

# The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

## Chapter 451 - Han Wu vs Huang Shengjun

[ 1,293 words ]

### Chapter 451 - Han Wu vs Huang Shengjun

Han Wu and Huang Shengjun glared at each other, an indescribable aura surging between them. Han Wu wore his 4-Star God equipment set and gripped the 4-Star God greatsword in one hand while holding the longsword of unknown material in the other. Beside him, his 4-Star God Flying Arrow hovered in the air, ready to deal a lethal blow at any moment.

Huang Shengjun was no less formidable. He would soon enter his third year and amassed powerful treasures in his armory. He wore gnarly 5-Star God equipment and wielded a pair of 6-Star God cudgels.

The cudgels were anything but ordinary. Each was shaped like a skull, one grinning and the other weeping. Those familiar with God weapons would have recognized them instantly. Those were the Twin Mighty Cudgels, renowned 6-Star God weapons across the Divine Civilization.

Rumor claimed they were forged from the twin heads of a cannibalistic Major God. Although the heads shared the same source, each emitted opposing destructive powers. The devastation these cudgels caused surpassed that of any weapon of their rank.

Huang Shengjun awakened the hidden power within the Twin Mighty Cudgels. The eerie sounds of laughter and wailing reverberated throughout the area. The sound invaded Han Wu's mind; no matter how he tried, he couldn't block it out. Even when he tried to block his hearing, the noise persisted, gnawing at his nerves until agitation consumed him and he wanted to hit himself.

Huang Shengjun poured more energy into the Twin Mighty Cudgels. The weeping cudgel started crackling with the sound of shattering ice, while the smiling one radiated scorching heat. He then charged forward and swung both cudgels down at Han Wu. Frost and fire collided in midair and erupted in a violent explosion.

The blast sent Han Wu flying backward, but he was unharmed. His 4-Star God equipment set, however, started to crack under the immense force. A few more blows like that would break it completely.

Huang Shengjun didn't give him a moment to recover. He raised the smiling cudgel high above his head, and it expanded in size. Blazing heat and flames surged from it, burning as fiercely as a miniature sun.

Han Wu felt like he was being roasted alive under the scorching heat. A single blow would leave him gravely injured, so he decided to stop concealing his power. Black gas seeped from his body, and he sank into Huang Shengjun's shadow. It was the Skill he had replicated from Dark Locust. It didn't deal any damage but allowed him to evade most attacks.

Huang Shengjun's attack struck only air, and he glared down at his own shadow. From within it, he could see Han Wu's mocking figure taunting him.

"Han Wu, get out from my shadow!" If Huang Shengjun had unlocked his Divine Authority, he could've used it to force Han Wu out.

Han Wu chuckled and ignored him. *Why would I? I don't want to get hit, idiot.*

Even though he couldn't harm Huang Shengjun directly while hidden in his shadow, he still had other ways of injuring him. He controlled his Flying Arrow with his mind and attacked Huang Shengjun again and again.

The constant attacks irritated Huang Shengjun, and he used a lot of energy to smash the Flying Arrow with his weeping cudgel. Only then was he free from Han Wu's harassment. Yet with Han Wu hiding in his shadow, he remained powerless to strike back.

Frustrated, Huang Shengjun turned his rage on Han Wu's locusts instead. He gathered his energy and smashed his cudgels together. The sound of laughter and wailing rippled through the air as a sonic wave. Countless locusts were caught in its path and plummeted from the sky. Many of them were heavily wounded, including the powerful Lords and High Lords.

Huang Shengjun felt a rush of satisfaction and gathered his energy once more to kill the locusts.

Han Wu couldn't stand it and leapt from Huang Shengjun's shadow. "Stop it!"

As his voice rang out, numerous Shadow Nails burst from the darkness and stabbed Huang Shengjun's shadow. In an instant, Huang Shengjun felt invisible ropes tightening around him and his movements growing sluggish.

Han Wu seized the opening and attacked with both his greatsword and longsword. The blades crashed against Huang Shengjun's 5-Star God equipment, filling the air with a piercing screech of metal. In the next instant, cracks spread across Huang Shengjun's armor, proof of how powerful Han Wu's attacks were.

Unfortunately, these attacks weren't enough to kill him. Huang Shengjun broke free from his restraints and attacked Han Wu once more. Han Wu used Dark Locust's replicated Skill and jumped into Huang Shengjun's shadow again to evade the latter's subsequent attacks.

The intense battle quickly drained them both, but as prodigies among their own peers, they pushed past exhaustion and kept fighting. They only stopped when every last bit of stamina was gone and they couldn't move even a single finger.

Meanwhile, the clash between their armies had ended as well. Every goblin lay dead. The locusts had lost 60% of their swarm, but they still secured victory.

Han Wu pushed himself up from the ground; he was exhausted yet bursting with excitement. "You've lost, Senior Huang!"

Huang Shengjun frowned and drew the precious stone from his pocket. "The show has just begun!"

He then crushed the stone in his bare hand, and the wandering souls in the air quickly converged until they formed a Soul Giant nearly 10,000 meters tall. With its pinky finger, it lifted Huang Shengjun up high into the air and set him on its shoulder.

Huang Shengjun looked down at the locusts and Han Wu. Under the Soul Giant's gaze, Han Wu felt his soul tremble. Compared to the Soul Giant, Han Wu's soul formed from a single Divine Essence was insignificant. At the same time, Han Wu could sense that the Soul Giant's power exceeded even that of a Sage life form.

"Destroy them!" Huang Shengjun thundered.

The Soul Giant waved its arm and released a surge of spiritual pressure that obliterated a huge swathe of Han Wu's locusts. Even Dark Locust was struck and lost half of his body. He survived but only barely.

Huang Shengjun laughed wildly. "You are the one who has lost!"

Han Wu looked back and saw his locusts reduced to pulp. Rage and humiliation burned through him. These were his units, his creations, and they had been wiped out in one blow.

Huang Shengjun's voice turned icy. "Your turn to die, Junior Han!"

The Soul Giant slammed its palm downward, and its oppressive pressure followed. Faced with the crushing force, Han Wu didn't dodge. Instead, he reached into his pocket and pulled out the treasure that Imperial College had bestowed to him—the Rewinder.

Han Wu endured the incoming spiritual pressure and pressed the button on the Rewinder. "Revive all of my units!"

The moment he activated it, the world around him froze. Even the powerful Soul Giant was trapped in suspended time, unable to move.

The arrow on Rewinder started moving backward. The torn flesh scattered across the battlefield reformed into locusts. The souls the Soul Giant had consumed tore free and returned to their original bodies. Only when every locust had revived did time begin to move again.

The Soul Giant's attack resumed, but its power had fallen to a tenth of its former might. Han Wu jumped into the shadows to evade the blow. When he looked up, the once 10,000-meter-tall Soul Giant now stood only 1,000 meters high. Its strength had also fallen to that of a Sage life form.

Han Wu's eyes gleamed with excitement. He had a chance to bring down the Sage life form!

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[ 1,203 words ]

## **Chapter 452 - Slim Victory**

Han Wu ordered his locusts to fly forward and detonate against the Soul Giant. The Heroic locusts exploded first. Compared to the Sage Soul Giant, they were several ranks lower, and their regular attacks would've barely scratched it.

Nonetheless, Self Detonation was a peculiar Skill. Each explosion tore open cracks in space that were sharper than scalpels. The cracks eviscerated the Soul Giant and inflicted continuous damage.

Huang Shengjun was on the verge of madness. Han Wu had used the Rewinder to revive his locusts, but his goblins remained dead. The Soul Giant was his last surviving unit, and its strength had greatly diminished.

"Soul Giant, we can't fight here now. We need to withdraw!" Huang Shengjun urged.

He longed to kill Han Wu but without his goblin army and with fatigue setting in, retreating was the only sensible option. He knew that if he survived this battle, he would have another chance. He could reclaim the upper hand with the Soul Giant next time.

Naturally, Han Wu had no intention of letting them escape. He would never allow his sworn enemy to slip away. He pushed through his fatigue and summoned Dark Locust to his side. As a Sage life form, Dark Locust's power rivaled that of the Soul Giant.

"Use Dark Domain and trap them!" Han Wu barked.

Dark Locust went all out, radiating pure Dark Energy until the spreading darkness swallowed the Soul Giant. Even though it was as strong as Dark Locust, it was still a newborn driven only by brute force. It lacked the intelligence to break free from the Dark Domain.

Huang Shengjun glared at the surrounding darkness in frustration, but there was nothing he could do. If his true body were here, he could've just used his Divine Authority to dismantle the Dark Domain. Unfortunately, this was only a clone that hadn't unlocked his Divine Authority yet.

Even so, Huang Shengjun's battle experience gave him some insight into the domain's structure and a possible escape route. "Damn it. Soul Giant, heed my orders and move where I am pointing at."

Han Wu wouldn't give him the chance. He pressed his hand against Dark Locust's head and channeled his own energy into him. Empowered by Han Wu's strength, the Dark Domain expanded and gained several special effects.

[Dark Corrosion: Erodes the enemies' defenses within the Dark Domain.]

[Summon Dark Beings: Summons the dead units the host has killed.]

[Eternal Night: Enemies within the Dark Domain lose their eyesight.]

Each effect was more potent than the last. From the depths of the Dark Domain, a huge horde of zombies drifted out of the shadows. Many were the same mutated zombies Dark Locust had slain before, now reanimated by his power. They bellowed and lurched toward the Soul Giant.

Even though the Soul Giant couldn't see, it relied on its remaining senses to detect their presence. It thrashed about and crushed the zombies with ease.

Han Wu channeled more energy and used the telekinetic ability that he had obtained recently. Imagining the force as a pair of massive arms, he seized his greatsword and longsword, then struck the Soul Giant with both.

The Soul Giant was too large to dodge precisely. It tried to retaliate, but Han Wu had already withdrawn to a distance of more than a kilometer, well beyond its reach. Meanwhile, his locusts continued to detonate, and the fractured space around them tore deeper wounds into the Soul Giant.

Under the intense onslaught, the Soul Giant's power plummeted. Once a Sage life form, it fell to King, then High Lord, and finally Lord. Its frame kept shrinking until, upon reaching the Heroic level, it stood no larger than a human.

At that moment, Han Wu swung his greatsword and cleaved off its head. The Soul Giant finally fell. Huang Shengjun knew that it was truly dead this time and that his own end had come. Yet even when facing death, he would never let Han Wu win unscathed. He swung the Mighty Twin Cudgels together, and a huge mushroom cloud erupted from where he stood.

Frost and fire spread out like a raging hurricane, decimating anything in its path. Countless locusts were obliterated. The explosion also blasted Han Wu and Dark Locust backward and severely injured them.

Huang Shengjun's clone had been at the heart of the explosion and was wiped out. Its death marked Han Wu's victory, but it was a narrow one. He had started the battle with 20 million locusts and now had only 3 million left. Even then, two thirds of those were crippled.

Han Wu had paid a steep price for little gain. His enemy had fallen, but he himself had been all but drained. The victory felt hollow.

"Huang Shengjun!" Han Wu's howl echoed across the wasteland.

From the horizon, a helicopter approached and descended swiftly. Four humans in Parasol Corp.'s battle armor leapt down. Each looked distinct: one held twin blades, another carried a sniper rifle, a third gnawed on an entire grilled lamb leg, and the last one was smoking.

The man with twin blades surveyed the devastation. "Was that a nuclear bomb? It destroyed a third of Tanuki Town. It must be a nuke!"

The girl with the sniper rifle retorted, "Don't spout nonsense. If it were a nuke, this entire place would be heavily irradiated and we would be dead the moment we stepped in here. How could we still be standing alive?"

The man chuckled. "You are right, Megan. I mistakenly thought that it was a nuclear explosion."

Megan scoffed, but the faint curl of her lips betrayed her amusement.

The smoker sighed. "Now's not the time to analyze what happened here. We need to find the target designated by headquarters. That's the most important mission."

Pank, the man munching on the lamb leg, pointed ahead. "Isn't he over there?"

They followed his finger and spotted Han Wu. At present, he looked filthy, and his eyes were unfocused. He still couldn't accept that his locusts had been annihilated again like that.

The four grinned. Whatever Han Wu was going through didn't concern them. Their only focus was completing the mission, which they assumed would be simple today.

The smoker, Bob, spoke in a flat tone. "Let me go bring him back to headquarters."

Megan pointed her sniper at Han Wu and cautioned, "That man is not normal. Be careful."

"I know, I know," Bob replied impatiently, brushing off her warning.

He approached Han Wu, unmoved by the other man's vacant stare. "We are from Parasol Corp.'s security division. You need to cooperate with us. I advise you not to resist and come with me quietly, or else."

Bob's tone left no room for misunderstanding. Han Wu heard his voice and looked at him.

"Hey, are you even listening?" Bob mumbled and reached for Han Wu's shoulder.

Han Wu's eyes turned cold. A sharp crack split the air as Bob's neck twisted at an impossible angle. Han Wu had snapped it with telekinesis!

"Don't pester me!" Han Wu hissed, his killing intent spreading like frost.

The three watching from a distance felt as if they had been plunged into an icy cave.

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[ 1,102 words ]

## **Chapter 453 - Recovering Losses**

Megan flinched at the surge of killing intent and pulled the trigger. The bullet shot toward Han Wu's head with deadly force but stopped short; a barrier had blocked it just ten centimeters away.

The man wielding twin blades charged at Han Wu, but the moment he took a step, his twin blades spun out of control and sliced through his own neck. Blood sprayed everywhere as his head was severed and hurled upward.

Megan was already shaken that her sniper shot hadn't even grazed Han Wu; now, watching two of her teammates die in an instant, she was frozen in disbelief.

Pank dropped his grilled lamb leg and fled the moment he realized that Han Wu was far beyond their league. Han Wu glanced his way and used his telekinetic ability to tear him clean in half. As blood streamed down his corpse, Megan sank to the ground in despair and shock. Even though she had survived countless battles, she still couldn't suppress the terror rising in her chest. The man before her was invincible.

After killing the three men, Han Wu felt somewhat better and turned toward Megan. He frowned when he noticed the Parasol Corp. logo on her battle armor. He clearly remembered destroying the base last time, leaving no survivors. So how could someone from Parasol Corp. appear here?

He approached her, and her last shred of hope vanished. She was certain she would die next. To her surprise, Han Wu didn't kill her.

"Where did you come from?" he asked.

His question flustered Megan, but her training as a guard kept her from revealing anything. Thus, she shook her head in denial.

Han Wu pressed his palm against her head and channeled his telekinesis, shaping it into a sharp needle that pierced her brain to extract her memories. It was a technique that he had just recently discovered, and it proved surprisingly useful now.

As he sifted through her memories, he learned that Parasol Corp. didn't just have a single base here in Tanuki Town. The main headquarters was buried a kilometer deep underground.

"Never thought they could hide that well." Han Wu had to admit that they were resourceful to be able to dig out a base a kilometer deep underground.

From her memories, Han Wu learned that the headquarters stored numerous vials of high-purity virus. After his hard-fought battle with Huang Shengjun, he had suffered heavy losses and needed to use the remaining time to raid the base and recover what he could. As such, he ordered the locusts to bring him the Origin of Mutation so they could raid it together.

Using her memories as a guide, they easily located the headquarters' entrance. They cleared the biometric security using the password, Megan's voice, and her iris scan, then successfully entered the elevator and descended into the underground facility.

The elevator doors had barely opened when the guards opened fire. The executives, watching through the security cameras, had noticed Megan's unnaturally stiff expression and suspected she was under someone's control. They would rather kill an

innocent person than allow an enemy to slip inside. Acting on those orders, the security team unleashed a hail of bullets the instant the doors parted.

Unfortunately, the gunfire didn't harm anyone. Han Wu had already anticipated such an ambush and had wrapped the elevator in a thin telekinetic barrier. Even after the gunfire ended, the barrier remained intact, without so much as a crack.

Han Wu was naturally going to return the favor to Parasol Corp. for welcoming him like this. He formed invisible blades with his special ability and cut the necks of everyone around him. Blood pooled near the elevator as Han Wu and Origin of Mutation walked out with the mind-controlled Megan. Han Wu also summoned some Common locusts to eat the corpses.

The executives watched the massacre unfold on the security monitors, then triggered the facility-wide sirens. Hundreds of armed guards were dispatched with one order: stop Han Wu at any cost.

Though surrounded, Han Wu felt no fear. Bullets bounced harmlessly off his barrier as he unleashed invisible telekinetic threads that sliced through the air. Wherever they struck, heads fell, and crimson spread across the corridor.

The executives stared in horror at the gruesome scene. Some even lost control of their bladders. They had survived countless crises before, but this was the first time they faced something beyond their power to contain.

"What should we do? The intruder is too strong, and our guards cannot stop him!" one executive shouted, his voice trembling.

"We can only use monsters to fight monsters," another said through gritted teeth.

"You mean release the zombies against him?"

"What other choice do we have? This is our only option," someone else argued, slamming a fist on the table.

"But we can't control the zombies at all!" another protested, panic creeping into his tone.

"Then let them fight. With luck, they'll destroy each other."

The executives quickly voted in agreement, but before they could act, an astonishing scene unfolded on the screen.

Han Wu strode toward the containment area and crushed the zombies' skulls. He effortlessly extracted the mutated zombies' crystals and even summoned a lot of locusts to eat their corpses.

The executives were stupefied by the sight. With their guards and zombies wiped out, Parasol Corp. had completely lost the power to stop Han Wu.

“Everyone, I need to leave now.”

“He’s terrifying. Who brought that murderous god here?”

“Wait, don’t go! I don’t want to die.”

Only one executive stayed behind, staring at the surveillance feed. Tracing Han Wu’s route, he noticed that the intruder was most likely heading straight for the lab that housed the vials of viruses.

“Come back, all of you!” he shouted. “Don’t head out like headless chickens, or you will run right into him.”

However, no one listened. Faced with death, people revealed their true nature.

The lone executive ignored them and sank into his chair. He stared at the screen, hoping that his deductions were correct.

On the screen, Han Wu advanced with a cold expression, killing every executive that he encountered. In the end, Han Wu reached the laboratory doors with the Origin of Mutation. His route had completely bypassed the headquarters’ control room.

The executive sighed in relief and turned his attention to the laboratory feed. The Origin of Mutation followed Han Wu like an eager child, inspecting every corner of the laboratory before borrowing Han Wu’s greatsword to pry open a safe box. It had a strong hunch that something valuable was hidden inside.

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[ 1,075 words ]

## **Chapter 454 - Origin Virus**

The Origin of Mutation cut open the safe and found a tiny box inside. It lifted it, opened it, and discovered three vials filled with blue liquid. The fluid shimmered with unnatural purity, without a single trace of contamination.

Han Wu studied them with curiosity. “What are those three vials?”

The Origin of Mutation's hands trembled as it turned toward him excitedly. "Hahaha! Vessel, we are rich! These are the treasures of the Zombie Civilization, the Origin Virus."

Han Wu was still confused. He had never heard of it before.

The Origin of Mutation explained slowly, "Let me try to make it simple for you. These three vials contain the Origin Virus, the source of the zombie virus spreading across the world. Every zombie out there was once human, infected by the strain that had been diluted countless times.

"Don't underestimate the Origin Virus. Each vial only contains twenty milliliters, but given enough time, they could easily turn every single living creature in any civilization into zombies."

Han Wu's expression tightened. The Origin Virus was too dangerous!

"Vessel, what are you worried about? You are a God of the Divine Civilization and can use your Divine Points to resist infection. However, your divine realm is a different matter.

"Almost everyone in the Divine Civilization fears their divine realm becoming infected, especially by a virus like the one in my hands. The Origin Virus is extremely unpredictable and can easily cause a catastrophe within your divine realm.

"Although... Only your locusts could be immune to it. Their digestive systems are extraordinary, and with the antiviral that I've created for them, they could consume the Origin Virus and grow stronger."

Han Wu sighed when he learned that the Origin Virus couldn't infect him or his locusts. The Zombie Civilization's virus was very hard to deal with and that was why he was very careful with it.

After some contemplation, he asked, "What can you do with them?"

The Origin of Mutation answered eagerly, "They're very useful! The Origin Virus represents infinite possibilities. With the right reagent, I can completely alter its composition. By doing so, I can modify it so that the virus' next generation induces a specific kind of mutation.

"Do you remember my Skill: Controlled Mutation? The modified virus would work in a similar way, but my Skill is easier to control and produces fewer side effects."

Han Wu still didn't understand why the three vials were so valuable.

The Origin of Mutation simplified its explanation. "To put it bluntly, as long as I have them, I can experiment and determine several paths to create powerful mutations in a host. In fact, I could even make a template. With that, you could choose any mutation you want. I will only need to add the necessary ingredients to the Origin Virus to produce the desired result."

Han Wu thought of it as something like an all-purpose balm. It seemed to work the same way within the realms of viruses, though it was much more valuable.

"Vessel, there are three vials right now," the Origin of Mutation said. "I want to keep one for myself and use the other two for your units. What do you think? Don't worry. With these two vials, I'm absolutely confident that I can turn them into reagents perfectly suited to strengthen your units. I will just take the last one as a reward. Is that alright?"

Han Wu looked into the Origin of Mutation's eyes, burning with desire, and didn't refuse. "Are you sure one is enough? You can take another if you need it, or even all three."

The Origin of Mutation was touched. "Vessel, that won't be necessary. I only need one. But you should carefully consider which units will receive the other two. It's best to use them on your most loyal units to maximize their effect."

Han Wu nodded. He was about to explore the rest of the headquarters when a system notification echoed.

[The duel is over. Tanuki Town will soon shatter into pieces. Please leave now.]

Han Wu heard the notification and immediately abandoned any thought of exploring further. He quickly ordered his units and the survivors who worshipped him to gather in one place. A moment later, all of them were transported back to his divine realm.

In the control room, the last remaining executive confirmed that Han Wu was truly gone, then exhaled in relief.

"That bastard is finally gone!" he muttered, only to freeze as a sharp cracking sound echoed through the room. He looked around, trying to find the source, before realizing it was coming from underneath him.

He pressed his ear to the floor and heard the cracking intensify. Before he could react, the entire control room trembled, the ground split open, and a bottomless chasm yawned below.

Peering into the chasm, he saw magma churning around.

"What is happening? Am I hallucinating due to fatigue?" he stammered.

He rubbed his eyes and tried to calm himself. The scene before him was almost impossible to believe. The ground trembled, and the man failed to keep his balance. He fell into the chasm, and the magma below swallowed him.

Similar scenes unfolded throughout Tanuki Town. Three hours later, the entire town sank into the earth.

Han Wu, who had known this outcome all along, remained calm. He simply waited for the judges to declare the winner.

Their decision was unanimous: Han Wu had claimed the final victory, and Huang Shengjun was the loser. The representatives from the War faction left immediately after the announcement. Even though losing was part of a war, certain losses carried consequences that would inevitably end the future of someone else.

This final battle had been a contest of strength between the two men and a test to determine whether Huang Shengjun was worthy of the War Faction's support. In the end, he failed. With his defeat, the War faction withdrew its backing, rendering all his efforts meaningless.

Unable to accept the result, Huang Shengjun shouted with tears streaming down his face. He couldn't control his emotions anymore.

Han Wu couldn't care less and turned to Xu Hai. The latter instantly understood his intent, stood up promptly, and snapped at Huang Shengjun. "Compose yourself! This is a public space. You are making a fool of yourself."

Everyone could tell that Xu Hai was using this chance to put more pressure on Huang Shengjun.

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[ 1,094 words ]

## **Chapter 455 - Hecatoncheiras**

Naturally, Huang Shengjun wouldn't listen to Xu Hai, yet his words still struck him. They made him feel as though everyone around was laughing at his failure.

"He can't even beat a first-year junior. What did he do all year?"

"The second-year valedictorian? What a joke."

“I’m so ashamed. I can’t believe I ever admired him.”

...

The students who had gathered to watch the duel were all mocking and ridiculing him. Huang Shengjun’s chest tightened until he couldn’t breathe. “You... shut up! All of you, shut up!”

His outburst only fueled their mockery.

“So uncouth. Is he really a valedictorian?”

“What a coward. He only bullies the weak and fears the strong.”

“Never thought your clone would die so miserably in that duel. Try fighting with your true body next time.”

...

Their insults rang in Huang Shengjun’s ears. He tried to block them out, pressing his palms against his ears, but their voices cut through anyway. A crushing pressure wrapped around him, and all he wanted was to leave this place as fast as possible.

Han Wu seized the moment and placed his hand on Huang Shengjun’s shoulder. “Senior Huang, I think it’s time we settled our debts.”

Huang Shengjun glared at him. “Take your hand off me. This is the only warning you will get.”

Unfortunately, his words carried no weight here. Han Wu didn’t flinch. By now, they had crossed the line into open hostility.

“What if I don’t?” Han Wu shot back, his voice rough with anger.

The lecturers from Imperial College thought the two were about to start a real fight and hurried to pull them apart.

One lecturer snapped, “Han Wu, have we not made the rules clear? Once the duel ends, all grudges between you two must be settled. You’re not allowed to touch him again.

“Imperial College will soon announce its decision regarding Huang Shengjun’s punishment for leaking another student’s personal information. The higher-ups have already sent us the verdict. I’ll read it to both of you.”

He unrolled a scroll and read aloud. “Student Huang Shengjun intentionally sold another student’s personal information. Due to his lack of integrity, the higher-ups have decided that all of Huang Shengjun’s past achievements at Imperial College are hereby nullified. He is to be expelled immediately.”

Han Wu listened with delight. Erasing Huang Shengjun’s past achievements and titles wasn’t that important. What thrilled him was the expulsion itself. Once expelled, Huang Shengjun would lose every privilege and ounce of prestige that came with being a student there. He would no longer be the valedictorian, and Imperial College would cast him out with no chance of return. For a man who valued his reputation above all else, that was a fate worse than death.

Satisfied with the verdict, Han Wu finally released him. Whether he wanted to kill Huang Shengjun in the future was another matter, but for now, his rival was gone from Imperial College for good.

Being able to drive him out like this left Han Wu in high spirits. He returned to his divine realm and spent a large amount of Divine Points to activate Life Infusion, blessing his units. It was a day for celebrations for them as well.

Once blessed, his units became healthier, and their potential increased significantly. The newer units that had just joined his divine realm immediately turned into Devotees. In the end, he had secured victory and gained much from it.

Han Wu could feel that his units’ faith in him had grown stronger. He smiled, then studied the threads of faith that connected him to his units. He chose the two thickest ones.

Through those threads, he reached out to the two units. The thicker of the two connected to Steely, one of his oldest units. Steely had once been a Heroic life form, but with Han Wu’s support and nurturing, he had advanced through every rank—Lord, High Lord, King—and he had now reached the Sage rank.

Han Wu knew how much effort Steely had invested to reach this point, so he resolved to help him become even stronger. The best way to achieve that was to ask the Origin of Mutation to use the Origin Virus.

The Origin of Mutation fused some of Steely’s blood with the Origin Virus to create a base template first. After considering how Steely used all four arms to swing different greatswords in battle, it adjusted the template and added several parameters designed to induce a targeted mutation.

Once the process was complete, the Origin of Mutation handed Han Wu the finished reagent—the combination of the Origin Virus and Steely’s blood before being modified to induce a targeted mutation. Han Wu was confident in the Origin of Mutation’s skills and ordered Steely to drink it.

The moment Steely swallowed the reagent, he started changing. He shot up in height, and arms sprouted from his abdomen. They were white, soft, and small like those of a newborn baby, too fragile to be useful in battle.

The mutation continued, driven by the reagent, until it finally reached its end. Steely had turned into a Hecatoncheiras, a towering behemoth with 100 arms. He could now wield 100 greatswords, and his new form radiated a very sharp aura.

Eager to test Steely's strength, Han Wu handed him 100 greatswords from his own vault. As Steely gripped them, he felt Divine Points surge through his arms.

At that moment, the 100 greatswords in his grasp flooded him with immense energy. With a casual swing, he easily obliterated an entire mountain. Such power far exceeded anything Steely had achieved in the past. Before his mutation, Steely had to use Steelcutter to accomplish something similar. Now, one ordinary swing was enough.

The mutation thrilled Steely. If a single swing could cause such destruction, what would happen if he used its strongest Skill, Steelcutter? He couldn't wait to test it out, so he asked Han Wu for permission to unleash Steelcutter.

Han Wu feared that his divine realm would suffer damage, so he quickly purchased a ticket online that would transport them to a foreign civilization. Once there, Steely calmed his heart and unleashed Steelcutter. Under his control, the greatswords started merging together until all 100 of them merged into a 1,000-meter-tall greatsword formed from a hurricane. The surrounding space fractured and repaired itself even before he swung the sword.

"Swing it!" Han Wu ordered.

Steely obeyed.

When the shockwave from the Skill finally faded, Han Wu stared in horror. The entire stretch of earth before them had vanished.

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[ 1,258 words ]

## **Chapter 456 - Earthsunder Life Form**

The strike's power blow far exceeded Han Wu's expectations and shattered his understanding of what true power could be. "That's... That's way too strong!"

He stared at Steely in disbelief, then quickly checked his information.

[Name: Steelcutter Swordwind]

[Race: Swordwind (Hecatoncheiras form)]

[Rank: Earthsunder Life Form, Demigod]

[Talent: Swordwind, Hundred Arms]

[Divine Essence: 24]

[Divine Aspect: Hurricane (Rank 5)]

[Skills: Whirlwind Slash, Gust Chop, Hurricane Slash, Steelcutter...]

[Faith: Saint]

[Faith Points: 1 Divine Essence/day]

[Life Span: 500,000 years (Current age: 530)]

...

Han Wu examined the data and exclaimed, "Earthsunder life form? This is the rank above a Sage! I suppose it's true that his powers could destroy the earth itself."

He then noticed that Steely had acquired a new Talent called Hundred Arms. As its name suggested, Steely now possessed 100 arms, each one amplifying the effect of his other Talent, Swordwind.

Seeing how much Steely's strength had increased, Han Wu nodded in satisfaction. He had previously experimented with adding extra limbs to another unit, but the grafted limbs had only provided movement rather than enhancing the life form's abilities.

However, Steely was different. This transformation was likely the result of the Origin of Mutation's modified Origin Virus. It could be said that a single vial of the Origin Virus had changed Steely forever. He was now thousands of times stronger than before.

Han Wu then recalled that he still had another vial. He initially planned to use it on his second-most loyal unit, the Saint Tigerman, Hu Chi. However, after witnessing Steely's drastic transformation, he changed his mind. He would instead use it on his core race, and Dark Locust was the best candidate.

Even though Dark Locust's faith level was stuck at Zealot, that didn't make it any weaker than Steely's or Hu Chi's. Because of his insect-type nature, Dark Locust's faith

was permanently fixed at that level. No matter how much he evolved or how intelligent he became, he would never rise beyond the Zealot level.

Han Wu chose to give it to Dark Locust precisely because the latter was a unit of his core race and could draw power from Han Wu's Core and Sacred Objects, greatly increasing his overall strength.

Once he made his decision, Han Wu relayed his plan to the Origin of Mutation. The latter nodded, then fused the Origin Virus with Dark Locust's DNA and worked on the modifications. Finally, another vial specifically tailored for Dark Locust was complete. The Origin of Mutation named it Obliterate.

After his experience with Steely, Han Wu chose not to test the reagent within his divine realm. Instead, he summoned Dark Locust out to another foreign civilization.

At his command, Dark Locust drank the reagent. His cells immediately began to mutate, his frame cracking and regenerating in rapid succession. When he finally absorbed all the reagent's energy, his condition stabilized. His exoskeleton thickened, and though his form grew smaller, the aura he exuded was even more powerful now.

Han Wu checked Dark Locust's information with impatient curiosity.

[Name: Dark Locust]

[Race: Locust (Obliterate form)]

[Rank: Earthsunder Life Form, Demigod]

[Talent: Reproduction, Obliterate]

[Divine Essence: 20]

[Divine Aspect: Darkness (Rank 5)]

[Skills: Shadow Nail, Shadow Meld, Self Detonation, Dark Domain...]

[Faith: Saint (Exception)]

[Faith Points: 0.8 Divine Essence/day]

[Lifespan: 200,000 years (Current age: 330)]

Based on the data, Dark Locust didn't appear as strong as Steely after drinking the reagent, but that was only on the surface.

Han Wu carefully checked Dark Locust's stats and opened the details for Obliterate.

[Obliterate: The body will recover when on the verge of being obliterated.]

This Talent resembled revival, but it wasn't as strong. Dark Locust's body had to be nearly destroyed before it could repair itself. Yet when combined with Self Detonation, Obliterate became exceedingly powerful.

As Han Wu's strongest unit of his core race and their leader, Dark Locust naturally also possessed the Skill: Self Detonation, which could only be used once. However, he hadn't used it before; hence, why he was still alive.

Now, with Obliterate, Dark Locust could use Self Detonation to fully recover from the brink of death.

*Doesn't that mean Dark Locust can perform endless Self Detonations?* The thought intrigued Han Wu, so he ordered him to test it by detonating in an open area.

Dark Locust heeded his orders wholeheartedly. Fearing his Self Detonation would harm Han Wu, he flew five kilometers away before using Self Detonation.

As an Earthsunder life form, Dark Locust's explosion shook the very ground itself, matching Steely's Steelcutter in destructive power.

When the blast subsided, a five-kilometer-long spatial crack remained, absorbing all nearby matter and energy to mend itself. It took a full three minutes to close.

Watching the horizon with keen anticipation, Han Wu finally spotted a dark figure reforming. Before long, Dark Locust emerged again, unscathed.

After restoring his body, Dark Locust's energy and strength returned to the same level as before Self Detonation. At the site where he had exploded, the spatial crack had been mended, yet an eerie trace of Dark Energy lingered. The aura it released corroded all living beings except Dark Beings, draining their vitality until they withered and died if they lingered too long.

Han Wu was ecstatic by his two newly upgraded units' performance. He was still only a God, yet he already commanded two units that could fight against a Major God's army.

"Let's look for more of the Zombie Civilization's fragments," he said. "We might find more vials of the Origin Virus."

He could already imagine the day when all his units were Earthsunder life forms. Sadly, the Origin of Mutation quickly shattered his fantasy. "We were already exceedingly lucky to find these three vials in such a small place as Tanuki Town. Vessel, stop daydreaming. Even if you scoured the entire Zombie Civilization, finding another one would still be a miracle."

when the Origin of Mutation said that, Han Wu looked visibly disappointed. Nevertheless, he had obtained two powerful units this time, and that alone was a stroke of luck. One had to learn to appreciate their circumstances. Even a God like him understood that everything had to follow a certain order. After all, no one in this world started running the moment they were born.

Han Wu was still admiring his units' strength when a God appeared. The newcomer was wearing an armband that marked him as an administrator. He approached Han Wu and scolded him. "What did you do here? How are we supposed to handle this mess you made? Pay up. You cannot leave until you compensate us with 3,000 Divine Essence."

At first, Han Wu felt apologetic. After all, he had indeed caused the destruction. However, his temper flared the moment he heard the amount. "3,000 Divine Essence? Are you robbing me blind?"

With that amount, one could purchase several divine realms of a God along with their units. This barren stretch of land was worth less than thirty Divine Essence, much less 3,000!

The administrator sneered. "Do you think 3,000 Divine Essence is too little? Do you know who owns this place? This particular piece of land belongs to the God King of Light himself. If you offend him, your entire family will face the Light faction's wrath. Are you afraid now? Call your family and pay up."

When Han Wu heard this place belonged to the God King of Light, he snorted.

"What a coincidence. I am already his enemy, so I won't be paying anything." With that, Han Wu turned and left.

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

[ 859 words ]

## **Chapter 457 - Labor and Robbery**

The administrator had no intention of letting Han Wu walk away. He approached Han Wu and unleashed his own Divine Authority. A faint pressure settled over Han Wu, and he felt uncomfortable.

As Han Wu was just about to retaliate, his two units attacked the administrator simultaneously. The two Earthsunder life forms were viciously fast. Flashes of azure and black streaked past, and before the administrator even realized what had happened, both of his arms were gone.

The administrator stared at his severed stumps and tried to regenerate them, but to his shock and terror, not even his Divine Points could restore what he had lost.

“You... Do you know who I am? How dare you do this to me!” he shouted.

Despite his bravado, the administrator trembled in fear as Steely and Dark Locust advanced toward him. He stumbled back, his voice faltering. “You can’t do this to me. I am from the Light faction. I am...”

Before he could finish, Steely pressed his greatsword against the man’s neck. One more word, and Steely would decapitate him.

“That’s enough. Let him go.” Han Wu spoke firmly, forcing Steely to stop before he went too far. He stepped toward the administrator, pulled out a card containing 30 Divine Essence, and slipped it into the man’s pocket.

“This is 30 Divine Essence. It’s not compensation for the land. It’s just the fee to reattach your arms. If you still want to fight, I’ll be more than happy to oblige.” Han Wu patted the administrator’s shoulder and turned to leave.

A few seconds later, Han Wu and his units disappeared into the gate. The administrator snapped back to his senses and instinctively tried to wipe the sweat from his forehead, only to remember he no longer had arms. Then he noticed his pants were wet. He had actually pissed himself in fear of Han Wu’s threats.

Humiliation burned through him! No matter what, he was still a God, yet he’d been terrified to the point of losing control in front of two units from a mere student. If word got out, his reputation would be ruined. He vowed to take revenge on Han Wu, but first, he must change into a new pair of pants and find a way to reattach his limbs.

Han Wu returned to his divine realm with his two new Earthsunder units. The moment they arrived, the surrounding space started to crack under the weight of their immense power. Cosmic energy leaked from the cracks, threatening to harm his other units. The two had just ascended into Earthsunder life forms and hadn’t learned how to completely control their strength.

Erebard hurried over and used a special seal to contain their power, temporarily preventing further spatial rupture. It was only a stopgap measure.

Erebard, who was once a powerful Great Dragon, informed Han Wu that as long as he could become a Major God, and his Core reached Level 40, he would be able to easily sustain Earthsunder life forms and even the more powerful Heavenrender life forms.

Unfortunately, Han Wu was still far from becoming a Major God. Even though the number of his units was recovering, it remained a shadow of the army he once commanded. He needed more time and resources to recover.

However, the resources provided by Imperial College were nowhere near enough to sustain him and his units right now. He needed to find a stable, long-term source of wealth and resources.

Unsure where to start, Han Wu sought advice from Xu Hai. The latter was delighted to see Han Wu because he was one of his most outstanding students. How could he not like someone who consistently improved his reputation?

Xu Hai offered two ways to accumulate large amounts of wealth and resources over time, both relatively stable in their own right.

The first was to earn resources through labor, such as sending his units to work in mines that belonged to some random God King or their factions. This was a laborious job that paid well. The drawback was that it would use up a lot of units. Those sent to the mines would suffer an inexplicable loss of vitality and die soon after. If that happened, the faction would typically provide monetary compensation.

Many Gods and Major Gods relied on this approach to extract profits from other factions. It wasn't ideal for Han Wu, though, since his core race was the locusts. However, his skeletons fit the task perfectly. Other Gods with the undead race as their core race used this method to amass a fortune.

The second method was much more dangerous than manual labor: robbery. In this context, it meant stealing from those outside the Divine Civilization. Success could bring immense wealth, perhaps even make one rich overnight. Meanwhile, failure almost always meant death. Few Gods resorted to it because they believed it was dishonorable to hunt and rob the life forms of another civilization.

Han Wu had no such reservations. "Master, I want to know where I can go to rob them without falling under the laws of the other major civilizations."

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[ 1,272 words ]

## **Chapter 458 - Abyssal Mine**

Xu Hai studied Han Wu with sharp curiosity. He never expected Han Wu to embrace something as dishonorable as robbery.

Han Wu laid out his reasoning. "It's just a matter of resource collection. Strength rules this world, and everyone competes to seize whatever they can. I'm just a weakling. Why should I waste any chance to rob the few resources within my reach?"

Xu Hai burst into laughter, thinking Han Wu had a promising future. He was definitely more talented and ambitious than Xu Hai had ever been. Moreover, Han Wu had the resolve to cast aside his reputation and do something dishonorable all for the sake of growing stronger. Xu Hai believed that Han Wu had the potential to overturn the heavens.

After contemplating for a moment, Xu Hai offered a suggestion. "Given your power as a God, I would recommend the Abyssal Mine. They lie within another foreign civilization and form a massive network of tunnels rich in Abyssal Netherstone, a versatile ore that can be used to forge God equipment, refine medicine, and even nurture units. It's also in high demand.

"One gram of Abyssal Netherstone with a purity index of 90% sells for 100,000 Divine Points. Many Gods and even life forms from other civilizations head there to mine it for profit."

"If it's that valuable, wouldn't powerful civilizations seize the entire mine for themselves?" Han Wu asked.

Xu Hai explained, "The ore is valuable. Naturally, many civilizations fight for it. Apparently, a huge war once broke out among several civilizations over it. In the end, three factions emerged victorious and claimed ownership of the mine.

"The three factions are the Divine Civilization, the Divine River Civilization, and the Demonic Abyss Civilization. They still control the mine and take 80% of the total Abyssal Netherstone production."

"They take 80%? What about the remaining 20%?" Han Wu asked. Xu Hai's explanation had sparked Han Wu's curiosity.

"The remaining 20% goes to life forms from other civilizations. However, they must first purchase an entrance ticket at an exorbitant price from the three ruling civilizations," Xu Hai answered.

Han Wu nodded. The three civilizations avoided full control of the mine since partial access brought more profit. They could earn more money through high ticket prices and avoid another war. It was a clever strategy.

Xu Hai continued, "Since the three major civilizations technically own the Abyssal Mine, their life forms receive some special benefit. For one, the entrance ticket costs only 10% of what other life forms pay. Also, even if you fail to rob someone, you won't be killed as long as you prove you belong to one of the three ruling civilizations. If you do fail, you might have to pay a hefty sum for your release. Still, it's better than losing your life."

Han Wu nodded, thinking it was good to be part of a powerful civilization. “Master, the summer break is coming. I want to head to the Abyssal Mine to test my skills and steal some resources from the other civilizations.”

Xu Hai nodded, pleased with his student’s initiative. “Sure, but take someone with you. At the very least, you’ll have allies to rely on.”

Han Wu nodded and left the office. On his way back to his dorm, he decided to call some of his friends to see who could accompany him to the mine. Before he could do that, he noticed a flood of messages from Elina.

He skimmed through them and noted that most of them focused on the incident where he destroyed a section of a foreign civilization under the Light faction. Now they were searching for him.

As usual, she urged him to join the Light faction. She also swore that he wouldn’t owe any compensation and could even claim land several hundred times larger than his current divine realm as long as he joined.

He dismissed Elina’s olive branch, marked all her messages as junk, and deleted them. He then noticed several messages from Huang Shengjun. Most of them warned him to be careful because Huang Shengjun would take revenge.

Han Wu chuckled. He hadn't even had the time to deal with Huang Shengjun, and now the man dared to threaten him? If that was his choice, Han Wu wouldn’t hesitate to kill him. He swore that if Huang Shengjun appeared before him again, he’d end his life on the spot.

He then checked the messages from his friends. Qin Shuang had messaged him to ask whether he had nowhere to go during summer break and suggested he join her in Lightning Hell, a place where lightning-based units could train and grow. The environment suited her Thunder Sparrows.

Han Wu replied like a dolt. He told her that he already had a destination in mind and wished her training went well.

Meanwhile, Sun Qingnian had sent several photos of himself hugging his girlfriend on a sunny beach. In the corner of one shot, Han Wu even spotted a Sage Foxman basking in the sun.

Han Wu didn’t need much time to figure out that Sun Qingnian didn’t have the resources to nurture a Sage life form. His girlfriend had likely given them to him. All Sun Qingnian needed to do was to eat and sleep with her to gain powerful life forms. In that way, he easily skipped twenty years of hard work.

Han Wu felt jealous. *Sun Qingnian, you bloody bastard.*

He deleted Sun Qingnian's messages and opened Jing Jing's next. Her message was simple. She wanted to follow him to any foreign civilization he planned to visit. She didn't care about the destination, the schedule, or the life forms they were going to fight. All she wanted was to stay by his side.

As Han Wu read her message, he felt that she had written a love letter. Every line carried her love and admiration for him. After reading it again, he realized it felt more like a letter from the most devoted believer to a god.

He went through it several times and slapped himself. "Don't overthink this. She's a skeleton, and I'm not. We're not the same..."

*Well, technically skeletons come from living life forms like me. And who can say with absolute confidence that two different life forms can't produce offspring?*

He frowned at the thought. "If she were to give birth, how would it work? Would they just take the baby out of a cavity directly or deliver it normally? Would the child be a skeleton or...?"

Han Wu drifted through those questions far too long before snapping himself out of it. "Now's not the time for this. Also, I already have Qin Shuang. I'm not a bastard that keeps multiple girlfriends. Even if it sounds tempting, it would turn into a bloodbath once they found out."

Despite that, for some reason, he still thought about Jing Jing from time to time. When he returned to his dorm, he recalled her message. She wanted to follow him during the summer break and train wherever he chose.

In the end, he replied and even gave her a ticket to the Abyssal Mine. As he expected, Jing Jing accepted the ticket, agreeing to follow him.

Han Wu felt safer with another ally. Her skeletons would assist him, and he could carry out his plan to steal resources. When the time came, he could unleash destruction on his enemies with his locusts and her skeletons. There was also Steely's Steelcutter and Dark Locust's infinite Self Detonations. At worst, part of the Abyssal Mine would be destroyed forever, which he didn't see as a serious loss.

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[ 1,063 words ]

**Chapter 459 - Extraordinary Income**

Before long, summer break arrived. Han Wu and Jing Jing met up and used their tickets to head to the Abyssal Mine. At the same time, their divine realms were transported there as well. The mine spanned several billion square kilometers, and their divine realms looked like tiny ships on a huge ocean.

Han Wu was still surveying the area when something unexpected happened. A small ship that could ferry 300 people approached the edge of his divine realm and forced its way inside.

Han Wu immediately sensed the invading presence. The intruders belonged to a foreign race called Yesmola. They were technologically advanced, born with thick skin, and had sturdy bodies. Each one carried several high-powered guns that looked deadly. However, they had no chance of taking over Han Wu's divine realm with just a small ship and 100 or so of them. They had underestimated him.

Han Wu ordered his units to attack the Yesmola. The Epistians responded at once, gathering several hundred of them in front of the Epistian Tower in their city. They activated the tower's power, charged up a huge fireball, and shot it at the intruders. All the Yesmola saw in their final moment was a blazing sun before they burned to ash.

Han Wu scolded the Epistians when he sensed what they had done. He told them that they should have charged a smaller fireball and killed the Yesmola by exploding their heads. That approach would have preserved the Yesmola's tech and equipment.

Nothing remained now. The Yesmola had turned to dust, including their high tech guns. Han Wu only managed to salvage their small ship. It was worth one to two Divine Essence at most and couldn't sustain his daily expenses at all.

The Epistians apologized and explained that they hadn't fought in a long time and accidentally used their strongest attack. They promised to handle things with more care.

Han Wu forgave them and surveyed the area to find his next target. He soon found an enormous ship that remained motionless. It spanned several million square kilometers and dwarfed Han Wu's own divine realm by a factor of ten.

The sight stunned him. He had never imagined that something this enormous could exist in this world. He quickly informed Jing Jing to prepare for an invasion. She followed his orders, and they invaded the ship by connecting their divine realms with it.

The ship sensed the connection at once. Its radar scanned the two divine realms and identified their units. According to the readout, Jing Jing's divine realm had a billion skeletons, and the strongest was only of the Sage rank.

The ship's inhabitants weren't afraid and readied several powerful Cleansing Halos to surround the vessel. That way, the skeletons would die the instant they boarded the ship.

Then the radar scanned Han Wu's divine realm, and sirens echoed through the ship. According to the readout, Han Wu housed two Earthsunder life forms. Even Major Gods struggled to nurture one, and Earthsunder life forms were powerful enough to pose a threat wherever they appeared.

The ship didn't want to fight them and tried to flee by detaching itself with Han Wu's divine realm. Sadly, their attempt failed as Han Wu sent Dark Locust and the locust swarm to board the vessel.

Dark Locust's Earthsunder aura forced the captain into the open. He surrendered and agreed to parley in exchange for leaving the ship alone.

They chose the border between Han Wu's divine realm and the ship as the meeting point. Han Wu would lose nothing by avoiding a fight since the captain had already agreed to parley. The terms favored him, and he could save time and earn money without a battle, which added profit without extra risk. He accepted the arrangement.

As Han Wu and the captain sat down to negotiate, Han Wu sensed that the captain was also an Earthsunder life form, though his aura was weaker than Dark Locust's. He could tell that the captain had relied on drugs to bolster his strength to the Earthsunder rank.

Usually, those that used drugs to ascend only appeared strong, and their true strength lagged behind that of a genuine Earthsunder life form.

Han Wu had guessed correctly. The captain had taken drugs to reach the Earthsunder rank, and his actual strength was still of the Sage rank. That was why he surrendered the moment the radar detected two Earthsunder units in Han Wu's divine realm.

In the end, under Han Wu's pressure, they quickly discussed payment terms. The captain first offered three kilograms of Abyssal Netherstone at 60% purity in exchange for safe passage.

Han Wu calculated the value. The Abyssal Netherstones at 60% purity weren't as valuable as the ones at 90% and above, but they could still fetch 30,000 Divine Points per gram. Three kilograms came to roughly 90 million Divine Points, which equaled 0.9 Divine Essence.

It was a scam! Han Wu could earn seven to eight Divine Essence a day just by collecting the Faith Points from his units. He refused to accept such an insult, slammed the table, and decided to fight them. He would keep fighting until the ship crashed here.

Terrified, the captain quickly raised the offer. He would give them fifty kilograms of Abyssal Netherstones at 60% purity. He also blurted out that he was nowhere near as rich as Han Wu had assumed. His ancestor had passed down the enormous ship and lacked the luxury Han Wu had expected.

Han Wu calculated that fifty kilograms of Abyssal Netherstones at 60% purity were worth around fifteen Divine Essence. The amount doubled what Han Wu could earn in a day. He accepted it with reluctance and nodded. Although he wouldn't destroy the ship, he insisted that Jing Jing should receive the same rate. With that demand, he doubled the total payout.

The captain broke down on the spot, but Han Wu didn't care. In the end, the captain paid the exorbitant price to keep his ship safe. After all, he was weaker than Dark Locust and Locust and had no way to resist. He handed over 100 kilograms of Abyssal Netherstones before Han Wu and Jing Jing left.

Later, Han Wu summoned Jing Jing to his divine realm to test the Fabricator's capabilities. He planned to produce Abyssal Netherstones at 100% purity.

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[ 1,160 words ]

## **Chapter 460 - Unregistered Merchants**

Han Wu tossed the Abyssal Netherstones into the Fabricator, and it started working. The two watched it intently and waited for the results. Three minutes later, cube-like crystals dropped from the Fabricator.

Han Wu picked one up for a closer look. Regular dots marked its surface, and its interior looked clear and free of impurities. He could tell with the naked eye that its purity exceeded 90%. He was uncertain whether it was 100% pure without the specialized equipment for it, but he had actually purchased a tester before coming here to measure crystal purity. This was a good chance to use it.

He placed the crystal into the machine, and the device started evaluating it. After several tests, it produced a report filled with technical data.

Han Wu grabbed the report and read through it. He didn't understand some of the technical jargon, but the final result pleased him. The Abyssal Netherstone was confirmed to be 100% pure.

The result thrilled him. He had checked the Abyssal Netherstones' price before coming here. Those at 90% purity sold for 100,000 Divine Points per gram. At 91% purity, the price jumped to 150,000. The highest grade on the market reached only 99% purity and sold for 10 million Divine Points per gram.

Han Wu could already picture the bidding war the crystal with 100% purity would stir at an auction. However, the Abyssal Mine sat under a strange electromagnetic field that blocked the signals from other civilizations. Thus, he decided to store the crystals for now and find a buyer once he returned.

Meanwhile, Jing Jing was researching the little ship that Han Wu had obtained. Her time at Imperial College had given her a solid background in many fields, from the study of the undead to other subjects like science and mechanical engineering.

She extended her senses around the small ship and carefully checked each feature. The ship surprised her because it surpassed their divine realms in several areas.

The ship was only ten square kilometers in size and was in the shape of a sharpened rod. Even so, its equipment was top tier. Its energy source caught her attention first. She discovered an actual beating heart of a King life form. Each beat generated enough power to keep the ship moving through the Abyssal Mine. Unfortunately, the output from a King life form was limited, so the ship moved at a slow pace. Still, it could reach speeds far beyond anything their divine realms could achieve.

Moreover, the ship had two weapon systems. The first was the Energy Cannon at the stern. It drew power from Abyssal Netherstones to fire an attribute-less energy beam that could kill a Lord life form in a single hit. Unfortunately, something of this caliber was too weak to threaten Gods like them. Still, the Energy Cannon served a different purpose; it acted as an accelerator that gave the ship a burst of speed for a short time.

The second weapon was installed at the bow. It was called Dark Spike and resembled a 100-meter-long hidden needle. Once activated, the needle would shoot forward and pierce the target. The weapon delivered lethal penetrative force and could kill a High Lord in one strike. It ranked as the stronger of the two systems.

In addition, the ship had a support system called Feather Sails. They were mounted on the port and starboard sides. When the ship encountered strong wind, the Feather Sails would open and boost its speed for a short period.

Jing Jing inspected the ship and suddenly had the urge to modify her own divine realm, which covered 300,000 square kilometers; it was enormous compared to the small ship. If she wanted her divine realm to be as nimble as the small ship, she would need many powerful systems.

Compared with the systems on the little ship, Jing Jing's divine realm only had two units that qualified as usable systems. They were the two Titan Osteomancers, each of them standing 10,000 meters tall. Their incredible destructive power made them an ideal weapon system. They could kill a King life form with one strike and still win easily against a Sage life form as long as the enemy didn't counter them. Unfortunately, Jing Jing had nothing else in her divine realm that counted as a system.

By contrast, Han Wu had a lot more at his disposal. His divine realm contained four powerful systems.

The first was the Epistian Tower, which could launch a powerful fire ball across long distances. The second was Steely, an Earthsunder unit that could fuse its 100 greatswords into a 1,000-meter-long blade. Its strike could even tear through the surrounding space.

The third was Dark Locust, another Earthsunder unit that could detonate itself and unleash an explosion far more powerful than Steely's attack. The fourth consisted of the Great Dragons living in his divine realm. They were the symbol of terror and dignity and could easily crush any units that tried to rob Han Wu.

Even so, their systems still felt a bit simple and primitive compared to the many ships moving through the mines.

As they were considering ways to modify their divine realms, a small ship approached them.

Han Wu assumed they faced another group of robbers and assembled his army to attack them. The ship carefully closed in but didn't cross into their divine realms. Instead, it docked just outside the boundary, and its crew took out a trumpet-shaped treasure.

One of them shouted into it, "We are merchants stationed in the Abyssal Mine. We hope to trade with the two esteemed guests from the Divine Civilization. Are you willing to trade?"

Han Wu and Jing Jing exchanged a quick glance. They had no reason to doubt their identities. They had already reviewed the information about this area and had learned about the merchants that operated throughout the Abyssal Mine.

There were two types of merchants here. The first type were unregistered merchants. They didn't have permits from the three major civilizations and usually operated in small fleets. Other ships often robbed them, so the ones who survived here tended to know a few tricks that helped them handle stronger opponents.

The second type were the official merchants. They had permits from one or more civilizations and received protection by them while operating here. They also tended to carry a wider range of goods.

Han Wu inspected the merchant who had called out to them. The merchant was controlling a small ship, and Han Wu could tell he belonged to the first group. Merchants like him rarely carried anything valuable.

Han Wu was ready to turn him away when Jing Jing spoke. "Let him in."

Han Wu looked at her with confusion. He wasn't sure why she would allow an illegal merchant to step into their divine realms.

Jing Jing explained, "I've caught the scent of death and darkness on his ship."

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[ 1,025 words ]

## **Chapter 461 - Divine Realm Modifications**

Han Wu took Jing Jing's word for it.

As a Crystal Skeleton, she was much more sensitive to death and darkness than he was. If she said that the merchant had wares related to those two energies, then it had to be true.

He ordered their units to greet and escort the merchant to them. Smiling, the illegal merchant greeted the pair. Han Wu deliberately let out a cold scoff, while Jing Jing put up a welcoming front.

After some quick introductions, the trio quickly delved straight into business. The merchant showed them a list of items that he had in his inventory, which Han Wu briefly skimmed through.

The length and complexity of the list made his head swim. Worse still, the currency used wasn't Divine Points but Essence Coins. These were forged from Divine Essence, with a single Divine Essence equating to 1,000 Essence Coins.

After learning about this conversion rate, he checked the list again and was relieved to find it much more comprehensible than before. With that, the illegal merchant started introducing his wares.

He sold a wide variety of goods, from blueprints of ships to fishing rods. Consulting the list once again, Han Wu skipped past most of the articles until he found something related to death and darkness.

It was a bead that emanated dark gas with the character for death carved onto it.

Noticing Han Wu's interest, the merchant explained that he had found the bead in the ruins of a giant ship. He had initially thought it to be a good treasure and had not expected it to remain unsold for thirty years. Thus, if Han Wu was interested, the merchant was willing to offer him a 20% discount.

Han Wu checked the price.

It cost 300,000 Essence Coins! A 20% discount meant he still had to pay 240,000 Essence Coins, or 240 Divine Essence!

That was a monstrous number of Divine Essence to pay for a God, but it was still within the acceptable range for Han Wu. Still, he was hesitant about purchasing the bead when he didn't know what it was. He didn't want to spend 240 Divine Essence on something useless.

Jing Jing approached to check the list with him. When she saw the bead, she instantly knew that it was what she had sensed. Although she didn't know what it could be used for, she firmly trusted her own instincts.

Noticing her adamance on this front, Han Wu decided to buy it as a gift for her. He then continued to scan the list to see if there was anything else.

At the bottom of the list were two blueprints for modifying one's divine realm into flying ships.

"Aha! These blueprints contain the two most popular methods of modifying one's land into flying ships here in the Abyssal Mine," the merchant explained. "The first is called the Swarm. It involves splitting your divine realm into hundreds of districts, with each district then becoming a small ship. Paired with various systems, you can form a fleet of small ships that resembles a swarm of hornets.

"The second, the Lone Wolf, turns your entire divine realm into one massive ship. Its size means it moves slowly, but it's also much more powerful compared to the other forms."

Han Wu was interested, but which one should he choose: the Swarm or the Lone Wolf?

After considering his existing abilities, he ultimately chose the Swarm and left the other blueprint for Jing Jing. Unlike him, she had already planned to turn her entire divine realm into one massive ship to begin with.

The two blueprints were cheaper, with each costing 150,000 Essence Coins. Han Wu paid for them and activated his chosen blueprint. His divine realm underwent a massive change.

The data of a ship showed up in place of his usual divine realm.

[Giant-Class Ship: Swarm Form]

Han Wu had split his divine realm into 182 ships. There were 160 locust ships, with 1 Giant-class, 5 Big-class, 24 Medium-class, and 130 Small-class.

The Earthsunder Dark Locust commanded the 100,000 square kilometer Giant-class ship. The Sage locusts each took control of one of the five 10,000 square kilometer Big-class ships. The Medium-class ships, each 1,000 square kilometer in size, fell under the command of one of the 24 King locusts. Finally, the 100 square kilometer Small-class ships fell under the domain of the 130 High Lord locusts.

Han Wu also had 22 non-locust ships under his command, including another Giant-class, three Big-class, eight Medium-class, and ten Small-class. The other units in his divine realm occupied these ships.

This made for a total of 182 ships in Han Wu's fleet. He could send a lone ship out to explore or dispatch a force to besiege his enemies.

There were many ways in which he could employ them.

Jing Jing's modification, on the other hand, was much simpler. The Lone Wolf blueprint compressed her entire divine realm into a massive ship in the form of a skeleton's skull. Though her divine realm had been reduced to a mere 100,000 square kilometers in size, its might had received a drastic boost.

As ships, their divine realms had gained the space to install various systems just like the other ships. Stronger systems took up more space, but their effects were also amplified as a result.

Unfortunately, the merchant didn't have any exceedingly powerful systems for sale, and the two had no choice but to stop modifying their ships for the moment.

This, however, didn't stop their enthusiasm. Instead, they decided to find some "friends" from whom to "borrow" said systems and upgrade their own. Naturally, there was no reason for them to return these systems once they got them.

The two were eagerly looking for their next target when a Medium-class ship came into view. The Medium-class ship also spotted Han Wu's and Jing Jing's incredibly conspicuous ships in return. After all, one was a massive fleet, and the other was a Giant-class Lone Wolf form ship.

The Medium-class ship turned to flee, but the two gave chase.

They weren't about to let it escape!

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

[ 1,068 words ]

## Chapter 462 - Rest Stop

The Medium-class ship was lightning fast and flew at a speed that far exceeded both Han Wu's fleet and Jing Jing's Giant-class ship. It didn't take long for it to escape.

"Damn! We lost it!" Han Wu scowled, embarrassed that not one ship from his large fleet could catch up.

"That Medium-class ship likely had a lot of powerful systems installed." Jing Jing consoled him. "It's normal that we can't catch up to it. Don't worry, my dear God."

Han Wu wasn't willing to let it go. "That's exactly why I'm mad. Those powerful systems could've been ours."

Jing Jing's eyes widened with realization. Han Wu was right. If they had caught the Medium-class ship, the systems, treasures, and units onboard would have all been theirs.

Their failure to catch that ship was akin to money slipping through their fingers. But it was too late to regret it. Han Wu and Jing Jing could only look for other ships to rob.

Unfortunately, Han Wu's 182 ships and Jing Jing's massive skull-shaped ship were simply too conspicuous, and any passing ships avoided them like the plague.

The two of them flew around the mine with nothing to show for their efforts.

They couldn't do this forever, as wasting an entire day equated to wasting their life. Just as they were about to rethink their strategy, they passed by a rest stop situated in the skies above.

The flags of the three major civilizations flying from it indicated that the surrounding skies were under their protection. It served as a warning to those up to no good.

Han Wu, still grumbling to himself, was maneuvering his fleet toward the rest stop when he received a warning from the administrator.

[The rest stop has limited docking space. We do not permit huge fleets to berth here at the same time. Please send a single ship as a representative to stop here.]

Having no choice but to abide, Han Wu chose the Giant-class ship that Steely was commanding to stop at the designated space. Jing Jing also docked her skull-shaped ship at the pier.

It cost 10,000 Essence Coins for a Giant-class ship to dock at the rest stop, and Han Wu begrudgingly paid 20,000 Essence Coins—equivalent to 20 Divine Essence—to the administrator before disembarking.

There were many life forms on the rest stop, many of whom were sworn enemies. However, regardless of the grudges between them, they had no choice but to hold back in this governed space.

The three major civilizations employed harsh penalties against any troublemakers. At best, one would be fined; at worst, anyone who caused too much ruckus could even be killed outright. No one dared to challenge the laws here when their life was on the line.

Entering the rest stop, Han Wu's eyes lit up as he took in the numerous stalls selling Abyssal Netherstones.

Of these, it was fairly easy to differentiate between sellers who had mined the Abyssal Netherstones themselves and those who had stolen them from others. All one needed to check was the quality of the Abyssal Netherstones.

Batches with similar quality were almost certainly mined, as it was virtually impossible to dig out Abyssal Netherstones of different qualities from the same shaft. Those with vastly different qualities in the same batch were most likely being fenced off.

There were also many stalls selling ships and various systems.

Han Wu curiously perused the wares. There were various classes and qualities between the ships.

Size determined the class of a ship, with larger vessels able to equip more systems. Quality, on the other hand, was based on the systems actively equipped on said ship. More systems meant higher overall points and a higher-quality ship.

Referencing the quality of the ships in the stalls, Han Wu was mortified to learn that almost all his ships were below 10. His ships were rubbish!

After all, his ships only had his units and no equipped systems.

Jing Jing's Giant-class ship was similarly below average at 53 points, as she didn't have any systems on her ship either.

Having encountered a ship that could outmaneuver them, Han Wu was ready to buy some systems to upgrade both his and Jing Jing's ships. However, after checking the systems on sale, he quickly realized he was dirt poor.

Every single system on sale was expensive. Even the cheapest ones cost 10,000 Essence Coins, or 10 Divine Essence, and those were useless ones that could only be equipped to Small-class ships. They didn't meet his requirements at all.

Han Wu wanted the powerful ones, but he didn't have Divine Essence to purchase them. It was embarrassing.

Noticing his desperation, Jing Jing consoled him. “Glorious God, why don’t we try to rob some ships outside and purchase the systems once we have enough money?”

Han Wu, however, was staring fixedly at a powerful weapon system called Death Laser. It could absorb dark energy to form a powerful laser capable of killing a Sage life form. All he needed to do was to use the dark energy formed from 100 million locusts to activate it.

There was no guarantee that a powerful system like this would be available to him next time.

“I can’t wait. I need to buy it now, no matter the cost!” Han Wu rested his hand on the glass as he stared longingly at the powerful Death Laser.

Jing Jing frowned. Even though Han Wu had a lot of Divine Essence in his account, they were supposed to be for upgrading his Divine Authority and nurturing his units, not to be spent like this.

“Glorious God, please reconsider.”

Han Wu shot her a knowing glance. “Don’t worry, I won’t touch the money meant for upgrading myself.”

Jing Jing sighed. “But how are you going to get the money needed to purchase the system?”

Chuckling, Han Wu turned toward the Abyssal Netherstones stall beside them. “My money is just over there.”

The stall was selling around 50 kilograms of Abyssal Netherstones, but the purity of the stones was only around 30%. No one wanted to buy such low-quality stones. The seller, seemingly aware of this, wasn’t peddling his wares at all and was quietly reading a book instead.

Han Wu approached the stall. “Hey, are you selling these?”

The stall owner set down his book and peered at Han Wu with a bemused expression.

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

[ 1,046 words ]

**Chapter 463 - A Tempting Deal**

Han Wu identified the stall owner's race by the shape of his face. He was a Kweiss, a life form born with a triangular head that looked comical. Han Wu fought the urge to laugh because he wanted the trade to go smoothly. He forced himself to stay composed, even if he had to pinch the sides of his thigh hard enough to bruise.

The stall owner noticed Han Wu's straight face and relaxed. "Of course I'm selling them. What price do you have in mind?"

Han Wu picked up one of the stones. He didn't plan to raise the price too high since the stall owner had asked him to make the first offer. He held up two fingers. "I will buy them for 200,000 Divine Points."

The stall owner lit up when he heard the number. He would have accepted half of that without complaint. "For a gram? That's a reasonable price. I am willing to sell everything to you since you are such a handsome lad."

A 90% pure Abyssal Netherstone sold for 100,000 Divine Points per gram. His stones were only 32% pure and worth no more than 1,000 Divine Points per gram. An offer of 200,000 Divine Points per gram sounded unreal. Even the stall owner assumed that Han Wu was some rich heir with more money than sense.

Han Wu rolled his eyes. "What are you talking about? I'm buying all of them for only 200,000 Divine Points."

After hearing that, the stall owner refused to proceed with the trade. "Are you looking for trouble? If we were allowed to fight here, I would've given you a good punch. Scram!"

He had fifty kilograms of Abyssal Netherstones. Even if no one wanted them, and even if he priced them low, the batch was worth at least 50 million Divine Points, or 0.5 Divine Essence. The idea that Han Wu wanted to buy all of them for 200,000 Divine Points insulted him.

Han Wu didn't react to the stall owner's outrage. Instead, he took out a pre-cut Abyssal Netherstone at 100% purity and held it up for the stall owner to see. "Will you trade if I offer this?"

The stall owner was ready to chase him off until he noticed the crystal was an Abyssal Netherstone with unusually high purity. His sharp jaw almost pierced the table when he laid eyes on it.

"Is that also an Abyssal Netherstone? I've never seen one this pure!" He reached for it, but Han Wu closed his fist around it. He wouldn't let the stall owner get another look.

"Hey there, lil' bro, I must've cracked under pressure and lost my temper. Please forgive my earlier rude words. How about I show you the Kweiss' party trick, plowing the field with my jaw? What do you think?"

In just less than ten seconds, the stall owner shifted from a proud Kweiss to one that licked Han Wu's boots.

Han Wu was impressed by how fast the change happened. He turned down the offer and tossed the Abyssal Netherstone to him to examine as he pleased.

The stall owner quickly checked the Abyssal Netherstone with his eyes, then grabbed the appraisal machine. The machine eventually printed a result that confirmed that the Abyssal Netherstone was indeed 100% pure.

No Abyssal Netherstone that pure had ever been discovered. The only disappointing feature was its size. Even so, its value was enormous. Based on his experience, he could tell that the tiny piece of Abyssal Netherstone could sell for at least 20 million Divine Points. It would likely reach a higher price at an auction.

"Are you done? Then quickly give me your answer. This Abyssal Netherstone and 200,000 Divine Points for all of your Abyssal Netherstones. Do you accept?" Han Wu urged him.

The stall owner thought he had misheard. He had to reconfirm the offer before smiling. "Of course! I will exchange them all. Anyone who wouldn't is a triangular dog."

Flustered, the stall owner even blurted out a childhood joke. At the same time, he was calculating how much he would earn.

Han Wu scoffed and swept the Abyssal Netherstones from the table while he calculated his own profit. Even though the stones were of low quality, the Fabricator could refine them into 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones. He expected to produce ten to fifteen kilograms of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones. This single trade gave him a huge gain because all he exchanged was a five-gram Abyssal Netherstone at 100% purity.

The stall owner watched him gather the stones with a flicker of worry. Han Wu assumed that he meant to back out and moved faster to secure the stones. Thus, he never anticipated the stall owner to give something else in return. "Esteemed guest, since I've taken your high-purity Abyssal Netherstone, I should probably give you another fifty kilograms of mine. I feel a bit bad for taking advantage of you."

He then handed over another fifty kilograms of lower-purity Abyssal Netherstones. His frown eased as if he had settled a debt with Han Wu and no longer had to suffer emotionally.

Han Wu had never met anyone who would add more to a bargain after closing the deal. The extra fifty kilograms meant even greater profit for him.

Since the stall owner showed such generosity, Han Wu decided to return the favor. He took out a ten-gram Abyssal Netherstone at 100% purity and offered it as a gift.

The stall owner had never received anything so valuable. In gratitude, he handed over every Abyssal Netherstone he had, which was at least 200 kilograms in total.

Moved by the stall owner's sincerity, Han Wu gave him a fifteen-gram piece of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone.

The stall owner almost fainted from receiving thirty grams of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone. He had nothing left to offer, yet he felt compelled to give something in return so he could keep his conscience at ease. After some thought, he surrendered the coordinates of the shaft where he had mined the low-purity Abyssal Netherstones from.

What seemed insignificant to him meant everything to Han Wu. A shaft that produced low-purity Abyssal Netherstones was the same as handing him a shaft filled with gold!

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

[ 1,072 words ]

## **Chapter 464 - Collecting Resources**

Han Wu immediately stopped thinking about shopping. He pulled Jing Jing to the coordinates that the stall owner had given him, and they flew for an entire day before they reached the area.

As their ships descended, Han Wu extended his senses and confirmed that the area held a dense concentration of Abyssal Netherstones. Their purity was lower than the ones that the stall owner had sold him. Even with the large quantity scattered across the terrain, no one wanted to mine them because the quality was too low.

Han Wu was the only exception. He saw a gold mine for him, even if it produced the lowest grade. He brought out the Fabricator and ordered his units to gather every Abyssal Netherstone in sight. They hauled them together into a small hill, and he tossed them into the Fabricator.

The machine roared to life and refined all of them into pieces with 100% purity. Han Wu could already picture a tide of Divine Essence coming his way. With this supply of Abyssal Netherstones, he no longer needed to rob anyone.

Han Wu docked his entire fleet at the site. All 182 ships, along with Jing Jing's Giant-class ship, turned the area into an impenetrable fortress. The scavengers who usually came here for low-purity Abyssal Netherstones froze at the sight of the fleet and dared not approach them. They feared they would die the moment they got too close.

Every part of the Abyssal Mine belonged to a local triad. Several groups lived inside the mine and held firm control over their zones. Once they heard that a fleet of just under 200 ships had docked within their territory, they rushed out from hiding. They intended to use this chance to make some money.

Before they acted, they took time to observe the situation. When they realized that almost the entire fleet consisted of Small-class ships, they lost their patience. On that day, four factions approached the fleet and blatantly demanded a protection fee from Han Wu.

Han Wu didn't let his Earthsunder Dark Locust and Steely appear. Instead, he met the four factions himself to negotiate.

They recognized him as someone from the Divine Civilization and backed down a little, but they still insisted he pay the protection fee or leave the area.

Han Wu had already surveyed this area; most people had abandoned it long ago. Yet the four factions saw him as an easy target and wanted to squeeze some money out of him.

Han Wu understood what would follow if he paid them now—more would emerge out of the woodwork. First eight, then sixteen, and the number would only grow. Every single life form's greed in this world had no ceiling. Showing mercy again and again was akin to pushing oneself into a corner.

None of them planned to back down, so Han Wu ordered his units to attack. Billions of locusts dropped from the sky. The four factions had arrived with only a small force, and the locust swarm killed and devoured them until nothing was left.

Han Wu seized their ships and stripped out their systems before equipping them to his fleet. After some modification, one of his Giant-class ships finally reached a rating of thirty points, which marked the minimum standard for a Giant-class ship. Once the systems were installed, the Giant-class ship could fly 50% faster. Han Wu was certain that the Medium-class ship they had lost previously would never outrun them now.

Jing Jing benefited from the minor skirmish as well. She secured a weapon system for her skull-shaped Giant-class ship. The system, Sharp Teeth, was originally designed for a Small-class ship and could fire sharp teeth at enemy targets. It was strong enough to kill a Lord life form.

The weapon system had a rating of five and was considered average, yet it matched her ship remarkably well. It aligned perfectly with the skull's teeth and used the ship's Bone Energy to fire repeated volleys of teeth in rapid bursts. As for the ship itself, its rating rose by another twenty-five points. It now approached eighty points and ranked above average for Giant-class ships.

Jing Jing was pleased with the upgrade. She could tell that her Giant-class ship would show its might the moment anyone else tried to challenge them.

Another day passed. The Fabricator kept working non-stop to refine the Abyssal Netherstones.

Han Wu now had 80,000 Abyssal Netherstones at 100% purity. The smallest ones weighed five grams each, while the largest weighed fifteen! If he exchanged them for Divine Essence, even the smallest would earn one Divine Essence, and the largest would earn three!

With 80,000 of them, he could earn anywhere between 80,000 to 240,000 Divine Essence! The sum astounded him. Forget Major Gods, even God Kings would not have that capital.

The True Martial God King once spent close to 100 billion Divine Points to obtain the Origin of Mutation. He would never have earned the nickname *bankrupt God King* if he had that kind of wealth.

With so much on hand, Han Wu planned to exchange everything to purchase the systems he needed for his ships.

Han Wu had barely touched down at the rest stop when the stall owner spotted him and ran over to pull him into a tight hug. "Brother, you are back!"

Han Wu was confused. "What's going on?"

The stall owner looked around, pulled Han Wu to a corner, and whispered, "Hey, do you remember the 100% purity Abyssal Netherstones that you traded with me?"

Han Wu nodded. He had given him a few pieces, and the latter had provided him the coordinates for the low-purity Abyssal Netherstone mine in return.

"Is something wrong?" Han Wu asked.

"Nothing's wrong." The stall owner waved it off to ease his worry.

He then took a breath and continued his plea with clear embarrassment. He even looked ready to kneel. "The problem is what happened to me. I like to gamble when I have time to spare, and I usually bet small amounts.

"However, after you left, I went to play a few rounds and lost everything. I panicked and handed over the 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones. The casino owner loved them so much that he promised to clear my debt if I gave him more. This is a matter of life and death. Please help me!"

Han Wu frowned angrily.

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## Chapter 465 - Curses! Don't Help a Gambling Addict!

[ 943 words ]

### Chapter 465 - Curses! Don't Help a Gambling Addict!

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“What does that have to do with me?” Han Wu growled.

He would have helped if it had been any other issue. In fact, he was even willing to assist the stall owner with his 80,000 Divine Essence. However, he never expected the stall owner to be a gambling addict who wanted him to pay off his debt.

Han Wu wouldn't do something like that. He knew how greedy one could be. He could technically clear the debt, but the stall owner would likely gamble again.

Would he look for Han Wu to clear his debt again? He would, and Han Wu wouldn't help him. That refusal would break whatever relationship they had. Since the break was inevitable, he preferred to end things now and walk away without losing money.

The stall owner stared at him with desperation and tried one last plea. “Brother, you are my best brother! How can you not help me when I'm in danger?”

He hoped to sway Han Wu's sympathy, but the latter was adamant. He would never help a gambling addict. They didn't deserve it; their losses were their own fault.

Han Wu shoved him aside. “Get away from me.”

The stall owner hit the ground and glared at him. He hated how Han Wu could've saved him with a single action and chose not to, though he never once considered why Han Wu refused. They had only met twice, after all.

The stall owner scrambled up and ran toward the opposite side. "You will regret this. You will!"

Han Wu ignored the stall owner. In his view, no gambling addict deserved help. He followed the road to an official shop established by the Divine Civilization, a place that specialized in high-purity Abyssal Netherstones.

He worried that he would scare the clerk if he unloaded too many at once, so he decided to part with only a small portion, about 4,000 pieces. Nonetheless, the clerk almost fainted when she saw 4,000 pieces of Abyssal Netherstone at 100% purity.

"I've never seen so many high-purity Abyssal Netherstones in my life!" she exclaimed.

Han Wu thought, *Wait until you see the remaining 76,000 in my inventory.*

Han Wu kept a serious expression and urged, "Please quickly appraise them and pay me in Essence Coins."

The clerk got to work and slowly placed the stones into a specialized, neatly decorated box. After a while, they confirmed their quality, and Han Wu received 5,400 Essence Coins!

This was a huge sum. With that much money, he went on a shopping spree through the rest stop. He bought food, water, other equipment, and various systems. The spending rush felt great.

By the time he finished, he had spent almost all his money. None of the remaining systems there caught his interest.

He was ready to leave when the stall owner from earlier marched toward him with a huge group in tow. He pointed wickedly at Han Wu and told them, "There! He's the one that gave me the high-purity Abyssal Netherstones!"

Han Wu sensed their strength at once. The one in the front was a Major God, and all the others were Gods. They outnumbered him, and Han Wu feared he would lose right now.

"Young man, our boss wants to meet you. Come with us," the leader said.

Han Wu saw no chance to escape, so he followed them.

Before long, they reached a casino, and Han Wu entered under the Major God's watch. Many life forms filled the floor inside, each gambling away money and years of their lives.

They brought him to a soundproof room where he met the casino owner, a life form with a tiger head. Han Wu instinctively raised his guard because the other party was extremely powerful. He had a feeling that the casino owner was an Earthsunder life form as well.

The casino owner showed no emotion and kept dealing cards at his custom-built gambling table. Machines whirred to life, and the table gave them each a card.

The casino owner fixed his gaze on Han Wu. "Young man, how about a small gamble? I haven't tampered with the card in front of me. If you win, I will let you go and guarantee that I won't come after you again."

Han Wu glanced at the card on his side of the table. He couldn't see the number on the other side and decided not to play. "I won't gamble."

The casino owner grew impatient. "Why not? Win once and you can leave. You can also enjoy endless riches here!"

Han Wu shot back, "I don't need money. It means nothing to me. I'd rather earn it slowly and steadily."

The casino owner's patience snapped. He gritted his sharp fangs and growled, "Flip the card and gamble with me."

"I won't!"

The owner almost choked with rage. He felt that he had finally met a worthy opponent.

"Then you will die here if you refuse!" the owner roared and commanded Han Wu with a fierce glare to flip the card.

Han Wu had been unable to resist earlier, but after stalling long enough, he could sense his units closing in. Now he was eager to fight back. "Kill me? You don't have the guts or strength to do so."

The casino owner sprang forward like a bolt of lightning and attacked Han Wu.

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[ 1,179 words ]

**Chapter 466 - Fate's Gambit**

At the last moment, a God greatsword pierced through the ceiling and blocked the attack aimed at Han Wu.

Unexpectedly, the casino owner's blow was so heavy that the greatsword started cracking. He struck again, and the greatsword shattered. Even though the greatsword lay in pieces, Han Wu had already stepped out of his attack range and remained unharmed.

Steely, in his Hecatoncheiras form, stood beside him. He was gripping his remaining ninety-nine God greatswords, each one identical in quality to the one that had just shattered.

The casino owner narrowed his eyes. He could tell that Steely was as strong as he was and wouldn't take any unnecessary risk. Thus, he quickly retreated to his table.

Han Wu knew that the casino owner had no intention of fleeing. The retreat had another purpose. The casino owner was preparing something that targeted him!

Steely was Han Wu's strongest unit and sensed his intent without a word. Han Wu frowned, and Steely saw that as the order to attack. He swung his greatswords and sent sharp wind cutters toward the table.

However, the wind that could cleave mountains failed to harm the casino owner. A thin, impenetrable barrier had formed around the table before any of them noticed it. It shielded both the casino owner and the table.

"*Phew!* I managed to get back in time." The casino owner exhaled and shifted his focus to Steely, the chief threat in the room. As long as he could kill Steely, then he could force Han Wu to do his bidding. Once Han Wu was under his control, the location of the 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones would fall into his hands.

After clearing his thoughts, he planted both hands on the table and channeled his power. A strange purple gas seeped out of the surface, curled upward, and tightened into a rope around Steely.

"Fate's Gambit! Now you and I are the players!" the casino owner shouted.

Numbers appeared above both his and Steely's heads. Han Wu took a closer look and noticed that the casino owner's number was ninety while Steely was one hundred.

"The gamble has started. Neither of us can leave until all our chips are spent." The casino owner declared it like a binding rule.

Steely jerked forward, his movements stiff, as if something had seized control of his body. He dropped into the seat across from the casino owner. Han Wu tried to pull him

back and felt an immediate resistance. The table had captured Steely, and his legs no longer responded.

“Deal the cards!” the casino owner called out.

The various machines on the table whirred to life and dealt three cards each to both the casino owner and Steely.

Without checking his hand, the casino owner placed his bet. “Open, ten chips.”

Han Wu suddenly noticed the casino owner’s number drop to eighty as ten exquisite chips appeared on the table. As the number dropped, the casino owner’s appearance visibly changed; he looked much older now.

A message surfaced in Steely’s mind with four choices.

[Do not flip cards. Call 10 chips.]

[Flip cards. Raise 20 chips.]

[Do not flip cards. Lose 10 chips.]

[Flip cards. Lose 20 chips.]

Steely relayed everything to Han Wu. The latter observed them and pieced together what was happening: Steely was bound to Fate’s Gambit along with the casino owner. They were locked in a gamble that used their lives as currency. The winner would claim every last thread of the opponent’s life.

Given the casino owner’s confidence, Han Wu judged that Steely held the losing hand. In fact, it was possible it wouldn’t stop with this round; every subsequent round could tilt against him. This was a gamble that Steely was fated to lose.

*Glorious God, which should I choose?* Steely asked. He needed to decide fast, or the table would raise his stake by twenty chips on its own.

Han Wu searched for a solution. Neither he nor Steely had the gambling skill to beat the casino owner. He needed to stop the wager before it advanced any further. The only tactic he saw was to break the table and halt the game. He rushed toward Fate’s Gambit and tried to shove it aside, but it didn’t budge. Even his Divine Authority had no effect.

The casino owner watched and taunted him. “This table, Fate’s Gambit, is my Innate God Equipment. It’s tied to my own life. You can’t move it by even a single centimeter unless your attack can kill me.”

He ended his explanation just as Steely's timer expired. Driven by desperation, Steely chose not to flip his cards or call. He sacrificed ten chips instead. When the chips vanished, his own life force was visibly exhausted as well. His vitality plummeted, and ten of his arms turned black as they lost their Life Energy.

The casino owner had gained ten chips and looked delighted. His features grew younger, and he even mocked Steely with glee. "You will soon lose everything. Your life is mine!"

Han Wu couldn't tolerate the taunts any longer and summoned his second strongest unit. Dark Locust appeared at once and unleashed his Earthsunder aura.

The casino owner had never expected someone as unremarkable as Han Wu to have two Earthsunder life forms!

He was envious of him and thought, *Don't get cocky. Once I drain his Life Energy, I will drag you into the gamble as well. I will take everything from you, including your Abyssal Netherstones and the two Earthsunder life forms working for you!*

Han Wu didn't know or care about the casino owner's thoughts. He merely stepped back from the table and ordered Dark Locust to get as close to the table as possible.

The casino owner had no idea what Han Wu planned and raised his guard. On the other hand, Steely knew what was happening. He unsheathed his greatswords and set them around himself in a defensive stance.

While the casino owner tried to make sense of the situation, Dark Locust found a suitable location under the table. After confirming that there weren't any other life forms close to him, he activated his Obliterate form and detonated himself.

Steely braced himself behind his God greatswords. They shielded him from the explosion and most of the shockwave. Meanwhile, the casino owner took the full brunt of the explosion and was heavily injured. Blood burst from his mouth, and Fate's Gambit shattered into splinters.

In addition, Dark Locust's detonation tore open a massive spatial crack at the epicenter, which in turn pulled all matter around it to mend itself. The splinters and fragments of the table vanished into it, which left the casino owner with absolutely no chance of retrieving his Innate God Equipment.

Dark Locust revived himself once the crack mended itself. Then both Steely and Dark Locust grabbed the casino owner by the arms and forced him to kneel in front of Han Wu.

Han Wu patted the casino owner's face and asked, "Now, do you think you can win against me?"

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

[ 1,091 words ]

## **Chapter 467 - Life's Bet**

After losing his Innate God Equipment, the casino owner's face turned ashen. Without it, he couldn't use even a tenth of his Earthsunder power, and he no longer had the strength to face Han Wu.

For the sake of his own survival, he swallowed his pride and begged for mercy. "Let me live. I am willing to compensate you with anything until you are satisfied."

Han Wu already had plenty of Abyssal Netherstones and didn't need the casino owner's money. He was about to refuse, then recalled the numbers that had appeared above the casino owner when he activated Fate's Gambit earlier. He had won ten chips from Steely and caused ten of his arms to turn black before shriveling up. Those arms remained black, and he could use them only for the most basic defensive stance.

Han Wu stated his demand. "Hand over ninety of your one hundred chips, and I will spare you."

The casino owner's face twisted with regret.

Seeing him remain silent, Han Wu scoffed. "Since you won't part with them, I will kill you now. Steely, cut him up."

Steely acted immediately. He gripped his ninety greatswords with his remaining good arms and merged them into a gigantic wind blade. The force within the wind blade surged so fiercely that the strong gusts circling it tore at the surrounding space.

The casino owner knew that a single hit would end him for good. Thus, he had no choice but to relent. "I will accept your demands! I will exchange ninety chips for my life."

Han Wu smiled. The casino owner then used his ability to turn his own Life Energy into ninety chips and handed them to Han Wu. As he did, his vitality plummeted, and his presence diminished until he no longer qualified as an Earthsunder life form.

Han Wu could feel the powerful energy in those chips. He could use them to nurture a new Earthsunder life form, but the process would take some time.

Han Wu returned ten chips to Steely since they were his in the first place. They contained his Life Energy, so Steely could absorb it with relative ease. Once he drew in that energy, his shriveled arms recovered and looked normal again.

Han Wu nodded and handed him ten more chips. This time, Steely needed time to absorb them because they did not contain his own Life Energy. Dark Locust had played a major role in the battle, so Han Wu rewarded him with ten chips as well. As for the dying casino owner, Han Wu honored his word and spared his life.

After Han Wu left, the casino owner struggled to stand up and surveyed the wreckage of his room. The explosion had torn through everything. Thankfully, he had placed a powerful barrier before. Otherwise, his entire casino would have collapsed.

He opened the door and told his underlings to capture the stall owner. He was already exhausted by the entire ordeal. His aura had shrunk to a tenth of its former strength, yet his reputation and temperament still frightened his underlings enough to keep them obedient. They quickly captured the stall owner and dragged him back with ropes.

The casino owner almost fainted when he saw the stall owner's face. If not for him, he wouldn't have suffered such a fate today. Rage clouded his thoughts as he searched for the most cruel punishment he could imagine.

"Hit him to death using sticks!" The casino owner changed his mind. "No, wait, that's too easy on him. Stuff him into a coffin filled with fire ants. Let him suffer before he dies!"

The stall owner froze, then begged for mercy. "Please, let me go! I won't do it again, I swear."

"What are you standing around for? Take him away!" the casino owner howled. The outburst hit him so hard that he stumbled as dizziness washed over him.

His underlings quickly dragged the stall owner and followed the order. They forced the stall owner into a coffin filled with fire ants. Before long, wails and screams echoed from inside.

He cried through three long nights. His voice finally fell silent on the fourth day. From that day onward, the world had lost another gambler, and a measure of peace was returned.

On the other side, Han Wu had returned to his base with his units. He laid out everything he had bought so Jing Jing could choose what she wanted too.

Her eyes were already glazed with exhaustion when she saw the mountain of different systems on the table. In the end, she ended up choosing three to enhance her ship.

Han Wu used the rest to outfit his fleet. His situation differed from Jing Jing's because he had many ships that he had segmented using his divine realm. It was challenging to outfit them all with the right systems.

Han Wu understood that building something great required time, so he wasn't in a rush. The systems he had bought this time were mainly used to upgrade Steely and Dark Locust's Giant-class ships. The rest would have to wait until Han Wu could sell more Abyssal Netherstones.

Once the systems were distributed, Han Wu took out the most valuable reward he had obtained this time: the remaining sixty chips. Each one contained so much Life Energy that a Common life form could turn into a King life form after absorbing only one. With ten, reaching the Sage rank wasn't impossible.

Han Wu had a feeling that one of his units could reach the Earthsunder rank if they could absorb all sixty pieces. He looked at Jing Jing and decided to hand them to her. Compared to his units, he was hoping that Jing Jing would become the next Earthsunder life form because her advancement would help him collect more resources and command a stronger skeleton army. In his view, investing in her offered the highest return.

Jing Jing understood his intent, so she accepted the chips and returned to her ship to start absorbing them. From that moment, her ship was in complete lockdown. Only Han Wu and his units could approach. Any other life form risked being killed.

Han Wu then equipped the rest of the systems to his ships. After some time, his two Giant-class ships had been upgraded and their ratings rose to above average.

Han Wu was confident that he could purchase enough systems to improve his ships' ratings even higher once he sold the next batch of Abyssal Netherstones.

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[ 1,165 words ]

## **Chapter 468 - Supreme Merchant Group**

Steely's Giant-class ship now measured 120,000 square kilometers and cruised at 10,000 kilometers per hour. Its Armor value also reached 32,000. With its current systems equipped, its rating sat at eighty-five points.

[System 1: Hurricane Hull (Assist System). Effects: Forms a hurricane barrier that protects the ship from attacks. Rating: +20 points.]

[System 2: Steel Wings (Assist System). Effects: When activated, two steel wings rise to boost speed by 40%. Rating: +20 points.]

[System 3: Wind Fang (Weapon System). Effects: Absorbs energy from the surrounding to fire the magic Wind Fang. Each spell can kill a Heroic life form on impact and has an attack radius of 3 square kilometers. Rating: +25 points.]

[Additional: This Giant-class ship is bound to Steely. When Steely is piloting it, the ship gains the Skill: Swordwind, which can kill a King life form.]

Dark Locust's Giant-class ship measured 100,000 square kilometers and cruised at 12,000 kilometers per hour. Its Armor value also reached 18,000, and its current rating sat at seventy-nine points.

[System 1: Dark Energy Cannon (Weapon System). Effects: Absorbs Dark Energy to fire a powerful cannon blast. Each blast can kill a High Lord life form. Rating: +24 points.]

[System 2: Nightfall (Assist System). Effects: Absorbs Dark Energy to cover the hull in a veil of darkness that disrupts enemy detection and perception. Rating: +16 points.]

[System 3: Dark Door (Assist System). Effects: Consumes a large amount of Dark Energy to form a door that connects to another location. Rating: +19 points.]

[Additional: This Giant-class ship is bound to Dark Locust. When Dark Locust is piloting it, the ship gains the Skill: Accelerated Reproduction, which increases the reproduction rate of the locusts inside.]

Han Wu studied the two ships with satisfaction. With them, he could kill a King life form with ease. Still, if there's a Sage or Earthsunder life form, he would rely on Steely and Dark Locust to fight on their own.

His other ships kept mining low-purity Abyssal Netherstones every day. Han Wu tossed everything into the Fabricator and obtained a lot of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones.

He was practically earning an impressive profit daily. If he sold all the stones he produced, he would surpass some God Kings in wealth very soon.

However, he didn't do that. He needed to artificially control the supply and avoid drawing attention to his growing fortune. Even when he sold the Abyssal Netherstones, he released only a small share to maintain the price of his 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones high.

With enough Divine Essence, he focused on strengthening himself. He had to cultivate his Divine Authority, expand his divine realm, and nurture his units. Unfortunately, some rare resources couldn't be bought with just Divine Essence. He needed time and luck.

Han Wu spent his days mining low-purity Abyssal Netherstones with his locust swarm and skeleton army. Both groups were large in number, and he assigned tasks based on their traits. The skeletons never grew tired, so they handled the laborious work of mining. The locusts could fly, so they were in charge of transporting the Abyssal Netherstones. The two races worked well together, and the arrangement let Han Wu lie down and still make a lot of money.

One day, an alarm blared while he was relaxing. He jolted awake. Ever since he had established his base of operations here, no one had visited except for the few thugs who had tried to extort him early on.

Now someone was intruding. Han Wu was already itching to give orders to his two Giant-class ships. He was about to instruct Steely and Dark Locust to prepare for combat when a foreign transmission pinged him.

The unexpected signal baffled him, but he accepted the call.

“Honored captain of the powerful fleet, greetings. We are the Supreme Merchant Group hailing from the Divine Civilization. We have entered your territory today for trade, not conflict. We hope to establish a valuable trading partnership with you.”

They then sent documentation in several languages for Han Wu to verify their identities.

He reviewed the documents and confirmed that they were legitimate. The result left him somewhat disappointed. He had hoped that they were merchants from another civilization or intruders. If they were merchants from elsewhere, he could trade wares exclusive to their civilization. If they were intruders, he could just take them down and seize everything.

Though disappointed, he still allowed them to enter the vicinity. Soon, a 30,000-square-kilometer Giant-class ship, escorted by eighteen 100-square-kilometer Small-class ships, came into view.

Han Wu brought ten of his strongest locusts to welcome them. He left Steely and Dark Locust behind because he wanted to hide his strength when he had no ties with the newcomers. He was hoping that the merchant group would attack him first so that he could retaliate and take all their wares. Even so, he intended to respect the rules and wouldn't attack them without provocation.

Soon, the two parties met. The Supreme Merchant Group had sent three representatives to meet with Han Wu. One was an older-looking Major God who carried himself with calm composure. The other two were younger Gods who appeared to have just graduated from high school.

Their expressions varied when they saw Han Wu and the ten locusts. Major God Jiang Ming maintained a calm, friendly look. He never once looked down on Han Wu after seeing his locusts.

However, the two young Gods, Yin Ming and Xi Jie, showed open contempt. They viewed locusts as weak and insignificant life forms. Against enemies of the same rank, locusts were still weaker and almost always ranked last. Meanwhile, Han Wu's locusts were only King life forms, and none had reached the Sage rank. Thus, the two Gods saw no reason to show respect to someone they considered a weakling.

Han Wu introduced himself first. "Hello, I am Han Wu from the Divine Civilization."

Jiang Ming noted that Han Wu hailed from the same civilization and warmed to him. "To think that we would meet one of our own here. I'm certain that our trade will proceed even more smoothly now."

Han Wu chuckled and led them into his base.

As they walked, Jiang Ming quietly counted Han Wu's fleet. His senses picked up 182 ships in total. Out of those, 150 were Small-class vessels that posed no real threat. Twenty were Middle-class ships, each radiating a distinct aura that suggested they carried units other than locusts. Ten were Big-class ships, and their occupants felt stronger than the ten King locusts accompanying Han Wu.

The final two were Giant-class ships, one shaped like a greatsword and the other shaped like a skull. Jiang Ming couldn't sense what lay inside either one. Only life forms at Sage rank or higher could obscure themselves that completely. His curiosity about Han Wu deepened. The man looked like a young, ordinary God from the Divine Civilization, yet the fleet suggested he hid far more than he revealed.

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

[ 1,143 words ]

## **Chapter 469 - Trade**

Compared to Jiang Ming, the two younger Gods only noticed the Small-class ships flying around them and looked down on Han Wu.

Xi Jie broke the silence first, whispering, "A poor man taking over such a barren piece of land. What a combo."

Han Wu's senses were sharp, and he naturally heard the comment. He turned toward Xi Jie, who realized it at once and looked away.

Jiang Ming had also heard the mockery and finally showed his first real expression. He glared at Xi Jie, and the heat in that look pressed Xi Jie down in his seat. Jiang Ming then turned to Han Wu and offered an apology. "We are sorry, young Han Wu. I have not taught my own people well. Once I get back, I will make sure they face proper consequences."

Han Wu nodded without replying. He didn't really care about Xi Jie's opinion. He did, however, wonder whether he could gain something from the Supreme Merchant Group because of the little rude comment.

Jiang Ming noted that Han Wu showed little emotion and assumed that the apology meant nothing to him. Thus, he decided to raise the stakes.

"We are both from the Divine Civilization, and the Supreme Merchant Group follows the ideal of supporting one another whenever possible. Anyone from the Divine Civilization receives a 10% discount on any trade. Since fate brought us together today, I will add another 5%. We hope to have a successful trade later."

Han Wu finally showed some emotion. He chuckled. "Then I will have to thank you for the offer."

Even though Han Wu had plenty of money, and the discount was only an additional 5%, any trade involving a massive sum gained real value even from a single percent off the final price.

Han Wu was already impatient to see what the Supreme Merchant Group planned to show him. He led the visitors into the room he used to receive guests, and the Epistian maids welcomed them with tea and snacks.

Jiang Ming studied the Epistian maids and realized that all of them were Heroic life forms. Epistians were humanoids with an innate gift of intelligence and strong talent with Mystic Arts. Heroic Epistians could rival Lord life forms from other races. Han Wu had turned them into maids instead, which struck Jiang Ming as a blatant waste of resources.

Jiang Ming was interested in Han Wu and wanted to dig deeper. After he finished his tea, Jiang Ming handed over the list of wares they currently had in hand.

They carried thousands of items usable across many civilizations and several hundred items exclusive to the Divine Civilization. All of the items were stored in the Giant-class ship stationed outside.

Han Wu scanned the list and quickly found several items that he wanted. Since he planned to spend a great deal later, the 15% discount pleased him because it would save a large amount of Divine Essence.

Han Wu smiled. Jiang Ming caught it and chuckled. "It seems you've found something you like. Tell me what you like, and I will bring it over."

Yin Ming and Xi Jie exchanged a look and assumed Han Wu wouldn't choose anything valuable. They judged him a poor bastard because of his fleet. The barren land around them only strengthened their belief that nothing precious could exist here. They decided that trading with Han Wu was a waste of time.

Han Wu held onto the list and started naming what he wanted. "I want the Rank 6 Sacred Object: Illusion Stone and the Rank 6 Sacred Object: Truth Brush..."

Both Yin Ming and Xi Jie spat out their tea and splashed each other when they heard what he intended to buy.

Jiang Ming frowned at their shameful behavior. Their reaction was an appalling display of disrespect toward a customer. "What's wrong? Do the two of you have anything to say?"

Yin Ming and Xi Jie wiped the tea from their faces.

Yin Ming answered, "No, everything is fine. We only want to confirm the price of the Illusion Stone and Truth Brush with you, Supervisor Jiang."

Xi Jie then raised his voice in a theatrical tone. "I remember now! The Rank 6 Sacred Object: Illusion Stone costs 180 Divine Essence, while the Rank 6 Sacred Object: Truth Brush costs 220 Divine Essence. Their total is 400 Divine Essence, and even with a 15% discount the price still comes to 340 Divine Essence."

It was clear that he was insinuating that Han Wu couldn't afford 340 Divine Essence for the items.

Jiang Ming's face darkened with shame and anger. He had been a merchant for many years and understood Xi Jie's meaning at once. What irritated him more was that neither man remembered the ongoing promotion for the pair. While the items normally cost 180 and 220 Divine Essence, the bundle price dropped to 350. After applying the 15% discount, Han Wu only needed to pay 297.5 Divine Essence.

What they didn't expect was the way Han Wu's eyes lit up when he heard the price. It wasn't because it was too expensive; he found it low! Paying only 340 Divine Essence for two Rank 6 Sacred Objects was a steal. Han Wu was earning thousands of Divine Essence a day, so it was very affordable to him.

“340 Divine Essence? Sure, I will take both. Hurry up and bring them to me.” He then pulled a bag from his divine realm filled with Essence Coins worth the exact amount.

Jiang Ming cleared his throat. “Little Han Wu, you are too meticulous, but let me correct what they said. They miscalculated the price. With our ongoing promotion, the bundle price comes to 350 Divine Essence, and after the discount, you should only be paying 297.5 Divine Essence.”

Han Wu looked at Jiang Ming in disbelief. The difference between 297.5 and 340 came to 52.5 Divine Essence, which counted as a sizable amount.

Han Wu trusted Jiang Ming even more after the latter cut the price by that much. On the other hand, Yin Ming and Xi Jie felt no shame after Jiang Ming pointed out their mistake. They only thought he was far too honest.

Yin Ming wrote angrily in a private chat to Xi Jie.

[Yin Ming: The customer already stated that he would purchase the items, and he still reduced the price. What an idiot! That’s 52.5 Divine Essence!]

Xi Jie replied with a complaint of his own.

[Xi Jie: That could’ve been ours to take even after we handed over the item money to the group. What a waste, and now we don’t get to earn any extra money. Why are we stuck under such a stupid supervisor?]

While the two were complaining in the private chat, Han Wu continued to list the items he wanted.

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

[ 1,244 words ]

## **Chapter 470 - Han Wu’s Specialty**

“Rank 6: Tower Ancient Barbaric Tree.”

“7-Star God weapon, Black King Blade.”

...

Jiang Ming’s smile widened as Han Wu listed the items he wanted while the two Gods grew suspicious. They could accept that Han Wu had 300 Divine Essence to purchase

the two Rank Sacred Objects. Most Gods, no matter how poor, at least kept some savings. Yet Han Wu kept adding items, and the price rose significantly.

The two Gods assumed that Han Wu was messing with them. However, the trade wasn't in their hands this time but in Jiang Ming's, so they were curious to see how he would handle this.

After naming more than ten items, Han Wu finally stopped and passed the list back to Jiang Ming. "I will buy this much for now. You can find me again once you've refreshed your list."

Jiang Ming nodded, took the list, and quoted the total. "Young Han Wu, you've chosen sixteen different items. After the 15% discount, your total comes to 2,409.6 Divine Essence.

"As you're about to spend more than a 1,000 Divine Essence with us, you are eligible for VIP status. I have the authority to offer a further discount. Your final total comes to 2,400 Divine Essence."

Han Wu felt good after spending so freely. "That's not too expensive, but I don't have enough Divine Essence to pay for the items right now."

The two Gods watched him with mocking eyes and waited to see how the scene would unfold.

However, Jiang Ming didn't react negatively to it. Instead, he responded kindly. "Young Han Wu, I can tell that you are quite extraordinary. You will grow far beyond your peers. How about this? If you can't pay it right now, I can help you apply for an installment."

The two Gods behind him almost blurted out of frustration, "Are you his father? How can you set up an installment plan for him? Only Major Gods and above qualify for that privilege."

Han Wu chuckled at Jiang Ming's earnestness. "I don't plan to use an installment plan, but since your merchant group works in trade, you purchase local specialties, right?"

Yin Ming cut in at once, "Our Supreme Merchant Group doesn't accept trash!"

Xi Jie lost his patience as well. "Look at this deplorable place. What kind of local specialty could you even find here?"

He then turned to Jiang Ming. "Supervisor Jiang, I don't know what kind of connection you have with him, but keep this in mind. The merchant group will still audit your actions. I will officially report you if you sell those items for 2,400 Divine Essence to a swindler."

Jiang Ming was flabbergasted as his two subordinates were undermining him like this. “Are you guys trying to go against me? How could you speak so rudely before our customer?”

Yin Ming doubled down. “We are not going against you. We just can’t tolerate the way you are selling our merchant group’s items for your own gain.”

Xi Jie joined him. “Do you think we are fools? From the moment you walked into this place, you’ve been cutting our profit margins on your own. It’s impossible to believe you have no connection to him. You may not care about the commission, but we do!”

Jiang Ming’s face was sullen and grim. He didn’t want to explain, and he saw no good way to do it. He was their supervisor, and he had no duty to justify his choices. “I have my reasons, and you two have no place interfering. Since you’re so set against this trade, I’ll take responsibility for it. You can step aside.

“Whether we earn or lose money, I’ll bear it alone, and neither of you will face any consequences. If you agree, we can sign a contract now. I don’t want your objections slowing this trade any further.”

Xi Jie taunted him. “Then we should thank you for letting us go.”

Yin Ming quickly drafted the contract, and both of them signed without hesitation.

Before he signed the contract, Jiang Ming wanted to give them one last chance. He didn’t want to treat them too harshly. “Think carefully about your actions. Once I sign, the two of you will have no influence in the trade and no share of the profit. Nothing bad will happen to you, but you won’t earn anything either. Have you considered this?”

Unfortunately, the two Gods were too shortsighted to grasp his intentions. They had already signed their names and urged him to do the same. Jiang Ming had already offered them every chance they needed, so he signed without any hesitation.

The contract bound them to their terms. Regardless of how the trade turned out, the two Gods would have no further part in it.

The two Gods sighed in relief as if they had shaken off a looming disaster. Meanwhile, Jiang Ming felt certain about his decision and chose to place his faith in Han Wu.

Han Wu saw the trust Jiang Ming placed in him and felt touched. How could a stranger wager 2,400 Divine Essence on him based on trust alone? Han Wu couldn’t let him lose.

“Since you’ve settled your private matters, let’s continue the trade.” Han Wu then took out an Abyssal Netherstone at 100% purity. “Jiang Ming, this comes from my territory. It’s an Abyssal Netherstone that’s 100% pure. Here, check it out and give me a price.”

Han Wu passed it to Jiang Ming. The latter accepted it with both hands and felt blood rush to his head when he saw how pure the stone was. He had worked as a merchant for hundreds of years, and had spent many of those years in this mine. He knew Abyssal Netherstone well and could judge their purity at a glance.

Jiang Ming hesitated as he examined the stone. He had never seen one so pure. The highest purity he had encountered was 98%, and this one exceeded that.

He couldn't appraise it by sight alone and informed Han Wu. "I'm afraid that I will need to use the machine to verify it."

Jiang Ming set up the machine and started appraising Han Wu's Abyssal Netherstone. In the end, the machine confirmed a staggering reading: 100% purity!

The two Gods stared at the report, stunned. "Impossible! That can't be right. How could there be an Abyssal Netherstone that's 100% pure?"

The machine's report couldn't be falsified, and the stone's composition couldn't be mistaken.

Jiang Ming recovered first and asked, "Young Han Wu, how many Abyssal Netherstones do you have right now?"

Han Wu chuckled. "I just told you that this level of purity is my specialty. I should have enough to buy everything on three to five of your Giant-class ships."

Jiang Ming froze. A single Giant-class ship from their merchant group carried goods worth 100,000 Divine Essence. If Han Wu spoke the truth, he could easily purchase 30,000 to 50,000 Divine Essence worth of items.

Even God Kings weren't as rich as Han Wu, yet Jiang Ming didn't doubt him.

The two Gods didn't want to believe it and thought Han Wu was bluffing, but the pure stone sat on the table in plain view. If they could bring it back to the merchant group, they would gain enormous credit for securing such a high-stakes deal. Watching the trade unfold, they silently decided they needed a share in it no matter what.

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## **- Chapter 471 - Iron-Clad Rule of the Merchants**

### **Chapter 471 - Iron-Clad Rule of the Merchants**

[ 1,381 words ]

## Chapter 471 - Iron-Clad Rule of the Merchants

“Brother Han Wu, the three of us are of the younger generation. I think it would be more appropriate for us to run this trade,” Xi Jie persuaded, gesturing for Yin Ming to stop Jiang Ming.

Although Jiang Ming was stronger than them, the rules of the Supreme Merchant Group forbade him from attacking the duo.

Jiang Ming was furious. The two of them had previously been adamant about not trading with Han Wu, only to try to usurp the deal from him when it turned out to be profitable. How could Jiang Ming tolerate this?

Yin Ming stood before Jiang Ming and warned, “Supervisor Jiang, you’re old and should give us youngsters a path forward. I’m sure my uncle, Director Yin De, would agree.”

For Yin Ming to bring up his uncle Yin De at this time was truly infuriating for Jiang Ming. As both a Major God and one of the founders of the Supreme Merchant Group, Yin De was someone with great authority and enjoyed a lot of benefits in the group.

Yin Ming was clearly using his uncle’s name to pressure Jiang Ming out of the trade. At the same time, Xi Jie was trying to persuade Han Wu to abandon Jiang Ming and negotiate with them instead, even going as far as to offer a price higher than Jiang Ming’s.

Han Wu chuckled at Xi Jie’s offer. “I thought you guys already signed the contract agreeing that you would have no stakes in this trade?”

Xi Jie scoffed. “Contracts are used to bind the weak. We have both power and background. How could contracts tie us down?”

Taking out two puppets from his divine realm, Xi Jie passed one to Yin Ming and the two bit their fingertips before smearing their blood onto the dolls.

The contract that bound them was transferred to the dolls, allowing them to regain their freedom and trade with Han Wu without restriction.

Han Wu could not help but clap his hands in astonishment. He never thought they could remove the contract like that.

“Brother Han Wu, rest assured that our price is the highest in the market. You can sell your 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones to us without worry. We from the Supreme Merchant Group can pave the road for you. You’ll soon earn enough money to rival a God King,” Xi Jie enticed, selling an image of the future to Han Wu.

At Han Wu's nod, Xi Jie quickly formed an exclusive contract and urged him to sign it.

"Signing this contract will establish a positive relationship with the Supreme Merchant Group. We'll be here to back you up. You won't have to fear anything here in the mine."

Han Wu took the exclusive contract with a nod. Then, glancing between the pair, he tore the contract in half right in front of their eyes.

"Han Wu, what are you doing?" Xi Jie snarled.

Han Wu scoffed. "Isn't it obvious? I won't sign this contract, I won't work with you, and I don't need your protection."

Yin Ming tried to hold the raging Xi Jie back as he continued to persuade Han Wu, "Are you unhappy with the price we gave? I can raise it further, but that's the limit of my authority."

Han Wu shook his head and shot them a scornful look. "I don't care about the price. A reliable partner, on the other hand, is invaluable to me. Just so we're clear, neither of you has the privilege of working with me."

Both Yin Ming and Xi Jie could no longer endure the anger simmering in their hearts. They had used their precious dolls and even offered an extremely high price for the sake of this deal, only for Han Wu to mock them.

This was extremely insulting to the two rich kids.

Xi Jie raised his arm to subdue Han Wu with his Divine Authority, but Jiang Ming was faster. His Divine Jurisdiction easily overwhelmed Xi Jie's Divine Authority.

Although Jiang Ming wasn't gifted in combat, he was still a Major God, and it was quite easy for him to suppress a God.

Xi Jie glared at Jiang Ming. "Don't try to stop me or you'll suffer the consequences too!"

The only reason a God like him could utter such words to a Major God was due to his family background.

Yin Ming bared his fangs at Han Wu. "We gave you a chance, and you threw it away. Now, we've changed our minds. We won't bother trading with you anymore. We'll just seize your territory and resources instead!"

Han Wu's 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones were a treasure far beyond their expectations, and the pair was willing to break the iron-clad rules of the merchant group to get their hands on them.

Seeing this, Jiang Ming rebuked, "You two! Our merchant group has forbidden us from attacking and robbing others. Every other merchant upholds the same rules. If you rob him, the Supreme Merchant Group will no longer have a foothold in this place."

Xi Jie growled, "Nobody will know if no one says anything. Supervisor Jiang, think carefully. If we obtain the secret of getting 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones, our merchant group would see great benefits."

"Obtaining a mine shaft that produces 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones will make us famous! The other merchant groups that are trying to grab a stake of our territory would be left in the dust!"

Xi Jie was already envisioning a rosy future.

"We would become the new leaders of the Supreme Merchant Group," Yin Ming agreed. "As our teacher, you would also gain the respect of everyone in our merchant group. Supervisor Jiang, few ever get the chance to change their fate like this. This opportunity will fly away if you don't seize it now."

Jiang Ming unhesitatingly rejected them, "I will not take opportunities granted through such methods. I will only engage in legal transactions and earn clean Divine Essence. That's all I have to say on the matter. Also, as long as I am here, you two will never be allowed to break the rules of our merchant group."

"Supervisor Jiang, have you ever considered that the reason my uncle constantly stomps all over you is that you're too strict with yourself?" Yin Ming sneered, taking a crystal out of his pocket.

His uncle, Yin De, had given him the crystal, which contained an array that could restrict the movements of a Major God. He crushed the crystal, and the array enveloped Jiang Ming.

Jiang Ming could neither use his Divine Jurisdiction nor do anything to stop the two while in the array.

Glancing at the struggling Jiang Ming, Yin Ming sneered. "Supervisor Jiang, watch carefully. You'll soon become our accomplice."

The two Gods then turned to Han Wu and unleashed their Divine Authorities simultaneously.

"Run! Quickly escape!" Jiang Ming shouted from within the array when he noticed Han Wu wasn't moving.

Han Wu watched the two Gods without a trace of fear in his eyes. Rather, he was suppressing the excitement in his heart as he asked the two, “Are you really going to rob me?”

Xi Jie chuckled. “You should feel honored that we’re willing to break our group’s rules to rob you.”

Han Wu decided to stop pretending. It was time for the tiger to shed the pig’s skin. “Very well!”

He formed two different Divine Authorities from each arm to counter the two Gods’ Divine Authorities.

The three were locked in a stalemate, but the experienced Jiang Ming could tell that Han Wu was gaining the upper hand.

Logically, Han Wu was supposed to lose since he was up against two Gods, but his Divine Authorities were of excellent quality and were far beyond what the two Gods could ever hope to match.

Yin Ming and Xi Jie also noticed this. Hoping to turn the tide, they ordered their units on the Giant-class ship to join in on the attack.

Just as they sent out the command, they received a message from their units.

“Our Glorious God, a huge swarm of locusts is invading us. They’re too powerful!”

“I’m sorry, but it seems my units are faster than yours.” Han Wu postured with a chuckle.

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

[ 1,116 words ]

## **Chapter 472 - Giant Protector**

Han Wu’s swarm of locusts invaded the Supreme Merchant Group’s Giant-class ship and killed everything that moved, including Jiang Ming’s, Yin Ming’s, and Xi Jie’s core races.

The trio panicked when they felt the threads of faith severing.

Despite this, Jiang Ming ordered his core race not to engage in battle. After all, while he viewed Han Wu's actions as borderline absurd and likely premeditated, Yin Ming and Xi Jie had still been the first to break the rules of the merchants.

As the fault ultimately lay with the pair, it was only fair for Han Wu to fight back and take over the entire Giant-class ship.

Yin Ming and Xi Jie didn't share the same thoughts. Their hearts ached as they felt their painstakingly nurtured units dying en masse.

How could locusts be so strong? If this continued, they would lose too many of their units for their family backgrounds to compensate for, and ultimately fall behind their peers.

The two desperately continued to use their Divine Authority to push back against Han Wu, all the while requesting Jiang Ming to help them.

"Supervisor Jiang—no, Master Jiang, please help us! We're still your students!"

"Supervisor Jiang, if you don't help us, my uncle Yin De will punish you once we get back to the group. Call your units to help us if you don't want to get punished!"

The pair were playing good cop, bad cop in an attempt to persuade Jiang Ming to help them defeat Han Wu. With his Divine Jurisdiction, it would be fairly simple for him to defeat a mere God like Han Wu.

However, Jiang Ming only shook his head in response, sitting on the ground and splaying his arms wide in a gesture of intended inaction. "You two were the ones to break the rules of the merchant group. I will not be doing anything to help you."

"Jiang Ming, how could you be so stupid? If anything happens to us while under your guidance, the group will punish you!"

"Master Jiang, I beg you, please help us! If you defeat him, we'll confer the merits of finding the 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone to you!"

Their incessant pleas fell on deaf ears. Jiang Ming stood firm on his decision, watching from the sidelines as Han Wu increased the output of his Divine Authority and sent the two Gods flying.

The pair were left injured, with their units all but massacred. The mass collateral of the intense battle finally caught the attention of the Giant Protector stationed on the Giant-class ship.

An Earthsunder Giant Protector had been stationed on every Giant-class ship under the banner of the Supreme Merchant Group as the final line of defense.

The merciless killing and plundering of Han Wu's locusts had roused the Giant Protector from its slumber, which in turn relit the spark of hope within the injured Yin Ming and Xi Jie.

"All shall perish under the might of an Earthsunder life form! Who cares if your Divine Authority or units are stronger than ours!" Yin Ming proclaimed as he slowly stood up.

The Giant Protector swung its fist, punching a shockwave that rippled through the air for a thousand miles.

Millions of locusts died with that single strike. Although a few million locusts were a mere fraction of Han Wu's hundred billion locusts, he was still pissed at their deaths.

Deciding to show the two Gods the true taste of despair, he finally brought out the big guns.

Steely leaped out from the Giant-class ship. The aura of his Hecatoncheiras form was powerful enough to suppress even the Giant Protector. Never one to fight empty-handed, Steely tightened his grip on his hundred God greatswords, each humming with power.

Han Wu had focused most of his efforts on nurturing Steely, and all one hundred of his greatswords had been upgraded to 3-Star God weapons.

Moreover, all the greatswords had the same attributes, making it easier for Steely to fuse their energy. Armed with those greatswords, Steely's presence easily overpowered the Giant Protector.

Sensing Steely's overbearing presence, the Giant Protector did not hesitate to unleash its Skill. It channeled all of its power to form an impenetrable barrier that covered the entire Giant-class ship, even forming two energy palms to drag Yin Ming and Xi Jie into the safety of the barrier.

It had wanted to pull Jiang Ming into the barrier as well, but was rejected. Jiang Ming wanted to convey his intent to never work together with Yin Ming and Xi Jie again through his actions.

After being saved, Yin Ming and Xi Jie noticed that Steely wasn't attacking them. Assuming that their Giant Protector was far stronger than Steely, their confidence quickly returned.

"Yin Ming, you control the weapon system of the ship and bombard the entire area below. Don't let even a single locust go."

"What about you?"

“I’ll control the Giant Protector and take down the Hecatoncheiras. Don’t you think our ship is a bit bare with only a single Earthsunder life form?”

Yin Ming was dissatisfied. Why did he have to do the dirty work while Xi Jie controlled the Giant Protector to fight the Hecatoncheiras?

Seeing the dissatisfaction on Yin Ming’s face, Xi Jie coaxed, “Aren’t we best friends? Do we really need to be so calculative? Why don’t we switch? You can control the Giant Protector while I carpet bomb the entire area down below using the weapon system?”

The earnestness on Xi Jie’s face convinced Yin Ming. “It’s fine. I’ll teach those trash-like units down there a lesson they will never forget.”

“That’s right.” Xi Jie chuckled. “We’re friends. Why do we need to be so calculative?”

In contrast to his words, Xi Jie was actually thinking about his contributions. Taking down the Earthsunder Hecatoncheiras would likely net him a better reward. On the other hand, if he were to kill the weaker units down below, his contribution would be smaller, and his rewards would likely reflect that as well.

Meanwhile, Han Wu had already grown tired of the battle.

“Kill them,” he ordered Steely. “Leave no one alive.”

Steely combined all one hundred 3-Star God greatswords into a single hundred-meter-long hurricane greatsword. The strong winds enveloping the greatsword tore the surrounding space apart.

Using Steelcutter, he swung his powerful greatsword. Everything along its path was cleaved in half. The barrier protecting the Giant-class ship lasted only two seconds before it shattered.

Silence followed in the wake of his attack.

The Giant Protector had half of its head sliced off, its blood soaking Xi Jie as he exclaimed in shock, “How could this be? How can the Hecatoncheires be that strong?”

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## **Chapter 473 - Recruiting a Major God**

[ 980 words ]

## **Chapter 473 - Recruiting a Major God**

Steely cut through the barrier, killed the Giant Protector, and cleaved the 300,000 sq km Giant-class ship in half. All of the systems on the ship were destroyed.

Yin Ming and Xi Jie used the treasure they wore at all times to survive the overbearing attack. Their units, on the other hand, weren't as lucky.

As they fell out of the cleaved Giant-class ship, they got a good look at just how many of their units died.

Unlike them, their units didn't have any special methods of protecting themselves, and most either died from the fall or from being crushed by the debris.

More shocking still was the sight of Han Wu's locusts swarming on the Giant Protector's massive falling body and devouring it. Many of them evolved after consuming the Giant Protector's flesh and blood.

Some grew larger, while others awakened the power to generate a barrier.

The Giant Protector's powers now belonged to the locusts.

Jiang Ming was stunned. As a Major God, he had seen many different kinds of core races with diverse skills, but this was the first time he had seen a core race that could evolve so quickly.

Every time after Han Wu defeated a powerful foe, he would likely order his locusts to devour the body and obtain the skills of the defeated in this way as well, gaining him an entirely new squadron of powerful fighters.

It was almost impossible for one to remain weak with such a special core race. Jiang Ming couldn't help but marvel at the locusts from afar.

"Why aren't you worried about your core race?" Han Wu suddenly asked with a frown.

"I ordered them to evacuate the ship as soon as you attacked. They're situated somewhere safe."

Han Wu nodded in understanding, inwardly admiring Jiang Ming's swift decision-making and keen sense of danger.

Detecting the presence of the two Gods below, Han Wu asked, "Would you be sad if I cut down those two idiots?"

Jiang Ming could also sense the two Gods slowly crawling away in humiliation, trying to escape undetected. They were trying to reduce their presence by sticking close to the ground and hoping Han Wu wouldn't notice them.

Unfortunately for them, Han Wu's senses were extremely sharp. He could even detect the movement of their hair if he so wished.

Jiang Ming sighed. "Could you just let them go?"

"Why?"

Jiang Ming mulled over Han Wu's question for a long time.

They had initially come here to trade with Han Wu legitimately, but Xi Jie and Yin Ming broke the rules and wanted to rob him instead.

It was understandable if they were killed in Han Wu's act of self-defense. Still, knowing what was right was one thing; protecting them was another.

When he recalled how the Supreme Merchant Group looked after him for all these years, he couldn't help but ask Han Wu to let the two live. Moreover, he had even considered the compensation for his request.

Jiang Ming was willing to leave the Supreme Merchant Group and join Han Wu's faction, using his experience as a merchant to help Han Wu accumulate his wealth. This was the last thing he could do for the Supreme Merchant Group.

After carefully thinking over the proposal, Han Wu ultimately agreed. Recruiting a Major God in exchange for letting two Gods live was an exceptional deal. The only issue was that Han Wu wasn't sure if Jiang Ming would join his faction in earnest.

Jiang Ming, knowing this, decided to show his dedication through the signing of a Spiritual Blood Contract. This contract was one stage higher than a regular one and utilized their body and spirit as the medium.

The method of using dolls to free oneself from the contract would be ineffective in this case. With the Spiritual Blood Contract as a guarantee, Han Wu could recruit Jiang Ming without worry.

With that said and done, Han Wu pretended he didn't see the two Gods escaping and instead sent his units to salvage the destroyed Giant-class ship and the items on it.

There were still many systems that could be repaired and equipped to his fleets later on. Jiang Ming's presence also meant he could gain easy access to the vault where their wares were stored.

Several hundred thousand Divine Essence worth of treasures were in the vault. Han Wu had become obscenely rich in just a single day.

While he was certain that the Supreme Merchant Group would soon come knocking for their lost goods, he wasn't worried, as Jiang Ming was here to explain the circumstances.

Moreover, with Jiang Ming's help, Han Wu could sell items more efficiently, allowing him to accumulate Divine Essence at breakneck speed. He was soon ready to head to the rest stop to purchase powerful systems for his ships before finally carrying out some robberies.

Suddenly, Jing Jing's Giant-class ship shuddered. Bone shards rained down from above.

Han Wu quickly flew up into the ship to check it out. He had just stepped onto the ship when he caught the presence of something alluring in the air. While not poisonous, it still affected his ability to think rationally.

"What's happening?" he muttered, plugging his nose as he headed toward the center of the ship.

After walking for a long time, he finally found Jing Jing in one of the rooms. She exuded a pink mist that made her look inconceivably attractive.

Han Wu took a quick sniff and confirmed that it was the same gas that he had breathed in earlier, though far denser here.

"My dear God, are you here?" Jing Jing cooed.

Han Wu's heart raced from just that single sentence.

Something was wrong. It felt like he was being seduced!

Glancing at her, he longed to know how she obtained the power to bewitch others.

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## **Chapter 474 - Supreme Merchant Group's Assault**

[ 1,138 words ]

## Chapter 474 - Supreme Merchant Group's Assault

Jing Jing stood up, each movement carried an alluring pull. Han Wu could barely steady himself and felt his vision waver. It was a fatal mistake to make in a battle.

Han Wu suppressed his imagination and managed to say, "Jing Jing, you look... different."

Jing Jing's spiritual flames flickered in her eyes as she blinked. "Do you... like it?"

Han Wu turned his head away. "*Cough...* Not bad."

Jing Jing smiled, pleased with his answer. "Dear God, after absorbing the energy within those chips, I advanced into an Earthsunder undead. Not only did I receive a trace of Fate's power, but I also awakened the Latent Seductive Bone, which allows me to seduce my foes with my every move."

Han Wu had to admit that the seductive prowess was very potent. He could already imagine how her future foes would suffer on the battlefield.

"What about the power of Fate?" Han Wu had never heard of it and wanted to know more.

Jing Jing demonstrated for him. She first smashed a vase in her room, then released a red thread from her finger, which stitched the fragmented pieces together until the vase turned whole again.

Han Wu had never seen anything like it and could already imagine how to use that kind of power. "That Skill... Can you use it to heal wounds?"

Jing Jing nodded. "Yes, but the stronger my target is, the more power I need to channel. At present, I can only revive a Heroic life form."

"You can revive them?!" Han Wu exclaimed.

Jing Jing had gained an incredible power. If he could, he would've marched back to the casino, beaten up the owner again, and forced him to hand over even more chips.

While the two were researching the power of Fate, the outside world stirred with unrest. A fleet of 500 Small-class ships, 300 Middle-class ships, 100 Big-class ships, three Giant-class ships, and one Behemoth-class ship the size of 1 million square kilometers was flying toward Han Wu's territory.

Every ship proudly carried the Supreme Merchant Group's banner. Inside the Behemoth-class ship, Yin Ming and Xi Jie were kneeling before the higher-ups and reporting what they had experienced. However, they had intentionally concealed many

key details, including the fact that they were the ones who had broken the rules and attacked first.

One of the directors, Major God Yin De, howled, "Preposterous! How dare a single God rob us? Such impudence!"

The second director, Xi Wa, asked, "Are you two certain that he's just a God?"

Xi Wa was Xi Jie's grandfather.

"It's true! His name is Han Wu and his locusts are very strong. He also had an Earthsunder Hecatoncheiras," Xi Jie explained.

The higher-ups fell silent at the mention of the Earthsunder life form. These powerful life forms were strategic war assets and very difficult to obtain. Even their wealthy group had only eight after so many years. Worse, one of them had been slain. The death of one Earthsunder Giant Protector incurred losses equal to an entire ship of wares.

The third director, Hu Lan, asked, "What about the 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone? Does it really exist?"

"We both saw it with our own eyes and tested it with the machine. It's definitely real."

The three directors drew deep breaths. Even though they had held their positions for a very long time, they had only ever seen a 99% pure Abyssal Netherstone.

A high-purity Abyssal Netherstone could jump in value with 1% of improvement. Now they were talking about a 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone with no trace of impurity.

"Yin De, if we can secure a steady supply of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones, then we might still recover our losses." Xi Wa spoke and gave a pointed wink. He was hinting that Xi Jie and Yin Ming deserved a reward.

Yin De nodded. "Indeed, you two discovered the existence of a 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone and have paved an important path for the Supreme Merchant Group's growth. It counts as a significant contribution."

Yin Ming and Xi Jie smiled. They had been hoping that they would be rewarded.

Only Hu Lan remained suspicious. "I have a question. Let's set aside whether a 100% pure Abyssal Netherstone exists. I want to know how the two of you managed to escape from Han Wu but not Jiang Ming."

The question stunned Yin Ming and Xi Jie, and they couldn't answer it on the spot. They had no idea why Jiang Ming hadn't escaped either.

Truth to be told, Han Wu had focused on them and wouldn't have troubled Jiang Ming. Moreover, Jiang Ming's losses had been minimal. He should have been able to flee even if he sacrificed most of his units.

Yin Ming was about to explain, but Xi Jie tapped his shoulder to stop him. "That's because Supervisor Jiang defected to the enemy."

The three directors stared at him in shock. Jiang Ming had served the Supreme Merchant Group for centuries. Aside from the group's elusive CEO and the three directors, Jiang Ming held the highest authority. Moreover, his work was exemplary. If not, Yin De and Xi Wa wouldn't have entrusted their descendants under his tutelage.

"Xi Jie, you cannot lie. Are you sure you are telling the truth?" Xi Wa asked sternly.

Xi Jie refused to drop his plan to frame Jiang Ming. If he stayed quiet, Jiang Ming would return and reveal how they had broken the rules first. Their rewards would be retracted, and they would lose their positions. Xi Jie also believed Jiang Ming had shown clear bias toward Han Wu during the trade. He saw the favoritism as proof that the two had some hidden connection.

"I am telling the truth. You can ask Yin Ming. He was there too." Xi Jie turned toward Yin Ming.

Yin Ming cursed to himself. Xi Jie had acted without consulting him, and that irritated him. If their statements didn't match, they would face a penalty close to striking a customer first. If anyone uncovered the lie, the punishment would be severe.

However, it was too late. They rode the same wagon now, and if Yin Ming failed to support Xi Jie, both would face certain death when Jiang Ming returned. To preserve his family's honor, Yin Ming remained silent for a moment, then lied as well, "Yes, Xi Jie is telling the truth. Please capture Jiang Ming and enact justice for us."

After they claimed that Jiang Ming had betrayed them, the directors exchanged a look. They needed no words and understood each other at once. "We will call our entire fleet to teach Han Wu a lesson so he learns that the Supreme Merchant Group isn't weak and to capture Jiang Ming so we can investigate this matter."

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[ 1,094 words ]

**Chapter 475 - Hid Well**

Han Wu's locusts immediately sent a report when the massive fleet entered his territory. Its sheer size forced him to take the threat seriously, so he summoned Jiang Ming.

When Jiang Ming learned about the fleet's size, he understood the danger at once. He knew exactly how many assets the Supreme Merchant Group controlled since he had worked there for centuries. This time, they had gathered everything they owned to confront Han Wu.

"I think they called all their ships here to intimidate the other factions. They want everyone to know that the Supreme Merchant Group isn't easy to push around," Jiang Ming reasoned. "I might be able to defuse the situation and explain that this is all a misunderstanding."

Han Wu accepted his proposal. If they were to really fight head-on, even a swarm of several hundred billion locusts wouldn't help him outnumber the fleet.

Jiang Ming set out to speak with his former employers. He rode a Small-class ship and reached the fleet's edge when a command came through the Supreme Merchant Group's voice channel he still had access to. "We've detected the traitor Jiang Ming. Concentrate fire and kill him!"

Hundreds of Small-class ships shifted their weapons and opened fire on Jiang Ming's Small-class ship. Lasers and shockwaves tore through the hull and reduced the ship to smithereens.

Jiang Ming used his Divine Jurisdiction to stay aloft. He was dumbfounded by what had transpired. How had he become the traitor in their eyes? He must explain everything to the directors.

He spent some Divine Points to boost his speed and dodged the incoming barrage, then landed on the Giant-class ship carrying the three directors.

They appeared before him the moment they detected Jiang Ming's presence.

"Jiang Ming, you betrayed the Supreme Merchant Group and your colleagues. You set a trap to steal our wares. We hold the proof. What else do you have to say?" Yin De reprimanded him before he could utter a word.

"I..." He began. but Xi Wa cut in, "You don't have to explain anything. Xi Jie and Yin Ming have already told us how you betrayed us when you defected to an outsider. You will accept our group's punishment."

Jiang Ming finally realized that the situation had unfolded because of the two Gods' betrayal. He had offered himself as a bargaining chip to keep them alive, but they repaid with treachery. Jiang Ming wanted to cough up blood because he had been teaching two ungrateful brats.

Yin Ming and Xi Jie even stepped forward and pretended to persuade him to repent. “Supervisor Jiang, there’s still time. As long as you admit your wrongdoings I believe the Supreme Merchant Group will forgive you.”

“You are our supervisor and also our master. Even if you did something this serious, we want you to repent and stop before you walk any farther down the wrong path.”

Jiang Ming coughed up blood from anger. The two never said anything about the mistake they had made and claimed he could return to the Supreme Merchant Group as long as he admitted fault. If he didn’t, he would die.

Jiang Ming wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and laughed bitterly. He had served the Supreme Merchant Group for centuries, yet this was how it ended.

In that instant, a wave of exhaustion hit him, as if the fatigue he had accumulated for hundreds of years had finally caught up to him. He started swaying from it, but a pair of strong arms caught him.

It was Han Wu. He had used some sort of method to directly reach the Supreme Merchant Group’s ship and stood before the directors.

“Han Wu, you thief. Return our Giant-class ship and the wares worth 100,000 Divine Essence!” Yin Ming shouted the moment he saw him.

Xi Jie followed suit. “Don’t think that you are the only one with an Earthsunder life form. We have seven of them. End this useless struggle and surrender!”

Han Wu ignored them because he saw them as the typical rich kid. They looked wealthy and influential, but they held no real power. The ones who mattered stood above them.

“You two should stop blabbering and framing others. If not, I will let everyone here see how embarrassing you look when you run away with your butts up high.” His words were sharp and humiliating.

Yin Ming and Xi Jie could barely remain calm.

“Han Wu, stop talking nonsense. The Supreme Merchant Group’s fleet is here today. Enjoy the last moments of your life.” They spoke as if his death had already been decided.

Han Wu chuckled and disappeared with Jiang Ming, leaving only one sentence in the empty air. “You want to kill me? Go ahead and try with the junk scraps that you brought!”

The directors bristled at his insult. Even Hu Lan, the most patient of the three, felt offended by how rude Han Wu was toward them. He could only think of using force to suppress Han Wu now.

They needed to confront him head-on and ensure he could never recover from this. The three directors were just about to give the order to attack when Han Wu struck without warning.

He was much faster than them. A Giant-class ship spanning 100,000 square kilometers appeared in the middle of the Supreme Merchant Group's fleet without anyone noticing. No one understood how something that large had slipped past their detection.

The Giant-class ship carried a huge swarm of locusts and Dark Locust. He had already received Han Wu's orders to ambush the Supreme Merchant Group. Thus, he had controlled the ship and successfully guided it into the enemy's fleet without anyone noticing.

Before long, everyone found out why Dark Locust had positioned the ship in the center. The locust swarm immediately attacked the fleet indiscriminately. They flew toward the ships closest to them and detonated themselves.

Every single locust took at least two foes with them when they died. Dark Locust, the strongest of them all, endured the barrage of attacks from the foe before landing on a Giant-class ship. He then detonated himself.

The explosion of an Earthsunder lifeform like Dark Locust blew off at least 60% of the ship. The three directors quickly glared at Yin Ming and Xi Jie and reprimanded them for not disclosing the information about Dark Locust.

Unfortunately, Yin Ming and Xi Jie were stunned as well, as they hadn't even known about the existence of Dark Locust. Han Wu had hidden his strength too well!

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[ 1,023 words ]

## **Chapter 476 - Dark Locust Revives**

Though it was undeniably a huge blow to lose a Giant-class ship, it was one that the three directors could stomach. After all, it was worth sacrificing a Giant-class ship in exchange for the life of an Earthsunder life form.

The cracked space where Dark Locust had self-detonated continuously drew in matter to heal itself. Noticing this, the three directors ordered the Earthsunder Giant Protector to abandon the Giant-class ship.

The ship was already destroyed. They couldn't afford to lose the Giant Protector as well.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ming, having escaped with Han Wu, was already feeling better after a short rest.

Senses expanded to perceive the happenings outside, Jiang Ming had initially been ecstatic when he learned that Han Wu had another Earthsunder life form hidden away. This joy dissolved when Dark Locust self-detonated.

Jiang Ming panicked. That was an Earthsunder life form, a strategic war asset! It was a huge loss for it to sacrifice itself just to destroy a Giant-class ship.

"How could you let an Earthsunder life form sacrifice itself for nothing? What a waste!" he cried out, so worked up he almost coughed up blood again.

"Don't worry," Han Wu assured. "I know the value of an Earthsunder life form. The real show is just about to begin."

On the battlefield, Han Wu and the Supreme Merchant Group's units were clashing. Corpses piled up into small mountains, and blood flowed like rivers. The three directors observed everything calmly from within their ship.

They were accustomed to battles on this scale, and their core race was born for warfare. As long as they won, they could always recoup the losses from before.

Both Yin De and Xi Wa were confident they would win after seeing Han Wu's Earthsunder life form sacrifice itself with relatively minimal loss to the Supreme Merchant Group. That was a massive advantage for them.

The ever-cautious Hu Lan, however, felt something was amiss. He just didn't know what yet. Extending his senses, he vigilantly scanned the crack in space where Dark Locust had previously detonated itself.

The crack was slowly recovering as it absorbed matter and energy, but besides that, Hu Lan could sense nothing wrong. Assuming he was overthinking the situation, he was about to shift his attention to the battle below when he unintentionally detected a small piece of flesh gradually taking shape.

Scattered chunks of flesh and blood manifested and merged into the figure of Dark Locust again. Unfortunately, by the time he realized what was happening, it was already too late.

Dark Locust had revived itself! The presence of the Earthsunder life form caught the attention of the other two directors.

They stared at Dark Locust as if seeing a ghost.

“It—Didn’t it detonate itself?” Yin De stammered as he watched Dark Locust attack their units.

Xi Wa rubbed his eyes at the unbelievable scene. “This can’t be real.”

Hu Lan wore a bitter expression. While he didn’t want to believe what was happening, reality was undeniable—the powerful Earthsunder life form had revived and was once again killing the Supreme Merchant Group’s units down below.

“Giant Protectors, stop it!” Hu Lan ordered.

Two Giant Protectors rushed down to kill Dark Locust. Seeing their advance, Dark Locust unhesitatingly shot toward them with extreme speed.

When Hu Lan saw this, he belatedly remembered Dark Locust’s earlier detonation. “SHIT!”

It was too late. Dark Locust was a mere twenty meters away from the two Giant Protectors—well within range of its blast.

Dark Locust unhesitatingly self-detonated once again.

The powerful explosion tore through the Giant Protectors’ hastily thrown-up barrier, gravely injuring them. One lost an arm, while the second lost half of its face.

These grievous wounds left the two weakened and temporarily out of the fight. Hu Lan thought this was the limit of Dark Locust, only to despair when he saw the tiny chunks of flesh swiftly taking shape once more.

Just ten minutes later, Dark Locust was back.

“Why isn’t there a limit...” Hu Lan cried out in dismay, feeling as if he was on the verge of going crazy. “Send two Giant Protectors to stop it! Gather the remaining Giant Protectors and use their strongest attack to destroy Han Wu’s fleet in one go. Kill that God and put an end to this battle as soon as possible.”

Dark Locust was a member of Han Wu’s core race. If they killed Han Wu, it would naturally lose its strength and become easy to kill. The pressure that Dark Locust placed on Hu Lan was enough for him to shift priorities toward killing Han Wu first.

Two Giant Protectors rushed towards where Han Wu's fleet was. Their powerful presence as Earthsunder life forms was enough to smother any units beneath the Heroic grade. Han Wu's protective measures folded like wet paper before them.

The three directors assumed that the Giant Protectors would soon pierce into the center of Han Wu's fleet.

Then, something unexpected happened.

A wind blade stopped the two Giant Protectors in their tracks.

Yin Ming pointed at Steely in his Hecatoncheiras form. "That's the one! That's the Earthsunder Hecatoncheiras that killed the Giant Protector!"

The three directors glanced at Steely. With their experience, it didn't take them long to figure out what made Steely special. A regular Hecatoncheiras wouldn't be as powerful as Steely. However, Steely's skills with the wind and the greatsword made the three directors realize that this was no simple Hecatoncheiras, but a Swordwind!

"How did he turn a Swordwind into that form? Han Wu has to be someone special. Quick, use the treasure to send an emergency message. Call our people to look into Han Wu's background," Hu Lan commanded.

Yin De and Xi Wa thought Hu Lan's actions were unnecessary. They were in the middle of fighting to the death. Checking Han Wu's background information wasn't useful at this point.

After all, it wasn't as if they could just apologize and compensate him. As Major Gods, it would be humiliating for them to apologize to such a young God. The pair simply couldn't let go of their pride and reputation.

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[ 1,039 words ]

## **Chapter 477 - Jing Jing's Might**

The special magnetic field within the Abyssal Mine required a special method to send a message out of the area. It took Hu Lan five whole minutes to receive a report from the Supreme Merchant Group outside.

They had managed to dig up some information on Han Wu, and Hu Lan forwarded the report into the public channel for everyone to read.

Han Wu's basic background information left them all stunned.

"He's a student of the Imperial College, and is even the first-year valedictorian!" Yin De exclaimed in astonishment.

"Wait, that's not all," Xi Wa said. "It says here that he has a Magic Ring and even defeated the second-year valedictorian before."

Hu Lan skimmed the report and soon noticed that Han Wu's supervisor and master was Xu Hai. Frowning, he felt his world spin at the familiar name.

Xu Hai was one of the most talented Major Gods and had the potential to grow into a God King.

Hu Lan's breath quickened at the realization that he was fighting the student of a future God King. Although he himself was a Major God, not all of them were equal. The difference between him and Xu Hai was akin to the gap between a regular student in a common school and Han Wu, the first-year valedictorian of the Imperial College.

One flew up high in the heavens, while the other walked the earth.

"I think we should stop this battle," Hu Lan quietly suggested.

He no longer wanted to fight after learning Han Wu's background. If their attack on Han Wu offended Xu Hai, the fallout would affect not only him but also the entire Supreme Merchant Group. Death would become all but a certainty for them.

However, Yin De and Xi Wa didn't want to give up this opportunity. The destruction of one of their Giant-class ships and the promise of 100% pure Abyssal Netherstones were more than enough motivation for them to continue the battle.

"This fight has already gone too far. We can't stop now. We either kill him or die. There's no third outcome," Yin De argued.

"Hu Lan, why are you becoming more of a coward as you become older?" asked Xi Wa.

"You need to look at the big picture," Yin De said. "Don't be afraid of offending another Major God just like us. We can't just let this opportunity go. He's strong, but there's no way he can defeat the three of us combined."

Hu Lan was not at all convinced. "Have you two gone senile from being directors for so many years? Xu Hai is an infamous Major God, one likely to become a God King. Do you think you can live a good life after offending him?"

“Hu Lan, you’re overthinking this. Nobody can pin the blame on us if we successfully kill Han Wu. This place is filled with life forms from other civilizations. It wouldn’t be unusual for him to be killed here,” Yin De coaxed.

“Yin De is right,” Xi Wa agreed. “No one besides us will know if we kill Han Wu.”

Despite their persuasions, Hu Lan refused to give in, and in the end, the two directors forced an official vote to strong-arm Hu Lan into continuing the battle.

The two sides clashed intensely on the battlefield. Many of Han Wu’s locusts were killed, with less than a hundred billion of them remaining. It was a significant loss.

Meanwhile, the army from the Supreme Merchant Group held strong. Most of their units were fodder obtained from invading other civilizations anyway.

Disregarding the elite-ranking units, the Supreme Merchant Group could still achieve victory as long as they decimated Han Wu’s army. That was why Yin De and Xi Wa were certain that victory was theirs.

In their eyes, it was impossible for Han Wu, a mere God, to fend off the combined might of their Divine Jurisdiction. The two were already savoring the outcome of their flawless plan when a figure appeared.

It was Jing Jing!

The appearance of her beautiful figure on the battlefield attracted the attention of every other life form like a beacon. This was the effect of her Latent Seductive Bones, obtained after becoming an Earthsunder life form.

Everyone watched as she raised her arm and showered the area around her with her Divine Authority.

The corpses on the ground shook.

Skeletons tore their way out of their fleshy cocoons and scrambled to get close to Jing Jing. Stopping just a hundred meters away, they kneeled and submitted themselves to her. There was a veritable army of them from the ten billion units that had already perished from the ongoing battle.

Jing Jing’s Divine Authority had turned the ten billion corpses into undead to aid in Han Wu’s war. The Supreme Merchant Group’s advantage in numbers with lower-ranking units was overturned in the blink of an eye.

The skeletons attacked the fodder of the Supreme Merchant Group with astounding results. Unfortunately, this triumph didn’t last long.

As the skeletons were just showing their prowess, countless sacred light beams shot out from the Supreme Merchant Group's fleet. The sacred energy contained within the light easily dispelled the darkness inhabiting the skeletons, and they peacefully returned to the earth.

Their bones lay scattered across the ground.

Not to be outdone, Jing Jing waved her arm seductively, gathering the bones into a thousand-meter-tall Sage Titan Osteomancer.

Then another, and another, for a total of ten Titan Osteomancers.

Their combined power easily destroyed the Supreme Merchant Group's ships as they attacked the fleet.

Sirens blared, a sign that they were losing at least a ship per second.

The Supreme Merchant Group unleashed the Sacred Light they used to purify the undead, but it was ineffective on the Titan Osteomancers.

A layer of bone fragments covered the Titan Osteomancers, shielding them from the Sacred Light.

The three directors could hardly bear to watch as the Titan Osteomancers destroyed several ships in a short span of time.

"The Supreme Merchant Group will lose everything."

"We need to leave now. Gather all units and escape."

"We have to avoid Han Wu from now on."

The three directors decided to swallow their losses and retreat.

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## **Chapter 478 - White Mane God King**

[ 1,042 words ]

**Chapter 478 - White Mane God King**

The Supreme Merchant Group tried to flee, but Jing Jing and Han Wu wouldn't let them go so easily. Han Wu had lost almost 100 billion locusts. He couldn't just let them walk away without avenging his fallen units.

More locusts rose under his command. He rallied his other powerful units as well. Black dragon Alpheus, silver dragon Erebard, gold dragon Smog, frost Great Dragon Leng Ning, lightning Great Dragon Bakir, and the powerful Great Dragons squadron soared into the air at his signal.

The might of the Great Dragons' pressure shook every life form in the vicinity. Even the Supreme Merchant Group's three directors panicked.

"Is his core race the locusts or the Great Dragons? How could he have so many Great Dragons?" Hu Lan shouted in disbelief.

Yin De and Xi Wa were crestfallen too. They had pushed hardest for war against Han Wu, and now they regretted it after witnessing his strength.

Hu Lan didn't have the time to blame them for their mistakes. All he wanted to do now was to protect the Supreme Merchant Group's core assets from falling in this war. "All Small- and Middle-class ships stay behind and provide suppressive fire. All Big-, Giant-, and Behemoth-class ships retreat immediately with the Giant Protectors."

Upon receiving their orders, the Small- and Middle-class ships intercepted the Great Dragon squadron, the locust swarms, and Jing Jing's Titan Osteomancers. Their crews resorted to suicidal tactics to buy as much time as possible.

The remaining ships recalled the Giant Protectors and attempted to break out of Han Wu's territory. Steely and Dark Locust received Han Wu's orders to stop them at any cost.

Freed from the battle, the two rushed toward the Supreme Merchant Group with their full strength. Steely used Steelcutter and fused his 100 3-Star God greatswords into a 1,000-meter-long greatsword formed from a hurricane. He swung it and the violent wind sheared through everything in its path. The Big and Giant-class ships lurched under the force and veered off course. Several even collided with one another and broke apart.

Dark Locust used Dark Domain and trapped many life forms inside it, suffocating them in absolute darkness. The two Earthsunder life forms tore through the lower-ranking life forms without slowing. Even Sage life forms couldn't withstand two strikes from them.

The directors occupied two Giant-class ships and the Behemoth-class ship. They relied on their Divine Jurisdictions to barely protect their ships from the two Earthsunder life forms' attacks, but the protection strained under the pressure. They couldn't hold out for long with their Divine Jurisdictions alone. The battle had turned into a slow grind.

The three directors focused so hard on defending against Dark Locust and Steely that they overlooked Jing Jing, the Earthsunder undead who was controlling the Titan Osteomancer army.

Using them as a springboard, Jing Jing leaped onto a Giant-class ship. The life forms there spotted her at once because of her seductive figure. She released her Skeleton Domain without hesitation or mercy. Every living being inside it was eroded, and once the erosion reached a set threshold, they transformed into skeletons that obeyed her every command. In just one minute, 60% of the ship's life forms had been turned.

Jing Jing commanded them to attack their former comrades. Within an hour, skeletons overran the entire ship. Even the Giant Protector couldn't fend off against their invasion and fled to another ship. Jing Jing shadowed it to the next Giant-class ship and used Skeleton Domain once more.

Hu Lan felt searing pain in his heart as he watched the ships crashing one by one. The Supreme Merchant Group had spent centuries building this foundation, and now they suffered massive losses just because they had offended a single God. It was preposterous!

With the situation collapsing, Hu Lan no longer believed they could escape. His only remaining hope was to protect the Supreme Merchant Group's final and greatest asset with the other two directors: the Behemoth-class ship beneath their feet.

It truly was their last and greatest asset. Even though the three directors combined their Divine Jurisdictions to protect it, numerous Titan Osteomancers kept hammering at them. They swarmed like ants that attacked relentlessly to bring them down.

"Those damned skeletons, locusts, and Great Dragons!" Yin De's anger surged, but he had no way to vent it. He could use his Divine Jurisdiction to fend off one of the Earthsunder life forms on his own.

However, Han Wu had three, along with several Sage Great Dragons that matched Earthsunder life forms in strength. Under that pressure, the three directors were unwilling to leave the ship. The moment they stepped off, one blow could end them. Yet the risk of the ship falling grew by the second.

Once the situation reached that level of danger, they stopped hesitating. They had to summon the founder. He was a God King, and his strength could secure their safety.

The three directors took out their respective keepsakes. The three pieces merged into one and formed a circular ring. The ring was the founder's keepsake, and once complete, it allowed them to summon him to its location.

A burst of frigid air surged from the ring the moment it took shape. The ring expanded until it formed a portal large enough for a person. Then a humanoid covered in white fur stepped out.

“Founder!” the three directors cried in unison; the white-furred figure was their savior.

The White Mane God King extended his senses to gauge the situation outside the ship and scoffed when he saw the Titan Osteomancers batter the Behemoth-class ship’s defenses.

The scoff froze the Titan Osteomancers in place. Even the locusts outside turned to ice as well. Only the Great Dragons resisted it. Thanks to their incredible defenses against elemental attacks, they managed to survive the White Mane God King’s hit.

Jing Jing and Han Wu appeared together the moment they felt his Divine Jurisdiction’s overbearing pressure. Fighting a God King as mere Gods invited certain death, but the two refused to back down and endured his casual blow.

The White Mane God King studied the pair with rising seriousness. He would use a more powerful Divine Jurisdiction to crush them.

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## **Chapter 479 - Lost in the Desolate Civilization**

[ 1,163 words ]

### **Chapter 479 - Lost in the Desolate Civilization**

At the critical moment, someone jumped out from Han Wu’s divine realm. It was the Origin of Mutation, which had consumed the final vial of Origin Virus.

The Origin of Mutation was the product of a freak mutation and showed perfect compatibility with that virus. After all, it had grown significantly stronger after completely absorbing it. It was now as powerful as an Earthsunder life form and had advanced to a Rank 5 Super Genesoldier.

Not only did it possess a powerful body, but it had also unlocked a powerful Skill. The four it already possessed—Controlled Mutation, Gene Lock, Gene Recombination, and Life Creation—were powerful, but the fifth surpassed them because it transcended the

physical realm. It was called Cognitive Alteration and targeted the mind rather than the body.

The Origin of Mutation jumped in front of the duo and used Cognitive Alteration on the White Mane God King to alter his mental state. It shot several thin strands that pierced the God King.

The God King's mind was extremely stable, and his Divine Jurisdiction protected it like an impenetrable fortress. The Origin of Mutation focused all of the strands in one spot and opened a tiny hole into his defenses. It then pushed a single tiny strand through it. The strand carried the directives needed to alter the White Mane God King's cognition so he would let them leave.

As the strand entered him, the White Mane God King's eyes lost focus. Confusion washed over him when he looked at Han Wu, and he no longer understood why he was attacking them.

Han Wu seized the momentary confusion and ordered his entire fleet to escape. Dark Locust had already prepared an escape route. He jumped in front of the White Mane God King and detonated himself. The self-destruction of an Earthsunder life form wasn't enough to kill the God King, but it could severely injure him.

The detonation tore open a giant spatial crack at the blast's epicenter. Even Dark Locust had no idea where it would lead them to, but it offered their only chance. They would have a slim shot of survival if they escaped through it. Staying here with the White Mane God King meant certain death.

Han Wu chose to take that risk and swiftly commanded his fleet to enter the crack. His ship and Jing Jing's ship quickly passed through the crack. By the time the White Mane God King reacted, most of Han Wu's fleet had already crossed. Only a handful of Small-class ships failed to pass through.

In his rage, the White Mane God King used his Divine Jurisdiction and crushed those ships. Close to 10 billion locusts still aboard them were crushed into nothingness.

Some of the stronger units also failed to escape in time, such as Alpheus and Erebard. The White Mane God King used his Divine Jurisdiction to threaten them to join the Supreme Merchant Group, but they were absolutely loyal to Han Wu and would rather fight to the death.

The White Mane God King killed all of them in a heartbeat. The war ended after their deaths. The Supreme Merchant Group had lost 99% of its ships and only the Behemoth-class ship remained in the air. They had also lost close to 80% of their fodder and slaves. In total, the group had lost 70% of its assets.

Han Wu had suffered heavy losses as well. He had lost at least 15 billion locusts along with many other units. Even so, he had minimized his losses and had obtained one of the Supreme Merchant Group's Giant-class ships, which held treasures and items worth 100,000 Divine Essence.

During the war, the skeletons had also salvaged a lot of systems from the Supreme Merchant Group's fleet and stored them. In the end, both Han Wu and Jing Jing managed to gain some profit from the war.

As for Alpheus and the other loyal units that had been slain, their souls had already been inscribed onto the Revival Stone. Han Wu could resurrect them as long as he spent enough Divine Essence.

Han Wu still came out ahead. He was defeated but managed to minimize his losses. Unfortunately, he was now facing an incomprehensible threat. After entering the spatial crack, the powerful vortex within it crushed many of his ships.

Han Wu couldn't save those ships. He could only transfer their units onto the remaining intact ships. In the end, only three Giant-class ships managed to emerge safely: Han Wu's Swordwind ship, his Dark Locust ship, and Jing Jing's skull ship.

The three drifted in an uncharted region. Han Wu sensed his surroundings and couldn't identify the place. Naturally, Jing Jing had no clue either. They had to turn to Jiang Ming for help since he had a lot of experience as a merchant wandering through different civilizations.

Jiang Ming had witnessed Han Wu and Jing Jing take on the entire Supreme Merchant Group as Gods and still manage to retreat safely. Their actions impressed him, and he swore that he would work for Han Wu.

After surveying their surroundings for a while, he frowned and told them he had one piece of good news and one piece of bad news. The good news was that this wasn't an unknown civilization. It's a discovered one called Desolate Civilization. The bad news was its sheer size. Based on incomplete records, they had once estimated that the Desolate Civilization was tentatively at least ten times larger than the entire Divine Civilization.

Jiang Ming couldn't tell which district they had entered, nor did he know where they should go next. They were lost.

Han Wu didn't mind. Escaping from a God King with most of their units intact counted as a miracle for Gods like them. Being lost in the Desolate Civilization seemed manageable by comparison.

Jiang Ming admired his optimism and explained the nature of the Desolate Civilization. This place was apparently a barren landscape, and neither navigational skills nor communication hardware functioned well here.

Han Wu had the Permanent Coordinates for the Blood Coliseum. He tried activating it before realizing that it would take 498,700,000 years to head back. He suspected that this was the system's way of telling him they couldn't use it to escape.

He let go of the idea and listened closely as Jiang Ming described how to survive there. The only law that governed the Desolate Civilization was the iron-clad law of the strong eating the weak. Any weaker life form became the prey. If they didn't hide themselves well, something stronger would consume them.

The life forms here evolved after eating large amounts of food. However, evolution in the Desolate Civilization didn't follow a fixed path; it shifted at random. For example, if a pig ate its fill and triggered its evolution, it could evolve into a fish with higher vitality. It sounded absurd, yet this was the Desolate Civilization's fundamental law.

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[ 1,167 words ]

## **Chapter 480 - Random Evolution**

Their ship sailed high up into the air, granting Han Wu a view of the primal bloodshed occurring below. Innumerable beasts of various forms were killing and eating each other.

Han Wu also witnessed several evolutions, all as absurd as Jiang Ming's explanations. It was completely nonsensical. Regardless of the ridiculous nature of it all, however, there was no denying that life forms that had undergone several evolutions were unbelievably powerful.

During their voyage, they encountered a massive beast that had evolved twenty times. It resembled a pig with wings, except its face was a butt. Both the anterior and posterior ends of the pig were a butt. In fact, Han Wu was hard-pressed to say which side was even the front.

Jing Jing summoned her thousand-meter-tall Titan Osteomancers to take it down, but they failed to endure even a single blow from the beast.

The beast crushed the Titan Osteomancers with its butts. When it aimed a butt at the ship, Han Wu hastily steered the ship off course to avoid the incoming attack.

Three seconds after he did so, a stream of purple gas burst forth from the beast's butt. Every single plant within a ten-kilometer radius shriveled up and died.

If not for Han Wu's quick actions, he would've likely lost many units to the gas. This encounter forced him to realize the terrifying strength of the Desolate Civilization.

It also brought him a sudden epiphany.

What if he applied the law of the Desolate Civilization to his divine realm? Would it cause an interesting chain of reactions?

Others had always looked down on his core race from the moment he obtained his divine realm. Even after becoming the valedictorian of the first-year students, this still rang true.

He had invested a wealth of resources into nurturing his locusts, but they remained weaker compared to their peers. While the locusts excelled in numbers-based combat and had powerful Self Detonation, they were still far weaker than other life forms of the same grade in single combat.

But what if he could use the law of the Desolate Civilization to evolve the locusts? If he succeeded, they wouldn't be locusts anymore. He was curious to see how his divine realm would transform if that happened.

Han Wu sought counsel from the well-traveled Jiang Ming, explaining his idea in detail.

According to Jiang Ming, Han Wu wasn't the first to consider using the law of the Desolate Civilization to change their core race, but all past attempts had failed.

Life forms in the Divine Civilization bred and reproduced, following a specific order of life as they evolved. Meanwhile, life forms of the Desolate Civilization existed in disorder. It was almost impossible to fuse order and disorder to alter a core race.

Still, Han Wu didn't want to give up before at least trying it out.

He worked with Jing Jing, Jiang Ming, and the Origin of Mutation to defeat a beast that had evolved fifteen times. The three took away the valuable parts before leaving the rest to Han Wu—or rather, to his locusts.

Close to 50 billion locusts swarmed the corpse and devoured it. The effect of the Rank 6 Sacred Object Law of Gluttony meant the locusts consumed everything within ten minutes. The giant corpse was but an appetizer to the 50 billion locusts.

Many of them evolved, but not in the chaotic way of the beasts in the Desolate Civilization. There was still an order to their transformations, just like in the Divine Civilization.

Not wanting to give up, Han Wu ordered the locusts to attack and consume even more beasts in the Desolate Civilization. The locusts devoured one corpse after another, yet through it all, they continued to evolve in the same orderly manner and not with the randomness Han Wu hoped for.

Frustration welled up within Han Wu. It was like finding a treasure trove, but not being able to bring anything back with him. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do.

Jiang Ming and Jing Jing consoled him, assuring him that his locusts were amazing regardless of whether they managed to merge the law of the Desolate Civilization into themselves.

The Origin of Mutation had a different approach, advising them to ignore merging the law into Han Wu's divine realm for the moment. Things on the level of the Will of a Civilization were too dangerous to touch at this point.

After all, they were stuck in the Desolate Civilization. If they angered its will, they could easily be killed on the spot.

Instead, he suggested that Han Wu try nurturing a unit that the Desolate Civilization would recognize. If Han Wu found a native insect race, preferably a locust, he could merge it with his existing core race to form a brand new life form.

It was a worthy idea, though even the Origin of Mutation was uncertain whether it would work.

Han Wu decided to test the hypothesis. He ordered his 50 billion locusts to spread out to search for any native insects, with the best candidates being locusts.

The 50 billion locusts spread out and formed a formidable communication network. Their sheer numbers made it exceedingly simple to comb the area. In just one day, they had found eighteen possible candidates, with one being 80% compatible with his locusts.

Han Wu was ready to conduct his experiment.

Jiang Ming, bored, kept a curious eye on what he was doing.

The ships soon reached where the promising candidate was last seen.

The beast resembled a locust and was munching on the juicy flesh of a frog-like beast. Jiang Ming used his Divine Jurisdiction to examine the beast's data.

[Desolate Beast: Locust Fei Hong][1]

[Evolution Count: 12]

[Skills: Death Scythe, Murderous Head Cruncher, Foshan Shadowless Wings...]

It was as strong as a High Lord life form, so Han Wu found a High Lord locust from his core race to merge it with. Han Wu and Jiang Ming then used their powerful strength to subdue Locust Fei Hong.

Commanding his High Lord locust to approach, Han Wu used Merge, fusing Locust Fei Hong and his locust into one.

Han Wu quickly checked the data of the merged life form.

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[Rank: King Life Form]

[Talent: Breeding, Devour...]

[Skill: Death Scythe, Self Detonation...]

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After skimming the data, Han Wu was left disappointed. The merge had failed in its intended purpose. Still, it was not all bad. The locust had become stronger and had even inherited Locust Fei Hong's Skill: Death Scythe.

Hopefully, with more attempts, he would eventually get an Amalgamation with the core Skill of the Desolate Beasts, Random Evolution. Holding firm to his conviction, he continued with his experiments.

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[ 1,002 words ]

## **Chapter 481 - Amalgamation**

None of the Amalgamations he merged inherited Random Evolution.

Han Wu had merged all eighteen candidates with his locusts after subduing them with his Divine Authority, with ten becoming stronger, six becoming weaker, and two exploding on the spot.

At first, Han Wu assumed there was something fundamentally wrong with his experiment, but the Origin of Mutation, with his extensive research experience, thought it was too early to give up.

“If you didn't get your desired results, it could just be because the scale of your experiment isn't wide enough. You don't have enough test subjects. You may obtain your desired results if you increase the scale and number of test subjects.”

Han Wu thought this was illogical, but the Origin of Mutation was eventually proven correct in his claims.

One day, his locusts stumbled across a hive of low-ranking insect-type beasts.

He merged them with his weakest locusts, failing more than ten thousand times before one finally succeeded.

The merged locust was a weak Elite life form. However, the important thing was that it had obtained Random Evolution.

A lot of time and energy was spent nurturing the locust. Han Wu fed it an abundance of meat for its nutrition, and the locust fed ravenously under the effect of the Law of Gluttony.

Energy slowly condensed within its carapace until it evolved for the first time. It then turned into a blood-red egg, which hatched after two days.

The eggshell cracked open. Han Wu waited impatiently for the beast inside to reveal itself.

“An... alpaca?” he muttered in shock when the beast emerged.

His locust had turned into an alpaca after its first evolution. The Amalgamation had lost its ability to fly and gained a preference for eating plants. Also, it excelled at spitting—something Han Wu found rude and secretly chastised it for.

Regardless, he had finally managed to obtain a Desolate Beast from the merging and evolution of his core race. He ordered the other locusts to gather as much vegetation as possible to feed the alpaca.

Even with the Law of Gluttony, the alpaca ate for ten entire days before accumulating enough energy to activate Random Evolution again. Han Wu watched as the alpaca turned into a red egg, commencing its second evolution.

This time, it took five entire days before it hatched. Han Wu felt his heart shatter when he saw the hatched beast.

The first evolution had resulted in an alpaca that could do nothing but spit.

After its second evolution, it turned into a chicken that was somehow wearing dungarees. It was preposterous! Han Wu almost wanted to chop the chicken up and cook it.

Jiang Ming and Jing Jing had to physically stop him from doing anything stupid to the only Amalgamation with Random Evolution. Sighing, Han Wu could do nothing but nurture it for the third evolution.

Half a year passed in this manner.

Han Wu stood beside a hatching red egg. This was already the fifteenth evolution.

After the alpaca and the dungaree-wearing chicken, it had evolved into a bee-turtle, a humanoid crab, and even a humanoid squid[1]. Each looked weirder than the last, and all had useless Skills.

Han Wu was on the verge of giving up. He severely doubted that the Desolate Beast would ever evolve into something useful.

But the fifteenth evolution surprised him.

Golden light shone through the cracks of the eggshell.

Han Wu's eyes widened in astonishment. He had finally obtained something rare!

*Wait, never mind. It's just a golden turtle.*

Han Wu stood in motionless shock for a moment, then slowly approached the golden turtle, already thinking of turning it into soup to nourish his own body.

When he checked its data, however, he became increasingly baffled.

[Desolate Beast: Golden Catch][2]

[Evolution Count: 15]

[Skill: Aurumantine Shield]

Han Wu rubbed his eyes, bewildered by how it still had only one Skill even after evolving fifteen times. Even the alpaca had two Skills, one for spitting and another for riding.

How strong could it be with just a single Skill? Still, he found a suitable day to test it out on the field.

Grabbing a 1-Star God hammer, he started swinging at it. A huge hole was left in the ground from the impact, but Golden Catch remained unharmed.

Having gained a vague idea of how powerful its defensive properties were, he moved up to using a 2-Star God weapon.

Golden Catch remained unharmed with its golden shell shining brightly.

He tested it with 3-Star, 4-Star, 5-Star, 6-Star, and finally the 7-Star God weapon, the Black King Sword. Only then did he manage to leave a tiny scratch on its shell.

When Jiang Ming caught wind of Golden Catch's durability, he dashed into the stash of treasures that Han Wu had previously looted from the Supreme Merchant Group, found a Skill called Armor Form, and taught it to Golden Catch.

Golden Catch was incredibly intelligent after fifteen evolutions and learned Armor Form in only three days. Once activated, its defensive capabilities were further boosted, making it so durable that even the 7-Star God weapon, the Black King Sword, only left a tiny mark on it after three swings.

Unfortunately, Han Wu was reluctant to wear the shell-shaped armor form of the golden turtle.

Sighing, Jiang Ming sifted through the pile of treasures once more and found another Skill called Shield Form, which he gave to Golden Catch to learn.

Only then did Han Wu accept Golden Catch as a defensive unit. With its powerful defense, Han Wu was confident that he could endure Steely's Steelcutter for at least five seconds.

After gaining Golden Catch, he had an idea. The Amalgamation Golden Catch had given him a defensive option capable of guarding against a 7-Star God Weapon. What if he were to collect more Amalgamations?

His search for more compatible Desolate Beasts commenced.

1. Mr. Krabs and Squidward, respectively 📧

2. The chinese name here refers to golden turtle son-in-law, which means ideal, highly desirable son-in-law 📧

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

[ 1,041 words ]

## **Chapter 482 - Forced Odyssey**

The success rate of gaining an Amalgamation with Random Evolution was extremely low, around one in ten thousand, but Han Wu wasn't going to give up just because of that. He needed to get as many as possible to successfully incorporate the Desolate Civilization's law into his divine realm.

A year passed in the blink of an eye.

Their ships floated high in the skies of the Desolate Civilization, the barren land beneath stretching seemingly endlessly. They had been flying in a straight line for a whole year and still had yet to find the border.

In the past year, Han Wu had merged countless successful Amalgamations. He was exceedingly careful when evolving them, in case they had gained some special Skills.

When they did, he would immediately ask the Origin of Mutation to sever Random Evolution from the Amalgamation using a special method so it couldn't evolve again.

From then on, the Amalgamation would become stronger in an orderly manner, with Random Evolution no longer affecting its form and Skills.

Han Wu had effectively turned some of his locusts into “Divine Beasts” and gradually amassed many powerful units in his army. Regardless of the mighty units supporting him, however, they were still stuck in a long odyssey through the Desolate Civilization.

Since they were already here, they would take the opportunity to plunder the Desolate Civilization wherever possible. Fortunately, the condition of both his and Jing Jing’s divine realms meant this invasion would be insignificant to the Desolate Civilization and wouldn’t attract the attention of its Will.

Han Wu and the rest slowly became accustomed to this life, exploring as they traveled, when his ship detected a powerful beast that had evolved thirty-five times.

It was a huge Flame Giant.

After being here for so long, Han Wu had roughly figured out the logic of the Desolate Civilization. Unless the beasts had an exceedingly rare or special Skill, the strength of most could be evaluated by the number of times they had evolved.

Their Life Energy doubled every time they evolved. In other words, this Flame Giant had doubled their Life Energy thirty-five times since birth.

While Life Energy wasn’t an indicator of their combat prowess, it was still a good measure of their overall strength.

The Flame Giant towered ten thousand meters tall and possessed energy similar to a miniature sun. Heat seared Han Wu’s skin even from afar. If not for his Divine Points protecting him, he would’ve already been roasted into jerky.

