

The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

#Chapter 31 - Icarus Wings - Read The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend Chapter 31 - Icarus Wings

Chapter 31 - Icarus Wings

Han Wu faced an unprecedented difficulty, his spiritual flames dancing wildly in his eye sockets. He had no idea on how to solve the crisis in front of him.

He could clearly hear the sound of his skeletons being crushed and could feel their spiritual flames being extinguished one by one. He was undoubtedly losing.

The very notion that two Divine Beings could challenge a Demigod was ridiculous.

Nevertheless, Han Wu refused to lose. He refused to give up.

As if sensing his mood, the skies in his divine realm clouded over. Steely and the Scorching Dwarves gathered in the temple, praying earnestly. The sounds of his worshippers traveled and reached his mind.

Oh divine and glorious God, through your blessings, we have been able to prosper. We are willing to sacrifice ourselves to cut down your enemies. We wish to fight for our Glorious God!

Steely wishes to battle!

The Scorching Dwarves wish to battle!

The billions of locusts buzzed incessantly. Despite lacking intelligence, they were willing to do anything to help their god, even if it meant sacrificing their own lives.

Coincidentally, midnight had just passed and it was the start of a new day.

Han Wu summoned Steely and the entirety of the Scorching Dwarves. Steely joined the battle with all four of his Hurricane Greatswords while Divine Hammer held onto Hellforge and led the Scorching Dwarves to battle, and though his arms burned red from wielding Hellforge, he refused to give up. The massive Unique Heavenly Demon Insects, following the Scorching Dwarves, charged past the gate and took to the skies, ready for battle. This continued until all 100 units had been summoned.

However, Han Wu didn't just stop there. Within his divine realm, the billions of locusts, brimming with life force but lacking independent thought, acted as a single entity and collectively focused their prayers on him, their pure, unified voices ringing in his mind.

Sacrifice us!

The familiar array appeared in the skies above his divine realm and billions of locusts were sacrificed. This time, however, rather than three options, there was only one. Han Wu was stunned by the reward he had received from Sacrifice.

[Icarus Wings. Special Item. Dispels darkness and grants immunity to negative status. Affects all the user's races. (A special item gifted to you. The sacred wings will bring a miracle.)]

As Han Wu retrieved the item, a sacred light appeared which enveloped all his units, including the undead skeletons and the demonic minotaurs, and immediately dispelled the darkness around the entire area as well as the negative status afflicting his units.

Upon seeing the light, the Demigod Dark Frogman shrieked, "Impossible! How can a mere Divine Being dispel my darkness? This cannot be!"

Han Wu did not respond. He held onto the Icarus Wings and diverted the light onto the Dark Frogmen, affecting even the Mountain Eater, which ensured that the Frogmen could no longer use the darkness to their advantage.

Han Wu noticed sparks of electricity arcing out from the Mountain Eater, immediately realizing that Qin Shuang had been eaten.

"Kill that Mountain Eater!" He roared.

"Yes!"

"We heed your call!"

Steely and Divine Hammer responded, running towards the enormous Mountain Eater.

Steely's incredible sword skills and the powerful heat from Divine Hammer's Hellforge eventually tore open a wound on the Mountain Eater's stomach, allowing the Golden-Crown Thunder Sparrow to escape.

Right after her escape, Qin Shuang ascended into the sky and charged a powerful black lightning ball, hurling it with intense fury towards the Mountain Eater and scorching it to a crisp. The Thunder Sparrows' morale surged after witnessing the safe return of their god, and they immediately fought valiantly against the Dark Frogmen.

The Unique Poison Heavenly Demon Insects targeted the Heroic Dark Frogmen and unhesitatingly exploded, killing them in the process. Without the Heroic Dark Frogmen restraining the bone giant, it was free to destroy the Dark Frogman territory. Numerous Dark Frogmen were stomped to death as it advanced.

The battle once again shifted in Han Wu's favor. Recognizing its impending defeat, the Demigod Dark Frogman desperately sought to make its escape.

However, there was nowhere to hide beneath the light of the Icarus Wings. Noticing that it was trying to flee, Qin Shuang swiftly unleashed several thunderbolts upon the Demigod Dark Frogman.

Though it was a Demigod, its actual strength was actually very mediocre, especially after using so many Divine Skills consecutively, making it completely incapable of resisting her powerful attack.

Qin Shuang delivered numerous blows to it until it finally collapsed. She paused and motioned towards Han Wu. "It's your turn. As per our agreement, I only want its corpse. The rest is yours."

She faithfully upheld her end of the bargain, since she knew that she would've died without Han Wu's intervention.

Han Wu slowly approached the Demigod Dark Frogman. It pleaded weakly, "Please, let me go. I will give you everything I have in exchange."

Han Wu, however, turned a deaf ear to its pleas and ordered Steely to cut off its head. He didn't need anything from it, since all its treasures would be his even upon its death. With its head lopped off, the Demigod Dark Frogman had finally fallen.

Upon witnessing the demise of their Demigod, the Dark Frogmen immediately ceased all combat. The skeletons made quick work of the remaining Dark Frogmen and turned them into skeletons.

They proceeded to scour the area for all the Dark Frogmen's treasures, which were so many that they piled up into a small mountain, though most were worthless.

Han Wu discovered only five decent items from the pile. He displayed all five to Qin Shuang and asked, "Are you sure you don't want any?"

Qin Shuang spotted one Sacred Object that resembled a necklace. Though she wanted it, her pride wouldn't allow her to take it. With a straight face, she replied, "We had an agreement. Everything else but the corpse is yours."

Naturally, Han Wu knew that she wanted the necklace, so he picked it up and wore it on her neck. "Consider this my payment of 150 Divine Points, plus the interest," he explained.

Qin Shuang was perplexed. The Sacred Object was worth at least 10,000 Divine Points, yet Han Wu considered it as payment for a mere 150 Divine Points.

Do I look like someone who charges that much just for interest?

Even the legendary investor Warren Buffett would worship her if she could actually pull off charging that much. Still, since Han Wu gifted it to her, Qin Shuang had no reason to reject it. Though she displayed no emotions, she was actually overjoyed inside.

The mission was completed and the exam was finally over.

Just as Han Wu was about to seal his skeletons into a card to bring back to his divine realm, Tian Wen sent him an encrypted message.

“Han Wu, good job. The school’s management and some of the recruiters from the top ranking colleges wish to meet you.”

“What about my units?” Han Wu asked, worried he wouldn’t be able to bring back his skeletons. After fighting numerous battles, he had already accumulated 30 million skeletons.

Tian Wen smiled in amusement. “I will make sure you can take them back later. The school won’t mistreat you.”

Han Wu nodded, and he was transported back to his classroom with Qin Shuang.

Tian Wen quickly led them to the principal’s office, smiling very happily.

Chapter 32 - Recruitment

While heading to the office, Tian Wen specifically cautioned his two students to speak carefully so as not to accidentally insult the recruiters. The recruiters were actual lecturers at the colleges and were all Gods.

Han Wu and Qin Shuang nodded vigorously. The two of them almost lost to a single Demigod. Naturally, they couldn’t afford to go against a God.

Han Wu and Qin Shuang soon arrived at the office and took their seats. Before them sat six people, three of which were part of their school’s management. The other three seemed to be the recruiters.

Xu Mei introduced the two students to the recruiters. “These are the two most stellar students from the exam, Han Wu and Qin Shuang.”

The three recruiters scrutinized both Han Wu and Qin Shuang simultaneously. As Gods, they had the ability to read a portion of their information without needing an Inspection-type skill.

Han Wu grew worried, unsure if the three recruiters would notice his Exclusive Divine Talent and Sacrifice.

The three recruiters looked at each other, communicating silently with their eyes. After some contemplation, the leftmost recruiter spoke first.

“We have a rough understanding of your abilities, but we need to ask a few more questions. Let’s start with Qin Shuang. Your family has a God, so it’s likely that you don’t have to worry about money. You also obtained the corpse of a Demigod this time from the exam. I take it that you are trying to use the corpse to make a Lord life form. Am I correct?”

Qin Shuang nodded in response.

Pleased, the three recruiters nodded and checked something on their list.

Meanwhile, the school management was shocked. They hadn’t expected Qin Shuang to be able to make a Lord life form even while she was still a Divine Being. According to the recruiters, it appeared that her chances of succeeding were very high too. This was unheard of!

Most of the members of the school management had been Demigods for years, and yet none had managed to raise a Lord life form on their own. Many of them only had a couple of Heroic life forms at best. To think that they were poorer than a student! It was very demotivating.

The recruiters continued their questioning. “Qin Shuang, do you mind sharing how many Divine Essence you have? We are unable to read that information on our own.”

“I have four Divine Essence.”

Han Wu was shocked, as he hadn’t expected her to be that rich. Four Divine Essence was worth a lot of money! A single Divine Essence was worth at least 150 million Divine Points. Didn’t having four of them mean that her family had invested 600 million Divine Points into her?

It was unheard of, and it wasn’t something Han Wu could’ve possibly imagined. He never thought that a household with a God would be that rich.

The three recruiters nodded happily. “Qin Shuang, you’ve fulfilled the criteria to enroll into any of the three colleges we represent. Once you are done with your Lord life form, you can submit the form to enroll into any one of our colleges. We will place you on the reserve list so you can enter our college before the term starts.”

“Thank you.”

Qin Shuang, filled with joy, bowed politely and thanked them. She even glanced at Han Wu, as if signalling him to become her slave before it was too late.

The three recruiters then focused on Han Wu, their eyes more serious this time.

“Han Wu, your core race is the locust, right?”

“Yes, that’s correct.”

It was true that locusts were his core race, and there was no way he could deny it. However, he didn’t think that it was embarrassing. On the contrary, he regarded the locusts as a good race. Without their strong reproductive capabilities, he wouldn’t have been able to reach his current situation where three recruiters were looking for him.

The three recruiters crossed something out from their list before asking again, “You only have one Divine Essence for now, is that correct?”

“Yes.” Each recruiter crossed out something once again upon hearing Han Wu’s answer.

“One last question. We are very curious as to how you obtained a member of the Heroic Swordwind race and a weakened version of the Skeleton Lord.”

Han Wu frowned. It was clear that the three recruiters couldn’t inspect his capabilities. Since that was the case, Han Wu had no reason to tell them anything either. Whether they believed it or not was one thing, but Han Wu preferred to keep his ability to Sacrifice living beings to obtain treasures hidden.

“Can I not answer that?” Han Wu replied.

The three recruiters looked at each other and nodded. “Of course. Every exceptional being has their own secrets.” Yet again, the recruiters crossed out something on their respective lists.

The three looked at the three crosses on their list, and each recruiter gave Han Wu the same response. “I’m sorry, Han Wu. Even though your performance so far has been superb, there are certain criteria that you have yet to meet. If you still wish to enroll into our colleges, carry on with your excellent performance and take the regular enrollment exam.”

The members of the school management looked at Han Wu in pity. They knew how exceptional Han Wu was, but unfortunately the three recruiters failed to notice Han Wu’s potential and power.

“I understand. I will work hard and take first place for the enrollment exams,” Han Wu answered, locking eyes with the recruiter from Imperial College. The recruiter detected his underlying intention but didn’t pay him much mind. “Then we wish you the best of luck.”

The recruiter from Imperial College was used to this. There were thousands of geniuses who wanted to enroll into Imperial College, but only a handful of them would pass the exam. Han Wu was just one of many, so the recruiter chose to ignore him.

With the meeting over, the three recruiters promptly teleported away. Tian Wen patted Han Wu's shoulder to console him. "The requirements to enter one of the top colleges are very high. It's normal to get rejected by them. If you don't mind, there are some First Class Colleges who wish to place you to their reserved list."

"Thank you, but I need to enroll into Imperial College," Han Wu calmly replied. He still needed to complete his grandfather's dying wish to find his parents. He had to enroll into Imperial College no matter what.

Tian Wen decided not to persuade him further, seeing how stubborn he was. Since he didn't know about Han Wu's grandfather, he assumed Han Wu was just frustrated and would later calm down and come to his senses.

After Tian Wen was done speaking, Xu Mei said, "Han Wu, there's still some time before the enrollment exams begin. We can talk about your enrollment later, but there is something that the school wishes to discuss with you."

Han Wu suddenly grew wary because Xu Mei was being more courteous than usual.

What do they want from me? He thought.

Chapter 33 - Divine Realm Changes

After a lengthy discussion with the school management, Han Wu left the office, two contracts in hand.

The first was a labor contract for his 30 million skeletons. The school had desired to purchase his 30 million skeletons for ore mining operations within the Demonic Civilization. Though weak and clumsy, skeletons did not get exhausted, and they barely needed any food. They could work 24 hours a day without resting, making them the ideal workers for capitalist bosses. Han Wu, however, chose to rent rather than sell them.

The management had no choice but to add his condition to the labor contract. In exchange for renting out his skeletons, Han Wu would be able to earn a portion of the profits from the ore mine.

The second contract was related to his Demon Locusts. The Demonic Civilization was definitely not a place a weak locust could survive, but Han Wu's Demon Locusts were an exception. His Demon Locusts had not only adapted to their new environment, but they could even reproduce normally. According to the school's calculation, the

population of the Demon Locusts in the Demonic Civilization would reach 30,000 after a hundred days.

The Demon Locusts weren't sought after as a fighting force—they were way weaker than even skeletons—but as a method to get rid of Flesh Golem corpses. With their help, the principal would no longer have to worry about Flesh Golem corpses polluting the frontlines.

Han Wu had no objections to renting the 30,000 Demon Locusts out. He literally had millions more of them in his divine realm regardless.

Through these means, he successfully secured two contracts. The school paid him 300,000 Divine Points up front and subsequently promised to credit the daily earnings to him. Through this deal, Han Wu had just made it into the ranks of the wealthy.

Just as he exited the office, he spotted Qin Shuang leaning against the wall. It seemed she had been waiting for him.

"I'm going to enroll into the college after I'm finished with my Lord life form. The resources given by the college will help me grow faster," she said suddenly, pausing to stare at him.

Looking ahead, Han Wu plainly responded, "Congratulations."

"Are you going to enroll into Imperial College?"

"Yes. I must go there." He was determined to enter Imperial College at all costs, driven by his desire to locate his missing parents in the Chaotic Starfield.

"Then I will enroll into Imperial College too. However, since I'm now a student on their reserved list, I'll be able to enroll earlier and obtain more resources than you. I will grow faster too. You might not be able to catch up with me if we meet again by then. You still have time to become my slave before I become a student at Imperial College. I can protect you there once you enroll later. With me protecting you, no one will bully you."

Han Wu smiled bitterly at her words. "Can you stop trying to make me your slave? With my current strength, I can live a relatively good life without having to be a slave."

Qin Shuang was disappointed, but she didn't pursue the matter further. Since there was nothing left to talk about, Han Wu decided to take his leave. "I need to sort out the rewards I've obtained this time, so I will head back first. Goodbye."

"Goodbye..."

Though Qin Shuang didn't want him to leave, she couldn't find a reason to stop him either. Looking at his back, she sighed, "That idiot. He was quite cute when he was in

that tiny skeleton body, though.” She opened her interface and saved a picture she had taken of Han Wu as the little skeleton as her wallpaper.

Han Wu returned to the Demonic Civilization for his army. Due to the labor contract, he had to leave most of them behind in the Demonic Civilization to mine, so after careful consideration, he chose to bring only the strongest to his divine realm.

Obviously, he had to take the Heroic Osteomancer and the Heroic Skeleton Reanimator along no matter what, as well as the three Skeleton Knights that could use the Skeleton Summon skill. He also decided to take all of the Minotaurs with him.

Once that was done, he returned to his divine realm. After checking his account, he found that the rewards for the exam had been credited to him. First was the Divine Essence card, glowing with a luxurious light that gave it an air of unattainability.

Han Wu promptly absorbed the Divine Essence, causing his information to change.

[Name: Han Wu.]

[Rank: Divine Being.]

[Divine Talent: Chosen One (Exclusive).]

[Divine Powers: Increased Growth, Sacrifice (Exclusive).]

[Divine Essence: 2.]

[Divine Points: 3.5 million (Self); 76 million (Others).]

[Faith Points: 79.03 million.]

[Core Level: 3 (Rank 2 Sacred Object: Law of Gluttony; Rank 1 Sacred Object: Poison Orb).]

[Core Race: Locusts (219 Unique; 49.08 million Elite; 23.8 billion Common).]

[Other Races: Swordwind Race (Heroic: Steelcutter Swordwind)]

[Other Races: Scorching Dwarves (Heroic: Divine Hammer; 2 Unique; 58 Elite.)]

[Other Races: Skeletons (Lord: Skeleton Lord; Heroic: Osteomancer, Skeleton Reanimator; 190 Unique.)]

[Other Races: Minotaurs (Heroic: Sarman; 14 Unique; 2589 Elite.)]

[Buildings: Rank 1 Furnace; Rank 2 Hive; Rank 1 Temple.]

[Special Equipment: Fountain of Life; Refinery; Icarus Wings]

There hadn't been any noticeable changes after Han Wu absorbed the Divine Essence.

Maybe I still don't have enough Divine Essence yet.

Ignoring the Divine Essence, he compiled the rewards he had obtained during the recent exam. Han Wu had obtained 1,800 Class Points from the exam this time, which meant he could exchange them for resources like Sacred Objects, Skill Gems, and weapons.

He had also looted quite a lot of treasures from the bases of the races he had exterminated. He had found three Heroic Templates, so he applied two on the skeletons and one on Divine Hammer. He also identified several Unique Seeds, skills, Sacred Objects, weapons, and items which could be used to complete different Evolution Paths.

Overall, he had obtained a lot more resources in the recent exam than in the previous major one. Unfortunately, he couldn't afford to live a luxurious lifestyle yet—he had a lot of races to take care of.

His divine realm, measuring about 200 sq km in size, proved insufficient to accommodate five diverse races with their differing lifestyles. With this in mind, he spent 1 million Divine Points to expand his divine realm to 1,000 sq km, which was coincidentally the maximum limit a Divine Being's divine realm could reach.

The Divine Points were used to acquire not only land but also a variety of items with the purpose of enhancing his divine realm to provide a more comfortable living environment for his recently acquired races. In addition, he supplied them with every necessary resource they required, including Unique Seeds, Sacred Objects, skills, and weapons, and proceeded to sell off the remaining items that none could use, obtaining 500,000 Divine Points in the process.

Even after all of that, he still had two important things he needed to do.

Han Wu's first priority was to improve the strength of his Heroic life forms. He had to find a suitable Skill Gem for Steely and replace the four Hurricane Greatswords with something stronger. Sarman, the Minotaur, also needed a new totem.

As for the skeletons, the Skeleton Lord needed a large amount of resources to recover its strength, and both his Osteomancer and Skeleton Reanimator needed defense methods to survive against lethal attacks.

In total, he spent 30 million Divine Points just to strengthen his units. However, he didn't regret spending so much—improving his units made him happy.

After all, his strength would increase once his Heroic life forms were done with their respective enhancements, which would consequently help him reach new heights in the future.

His final objective was to complete an Evolution Path for his locusts.

Although the locusts were initially fragile, they thrived in the peaceful environment afforded by their position as Han Wu's core race. Nevertheless, to achieve a level of power that would render them self-sufficient, they needed access to significantly more resources.

Han Wu had acquired several special items that could help him complete several Evolution Paths for his locusts, and he decided to test them out. After spending quite a lot of time, money, and resources, he had finally figured out two Evolution Paths for his locusts.

The first was the Abyss Evolution Path, dependent on the Source of Abyss he had obtained from the Abyss Demon base camp. With the Source of Abyss, he could successfully imbue his locusts with the properties of the Abyss, granting them immunity to demonic energy and improving their defensive capabilities. The success rate of this Evolution Path was a staggering 95%.

Locusts imbued with the Source of Abyss mutated into Elite Abyss Bugs, which were tougher than ordinary locusts and had enhanced vitality. More importantly, their defenses against status ailments and magic damage had increased drastically. Overall, it was a defense-oriented Evolution Path.

The second Evolution Path, which he called the Dark Cursed Path, involved the treasures he had obtained from the Dark Frogmen which allowed him to infuse the power of darkness into his locusts, granting them the power to curse their enemies. The locusts transformed by the Dark Cursed Path would become Elite Dark Curse Bugs, which could turn invisible and afflict their enemies with status ailments. After some experimentation, he determined the success rate of the mutation to be about 90%.

Aside from the two Evolution Paths, Han Wu also had the Heavenly Demonic Insects which boasted strong offensive power with their large horns.

The three different mutated insects synergized well and drastically improved their combat capabilities during battle, consequently increasing his strength as well.

Chapter 34 - I Love Helping Others

As Han Wu was calmly observing his locusts, a fervent prayer from Divine Hammer reached his mind.

Oh glorious God! Please forgive my foolish brother, who accidentally tossed the Sacred Object Fireball Staff into the Refinery while disassembling the ores. We never thought he would do such a foolish thing, disassembling the Fireball Staff gifted by you! Oh glorious God, please forgive his transgressions...

Han Wu's eyes widened in shock. *What are they doing? Why did they throw it into the Refinery? It's a very valuable Sacred Object that could also be used as a weapon!*

It was a waste to drop it into the Refinery. Han Wu frowned, swiftly appearing before the Refinery.

A Unique Scorching Dwarf was kneeling and trembling on the ground beside the Refinery. He was the clumsy oaf who had accidentally dropped the Fireball Staff into the Refinery. His name was Iron Hammer, Divine Hammer's brother.

Upon witnessing Han Wu's appearance, Iron Hammer's head lowered even further as he begged for mercy in a trembling voice.

Han Wu smiled wryly at the sight of Iron Hammer's remorseful groveling. He recalled how valiantly Iron Hammer had fought during the battle with the Demigod in the Demonic Civilization. Iron Hammer didn't even blink when he was slashed by a Frogman's blade back then, but now he was trembling like a little chick in front of Han Wu. It showed just how sincere his faith in Han Wu was.

Han Wu sighed. How could he punish such a sincere believer? He forgave Iron Hammer, carefully picked him up and gently admonished, "Just remember your mistakes and be more careful next time."

Iron Hammer shed tears of joy, realizing that his god hadn't punished him. In a rapid display of gratitude, he repeatedly kowtowed after Han Wu set him down, his forehead striking the ground with each bow. He had also ranked up from a Worshipper to a Zealot. Han Wu chuckled, hoping the Faith Points Iron Hammer would generate as a Zealot would cover his losses a little.

Turning to face the Refinery, he noticed that it was still chugging along. *What will the Refinery do to a Sacred Object? What will the end product be?* He wondered curiously.

He had once pondered over the question, but he had never found an opportunity to test it out to see what would happen. After all, Sacred Objects were very expensive, and even the cheapest Rank 1 Sacred Objects would cost him 300 Divine Points. Though Han Wu was now somewhat wealthy, he still wasn't someone who would spend money extravagantly.

The Refinery finally stopped after ten minutes, and some items fell out through the output. After scooping them up and carefully examining them, Han Wu identified two

Fire Stones alongside a peculiar golden-hued rock. He instantly analyzed the information of the unusual rock to discover its purpose.

[Source of Sacred Object: The source of all Sacred Objects. Can be used to upgrade or repair existing Sacred Objects.]

After digesting this information, Han Wu immediately thought of his incomplete Rank 2 Sacred Object: Law of Gluttony.

Could it be used to repair the Law of Gluttony?

He decided to test it out, so he took the Law of Gluttony and pressed the Source of Sacred Object against it.

A miraculous scene unfolded. The moment the Source of Sacred Object made contact with the Law of Gluttony, it transformed into shimmering golden strands which dissipated into the Law of Gluttony. A gentle shimmer of light emanated from the Law of Gluttony, and Han Wu clearly felt that it had become stronger.

He had previously used the Law of Gluttony to ascend his Common locusts into Elite Locusts after they had consumed food equivalent to 1,000 times their basal metabolic rate. However, now, the Law of Gluttony had improved ever so slightly, and his Common locusts only needed to consume food equivalent to 999 times their basal metabolic rate!

Han Wu's eyes grew wide with surprise at the good news. As long as he could get enough Sacred Objects, he would be able to repair the Law of Gluttony. He looked forward to witnessing the effects of a completed Law of Gluttony.

I need Sacred Objects to obtain a Source of Sacred Object though. I only got one even after disassembling a high-quality Rank 1 Sacred Object, which means I need a lot more Sacred Objects if I want to repair the Law of Gluttony.

Han Wu was right. Even if he spent all his Divine Points, he still might not be able to obtain enough Sacred Objects to repair the Law of Gluttony.

Was there a way to obtain cheap Sacred Objects? Han Wu decided to find out through the marketplace. As Han Wu scrolled through the threads, he found various answers and opinions, none of which were viable, until he read something very interesting.

The person who posted the thread was a God facing an unprecedented difficulty. The God, while participating in an invasion to take down another outer civilization, damaged his God Weapon, which was also a Sacred Object, consequently decreasing his combat capabilities significantly. As a result, he was requesting help to see if anyone could repair his God Weapon.

Money wasn't an issue as long as someone could repair his God Weapon. He would even go so far as to sell everything he had just to repair it.

Many forging experts had commented beneath his thread, asking him to give up. They noticed that the God Weapon was forged in an unknown civilization that was on the brink of collapse, whose forging methods had been lost to time. Rather than wasting resources to repair it, these experts recommended that he buy another God Weapon instead. However, the God commented that his God Weapon was very important to him and must be repaired at all cost.

A small but calculated plan began to take shape within Han Wu's mind. Since the God Weapon was a Sacred Object, a Source of Sacred Object might be able to repair it.

He quickly commented under the thread.

"I think I can help you. Contact me if you need my help."

Just a few minutes had passed when the person responded. "Can you really repair my God Weapon?" The God asked doubtfully.

"I can give it a go. You've posted the thread for so long and yet no one could help you. There's no harm in trying once more."

The God had no choice but to agree. "Okay, fine, but I want to say this first: I will not allow my God Weapon to leave my sight for even a second."

Han Wu assured him that things would be fine. "I don't need to touch your God Weapon. I have a special method that requires me to use Sacred Objects to repair yours. You can give me some Sacred Objects to try first if you trust me."

The God hesitated for quite some time before he replied, "I've downloaded the Divine Civilization's anti-scam app, so don't even think about scamming me. Let me know what kind of Sacred Objects you need. I can give you anything below Rank 4 right now, but I will need some time to gather Sacred Objects above Rank 4 if you require them."

Han Wu sighed and admired how rich a God was.

"I just need Rank 1 Sacred Objects."

The God was confused and felt somewhat insulted that his God Weapon could be fixed with Rank 1 Sacred Objects. How could mere Rank 1 Sacred Objects compare to his mighty God Weapon? He however had no choice but to comply, since it was what the supposed master needed. The God took out 100 random Rank 1 Sacred Objects from his inventory and gave it to Han Wu.

Completely stunned, Han Wu hurriedly received them. Could a God really pull out so many Sacred Objects that effortlessly? They were even top-of-the-line Sacred Objects!

Should I just block him and escape? He briefly considered. He took several seconds to calm his greedy heart and abandoned all thoughts of scamming the God. He didn't want to get flagged by the anti-scam app either.

He sighed, looking at the Sacred Objects, before tossing them into the Refinery. The Refinery whirred violently and finally spat out a variety of items from the output. Han Wu received 400 energy stones of various kinds and 109 Sources of Sacred Objects.

It should be fine if I keep 9 Sources of Sacred Objects for myself, right? Han Wu proceeded to send 100 Sources of Sacred Objects to the distraught God.

Ten minutes later, he received an excited message from the God.

"Master! No, can I call you my father? My name is Yuan Zhong. You must help me finish the repairs of my God Weapon!"

Han Wu muttered, "Yuan Zhong?[1] No wonder you are so gullible."

He glanced at the 400 elemental energy stones and the 9 Sources of Sacred Objects that he had pocketed for himself and lied, "There's no need to be so courteous with me. I love helping others to begin with."

1. Yuan Zhong can also mean gullible 

Chapter 35 - Blood Coliseum

Under the watchful eyes of the homeroom teachers, Liu Letian unwillingly surrendered the Rank 3 Aspect Healing to Tian Wen in the end, who gladly received it.

Liu Letian huffed, "Mr. Tian, there's still a long road ahead of us. Don't get too cocky."

He angrily stormed out of the room, leaving behind the other homeroom teachers, who were enthusiastically attempting to convince Tian Wen to take them out for a celebratory meal. He agreed, and the teachers all had a wonderful afterwork party.

After the party, Tian Wen returned to his dorm and carefully inspected the Rank 3 Aspect Healing with glee. As a support oriented Demigod, healing was a very crucial aspect for his role. Though inferior compared to a Rank 5 Divine Aspect, it was still a high-quality and satisfactory Divine Aspect. After all, a Rank 5 Divine Aspect could only be found by pure chance. With his strength, Tian Wen had never once expected to obtain one.

"Absorb."

After a moment of deliberation, he finally assimilated the Divine Aspect, which enhanced his power and brought him one step closer to becoming a God. However, even amidst his joy, he remained mindful that Han Wu was the sole reason he had been able to amass so many treasures so quickly. Tian Wen had always believed in repaying kindness tenfold, and this sentiment was amplified particularly in this instance, where Han Wu's efforts had yielded an abundance of unexpected surprises.

When he was about to message Han Wu, he received a call from Han Wu instead. Despite his bewilderment at the unexpected call request, Tian Wen ultimately chose to answer it.

"Han Wu, is something wrong?"

"Mr. Tian, don't worry; everything's fine. I just wanted to ask if you know anything about how to obtain resources needed to increase core levels. I've searched online, but I can't find anything."

Tian Wen smiled. It was natural that Han Wu wouldn't find anything online, since information about rare resources like Divine Aspects, Divine Essence, and core fragments wouldn't just be circulating on the internet.

These resources would be bought by the large merchant groups the moment they were placed on sale. Regular folks like Han Wu wouldn't even catch a glimpse of them online. In addition, such resources were sold for very high prices.

Tian Wen internally remarked, *Even with his recent wealth, he still will not be able to afford even one.*

He finally answered, "There are quite a few of them in the class treasury. You can exchange them using the Class Points."

Since he was already a Demigod, he didn't really need anything from the class treasury. Normally, such resources couldn't be exchanged just for Class Points. He was allowing it just because it was Han Wu who was in need.

"Thank you, Mr. Tian!"

Han Wu excitedly delivered all of his accumulated Class Points—1,950 in total—to Tian Wen to exchange for 13 pieces of core fragments. After receiving them, he immediately fused them with his Core and successfully increased his core level to 5. His core level was thankfully enough for him for the time being. However, he still wanted to find out if there was a more reliable way to earn core fragments, so that he could equip more Sacred Objects if he managed to acquire some.

After Han Wu voiced his thoughts, an idea flashed through Tian Wen's mind, based on his experiences. Back when Tian Wen was still in college, he had acquired a lot of good Sacred Objects, but he couldn't equip them because his core level was too low.

One of his seniors learned of his plight and took him to the Blood Coliseum, a place where people from different Civilizations could participate in challenges and win core fragments.

Unfortunately, Tian Wen was a support-type, so he never once won the challenges, even losing many of his units. He ultimately relinquished any thought of the Blood Coliseum, forgetting about its existence completely, until Han Wu's present request for core fragments forced those bitter memories to resurface.

"Han Wu, I know a place where you can challenge others from various Civilizations to win core fragments. However, this is a place where a lot of your units might die. Are you interested in joining such a place?" Tian Wen asked.

Han Wu had just spent a lot of money upgrading his units and was itching to test their newfound strength, so he had no issue with joining the Blood Coliseum.

"I see no reason not to. I have so many units—I don't mind losing a few," he eagerly replied.

Tian Wen nodded. "Alright, let me arrange it for you."

After the call, Tian Wen messaged his old senior who had once introduced him to the Blood Coliseum and obtained its coordinates. After instructing Han Wu to meet him at school, he used his authority as a teacher to borrow the use of the school's teleporter. He keyed in the coordinates, teleporting them both to the Blood Coliseum.

It took them fifteen minutes to arrive at their destination.

Han Wu was met with the sight of the massive Blood Coliseum, which had been constructed on another Civilization's territory. According to Tian Wen, the Blood Coliseum was the property of a God King. While extending a welcome to all races and Civilizations, the God King mandated strict ground rules for all the participants of the Blood Coliseum, the most important being no combat beyond its designated area. Those who broke this rule would be sent away by the owner of the Blood Coliseum.

New to such a strange place, Han Wu looked around with the curiosity of a village kid who had just set foot in a large city. A wistful smile played on Tian Wen's lips, seeing his own youth mirrored in Han Wu, though he was painfully aware of his present age.

For their safety, Tian Wen took out two masks from his divine realm, giving one to his student.

“This mask can obscure the inspection-type Divine Skill of a Demigod and below. This is still a different civilization, so it’s best to remain cautious,” Tian Wen explained.

Han Wu obeyed and wore the mask, following Tian Wen into the largest building in the area, the Blood Coliseum.

Tian Wen directed Han Wu to the registration counter to fill a registration form. Before he could be matched with another opponent, he first had to provide some basic personal information. While he was filling the form, Tian Wen briefly explained some of the rules to him.

“There are three different types of challenges here based on rank—the Divine Being, Demigod, and God ranks. Unless you specifically request it, they usually won’t pair you up with a challenger above your rank. Also, there is no limit to how many units you can summon, but in order to surrender, at least half of your units must die. There have been instances when some of the more stubborn challengers never surrendered until all of their units were dead.”

Han Wu carefully listened, gradually comprehending the rules as he completed the registration form. Since he was a newcomer, the Blood Coliseum had arranged a challenger for him within five minutes of him submitting his information.

Han Wu was then promptly teleported to a massive 1,000 sq km arena. The arena was structured as a massive pit, surrounded by towering spectator stands. Han Wu looked around to see a crowd seated above him, engaged in subdued discussions. He, however, could still hear them even though they were several kilometers apart.

“Look at that brat. He looks like a newbie without experience.”

“You mean like a greenhouse flower? I hope his opponents give him a good beating and show him that the outside world isn’t as nice as he thought.”

“What a shame. Who would’ve thought he would be so unlucky enough as to meet the cruel Rat Guy in his first fight?”

From the surrounding chatter, Han Wu discovered that his first opponent was a figure known as Rat Guy, and it became evident from the spectators’ conversations that this opponent was particularly ruthless and brutal.

Chapter 36 - Locust Plague

As Han Wu was lost in thought, a large row of words appeared before his eyes.

[Challengers, please summon your units. The match will begin in three minutes.]

Han Wu's gaze finally settled on his opponent for the first time. His opponent presented a small, dark-skinned figure with a slouching posture, emitting eerie chuckles which somehow resembled the squeaking of a rat.

"*Kekeke*, you cheeky little brat. Though I can't read your information, I'm certain you are a newbie. Don't worry, I take very good care of newbies. This match will end very soon."

With those words, Rat Guy summoned his units, and true to his name, almost 300 million Ratmen, half a meter tall, stormed out from his gate.

"This must be the first time you've seen so many units, right? *Kekeke*, since you're most likely afraid, just give up now. Just surrender once I've killed all of your units, and I will probably let you go, *kekeke*."

Rat Guy chuckled, his face betraying his malicious intent.

Han Wu smiled wryly, immediately summoning his units in retaliation. A locust swarm burst out from his gate, covering the very skies. The sheer number of locusts stunned not just Rat Guy, but the spectators as well. It seemed the guy named after a pest had been upstaged by actual pests!

A wave of surprised chatter and frantic whispers spread through the audience.

"What are those? Are those locusts? Can they even fight?"

"Wait, those are Elite locusts. Interesting..."

"In a battle involving such vast numbers, who would win: the rats or the locusts?"

Rat Guy stood frozen in disbelief. He had really thought having more rats was a foolproof strategy which would secure him an automatic win against this newbie. His "unstoppable horde" could no longer be called that—his opponent's units had outnumbered his, after all. However, what did it matter? They were ultimately just locusts.

"*Kekeke*, to think that locusts are your core race. What a shame. Rest assured, I'm a rat of my word. Once I'm done devouring your entire locust swarm, I'll *definitely* let you go!"

How could these locusts possibly pose a threat? They are nothing but moving targets! Kekeke, this is my lucky day! I'll crush them and win effortlessly, Rat Guy thought.

The timer ran out, and the match officially commenced.

With practiced motions, the Ratmen drew their crossbows in unison which they had concealed behind their backs, meticulously aimed and unleashed a volley of bolts at the swarm. However, before the 300 million arrows could hit the locusts, Han Wu's Abyss

Bugs launched forward and overtook the locusts, establishing themselves as the vanguard.

The Abyss Bugs' thick exoskeleton combined with their massive frame created an effective shield, effortlessly protecting the locusts from the incoming bolts. A few bolts did manage to penetrate the Abyss Bugs' armor, but the greater portion were deflected by the sheer strength of their thick exoskeletons. By implementing this tactic, the locust army sustained only minimal losses during the initial barrage of crossbow bolts.

The Ratmen, their anger fueled, intensified their assault and rapidly reloaded. However, before they could fire again, Han Wu ordered his Dark Curse Bugs to attack. The Dark Curse Bugs melded into the shadows and stealthily appeared behind the Ratmen, afflicting them with numerous status ailments like Slow, Enfeeble, and Blind. The impact was widespread, affecting almost all the Ratmen, leaving none of them able to reload their crossbows in time.

Han Wu continued to order his locusts to attack, sending out the Heavenly Demon Insects first. "Heavenly Demon Insects, charge!"

A wave of Heavenly Demon Insects surged forward, bypassing the Abyss Bugs, and plummeted towards the Ratmen, impaling them with their sharp horns. A significant number of Ratmen were instantly killed, impaled by the Heavenly Demon Insects, but those who endured the first wave were far from safe. Due to the effects of the Rank 1 Sacred Object Poison Orb, the Heavenly Demon Insects were now venomous, their attacks laced with poison! The venom hit like liquid fire, streaking into their veins and liquifying their internal organs, leading to rapid organ failure and death within a mere five seconds.

Only 20 seconds had elapsed, and yet Rat Guy had sustained devastating losses, his grand army completely ruined. In stark contrast, Han Wu's forces retained an astonishing 99.99% while Rat Guy's had dwindled to a dismal 42.73%. The stark contrast in power was instantly apparent. The gap wasn't a margin—it was a massacre.

"No, it can't be!" Rat Guy shrieked in denial, vehemently rejecting the reality before him and unable to comprehend the swift decimation of his Ratmen army, a force he had invested heavily in! Meanwhile, across the arena, the locusts persisted in their relentless assault, their mandibles tearing through flesh like it was paper.

Rat Guy's momentary lapse in action allowed his already dwindling forces to be further reduced, leaving only 31.45% of his army standing. Quickly snapping out of his daze, Rat Guy urgently declared, "I surrender!"

He had revelled in the destruction of his adversaries' prized units, but now karma's retribution was upon him, and he was the one watching his own forces crumble.

Once Rat Guy conceded the match, a barrier descended, preventing further combat. Ultimately, he was only able to recover a mere 31% of his units to his divine realm.

After his locusts returned to his divine realm, Han Wu's gaze fell upon the numerous Ratmen corpses. He considered summoning his Skeleton Knight to raise additional skeletons from the fallen bodies.

Unfortunately, Han Wu's plan was thwarted by the sudden appearance of a massive array on the arena floor. While it shared a resemblance to his Sacrifice array, this one possessed a significantly more potent pattern. The array absorbed the Ratmen's corpses and transformed them into a core fragment, which was presented to Han Wu as the reward for his victory.

Han Wu was confused when he left the arena, since he'd never seen a technique like his Sacrifice before.

Tian Wen approached him, happily patting his back. "Great job, Han Wu! I believed in you from the start. I've won a lot of Divine Points for betting against Rat Guy. Since you retained most of your units, do you want to challenge another opponent? You get to win 10% more core fragments with each consecutive victory."

Han Wu nodded the moment he heard he could get extra core fragments. "Then let's continue. It seems I need to train my units even more."

Ten minutes after his request, Han Wu was paired with an opponent. He secured a swift victory in that match and, after a half-hour interval, commenced another battle.

After 32 days of continuous combat, Han Wu narrowly secured his 184th victory, but only by resorting to the desperate measure of self-detonating 100 million Heavenly Demon Insects to eliminate his opponent's units. The crowd erupted in cheers, chanting the name Locust Plague, a title they had unanimously adopted for him.

This also marked his 89th consecutive win, increasing his reward to 8.9 times the standard core fragment payout per match. However, he found himself needing to use an increasingly larger quantity of core fragments each time he wanted to advance his core level. Increasing his Core from level 5 to level 6 had cost him 69 core fragments, and after absorbing the remaining core fragments he had won, it increased to level 7. However, he required significantly more core fragments to increase his core level to level 8.

Han Wu sighed to himself, "It's becoming harder to develop my Core."

Tian Wen asked, "Hey, my lucky star, what's making you sigh?"

Over the course of 187 matches, Tian Wen had faithfully bet on Han Wu. With Han Wu only losing three times, Tian Wen had amassed a substantial amount of Divine Points. It was no exaggeration to say that Tian Wen now perceived Han Wu as a walking treasure trove.

“I’m lamenting the fact that it’s taking forever to level up my core,” Han Wu explained.

Tian Wen responded, “Why don’t you try challenging a Demigod instead? You should be strong enough right now.”

Han Wu hadn’t thought of that possibility. “Will I get more rewards if I win against a Demigod?”

Tian Wen replied, “Expect roughly ten times your current reward. In the event that you are able to defeat a Demigod in your next match, your core fragment reward will be multiplied from 9 to 90.”

Upon hearing this, Han Wu immediately agreed—he still had close to 4 billion locusts in his divine realm, after all. It was a good chance for him to test his limits and possibly earn even more core fragments.