

The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 15 - Born with a Golden Spoon

Han Wu carefully observed the skeleton army and frowned. Having skeletons as the invading race was both a benefit and a drawback for him.

It was beneficial because the skeletons were weak—a single Bomber Locust could easily defeat them. However, the skeletons had no flesh, leaving the locusts with nothing to feed on. Han Wu had billions of locusts waiting for food to complete their Evolution Path. He sighed in frustration. *I have no choice but to continue to fight.*

He ordered his billions of locusts to attack simultaneously. A single locust might be weak, but a billion were more than enough to devastate kingdoms.

The billions of locusts swarmed into a massive dark cloud, crashing directly into the skeleton army. The swarm lifted numerous skeletons into the air, dropping and shattering them into scattered bone fragments. Some skeletons, however, managed to crush a few locusts before being carried away. With the sheer number of skeletons overwhelming the locusts, they couldn't lift them all quickly enough.

The noise from the battle was overwhelming. Although the locusts and skeletons were taking each other down, given their sheer numbers, both sides barely suffered any damage. It very much felt like a fight between two infants.

The fight ended two hours later, the battlefield littered with bone fragments and locust remains.

The ravenous locusts, still influenced by the Law of Gluttony, devoured the remains of their fallen companions to satiate themselves.

Before long, only a large field of yellow bones remained—a truly harrowing sight. Determined to keep his divine realm unsullied, Han Wu ordered his locusts to gather the bone fragments and burn them in the dwarves' forge.

About ten locusts were needed to lift up a single piece of bone. *Thankfully, I have enough surviving locusts to complete the task with ease,* he thought.

Han Wu didn't even have the opportunity to rest when the second wave started. Once again, 100,000 skeletons attacked, but this time, they were primarily Elite Iron Skeletons.

Using the Common locusts against the Elite Iron Skeletons was ineffective, so he once again resorted to the Bomber and Magma Locusts combo.

The Bomber Locusts would distract the enemies while the Magma Locusts would explode, killing a large portion of the enemy and subsequently forming large patches of lava that would annihilate the surviving skeletons. After all, even the Iron Skeletons couldn't survive for long in the field of lava.

The second wave was soon defeated using this method. Han Wu devised a new strategy after observing how efficient the lava was in killing the skeletons.

In order to prevent the lava field from cooling, he periodically detonated the Magma Locusts above it. In addition, he had the Scorching Dwarves use the forge to melt a large quantity of ore, then pour the molten material onto the lava field.

In this way, Han Wu had effectively created a massive kill zone, surrounding the gate with a lava field engineered to instantly roast any emerging life form to death. The heat was so intense, it could easily strip the flesh from a regular life form.

The skeletons that marched out of the gates could barely do anything before they turned to ashes.

Han Wu simply needed to wait and let Steely cut down any surviving skeletons.

And so, he effortlessly breezed through the next few waves, his score steadily increasing until he advanced into the top thirty.

The homeroom teachers were astounded by Han Wu's ingenuity, and continued to observe him from within the golden wheel. Unlike the other students, who relied solely on their races and equipment to defeat the skeletons, Han Wu applied his intellect, creating a deadly field of lava instead!

In spite of the pressure from the ongoing battle, he had devised a swift, efficient and clever method, immediately distinguishing himself from the other students. Unlike the other teachers, however, Liu Letian regarded Han Wu's ingenuity with disdain. "What's so good about his strategy?" He sneered. "He might think he's amazing enough to survive seven waves, but Liu Mo has also done the same."

At Liu Letian's words, the homeroom teachers shifted their focus to Liu Mo's divine realm, closely observing his ongoing battle.

Within his divine realm, Liu Mo instructed his army of goblins to arm themselves with larger bone fragments from the bone-littered field.

A few homeroom teachers also noticed that Liu Mo's goblins had also succeeded in finding an Evolution Path to ascend from Common to Elite. After receiving training, the Common goblins had ascended to become Elite Hobgoblins. Hobgoblins were stronger and more muscular than Common goblins, with their overall combat strength surpassing even that of Flesh Golems.

The homeroom teachers also noticed that Liu Mo had a lot of structures in his divine realm. They roughly counted about thirteen Rank 1 Archer Towers, nine Lightning Towers, twelve Fireball Towers, and many other buildings in Liu Mo's divine realm. The combined value of the buildings was at least 10 million Divine Points.

The homeroom teachers all came to a collective conclusion. *Liu Mo was born with a silver spoon!*

Liu Letian was secretly pleased upon noticing how shocked the other teachers were. After all, the only reason Liu Mo's divine realm was so prosperous and had so many buildings was because of his uncle, Liu Letian. Liu Letian had also helped Liu Mo complete the Evolution Path for his goblins.

Convinced it would all be worthwhile, Liu Letian was determined to make Liu Mo secure first place.

However, he had barely savored his brief moment of glory when the attention of his fellow homeroom teachers was again drawn to another student's divine realm.

Qin Shuang's divine realm was fortified by a hundred Rank 1 Lightning Towers and at least 300,000 Elite Thunder Sparrows.

She also had 100 Unique Ancient Treants as her regular race to assist her core race. Additionally, she had managed to nurture her first Heroic life form, the Golden-Crown Thunder Sparrow.

The invading skeletons barely lasted five seconds before they were engulfed by lightning which turned their bones to dust—an overwhelming force the skeletons could never hope to compete against.

The homeroom teachers observed her battle, stunned beyond belief.

"The young lady of the Qin family is astounding!"

"There's no competition here. The others might've been born with a silver spoon in their mouth, but Qin Shuang was born with a golden spoon instead!"

"This is ridiculous. I'm already a Demigod, yet I don't have nearly as many resources as her."

"I've heard that Qin Shuang is one of the top three students. With that kind of power, shouldn't she be ranked first instead?"

Liu Letian's heart ached upon hearing Qin Shuang receive such praise. She was stolen from him! Her results were supposed to count towards his teaching achievements, but now Tian Wen would receive sole recognition.

It's all Han Wu's fault! I must get revenge! he thought.

Liu Letian's resentment towards Han Wu grew even stronger.

However, the other homeroom teachers didn't notice Liu Letian's shifting mood. After all, they were closely monitoring their screens, searching for exceptional students they could later nurture.

Zhang Xiaolong, Xu Sun, Huang Fei... They were all students that could contend for the top ten strongest for the year.

The exam continued, and soon the tenth wave was over. Only eighteen students remained in the exam, and Han Wu was one of them.

"The eleventh wave will soon start and the difficulty will increase greatly. Students, prepare yourself," the mechanical voice boomed, cautioning the students.

The remaining students warily examined the gate as they prepared for another grueling war.

However, there was no army this time. Only a single individual walked out from the gate. In spite of that, the homeroom teachers erupted into shouts and curses at the unexpected sight.

The invader this time was a Heroic life form!

Chapter 16 - Suspicions of Cheating

The homeroom teachers wouldn't have been too shocked had the invader been a regular Heroic life form.

It was a well-known fact that a single Heroic life form, even one as strong as Steely, wouldn't be able to single-handedly fight against a large number of enemies.

However, the Heroic life form that appeared this time was different. Despite being notoriously weak among Heroic life forms, its strength could drastically surge—even rivalling the higher ranked Lord life forms—under a specific condition: being in an environment saturated with bones.

[Name: Osteomancer.]

[Race: Skeleton.]

[Rank: Heroic.]

[Talent: Osteomancy, Bone Convergence.]

The moment it appeared on the field, the scattered bone fragments on the ground flew towards the Osteomancer like metals attracted to a magnet.

Ten waves of skeletons meant a million skeletons' worth of bone fragments was scattered around the area—enough to pile up into a large bone mountain.

Through skillful manipulation, the Osteomancer encased itself in the bone fragments and transformed into a massive mountain-sized bone giant which immediately displayed its overwhelmingly destructive force. It could easily shatter mountains with its large fists and crack the earth with every step.

The other students who had relied entirely on the abilities of their races in the earlier waves now suffered heavy losses. Within a mere three minutes, eight students were forced to withdraw from the exam owing to severe damage to their units, while the ten remaining students were doing all they could to withstand the giant's onslaught.

However, one of them was having a far easier time than the others. The homeroom teachers had no idea how to provide a satisfactory score for Han Wu.

An Osteomancer *did* invade his divine realm. Nevertheless, the absence of bones in his divine realm, most of which had been previously burned to ashes, rendered the Osteomancer powerless. All it could do was prance around in the lava field that Han Wu had created and be such an easy target that Steely effortlessly sliced it into eighteen pieces.

The Scorching Dwarves picked up the Osteomancer's remains as material to forge some Faith equipment.

Thus, Han Wu emerged as the first of the ten remaining students to successfully pass the eleventh wave.

"That's cheating! He must be cheating!" Liu Letian immediately accused Han Wu of using underhanded means to attain this victory. He just couldn't stomach the thought that Han Wu effortlessly defeated the Heroic Osteomancer.

The other homeroom teachers also began to consider that possibility, because he had cleared the wave way too easily. Some even went as far as to suspect that he might have had prior knowledge of the invading race.

Tian Wen immediately stood up for his student, declaring, "I object to that."

Liu Letian threatened, "Tian Wen, are you really attempting to protect your student even though he cheated? Do you want me to bring the authorities into this?"

"You are publicly accusing my student of cheating. How can I take it lying down? What proof do you have to back up your absurd claims?"

Liu Letian scoffed. “Proof? Do we even need that? Everyone here is smart enough to see how suspiciously Han Wu dealt with those bones. Who would deliberately clean up a bone-strewn battlefield after battling a skeleton army?”

He took a deep breath and continued, “Only someone who knew in advance that an Osteomancer would appear would do that. He was probably clearing off the bones so he could reduce the strength of the Osteomancer! I strongly believe that he must’ve had foreknowledge of the invading race. He is undeniably cheating, and the school needs to investigate this immediately!”

Tian Wen fell silent. Though he trusted Han Wu, it was still too much of a coincidence.

Xu Mei stepped in to diffuse the situation and said, “Excuse me, all of you. I have a few things to say regarding Han Wu’s results. The contents of this exam were decided by the principal moments before it started—even I had no idea what race the students were to face before the exam began. If Han Wu received any clue about the invading race before the exam, then there’s only one explanation: the principal told him about it. Mr. Liu, do you think the principal would do something that stupid?”

Liu Letian broke into a cold sweat. If he continued to accuse Han Wu of cheating, he would also be indirectly suggesting that the principal aided him. A God like the principal would never allow themselves to be questioned, not even by Demigods.

Liu Letian dared not risk it, immediately retracting his statement. “Maybe I was wrong. Han Wu must’ve been very lucky to defeat the Osteomancer.”

Even so, Liu Letian couldn’t bear to see Han Wu getting such good results, so he continued, “However, even assuming he did not cheat, Han Wu’s result is still unfair to the other students.”

The other homeroom teachers collectively looked at Xu Mei, realizing that they were at a disadvantage because of Han Wu’s excellent performance so far. With Han Wu around, their students stood no chance to win first place in this competition. Only if he was suppressed could they secure access to preferential treatment for resources.

Xu Mei, however, chuckled mockingly. “Mr. Liu, you are a highly respected Demigod, yet you have no idea how incredibly stupid you sound. The Divine Civilization has never been fair when it comes to nurturing the next generation—only the strong receive resources. No matter how Han Wu achieves his results, as long as he doesn’t cheat, he will be credited for them.”

“Also, while we’re on the subject of fairness, don’t you think you’ve overstepped your boundaries as a teacher and secretly given your nephew extra resources? Do you think it’s fair to your other students? Is it fair to them that Qin Shuang’s family could give her tens of millions of Divine Power for her to build her divine realm?”

Liu Letian grew quiet, realizing Xu Mei had already investigated everything about him.

“You bastard! So Liu Mo was your nephew! No wonder you used him to bet against Han Wu!” Tian Wen exclaimed, instantly understanding that Liu Letian had planned beforehand to trap him. Though, he suddenly remembered how easily Han Wu had defeated the Osteomancer and chuckled.

“To think you shot yourself in the foot. Han Wu has passed the eleventh stage, but it seems your nephew might be in trouble. There has been a significant surge in difficulty, after all.”

With that “helpful” reminder, Liu Letian hastily checked Liu Mo’s divine realm. Unfortunately, the Osteomancer was on a rampage. Many of the buildings had been destroyed and numerous Elite Hobgoblins had been trampled to death.

Liu Mo tried to withstand the assault of the bone giant but failed. He had to surrender. In the end, Liu Mo clinched seventh place. It wasn’t bad, but he couldn’t surpass Han Wu in the end.

Tian Wen chuckled with pleasure. “If the results weren’t obvious before, they are now. My student passed the eleventh stage while Liu Mo, your nephew and student, failed. Mr. Liu, I know that you are not so dishonorable as to back out on our bet with everyone present. Hand over the five Divine Essence you owe me.”

Liu Letian really didn’t want to, but he couldn’t embarrass himself any further. He gritted his teeth and reluctantly took out five Divine Essence from his divine realm, condensed them into a card, and handed it over to Tian Wen.

During the process, however, he warned, “Keep those five Divine Essence well because I will take them back one day.”

Tian Wen received the card eagerly and responded, “Thank you for the Divine Essence. Also, I will make sure the day you speak of will never arrive.”

The ranked exam continued even after their bet had concluded.