. *What will happen if I combine Avatar Creation with Replicate?*

He tried it, and it worked again, though only partially. Normally, he could easily create tens of thousands of avatars, but now he could only create four, one for each of his Exclusive abilities.

Thankfully, Replicate was versatile enough that even after he split it off into a separate avatar, it could still copy abilities for the other avatars. As a result, all four avatars became humanoid Iron Abyss Bugs, each capable of summoning shields.

Han Wu went from a defenseless punching bag to four shield-generating copies of himself. The four Han Wus threw up shields in rapid succession to block the Virus Drake King's advance and reinforced each shield with skills that made them tougher and extended their duration.

Every time the Virus Drake King shattered a shield, the reflection shockwave damaged it in return. Its normal attack dealt 10,000 damage, meaning each reflected shockwave dealt 4,000 damage. When it used Wild Rush, the reflected damage spiked to a staggering 20,000.

Shield after shield appeared, stopping every attempt to advance. In the end, after smashing through more than 300 shields, the Virus Drake King died.

Han Wu looked at the Virus Drake King's carcass and couldn't help but marvel. *Killed by its own power reflected back at it.What a way to go.*

: Chapter 1055

Chapter 1055 - Infinite Mode

With the Virus Drake King dead, the remaining bosses arrived one after another.

Han Wu's four avatars continued to employ the shield wall strategy against them. Through action alone, he showed the bosses that as long as they wanted to ram into shields, there would always be more shields waiting for them.

The shockwaves alone were somewhat useful against a small number of bosses, but their effectiveness diminished against a large group.

Han Wu seized the opportunity to extract everything Sacrifice had produced during the fight with the Virus Drake King. Over ninety percent of the resulting units were locusts. He merged them all into Microcosm locusts and placed them at the portals. He then merged the remaining units and placed them near himself.

After the merging process, Han Wu finally produced another powerful unit: the Machinedrasprite.

[Machinedrasprite: Microcosm life form. Attack type: Turbo Claw and Infinity Arm (multi-target). Attack range: 100. Damage: 5,000. Attack interval: 2 seconds. Skill: Infinity Cannon. Charge for 10 seconds, then unleash an energy blast that deals ten times its base damage to all creatures in range.]

Han Wu stationed the Machinedrasprite right beside himself. The moment it appeared, it opened fire on the approaching bosses. Its Infinity Cannon dealt a devastating 50,000 damage and obliterated everything within a hundred-unit radius.

Some of the bosses had already been worn down after breaking through the shields and were running on fumes. That blast killed them on the spot.

Han Wu collected even more Sacrifice rewards.

As the rewards piled up, the powerful units around him multiplied. Soon, the War Saint Locustmen, Yinglong, War Angels, Heavenly Dogs, Umbral Demonesses, and other powerful life forms emerged from the merging process. His fighting force grew dramatically.

Meanwhile, the ninety-five waves of invaders were steadily ground down under relentless pressure. The ordinary creatures near the portals had been wiped out long ago, and only a handful of bosses remained.

The number of bosses was finite. Each one that fell meant one fewer enemy to deal with.

When the last boss died, the exam finally reached its end. Now, two paths lay before Han Wu. The first was to end the exam, leave the civilization, and claim first place. The second was to continue into Infinite Mode, which would be even harder than what he had just survived.

He had three minutes to decide.

He checked his merged units. He had 1,200 Microcosm locusts, which equalled 1,200 Microcosms. On top of that, sixteen other Microcosm units of various types had been born, which represented sixteen high-quality Microcosms.

This kind of growth was far easier than regular cultivation. It was second only to using Stellar Plunder to rip Microcosms directly from his enemies.

Han Wu didn't hesitate. He chose to continue into Infinite Mode to obtain even more Microcosms.

The moment he confirmed his choice, the portal leading to his territory reopened, and three more portals appeared in other directions. Now, four massive portals surrounded his territory on all sides, and the pressure increased immensely.

Han Wu wasn't worried. Instead, he grinned. More portals represented more invaders, and more invaders equaled more Sacrifice units. More Sacrifice units meant more opportunities to merge them into Microcosms fighters. In other words, he would gain way more Microcosms with the new portals. Naturally, he had every reason to be happy.

As Han Wu was celebrating, creatures flooded out from all four portals. The instant they stepped into his territory, they caught Han Wu's scent. It acted like a fatal lure, driving them to ignore the deadly units stationed everywhere and charge straight toward him.

Han Wu positioned his units along their paths and unleashed carnage on the invaders. Even as their comrades fell in droves, the creatures kept charging like maniacs. It was as if landing a single scratch on Han Wu would be the greatest honor of their lives.

While Han Wu was busy organizing his defense, his four avatars each took a specific role. The Sacrifice avatar extracted all the rewards from Sacrifice and sorted them by type; the Avatar Creation avatar spent Energy Points on unit draws and sorted the results; the Merge avatar combined all same-type units into higher-ranked life forms; and the Replicate avatar positioned the merged units where they could maximize their effectiveness.

All four were Han Wu. They shared one mind and coordinated effortlessly. Whenever a powerful invader appeared, the four avatars worked together to erect shields and direct the surrounding units to unleash concentrated fire.

Everything proceeded smoothly until uninvited guests arrived through the portals. They were clearly different from the regular invaders. They all wore tattered robes covered in mud and grime, which made them look like beggars who had wandered in from somewhere. However, their stats were absurdly high.

[Wandering Sorcerer: Microcosm life form. HP: 20,000,000. Movement speed: 1,000. Attack type: Mystic Arts Strike (multi-target). Attack range: 1,000. Damage: 15,000. Attack interval: 10 seconds.]

[Skill 1: Spatial Lockdown. It casts Mystic Arts to seal the surrounding space, preventing any life forms inside from escaping.]

[Skill 2: Chaos Summon. It summons powerful Elemental Spirits or Chaos Spirits to assist in combat.]

Those Wandering Sorcerers didn't rush toward Han Wu like the other creatures. Instead, each one found an unguarded corner and used their own blood to set up an altar. Once the altars were complete, they sat inside them and began casting. Through their combined effort, Spatial Lockdown activated.

If Han Wu still had his Mesocosm powers, those spatial seals would have been nothing to him. He could have shattered them with a wave of his hand. At present, however, his only combat ability came from Replicate. His strength had been reduced to rock bottom.

That was exactly why Di Bin had invested so much time, effort, and resources into perfecting his revenge plot after learning that Imperial College would use this civilization for its exam. Everything was going according to plan.

"Begin the summoning!" Di Bin commanded from thousands of miles away as he directed the Wandering Sorcerers to activate Chaos Summon.

One after another, Elemental Spirits radiating dense elemental energy materialized inside Han Wu's territory.

Han Wu had no idea that any of this was happening.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter