

The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 13 - Exam

It was just past noon, and the sun was high in the sky as Han Wu entered his new classroom. He sat at his desk when Qin Shuang approached him. He didn't notice that she had been waiting for him for quite some time.

She didn't greet him. Instead, she grumbled away, looking stern and yet could not stop herself from pouting. "Have you reconsidered becoming my slave?"

Han Wu was speechless. *Why is she so persistent in turning me into her slave?*

"Qin Shuang, I'm no longer weak. I finally have the power to protect myself. Stop trying to enslave me!" Han Wu snapped back.

Qin Shuang didn't give up. "You are immature if you still don't understand why I am doing this for you. Do you have any backing or resources? You don't have any. Do you think you can become better than the others just by having more locusts? You are naive. While you are talented in nurturing your locusts, you have to understand that they are inherently weak. Your dwarves are amazing, but unfortunately they aren't your core race..."

She droned on and on but Han Wu ignored her words.

"I understand, but I won't become your slave. By the time the exam is over, you will know why," Han Wu replied simply before entering the landing pod and waited for the exam to start.

Qin Shuang felt that her efforts were for naught and left angrily.

Zhang Xiaolong saw his goddess turned down by Han Wu and was even more furious. *Han Wu, I will make sure that you disappear from her sight forever!*

Tian Wen, their homeroom teacher, soon entered the classroom. He projected his Demigod visage onto the interface of the students' landing pods and proceeded to give a brief explanation of the upcoming test.

"The major exam this time is organized by the school and will directly affect the allocation of resources for each class. This is an important exam so I hope that every student here will do their best for the sake of their future. I will naturally reward those who perform exceptionally. I have a lot of resources on my hands like Sacred Objects, divine realm pieces, fragments of cores, and armies. Try to pry them from my hands with your results."

The students were buzzing with excitement after hearing that.

"I will now send out the rules for this exam. Please read them carefully." Tian Wen sent out the rules to the interface of every student's landing pod.

Han Wu read through for a few minutes and gained a rough understanding of what was going to happen.

The test would be similar to those of previous years. It would be split into two different stages. The first stage would be the qualifiers while the second stage would be for the rankings.

The qualifiers were simple. Every student would receive the same level of difficulty. Those who passed would obtain one point for the class, while those who didn't would be expelled. It was harsh but necessary. For the Divine Civilization to continue thriving, it had to weed out the weak and support the strong. Only the strong would obtain more resources, while the weak would be cast aside.

Only students who passed the qualifiers would have the right to continue their studies. They could then assess their units before choosing to stop the exam or continue.

Those who chose not to continue would not be placed onto the ranking board, but those who proceeded to the next stage and succeeded would earn the right to have their name etched onto the ranking board.

This would then be the basis of the second stage, the ranked exams. The ranked exams required the students to face an infinite wave of enemies. Those who passed a stage would earn a point for their class, increasing their ranking as well.

The top three classes would be calculated based on the ranking board itself. The school would then give out resources and rewards to the students on the ranking board.

Han Wu checked the rewards at the end of the document and grew excited.

[Students with their names on the ranking board: A random resource card]

[Top 100: A piece of divine realm terrain worth 100 Divine Points. Type of terrain is up to the student]

[Top 50: One Sacred Object]

[Top 30: Increased Growth Card. Increases the reproduction rate of units by 5 times for a duration of 10 divine realm years]

[Top 20: Rank 1 Building: Temple. Activates a Rank 1 skill, Low-tier Divine Light. Increases healing speed of injured units within a hundred meter radius of the building]

[Top 10: One Divine weapon of choice worth 100,000 Divine Points]

[Top 5: One Unique Seed. Ascends a single Elite life form to Unique]

[Top 3: Core level+1]

[Top 1: One Divine Essence]

The prize for first place was enough to turn a student into a billionaire!

More importantly, Tian Wen hadn't yet told them what his reward would be in case one of his students placed first.

I must go all out for the reward! Han Wu thought excitedly.

The exam started ten minutes later.

Han Wu transformed into a ray of light as he shot past the void. However he didn't emerge in his divine realm this time.

The other students also shifted into human-shaped lights, moved towards a golden spinning wheel, and quickly surrounded it. Han Wu looked around and counted roughly seven hundred students. He could also sense the presence of his homeroom teacher, Tian Wen, as well as the head of student affairs, Xu Mei, inside the golden wheel.

Han Wu was certain that the other homeroom teachers were inside the golden wheel too. Not only were they responsible for ensuring the smooth process of the exam but they were also present to ensure that none of the students cheat.

Just as everyone was fully gathered around the golden spinning wheel, a mechanical voice rang out. "The first qualifying stage for the exam will soon start. Students, please brace yourselves."

Many of the students were worried because they didn't want to get expelled. Even the top ten students of each class were worried.

"Countdown. Three, two, one, zero!"

Han Wu was instantly transported back to his divine realm.

He immediately noticed a massive one-way gate at the edge of his divine realm and could sense a sinister aura drifting from the gate.

He quickly rallied his units for battle. Soon, he heard noises coming from the other side of the gate. The noises were faint at first but grew louder and louder until something finally came through it.

A horde of fleshy demonic beasts walked out from the gate, shocking Han Wu almost to the point of fainting.

This is just the qualifier! Are they nuts?

Han Wu had seen those creatures before. Those demons, called Flesh Golems, were from the Demonic Civilization. Though they were Common life forms, they had the combat abilities of Elite life forms. More importantly, their thick skin and tough muscles were extremely resistant to attacks. They were recognized as high-quality fodder.

Thankfully they had one big flaw: they were very slow. Han Wu was confident that he could completely destroy them.

He commanded 50,000 Magma Locusts to explode on contact with the Flesh Golems.

In an instant, the terrain around the Flesh Golems was transformed into a field of lava. All 10,000 Flesh Golems had to suffer the intense heat as they waded through the lava. Unfortunately, they were slow, and a swarm of Bomber Locusts were harassing them in the sky above.

A lot of the Flesh Golems died on the field of lava. Surprisingly, a fragrant aroma wafted from their searing flesh as they continued to sizzle on the lava. Han Wu noticed the pleasant scent and ordered some Scorching Dwarves to drag some of the dead Flesh Golems back to feed his Common locusts.

Han Wu was surprised to discover that his locusts could digest the corpses and even benefit from the cooked Flesh Golems' nutrients. He immediately had a brilliant idea.

He quickly swapped the two Rank 1 Sacred Objects from the Core with the Rank 2 Sacred Object, Law of Gluttony, from his Hive.

After being affected by the Law of Gluttony, his locusts were overcome by an insatiable hunger, rapidly consuming every organic matter within the divine realm, including the Flesh Golem corpses. The locusts engorged themselves, with many of them growing and evolving into Elite life forms.

Han Wu chuckled with pleasure. He had 10,000 cooked Flesh Golems prepared for his locusts and he managed to obtain 5 million Elite locusts within five hours. He decided to call them the Glutton Locusts.

He was ecstatic. *This isn't a test, it's a feast! I hope the stages after this would be similar!*

He quickly used Increased Growth to accelerate the reproduction of his locusts.

Chapter 14 - Bet

The qualifiers continued without any incidents.

The Flesh Golems continued their assault and many students suffered as a result.

The twelve homeroom teachers could monitor every student's divine realm from within the golden wheel. As the battles progressed, the teachers started voicing their complaints one after another.

"Sigh. One of my students has been eliminated. I was hoping he would succeed."

"I've lost twenty students from my class. That's one third of them getting expelled."

"I'm having it worse. Almost half of my students have been eliminated. Isn't the test too hard this time?"

Xu Mei coughed as a signal for them to stop complaining. "The principal is personally leading three deputy principals to fight at the frontlines of the Demonic Civilization to secure more resources for us. They must have their reasons for choosing the Flesh Golems as the test this time."

With that reminder, the teachers started voicing their support and approval for the principal's actions, quickly forgetting their earlier dissent.

"Yes, yes, yes, you are right. We just need to make sure to follow the principal's order, isn't that right?"

"Yes, we will believe in our principal."

Xu Mei finally smiled a little when Tian Wen clapped happily and exclaimed, "Good job! To think that he's using the nightmarish Flesh Golem as food for his race!"

The other homeroom teachers quickly checked Tian Wen's interface that was locked on Han Wu's divine realm. They were shocked to see Han Wu's locusts devouring the invading Flesh Golems.

"I didn't know there's a race that could withstand the poison of the Flesh Golems."

"*Haha!* He's even roasting them before feeding it to his race! I never thought he would be so sophisticated."

"The locusts can withstand Flesh Golem poison? This is a new discovery! We need to research it afterwards."

The homeroom teachers praised Han Wu as his locusts feasted on the Flesh Golems, but Liu Letian frowned.

"Hmph! He's just lucky. His locusts are weak when it comes to strength," he said spitefully.

"Mr. Liu, I disagree with what you've said," Tian Wen immediately countered.

He had never seen eye-to-eye with Liu Letian, so he seized every chance he got to tease the latter.

Tian Wen continued, "Luck is also part of someone's strength. Look carefully; his locusts are by no means weak."

Tian Wen enlarged his screen and showed Han Wu's Sapper Locusts to everyone.

One of the homeroom teachers with an inspection-type Divine Skill checked the information on the Sapper Locust. "Is that a Unique life form? Even though it's on the bottom rung of the ladder, it's still a Unique life form."

Liu Letian huffed indignantly. "It's still a locust even if it's a Unique life form. Its overall combat capabilities would be equivalent to a Common goblin. In fact, it might be weaker in some aspects."

"Mr. Liu, I don't think that it's right to always compare the weak points of a locust with the strength of the other races. The locusts can reproduce hundreds of generations within a single year. Can the goblins do that?"

"Tsk. I don't want to argue with you about those useless facts. We will see who will win in the end. One of my students, Liu Mo, has goblins as his core race. Shall we bet and see who will score higher? I am positive that Liu Mo's score will be better than Han Wu's. Do you dare to step up and bet on Han Wu winning instead?"

Liu Letian was already pissed and wanted to find a way to vent. Tian Wen and Liu Letian had been enemies for a long time, so Tian Wen couldn't resist and fell for Liu Letian's taunt.

"Sure! I bet that Han Wu will score better than Liu Mo!"

Liu Letian chuckled. "Alright. I want everyone here to oversee this bet. If I win, I want five Divine Essence from you. Can't afford to stake five Divine Essence on your student?"

Tian Wen did not back down. "Fine, but if you lose, you will owe me five Divine Essence instead."

Liu Letian clapped happily. "Alright, let's do it. Whoever loses will hand over five Divine Essence to the winner."

Liu Letian was certain Liu Mo would score better. Liu Mo was his nephew and to gain an edge in the exam Liu Letian had given him a lot of resources in hopes that he would be able to excel.

Liu Letian was also certain that Tian Wen wouldn't give Han Wu too many resources, especially with so many talented students in his class. Han Wu's performance still wasn't quite enough yet to gain Tian Wen's attention for preferential treatment when it came to resources.

The two homeroom teachers came to an agreement for the price of their bet as the qualifier was ending. Only 430 students remained out of the 700 students. Their passing rate was barely 60%!

The homeroom teachers frowned, reading the statistics within the golden wheel. It wasn't a good result, especially when 130 more students decided to forfeit the ranked exam.

One of the more temperamental homeroom teachers cried out, "Those useless cowards!"

"Don't blame them. The difficulty for the test is unusually high this time. It's normal for someone to forfeit after everything."

"After this, we should focus on nurturing the students who survived the grueling exam."

The homeroom teachers nodded as they checked the names of the students who wanted to advance to the ranked exam.

The cold machine-like voice announced to the remaining 300 students, "The ranked exam will now start."

An even more sinister presence started to emanate from the depths of the gate accompanied by the sound of a peculiar clacking. The students grew anxious, not knowing what they would be up against.

Soon, the invading race revealed themselves for the first time. They were skeletons, and there were 100,000 of them.

Both the homeroom teachers and the students were stupefied, sharing the same thought. *Is that it?*

Skeletons were the weakest among the demon races. In a war they were almost always used as cannon fodder. Also, the first wave for the ranked exam was just a wave of Common skeletons, the weakest of them all. There wasn't even a single Elite skeleton among them.

It was basically a free win!

The 130 students who gave up on the ranked exams instantly regretted their choice. They wouldn't have given up if they knew they would be facing off against mere skeletons.

Unfortunately, it was too late. The students could only admit that they had been too cowardly.