Jing Jing and Jiang Ming approached him, casting wary looks at the huge Flame Giant.

“God, are we really going to fight it?” asked Jing Jing.

Jiang Ming was similarly hesitant. “This Desolate Beast is powerful, likely far stronger than even an Earthsunder life form. It’ll be exceedingly difficult to take down.”

Han Wu was adamant. “There’s no point in killing the weaker beasts. We’ve already been here for an entire year, and our army has recovered. Some have even become stronger. It’s time for them to experience war again.”

Jiang Ming could say nothing in the face of Han Wu’s resolution. Having sworn allegiance to him, there was nothing to be done but to support him all the way.

“I shall follow the path of my God,” Jing Jing acquiesced.

The three discussed their strategy. The Origin of Mutation was too lazy to join the meeting and instead continued conducting its experiments. However, it did request that Han Wu collect as much blood as possible, as it would be beneficial for its experiments.

Han Wu nodded. The Origin of Mutation's experiments were significantly beneficial to his units. He typically agreed to its requests as long as they were not too outlandish.

The trio had already worked together hundreds of times by this point, and it didn't take long for them to reach a consensus on their plans.

Jing Jing would remain on her skull ship and use all her strength to summon a Titan Osteomancer.

The Titan Osteomancer would tank as many hits from the Flame Giant as possible. Meanwhile, the skull ship and Swordwind ship would fire off long-range attacks intermittently. The sharp teeth and wind blades would not only drain the Flame Giant's energy but also distract it.

Earthsunder Dark Locust would hide its presence and stay close to the Flame Giant, waiting for a perfect opportunity to Self Detonate and deal a lethal blow.

If the Flame Giant didn't die from Dark Locust's Self Detonate, Han Wu still had another plan up his sleeve. First, he would order Steely to use Steelcutter. He would then order the revived Great Dragons to use their combined breath attack to stop it. If all else failed, the Origin of Mutation could also use Cognitive Alteration to secure victory.

The hunt started as soon as Jing Jing summoned a twelve-thousand-meter-tall Titan Osteomancer.

At the same time, Han Wu ordered his strongest defensive unit, Golden Catch, to use Shield Form and attach itself to the Titan Osteomancer's left arm to guard against the Flame Giant's attacks.

The Titan Osteomancer was also equipped with Han Wu's strongest weapon, the 7-Star Black King Sword. It had the passive effect of eroding its enemy with Dark Energy.

Darkness would erode at any wound the sword inflicted. If the victim didn't take preventative action in time, it would spread from the wound to the rest of their body, eroding it all away.

Once equipped with the weapon and shield, the Titan Osteomancer didn't hesitate to attack the Flame Giant. It swung the Black King Sword downwards, but failed to cut skin.

A solid wall of fire had blocked its path.

This was the Flame Giant's Skill: Fire Coat, which enabled it to give fire a solid form. After thirty-five evolutions, its Life Energy reserve was enormous, making its Fire Coat remarkably durable.

Jing Jing wasn't about to give up so easily. The Titan Osteomancer attacked two more times under her command, but to no avail.

Seeing this, Han Wu initiated the next step and commanded the two Giant-class ships to fire.

Sharp teeth shot at the Flame Giant's Fire Coat, only to be burned to ashes.

The attack wasn't strong enough to pierce through its defenses.

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

## Chapter 483 - Killing the Flame Giant

[ 1,073 words ]

### Chapter 483 - Killing the Flame Giant

Han Wu wasn't disheartened in the slightest. After all, he had expected this. There was no way a Desolate Beast that had evolved thirty-five times would go down that easily.

The Black King Sword and the Teeth Cannon continued their attacks.

Han Wu then instructed Steely to fire off wind blades, which swiftly swept forth from the Swordwind ship.

The wind blades crashed into the Flame Giant's chest with a shower of fiery sparks, but left no damage at all. Its Fire Coat was simply too strong.

"Is it a bloody tortoise? Why's it so durable?" Han Wu cursed under his breath.

The Flame Giant retaliated, swinging its flaming palm down. The attack was strong enough to injure Sage life forms in a single hit.

Raising its left arm, the Titan Osteomancer defended itself using the Shield Form Golden Catch.

An earsplitting explosion echoed as the Flame Giant's palm made contact with the shield. The Flame Giant's palm was reflected backward, and a shallow handprint was left on Golden Catch's Shield Form.

Han Wu quickly extended his senses to Golden Catch to check its condition. According to it, it could still withstand two more attacks.

At the same time, Jing Jing controlled the Titan Osteomancer to stab relentlessly at the Flame Giant's arm. The powerful force, combined with the erosion from the Black King Sword, caused the Fire Coat to emit cracking sounds.

But it stubbornly refused to break. They needed to continue pummeling it with attacks.

Han Wu fired even more teeth and wind blades at it.

It took hundreds of attacks to shatter the Flame Giant's Fire Coat.

Seizing the opportunity, the Titan Osteomancer charged forth, tanking an attack to stab the Flame Giant.

The Black King Sword succeeded this time. It pierced the Flame Giant's skin and reached half a meter deep into its flesh. While this was but a mosquito bite to the Flame Giant, it was enough for the Black King Sword's passive to activate.

Dark Energy turned into a curse as it surged into the Flame Giant. It eroded it from the inside out.

The Flame Giant, enraged at the destruction of its Fire Coat, didn't even notice.

It lunged forward and slammed both arms down on the Titan Osteomancer. Golden Catch endured four hits in succession before it reached its limits, detaching itself from the Titan Osteomancer and escaping.

Without a shield, the Titan Osteomancer could tank the attacks with its massive frame, occasionally retaliating using the Black King Sword.

The endless bombardment of wind blades and sharp teeth continued to leave mere surface wounds on the Flame Giant.

However, the true lethal attack was yet to come.

Dark Locust patiently waited for the opportune time to enter the Flame Giant's mouth and use Self Detonate. Finally, just as the Titan Osteomancer was on the verge of defeat, the Flame Giant roared.

Seizing the chance, Dark Locust flew into its mouth and slid down its throat. The Flame Giant felt something enter its stomach, but didn't know what it was, remaining oblivious to the grave danger it was in.

The Flame Giant seized the Black King Sword from the Titan Osteomancer, preparing to kill it.

Dark Locust detonated.

The explosion of the Earthsunder life form ripped through the vulnerable insides of the Flame Giant. Its abdomen bulged significantly before bursting open.

Flesh and blood sprayed through the air, turning everything within a 50-kilometer radius red.

The combination of high heat and fresh blood caused a foul stench to permeate the area. Han Wu quickly checked on the status of the Flame Giant and was left in shock.

Its vitality was unheard of. Even with its abdomen ruptured, it still lived, panting and gasping for air as the wounds slowly healed over.

Han Wu wasn't about to let it recover.

He ordered Steely to use Steelcutter, and the thousand-meter-long massive blade swung downward.

Without its Fire Coat, it could only use its arms to protect its head. Steely used all of his strength to cut through its arms and managed to wound its head with the aftershock of the blow.

It wasn't enough.

The Flame Giant's arms had blocked most of the power behind Steelcutter, and the wound on its head wasn't lethal. Meanwhile, Steely had used most of his energy and had to spend some time recuperating.

As its body rapidly healed, the Flame Giant took advantage of the moment of reprieve to lunge for Han Wu's ship.

Fortunately, Han Wu still had his contingency plan. He summoned hundreds of Great Dragons to release their breath attacks together. Breath attacks of different elements combined in a brutal blow against the Flame Giant.

A mixture of burning flame breath, freezing frost breath, paralyzing lightning breath, and corroding dark breath engulfed the Flame Giant.

The Flame Giant finally succumbed to this powerful onslaught.

Losing its consciousness, it crumpled to the ground in a motionless heap. It was finally dead.

Han Wu sighed with relief after confirming that it was truly dead. Thankfully, he had prepared for the worst-case scenario, or they would've needed to escape.

The result of their careful planning was victory.

A powerful beast like the Flame Giant was like a walking treasure trove. After confirming its death, Jiang Ming and Jing Jing went about sectioning the Flame Giant while Han Wu collected its blood.

The trio soon returned with an abundance of treasures. Jiang Ming had extracted a heart that was the size of a house alongside two scarlet eyeballs.

“The energy within its heart hasn't dissipated yet,” he excitedly explained to Han Wu. “We can refine it into a Rank 6 Sacred Object. These eyeballs are the same. As they come in a pair, there's a chance they could complement each other, which would result in even higher prices.”

Smiling, Han Wu gestured for him to start working.

Jing Jing, on the other hand, had removed the entirety of the Flame Giant's skeleton and was preparing to use it as a base for an Earthsunder skeleton.

Han Wu wasn't sure if she would succeed, but it was worth trying.

After passing the collected blood to the Origin of Mutation for his experiments, Han Wu carved some prime cuts from what remained of the Flame Giant and stored them before ordering his locusts to consume the rest.

He was certain he would get several powerful units from this devouring.

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

[ 1,159 words ]

## **Chapter 484 - Exit**

It took Jiang Ming three full days to successfully refine the heart and eyeballs into three Sacred Objects.

[Rank 7 Sacred Object: Flame Giant's Heart – When equipped to the Core, it imbues a core race's Fire Energy to 100 of their baseline attribute and grants the Skill: Flame Cloak. The durability of Flame Cloak depends on their fire attribute.]

[Rank 6 Sacred Object: Flame Giant's Eye (Left) – When equipped to the Core, it multiplies a core race's Fire Energy by ten and grants the Skill: Flame Giant Fist.]

[Rank 6 Sacred Object: Flame Giant's Eye (Right) – When equipped to the Core, it multiplies a core race's Fire Energy by ten and grants the Skill: Flame Giant Stomp.]

Equipping both of the Flame Giant's Eyes also activated a hidden mechanic. It would grant them the hidden Skill: Flame Giant's Revenge, which consumed Fire Energy to summon a visage of the Flame Giant to aid them in battle. The Skill's duration was proportional to the user's Fire Energy.

Han Wu's heart pounded as he studied the three powerful Sacred Objects. Anyone with a fire-attribute core race would receive an overwhelming increase in combat strength after equipping them.

Unfortunately, Han Wu's locusts were insects and weren't compatible with the three Sacred Objects. As such, he stored them in his vault temporarily until they returned to the Divine Civilization.

Jing Jing had also succeeded in her endeavors. She used the Flame Giant's skeleton and a vast supply of bone fragments to form a towering behemoth of bone and flame.

The Ignis Colossus stood 10,000 meters tall. Its frame was formed from bone fragments imbued with Fire Energy. Even without lifting a hand, the intense heat pouring off its body could vaporize Heroic life forms on the spot. It relied on close-quarters combat, and every blow would cause an explosive surge of fire.

Han Wu could already imagine how the landscape would change after the Ignis Colossus entered a battle. He wouldn't mind if it fought in someone else's divine realm, even if that meant fewer spoils for him. Naturally, he was unwilling to let it fight in his own divine realm. The last thing he wanted to see was his divine realm reduced to ruins.

Thankfully, Jing Jing's divine realm was a barren wasteland filled with nothing but death. She wouldn't mind having it fight in her divine realm.

The Origin of Mutation also used the Flame Giant's blood as a catalyst and uncovered a new result. It created a reagent that altered a life form's genes and awakened a fire-attribute mutation.

This reagent worked like a miracle drug for people like Han Wu with a weak core race. It could raise a core race's potential by awakening an attribute affinity.

At present, however, it wasn't useful to Han Wu. He had too many locusts and would've needed several metric tons of the reagent. The cost made that impossible for Han Wu, even with all of his riches. Thus, he temporarily stored the reagent and three Sacred Objects safely for later.

After dealing with the Flame Giant, they didn't run into any other beasts that had evolved thirty times or more, so Han Wu got bored. He wasn't sure how long their journey through the vast Desolate Civilization would take. With nothing to occupy him, he felt as if he were trapped in a kind of purgatory.

His boredom faded when Jiang Ming pulled out a map and cried out, "Boss, guess what I've found?"

Since swearing allegiance to Han Wu, Jiang Ming had always addressed him as *Boss*. Meanwhile, Han Wu showed respect to him by calling him *Uncle Jiang*.

Han Wu perked up. "Uncle Jiang, did you find a treasure regarding the Desolate Civilization?"

After spending so much time together, Han Wu knew that Jiang Ming would never bother him unless it concerned something urgent or significant.

Jiang Ming shook his head and pointed at the map. "We finally entered a region where this map works. I can tell where we are now."

They had charted the Desolate Civilization as they traveled. Jiang Ming had checked the map as he usually did and noticed they had entered a region that had been explored in the past. They finally had a point of reference.

"Really? That's great news!" Han Wu exclaimed.

They had entered the Desolate Civilization through the spatial crack to escape the White Mane God King. They had been searching for a way out ever since. Jiang Ming's discovery counted as real progress.

"The nearest exit to this place is only three months away, but..." He hesitated as he broke the news.

"But what? Uncle Jiang, please explain," Han Wu urged.

"As far as I know, a tyrant here in the Desolate Civilization controls that exit. It has evolved more than forty times, and a thin strand of the Desolate Civilization's Will inhabits its body," Jiang Ming explained.

Han Wu frowned. They had spent almost all their trump cards just to defeat the Flame Giant, which had evolved thirty-five times. The tyrant that had evolved forty times had Life Energy thirty-two times higher than the Flame Giant.

Even without considering its Skills, Life Energy still offered a reliable way to approximate a life form's overall strength, even though it wasn't a direct measure of combat ability.

Han Wu took his time to consider his options. "Are there any safer exits?"

"There are, but the closest one to us is twenty-three years away," Jiang Ming replied.

Han Wu let the information sink in and dropped the idea of searching for another exit. He couldn't travel for another twenty-three years.

"Uncle Jiang, it seems that we have to find more powerful life forms to hunt before we face it," Han Wu said.

They needed to hunt down powerful Desolate Beasts to obtain rare resources. They could then use the time to nurture powerful units to defeat the tyrant occupying the exit.

That was the basic plan, but Jiang Ming had his doubts. "There are plenty of Desolate Beasts nearby but most are weak. Few have evolved more than ten times. We have already hunted the stronger ones. If we want to hunt more powerful targets, we will have to travel farther and that will cost us time."

Han Wu was stuck until a better idea came to him. "Since there are no powerful life forms here, we can create them ourselves. We can feed or merge them. That should trigger Random Evolution's condition."

His proposal stunned Jiang Ming because he had never considered such a possibility. He carefully thought it through and realized that it was feasible. Still, no one had ever tried it.

Still, the fact that no one had tried it before didn't mean it couldn't be done. He was looking forward to it now. "Then we will follow your lead, Boss. I will command the units to surround any Desolate Beasts they find."

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

[ 1,038 words ]

**Chapter 485 - Fundamental Change**

Numerous Desolate Beasts had been gathered in an unknown mountain crater inside the Desolate Civilization. These beasts were weak, and their average evolution count was around ten. Even so, their sheer number reached at least 100,000. Desolate Beasts hunted and devoured each other regularly, and crowding them into a confined area pushed that brutal cycle into overdrive.

However, the slow progress left Han Wu dissatisfied. He stepped into the crater and used Black Dragon King Transformation. His powerful aura made every single Desolate Beast in the crater shudder.

Han Wu was one of the strongest Sage life forms there, so his aura intimidated all the Desolate Beasts, and they retreated from him. In that form, he started merging the Desolate Beasts. Each use of Merge drained a large amount of Divine Points, but he didn't care since he had plenty to spare. He used the Skill again and again until the number of Desolate Beasts in the crater dropped drastically.

Meanwhile, Jiang Ming and Jing Jing kept sending weaker Desolate Beasts into the crater for him to merge. After five straight days, they finally produced a powerful Desolate Beast that had evolved thirty-five times.

It resembled a Tyrannosaurus rex and boasted a powerful frame. Even though Han Wu had created it, it still swung its tail at him. The heavy blow flattened the entire crater, but it wasn't enough to harm Han Wu.

Thanks to his Black Dragon King Transformation, he was a true Great Dragon, and the physically powerful T. rex beneath him was still only a beast. Han Wu wouldn't let it go or face it alone.

Steely and Dark Locust joined the fray and fought alongside their God. After a full day of combat, the powerful Desolate Beast finally fell.

Jiang Ming, Jing Jing, and the Origin of Mutation then retrieved the valuable materials from its corpse and left the rest for Han Wu to feed his locusts.

Han Wu's locusts devoured the remains until nothing was left. Some of them were Amalgamations with Random Evolution, and one was lucky enough to evolve into a War Angel, a powerful life form with incredible talent. This race showed strong affinity to the light, fire, and lightning attribute, and it ranked among the more prestigious angelic races.

Han Wu summoned the Origin of Mutation and instructed it to sever Random Evolution from the War Angel so it would stay in that form forever. To improve its power, Han Wu retrieved the wing that he had torn from Cherub in the past and asked the Origin of Mutation to graft it onto the War Angel.

Once it received the powerful wing, the War Angel's power surged until it reached the King rank. Pleased with the result, Han Wu decided to nurture it further, giving it large quantities of Light, Fire, and Lightning Stones to improve its strength drastically as quickly as possible. Ten days later, the War Angel advanced to a Sage life form. After two more months, supported by powerful God equipment and treasures, it advanced again and became an Earthsunder life form.

Jiang Ming had overseen the entire process and started to doubt his own knowledge. Less than two months had passed from the Amalgamation's birth to the rise of an Earthsunder life form. He had never seen anything evolve at such a pace. As a Major God that had lived for several hundred years, he had never obtained an Earthsunder life form under his command, yet Han Wu achieved that in two months.

The feat looked miraculous, but Han Wu's performance counted as normal within his group. Jing Jing's growth showed what a true miracle looked like. As the queen of skeletons, her mastery over bones was astounding. After each powerful Desolate Beast fell to Han Wu, she would take its skeleton and use the bone fragments at her disposal to turn it into her subject.

In just four months, she had formed twelve formidable skeletons. Three of them were Earthsunder life forms, and the Ignis Colossus was the strongest among them. The remaining nine hadn't reached the Earthsunder rank, but they had advanced to the Sage rank. If they banded together, they could match an Earthsunder life form.

The most astonishing out of the three was the Origin of Mutation. Every time they defeated a powerful Desolate Beast, it would graft part of the corpse's limbs onto itself.

Jiang Ming hadn't understood the reason before, but that changed when he happened to see its combat form. It turned into a patchwork monster with numerous limbs sprouting from it.

Those limbs contained powerful Skills from the corpses. Once absorbed, they pushed its battle strength to the level of the strongest Earthsunder life forms. If it mastered every Skill it carried, it would reach the might of a Heavenrender life form.

Jiang Ming felt abhorrently weak when he compared his stagnant growth over the past hundred years or so with the rapid progress of the three. Even so, he was still a Major God, an entity that most couldn't reach.

They spent the next four months repeating the process. Han Wu burned through all the Divine Essence in his and Jing Jing's accounts before he managed to cause a fundamental change in his army.

He now commanded eight Earthsunder life forms: Steely, Dark Locust, black dragon Alpheus, silver dragon Erebard, gold dragon Smog, lightning Great Dragon Bakir, War Angel Amelia, and Flame Demon Karot. He also had two Sage life forms that could rival

Earthsunder life forms as long as they wielded powerful weapons: the humans Akanzor and Bart. Akanzor wielded the 7-Star God Black King Sword, and Bart held the Black Arrow that could slay Great Dragons.

Jing Jing had gathered twelve powerful skeletons, while the Origin of Mutation had become a powerful abomination. With an army like this, Jiang Ming was confident that they would win. In fact, he even worried about the tyrant guarding the exit. He was hoping that it would survive long enough to give them a worthy fight.

Once Han Wu confirmed how strong his army was, he felt the same confidence. "Everyone, we depart for that tyrant!"

All three ships set sail toward the exit.

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## **Chapter 486 - Tyrant of the Desolate Civilization: Tempest Tiger**

[ 1,175 words ]

### **Chapter 486 - Tyrant of the Desolate Civilization: Tempest Tiger**

Three months later, Han Wu's ship arrived at a naturally formed tempest purgatory. The air was chock-full of Lightning Energy. This place was a cultivation treasure for those with a natural affinity to lightning.

Those without affinity to lightning, on the other hand, would consider this place hell. This was the territory of one of the tyrants of the Desolate Civilization.

There was an exit here that connected to another civilization. As long as they escaped, Han Wu and the others had a chance to return to the Divine Civilization.

On the ship, Han Wu stared at the scene before them and thought about Qin Shuang. It had been a long time since he had last seen her, and he couldn't help but wonder what she was doing right now.

The War Angel interrupted his wistful musings with a report. "God, this place is filled with Lightning Energy. It's easy to get hit by lightning if one enters rashly. I advise reducing the number of units entering the area."

Han Wu nodded. He had originally planned to send in just the elites to fight against the powerful tyrant anyway. Sending in the weak foot soldiers would only cause unnecessary losses.

“God, I have a skill that could protect us against lightning. It should reduce our chances of getting struck.”

“Go ahead and use it on them right now.”

Nodding, the War Angel used its skill on Han Wu’s and Jing Jing’s units.

“Everyone, follow me!” Han Wu commanded.

His eight Earthsunder life forms, along with the two powerful humans, let out battle cries in response.

Jing Jing’s 12 skeletons remained silent, but obediently followed her command. Jiang Ming didn’t have any Earthsunder life forms under him, but the few Sage life forms he did have followed his charge. Meanwhile, the Origin of Mutation maintained his regular human form, not activating his combat mode yet.

They all entered the tempest purgatory together. Lightning crackled and struck down heavily, but thanks to the War Angel’s skill, they were largely unaffected.

Han Wu carefully scouted the area. Untold lightning had long charred the ground black. Numerous high-purity Lightning Stones littered the area, but no one dared to pick them up.

Bones were also scattered all over. The smallest was ten meters, while the largest was several tens of thousands of meters.

Jing Jing’s eyes lit up with interest at the sight.

Inspecting the skeletons, she was crestfallen to learn that most of the energy within them had already been siphoned away, leaving only empty husks.

These couldn’t be used to make new skeletons. They could only be turned into bone fragments for other purposes. Han Wu carefully sensed the area and discovered a powerful life form ten kilometers away.

If he was right, that was the tyrant claiming dominion over this tempest purgatory.

Han Wu sent Dark Locust to scout it out first, just to be safe.

It blended into the darkness and suppressed its presence as it approached. Soon, it was a mere one kilometer away from its target.

The tyrant was a ten-thousand-meter-long white tiger. Purple lightning crackled in between its white and black stripes, filling its surroundings with an air of destruction.

Dark Locust sent the information back, and Jiang Ming used his Divine Jurisdiction to obtain the data on it.

[Desolate Tyrant: Tempest Tiger (Part of the Will of the Desolate Civilization)]

[Evolution Count: 41]

[Skill: Lightning Control, White Tiger's Suppression, Tiger Roar Cannon, Purgatory Barrier, Summon Beasts...]

Jiang Ming hissed with surprise. The last he had heard, the Tempest Tiger had evolved forty times. He had not expected it to evolve again in these past few years. Even one additional evolution meant its Life Energy had doubled once more.

Han Wu frowned. He had previously assumed that Jiang Ming had been exaggerating his descriptions of the Tempest Tiger, but it appeared Jiang Ming had actually underestimated it.

The Tempest Tiger spanned ten thousand meters. A simple pounce was enough for it to destroy a huge chunk of land. Han Wu had a feeling that it could even kill Sage life forms in a single hit.

"Boss, do we retreat? We could likely win if we trained for another three years or so." Jiang Ming persuaded.

If they were to fight for real, there was a chance that they would lose their entire army.

Han Wu was stuck between a rock and a hard place. It's not as if he didn't want to retreat, but he had already spent all of his Divine Essence.

While he could continue collecting Divine Essence from his units, it was only a fraction of the money he needed to fund a massive project like merging the Desolate Beasts.

How long would it take to organize an army capable of securing a certain victory?

Han Wu hesitated.

The Tempest Tiger opened one of its eyes.

The lightning in the area multiplied. The War Angel's protection declined drastically by the second.

"Retreat!" Han Wu cried, but the Tempest Tiger wasn't going to let them go that easily.

When it opened both eyes, the lightning in the area multiplied tenfold. A dense curtain of lightning formed a barrier, isolating the space from the outside.

All their faces paled at the sight of the impenetrable lightning wall. Escape was no longer an option. They were being forced to fight.

“Formation! We can still win!” Han Wu rallied, having no choice but to deploy all of his units.

However, the Tempest Tiger was powerful enough that it didn’t need to fight on its own.

With a roar, summoning arrays appeared around it, and mighty Desolate Beasts emerged one after another. The weakest had evolved twenty times, and the strongest had evolved thirty-five times.

Thousands appeared to attack Han Wu and the others.

They had to retaliate.

Jing Jing’s nine Sage skeletons rushed to intercept them. Fashioned from the skeletons of powerful Desolate Beasts, these skeletons were more than capable of fighting against the Desolate Beasts that had evolved thirty times.

Han Wu didn’t send any of his Earthsunder life forms, wanting to preserve their strength. Instead, he sent out the Sage life forms, Akanzor and Bart. One fought in close range while the other shot arrows from afar.

Many Desolate Beasts fell under the combined assault of Han Wu and Jing Jing.

Jiang Ming also sent his units to fight, but their performance was average at best. Still, their aid alleviated the pressure from Han Wu’s and Jing Jing’s units.

The Origin of Mutation, meanwhile, paid no attention to the summoned beasts, instead staring fixedly at the Tempest Tiger.

“That tiger skin... Its defensive capabilities are better than dragon scales,” it mumbled. “Vessel, I want to graft it onto my body. You don’t mind, do you?”

“As long as you can defeat it.”

The Origin of Mutation excitedly changed into its battle form. Hundreds of limbs burst out from its body as it turned into a patchwork monster, standing tall in the tempest purgatory.

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

[ 1,174 words ]

## **Chapter 487 - Trump Card**

Energy of various attributes vibrated as the Origin of Mutation entered its combat mode. The source was the stomach transplanted into its body, which allowed it to swallow any elemental attribute it wished.

Opening its three grafted mouths, it sucked in the powerful Lightning Energy from the surroundings. Its stomach fluid slowly digested the violent Lightning Energy, turning it into energy for the Origin of Mutation.

It channeled the energy through several organs and shot out a deadly laser from one of its mouths, aiming straight at the Tempest Tiger. Scoffing, the beast blocked the laser using lightning orbs formed from the surrounding Lightning Energy.

The two energies dissipated after the initial clash, but the Tempest Tiger's gaze upon the Origin of Mutation had changed.

As part of the Will of the Desolate Civilization and having evolved forty-one times, the Tempest Tiger was extremely intelligent. It could discern that the Origin of Mutation had grafted on many limbs belonging to Desolate Beasts to increase its power.

The Tempest Tiger's fighting spirit was ignited in the face of such a strong foe.

Purple lightning crackled across its ten-thousand-meter-long body as it pounced at the Origin of Mutation. The Origin of Mutation also used its skills and powerful limbs to attack the Tempest Tiger in the air.

Destructive energy exploded from their clash, devastating the terrain around them. When the two showed equal strength in the first bout, the Tempest Tiger grew serious.

Han Wu nervously glanced at the battle between the pair, wanting to join the fray but holding himself back.

This wasn't a matter of keeping a fair fight, but a strategic play at allowing the Origin of Mutation to exhaust as much of the Tempest Tiger's energy as possible.

That way, even if the Origin of Mutation lost, Han Wu could send over his Earthsunder life forms to take over. He wasn't about to let go of even a sliver of chance at obtaining victory.

The four Great Dragons under his command didn't fight with the summoned Desolate Beasts either, instead staring at the battle between the Tempest Tiger and the Origin of Mutation with hunger.

If not for Han Wu's order to preserve their stamina, the four would've charged into battle long ago. At the very least, they longed to use their dragon breath to teach the Tempest Tiger a lesson for occupying the exit and blocking Han Wu from using it.

It was a battle on two fronts, but it didn't take long for one to end.

Han Wu's army had secured the final victory against the thousands of summoned Desolate Beasts.

The Origin of Mutation, slightly weaker in its fight against the Tempest Tiger, ended up with half its body destroyed by the latter's Tiger Roar Cannon. Fortunately, Han Wu had ordered his Earthsunder life forms to protect it, or it would've been devoured.

The Tempest Tiger, on the other hand, had not expected eleven Earthsunder life forms to gang up on it just after it defeated the patchwork monster. The scale was finally equal.

Prowling elegantly, it eyed the Earthsunder life forms with the taunting gaze of a predator.

"Kill him!" Han Wu cried.

All eleven Earthsunder life forms charged forward.

The four Great Dragons unleashed their devastating dragon breath together. The War Angel grabbed her sword and enchanted the others with light, fire, and lightning attributes to aid in their battle.

Flame Demon King Karot summoned a blazing lake of lava to turn the entire area into a scalding wasteland.

The strength of Jing Jing's Ignis Colossus was greatly boosted on the scalding grounds. Gathering its strength, it rained heavy fists onto the Tempest Tiger.

Two other Earthsunder skeletons grabbed the Tempest Tiger from both sides to prevent it from moving.

Steely and Dark Locust, the two strongest of the Earthsunder life forms, waited for the opportune moment to use their most powerful skills.

Even surrounded by 11 Earthsunder life forms, the Tempest Tiger had ways of equalizing the playing field. First, it used the White Tiger's Suppression to reduce the

Great Dragons' intimidation, then consecutive Tiger Roar Cannons to blast away the weaker ones.

The burning ground beneath its feet felt like mere lukewarm water to it and was easy for it to ignore. It danced around the battlefield, launching devastating attacks.

Of the 11 Earthsunder life forms, six were defeated and taken out of action for the time being. The remainder were also injured.

While the Tempest Tiger was busy dealing with the other Earthsunder life forms, Dark Locust seized the opportunity to meld with the darkness and stealthily approach.

It waited until the Tempest Tiger opened its mouth to use its Tiger Roar Cannon before diving in, using Self Detonate from within its stomach.

The powerful explosion ruptured its abdomen. Blood and flesh splattered across the ground. It had been dealt a grievous wound, but that wasn't enough to kill it.

The Tempest Tiger was part of the Will of the Desolate Civilization, meaning all its parameters had been dialed up to eleven. Even with its abdomen ruptured, it could still absorb the surrounding Lightning Energy to recover.

The remaining Earthsunder life forms didn't have enough strength to use their powerful attacks anymore. If this continued, the Tempest Tiger would recover and defeat them all. Han Wu and the others would then be wiped out soon after.

Jiang Ming despaired. "Boss, we're done for. It's all my fault. I shouldn't have brought you here!"

"Who said we are done for?" Han Wu replied calmly. "I have one last trump card."

"You still have a trump card?" Jiang Ming asked, confused.

He had assumed that the Origin of Mutation was the trump card, and in a way, it was.

The Origin of Mutation was undoubtedly the strongest of Han Wu's party at this time. However, if Han Wu were to use Replicate to copy all its powers, he could actually turn out stronger.

He quickly approached the Origin of Mutation and placed his hands on it.

The Origin of Mutation chuckled bitterly. "Vessel, I almost forgot that you could replicate someone else's strength."

"Don't worry, I'll make sure to save its hide for you," Han Wu assured.

With that, he transformed into a patchwork monster. Hundreds of limbs sprouted from his body.

He had become the second Origin of Mutation.

But unlike the Origin of Mutation, who spent all its time experimenting and theorizing, Han Wu was a warrior and excelled in combat. In other words, he could unleash even deadlier attacks compared to the original.

Han Wu and the Tempest Tiger clashed.

Their battle leveled the terrain. Though the Tempest Tiger was stronger than Han Wu, it had also exhausted most of its strength over this lengthy battle against many foes. Han Wu, on the other hand, was fresh on the field.

Their battle went on for half a day.

In the end, Han Wu crawled out from the rubble of the destroyed terrain, the Tempest Tiger's severed head in hand.

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## **Chapter 488 - Sliver of the Desolate Civilization**

[ 1,091 words ]

### **Chapter 488 - Sliver of the Desolate Civilization**

"Boss, we won!" Jiang Ming cheered, arms raised in celebration, on the verge of dancing about in joy. It had been a long time since he last experienced this level of exhilaration.

Jing Jing glanced longingly at Han Wu. She loved her God. There was once a time when her love for him was so great she could hardly bear the thought of sharing him with someone else.

Han Wu heaved a sigh of relief. He was only as strong as a Sage life form, so replicating the powers of an Earthsunder life form had taken its toll on his body. The moment he relaxed, he noticed a myriad of wounds appearing on his body. Even his organs were failing.

If not for his Life Aspect constantly healing his injuries, he would've fallen earlier.

"It's over. We can finally return to the Divine Civilization!" Han Wu exclaimed triumphantly.

That was when something unexpected happened. A solemn voice of authority emanated from the Tempest Tiger's headless corpse.

"I'll never let you leave the desolate wastelands after destroying my clone!"

Turning around in shock, Han Wu watched as the headless Tempest Tiger stood up once more. Even without a head, it still retained its powerful presence. Its purple lightning, stained with death, had turned a dark violet, looking more ominous and destructive than before.

With unexpected speed, it lashed out at Han Wu.

Han Wu was blown backward. Cracks webbed his skin. Blood sprayed out from his wounds, soaking him entirely.

Without a second to spare, Han Wu hastily used his second Divine Authority to heal his wounds. The combined might of Life, Peace, Light, and Creation temporarily placed his body in stasis, preventing him from succumbing to his injuries.

Jing Jing and Jiang Ming swiftly shielded him, glaring at the headless Tempest Tiger the whole time.

They were facing the clone of the Will of the Desolate Civilization.

A cold gaze swept past them, causing their hair to stand. Fear sprang forth from their hearts as they shuddered. The pair had thought they were done.

The long and grueling fight had drained most of their energy. They couldn't afford to fight the Will of the Desolate Civilization in this state.

At the critical juncture, the Origin of Mutation endured the pressure emanating from the Will of the Desolate Civilization and rushed forward.

It had rested enough to completely recover from its wounds. Scooping up the head of the Tempest Tiger, it unhinged its massive jaws and swallowed it whole. It then activated Gene Lock.

The head of the Tempest Tiger was fragmented into countless genes for it to absorb. Black and white fur sprouted from its body, purple lightning dancing across the bands. Its core radiated with the presence of the king of beasts.

Even in this new form, it could still use its own skills, making it a more powerful version of the Tempest Tiger. Changing form again, hundreds of powerful limbs burst out from its body.

The Origin of Mutation engaged in a brutal battle using Gene Lock. The combination of its limbs and Gene Lock allowed it to transcend the limits of an Earthsunder being and temporarily become a Heavenrender life form.

Powerful gusts circled its body as if about to tear the heavens apart.

Meanwhile, the sliver of the Will of the Desolate Civilization was borrowing the body of the Tempest Tiger and couldn't use its full strength.

It was unable to hold its ground against the Heavenrender Origin of Mutation, and it lasted only a single bout before being subdued. The Origin of Mutation then used its full strength to force the sliver of the Will of the Desolate Civilization to detach itself from the corpse of the Tempest Tiger.

Han Wu quickly absorbed the Will of the Desolate Civilization into his divine realm. The tiny sliver continuously tried to fight back and escape, but Han Wu only strengthened his hold on it.

After dealing with the sliver, he called for Jing Jing and Jiang Ming to board their ships with their units and exit the Desolate Civilization. Fortunately, there were no unexpected events or mishaps this time.

Once they left the Desolate Civilization, the rampaging Will became cut off from its home and weakened without its energy supply.

In the end, the Will of Han Wu's own civilization eventually absorbed that little sliver, turning it into one of the laws within his divine realm. Han Wu's units could now accumulate energy and evolve into another life form.

If they became a powerful unit, they could then seek the Origin of Mutation to sever the gene responsible for inducing Random Evolution and stabilize their form forever.

Han Wu's core race was no longer the weak locusts, but the strange and fearsome Desolate Beasts!

"We... we did it," Han Wu mumbled before unceremoniously fainting.

The next time he woke up, their ships were already nearing the edge of the Divine Civilization. They would soon be home.

Jiang Ming had looked after Han Wu for the duration he was unconscious. According to him, Han Wu had merely been fatigued and didn't need medical attention as long as he got enough rest.

"How long have I been out for?" asked Han Wu.

"Three months."

Han Wu shouted with surprise.

Having been unconscious outside of the Divine Civilization for three months meant he had missed the start of his new semester. The Imperial College would've seen this as him being absent without leave. That was enough for them to expel him.

Han Wu swiftly contacted his mentor Xu Hai to explain what had happened. Xu Hai was naturally happy to hear from Han Wu after a long period of silence.

After congratulating him on his return, Xu Hai explained the situation. Han Wu's absence had caused many of the other lecturers to become extremely dissatisfied with Han Wu's position as the second-year valedictorian.

They had approached Xu Hai many times seeking to expel Han Wu for his absence, but Xu Hai, believing Han Wu would eventually return, had staved off their attempts.

Gratitude swelled within Han Wu. He now considered Xu Hai as one of the closest people in his life. "Thank you for helping me."

"There's no need to thank me," Xu Hai replied. "But if you really want to do something, you can always increase your strength and make everyone shut up with might alone. That's all I ask of you."

Han Wu nodded. "I will return and shut the doubters up."

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

[ 1,194 words ]

## **Chapter 489 - Qin Shuang's Predicament**

The students had just completed a major class with great rewards. Of these, Elina received the best benefits. As the daughter of the God King of Light, she was showered with resources that others could hardly fathom since birth.

Her exceptional talent, rapid improvement, and powerful core race enabled her to grow stronger at an astonishing rate. After the major class, she pooled most of her awarded resources into a single unit and nurtured it to an unprecedented grade.

It had turned into the Earthsunder life form, Radiant Minister. With an Earthsunder life form, Elina was firmly one step above her peers. This also gave her the qualifications to contest for the valedictorian of the second year.

Elina was pissed the moment she heard the term valedictorian. As the proud daughter of Light, she had tried many times to recruit Han Wu into her father's faction, only to be rejected every time.

Even though Han Wu had remained missing for so long, Xu Hai still safeguarded his position as valedictorian. There was little they could do about it.

Not one to give in so easily, Elina repeatedly brought her and her father's dissatisfaction to the higher-ups of the Imperial College. In the end, the college decided that Han Wu's extended absence meant he would be stripped of his position as valedictorian, and a duel would be held to determine the next one.

The last man standing would become the new second-year valedictorian.

Elina used the authority of her father's faction to remain undefeated in the duels. Although the college was aware of her actions, they turned a blind eye. A student's background was also part of their strength. If no one defeated her, she would effortlessly become the second-year valedictorian.

When Qin Shuang heard the news, she was naturally pissed. So, she challenged Elina.

Qin Shuang didn't want to be valedictorian; she merely wanted to help Han Wu retain his position.

The sight of Qin Shuang infuriated Elina.

She viewed Qin Shuang as being partially to blame for Han Wu not joining her faction. Thus, she decided to use her full strength to deal with Qin Shuang this time.

The duel took place in an arena prepared by the college.

Qin Shuang's core race, the Thunder Sparrows, had the treants backing them up. Meanwhile, Elina's core race, the Holy Knights, had her new Earthsunder life form, Radiant Minister.

Its presence alone made Elina's army appear more menacing.

The battle was fierce.

Qin Shuang expertly commanded her Thunder Sparrows, which had grown significantly stronger after being trained in a lightning purgatory.

Though the two fought viciously, the first half of the battle remained in a firm stalemate.

Unfortunately, unlike Qin Shuang, Elina had a huge number of Holy Knights and possessed the Earthsunder life form, Radiant Minister.

At her order, Radiant Minister unleashed amplification magic, strengthening her Holy Knights several times over. Qin Shuang's forces were soon obliterated despite her vast experience on the battlefield.

She had been thoroughly defeated.

Elina, however, wasn't about to let her go so easily.

Under her command, Radiant Minister used magic to immobilize and silence Qin Shuang, preventing her from surrendering. She then invaded Qin Shuang's divine realm with a huge army of Holy Knights.

Qin Shuang watched helplessly as they destroyed the divine realm that she had painstakingly nurtured.

Though anguished at the sight, there was nothing she could do. Tears welled up in her eyes, but she refused to let them fall where Elina could see.

Qin Shuang's friends cried foul, but seniors belonging to the faction of Light blocked them. Only Sun Qingnian managed to break through the encirclement and protest to the judge, not realizing that he was also part of the faction of Light.

The judge merely brushed Sun Qingnian off. According to him, Qin Shuang had yet to surrender, so there was no reason for him to act rashly.

Sun Qingnian was even scolded for being a busybody and threatened with punishment if he did anything else. Furious beyond belief, Sun Qingnian tried to enter the field and stop the match.

The judge, having predicted this, simply sent two deputy judges to bind him with their Divine Skills. There was nothing Sun Qingnian could do to help Qin Shuang. He could only watch in panicked dismay.

Elina invaded Qin Shuang's divine realm with ease, destroying everything in sight and turning her hard work to ashes.

Qin Shuang could no longer hold back her tears. When they finally fell, they were blood red. The massacre of her core race wrought an indescribable pain in her heart. She was meant to be their God.

Once Elina grew bored of wreaking havoc, she aimed for Qin Shuang's Core.

"Blame yourself for trying to block my way when you're so weak." Elina sneered before commanding Radiant Minister to deal the final blow to Qin Shuang's Core.

Light converged to form a sacred hammer in Radiant Minister's hand. If it struck, Qin Shuang would lose her divine realm, becoming a fallen God without a core race.

Those spectating the duel were alarmed. The radiant hammer swung down. Qin Shuang struggled to free herself from her shackles to no avail.

"Receive your judgment."

There was not even a trace of remorse in Elina's beautiful eyes. Destroying a genius was as easy as drinking water for her.

Just as the hammer was about to strike Qin Shuang's Core, a figure suddenly appeared to effortlessly block its descent with a hundred God greatswords.

A huge gust blew around the dueling grounds as somebody landed beside Qin Shuang.

"Thank goodness I got back in time. I'm so glad I wasn't late," Han Wu mumbled.

Placing a hand on Qin Shuang's shoulder, he used his powerful Divine Authority to break her shackles.

Qin Shuang could finally speak, but when she stared at her ravaged divine realm, no words escaped her. Only 20% of her most powerful Thunder Sparrows were still alive, and even they were severely injured.

It was a devastating blow.

Han Wu was about to comfort her when the judge appeared to chase him away.

"Who are you? How dare you interfere with the duel? Are you trying to die? I'll give you a chance to get out now, or you'll face the consequences," the judge threatened.

Although the judge put on a stern face, it was obvious he was afraid of Steely. Aside from a vague threat of consequences, he didn't even mention punishing Han Wu and clearly only wanted him to leave.

Despite knowing the answer, Han Wu asked, “Didn’t you see that they restricted her movement and voice to prevent her from surrendering?”

The judge’s face turned red as he tried to make excuses. “This duel is fair. Don’t try to mislead me. Leave now or else.”

Han Wu scoffed. Sensing his orders, Steely beat up the judge until he passed out.

“How could you turn something wrong into something right as a judge?” he asked, clicking his tongue at the unconscious man. “This is the price you need to pay.”

He then patted Qin Shuang’s head.

“Don’t cry. I will avenge you.”

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

[ 1,056 words ]

## **Chapter 490 - Han Wu’s Revenge**

Elina’s emotions churned at the sight of Han Wu. Even after all this time, she still wanted to recruit him into her faction, especially when she realized Han Wu’s Steely was as strong as her Radiant Minister.

Han Wu clearly had high potential. Regardless, she also had an Earthsunder life form, so she didn’t think she would lose to him in combat.

Furthermore, Radiant Minister was a member of her core race. That meant it also received the blessings of her Core and had many powerful skills. It was much stronger than a regular Earthsunder life form.

“You’re going to avenge her, Han Wu?” Elina said through gritted teeth. Her admiration for him turned to hate, especially at his gentle treatment of Qin Shuang.

A terrible idea took root in her mind. If she couldn’t have him, she could at least destroy him and ensure no one else could get him either.

Han Wu turned to look at Elina. “Yes.”

Previously, he had merely thought of her as annoying, but that had changed. Elina intentionally aimed to destroy Qin Shuang’s divine realm, which made Han Wu understandably pissed.

After all, Qin Shuang was someone close to him.

Heart aching, Elina spat angrily, "Then come. Try to take revenge. I'll be the one to destroy you today!"

"Is that so?"

With that, Han Wu revealed his divine realm.

Two pieces of land, each only a million sq km in size, floated behind him. It was a stark contrast to Elina's, which was tens of millions sq km.

The students thought Han Wu would be strong, but what could he do with a divine realm of that size? Most weren't confident in Han Wu's victory. Some even lamented that Han Wu's era was over, and it was now Elina's time to shine.

Han Wu was a genius capable of defeating the second-year valedictorian in the past, but it seemed he had fallen since then, destined to be a nobody.

Many were also curious about Han Wu's activities during the summer vacation. Why had his huge divine realm been reduced to only two small pieces of land?

As Elina stared at his tiny divine realm, her initial confusion quickly gave way to anger. Han Wu had visibly suffered catastrophic losses and was only left with such a small divine realm, yet he still dared to challenge her.

He was clearly looking down on her.

Insulted and furious, she ordered her Radiant Minister, "Cleanse his units for me!"

"Understood, my dear master." Radiant Minister nodded, releasing a powerful light. Condensing the light into ten huge orbs, it sent them flying toward Han Wu.

Han Wu sensed that the ten orbs of light contained energy rivaling an atomic bomb. A single orb could destroy several hundred thousand sq km of land. If all ten orbs landed on his divine realm, even if his Core held strong, all his units and infrastructure would be devastated.

Elina evidently wanted to destroy him with a powerful attack from the get-go. But he wasn't afraid. His enemy was already in front of him. There was no reason not to attack.

He waved his arm, and seven figures appeared before him. They were Dark Locust, Alpheus, Erebard, Smog, Bakir, Amelia, and Karot. The presence of these Earthsunder life forms filled the arena.

The Dark Domains of Dark Locust and Alpheus swiftly eradicated Radiant Minister's ten orbs of light.

Elina's eyes widened with shock. How had Han Wu formed an army more powerful than even hers?

Meanwhile, Han Wu ordered the seven Earthsunder life forms to invade Elina's divine realm.

The seven didn't hesitate to follow his command. The power of an Earthsunder life form was incomprehensible to lower-grade life forms, and many of her Holy Knights were killed from their presence alone. Only Lord life forms and above remained standing.

Elina lost half of her core race in an instant.

"You can't kill my core race!" Elina cried angrily.

Han Wu ignored her.

After all, she had killed Qin Shuang's Thunder Sparrows, so why couldn't he kill her Holy Knights? That was preposterous. He was going to kill everything in sight and was even prepared to challenge anyone who tried to stop him.

Elina was on the verge of crying from frustration. It took her a long time to nurture her Holy Knights to this magnitude, but now she was back to square one. Moreover, time was merely one factor in getting her army back to this size; the resources needed would be astronomical.

But Han Wu wasn't about to stop at this amount of damage. Elina killed 95% of Qin Shuang's units, so he was going to do the same. That was the meaning of fairness.

Thus, he ordered his Earthsunder life forms to kill as they pleased.

Students belonging to the faction of Light couldn't stand it.

"Stop this, Han Wu! She's the daughter of the God King of Light. Do you want to die? Stop killing her units!"

"Where's the judge? Are you blind? Don't you see that Han Wu is cheating and killing all of Elina's core race?"

"Are you stupid? Don't you see the judge is unconscious? We need to report this to the higher-ups of the college now!"

While some condemned him, some also supported him.

“Good job, Han Wu! I’ve hated her since day one. Thanks for beating her up!”

“Han Wu, I’ve bet all my money on you. If you don’t win this, I’ll have no choice but to stay at your dorm and make you pay for all my expenses.”

“Junior brother, do whatever you need to do. We’ll support you!”

These voices came from three figures in the middle of the crowd. It was the Xiang Meng trio that Han Wu had built friendly relations with.

The trio rose to infamy after Huang Shengjun’s expulsion. Xia Tian became the third-year valedictorian, with Ye Ling placing second, and Xiang Meng third.

The trio were the leaders of the third-year students. As expected, their words caused the students rebuking Han Wu to shut up, fearing that the trio would trouble them in the future.

Glancing over, Han Wu shot them a smile before focusing on his match.

He wasn’t going to stop until he made Elina feel the pain Qin Shuang had suffered!

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

[ 1,427 words ]

## **Chapter 491 - Valedictorian Once More**

Han Wu’s Earthsunder life forms charged into Elina’s divine realm, destroyed all of her buildings, and killed 95% of her units before finally returning to Han Wu’s tiny divine realm.

Elina had lost 95% of her units and all her buildings in one day. Unable to stomach the overwhelming defeat, she simply fainted. Some seniors from the faction of Light feared that Han Wu would do something to the unconscious Elina and hastily carried her away.

Han Wu wanted to leave when Xia Tian stopped him. Magnifying his voice using Divine Points so everyone within the arena could hear him, Xia Tian declared, “Junior Han Wu will be defending his title. If no one can defeat him, he’ll maintain his position as the second-year valedictorian.”

The second-year students remained silent. Elina could defeat every one of them with her single Earthsunder life form. Han Wu had eight! Only an idiot would fight against such a force!

Nobody was willing to sacrifice their units' lives fighting a losing battle. Han Wu waited fifteen minutes, but no one spoke up.

Xia Tian, taking on the mantle of the judge, thus announced that Han Wu had succeeded in his challenge and would continue to act as the second-year valedictorian. Only then did Han Wu walk out of the arena.

“Junior Han Wu, long time no see. You’ve become even stronger since we last met. I don’t think the three of us could defeat you even if we worked together,” Xia Tian praised.

Han Wu smiled humbly. Though he acted arrogantly to outsiders, he remained modest to his friends. “You overestimate me, senior.”

The trio smiled bitterly, knowing Xia Tian was right.

Xiang Meng, having worried about Han Wu the most, asked urgently, “Junior Han Wu, you’ve been gone for so long. Where have you been? You weren’t here when the semester started.”

“I got lost in the Desolate Civilization and couldn’t find the exit.” Han Wu smiled ruefully. “It took me a long time to escape that place.”

“The Desolate Civilization? That place is massive! Not to mention, their overall strength is on par with the Divine Civilization,” Ye Ling remarked.

Xiang Meng nodded. “I see. Is that why your divine realm is damaged?”

Han Wu had only two tiny pieces of land for his divine realm. The students who had seen his divine realm were actually mocking him. A God with a divine realm that small could only be described as being an irredeemably poor God.

Han Wu shook his head. “My divine realm was damaged because of a battle with a merchant group and its God King. The Desolate Civilization had nothing to do with it. In fact, I have to thank the Desolate Civilization.”

He recalled the treasures he had obtained in the Desolate Civilization. In exchange for exhausting all his Divine Essence, he had gained a huge number of powerful Desolate Beasts, even gathering plentiful materials from the slain.

However, as he alone couldn’t use all of them, he wanted to share some with the trio.

“I collected some excellent materials from the Desolate Civilization. I can sell them to you with a 20% discount.”

Elated, the trio asked for a list to peruse, which Han Wu soon produced for them.

Most items on the list were Rank 6 Sacred Objects and Earthsunder life form materials, though only 10% could be considered of truly higher quality. Jiang Ming never accepted anything less than a Rank 6 Sacred Object, deeming them too worthless to be placed into Han Wu's vault.

Xia Tian and the others had assumed that Han Wu would mostly have rare but inexpensive resources, and their eyes almost rolled out of their sockets when they looked at the list.

All the resources listed were at least Rank 6. They could only be used by Major Gods and above.

The trio was still a long way from becoming Major Gods. Furthermore, the resources meant for Major Gods were costly. Even with a 20% discount, they still didn't have enough money to purchase most items.

In the end, they only chose three Rank 6 materials. These could greatly enhance the power of their core race and were actually quite important for them.

Seeing that they had selected the lowest quality items on the list, Han Wu asked in confusion, "Seniors, are you really only going to buy this much?"

"I'm afraid there's a limit to our funds." Xia Tian smiled with polite embarrassment. "We'll come and buy more once we collect more money."

Han Wu chuckled. "Don't worry about that. You've helped me so much in the past. Choose anything you want on the list. You can always pay me back in the future."

With his encouragement, the trio decided to stop hesitating and selected several more items from the list. They looked forward to their units growing stronger after they refined the materials.

"Junior Han Wu, thank you for your generosity," said Xiang Meng. "We'll never forget it. If ever something troubles you, come and find us. We'll do our best to assist you."

"Senior Xiang Meng, I've already received a lot of aid from you. You're like a brother to me. It was thanks to your recommendation that I could attend Imperial College. I should be thanking you instead," Han Wu earnestly replied.

"Junior Han Wu, you're too kind." Xiang Meng chuckled. Then, patting his powerful chest, he vowed, "If you encounter any problems, we'll come and help you. I swear on my name."

Han Wu nodded. "Then I will have to trouble you in the future."

With that, the trio departed, and Jing Jing, Qin Shuang, and Sun Qingnian approached. The two deputy judges had already run after seeing Han Wu knock the judge unconscious.

Han Wu was visibly excited when he saw his friends again. His experiences in the Abyssal Mine and the Desolate Civilization had taken their toll, but it was over now.

Collecting himself, he said, "Come with me to my room. I've prepared some gifts for all of you."

Sun Qingnian gladly agreed. Qin Shuang, still visibly upset at the damage wrought on her divine realm, also followed.

Back in his room, Han Wu recounted his tale to Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang. His experiences left them in shock. For Han Wu to escape the pursuit of a God King and even find a way to change his core race in the Desolate Civilization was unheard of!

The pair inwardly lamented the fact that Han Wu's divine realm now only totaled two million sq km. Han Wu only talked about the good news and never once told them what he suffered.

Nevertheless, neither called him out on it, instead waiting patiently for him to bestow his gifts. Han Wu placed a huge box in front of Sun Qingnian and told him to open it.

Opening the box, Sun Qingnian found a complete set of five Rank 6 Sacred Objects. Each was an excellent Sacred Object on its own, but when equipped together, they activated three powerful effects that suited his Foxmen.

[Set Effect 1: Grants the core race the Skill: Giant Fox Transformation. Can be used in battle.]

[Set Effect 2: Materializes the core race's strength into tails. The stronger they are, the more tails they materialize. Each tail can be consumed to survive a lethal blow.]

[Set Effect 3: Grants the inheritance of the Nine-Tailed Fox to the core race. There are 18 Skills that can be learned.]

"While I was exploring the Desolate Civilization, I encountered a powerful Desolate Beast in the form of a Nine-Tailed Fox that had evolved thirty-three times," Han Wu explained. "We subdued and killed it before refining it into this set of Sacred Objects."

Sun Qingnian held the gift preciously. It suited his core race extremely well. If he could equip the entire set to his Core, his core race would be able to turn from supports into fighters. This was extremely valuable to him.

He quietly swore that he would never swap it out, even if he became a Major God in the future. Han Wu was naturally ecstatic to know that Sun Qingnian loved the gift.

Then, taking out another box, Han Wu pushed it to Qin Shuang.

“This is for you,” he said softly.

“Hurry up and open it,” Sun Qingnian chimed in. “I want to see what he gave you.”

Qin Shuang opened the box to inspect the gift. When she saw it, her jaw dropped, and she was left speechless from shock.

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

[ 1,048 words ]

## **Chapter 492 - Tempest Heart Fragments**

There was a complete set of 7-Star God equipment in the box, the Lumovoltaic Flintstone. Equipping it granted the user powerful close combat capabilities.

The only requirement to activate it was to channel one of the four corresponding energies—Lightning, Light, Fire, or Ground Energy. It was one of the most valuable objects Han Wu found in the vault of the Supreme Merchant Group and was valued at 6000 Divine Essence.

If Qin Shuang wore it, her defensive capabilities would be enhanced, and her close combat capabilities would reach the strength of an Earthsunder life form.

Besides that, there were also four crystalline heart fragments in the box. Upon inspecting them, Qin Shuang realized all four fragments were Rank 6 Sacred Objects, though slightly different from the norm.

They were actually split from a single Rank 8 Sacred Object, with their rank decreasing after shattering.

She quickly inspected the details.

[First Fragment of the Tempest Heart: Multiplies Lightning Attribute by 10. Lightning attacks may paralyze foes.]

[Second Fragment of the Tempest Heart: Multiplies Lightning Attribute by 10. Lightning attacks can exorcise foes.]

[Third Fragment of the Tempest Heart: Multiplies Lightning Attribute by 10. Lightning attacks cause explosions.]

[Fourth Fragment of the Tempest Heart: Multiplies Lightning Attribute by 10. Lightning attacks inflict Induction that increases lightning damage further.]

When all four fragments were equipped to a Core, that person's core race would receive the powerful elemental skill: Worldbreaker Bolt. