

The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 201 - Sending Emergency Supplies

With the dawn of the new day, Han Wu could now summon additional units. He lacked Gold Coins but recalled the nest of the Chainsaw Ants nearby. Although he had moved the altar out of the nest, he knew many Chainsaw Ants still remained inside. Each ant yielded 1 Gold Coin, so Han Wu hoped to gather enough coins by eliminating more of them.

Without wasting time, he ordered his newly summoned Black Skeleton and 50 Iron Skeletons to wipe out the Chainsaw Ants. Meanwhile, the fifteen Scorching Dwarves would focus on gathering resources.

The rest of his forces received instructions to scout out the territory and locate the altars of other creatures. Han Wu had previously spotted Boulbears and rabbits in the area, so he hoped their altars would be close by. Once they received their orders, the army moved swiftly and worked diligently.

Feeling bored, Han Wu checked the group chat to see if any new members had joined. Fortunately, several students had upgraded their shelters to Level 3 in the past two days. Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian were also active in the group. Han Wu reached out to both, forming a small group chat to discuss their situations.

Qin Shuang had summoned the Thunder Sparrows as Lancers that could shoot electricity. Their capability of flight also meant they were good at scouting. Their ability to fly also made them effective scouts.

In contrast, Sun Qingnian was struggling. His Foxmen served as Physicians who could heal allies but were nearly useless in combat. His strategy involved slowly wearing down the surrounding beasts while relying on his Foxmen's healing skills to keep the army alive. It was a slow and grueling process.

Han Wu decided to inform the others about the calamity. Qin Shuang showed no concern. Her Thunder Sparrows excelled at wide-range attacks, and she trusted their power. Sun Qingnian, however, felt uneasy. The laws of this place worked against Supports like him.

As Sun Qingnian prepared for what felt like his final moments in this major class, Qin Shuang suddenly alerted him that her Thunder Sparrows had located a small group of Foxmen. Sun Qingnian's spirits lifted immediately. He quickly confirmed with his own Foxmen and found that she had indeed found his Foxmen.

Relief and excitement washed over him. He no longer faced dropping out with Qin Shuang protecting his flank. It was like food falling into his lap just as hunger hit. The Foxmen could also heal Qin Shuang's Thunder Sparrows during the calamity, improving both their chances of survival.

Han Wu felt a surge of jealousy. He had never imagined their shelters would be this close. As he sighed, a message from his Skeleton Knights caught his attention. They had spotted a team of goblins armed with wooden clubs and shields, suggesting they were organized rather than wild. The skeletons asked for confirmation on whether to attack.

Han Wu suspected the goblins belonged to one of the students. He considered sparing them, but before he could decide, the goblins struck first, relying on their numbers to overwhelm the skeletons.

Han Wu chuckled, glad to have a reason to fight. "Smack them senseless!"

The Skeleton Knights obeyed, launching into battle with explosive force. Even without weapons, they used their strong bones to trade blows and quickly overwhelmed the goblins. Afterward, the skeletons reanimated more from the fallen goblins, swelling his army by another hundred units. At the same time, he gained a sizable fortune from the spoils.

The goblin skeletons could still use some of their old equipment, but what truly stunned Han Wu was the discovery of 500 Gold Coins. That single haul covered half the amount he needed. He grinned, realizing that one more goblin group would be enough to activate the fourth altar.

That was when a student's complaint popped up in the group chat.

[Wei Yuan: Is anyone near me? My goblins found a group of wandering undead as powerful as a boss monster. I can't defeat them alone. Is anyone willing to ally with me to destroy them? I'm offering a split: 70% for me, 30% for you.]

[Undead? Disgusting undead in this civilization? Wei Yuan, it's best not to provoke them. You won't win.]

[What is there to fear? My units are the Physician Light Emissaries. Their skills can easily cleanse the undead.]

Wei Yuan boasted in the group chat.

[Wei Yuan: I don't think any of us have skeletons as a core race. I doubt these undead belong to any of us. I will lead my goblin army to kill them and earn plenty of Gold Coins. I'm going to be rich!]

Han Wu grinned as he read the messages. For the first time, resources were marching straight to his doorstep. He didn't know if Wei Yuan would end up rich, but he was certain that he would.

He commanded the Skeleton Knights to hold their position while four half-dragons waited in hiding, ready to ambush. Soon, a force of 500 goblins marched into the area and confronted the Skeleton Knights. The two sides fought without any intention of negotiation.

The Skeleton Knights, Bonehound, Boulbear, and goblin skeletons charged fearlessly into the goblin army. At the same time, the four half-dragons sprang into action, ambushing the goblin forces from the flanks.

The goblin army displayed remarkable discipline, forming three battalions. The front line held the Vanguard, armed with wooden clubs and shields. Behind them stood goblins carrying baskets filled with stones on their backs. These slingers served as Archers. At the rear were the Physician goblin shamans. Though few in number, they could easily cast buffs to strengthen the frontline goblins.

This formation represented just the initial line of a large army. Han Wu knew that if the goblins had greater numbers, they could wreak serious havoc. Yet the goblins before him had a critical weakness: each individual was fragile. Even the strongest goblin shaman, though Unique, lacked real combat skill.

The tough skeletons only needed to charge into the army to prove their dominance. The Bonehound, fastest among them, used its Wicked Dog Pounce to tear open a gap in the formation. This breach allowed the Skeleton Knights to surge through.

The Skeleton Knights smashed goblins senseless with their fists, while the goblin skeletons followed, clubbing their former comrades to death. This brutal assault wiped out half the goblin army in the battle's opening phase, and Han Wu raked in a hefty profit.

He soon collected enough Gold Coins to activate his fourth altar, summoning the Archer Dark Cursed Bugs. Since each unit was weak on its own, Han Wu could summon 500 of them despite his altar being only Level 1.

[Elite Dark Cursed Bug (Archer). Skills: Shadow Meld, Shadow Nails. Who said locusts are weak? Underestimate them, and despair will find you the moment they silently assassinate you.]

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[1,145 words]

Chapter 202 - Level 5 Shelter

The 500 Dark Cursed Bugs flew out as scouts, dispersing across the area. Their ability to fly allowed them to easily gather detailed terrain data. Soon, they returned with news of a rabbit gathering spot. Hundreds of plump rabbits clustered there, surrounding a lone altar shaped like a rabbit.

Han Wu sent one of his half-dragons to investigate and soon obtained 60 Gold Coins, 80 Rabbit Meat, 93 Rabbit Pelts, and one Level 2 altar.

[Level 2 Infantry Altar: Rabbits. It can be used directly or as material to upgrade an existing altar.]

Han Wu laughed. Only an idiot would use such a useless altar. He then used it along with the Wild Dogs Altar as materials to upgrade his Skeletons Altar. Unfortunately, the two altars failed to raise its level.

This was only the beginning, though. Within an hour, they discovered a Wolves Altar. Since Han Wu's skeletons had slain most of the wolves the previous night, only old, weakened wolves guarded it now.

Han Wu ordered ten Dark Cursed Bugs to attack at once, and they easily secured the altar. When he inspected it, he was surprised to discover it was Level 4. Without hesitation, he used it to upgrade his Skeletons Altar. The altar absorbed the experience and leveled up, presenting him with three new upgrade options.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 2 (Rare): Summon 10 additional Unique Skeleton Knights.]

[Option 3 (Precious): Summon an additional Heroic Golden Skeleton.]

Han Wu chose the third option without hesitation. As he confirmed it, a golden skeleton emerged from the altar, wielding a sharp bone blade. Its golden body gleamed with toughness, the blade shimmering like gold despite patches of dried blood darkening its surface.

Han Wu inspected its data.

[Heroic Golden Skeleton. Skills: Gold Bone, Undead Slash, Skeleton Commander. This is a general of the skeletons. Its strength is determined by the number of skeletons under its command.]

Han Wu's eyes gleamed with excitement. He had never expected to find a treasure like this. The Golden Skeleton was not only powerful but also capable of commanding other skeletons. Yet, he had no idea just how potent its abilities were.

Coincidentally, the Skeleton Knights were returning at that moment, bringing with them a swarm of goblin skeletons. At the same time, the Dark Cursed Bugs discovered a massive wasp hive nearby. The hive buzzed with life and seemed to conceal hidden treasures deep within.

Han Wu entrusted the Golden Skeleton with the task of destroying the hive. The skeleton led all 600 goblin skeletons, charging straight toward the hive.

Through the interface, Han Wu monitored the battle closely. As the skeletons reached the hive, the Golden Skeleton immediately issued precise commands.

The goblin skeletons quickly fell into formation, mimicking the tactics they had once used in life. Those with wooden shields and clubs formed the front line, while slingers positioned themselves in the center. At the rear, goblin shaman skeletons raised their short staves, channeling energy into the group. The formation was simple but brutally effective, especially against the wasps, whose only form of attack was launching venomous stings.

The first volley of stones tore through the swarm, killing hundreds of wasps instantly. As they died, their venomous stingers dropped as loot. Enraged, thousands more erupted from the hive to retaliate. However, the skeletons were made of bone, rendering the venomous stings useless against them.

The Golden Skeleton seized the opportunity to counterattack. A single Undead Slash swept through the swarm, killing thousands of wasps at once. The goblin skeletons then launched another round of stones, cutting down even more.

They repeated this cycle several times until the wasps were completely eradicated.

After the battle, the intelligent Golden Skeleton gave the order to clean up the battlefield. The goblin skeletons collected the venomous stingers, dismantled the hive, and retrieved two altars hidden within it. Among the spoils, they found a Level 3 Archer Altar: Wasps and a Level 2 Worker Altar: Wasp Queens.

Han Wu felt like he'd struck gold. He immediately used the Archer altar to upgrade his Dark Cursed Bugs Altar, while setting aside the Worker altar for later.

In the group chat, Han Wu had learned that many students only possessed Vanguards, Lancers, Archers, Infantry, Physicians, and Technicians. None had acquired Workers, Light Cavalry, or Heavy Cavalry yet, making the Worker altar a rare and valuable resource. He suspected he could sell it at a high price once trading became available.

His Dark Cursed Bugs Altar quickly leveled up after absorbing the Archer altar, reaching Level 2 and unlocking three upgrade options to choose from.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned Dark Cursed Bugs.]

[Option 2 (Rare): 5% chance to summon a huge Dark Cursed Bug. Unique life form. Skills: Shadow Meld, Shadow Nails. This larger version of a Dark Cursed Bug boasts upgraded stats.]

[Option 3: 2% chance to obtain a new Skill, Shadow Shield.]

The second option was technically the strongest, but Han Wu passed on it. His Dark Cursed Bugs served as scouts; they didn't need strength, just numbers. The more he had, the farther he could explore.

He picked the first option, doubling the number of summoned Dark Cursed Bugs. Another 500 flew out from the altar, and Han Wu immediately dispatched them to scout a wider area around his shelter.

Night fell before the Scorching Dwarves dragged their weary bodies back to the shelter. What awaited them were grilled rabbit meat and sweet honey. The Scorching Dwarves didn't disappoint either as they had returned with a mountain of Wood, Stone, and Iron.

Han Wu spent 4,000 Wood, 4,000 Stone, 1,000 Iron, and 2,000 Gold Coins to upgrade his shelter. Under his careful watch, the structure underwent a dramatic transformation. The mansion expanded, and a solid metal fence now enclosed everything within a one-kilometer radius. All of it belonged to him.

With the shelter upgraded to Level 5, four reward options appeared.

[Option 1: Botanical Garden. You can plant different plants in the area. Plants grow and mature 100 times faster.]

[Option 2: Smithy. It's equipped with all of the tools necessary to forge equipment.]

[Option 3: Clinic. Injured units heal 10 times faster in it.]

[Option 4: Zoo. You can raise wild animals within.]

Han Wu reviewed the choices with his skeletons in mind. The Botanical Garden could provide Food and Wood, but it held little use for him now, so he discarded it. The Clinic was unnecessary since his skeletons could rejuvenate by chewing bones. Then there was the Zoo, which baffled him. His land covered only a one-kilometer radius. Was there even enough space for a zoo?

One by one, he ruled them out until only the Smithy remained. With the Scorching Dwarves helping and plenty of materials at hand, it was the obvious choice.

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[1,290 words]

Chapter 203 - Calamity

Han Wu confirmed his selection, and the construction of a smithy automatically took place in a corner of his land. The process took ten minutes, and soon the brand-new smithy stood ready.

Curious, Han Wu stepped inside and found it fully equipped, capable of holding ten blacksmiths at once. He nodded approvingly and ordered his Scorching Dwarves to start forging weapons using the materials in his storage.

The Scorching Dwarves were thrilled to finally forge equipment again, and they eagerly set to work as the steady clang of metal rang out from the smithy. Three hours later, they completed their first batch of weapons. Due to the limited resources available, they crafted them from the Chainsaw Ants' mandibles, skillfully shaping them into serrated daggers.

Han Wu named the creation the Chainsaw Dagger. While it performed poorly in battle, it proved surprisingly effective for logging. He instructed ten of his Iron Skeletons to use the Chainsaw Daggers to cut down trees around his property. Though darkness had fallen, the skeletons showed no fear and no fatigue. They dashed into the night, chopping wood efficiently for Han Wu.

Han Wu felt confident he had made the right decision by designating the skeletons as his first altar. They feared no death, fought fiercely, and worked tirelessly for hours. They were the perfect laborers for any greedy corporate master.

After sending his units to work, he returned to his mansion and stretched out on his bed. He opened the group chat to check everyone's progress. Almost every student had upgraded their shelter to Level 3, though their experiences varied widely.

Some had started in easier locations, which made leveling up their shelters relatively smooth. Others ended up stranded in the desert, where gathering enough wood took them three full days—let alone gathering resources to upgrade their armies.

Then there were students like Wei Yuan, who had recklessly challenged a powerful monster without understanding their own limits. Their armies were wiped out, and they lost vast amounts of resources.

Han Wu scrolled through the updates, keeping a close eye on Li Chunming. The guy seemed to be thriving. He chatted non-stop in the group and had even started flirting with some of the female students, trying to convince them to build their shelters close to his.

Han Wu scoffed. "I will let you gloat for a few more days."

Just then, Sun Qingnian sent a message in the private group chat the three of them shared.

[Sun Qingnian: Li Chunming just sent me an invitation. He wants me to move my shelter closer to his since he discovered the Wight Ruins. There are swarms of wights emerging from that place. Apparently, we can gather plenty of resources by killing them, and there's even a chance to obtain rarer materials.]

Qin Shuang replied as well.

[Qin Shuang: Yeah, he invited me too, but I turned him down. I don't like him.]

Han Wu nodded.

[Han Wu: Li Chunming is being too conspicuous. He won't live for long. Sun Qingnian, find out where his shelter is. Once we've built up our army, we'll wipe his base out.]

Sun Qingnian snickered.

[Sun Qingnian: I was waiting for you to say that. Don't worry, I'll use my silver tongue to find out exactly where he is.]

Han Wu then reminded them about the impending calamity. It was coming soon, and he preferred to believe it was true. Caution had never cost him anything.

Just after they ended the chat, Duan Meng sent him a message.

[Duan Meng: Han Wu, the calamity will arrive tomorrow. Are you ready?]

[Han Wu: I am ready.]

He had upgraded his shelter to Level 5 and even had a Heroic Golden Skeleton guarding the place. He was prepared for anything.

[Duan Meng: Good. I'm looking forward to buying some strong altars from you. By the way, Han Wu, have you found any ruins near your location?]

Ruins again. Li Chunming had been eagerly discussing the Wight Ruins he had discovered. Han Wu was now certain that these ruins held great significance, yet he had found none himself.

[Han Wu: I haven't found any yet. What exactly are they?]

[Duan Meng: This is information I got from my brother about the ruins. They appear to be sites left behind by once-glorious races. Inside, you can face a series of trials. If you clear them all, you'll claim the treasures these races fiercely protected before their decline.]

"I see. No wonder Li Chunming is bragging so much," Han Wu muttered. They had just entered the Warring Kingdom Civilization, so even the inheritance of a fallen race promised valuable rewards.

[Duan Meng: Han Wu, please, let me know if you come across any ruins you're not interested in. I'll offer a good price and buy it off you.]

Han Wu smiled.

[Han Wu: Sure, no problem.]

Han Wu finished messaging her and felt a wave of sleepiness wash over him. Since arriving here, part of his abilities had been sealed, and his body itself seemed weakened. He needed to sleep at least once a day, or frustration would take hold.

He drifted slowly into slumber, resting until dawn. The moment sunlight spilled across the sky, a sharp, shrill voice pierced his mind and roused him. It announced something urgent.

"My foreign guests! The Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization has discovered all of you and prepared a magnificent welcome party. Please enjoy it!"

Han Wu then spotted three notifications blinking on his interface.

[The Boulbear Alpha has received the directions of the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization. It has located your shelter. Please prepare for battle.]

[The Noirwolf Alpha has received the directions of the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization. It has located your shelter. Please prepare for battle.]

[The Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization has opened a gate. You will receive the challenge from the Heroic Light Emissary.]

Han Wu suddenly heard howls of wild beasts coming from outside of his shelter. He glanced out and saw a gate materialize beyond his perimeter. A humanoid life form in pure white robes stepped through. It surveyed the skeletons guarding the front gate of Han Wu's estate with clear disdain, then casually tossed a cleansing grenade.

One of the Unique Skeleton Knights took the blast and shattered into scattered bone fragments instantly. It perished without any warning.

Fury surged through Han Wu. Something had killed his Skeleton Knight on his own turf. He refused to let this intruder act freely.

Bursting from his room, he shouted, "All units, prepare for combat!"

No matter the distance, his entire army received his command and responded immediately, grabbing their weapons and gathering before him. Even the Iron Skeletons, who had been cutting down trees, dropped their axes and sprinted toward the estate.

The Boulbear Alpha and Noirwolf Alpha, along with the Light Emissary, ordered their forces to attack. Several Boulbears used their powerful limbs to tear through the iron fence. Their brute strength bent the metal into twisted shapes. The wolves seized the opening and surged into the estate, launching their assault on Han Wu's army.

Han Wu laughed. The wolves were inexperienced and unaware of the power of formations. The idea that Han Wu held the home ground advantage within his estate had never once crossed their minds.

He commanded his army to strike. The skeletons poured out and slaughtered the invading wolves and Boulbears alike, while the half-dragons stood at Han Wu's side as his guards.

The Heroic Golden Skeleton stood motionless, its spiritual flames burning fiercely as it locked eyes with the Light Emissary. It vowed to fight until its body shattered if the Light Emissary so much as moved a finger.

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[1,085 words]

Chapter 204 - Post Calamity Rewards

The skeletons were clearly losing to the Boulbears and wolves, as many Iron Skeletons lay shattered on the battlefield. Han Wu let out a sigh. Without the Osteomancer and the

Skeleton Reanimator, the skeleton army was incomplete and faltering. Thankfully, the Black Skeleton Knights held their ground. They ripped through wave after wave of Boulbears and wolves, all while continuously summoning fresh skeletons from the fallen.

Gradually, the battle shifted in Han Wu's favor. The two alphas roared in fury, unable to bear the sight of their underlings falling and rising again as enemies. Still, Han Wu feared the Black Skeleton Knights wouldn't hold out for long. To strengthen their line, he sent in two half-dragons to assist.

The Light Emissary couldn't remain passive any longer. It had assumed the alphas would crush the vile undead, never expecting the skeletons to multiply so quickly. Determined to end the threat personally, it raised its arm and condensed a sphere of sacred light the size of an aquarium.

At the same moment, the Golden Skeleton condensed black energy along its blade. The two struck simultaneously: the Light Emissary launched the orb of sacred light, while the Golden Skeleton unleashed its Undead Slash.

Their attacks collided, canceling each other out.

Enraged, the Light Emissary gathered more sacred light for a stronger strike. The Golden Skeleton charged forward, blade ready to meet the assault head-on.

They traded blows through several fierce bouts and suffered injuries, but Han Wu noticed that the Golden Skeleton was gradually being pushed back. Though both were Heroic life forms, the Light Emissary wielded anti-undead powers that steadily suppressed the Golden Skeleton. If the battle continued, the Golden Skeleton Warrior would be defeated.

Han Wu didn't want to lose a powerful soldier like it, so he was trying to figure out a way to save it. He quietly ordered his Dark Cursed Bugs to hide in the shadows and ambush the Light Emissary. They slowly closed in on it stealthily, unnoticed.

The Light Emissary was so focused on the Golden Skeleton that it failed to sense the swarm of Dark Cursed Bugs targeting its life. After landing a Sacred Light attack that cracked the Golden Skeleton's bones, it believed victory was within reach.

It was still caught in that moment of euphoria when the Dark Cursed Bugs launched their assault. A vast volley of Shadow Nails shot toward the Light Emissary's shadow. These nails dealt dark attribute damage and immobilized their victims.

Despite the wide gap in their strength, the Light Emissary froze for a full second under the overwhelming barrage. The Golden Skeleton seized the opportunity, dragging its broken body upright and unleashing a powerful Undead Slash.

The Light Emissary could neither dodge nor defend against the attack. Its fragile body dissolved under the energy of the Undead Slash, ichor spilling from its orifices. The once-mighty Light Emissary had perished.

The Boulbear Alpha and Noirwolf Alpha immediately gave up. Neither had reached the Heroic tier and couldn't even stand against the Light Emissary together, let alone the Heroic Golden Skeleton.

Unfortunately, it was too late to flee. The Golden Skeleton overtook them in an instant and killed both with a single strike. With the alphas dead, the remaining Boulbears and wolves broke ranks and scattered in disarray.

Within half an hour, Han Wu defeated all the invaders and claimed victory.

"This must be the calamity that Duan Meng mentioned," he muttered.

Han Wu admitted that without the Heroic Golden Skeleton by his side, repelling the powerful Light Emissary would have been nearly impossible, even with a Level 5 shelter.

He felt grateful for Duan Meng's warning. Now, he needed to clear the battlefield and collect his rewards after the calamity. Carefully, he stored the pelts and meat of the fallen monsters in the warehouse for future use. Then, he summoned numerous skeletons from the corpses to replenish his army's ranks.

Han Wu turned his attention to the Light Emissary's corpse. As a Heroic life form with formidable strength, it likely carried something valuable. He searched carefully and found three treasures.

The first treasure was a magical map that allowed him to bind his shelter to it with a drop of blood. Once bound, the map revealed the areas under his control and clearly marked his territory. It made locating resources and tracking enemies far easier.

The second item was a recipe for a special caste. It detailed the process of fusing the Infantry Altar: Lions, Archer Altar: Eagles, Lancer Altar: Humans, and some other materials to produce the Heavy Cavalry Griffon Riders.

Han Wu finally understood how to obtain the Heavy Cavalry caste in this civilization. From the recipe, he could already sense its immense power. He estimated that each Griffon Rider rivaled the strength of a Heroic life form. Unfortunately, he did not possess the necessary altars yet, so he carefully kept the recipe in his storage and checked the third treasure.

The third one was a translucent scarlet berry known as the Vermillion Berry, capable of restoring 10% of his original strength upon consumption. Without hesitation, he

swallowed it whole. As he chewed, a warm sensation spread from his core as a portion of his power returned. By the time the sensation faded, he could feel his vigor returning.

He clenched his fist and estimated that his strength now rivaled that of a Heroic life form. "This feels incredible. I just need nine more to fully unseal all my original powers."

Unfortunately, the berry was rare, and he had no idea when he would find more. He chuckled and summoned all his Skeleton Knights to gather around him. Then, he commanded them to use Summon Skeleton simultaneously to transform the fallen Light Emissary into part of his army. He was eager to see how powerful a skeleton summoned from such a powerful source would be.

It took a full hour before the Light Emissary's skeleton finally rose. It radiated an otherworldly beauty, exuding pure holiness. Even Han Wu had to admit the skeleton was stunning, like an untarnished masterpiece. This was the first time he had encountered a skeleton that seemed truly out of this world.

[Holy Skeleton. Heroic life form. Skills: Sacred Orb, Reanimate Skeleton. A skeleton with holy power. Its existence is a miracle on its own.]

Han Wu's eyes lit up when he noticed it possessed the Reanimate Skeleton Skill. He had finally gained the crucial ability needed to form a large-scale skeleton army.

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[1,207 words]

Chapter 205 - Magic Map

The group chat erupted with a flood of messages.

[What's going on? I was happily grilling barbecue and singing in my shelter when the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization sent bandits to raid it! They're trying to rob me, and my shelter is about to collapse. Can anyone help?]

[I had it worse. A massive dung beetle fell from the sky and crushed my shelter. The professor just told me I failed my major class.]

[This is a disaster! No one warned us. They just unleashed a huge wave of enemies without any notice. What a calamity!]

[I'm done for. My entire army is dead, and my storage is destroyed. All I have left is my shelter. Can someone donate anything to help me?]

...

Amid the chaos, many students managed to endure the calamity.

[Calamity? This is a reward! I found a Dark Stone from the Dark Emissary. It will help me nurture a Lord life form. Nice!]

[Those enemies have tons of treasure despite their strength. I just got three treasures. I'm going to be rich!]

[I found a recipe to form a Heavy Cavalry caste, and I already have the necessary altars!]

...

Han Wu scanned the group chat and noted the members remaining. Only two-thirds of the students were still in the chat. The calamity had just eliminated a third of them, a brutal reminder of how merciless it truly was.

He felt relief that Duan Meng had warned him earlier; without her, he would have likely been eliminated too. He needed to find a way to repay her. While considering how to do that, a notification popped up from the private group chat he had created with Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang.

The new message was from Sun Qingnian.

[Sun Qingnian: I almost got eliminated. Luckily, Qin Shuang managed to send some Thunder Sparrows to rescue me. Their lightning fried all of those Demon Dolls attacking my shelter.]

Qin Shuang sent her thanks as well.

[Qin Shuang: Your Foxmen helped me a lot too. The Archer Ice Elementals invaded my shelter. They shot so many icicles, injuring many of my Thunder Sparrows. I would've been overwhelmed without your Foxmen healing them.]

Both had come out of the calamity with valuable treasures. Qin Shuang had acquired a Frost Soul, which she could merge with her altar, enabling her Thunder Sparrows to deal ice damage. She also found a recipe for the Light Cavalry Frost Metallion, a powerful asset for those skilled in the ice attribute.

Meanwhile, Sun Qingnian had obtained three treasures: a treasure-seeking compass, a telescope, and a recipe for the Infantry Demon Dolls.

The three of them were busy sharing their experiences when a voice interrupted them. "Outsiders, did you enjoy the party? Please look forward to the next one the Will of the

Civilization is preparing for you! Also, we have unlocked the trade function. Good luck trading!"

"The trade function has been unlocked!" Han Wu echoed, still taken aback despite already knowing it was coming. Duan Meng's information had been uncannily accurate. He started to suspect she hadn't simply received it from her brother but had secretly accessed the files herself.

The remaining students buzzed with excitement now that they could trade freely.

[I need Wood. Can someone sell me 5 units for 1 Gold Coin each?]

[I need 1,000 Stone. I can exchange it for 1,500 Wood. Contact me if interested.]

[Does anyone know where to find Iron? I need it badly.]

[Anyone selling spare weapons? I'm willing to pay a high price.]

[Me too. I need weapons.]

[Same here. Anyone selling weapons?]

Han Wu scrolled through the chat, quietly pleased to see how few students had access to Technicians. Though a handful had drawn the Technician caste, they were rare, and not all could forge weapons. Some specialized in building large-scale siege tools; others were better suited to crafting wooden furniture. Any unit capable of producing physical items fell under the Technician category.

Many students sought to buy weapons, so Han Wu tested the waters by listing several Chainsaw Daggers for sale in the group chat. Within moments, he was flooded with messages from eager buyers. After brief negotiations, he settled on a price: 5 Gold Coins and a single material of any type per dagger.

He sold fifty in one round and promised to forge more for future sales. His success set off a ripple effect. Other students followed suit, with some offering materials and others peddling food. One even activated a Worker altar and started selling cooked meals through the group chat.

Han Wu could not resist the temptation and bought a set for 2 Gold Coins. The trade function immediately delivered the freshly cooked meal, still steaming, right into his lap. He took a bite, and his eyes lit up. The meal was delicious, prompting him to praise the chef. He even supported their efforts in hopes they could expand production.

With the trade function unlocked, the students' fear eased. Only Han Wu remained vigilant. The voice had already warned them that the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization was preparing the next calamity. They needed to be ready.

Han Wu summoned a fresh batch of units from his altars, swelling the size of his army. He dispatched his Dark Cursed Bugs to scout the surrounding territory. As they fanned out across the land, the magic map lit up with the terrain they uncovered, highlighting forests, mountains, and even lakes. It also marked down various landmarks they discovered.

Small dots appeared scattered across the vicinity. Upon closer inspection, Han Wu realized they marked altars!

“I’m rich!” he exclaimed. Altars were crucial resources that boosted his army’s strength. No one in their right mind would ever think there were too many altars.

As he examined each altar’s details, a star-shaped mark suddenly appeared on the magic map. He quickly identified the stars as ruins—resources even more valuable than altars. Though the map offered no specifics about the ruins, each one promised great wealth.

Without hesitation, Han Wu resolved to lead his strongest units and march toward the ruins himself. He left four half-dragons, the Golden Skeleton, two Black Skeletons, and over one hundred Iron Skeletons to guard his shelter. Then he led the rest of his army toward the unknown ruins.

It took nearly an hour to locate the ruins and their entrance, nestled within the hollow of a massive ancient tree. Han Wu chose to enter. The moment he stepped forward, a powerful suction force pulled him and his army into the hole. When he looked around, he realized they were already inside the ruins.

At the same time, a strange voice echoed in his mind. “Welcome to the Treant Ruins. This place has five levels. You will earn treasure for clearing each level. If you complete all five, you will receive the treasure of the treants. Each challenge requires 1,000 Wood. Do you wish to start?”

“Yes.”

He placed 1,000 Wood on the ground and watched as the ruins absorbed every last piece. Moments later, sprouts appeared before him, growing rapidly until they formed 1,000 treants, each about two meters tall. The treants marched slowly toward his army.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,055 words]

Chapter 206 - Treants’ Ruins

“Kill them all!” Han Wu shouted, sending his skeletons charging forward.

The treants’ bodies proved exceptionally tough. The skeletons’ Chainsaw Daggers barely pierced their bark-like skin. Even more frustrating, the treants regenerated rapidly, closing wounds with fresh growth almost instantly.

Meanwhile, their attacks came in two forms. They either swung heavy branches to bludgeon their enemies or used thick roots to strangle them. Surprisingly, these strikes were strangely effective against the skeletons. The repeated bludgeoning managed to kill even the Unique Skeleton Knights.

The battle dragged on for fifteen minutes before Han Wu ordered a retreat. The skeleton army simply could not match the treants. Not only were the treants incredibly resilient, but they also resisted the skeletons’ unique abilities.

Han Wu gained nothing from the clash. Instead, he lost 1,000 Wood and several hundred skeletons. He left the ruins seething with frustration. To vent, he commanded his skeletons to scavenge the nearby altars.

They marched for an entire day, securing five altars, a wealth of resources, and new skeleton variants. Although this lifted his spirits, Han Wu still resented the Treant Ruins. It infuriated him that the treasure lay just out of reach. He returned to his shelter and started drafting countermeasures for the Treant Ruins.

The treants were tall with formidable defenses, immense vitality, and rapid regeneration. To defeat them, he needed overwhelming destructive power. Using sheer numbers to chip away at them with his skeleton army would be inefficient. Only a handful of variants or the Osteomancer possessed the strength required to fight them head-on.

The Osteomancer was renowned as the strongest Heroic life form. It manipulated bone fragments and encased itself within a colossal bone giant, unleashing devastating attacks. Unfortunately, Han Wu couldn’t summon it from his divine realm just yet. Even so, that didn’t stop him. It was only an Osteomancer, and he could merge one on his own!

That very night, Han Wu ordered all of his newly summoned skeletons to gather around him and started merging them to get an Osteomancer.

Ten Common skeletons combined into one Iron Skeleton; ten Iron Skeletons merged into a Skeleton Knight. Then, ten Skeleton Knights fused to form a Heroic Osteomancer. However, this Osteomancer bore the influence of the Boulbear’s skeleton, giving it the appearance of a bear’s skeletal frame.

When Han Wu inspected its skills, he confirmed it was a genuine Osteomancer. After resting for the night, he led his army back to the Treant Ruins and spent 1,000 Wood to start the trial once more.

As before, 1,000 treants lumbered forward, easily shattering Han Wu's skeleton fodder into fragments. This time, he stayed composed. Everything was going according to plan. The Osteomancer needed a large supply of bone fragments to display its full strength, so he waited patiently. Once enough had gathered, he sent it in.

The scattered bones rose into the air and swirled around the Osteomancer, assembling into a ten-meter-tall bone giant shaped like a bear. It was smaller than he had expected, but it still was a formidable force. Its huge paws effortlessly shattered the treants into fragments. The entangling roots failed to restrain the massive Osteomancer, which broke free from their grasp with barely any effort. The treants' bludgeoning branches inflicted no damage either.

Han Wu passed the trial as all 1,000 treants lay torn apart. The Osteomancer remained unscathed.

A notification chimed, presenting him with three reward options.

[Reward 1: 2,000 Wood.]

[Reward 2: Level 1 Vanguard Altar: Treants. It can summon 10 Elite treants daily.]

[Reward 3: 10 Unique saplings. They grow 100 times faster than regular trees and can produce abundant Wood after nurturing.]

Han Wu sighed as he surveyed the rewards. They felt underwhelming, but he had expected as much after passing only the first trial. Four more awaited him, and he was certain the rewards would improve with each victory.

"I will take the second reward," he decided.

The altar had its advantages. His skeletons worked around the clock, ensuring a steady flow of resources day and night. Wood was not a pressing concern, so he dismissed the first and third rewards without hesitation.

Though the second reward was the only option left, he did not feel disappointed. He had witnessed firsthand the durability of the treants as Vanguard units. Unfortunately, their fighting style did not mesh with his own, so he planned to give them to Qin Shuang. He recalled she commanded treants in her divine realm, where they complemented her Thunder Sparrows perfectly.

Han Wu proceeded to the second trial on the second level. This time, his opponents were tougher. They were upgraded versions of the treants, called Decaguard Treants. Each stood four meters tall and had an extra skill called Branch Pierce, in addition to their usual branch swings and root attacks.

Even so, they were no match for the giant bone bear. These treants were simply hardier versions of their predecessors. The bear's lack of flesh rendered the piercing branches useless, shaving only a few bone fragments that the Osteomancer easily reabsorbed. The attacks left no lasting damage.

The second trial lasted an hour before Han Wu emerged victorious. As he had expected, the rewards this time were more generous.

[Reward 1: 4,000 Wood.]

[Reward 2: Level 1 Archer Altar: Needleant. It can summon 10 Elite Needleant daily.]

[Reward 3: 1 Life Fruit. It can help a Unique life form become a Heroic life form.]

Han Wu ignored the first reward and focused on the other two. He had never encountered Needleants before, so he couldn't gauge their strength. The third reward, though, sparked his excitement. He already commanded skeletons, half-dragons, and Scorching Dwarves. If he could add a Heroic half-dragon or Scorching Dwarf to his ranks, the path ahead would become far easier.

He made his choice, took the Life Fruit, and gave it to one of the half-dragons that was accompanying him.

The half-dragon devoured the fruit and felt a rush of vitality spread through its body. Its muscles swelled with new strength, and its stamina surged. Its hide thickened, toughening as it evolved into a Heroic life form. Along with the transformation came a new Skill called Life Burst, a support ability that temporarily boosted its damage output.

Han Wu nodded with satisfaction and continued his challenge against the treants.

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[1,098 words]

Chapter 207 - Li Chunming's Spite

The third trial of the Treant Ruins proved challenging. The Osteomancer faced off against 100 Centurion Treants, each standing six meters tall. These were Heroic life forms, each with unique traits. Some wielded weapons—wooden clubs, vine whips, or wooden bows—capable of inflicting serious damage.

Despite its massive size, the bone bear's body cracked under the relentless assault of the Centurion Treants. Fortunately, the Golden Skeleton, Holy Skeleton, and the new Heroic half-dragon joined the fight to support it.

The battle stretched on for six grueling hours. By the end, the four Heroic units were exhausted. Han Wu chose to claim his rewards and retreat from the ruins for the moment.

He was presented with three options again.

[Reward 1: 8,000 Wood.]

[Reward 2: Level 1 Worker Altar: Grovekins. It can summon 10 Elite Grovekins daily.]

