The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

:

Chapter 1111 - Conversion Jurisdiction and Void Jurisdiction

Both sides locked eyes and smiled. The fifteen God Kings stood within the barrier as they looked at Han Wu. Elemental Rejection had already blocked two attacks from Qin Shuang's camp. Confident in its strength, they were certain that Han Wu couldn't break through it either.

Han Wu patted the barrier and felt its resilience. He looked at the fifteen God Kings inside and called out, "Cowards. Come out here if you've got the guts."

The fifteen God Kings bristled at the blatant disrespect. They were important figures, so being mocked so openly by someone younger infuriated them. Nevertheless, they knew all too well that Han Wu possessed the strength to tear a God King apart with his bare hands. Stepping outside simply because they momentarily lost their tempers would be no different from commiting suicide.

The God Kings exchanged glances, nodded, and shouted back in unison, "Get in here if you've got the guts!"

Han Wu cracked his knuckles. "You're the ones inviting me in."

He activated his Divine Ring as he spoke. The World Ring rapidly shifted into the Runic Ring, which consisted of countless runes. Strands of special runes coiled around Han Wu's fists. Those were the very runes Han Wu had obtained long ago, designed specifically to destroy barriers and seals. The barrier before him relied on Elemental Rejection, but its fundamental nature was virtually identical to that of a seal.

The God Kings watched Han Wu assume a fighting stance and instinctively stepped back in alarm. They caught themselves and scoffed. Han Wu was only at the Mesocosm rank. Could he really break a barrier forged by the combined strength of fifteen God Kings?

The answer came the next instant. Han Wu brought his rune-covered fist slammed down. Every ounce of his Mesocosm power flowed through the runes and poured into the barrier without any waste.

That was the same barrier that hadn't suffered even a scratch after taking the Wisdom Light empowered by the Lightning Jurisdiction. Yet violent ripples now erupted across its surface and spread outward from Han Wu's fist in waves.

Crack.

That sound sent all fifteen God Kings into a panic.

"What are you standing around for? Channel your Jurisdictions now and stabilize the spell!" Sol screamed.

If this barrier broke, the other God Kings would still have a chance to survive, but he would certainly die. He was the general of this divine war. Only by killing him could the war end.

Spurred on by Sol's warning, the other God Kings immediately released their Jurisdictions without hesitation and rapidly repaired the barrier before it could shatter. None of them dared to taunt Han Wu again because he could actually do it.

Han Wu grinned mockingly as the fifteen God Kings poured everything they had into maintaining the barrier. Just moments ago they had been unbearably smug. Now they were panicking like cornered dogs.

Still, the fifteen God Kings were no pushovers. Under the constant influx of their Jurisdiction power, the barrier repaired itself before it could fully crack. They even reinforced it just in case Han Wu threw another punch.

Han Wu tested the strengthened barrier by driving his rune-covered fist into it with the same force as before. This time, there was no cracking sound. Only a pale mark appeared on its surface, and even that quickly vanished under the fifteen God Kings' continuous infusion of Jurisdiction power.

Han Wu wasn’t out of options yet. If the runes alone couldn’t do the job, he’d raise the stakes. In the next instant, he erupted with the power of two different Jurisdictions: Conversion and Void.

The Conversion Jurisdiction could transform any form of energy into another type of energy with an attribute that Han Wu himself possessed. The Void Jurisdiction could neutralize any energy with negative energy.

The two forces converged between his palms and merged into a small black-and-white sphere. Han Wu then hurled the sphere at the barrier. It slammed into the reinforced wall, and what happened next stunned the God Kings.

The reinforced barrier offered no resistance whatsoever. The sphere bored straight through, leaving a hole behind, then struck the Azure Blaze God King. It not only sent him flying but also began rapidly devouring the Azure Blaze Jurisdiction power within his body. Then, before everyone’s eyes, the sphere detonated in an icy explosion imbued with the attribute that directly countered the Azure Blaze Jurisdiction. The Azure Blaze God King was instantly encased in a thick shell of Profound Myriad Ice, frozen solid and completely immobilized.

The surrounding God Kings wanted to free him, but Sol stopped them. The Azure Blaze God King was frozen completely. If they carelessly shattered the ice, they would likely shatter him along with it. That would only make things worse. The safest approach was to let the Azure Blaze God King use his Jurisdiction to melt the ice from the inside out. Only after that should the other God Kings work together to break apart the remaining shell and free him safely.

It was a solid plan with one glaring drawback: it needed time. \with Han Wu right outside, time was the one thing they didn’t have.

“Repair the barrier first!” Sol roared. The hole in the barrier filled him with dread. He couldn’t stop imagining Han Wu squeezing through it.

His fears weren’t unfounded. Han Wu’s Everchange Jurisdiction really could allow him to slip through a fist-sized opening and pass through the Elemental Rejection.

Han Wu chose not to. Squeezing through a hole would ruin his image. Besides, since the combination of the Conversion and Void Jurisdictions had proven effective, he could simply scale it up and smash through the barrier in one blow.

With his mind made up, Han Wu gathered energy once more. The Conversion and Void Jurisdictions’ powers converged between his palms again, but this time the volume was tens of times greater than the last shot.

The remaining fourteen God Kings broke out in a collective cold sweat. He was clearly preparing to wipe them all out in one stroke. No matter how much power they poured into the barrier, any effort would be futile against an absolute counter.

Sol had no choice but to use his highest-level clearance to contact Di Zangtian, who was currently facing off against the Death God King.

Di Zangtian stood in the air and looked down at the Death God King. He had told him not to move, and the Death God King had actually complied.

“Without your help, let’s see how that bunch of weaklings can win!” Di Zangtian declared confidently. He had absolute faith in the fifteen God Kings.

Then Sol’s call request came through.

Di Zangtian deliberately set the call to broadcast, intending to crush the Death God King’s fighting spirit. Instead, what came through was the exact opposite of what he had hoped to hear.

“Patriarch, get over here! This kid is insane! We can’t hold on much longer!” Sol’s desperate plea echoed between Di Zangtian and the Death God King.

The Death God King smiled. His gaze sharpened like a hawk’s, and he warned Di Zangtian, “You don’t move, and I won’t move either. Otherwise, you will deal with the consequences yourself.”

Di Zangtian’s own words had been turned against him.

Chapter 1112 - Di Zangtian vs Han Wu

Di Zangtian was pissed and inwardly cursed the God Kings as worthless trash. There were fifteen of them, yet they couldn’t even stop one kid who hadn’t graduated.

Still, he worried that Sol was telling the truth. If Han Wu had really broken through Elemental Rejection, then the moment Sol died, the divine war would end. Forced divine wars attracted the attention of the Divine Civilization’s Will if invoked too many times. They absolutely couldn’t launch a second one on the same grounds.

This was the Chaos Clan’s chance to avenge their humiliation. If they missed it, finding another opportunity would be next to impossible. He had to go back and help the God Kings.

Di Zangtian looked at the Death God King, then activated his authority and teleported back to the command post.

The Death God King had no teleportation privileges inside enemy territory, but he could sense Han Wu's location. He immediately raced toward him at maximum speed. He couldn't let Di Zangtian kill Han Wu.

On Han Wu's end, a massive sphere had already formed between his palms. It contained an enormous amount of power of the Conversion and Void Jurisdictions. Shattering the barrier would be effortless, but what Han Wu wanted was to use this sphere to take out all the God Kings at once. Without hesitation, he launched it.

One hit was all it took to shatter the reinforced barrier. The God Kings scattered in every direction, terrified that they would end up like the barrier.

"Run? You think you can run?" Han Wu said.

With a thought, the sphere fragmented into countless marble-sized projectiles that shot in every direction. Not a single one of the remaining fourteen God Kings escaped the barrage. Even the five Mesocosm units guarding the command post were hit. They had to endure the counter-elemental forces while they burned their own energy to keep the Void Jurisdiction's power from tearing them apart.

A massive amount of Adamantite pinned down Sol. His Lightning Jurisdiction could only exert a fraction of its strength while the Adamantite restrained him. He watched Han Wu close in, and despair gripped his heart.

Suddenly, a figure appeared between them. The Chaos Clan's Patriarch was back. Tears welled in Sol's eyes. He felt like he'd been a hair's breadth from death.

"Kid, I really did underestimate you." Di Zangtian surveyed the surroundings and looked at Han Wu. That dense Mesocosm aura shocked him.

It's only been a few months. How did Han Wu grow so fast? If I gave him another three to five years, he would reach the Macrocosm rank and would become equal to me.

The more Di Zangtian thought about it, the grimmer his expression became. Han Wu was the Chaos Clan's enemy, and enemies had to be eliminated early. Even if it meant facing the consequences from the Wealth Faction, Di Zangtian would kill Han Wu here and now.

Di Zangtian released his Macrocosm aura and brought it crashing down on Han Wu.

Han Wu felt his body grow impossibly heavy. The stone beneath his feet crumbled into powder, but he refused to bend his spine.

“Die!” Di Zangtian attacked without mercy. Chaos Energy took the shape of a colossal multicolored palm and smashed downward.

That strike would have obliterated any Mesocosm life form, but Han Wu wasn’t merely a Mesocosm life form. He could become a Macrocosm life form as well. At the last possible instant, he activated Dragonification and transformed from a human into a nine-headed Great Dragon covered in multicolored jade scales.

It was the Defiant Dragon Emperor form. His nine sets of dragon horns pierced through the descending multicolored palm, which disintegrated without a trace.

Di Zangtian’s eyes nearly popped out of his skull. He couldn’t believe what he was seeing.

“You’re from the Great Dragon race?!” he said through clenched teeth. If only he had known sooner, he would have swallowed his pride, brought gifts, and gone to Han Wu’s door to apologize in person.

It wasn’t the Defiant Dragon Emperor form itself that frightened him. He feared the Great Dragons, especially their god, the Nine-Faced Dragon God. That was a being capable of annihilating the entire Divine Civilization.

Unfortunately, it was too late for regrets. The moment he struck with the intent to kill, his conflict with Han Wu and the Great Dragons became irreconcilable. It could end only with one side’s death.

Di Zangtian understood that. His shock vanished in an instant, replaced by cold, venomous malice. What was done couldn’t be undone, so he decided to commit fully. As long as he killed Han Wu here, then killed every last person who had participated in this divine war, the Great Dragons would never learn the truth.

Di Zangtian attacked again. More than a dozen elemental Jurisdictions blended together in his hands at precise ratios and formed devastatingly potent Chaos Energy. It wasn’t the true Chaos Jurisdiction, but it was even more violent.

Han Wu answered in kind and began gathering energy. Nine pairs of Infernal Dragon Eyes blazed; nine pairs of Radiant Dragon Horns flared with burning light; and the Battle Heart inside him pounded furiously and drove him into a state of frenzied battle readiness.

As the Chaos Energy erupted, Han Wu unleashed his own signature technique, the Chaos Dragon Breath. It was a move only he could produce!

The two attacks collided midair. Multiple elements clashed and merged, which triggered a chain of violent explosions.

The blast hurled Han Wu backward. As for Jia Gui, he had bolted the moment he saw Di Zangtian. The shockwave didn’t touch a single hair on his head.

Di Zangtian could've dodged the shockwave as well and reduced his injuries. However, he couldn't retreat because the fifteen God Kings stood behind him, sealed by various counter-elemental forces. If he pulled back, they would all die. He had no choice but to use his own body to shield them from the blast.

Taking that hit only made him angrier. His strongest attack had merely matched Han Wu's blow. It was humiliating!

To erase that humiliation and to kill Han Wu before the Great Dragons could hold him accountable, Di Zangtian had one option left. He turned toward the God Kings behind him. Their elemental Jurisdiction powers could fuel him.

"The Chaos Clan helped you ascend into God Kings. Now is the time to repay the Chaos Clan!" Di Zangtian shouted.

His Chaos Energy formed into a colossal hand that seized the fourteen of the God Kings, leaving only Sol untouched. He ripped the Jurisdictions from them and absorbed them.

Di Zangtian had no additional capacity to fully wield those Jurisdictions. Their only purpose was to add more elemental types to his arsenal. Chaos Energy worked on the same principle as Chaos Dragon Breath: the more elemental types mixed in, and the higher their quality, the greater its power.

With fourteen additional elemental Jurisdiction powers fueling him, Di Zangtian's upper limit practically doubled. He drew on every stolen Jurisdiction, shaped his Chaos Energy into another hand, and lunged at Han Wu. This time, he would erase Han Wu completely.

Chapter 1113 - The Death God King Arrives

Han Wu once again opened his jaws and fired a Chaos Dragon Breath, formed from twenty-seven unique elements, at the incoming Chaos hand.

This time, they didn't cancel each other out. The hand overpowered the breath, tore straight through it, and continued reaching for Han Wu at blistering speeds.

Even in his Defiant Dragon Emperor form, Han Wu couldn't evade it. It caught him in a crushing grip. His multicolored jade scales groaned under the pressure.

He held on, trying to use the time the scales bought him to free himself, but the hand only squeezed tighter. The five Netherworld Substitutes on his body shattered one after another as Han Wu suffocated.

He even tried activating his trump cards, Minute Hand with Omniversal, but it didn't work. Di Zangtian was standing outside Minute Hand's effective range and could simply control the frozen hand remotely. There was no escape or way out.

"Kid, you're nothing but a worm. It's your fate to be crushed in my fist!" Di Zangtian spat viciously.

Killing Han Wu was his sole objective in this divine war. However, seeing as Han Wu was connected to the Great Dragon race, Di Zangtian would just have to expand his scope and kill every other participant in the divine war as well. That way, even if the Great Dragon race came knocking, there would be no way to prove for sure that Di Zangtian was involved. The whole thing would be untraceable.

With that in mind, Di Zangtian increased his output. The hand squeezed harder. Han Wu's nine pairs of dragon eyes rolled back as he succumbed.

It didn't matter that his Defiant Dragon Emperor form matched Di Zangtian's Macrocosm rank. There was no way he could withstand an opponent with their strength temporarily doubled.

As Han Wu's consciousness was starting to fade, a piercing voice exploded beside his ear. "Extinguish!"

The hand clamping Han Wu dissipated with a *poof*.

Han Wu could breathe again. The Death God King had used his Death Jurisdiction to fuel a particularly powerful Proclamation of Death that killed the hand.

"Death, you ruined everything!" Di Zangtian snarled. He had been so close to finishing Han Wu off when the Death God King ?arrived.

The Death God King shot Di Zangtian an icy glare. "I've warned you. Now, you can deal with the consequences."

His Four Dharma Manifestations materialized behind him, amplifying his aura to a terrifying degree. Each Manifestation fused with its own Jurisdiction's comprehension and transformed into its final form, a Terminal Turret.

The Manifestations' powers blanketed the surrounding area, filling the space with the essence of Desolation, Decay, Void, and Erase. Even someone as powerful as Di Zangtian felt the crushing suppression. The Death God King, on the other hand, drew tremendous strength from this zone.

Han Wu watched in awe. He had also mastered Dharma Manifestation, with every one of his Jurisdictions except Gigantification able to manifest as an independent Manifestation

in combat. The difference was that he hadn't reached the Terminal Turret stage with all of them yet.

With the number of Jurisdictions I have, the pressure I could create when they're all in Terminal Turret form would easily dwarf the Death God King's, Han Wu thought, using his own Death Aspect to acclimate to the suffocating atmosphere of the lifeless zone. Thanks to that Aspect, he too received a slight boost.

Di Zangtian assessed the situation and cast Elemental Rejection around the paralyzed Sol, sealing him in a shell. He couldn't risk a stray shockwave killing Sol. That would prematurely end the divine war and ruin everything.

With that done, Di Zangtian quickly drained the fourteen stolen elemental Jurisdictions. An even more massive surge of Chaos Energy formed, condensing into a towering giant of Chaos Energy in his exact likeness.

Di Zangtian merged into the giant and ran straight at the four Terminal Turrets suppressing him.

Seizing the moment, the Death God King locked on to Di Zangtian's position and condensed his Death Jurisdiction to be many times stronger than before.

He then used the Proclamation of Death again. "Perish!"

Terrifying Death Energy slammed into Di Zangtian as if the distance between them was nonexistent. Di Zangtian endured it with his Chaos Energy. It didn't matter that the Death Jurisdiction surpassed most elemental Jurisdictions. Until his Chaos Energy was fully depleted, it couldn't touch him.

Proclamation of Death consumed enormous amounts of energy, and that supercharged blast completely exhausted the Death God King. It would be a while before he could fire another shot of similar magnitude.

"You can't kill me. All that awaits you is death!" Di Zangtian screamed, ramming into the Desolation Terminal Turret. In just two blows, the Desolation Terminal Turret was on the verge of collapse.

The Death God King was preparing to engage Di Zangtian in close combat when Han Wu tossed him a pair of war scythes—the Reaper's Scythes, obtained through Sacrifice after Han Wu killed the Reaper Mantis with Deathblow. They were bona fide Microcosm weapons.

There was a massive gap between the Microcosm Reaper's Scythes and the Death God King's Macrocosm power, but a weapon of matching attribute was far better than bare fists. The Death God King caught the Reaper's Scythes and channeled his remaining Death Jurisdiction into them.

The scythes seemed to come alive, radiating pressure that spiked to peak Microcosm levels. His power was the perfect match for it.

Armed with the Reaper's Scythes, the Death God King's close-combat ability jumped by at least twenty percent. He launched himself at Di Zangtian. The scythes carved arcs of Death Energy through the air that slashed across the Chaos Energy giant and gouged numerous gashes in it.

Han Wu wasn't standing idly by either, having summoned all of his Microcosms so they orbited him like ribbons that fed him energy. Twenty-seven elements converged on his eyes, dragon horns, and breath.

This was him quietly preparing his own form of Chaos Energy. After all, he had mastered it too, having obtained it from Sacrifice after killing Di Hong of the Chaos Clan.

Let's see whose Chaos Energy is stronger: my twenty-seven elements from the Great Dragons, or Di Zangtian's.

The gathered energy soon reached the limit of what Han Wu's body could handle, and without hesitation, he unleashed a beam of Chaos Energy at Di Zangtian's giant.

The horrifying force nearly shattered the space it traveled through as it blazed toward Di Zangtian. Di Zangtian noticed it too late to dodge, too preoccupied with his shock at Han Wu's ability to wield the Chaos Clan's signature technique.

Han Wu's blast struck Di Zangtian's Chaos Energy giant. The impact was explosive, with the clash devouring more than half of the giant. Di Zangtian could barely hold the remaining parts together.

The Death God King didn't let the opening slip. He swung the Reaper's Scythes down, infusing them with a standard Proclamation of Death.

"Die!"

Death Energy ravaged Di Zangtian's body and ate away at his Life Energy. His flesh withered at a terrifying rate. At the brink of death, Di Zangtian could only grit his teeth and play another trump card.

A towering World Tree with multicolored leaves appeared behind him. Its immense Life Energy and various elemental energies surged into Di Zangtian, restoring him from his shriveled state and filling him with vigor.

: Chapter 1114

Chapter 1114 - Life and Death

Han Wu and the Death God King stared in shock, immediately recognizing the World Tree as a treasure of the Forest Clan. The Forest Clan had ties to the Chaos Clan!

Burning with a mixture of fury and pain, Di Zangtian's aura climbed ever higher as the tree revitalized him. Han Wu and the Death God King weren't wrong. The World Tree was indeed a treasure of the Forest Clan that Di Zangtian had obtained at an enormous cost.

Its purpose was to fully restore his health and energy in a critical moment, and that's exactly what it did. It poured every drop of its Life Energy into Di Zangtian and withered to nothing in return.

This granted Di Zangtian the strength to keep fighting. Once again gathering Chaos Energy, he drained the fourteen stolen elemental Jurisdictions dry, pouring in every ounce of power from his own elemental Jurisdiction on top of that.

A Chaos Energy even denser than before wrapped around his body and turned him into a giant. Han Wu and the Death God King, on the other hand, had been burning through energy at a ferocious pace. Their reserves were bottoming out.

If the fight continued to drag on, the two would die.

The Death God King drew a deep breath and, with the resolve of a man prepared to die, said, "Han Wu, leave and find reinforcements. I can buy you some time."

The old fox, Di Zangtian, was simply too strong, having accumulated unfathomable reserves in his eons of life. Despite being the Divine Civilization's strongest on paper, even the Death God King couldn't withstand the relentless onslaught.

Even so, he didn't lose hope. He believed Han Wu was more talented than himself. As long as Han Wu escaped, he could avenge him later down the line.

"I don't abandon teammates," Han Wu said with a firm shake of his head. "This fight isn't over yet, and we won't necessarily lose."

Di Zangtian's voice turned icy. "You think you have any chance of surviving after pushing me this far? Today, I will kill you. Not even the Divine Civilization's Will can save you."

The Chaos Energy giant charged at the Death God King's remaining three Terminal Turrets. Once those were destroyed, Di Zangtian would go for Han Wu.

Han Wu reached out to the units in his divine realm. Some of the powerful ones, like Steely, had been deployed on the offensive and couldn't return instantly, but his divine realm still housed other formidable beings yet to enter the fray.

The Origin of Mutation was the first to answer the call. Gritting his teeth, Han Wu sliced a chunk of flesh from his own body and fed it to Origin of Mutation. It was devoured without hesitation. After absorbing Han Wu's genes, its form shifted dramatically into a second Defiant Dragon Emperor.

This imitation seemed weaker than the real thing, but that wasn't the Origin of Mutation's fault. Han Wu's Defiant Dragon Emperor form was simply too powerful for the Origin of Mutation to fully sustain.

Even forcing himself into the form through Gene Lock, it could only manage one Macrocosm attack before burning out.

Next, V arrived piloting the colossal puppet, Supreme Power. Supreme Power had developed its own Armament Spirit under V's long-term piloting and could fire off Mesocosm blasts. A single overcharged shot could wound a Macrocosm life form.

After that came the Great Dragons. Di Zangtian's gaze snapped to Silver Dragon King Erebard the instant he appeared—not because of his strength, but because he carried the Chaos Jurisdiction.

The Chaos Clan descended from the Chaos God King. The sight of Han Wu commanding a being that wielded Chaos Jurisdiction felt like a deliberate insult to him and the Chaos Clan.

"Bring them all out. Show me every card you have. Today, I'll slaughter every last one of your units!" Di Zangtian roared, crushing another Terminal Turret.

With two Terminal Turrets gone, his power surged further, the suppression letting up. Meanwhile, the Death God King's aura weakened noticeably. The Dharma Manifestations were linked to his life, and losing two of them came with heavy backlash.

Han Wu's face was grim. Every powerful unit in his divine realm had already been summoned. There was no one stronger left.

Suddenly, an egg shot out from within the Yinglong's den and teleported onto the battlefield. It was the egg the Yinglong King had transformed into.

Han Wu was touched by its actions. It had shown no signs of hatching all this time, but in his darkest hour, it still came to his aid, willing to stand and fight for him.

At this point, Di Zangtian had already crushed the third Terminal Turret. The Death God King suffered further backlash and coughed up a mouthful of blood. His face was ashen.

"A hastily scrounged-together group of rabble. What makes you think you can fight me?" Di Zangtian sneered. His power climbed as he approached the Death God King's last

Dharma Manifestation. Once all four fell, his strength would fully recover, and crushing Han Wu and the Death God King would be trivial.

Han Wu recognized the urgency and commanded his units, “Follow my lead.”

He, the Origin of Mutation, and the Great Dragons gathered their dragon breaths. The Chaos Dragon Breath manifested before Di Zangtian once more.

That move had already burned Di Zangtian once, and he knew better than to meet it head-on this time. Instead, his gaze shifted to the Death God King.

While Han Wu and his allies charged up their breaths, Di Zangtian bypassed the fourth Dharma Manifestation and seized the Death God King in two enormous hands.

“Cancel your breath, or he dies.”

The Death God King was too injured from the backlash to resist. Di Zangtian toyed with him in his hands. While pissed, Han Wu couldn’t ignore the threat. The Death God King had shown him immense kindness. He couldn’t gamble with his life.

Han Wu ordered the Great Dragons and Origin of Mutation to disperse their gathered energy. The Origin of Mutation’s body couldn’t sustain another technique, and he reverted to his original form as the energy dissipated. Han Wu no longer had anyone capable of threatening Di Zangtian.

Di Zangtian laughed victoriously as he stomped the fourth Dharma Manifestation to pieces, his aura exploding to its fullest. With fourteen elemental Jurisdictions, the World Tree’s power, and his own Jurisdictions combined, his strength had reached the peak of the Macrocosm rank.

“I’ve done what you asked. Release the Death God King,” Han Wu said.

“Kid, when did I say I would release him? As a reward for your obedience, I’ll let you watch your precious Death God King die right before your eyes!” Di Zangtian broke his promise without a shred of remorse. His enormous Chaos Energy hand gripped the Death God King’s head and started to twist it off.

Han Wu could almost hear his bones cracking.

“I’ll kill you!” Han Wu roared, about to charge forward.

The egg was faster. It streaked toward Di Zangtian’s Chaos Energy hand in a blur of light.

Di Zangtian didn’t bother defending against an egg. At the last instant before contact, the egg unleashed its true power. Pure concentrated Dragon Fear radiated from within. The

crystalline shell morphed in the blink of an eye, becoming countless blades that hacked into Di Zangtian's Chaos Energy hand.

It only took one strike from the egg to sever the hand. The creature that burst from the egg caught the falling Death God King, saving him from the jaws of death.

Di Zangtian was stunned to discover that the hatched creature had the power of a Macrocosm life form. Han Wu similarly stared in disbelief at the powerful being. He had never seen it before, but it seemed more appropriate to call it the Yinglong Emperor than the Yinglong King.

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: Chapter 1115

Chapter 1115 - Hit and Run

Han Wu rushed to the rescued Death God King.

The destruction of his four Dharma Manifestations had caused catastrophic backlash, and Di Zangtian's attacks had only increased the damage. The Death God King needed time to recover before he could fight again.

Han Wu brought him into his divine realm and ordered his units to tend to him. Across the battlefield, Di Zangtian was reeling from shock and anger at losing an arm to the Yinglong Emperor. Disbelief was mixed in there too. He could hardly believe that Han Wu had another powerhouse under his command.

Then the Yinglong Emperor's aura suddenly plummeted to the Mesocosm rank. The reborn Great Dragon also visibly wilted. Han Wu connected with the Yinglong Emperor through the strands of faith and soon realized the cause was its premature birth.

The Yinglong Emperor needed far more time to absorb the treasures and the pure Energy Stones Han Wu had provided, but had broken out of its shell early when it had sensed Han Wu's danger.

Its actual strength hadn't actually reached the Macrocosm yet. It had simply burned through the reserves stored in the egg to deliver one attack on the Macrocosm rank. Once that energy was spent, the premature hatchling had collapsed into a weakened state.

Di Zangtian couldn't hear Han Wu's telepathic exchange, but he could feel the Yinglong Emperor's frailty. While he knew this could be a trap to lure him in, he had no choice but to press the offense in an attempt to kill Han Wu once and for all.

Seeing this many hidden cards only hardened his resolve. If I don't remove this threat today, the Chaos Clan will never know peace.

Di Zangtian attacked, his remaining Chaos Energy hand swinging down to flatten Han Wu and his units in one blow.

Han Wu scrambled to gather another Chaos Dragon Breath to counter it and barely managed to push Di Zangtian back with the help of the Great Dragons.

This nearly depleted his energy. Even the Great Dragons were running on fumes. If this continued, he would likely end up dying at Di Zangtian's hands.

That was an unacceptable outcome, but Han Wu was out of options. Every one of his trump cards had been played. There was nothing left on the table.

Despite being forced back, Di Zangtian was secretly pleased. That exchange confirmed Han Wu's depleted state and the Yinglong Emperor's weakness. He estimated that it would take three more rounds at most before Han Wu fell, so he pressed the attack, aiming to end it quickly.

Han Wu gritted his teeth and held his ground. Inside, though, despair had already taken root. Luckily, it seemed fortune hadn't abandoned him.

Two figures burst onto the scene. They were the Concealment God King Jia Gui and the Commerce God King! It turned out Jia Gui hadn't run away earlier. He had gone to get help.

Di Zangtian knew who they were and dismissed them as small fry unworthy of his attention, focusing his attacks on Han Wu.

The Commerce God King stood tall and shouted with all the authority he could muster, "Patriarch of the Chaos Clan! Speaking on behalf of the Wealth Faction, you're suspected of conspiring against Han Wu and violating your agreement with the Wealth Faction! Cease hostilities immediately and submit to an investigation!"

Di Zangtian had no intention of listening, but the words "Wealth Faction" made him reflexively pull his hand back and study the Commerce God King more carefully.

The man was weak, at the Subcosm rank at best. He couldn't even survive a single slap from Di Zangtian. There was no way someone like that represented the Wealth Faction.

Concluding that the Commerce God King was bluffing out of desperation, Di Zangtian scoffed and resumed his advance on Han Wu. “Once I’m done with him, you’re next!”

“I told you to cease hostilities and cooperate with the investigation,” Commerce said, fearlessly stepping forward. “Do you think I’m joking?”

Di Zangtian faced Commerce. His stare was as cold as the Profound Myriad Ice. The Commerce God King nearly shuddered from the killing intent radiating from him.

“Get lost!” Di Zangtian’s voice echoed through the space. This was his final warning.

Commerce straightened his neck and stood his ground. “If you refuse my order, I’ll have no choice but to show you what the Wealth Faction is capable of.”

Di Zangtian’s expression turned grave, but his tone remained dismissive. “You?”

“Yes, me.” Commerce was trembling, but his voice held steady. Every second he bought could be the extra time Han Wu needed to turn things around.

Di Zangtian finally paused his assault on Han Wu and studied the Commerce God King. Then, he appeared before him in a flash. His one remaining Chaos Energy hand snatched the Commerce God King up and squeezed.

Commerce wasn’t one to take an attack lying down. He struggled, and though he failed to break free, he did manage to wrench one hand loose. Summoning every ounce of strength he had into that free hand, he slammed it into Di Zangtian’s Chaos Energy fist.

The Commerce God King had an ability that converted all of his accumulated Divine Essence into a single burst of raw power, and years of trading with the Wealth Faction across civilizations had built up a fortune.

His fist landed.

The fortune he had amassed evaporated in an instant, converted entirely into the force behind that single punch. This outwardly casual strike hit with the force of a late-stage Macrocosm life form.

Di Zangtian’s remaining Chaos Energy hand shattered, and the Commerce God King broke free. Dumbfounded, Di Zangtian stood unmoving, unable to comprehend how he’d lost his other hand.

Jia Gui darted in to catch the Commerce God King, and the two of them bolted before Di Zangtian could recover.

“Run!” Jia Gui called over his shoulder at Han Wu.

Han Wu recalled all his units, caught up, and gave them a thumbs-up. “Brilliant.”

As old classmates, Commerce God King and Jia Gui had perfect synergy. Hit-and-runs were a thrill!

“I’ve already reported the situation to the Wealth Faction,” Commerce said as they fled. “As long as we stall, Di Zangtian is done for!”

At that moment, Di Zangtian caught up in his armless Chaos giant form behind them. “None of you are leaving alive!”

Having lost both hands, he instead switched to using the giant’s feet to stomp the three of them into the ground.

“Ura!” A commanding voice rang out from above. “Quite a spectacle down here! Di Zangtian, have you forgotten your agreement with the Wealth Faction? Do you intend to defy the entire Wealth Faction?”

It was Gift God King Shaura of the Wealth Faction.

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: Chapter 1116

Chapter 1116 - Giants’ Aid

Gift God King Shaura’s arrival put Di Zangtian on guard. It meant the Wealth Faction was preparing to intervene in the divine war.

The Wealth Faction had many powerful backers, and Di Zangtian didn’t dare sour his relationship with them. However, given that the Wealth God King Zhao Zihong himself hadn’t shown up, he figured he still had room to maneuver and decided to ignore Shaura entirely in favor of killing Han Wu and his group. He could deal with the consequences after.

Di Zangtian continued bringing his foot down to crush Han Wu and the others.

Shaura casually watched from the sidelines like it was all a show. “You’re openly disrespecting me? Fine, I won’t bother considering your position either. I won’t even lift a finger. These big friends of mine might feel differently, though. Come on out! Ura!”

With a snap of his fingers, an enormous gate materialized on the battlefield. Dozens of giants stepped through one after another. First came the Mesocosm giants, then the Macrocosm ones, and then the deity of the Giant race itself, the Heavenreach Titan.

The pressure of a Threefold Macrocosm life form descended the instant the Heavenreach Titan appeared. The surrounding space felt as though it would shatter at any second. Di Zangtian was completely thrown off.

Turning to face Shaura, he said, “The Wealth Faction is being far too biased toward this brat. You even brought the giant race out for him?”

“Old Patriarch Di, you’ve got the wrong idea.” Shaura scoffed. “The Wealth Faction couldn’t possibly command these giants. Han Wu is the one who drew them here.”

“What?!” Di Zangtian exclaimed in disbelief. What kind of person is Han Wu? How does he have connections to not only the Great Dragon race but also the giant race?

Di Zangtian suspected Shaura was lying, but that doubt dissipated when the Threefold Macrocosm deity Heavenreach Titan flashed a warm grin and waved at Han Wu. That wasn’t the greeting of a superior to a subordinate, but the treatment given to a peer.

It was a despairing sight. There was no way Di Zangtian could fight this many powerful giants. Aware that he would be beaten to death if he tried, he chose instead to make a hasty retreat.

Han Wu sensed Di Zangtian trying to escape and quickly asked the Heavenreach Titan to catch him. It didn’t hesitate.

After all, Han Wu had done the giant race a huge favor by solving their pressing food problem. Helping Han Wu catch one person wasn’t a big deal at all.

Heavenreach Titan released his pressure directly onto Di Zangtian’s Chaos Energy giant and pinned him in place. Di Zangtian knew that being captured meant certain death, so the moment he was pinned, he detonated his Chaos Energy giant.

He rode the explosion’s shockwave straight toward Lightning God King Sol. Sol, still trapped inside the Elemental Rejection barrier, thought Di Zangtian had come to rescue him. Instead, Di Zangtian slammed a vicious palm into his skull the second he arrived, bursting it apart in a spray of blood and brain matter.

Sol’s death marked the official end of the divine war.

Di Zangtian seized the moment to flee the battlefield and escape back to the Chaos Clan’s hidden realm.

Han Wu himself hadn't quite understood how they had won. Everything had happened so fast. He even searched the site of Di Zangtian's detonation but found nothing.

Shaura later informed him that Di Zangtian had escaped. The news left Han Wu deeply frustrated. The giant race's arrival was supposed to have been enough to pin Di Zangtian down, but it seemed the old fox was far too wily for that.

Han Wu considered rallying the giants to go siege the Chaos Clan's hidden realm and demand they hand Di Zangtian over, but neither the Commerce God King nor Shaura knew where the Chaos Clan's hidden realm was located. The only person in the Wealth Faction with this knowledge was Zhao Zihong, and that was classified as a trade secret.

Based on what Shaura knew of Zhao Zihong, the man would never share that kind of information with anyone. Han Wu could forget about prying it out of him.

Han Wu was left to stew in his frustration. The battle had been a rollercoaster from start to finish. Just when his side gained the overwhelming advantage, the enemy had slipped away. Anyone else would've been frustrated as well.

Nevertheless, their victory in the divine war was undeniably good news. Qin Shuang had secured the Lightning God King's throne, and the spoils from this war were enormous. The only regret was letting Di Zangtian escape.

This last point left Han Wu feeling off.

Di Zangtian was a venomous snake. There was no way to predict when he would rear his head again. Han Wu could fend against him while in the Divine Civilization, but he could also attack him elsewhere.

Neither the Wisdom Faction nor the Imperial College was powerful enough to go against Di Zangtia, and Han Wu couldn't let his friends be exposed to constant danger because of him.

While recovering over the next few days, Han Wu made sure to give the giants a warm welcome and thank everyone who made significant contributions during the divine war.

Qin Shuang was generous enough to let everyone take their pick of the spoils—aside from the Lightning Jurisdiction—and everyone walked away satisfied.

Han Wu had contributed most to the war and thus received the most generous reward: the Cores from all fifteen elemental God Kings.

Most had not yet been leveled to 50, but that wasn't a problem with Xu Hai assisting him.

After consulting various texts, Xu Hai confirmed an alternative method for upgrading the Cores of the dead God Kings using core fragments from the Blood Coliseum.

The downside was that it consumed twice as many fragments as the normal upgrading route, and only God King Cores would work. Han Wu wasn't bothered. He could wait, and he could afford it.

I got fifteen God King Cores, but I'm still twenty-five short of forty. Han Wu's thoughts drifted toward the Chaos Clan's hidden realm. If the Chaos Clan can produce fifteen God Kings in one go, that means they clearly have a way to cultivate elemental God Kings. There are probably plenty of God King candidates there right now.

If I can fight my way in, I could easily get the remaining twenty-five Cores. The problem is that I'm not strong enough. Going in would be a one-way trip.

I need to keep getting stronger.

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: Chapter 1117

Chapter 1117 - Forest Gathering

In the Blood Coliseum in his divine realm, Han Wu sparred against Steely using an Obsidrum greatsword. Steely's relentless assault knocked the greatsword from his hands. He had lost again.

"My Lord, you've improved tremendously. You've already pushed me to use fifty arms at once!" Steely praised.

Han Wu nodded. Reaching even half Steely's level in swordsmanship was already a remarkable achievement. This was just one part of his daily training routine.

Whenever he wasn't attending classes, he sparred with his units while suppressing his power to sharpen his combat skills.

The second half of his third year ended in two weeks, and Han Wu was greatly looking forward to his fourth year.

He could request access to the Chaotic Starfield using his position as the fourth-year valedictorian and search for his parents.

However, his defeat at Di Zangtian's hands weighed on him. Despite his strength being among the best at the Imperial College, it still didn't feel like enough.

As he was about to find a few more units to spar with, a call request came in from Sun Qingnian. Han Wu took a short break and answered.

“Han Wu, I’ve got a lead on what you asked me to look into,” Sun Qingnian said.

Han Wu’s eyes lit up. After the divine war, he had been worried about Di Zangtian returning for revenge and had thus asked Sun Qingnian to use his intelligence network to track down the Chaos Clan.

“You found the exact coordinates of the Chaos Clan’s hidden realm?”

“Not exactly. The Chaos Clan might be arrogant, but they’re extremely thorough when it comes to hiding their realm.”

“Then what do you mean by a lead?” Han Wu asked impatiently.

“Relax, let me explain. I didn’t find the Chaos Clan’s hidden realm, but I did dig up something on the Forest Clan.”

Han Wu’s mind immediately jumped to the World Tree Di Zangtian had summoned during their fight to restore his body and energy. If not for that World Tree, Han Wu and the Death God King would’ve killed Di Zangtian.

World Trees existed across many civilizations, and each civilization’s World Tree had unique abilities. Finding one that perfectly complemented one’s strengths was extremely difficult.

Yet, Di Zangtian had managed it, and he employed it using an identical technique to the Forest Clan. The fact that the Forest Clan provided a World Tree of that quality to Di Zangtian indicated a deep connection between them. Following that trail could lead to the Chaos Clan’s hidden realm.

Quickly grasping this logic, Han Wu asked, “So, where’s the Forest Clan’s hidden realm?”

“I’ve sent the coordinates to your inbox. The Forest Clan is hosting a Forest Gathering over the next seven days. Anyone with rare plants can attend. I think you should give it a shot.”

Back when Sun Qingnian and Han Wu were preparing to enroll in the Imperial College, they had trained together in Zombie Town. Han Wu had picked up several special plants there that could serve as his ticket in.

Han Wu nodded. Those plants couldn’t keep up with his growth and had gone unused for a long time, but that was only because his strength had advanced faster than the norm.

Plants took time to grow. Nothing in the world happened overnight. Even when it appeared that way on the surface, it was usually the result of a long period of accumulation finally paying off.

Han Wu had long regarded the plants he had obtained from Zombie Town as regular houseplants to care for.

Among these was the Spectre Vine. Using the Plant Fusion Technique with the Spectre Vine would boost one's physical attributes and recovery while granting Spectral Dash, a skill that combined mobility and offense.

Another was the Mourning Deathcap. It had been planted in the Golden Flower Pot and subjected to constant mutations and evolutions under the Origin of Mutation. As a result, its potential had been increased without limit.

The Mourning Deathcap could absorb Death Energy to grow rapidly. Once it reached the limits of its growth, it would explode and scatter a shower of spores to start a new growth cycle.

Powerful as it was, Han Wu already had locusts as his core race, and Self Detonation was practically their signature move. In the locust community, it was considered shameful not to have mastered Self Detonation, to the extent of embarrassment when greeting another locust.

Han Wu plucked a Mourning Deathcap and placed it on an undead. The mushroom immediately absorbed the Death Energy from the undead's body and swelled rapidly.

A full minute later, the Mourning Deathcap reached its maximum size. It stood as tall as a person and severely restricted the undead's movement. The undead instinctively tried to rip it off, only for the Mourning Deathcap to explode the instant it was detached.

The undead was blown into scattered bones, and a dark cloud of spores spread outward from the blast. Any undead carrying Death Energy that came into contact with the cloud would be infected. If not dealt with quickly, Mourning Deathcaps would take root on the victim's body and sprout more mushrooms.

It was devastating against an undead horde.

The Origin of Mutation also shared some additional findings. Extensive research, cultivation, and mutations had enabled the Mourning Deathcap to feed on more than just Death Energy. Blood Energy, Life Energy, and other energy types all worked as nutrients as well—they simply weren't as effective as Death Energy.

This development satisfied Han Wu. Packing up the two special plants, he headed for the Forest Clan's Forest Gathering.

Seeking to avoid hostility from the Forest Clan, Han Wu split off an avatar of the Life Jurisdiction along with the Life, Creation, Light, and Peace Aspects, as well as Divine Authority 2.

This avatar radiated life and vitality. Nature-lovers couldn't help but be drawn to him. After several transfers, he arrived at the venue. The Forest Clan reception members immediately noted his appearance.

His aura was overwhelmingly natural, like someone born to plant trees, and the Forest Clan members gathered around to welcome him.

The warm reception didn't last long.

Han Wu soon ran into some familiar faces: Ye Qing and Ye Hong. They were the Forest Clan members he had met at the Wealth Faction auction. Both of them frowned the instant they saw him and felt the surging life energy radiating from him.

Ye Qing leaned in close and whispered, "Han Wu, you should leave. Our patriarch doesn't like you. He's forbidden us from associating with you."

Han Wu was speechless. What did I even do?

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: Chapter 1118

Chapter 1118 - Plant Trading

Han Wu tried his best to get some clarification, but Ye Qing and Ye Hong simply repeated the same line back at him. "Our patriarch doesn't like you. He's forbidden us from associating with you."

It seemed excessive for the Forest Clan's patriarch to meddle with the younger generation's associations. Han Wu wanted to curse, and he even found himself spiraling into self-doubt. Am I some kind of monster?

He hadn't done anything to wrong the Forest Clan. In fact, he once lent them a massive sum when they were short on Microcosms. Of course, the Forest Clan had repaid it, so the debt was settled, but that didn't change the reality that Han Wu had done them a favor. This treatment made no sense. He could only chalk it up to the Forest Clan's patriarch, Ye Feng, being stubborn and narrow-minded.

Ye Feng had forbidden his clan from associating with Han Wu. However, he hadn't banned Han Wu from attending the Forest Gathering, so Han Wu presented his two special plants to the Forest Clan members for evaluation.

The Spectre Vine received a Grade 6 rating, while the Mourning Deathcap earned a Grade 9.

By the Forest Clan's standards, Grades 1 through 3 were low-tier special plants with slightly more cultivation value than ordinary plants. Grades 4 through 6 were mid-tier plants that had solid cultivation potential. Grades 7 through 9 were considered high-tier, with highly unique traits and enormous cultivation value.

Above that lay the special tier. The most iconic example was the World Tree, which had a baseline rating of Grade 10—its true rating fluctuated based on the specific abilities a given World Tree possessed.

The seeds of the special plants could serve as both merchandise and currency at the Forest Gathering. Han Wu hadn't paid much attention to the Spectre Vine these past few years, but it had actually accumulated several sacks of seeds through its natural growth and reproduction cycles.

He handed over ten Spectre Vine seeds as the entrance fee. That got him in smoothly and also earned him a booth.

Vendors had already set up stalls everywhere. Seeds, fully grown special plants, and treasures crafted from said plants lined the displays. Han Wu even spotted a stall selling a mature Grade 9 Wisdom Tree with a listed price.[1]

The vendor wanted either a mature special plant of the same grade, a single Grade 10 or higher seed, or 100,000 Microcosms.[2]

Han Wu smacked his lips. Is a single Wisdom Tree really worth that much? My Mourning Deathcap is also Grade 9. Is it really worth 100,000 Microcosms?

That many Microcosms could theoretically cultivate up to a hundred Subcosm life forms. Even if that was just a theoretical ceiling, the price tag was staggering.

Mind still racing, Han Wu set up his own booth and laid out his Spectre Vine seeds. He didn't set a fixed price. Instead, he put up a sign saying that he'd accept mature special plants of Grade 6 or above, or high-tier seeds. Exchange rates were negotiable. After all, he had plenty of Spectre Vine seeds to spare.

The Mourning Deathcap planted in the Golden Flower Pot was another matter entirely. The pot's immortality property only applied to that one Grade 9 Mourning Deathcap, and while its spores technically counted as seeds, they had extremely short lifespans and

couldn’t survive without Death Energy. This meant Han Wu couldn’t sell them, or he would’ve struck it rich from spores alone.

A customer wandered over almost immediately. He looked at the Spectre Vine’s effects and seemed interested but wasn’t sold on the value. That was until he noticed the sacks of seeds behind the booth.

His eyes lit up as he made some mental calculations. If he bought all the Spectre Vine seeds and used them on his units, then acquired a set of Plant Fusion Techniques, he could build an entire legion capable of appearing and vanishing at will, killing without a trace.

That had enormous value!

“Hey boyo, where did you get all these Spectre Vine seeds? Normal special plants can’t produce seeds that carry the same special properties,” the man asked, skeptical about the goods’ origins.

Han Wu didn’t bother explaining and simply pulled out the Jade Flower Pot that the Spectre Vine grew in. This pot allowed whatever was planted in it to produce special seeds every cycle.

“Now that’s a treasure.” The man let out an admiring sigh. With his doubts cleared, he got straight to negotiating, “Boyo, I’ve got a mature World Tree. If you’re interested, we can make a trade. I’ve got one condition, though. You’ll need to throw in that Jade Flower Pot.”

Han Wu’s eyes went wide. A World Tree had a baseline evaluation of Grade 10 and could go higher depending on its abilities. On top of that, this man was offering a mature World Tree. That meant Han Wu could skip the entire cultivation process and put the tree to use right away.

A mature World Tree could easily be exchanged for a mature Grade 9 special plant or a Grade 11 seed, yet this man wanted to trade it for Grade 6 Spectre Vine seeds.

Even factoring in the Jade Flower Pot, the combined value of the Spectre Vine seeds couldn’t compare to a World Tree at Grade 10 or above. It wouldn’t even match a Grade 9 Wisdom Tree seed. The man didn’t seem to be joking, though.

Han Wu grew suspicious.

“Let me see the World Tree first. I need to examine its abilities,” Han Wu said, strongly suspecting the man’s World Tree had some kind of defect. Every civilization produced different World Trees, and it wasn’t unusual for some to end up with bizarre and useless abilities.

The man's expression turned awkward. "Boyo, I'm already giving you a World Tree. You're getting an incredible deal here. Don't worry about its abilities."

Han Wu rolled his eyes. What's the point of a World Tree if I can't use it? Am I supposed to keep it as decoration?

Seeing Han Wu's stubbornness and realizing that other customers were starting to gather, the man relented with a sigh, "Fine, take a look. It'll cost you one Spectre Vine seed, even if you don't agree to the trade after seeing it."

Han Wu was mostly curious about what kind of World Tree could make its owner this uncertain, so he flicked a seed off his display and tossed it over. "It's yours."

The man caught the seed with a smile. Trade or no trade, he'd at least gotten a freebie.

Producing his World Tree, the man handed it to Han Wu for inspection. Han Wu took the sealed card and sent his perception inside to examine its information.

His eyes went wide. This World Tree was something else, alright. No wonder its owner had no confidence in it.

1. As an amateur gardener, this is somewhat hilarious to me. ☜

2. Reminds me of the 1000 dollar Philodendron I saw, and they called it entry level... ☜

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Chapter 1119 - Azurecea Merchant Guild

Within his perception, the World Tree stood a hundred meters tall. Ordinary bark didn't cover its surface. Instead, wrinkled faces covered the trunk. Some were human, some belonged to beasts, and others resembled insects. The whole tree looked deeply unsettling.

Its abilities unfolded within Han Wu's mind.

[World Tree: Womb Peach (Grade 10)]

[Ability: Absorbs surrounding life forms as nutrients and uses them to grow Womb Peach fruits. Any life form that consumes a Womb Peach will receive a massive boost in strength, but they will also be cursed. The curse requires the consumption of another

Womb Peach within a set period to alleviate its effects. With each additional consumption, the curse's intensity will increase.]

Han Wu examined the information, and a look of dark amusement crossed his face.

This World Tree was a walking cautionary tale among its kind. Other World Trees nurtured worlds, elevated civilizations, and could even evolve into a Will of a Civilization through the reverence of all living things. On the other hand, the Womb Peach destroyed the life forms within its world. It was worse than an enemy.

Which world birthed this thing?

Han Wu owned plenty of Microcosms, though. He didn't mind cultivating a World Tree with such a twisted ability. He would simply dedicate one Microcosm to housing it, toss in slaves on a regular schedule, and harvest the Womb Peaches once they ripened. He could then use the fruits to forcefully strengthen his other expendable life forms.

The method was admittedly unethical. Fortunately, Han Wu had never carried much concern for ethics, so he wouldn't lose any sleep over it.

The Jade Flower Pot and the Spectre Vine were useful enough, but they had limited practical value for him. He had more Spectre Vine seeds than he knew what to do with. Trading a pile of things he didn't need for a World Tree with a built-in self-destruct feature wasn't a bad deal overall.

While Han Wu was thinking it over, the man assumed he was about to reject the tree just like everyone else. "Done looking? Hand it back, and I'll try my luck at the next stall."

Han Wu pocketed the card without a second's hesitation. "Congratulations, the deal is done. The Jade Flower Pot and all these Spectre Vine seeds are yours."

The man's jaw dropped. He hadn't expected anyone to actually accept. He stared at the Jade Flower Pot and the sacks of seeds Han Wu pushed toward him, and regret quickly crept in.

His World Tree was Grade 10, while the Spectre Vine was only Grade 6. No matter how many seeds Han Wu offered, quantity alone couldn't close that gap.

"Wait, my World Tree is Grade 10, and your Spectre Vine is only Grade 6. You need to pay more!"

The man tried to back out, but Han Wu never returned anything once it had entered his hands. They had negotiated fairly. The other party's sudden change of heart wasn't his problem.

He released his Mesocosm aura directly onto the man. “You think I’ve been too generous with you?”

Under the terrifying aura, every cell in the man’s body trembled. He instantly realized Han Wu wasn’t someone he could afford to provoke.

“Fine! I’ll trade! I’ll trade!” the man agreed in a trembling voice. He hurriedly gathered the Jade Flower Pot and the seeds, then walked away. Only after putting a hundred meters between them did he turn around and shout, “You cheat! Just you wait! You dared threaten the Azurecea Merchant Guild? Our management won’t let this slide!”

Han Wu was busy cleaning up his booth and didn’t hear a word. With all his goods sold out, he started browsing the other stalls for special plants that would suit his needs.

At one stall, something caught his eye. It was a special plant called Titanwood. Its rating was only Grade 7, so it was hardly rare. Its sole ability allowed it to grow to an enormous size. What truly caught Han Wu’s attention was the faint energy signature that resonated with his Gigantification Jurisdiction. Ever since he had merged with it, his progress with it had been disappointing. He simply hadn’t found the right resources to develop it.

Han Wu was certain that cultivating the Titanwood would provide his Gigantification Jurisdiction with the energy it needed to advance rapidly.

Just as Han Wu picked up the sealed card to ask the price, a figure shoved his way in front of him. The man snatched the card from his hand and called out to the vendor, “Shopkeep, the Azurecea Merchant Guild is taking this plant!”

He then turned and deliberately raised his eyebrows at Han Wu.

Han Wu immediately understood that someone was targeting him. He spread out his perception and quickly located the man who had sold him the Womb Peach Tree. He was lurking nearby and watching him intently. Evidently, the two were working together, and both belonged to the Azurecea Merchant Guild.

Han Wu searched his memory, but the name Azurecea Merchant Guild meant nothing to him. That could mean one of two things: either the guild was too small and obscure, or it was large but rarely operated within the Divine Civilization. Given that he had just pressured one of their people with his Mesocosm aura, a truly small organization would’ve swallowed its pride and steered clear of him.

“Ten Microcosms, it’s yours,” the vendor said quickly.

The vendor’s panicked reaction upon hearing the guild’s name confirmed the latter.

“Ten? That’s too expensive. Half price. I’m one of the Azurecea Merchant Guild’s vice presidents. The name’s Qing Mu. Here’s my card.” Qing Mu held out his business card.

The vendor accepted it with both hands and examined the energy within it. It didn't seem fake, and his face immediately lit up. He was just a freelance merchant with a modest influence. Having the Azurecea Merchant Guild as a backer, even for minor favors, would solve plenty of problems for him.

The vendor certainly knew how to play the game. "Half price would be an insult! Please, take it. Consider the Titanwood my gift to you."

Qing Mu nodded in satisfaction. He held the sealed card between two fingers and waved it in front of Han Wu. See that? This is the reputation of the Azurecea Merchant Guild.

Han Wu watched the whole performance. He wanted to laugh and walk away, but the Titanwood was exactly what his Gigantification Jurisdiction needed. There was no telling when he would come across a suitable substitute.

For the sake of growing stronger, Han Wu swallowed his pride. "I know what you're doing. This plant is important to me, however. Name your price. If it's reasonable, I'll buy it."

"Now that's straightforward! I like straightforward people," Qing Mu said, "Since you know what this is about, I won't waste your time. You want this Titanwood? Trade me the World Tree you swindled from my brother."

The Womb Peach Tree was Grade 10. The Titanwood was only Grade 7. The gap between them was enormous.

Han Wu didn't bother replying. He simply turned and walked away.

Qing Mu stepped forward and grabbed Han Wu's shoulder. "Stop right there! Did I say you could leave?"

Han Wu seized him, flipped him over his shoulder, and slammed him into the ground.

The commotion drew the attention of nearby onlookers. A patrol team composed of Forest Clan members quickly surrounded them. "You two have violated the Forest Gathering's no-fighting rule. Please come with us."

: Chapter 1120

Chapter 1120 - Mediation

Within the Forest Gathering's detention room, Han Wu and Qing Mu sat across from each other. The person assigned to mediate their dispute was someone Han Wu knew: Ye Xiao.

Ye Xiao looked at the two of them and felt a headache coming on. Han Wu had shown up uninvited, but his connections were absurd. He had the Death and Wisdom Factions behind them, and he had also close ties with the Wealth Faction. He wasn't someone anyone wanted to offend.

Meanwhile, Qing Mu was one of the vice presidents of the Azurecea Merchant Guild and the younger brother of its president, Qing Ping. The guild wasn't well known within the Divine Civilization, but it was renowned across many foreign civilizations. The Forest Clan also relied on the Azurecea Merchant Guild for several business dealings.

Neither man was someone Ye Xiao could afford to cross. On top of that, Han Wu had thrown Qing Mu to the ground. The injury itself was mild. It barely even qualified as a scratch, but the incident had happened in public. If the Azurecea Merchant Guild didn't receive a satisfactory response, they would cut off their business relationship with the Forest Clan.

Ye Xiao's headache worsened. He couldn't afford to offend either side, but he still needed to hear both accounts. After questioning them, the root of the conflict became clear. Han Wu had traded a large quantity of Grade 6 Spectre Vine seeds for a Grade 10 Womb Peach Tree.

Even a Grade 10 World Tree with lousy abilities could still be exchanged for a mature Grade 9 special plant or a Grade 10 seed without any issue. The problem was that this particular World Tree had been traded for a pile of Grade 6 seeds and a Jade Flower Pot. The combined value wasn't low, but it wasn't an equivalent to the value of the Womb Peach Tree.

When Ye Xiao raised that point, Han Wu explained that the other party had set the terms and he had simply agreed to them. Qing Mu countered that Han Wu had used his strength to intimidate the seller into accepting the deal.

The two argued back and forth until Ye Xiao sent someone to retrieve the surveillance footage from the booth area.

The truth was plain as day. The Azurecea Merchant Guild member had tried to raise the price after the deal had already been finalized, and Han Wu had only intimidated him afterward.

Qing Mu's face contorted. His own man had been the one who had broken the rules!

For a merchant guild, integrity was everything. Agreeing to a deal and then trying to renegotiate afterward was a stain on the Azurecea Merchant Guild's reputation. If word got out, how were they supposed to conduct business?

Qing Mu was angry, but he still had to protect his people. “Even if my man was in the wrong first, how are you going to take responsibility for threatening a member of my guild? Do you think you’re completely blameless for causing this situation?”

“So you’re saying that he can fool me and that I’m supposed to just forgive him? Is that how the Azurecea Merchant Guild does things?” Han Wu shot back. He had no intention of being a pushover for someone else’s benefit.

Seeing the situation was about to devolve into another fight, Ye Xiao yelled at both of them to calm down. “You both know what happened now. Both sides are at fault. My suggestion is to settle this and move on.”

He desperately hoped that they would choose to resolve this matter amicably. Han Wu said he didn’t care either way, though he did insist on getting the Titanwood. Qing Mu flatly refused to settle. Han Wu had to pay for what he had done.

Han Wu smiled brightly at that. Even in foreign civilizations, where he had no backing, he wouldn’t have feared some merchant guild. This was the Divine Civilization, his home turf.

“Go ahead and try. See if I end up paying any price at all. I guarantee I won’t. On the other hand, you should worry about making it out of the Divine Civilization in one piece,” he said with a grin that almost made the words sound like a joke.

Ye Xiao had dealt with Han Wu before and could hear the threat beneath his smile. He had also heard that Han Wu had recently gone toe-to-toe with Di Zangtian and walked away unharmed. In fact, he had emerged so unscathed that he was still able to join the Forest Gathering!

It was evident that Han Wu’s strength and reputation were nothing to scoff at within the Divine Civilization. If Han Wu decided Qing Mu wouldn’t leave, there was a ninety percent chance that Qing Mu wouldn’t. In fact, he would most likely die outright. If that actually happened, the entire situation would turn into a disaster.

While Ye Xiao was panicking, Qing Mu scoffed. “I’d love to see you try to keep me here.”

Ye Xiao wanted to punch the man. Had he never heard the saying that one shouldn’t fight a local bully in their home turf?

He quickly turned to Han Wu and pleaded on Qing Mu’s behalf, “Han Wu, the Azurecea Merchant Guild is an important partner to the Forest Clan. For the clan’s sake, please let this go.”

Qing Mu, however, mistook Ye Xiao’s goodwill for the elder underestimating the guild’s strength.

“You don’t need to worry about me, friend from the Forest Clan. Today, I’ll show this brat just how powerful the Azurecea Merchant Guild really is.” With that, he called someone. “You two, get to my coordinates now. Someone here says he’ll keep me trapped in the Divine Civilization forever.”

From his earlier scuffle with Han Wu, Qing Mu already knew he was no match for him in a fight. However, as a vice president of the Azurecea Merchant Guild, he didn’t need to fight his own battles.

Moments after Qing Mu ended the call, two Mesocosm life forms arrived. They took positions behind Qing Mu like twin iron towers.

“That’s the one. Break his legs!” Qing Mu ordered.

The two powerful life forms struck without hesitation. The pressure of two Mesocosm life forms erupted from them as they attacked Han Wu simultaneously.

Ye Xiao immediately stepped in front of Han Wu. He wasn’t protecting Han Wu, though. He was protecting Qing Mu and his two bodyguards.

“What’s the meaning of this?” Qing Mu demanded, displeasure thick in his voice.

Ye Xiao couldn’t be bothered to explain. All Qing Mu cared about right now was beating Han Wu to vent his frustration. On the other hand, Han Wu surprisingly showed Ye Xiao a surprising degree of respect. Even with two Mesocosm life forms bearing down on him, he didn’t make a single move.

“Han Wu, give me a chance. I’ll handle this properly,” Ye Xiao said.

“Fine.” Han Wu agreed calmly.

Ye Xiao turned to Qing Mu. “Young man, I’m going to contact our patriarch and President Qing Ping so we can resolve this properly. Please try to stay calm.”

Qing Mu’s expression flickered, but he maintained his tough facade. “Call my sister all you want, but he will still end up in pieces.”

Ye Xiao gave Qing Mu a deadpan stare and said nothing more. He dialed the emergency channel and called for Patriarch Ye Feng to come sort out the mess.

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