[Reward 3: Adamantium Tree Seed. Seed of an Adamantium Tree. Its branches are exceptionally sturdy and ideal for forging weapons. Highly compatible with the wood attribute.]

Han Wu examined the second reward closely, intrigued. This was his first encounter with Grovekins. The Worker caste usually consisted of units tied to food production in some way.

Could the Grovekin cook?

The question piqued his curiosity, and he selected the second reward. Without delay, he inspected the altar to read the Grovekins' description.

[Grovekin. Elite life forms. Skills: Ingrain, Breadfruit. Famine ceased to exist where Grovekins live.]

"So this is a food-producing unit!" Han Wu's interest spiked. His army kept expanding, and food supplies had started to tighten. The skeletons didn't need to eat, but the Scorching Dwarves, half-dragons, and Dark Cursed Bugs all needed regular nourishment. The Dark Cursed Bugs, especially, consumed vast amounts due to their Gluttony trait.

Han Wu chose the Grovekins Altar as his fifth altar, leaving part of his skeleton army behind to continue the trials below the third floor while he returned to his shelter.

Soon after, he placed the Grovekins Altar in the fifth slot and summoned ten Grovekins. These creatures stood three meters tall, with slender branches, but their crowns were exceptionally lush.

Han Wu commanded them to embed themselves deeply within his domain. In less than three hours, the first batch of breadfruits had matured. He plucked one and tasted it.

The fruit was soft and mildly sweet, rich in carbohydrates with a hint of minerals. It was a vital source of sustenance, capable of staving off famine.

In the first harvest, Han Wu collected 300 breadfruits. He stored 200 for himself and sold the remaining 100 for 1 Gold Coin each. The students competed fiercely to buy even a single fruit. The Worker caste had become a rare and valuable asset. The student who had units capable of cooking was so overwhelmed with orders that their woks were nearly melting from nonstop use.

Han Wu's breadfruit offered a timely solution. It relieved some of the pressure and, more importantly, sparked a new idea. He realized he could build a lucrative trade selling both weapons and food.

As soon as the breadfruits sold out, the students flooded Han Wu with messages, pleading for more fruit or direct sales. Han Wu ignored every message.

Naturally, his silence offended some of the more prideful students. Li Chunming was among them, raging alone in his mansion. "Han Wu, that bastard. How dare he ignore me?"

Two female students in skimpy outfits tried to calm him.

"Chunming, don't be angry at him. There's no reason to lose your health just because of him," one said.

The two female students' shelters had been destroyed in the calamity and were slated for elimination, but they managed to remain here because they pledged allegiance to Li Chunming. He had granted them permission to occupy two of his altar spots, and they preserved the right to stay here.

"Chunming, why don't we do something we both enjoy?" one of them purred, shedding her clothes with surprising dexterity.

Li Chunming felt a flicker of attraction, but his anger refused to subside. "No. Han Wu has insulted me one too many times. I will show him who's in charge here."

He rummaged through his storage and pulled out a map. It resembled Han Wu's magic map but served a different purpose. This was the Nemesis Map, which he had acquired after the calamity. Instead of using blood to activate it, he needed only to pour in genuine hatred from his heart to reveal his target's location.

Li Chunming clenched the map tightly, summoning every ounce of hatred he could muster. He recalled Han Wu's insults in the group, his showy behavior in class, and his close ties to the beautiful Qin Shuang. His spite surged, and the map marked the location of Han Wu's shelter.

Li Chunming checked the distance and laughed. “Only fifty kilometers away? I will lead the assault myself to tear down your shelter!”

He rose and gathered his forces. The two female students had submitted to his command, so they used their authority to summon their units and join his army.

Li Chunming’s core race was the Azure Demons. They were Unique demons from the Demonic Civilization, and their main Skill, Underworld Flare, produced a type of flame that water couldn’t extinguish. It was a troublesome skill.

With the Azure Demons filling the Archer caste, Li Chunming quickly asserted dominance in the area. Fortune smiled on him when he discovered the Wight Ruins. He cleared the trials and claimed numerous treasures, including the Vanguard Rotten Wight.

True to its name, the Rotten Wight appeared and smelled vile. Yet it proved a formidable unit, boasting incredible defense and vitality. Additionally, the poisonous gas it emitted protected his forces. With the Rotten Wight as his Vanguard, his Azure Demons could strike freely without fear of counterattack.

The two female students were no pushovers either. Li Chunming had chosen them carefully. Their core races were just as troublesome to deal with. They commanded the Styx Maidens and Abyss Moths.

The Styx Maidens belonged to the Archer caste and fired corrosive, poisonous water spheres. In contrast, the Abyss Moths were part of the Physician caste and wielded two deadly Skills: Berserk Powder and Bloody Powder.

Berserk Powder drove victims into a frenzy, reducing intelligence while dramatically increasing raw power. Meanwhile, Bloody Powder was a potent hemotoxin. Exposure disrupted the victim’s hemostasis, causing wounds to bleed uncontrollably until death from blood loss.

Li Chunming had offered them two altar spots because he recognized the sheer power of their core races. Once his army was assembled, he set off at once toward Han Wu’s shelter.

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[1,868 words]

Chapter 208 - Complete Upgrade

Within his shelter, Han Wu stood surrounded by altars he had collected from outside. He carefully sorted them to upgrade his existing altars.

He noted that most of the altars came from the Infantry caste and used them to upgrade his Skeletons Altar first. It gained a large amount of experience points and leveled up three times, reaching Level 7. Now, he faced three opportunities to select improvements from a list of nine options.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 2: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 3: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 4 (Rare): Summoned skeletons may be equipped with bone weapons.]

[Option 5: Summon an additional 10,000 Common skeletons daily.]

[Option 6 (Rare): Summon an additional 20,000 Common skeletons daily.]

[Option 7 (Rare): Summon an additional 2,000 Iron Skeletons daily.]

[Option 8: Summon an additional 50 Unique Skeleton Knights daily.]

[Option 9 (Precious): Summon an additional Heroic Crystal Lich daily.]

Han Wu weighed his options carefully, aware of how much power a single strong entity could offer, and chose Option 9 first.

[Crystal Lich. Heroic life form. Skills: Summon Skeleton Knights, Crystal Bones, King Aura. The highest-ranking skeleton and their absolute king.]

Han Wu knew he'd made the right decision the moment he saw Summon Skeleton Knights listed among the Crystal Lich's Skills. This was one of the skeletons' core abilities, crucial for overwhelming their enemies. A relentless siege of countless skeletons was nearly unbeatable. Still, achieving that was difficult with only a single Crystal Lich at his command.

Han Wu needed many lower-ranking skeletons to serve as cannon fodder, so he selected Option 6 and Option 7 next. Instantly, 20,000 Common skeletons and 2,000 Iron Skeletons crawled from the altar. Their numbers were so vast that they were automatically transferred out of his estate.

Han Wu watched the skeletons align in neat rows across the forest, resembling a field of white tombstones. He was satisfied with the scene because it matched the image of his original skeleton army.

The Skeletons Altar wasn't the only one to receive an upgrade. The other altars had also advanced. The Technician Altar: Scorching Dwarves leveled up once, offering him three rewards to choose from.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned Scorching Dwarves.]

[Option 2 (Rare): Grants a chance to summon a Unique Scorching Dwarf.]

[Option 3 (Rare): Increases the chance of forging equipment one tier higher than the materials used.]

Han Wu regarded the Scorching Dwarves as his dedicated blacksmiths, tasked solely with crafting equipment. He chose Option 3 to improve the quality of their work. The reward manifested as a blessing, infusing every Scorching Dwarf with exceptional forging prowess.

The Lancer Altar: Half-Dragons also leveled up once and offered him three options.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned half-dragons.]

[Option 2 (Rare): Grant a chance to summon a Fulgur Half-Dragon.]

[Option 3 (Rare): Transform the lances of the Half-Dragons into the powerful Faith Weapon: Thunder Lance.]

Han Wu viewed the half-dragons as his elite forces, where strength mattered above all. He had no desire to increase their numbers unless their power matched his expectations, so he dismissed Option 1.

His gaze flickered between the remaining two. Both were potent but served different purposes: Option 2 offered a chance to summon a single powerful entity, while Option 3 upgraded every current and future half-dragon's weapon.

With his skeleton army as his main force, Han Wu only lacked strong personal guards. After careful thought, he chose Option 2, which increased the chance of summoning a formidable Fulgur Half-Dragons.

His Archer Altar: Dark Cursed Bugs had undergone two upgrades. As his core race, Han Wu decided that the Dark Cursed Bugs' primary role would be scouts. He ignored all other options and chose to double his summoned Dark Cursed Bugs twice. At first, he could summon only 500 per day, but after three upgrades, that number rose to 4,000. He eagerly anticipated further upgrades to summon even more.

Next, he turned to the newly acquired Worker Altar: Grovekins. Since he lacked the necessary materials, it remained unchanged.

Han Wu's overall strength had soared after upgrading all his altars. He felt confident he could face the next calamity with ease

As he celebrated his progress, some Dark Cursed Bugs returned with a report. They had spotted a group of Azure Demons, Rotten Wights, and other high-ranking units advancing toward Han Wu's shelter. He focused on the vision shared through the scouts' eyes and spotted Li Chunming among them!

Han Wu laughed aloud with delight. He never expected Li Chunming to come to his doorstep willingly. He decided it was time to settle their grudge. *Li Chunming, I admire your boldness, but you won't leave this place alive today.*

He recalled all units hunting outside through the Dark Cursed Bugs and stationed them around his estate, ready to ambush Li Chunming.

Meanwhile, Li Chunming hugged the two female students inside the palanquin that his Azure Demons were carrying. He already pictured Han Wu's defeat. "Should I let the Azure Demon tear you to pieces or turn you into one of the wights? I don't mind seeing one of the Styx Maidens torturing and making you its plaything, either. *Hahaha.*"

A Dark Cursed Bug landed near his army. Li Chunming glanced at it, and his Heroic Azure Demon immediately threw a small orb of Underworld Flare, incinerating the bug. He snickered as it burned. "Han Wu, killing you will be as easy as squashing a bug. I hope you struggle more, or this will be too boring."

Li Chunming's army soon reached Han Wu's shelter. He seethed with envy when he saw Han Wu's Level 5 shelter while his own remained Level 4. How did Han Wu get a Level 5 so quickly?

"Han Wu, surrender within one minute, or I will lead my army to tear your shelter down," Li Chunming threatened.

Han Wu emerged slowly from the shelter with a crooked smile. "Li Chunming, I've never wronged you. Why are you harassing me?"

Li Chunming ignored the question. "Harassing you? Who do you think you are? You have two choices: fight me and suffer torture little by little, or hand over everything in your shelter and become my slave. If you do, I'll let you live. Which one will it be?"

The two female students chuckled as they taunted Han Wu at the same time.

"Han Wu, you have Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian protecting you in the classroom, so no one can touch you. But now we're in the Warring Kingdom Civilization, where you have to rely on your own strength. Surrender now, or you'll fail the class."

“Han Wu, stop embarrassing yourself with those weak locusts. We don’t want to bully you, *hahaha...*”

Han Wu laughed without a hint of intimidation. “You’re lucky you didn’t make the reserve list last time.”

Li Chunming scoffed. “Reserve list? Only those useless bastards without confidence end up there. A true genius like me depends on pure skill and hard work to enter Imperial College!”

“You misunderstand. I meant you’re lucky you weren’t on the reserve list last time,” Han Wu said. “Otherwise, you’d know I’m not famous for my locusts. I’m famous for my skeletons.”

Only then did the two female students realize they were surrounded by countless embers of spiritual fire, each one glowing with a bright blue hue. Skeletons encircled them on all sides.

The two female students panicked, and one shouted, “Chunming, we’ve fallen into his trap! We’re surrounded by skeletons!”

Li Chunming’s heart raced as he took in the sheer number of skeletons, but he forced a brave expression. “They’re just skeletons. What’s there to fear? My Azure Demons will burn them to ashes.”

Hundreds of Azure Demons unleashed Underworld Flares in every direction and scorched the skeletons with ease.

Watching the skeletons crumble so easily, the two female students let out relieved sighs.

“Han Wu is as useless as his skeletons,” one said.

“Chunming is far stronger! I really admire you!” the other added.

Li Chunming basked in their praise and replied with a haughty smile, “Han Wu, don’t blame me if I tear down your little pigsty. This is the best you can do?”

Han Wu remained calm as he spoke. “You gave me two choices, and I refuse to accept either. I choose a third—your destruction.”

Suddenly, the bone shards scattered across the ground started to vibrate, then converged into a single corner. Li Chunming’s eyes widened as the Osteomancer completed the giant skeleton of a giant bear.

The Black Skeletons, Golden Skeleton, Holy Skeleton, and Crystal Lich appeared simultaneously. Following the Crystal Lich's command, the skeletons launched deadly attacks, each infused with the chilling energy of the undead.

The remaining bone shards on the ground resonated and reassembled into a skeleton that lunged at Li Chunming, who staggered under the shocking sight. Yet, as a genius, he quickly adapted to the unexpected threat. He ordered his army to concentrate their efforts on breaking through a specific section of the encirclement. His plan was to escape first and regroup for a counterattack.

Han Wu, however, had no intention of letting him slip away. The giant bone bear surged forward and swept through the Azure Demons with a single, devastating swipe. Every movement of its towering ten-meter frame wreaked havoc. Even the tough Rotten Wights fell after two brutal blows.

The Azure Demons, Styx Maidens, and Abyss Moths were crushed in a single strike. Underworld Flare, Corrosive Fluid, and Bloody Powder proved useless against the giant bone bear's relentless assault. Meanwhile, the skeletons multiplied steadily, growing stronger with every fallen unit from Li Chunming's army.

Victory was no longer possible. Accepting this, Li Chunming abandoned his army and ordered his Heroic Azure Demon to protect him and the two female students as they fled.

Han Wu noticed it and intercepted them. From the shadows, thousands of Dark Cursed Bugs swarmed forward and launched a barrage of Shadow Nails that pinned Li Chunming and the others in place.

Han Wu approached them slowly with his Heroic half-dragon. Li Chunming realized he had utterly lost.

"Let me go, and I'll give you everything. This is the Nemesis Map, and this is the recipe to forge the Underworld Metallion..." He carefully withdrew all his treasures and offered them to Han Wu.

"This won't be enough," Han Wu spat.

Li Chunming glanced at the two female students and made a choice. "Fine. They're yours. I just want to pass this class."

The two students stared in shock. They had obeyed every command, giving him their all. They never expected Li Chunming to abandon them so readily.

Han Wu shook his head. "It's still not enough."

Angered by Han Wu's greed, Li Chunming demanded, "What else do you want to let me go?"

Han Wu said nothing. Without warning, his Heroic half-dragon lunged forward and drove its lance into Li Chunming's heart. The explosive force of lightning tore through his chest and extinguished all of his Life Energy.

"I will let you go once you've died." Han Wu finally said.

Unfortunately, Li Chunming was fated to die without ever understanding why.

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Chapter 209 - Clearing the Wight Ruins

[1,514 words]

Chapter 209 - Clearing the Wight Ruins

The two female students clung to each other in fear. They were attending this class in their real bodies, which meant death here was permanent.

Han Wu watched them while rummaging through Li Chunming's corpse, gathering every treasure he could find. Alongside the Nemesis Map and the Underworld Metallion recipe, he discovered a flute. It was a single-use item that could summon 100 Burnbull Guards to fight alongside him. It was a fairly useful treasure.

Han Wu was pleased by the quality of the treasures, though he felt mildly disappointed by their quantity. He turned to the two female students and ordered curtly, "Take me to your shelter."

They nodded vigorously, barely able to contain their fear. Han Wu led a force of 1,000 Iron Skeletons, accompanied by some of the strongest among them, toward Li Chunming's shelter. They trekked for a long while, slaughtering every wild beast that crossed their path. Each fallen creature was swiftly turned into another member of the growing skeleton army.

Witnessing this ruthless efficiency deepened the two female students' terror. The rumors about the skeleton race's terrifying power were clearly true.

Upon reaching the shelter, Han Wu ordered the skeletons to dismantle everything. They moved all materials into his storage and cleaned the site within an hour.

The two female students hugged each other as a notification warned them of their impending elimination. They looked to Han Wu with desperate hope. They felt no shame at the thought of becoming his slaves. After all, they had already served the weaker Li Chunming. Their only goal was to pass the class.

“Han Wu, please take us in as your subordinates...”

“Yes, we’ll belong to you. We’ll do anything you ask.”

Han Wu smiled wryly. “Do you think I’m some kind of recycling center?”

Their faces flushed bright red with anger, but neither dared to reply.

Han Wu pressed on, “If you want me to release you, contact Professor Saliya and tell her you’re withdrawing from this major class.”

While Han Wu showed no mercy to those who tried to kill him, he wasn’t a bloodthirsty maniac who slaughtered indiscriminately. The two female students had acted with ill intent, but they were still Li Chunming’s subordinates. Han Wu decided to spare them, reasoning that they were from the same class.

The two female students felt disappointed that their attempt at seduction had failed. Nevertheless, they used their partially sealed authority to contact Saliya and leave this place. Though they would earn nothing and fail the major class by withdrawing, they preferred to keep their lives.

Fifteen minutes later, Saliya opened a gate for the two students to return. Just as they stepped toward it, Han Wu called out to them. They froze, trembling with fear. They worried he would break his promise and kill them now.

Instead, Han Wu warned, “Tell the professor the complete truth if she asks for it. No one can save you if you say anything unnecessary or lie.”

The two students nodded nervously and hurried back to the Divine Civilization as soon as Han Wu permitted them. The latter then led his skeleton army toward the location Li Chunming had marked on the map: the site of the Wight Ruins.

They soon located the entrance to the Wight Ruins, but Han Wu hadn’t expected it to be buried in the heart of a swamp. Without hesitation, he ordered several skeletons to sacrifice themselves and form a bone bridge that would span the murky waters and connect the bank to the ruins.

Once the path was clear, they marched through the entrance and found themselves in a damp, bone-chilling space.

A sinister voice echoed inside his mind. "Welcome to the ruins of the wights. Become one of us. This ruin holds four levels. You will be rewarded for clearing each one. Clear all four, and you will claim the treasure the wights have guarded for generations. Pay 2,000 Gold Coins to begin the trial?"

"Yes."

He placed the 2,000 Gold Coins on the ground. They sank into the earth, and moments later, 1,000 wights emerged. They moved slowly, shuffling toward him in a staggering line.

Han Wu quickly inspected their data.

[Vanguard wights. Elite life forms. Skills: Rotting Body, Mighty Swing. Every single wight was once a living being.]

After the first attack, Han Wu realized the wights were incredibly resilient. Rotting Body let them ignore most superficial wounds and blunt strikes. It also absorbed moisture from the air, accelerating their decay to regenerate damaged flesh.

Mighty Swing was a devastating attack that was laced with a special venom. If injured, the victims would find their wounds swelling with edema. A serious injury would instead cause their entire bodies to rot away.

Thankfully, the skeletons were immune to the wights' venom. They surged forward, overwhelming the wights with superior numbers. As the wights fell, Han Wu ordered his skeletons to summon more Iron Skeletons from their corpses. By the end, he had gained 947 new Iron Skeletons.

He passed the first trial and faced three reward options.

[Reward 1: 4,000 Gold Coins.]

[Reward 2: Level 1 Vanguard Altar: Wights. It can summon 50 wights daily.]

[Reward 3: Skill Orb: Rotten Limbs. It grants units the ability to attack with rotten limbs.]

Though he had no Vanguard units yet, Han Wu rejected the second reward. The wights' disgusting nature repelled him. The third reward was equally repulsive, so he chose the first, doubling his investment. Then he launched into the second trial.

The second trial proved far more difficult. He faced 500 Unique Rotten Wights, their noxious stench suffusing the entire area. Fortunately, the skeletons could not smell, and they used sheer numbers again to overpower the Rotten Wights.

He passed again and could claim one of three rewards: 8,000 Gold Coins, the Level 1 Vanguard Altar: Rotten Wights, or a Rotten Fruit.

[Rotten Fruit: It awakens the bloodline of the wights after consumption.]

Han Wu chose the 8,000 Gold Coins without hesitation and launched into the third trial. This time, the difficulty spiked dramatically. He had to face 1,000 Unique Giant Wights, towering monstrosities that stood between three and five meters tall, their bodies swollen with rotting pustules. Just looking at them made people recoil on instinct.

The Wights fought back with terrifying strength, swinging their rotted limbs and shattering the skeletons with brutal force. Even the half-dragons' lightning attacks only scorched patches of their decayed skin without causing any real damage.

Han Wu had no choice but to play his trump card, the Osteomancer. It seized control of the shattered bone fragments and took shape on the battlefield as a ten-meter-tall bone bear. The monstrous construct toyed with the Giant Wights, each one barely half its size, and smashed them to pieces with terrifying ease.

Han Wu followed up by commanding his army to raise towering Skeleton Knights from the fallen wights. He watched his ranks swell with a gleam of satisfaction in his eyes, silently wishing for more enemies to slaughter. He passed the third trial, and his rewards doubled once again.

[Reward 1: 16,000 Gold Coins.]

[Reward 2: Level 1 Vanguard Altar: Giant Wights.]

[Reward 3: Skill Orb: Summon Wights.]

This time, Han Wu chose the Skill Orb and entrusted it to the Crystal Lich to master. He was confident that the combination of skeletons as Infantry and wights as Vanguard created a powerful synergy. Besides, once the wights fell, he could summon even more skeletons. The strategy skirted the edge of cheating.

He then started the fourth trial, the final challenge of the ruins. Ten Heroic Giant Wights awaited him. Each stood ten meters tall, emitting a foul stench that poisoned anything within its radius. Those who breathed too deeply would succumb to the venomous gas.

To most, the Heroic Giant Wights resembled walking poison gas canisters, nearly impossible to defeat thanks to their overwhelming defenses. They ranked among the most feared foes on any battlefield.

Han Wu had only one Osteomancer at his disposal, but refused to give up. Since he could create more now, he quickly merged the skeletons he had with him. He merged the Skeleton Knights he had obtained in the previous trial and turned them into new Osteomancers. Then, he ordered his skeletons to attack the Heroic Giant Wights.

As expected, the Giant Wights crushed the skeletons into bone fragments—perfect raw material for the Osteomancers. Han Wu sacrificed every skeleton as cannon fodder, raising four massive bone giant Osteomancers in return. Under the Crystal Lich's command, these bone giants launched relentless attacks against a Giant Wight. They did not relent until it fell, even as they took damage in the process.

After the Giant Wight died, Han Wu commanded the Crystal Lich to summon a ten-meter-tall Skeleton Knight from its corpse. The battle shifted to six against nine, then seven against eight, and so on.

Han Wu relied on this grind-it-down tactic to wear the ten Giant Wights to death. He passed the fourth trial and cleared the entire Wight Ruins!

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[1,436 words]

Chapter 210 - Becoming Rich

[Congratulations on clearing the Wight Ruins. You have obtained the treasure of the wights.]

[Obtained 300,000 Gold Coins.]

[Obtained Eternal Altar: Wights.]

[Obtained Wight Training Ground.]

A stream of notifications flooded Han Wu's mind, and in a blink, he found himself outside the ruins. He stood at the swamp's edge, his gaze sweeping over the now empty waters. With the final floor cleared, the ancient ruins had disappeared.

He gazed down at the three items now clutched in his hand. The first was a card loaded with 300,000 Gold Coins, and the second was a curious wight-shaped altar. Finally, there was a peculiar, graveyard-looking structure: a wight's training ground.

Han Wu slipped the 300,000 Gold Coin card into his storage, and instantly, he saw the amount automatically credited into his account. His new total stood at 324,311 Gold Coins, a sum more than enough to upgrade his shelter once more.

With the coins sorted, he directed his gaze to the Eternal Altar in his hand, intent on scrutinizing its effects.

[Eternal Altar: Wights. Does not take up a shelter altar slot. After activation, the user can summon wights by using Gold Coins.]

[Vanguard Elite Wight: 1 Gold Coin each]

[Vanguard Unique Rotten Wight: 5 Gold Coins each]

[Vanguard Unique Giant Wight: 50 Gold Coins each]

[Vanguard Heroic Giant Wight: 500 Gold Coins each]

To Han Wu's surprise, the Eternal Altar didn't impose a limited number of units he could summon each day. Instead, it merely detailed the coin cost for each summon unit. This meant that, provided he had the necessary Gold Coins, he could theoretically summon an infinite legion of wights.

The sheer amount of Gold Coins currently in Han Wu's account meant he could effortlessly summon 640 Heroic Giant Wights if he wished. This was a truly monstrous army, capable of crushing anything that dared to stand in its path! Despite his personal aversion, the impressive capabilities of the Eternal Altar piqued his interest enough to consider forming a wight army.

Finally, he proceeded to examine the Wight Training Ground.

[Wight Training Ground: Place wights here to open the training ground. Killing the wights grants the killer points. Points can be used to exchange for rewards.]

[Vanguard Wight: 5 points]

[Vanguard Rotten Wight: 10 points]

[Vanguard Giant Wight: 100 points]

[1 Gold Coin: 1 point]

[Random wight material: 500 points]

[Random wight skill orb: 1,000 points]

[Level 1 Altar: Elite Wight, 1,000 points]

[Level 1 Altar: Unique Rotten Wight, 2,500 points]

[Level 1 Altar: Unique Giant Wight, 5,000 points]

[Level 1 Altar: Heroic Giant Wight, 50,000 points]

I'm going to be rich! he mentally exclaimed, a thrilling realization dawning on him after reviewing the details of the wight's training ground. He could sell tickets for access to the training ground, thereby generating a continuous stream of passive income!

Furthermore, challengers were prohibited from removing any corpses—be it those of the defeated wights or their own fallen units—from the training ground. This presented Han Wu with a constant and reliable source of corpses, perfect for endlessly summoning more skeletons. Their individual weakness was irrelevant, as their primary purpose would be to serve as his main labor force for all tasks requiring physical exertion, such as chopping wood, mining ore, and gathering resources.

I'm really, really going to be filthy rich! he exclaimed internally yet again. *This one ruin has already provided me with so many ways to acquire resources. Imagine the possibilities—wouldn't clearing just a few more ruins be enough to upgrade my shelter to the max level?*

Han Wu wasted no time in guiding his army back to the safety of his shelter, where he immediately began to devise strategies for building his business empire. It wasn't long before a unique ticket to the Wight Training Ground started making its rounds within the group chat.

The ticket served as a pass to the Wight Training Ground, allowing challengers to test their strength within. The points accumulated from these challenges could then be redeemed for a variety of rewards, including rare materials, powerful skills, and even unique altars connected to the wights. This rare ticket quickly became the object of widespread student interest.

“Li Chunming had ownership of the Wight Ruins, right? Did he clear it?”

“No, that's not right. I don't see his name in the group chat. Did he get eliminated?”

“Then who's selling the ticket? What happened to Li Chunming?”

Choosing to remain silent, Han Wu offered no response. Meanwhile, Duan Meng, having spotted the circulating ticket, immediately sent him a private message. “Han Wu, were you the one who eliminated Li Chunming?”

Han Wu had to admit that she was quite intelligent.

“Yes,” he replied, “although to be more accurate, I killed him.”

A chill immediately ran up Duan Meng’s spine upon reading his frank reply. She privately felt that taking Li Chunming’s life was far too extreme, given their previous disagreement was just a petty argument in the group chat. Nevertheless, she sensibly kept her opinion to herself.

Han Wu, however, opted not to elaborate. Instead, he handed her ten tickets to the wight’s training ground, both as a gesture of gratitude for the information she had provided earlier and with the hidden wish that she would help him assess the effectiveness and potential of the training ground.

Despite her personal reservations about Han Wu’s recent actions, Duan Meng found the allure of the wight’s training ground utterly irresistible and decided to investigate. She tore one of the tickets, and instantly, a shimmering, single-use gate materialized before her, set to disappear after just five minutes.

Leading her lizardman army, she quickly stepped into the training ground. Han Wu had already prepared everything, having completed all the necessary settings, and Duan Meng was now faced with four challenge difficulty options: Simple, Normal, Hard, and Hell.

Using a single ticket only allowed her to challenge the Simple mode, which she chose to attempt. Instantly, 200 Common wights appeared, slowly shuffling towards her waiting lizardman army. Her units responded with brutal efficiency, and in less than five minutes, they had annihilated all 200 wights.

After swiftly securing 200 points, the next challenge, 100 Rotten Wights, arrived. These proved to be easily manageable, and she dealt with them without breaking a sweat. The third wave, however, presented a greater challenge: 50 Unique Giant Wights. This encounter demanded considerably more effort on her part, ultimately costing her two lizardmen before she finally managed to achieve victory.

As the final challenge, a single Heroic Giant Wight boss appeared. It managed to slay 30 lizardmen before it was finally brought down by the concentrated attacks of Duan Meng’s remaining forces. By the end, she had accumulated 1,300 points. She spent 1,000 of these to redeem a random skill orb specifically associated with wights, choosing to hold onto her remaining 300 points for later.

She was fortunate enough to obtain the Summon Wights skill orb. Without hesitation, she promptly gave it to her Heroic Lizardmen to master, granting them the ability to summon wights from fallen enemy corpses. Duan Meng quickly became utterly addicted to the Wight Training Ground after realizing its immense potential for empowering her army.

Following her initial success, she moved on to tackle the Normal, Hard, and finally, the Hell difficulty levels. She was, however, unable to clear the Hell difficulty. After all, at this stage, most students would find it incredibly challenging to overcome 10 Heroic Giant Wights all at once, particularly when considering the Giant Wights' own ability to summon more wights to assist them in battle. Even a single miscalculation could lead to the wights multiplying rapidly, quickly overwhelming the challenger.

Despite this risk, the strength of the Giant Wights proved highly attractive to many students, all eager to integrate them into their own armies. Given that a single Giant Wight altar required only 50,000 points, they were more than content to repeatedly clear the Wight Training Ground until they achieved their goal.

Even though fewer than 30 students remained within the Warring Kingdom Civilization, nearly every single one eagerly purchased tickets to the wight's training ground as if they were the hottest commodity. This proved quite profitable for Han Wu, who, in just three days, had already amassed about 30,000 Gold Coins solely from the sales alone!

Also, with the steady supply of corpses from the training ground, he summoned even more skeletons, ultimately building a massive army that now included over 100 Osteomancers. With his forces rallied, he set off, marching directly towards the Treant Ruins once more, fully intent on finally conquering it this time.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 211 - Treant Ruins Fifth Level

[1,474 words]

Chapter 211 - Treant Ruins Fifth Level

With over a hundred Heroic Osteomancers, and thousands of Iron Skeletons acting as cannon fodder, Han Wu's army stretched for hundreds of meters. This impressive display, however, represented only a fraction of his total forces. He nodded confidently, believing that clearing the Treant Ruins wouldn't be too challenging this time. Leading his vast army into the ruins, he commenced the trials once more.

His skeleton army made short work of the 1,000 treants in the first trial. In the second trial, the 500 Decaguard Treants likewise succumbed to the concentrated attacks of the skeletons. During the third trial, though the 100 Centurion Treants proved incredibly formidable, showcasing astonishingly destructive power with their wooden weaponry,

the skeletons, this time, managed to overwhelm them through sheer numerical superiority.

Thousands upon thousands of Iron Skeletons surged forward, throwing themselves recklessly at the Centurion Treants and directly bearing the brunt of their powerful blows. With every passing second, bone fragments continuously flew and scattered across the entire battlefield, yet the Centurion Treants, though greatly overwhelmed, had thus far suffered only minor injuries.

Han Wu maintained a serene demeanor as he observed the unfolding battle, showing no concern for the demise of his Iron Skeletons—their sacrifice was an essential component of his strategy. Only when a substantial amount of bone fragments covered the battlefield did his Osteomancers finally surge forward, expertly manipulating the scattered fragments and seamlessly melding them into their own skeletal forms.

Moments later, hundreds of towering, ten-meter-tall bone giants emerged on Han Wu's side. With each earth-shaking stride, they utterly decimated everything in their path—the mighty Centurion Treants, once terrifying, were quickly reduced to mere wooden toys in their massive hands. With just a few powerful swings of their limbs, the Osteomancers, now wielding these Treants like wooden bats, effortlessly crushed the remaining Treants, thereby finally clearing the third trial.

As the fourth trial commenced, Han Wu observed that the clear objective was significantly smaller this time; he only needed to defeat 20 enemies. However, it quickly became apparent that these 20 units had been reinforced to an alarming, even terrifying, degree.

[Millennium Treant King. Heroic life form. Skills: Branch Bludgeon, Entangling Roots, Branch Pierce, Natural Weapon, Nature Heart. A King of Treants. A being nigh impossible to defeat.]

Han Wu ordered his remaining Osteomancers to attack. His plan was straightforward: five Osteomancers would encircle and relentlessly beat up each Millennium Treant King, ensuring the Treant Kings sustained damage far exceeding their regenerative abilities. Naturally, the inherent risk was high; any slip-up from an Osteomancer would present the Millennium Treant Kings with the opportunity to utterly crush them.

Yet, the sight of the battle soon left Han Wu utterly bewildered, his expression one of complete astonishment.

Osteomancers are supposed to be the strongest Heroic life forms, so why are the Heroic Millennium Treant Kings crushing them with such ease instead?

It was a fact that Osteomancers were the strongest Heroic life forms. In truth, Millennium Treant Kings, despite their power, actually ranked one step lower than them. A key advantage for Osteomancers was their ability to repair the damage inflicted on

their bone giant forms as long as their core bodies remained unharmed. Millennium Treant Kings, on the other hand, continuously drained their energy reserves for their healing and regeneration, a fundamental weakness that implied that they would almost certainly be defeated in a battle of attrition.

The true challenge, however, stemmed from the environment itself. The Treant Ruins, as the name implied, were the natural habitat of the treants. This meant that the Millennium Treant Kings, as the rulers of this domain, had a significant home-ground buff, which eliminated their primary vulnerability and amplified their strength.

It was now clear why five Osteomancers had struggled for so long just to defeat one Millennium Treant King. Ultimately, the skeleton army did succeed in the trial, but only by the narrowest of margins. Han Wu was forced to acknowledge the sheer difficulty involved in clearing this particular trial.

The final trial now loomed, and Han Wu's Osteomancers stood poised for battle. Soon, his gaze fell upon a single figure emerging from the distance. This colossal entity stood hundreds of meters tall, its tree trunk so incredibly massive that it would require at least a hundred people linking arms just to encircle it.

This enormous figure was none other than the ultimate leader of all treants: the Myrannium Treant Sovereign. As Han Wu attempted to inspect its data, he involuntarily winced, a sharp, stabbing pain shooting through his eyes as though pierced by countless needles. The realization hit him immediately: the approaching Myrannium Treant Sovereign possessed a power far exceeding his own—it was simply too powerful for him to inspect, rendering him incapable of casually viewing its status window.

Nevertheless, for the sake of clearing the final trial, Han Wu gritted his teeth, forcing himself to withstand the persistent, stinging pain in his eyes. His resolve paid off, and he finally managed to access the complete data of the terrifying adversary before him.

[Myrannium Treant Sovereign. Lord life form. Skills: Branch Bludgeon, Entangling Roots, Branch Pierce, Natural Weapon, Nature Heart, Life Domain. It is the Sovereign of all treants, a being that has lived for ten millennia. To provoke it is to choose death.]

Han Wu faltered—he was at a complete loss as to how his Osteomancers should even begin to attack such an opponent. Offering him no precious time for strategic thought, the Myrannium Treant Sovereign initiated its own devastating attack, violently lashing out with its massive tree branches, each so thick it would require five people to wrap their arms around.

With that one strike, three Osteomancers were instantly smashed to smithereens. Furthermore, the Treant Sovereign's Life Energy was actively eroding the Osteomancers' Undead Energy, leaving them temporarily unable to manifest their powerful bone giant forms.

This, however, was merely the prelude to the Myrannium Treant Sovereign's full assault. Han Wu could only watch in stunned silence as his once formidable Osteomancers were systematically crushed, one after another. This time, his adversary was simply too overwhelming. Although the Treant Ruins possessed only one additional level compared to the Wight Ruins, the increase in difficulty was exponentially greater, easily surpassing a hundred times the previous challenge.

Just how am I supposed to clear this floor?

Han Wu watched in dread as his Osteomancers were annihilated one after another, all while the Myrannium Treant Sovereign remained infuriatingly unscathed.

I've sacrificed tens of thousands of skeletons just to reach this stage, Han Wu thought, a wave of panic washing over him. Am I going to lose again?

He flat-out refused to accept returning in defeat, not after the countless Iron Skeletons he had already sacrificed to reach this point. Yet, the situation on the battlefield was undeniably dire, signaling an urgent need for a breakthrough. He was acutely aware that his army could only endure for another five minutes before it would be utterly decimated.

"There has to be a way. I must find a way!"

He adamantly refused to allow several days' worth of tireless effort to simply go to waste. As his gaze narrowed, fixed intently on the gargantuan Treant, a sudden idea flashed into his mind. His skeletons were being relentlessly pushed back because the Myrannium Treant Sovereign's extensive roots were voraciously siphoning energy from the earth to heal itself. What if he could somehow find a method to halt this process?

"Fire!"

He needed fire. Treants, being made of wood, naturally feared it above all else. Han Wu quickly accessed his storage and retrieved the flute—one of the treasures he'd swiped from Li Chuming's corpse. This artifact allowed him to summon 100 Burnbull Guards, and he knew, with certainty, that this was the precise moment to unleash them.

The moment he played the flute, a large gate began to materialize slowly on the chaotic battlefield. From within this portal, a hundred fierce Burnbull Guards surged forth, their very presence causing the ambient temperature to rise significantly.

"Burn it down!" Han Wu's voice boomed as he ordered his recently added forces to throw themselves into a reckless, headlong charge at the colossal Myrannium Treant Sovereign.

The Myrannium Treant Sovereign furiously whipped its enormous branches at the charging Burnbull Guards, only for them to parry the attack quite effortlessly.

Furthermore, the moment their bodies made direct contact, the flames on the Burnbull Guards' constantly burning forms rapidly spread, immediately engulfing parts of the Myrannium Treant Sovereign in flames.

The Myrannium Treant Sovereign let out a high-pitched shriek of agony, its immense regenerative capabilities rapidly weakening due to the intense, scorching heat. It was now forced into a desperate state, continuously drawing energy just to barely counteract the inflicted damage.

Finally, Han Wu saw the opening he needed to completely turn the tide of battle.

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[1,361 words]

Chapter 212 - Level 6 Shelter

The intense flames emanating from the Burnbull Guards severely crippled the Myrannium Treant Sovereign's defenses and its regenerative powers, leaving it to burn alive. Observing this, Han Wu became certain that the Myrannium Treant Sovereign would inevitably perish within the next 20 hours, provided his Osteomancers sustained their concentrated assault.

Unfortunately, most of his Osteomancers were gone, and the survivors were struggling, their Undead Energy being eroded by the Myrannium Treant Sovereign's powerful Life Energy, rendering them temporarily incapable of transforming into their bone giant forms. The window of opportunity was shrinking by the minute. If he hesitated any longer, all the painstaking effort and sacrifices up to this very moment would amount to nothing.

With the final trial of the Treant Ruins hanging in the balance, he resolved to risk it all for victory. He was going to use Merge on his Osteomancers! While the process of merging the Heroic Osteomancers would be exceedingly difficult, fortunately, his soul was resilient enough to endure the immense strain of the merging process.

He merged 30 Osteomancers into one, creating a Lord life form: the Giga Osteomancer! With each powerful stride it took, scattered bone fragments automatically converged around it, melding with its own bones to become part of its body. Moments later, a terrifying hundred-meter tall bone giant towered over the battlefield, its massive frame and even its most minor movements proving capable of utterly obliterating everything in its path.

Sensing danger from the enormous bony monstrosity, the Myrannium Treant Sovereign angrily whipped its fiery branches at the bone giant, intending to land a damaging blow. This time, however, its signature Branch Bludgeon proved ineffective, bouncing off harmlessly.

Without hesitation, the enormous bone giant immediately gripped the thick, burning branch. With a powerful and forceful tug, it snapped the limb clean off. For the very first time in its millennia-long existence, the ancient Myrannium Treant Sovereign suffered the loss of one of its branches.

The true torment, however, had only just begun. The Burnbull Guards maintained their relentless assault, ensuring the Myrannium Treant Sovereign remained engulfed in flames, while the newly formed bone giant systematically snapped off more and more of its massive branches.

Piece by agonizing piece, the Myrannium Treant Sovereign was slowly shaved away, its life force diminishing until, ten grueling hours later, it finally perished. Even the immense power of its Life Domain proved insufficient to repair its catastrophic injuries in time, and it gradually transformed into nothing more than a charred, lifeless hundred-meter-tall tree.

Han Wu received a notification after defeating the Myrannium Treant Sovereign.

[You have cleared the fifth trial.]

[Congratulations on clearing the Treant Ruins.]

[You have obtained the treasure of the treants.]

[Obtained 2,000,000 Wood.]

[Obtained Eternal Altar: Treants.]

[Obtained Treant Training Ground.]

Han Wu let out a deep sigh of relief, his eyes scanning the long stream of victory notifications. Though victory was undeniably sweet, it had been hard-won, demanding the sacrifice of tens of thousands of his Iron Skeletons, and he even had to summon 100 Burnbull Guards to finally achieve it.

Han Wu was abruptly transported out of the ruins, finding himself holding three brand-new items. He wasted no time, immediately transferring the massive haul of 2 million Wood into his storage, hitting the storage limit in one go.

The second reward, the Eternal Altar of the treants, functioned much like the Wights Altar: Han Wu could use Wood to summon various treant types. He could summon five different treant castes: Infantry, Vanguard, Lancer, Archer, and Worker.

Each treant caste was further separated into Regular Treants, Decaguard Treants, Centurion Treants, Millennium Treant Kings, and Myrannium Treant Sovereigns. Though it was a more useful reward than the Wights Altar, summoning wights required fewer resources, as they only needed Gold Coins, while treants demanded ten times more wood for every rank increase.

Depending on their caste, Regular Treants cost 1 to 10 Wood while Decaguard Treants cost 50 to 500 Wood. Centurion Treants required 2,000 to 20,000 Wood, Millennium Treant King required at least 500,000 Wood, and finally, Myrannium Treant Sovereigns required at least 10 million Wood.

I'm sure even clear-cutting an entire swathe of forest would not yield enough wood to summon a single Myrannium Treant Sovereign! However, after personally battling one, I think 10 million Wood is actually a very small price to pay for its immense power, Han Wu thought to himself.

The Treant Training Ground, much like the altar, was a good treasure. He could station treants within the training grounds, thereby establishing diverse training courses for challengers. The training ground operated on the same scoring system as the Wight Training Ground. Challengers, after accumulating points, could then exchange them for a variety of valuable rewards, including Wood, different types of treant altars, random skill orbs associated with treants, and miscellaneous treant materials.

Han Wu's keen eye for opportunity immediately spotted the profit potential in the Treant Training Ground. Without delay, he took his three hard-won rewards back to his shelter and commenced the setting up of the new training courses.

It wasn't long before buzz spread, and soon, tickets for the Treant Training Ground were once again making the rounds in the group chat. For those students who had become jaded by the repetitive nature of the Wight Training Ground, these new tickets were devoured like hotcakes, since they represented fresh opportunities to further enhance their strength.

Han Wu took a moment to organize his supplies before once again dedicating himself to upgrading his shelter. He had already received an estate with the completion of his Level 5 upgrade, but reaching Level 6 was a far more demanding endeavor, necessitating 50,000 Wood, 50,000 Stone, 20,000 Iron, and 40,000 Gold Coins.

Having poured in the required resources, Han Wu witnessed his estate's remarkable transformation. What was once a humble kilometer radius now sprawled into an extensive five-kilometer domain. Every inch of land within this enlarged perimeter was now under his direct control, a territory he dubbed the Grand Estate. Furthermore, the

Smithy underwent a considerable upgrade, its improved layout now capable of accommodating a force of 100 blacksmiths working at the same time.

After upgrading his shelter, Han Wu was presented with a choice of two additional rewards out of six:

[Reward 1: Field. Vegetables and other plants with economic value can be planted here. Plants grow 1,000 times faster]

[Reward 2: Training Ground. Units can train here to increase their strength]

[Reward 3: Stable. Horses raised and nurtured here obtain the Light Cavalry caste]

[Reward 4: Barn. Various livestock can be raised. Raised livestock grow 100 times faster]

[Reward 5: Playground. Constructs a luxurious playground. Helps nurture intelligence of units]

[Reward 6: Graveyard. Increases Undead Energy of undead units. Grants set chance for an undead mutation]

Han Wu had to pick just two rewards for his Grand Estate. He immediately selected the Graveyard, recognizing it as a perfect fit for his skeletons. He figured that with so many skeletons, mutations would be very common, even with a low set chance. He was really looking forward to the distinct variety of skeleton types that would soon join his forces.

For his second option, he decided against the Stable and the Training Ground, opting instead for the Fields. Given that his established combat strategy primarily revolved around overwhelming his opponents with tidal waves of skeletons, the training ground offered little benefit.

He also disregarded the Stable as an option, noting that he had not sighted a single horse since his arrival in the Divine Civilization—such a structure would be an obvious waste of precious space. He preferred to choose the Fields instead, intending to grow crops to feed his locusts which, in turn, would ease the constant pressure he faced in securing enough food for his swarm.

The construction of the two new structures in Han Wu's Grand Estate was completed with remarkable speed. Just as he prepared to settle down for a moment of rest, a notification chimed, revealing a message from Duan Meng.

[Duan Meng: Han Wu, are you prepared for the second calamity?]

The moment he read that message, Han Wu's drowsiness vanished.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

Chapter 213 - Level 10 Skeletons Altar

[1,712 words]

Chapter 213 - Level 10 Skeletons Altar

“Another calamity already?!” Han Wu’s mind reeled in disbelief. The first calamity was barely a couple of days ago! Despite his shock, he couldn’t help but acknowledge the chillingly swift and efficient nature of the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization.

Duan Meng found herself in full agreement. Based on the intelligence shared by her brother, she had calculated the impending arrival of the second calamity. Feeling a sense of obligation for Han Wu’s previous help, she had resolved to alert him the moment she verified the approach of the second calamity.

Han Wu’s gaze lingered on his interface, a furrow of worry creasing his brow. He had made considerable progress, and moreover, he had helped many of the other students grow with his training grounds. Their collective strength had undeniably surged, reaching a much higher level than before.

However, he couldn’t shake the memory of the notification he had received after successfully surviving the first calamity. He had a feeling that the upcoming second calamity would be anything but easy.

[Han Wu: Do you know what it might be?]

Han Wu turned to Duan Meng for additional information precisely because she had previously obtained information from her brother, granting her a greater understanding of their current situation compared to his own. Her actions, decisions and advice were very important.

She pondered a bit before replying.

[Duan Meng: According to my brother, the second calamity will be considerably more challenging than the initial one we faced. What’s more, he also mentioned a third calamity—one he described as abhorrently tough, utterly eclipsing the difficulty of both the first and second combined.]

The revelation of a third calamity made Han Wu scowl. He hadn't even confronted the second yet, but another, even greater one, already loomed. He couldn't help but wonder if the Will of the Warring Kingdom Civilization was simply toying with them, like a cat with mice, in some sadistic game.

[Duan Meng: Han Wu, my brother, in his past attempt, failed to overcome the third calamity. His advice to me was to ensure I gather all nine castes before the third calamity's arrival should I harbor any desire to make it through.]

A bitter smile touched Han Wu's lips. The idea of gathering all nine castes might sound straightforward on the surface, but he, more than anyone, understood the daunting reality: he would first need to upgrade his shelter to Level 9 just to create space for nine individual altars. The sheer amount of resources required for just the Level 6 upgrade had already stretched into the tens of thousands.

He had a feeling that upgrading his estate to Level 9 would demand an astronomical sum—at least a hundred million of each required resource. Gathering such a large quantity of materials was going to prove exceedingly difficult, if not nearly impossible.

After divulging this bit of intel, Duan Meng proceeded to propose an alliance.

[Duan Meng: The second calamity is approaching, and I am confident in your ability to survive it. Given the circumstances, I was hoping that we could form a party, so we can survive together until the end of the class. So... what do you think?]

Her face flushed red as she sent the message, convinced it sounded more like a proposal than a party invitation.

I hope he won't misunderstand me, she thought anxiously.

Han Wu remained silent for a while after reading the message. He was aware of her circumstances through the group chat; she'd initially done well thanks to her brother's information, but her current strength ranked, at best, within the higher end of the middle ranks among the students.

While accepting her invitation would undoubtedly burden him with additional responsibilities, Han Wu was aware that she had her uses—her well of knowledge regarding the Will of the Civilization was a powerful and important asset. He intuitively felt that as long as she continued to supply him with such valuable intelligence, his own earnings would multiply massively.

He was more than willing to accept her proposition, but only under two conditions: that he would continue to receive valuable intelligence, and that he would retain the advantage of making the first move. Having weighed his options and made his decision, he then sent his reply.

[Han Wu: We can form a party, but before we do, you'll have to tell me everything you know about this Civilization first.]

Duan Meng agreed. She had originally intended to use her intel as a bargaining chip.

[Duan Meng: No problem. But first, let me move my shelter to where you're at.]

[Han Wu: Huh? Move your shelter? You can do that? How does that even work?]

Han Wu was quite surprised. A Level 5 shelter was already an estate covering a kilometer radius. How could she possibly move something that massive?

[Duan Meng: I have my own ways. Just hold on for a moment. I'm going to become your neighbour soon!]

After sending the message, Duan Meng began preparing to move. Han Wu, meanwhile, quickly relayed information about the second calamity to Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian. He cared only for these two, and didn't give a damn about the others.

Upon learning of the second calamity, Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian swiftly began mobilizing their units, preparing to move closer to each other. Qin Shuang's units specialized in combat, while Sun Qingnian's units excelled in support. The two worked surprisingly well together, exhibiting incredible fighting prowess.

Confident in both Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian's strength, Han Wu wasn't too concerned about their ability to overcome the second calamity. The real, pressing challenge, however, was the immense task of upgrading their shelters to Level 9 and the difficult mission of collecting all nine castes.

Han Wu had spread his Dark Cursed Bugs across his territory, ensuring that every single resource node within his territory was pinpointed. Following this, he then proceeded to dispatch his skeletons to harvest these materials. Even so, he found that the amount of resources he was accumulating was still insufficient. As he pondered his next move, the sky above him suddenly grew dark.

He looked up, and his eyes widened in disbelief at the sight of a massive piece of land floating through the air. Duan Meng stood on the airborne landmass, waving at him. Han Wu truly believed he was hallucinating, as he'd never imagined it was possible to move an entire shelter in the Warring Kingdom Civilization.

Duan Meng expertly brought her flying shelter down to land directly beside Han Wu's, cementing their partnership. As promised, she divulged all her accumulated knowledge about the Civilization, covering everything from the looming calamities and ancient ruins to the specific routes for upgrading altars. After taking all this information in, Han Wu decided to focus his efforts on enhancing his altars.

Although he possessed six available altar spots, only five were presently equipped. His Skeletons Altar was the highest-leveled among them, having reached Level 7. This was the very first altar he had established and had consistently been his primary engine for growth and increased power. Nevertheless, the overwhelming power of the Wights' Eternal Altar had since eclipsed it, with his Level 7 Skeletons Altar now incapable of meeting his current needs, showing clear signs of becoming outdated and ineffective.

Han Wu had already made the decision to cease using it, but this changed after Duan Meng's revelation that altars become Eternal Altars upon reaching Level 10. Furthermore, she clarified that the resource cost for summoning units was drastically lower for Eternal Altars that one had personally nurtured and invested in, as opposed to those merely discovered and acquired in the wild.

With a clear objective, Han Wu immediately began the process of advancing his Skeletons Altar. He spared no expense, purchasing a considerable number of Infantry Altars from other students, all of which were then consumed to elevate the Skeletons Altar's power.

With this impressive display of wealth, he successfully purchased enough altars to swiftly propel the Skeletons Altar to its ultimate level. As the altar reached its pinnacle, it underwent metamorphosis, transforming into an Eternal Altar, subsequently presenting Han Wu with the opportunity to choose three upgrade paths from nine different options.

[Option 1: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 2: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 3: Double the amount of summoned skeletons.]

[Option 4 (Rare): Fixed chance of summoning skeletons with the Bone Bullet skill.]

[Option 5: Summons an additional 3,000 Elite Iron Skeletons daily.]

[Option 6 (Precious): After battles, summoned skeletons will have a set chance of mutating into a Lich. Unique life form. Skills: Bone Bullet, Bone Bulwark, Bone Prison. A skeleton that diverged from its evolution path. Proficient in bone magic and equipped with a number of long-range physical attacks.]

[Option 7 (Precious): Summon an additional Skull Tree. After planting, provides skeletons at fixed intervals.]

[Option 8 (Rare): Fixed chance of summoning skeletons wielding bone weapons.]

[Option 9: Summon an additional 500 Skeleton Knights daily.]

Han Wu made his selections, deciding on both upgrade paths bearing the “Precious” suffix, and additionally chose Option 8 to increase his skeletons’ overall strength. After deciding on his rewards, the Skeletons Altar, having reached Level 10, officially ascended to become a fully recognized Eternal Altar.

He now possessed the power to summon numerous forms of skeletons, with bone fragments serving as the summoning cost. However, regardless of their individual characteristics, each of these skeletal warriors was categorized as belonging to the Infantry caste.

[Common skeleton: 1 Bone]

[Elite Iron Skeleton: 10 Bone]

[Unique Skeleton Knight: 100 Bone]

[Unique Black Skeleton: 100 Bone, 1 Iron]

[Heroic Golden Skeleton: 1,000 Bone, 10,000 Gold Coins]

[Heroic Crystal Lich: 1,000 Bone, 1 Crystal Marrow]

[Special item: Skull Tree: 10,000 Bone, 100,000 Gold Coins, 1 Powerful Soul]

[System has detected that the eternal altar was originally bound to the user. Summoned skeletons will now require only half of the stipulated cost.]

A wave of astonishment washed over Han Wu after he had read the final notification. The true method of achieving greater strength in the Warring Kingdom Civilization had finally been revealed to him, and this profound realization filled him with an eager anticipation for what his future now held.

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[1,202 words]

Chapter 214 - Bandit’s Invasion

The Level 10 Skeleton Altar proved to be extremely powerful. It functioned as a self-sustaining, closed-loop system—Han Wu could collect bone fragments from any destroyed skeletons, and then recycle them to summon even more skeletons! This meant he could at last recreate his previous skeleton army—a force so vast that it stretched for miles—all thanks to the Eternal Altar.

Without delay, he issued orders to all his Heroic Osteomancers to scour every single nook and cranny of his territory in search of bone fragments. Once these fragments were piled into his storage, he went on a summoning spree, persistently producing countless normal skeletons, Iron Skeletons, and Skeleton Knights. These three units were quite easy to summon, as they only needed a supply of bone fragments.

As the bone fragments were absorbed by the Eternal Altar, a steady stream of summoned skeletons slowly began to crawl forth from its depths, a surprising number of them already wielding makeshift bone weapons. These newly summoned skeletons benefited from all the recent upgrades applied to the altar, including the rare possibility they might eventually mutate into a powerful Lich, provided they endure and survive numerous battles.

Han Wu assigned the recently summoned skeletons to various tasks, including the felling of trees, extraction of Iron ore, and collection of Stones. It wasn't long before the other students in the group chat took notice of Han Wu's rapidly expanding skeleton army, and soon, pictures of an immense number of skeletons diligently chopping down trees began circulating widely.

A handful of students began to harbor thoughts of snatching the freshly chopped timber and even engaging the skeleton loggers in combat just to blow off some steam. However, these impulsive urges were hurriedly extinguished when a more rational student brought up the recent incident involving Wei Yuan. Unwilling to risk the loss of both their units and Wood, they ultimately chose to stand down and take no action.

Han Wu spent the next three days relentlessly gathering resources until the amount amassed had reached the million mark. However, just as he was making the final preparations to elevate his shelter to Level 7, he was interrupted by the sound of loud, insistent banging.

Following the disruptive noise, Han Wu looked outside to witness the unfolding chaos. Thousands of bandits, having trailed his skeleton loggers, had successfully pinpointed and converged upon his Grand Estate. His attention was immediately drawn to the bandit leader, and upon recognizing the leader as a Lord life form, he quickly inspected his data.

[Bandit King (Infantry). Lord life form. Skills: Intimidate, Flying Axe, Poison Sand, Burrow. While the king of bandits isn't invincible, he is definitely one most adept at finding a way out of even the most perilous situations.]

The regular bandits were much simpler life forms.

[Bandit (Infantry). Elite life form. Skills: Flying Axe, Poison Sand. Never try to outsmart a bandit—you will fail.]

“Come out!” roared the bandit king, relentlessly smashing his axe against the main gate of Han Wu’s Grand Estate. Each thunderous strike left a deep, jagged scar across the gate’s surface, yet because of its recent upgrade, the entrance refused to yield so readily.

Han Wu, his interest piqued by the commotion, calmly stepped out of his mansion to get a better look at the bandits on the other side of the gate. The very second he came into their sight, the bandits responded by unleashing a volley of axes at him, clearly intending to strike him down and seize all his treasures for themselves.

However, these bandits had severely underestimated Han Wu. Even with his powers suppressed, he possessed considerable strength; at this moment, he was easily as powerful as a Heroic life form. He moved with ease, either effortlessly snatching the hurtling axes out of the air or deftly sidestepping them, all without missing a step.

The bandits were utterly dumbfounded—never before had they witnessed such a display. It suddenly dawned on them that Han Wu’s true strength far exceeded their initial estimations.

Only the bandit king truly noticed what had happened. From his perspective, Han Wu wasn’t necessarily overwhelmingly powerful, but had rather displayed a superior technique, enabling him to intercept the axes so quickly.

Convinced that he had fully gauged the extent of Han Wu’s abilities, the bandit king adopted a condescending tone and declared haughtily, “*Oi*, youngin’! If you value your life, you’ll hand over every last bit of your money and treasures. Don’t make me say it again. A single throw of my axe is enough to end you three times over!”

A faint smile played on Han Wu’s lips as he casually flicked away the axes he’d effortlessly caught.

“*Ohhh...* Is that so?” he mused, a challenging glint in his eye. “Why don’t you demonstrate?”

As these words left his lips, Han Wu summoned a powerful three-meter-tall half-dragon, a Heroic life form completely loyal to him.

“Glorious God, what is your wish?”

“*Eh*, just kill them all.”

Obedying Han Wu’s command, the half-dragon charged out of the estate without a moment’s hesitation, violently ripping through countless bandits. As it rampaged, its bluish-white scales became streaked with vivid red blood, a chilling manifestation of its ferocious bloodlust.

Even though the bandit king was a Lord life form, he adamantly refused to engage the half-dragon in battle, prioritizing his own survival above all else.

“Time to flee!”

Without a moment’s hesitation, he instantly burrowed into the earth, vanishing from sight. His remaining subordinates, however, utterly dumbfounded by their leader’s brutal cruelty and unexpected betrayal, could only stare blankly, paralyzed with shock, as the half-dragon rapidly closed in on them.

The bandits soon snapped out of their shock, desperately throwing their poison sand and axes, but their efforts were futile; their attacks merely bounced off the incredibly resilient half-dragon, barely inflicting any harm to it. Even the poisonous fumes released by a handful of bandits proved far too weak to have any discernible effect on the creature.

Having lost all hope, the bandits scattered in terror, each one desperately wishing for an extra pair of legs to run faster. Unbeknownst to them, Han Wu had prepared for this retreat, having already commanded his skeletons to conceal themselves and lie in wait at a short distance from his estate. The skeletons sprang their trap with precise timing, intercepting and slaughtering many of the bandits who had barely escaped the estate’s vicinity. With the ambush successfully concluded and all the bandits eliminated, the Skeleton Knights moved in, summoning fresh skeletons from the deceased bodies.

Meanwhile, Han Wu, his thoughts still preoccupied with the elusive bandit king, dispatched his Dark Cursed Bugs to conduct a thorough search. It wasn’t long before the bugs successfully located traces of the bandit king, revealing his hiding spot to be a small, secluded cave, surprisingly overflowing with numerous boxes of treasures.

Han Wu’s gaze became fixated on the mountain of treasure displayed in the footage, a wave of greed washing over him. Such monstrous wealth was enough to tempt even him.

“I will gladly accept these treasures as compensation for the mental anguish they’ve caused me,” Han Wu murmured to himself, his gaze still glued to the unfolding footage.

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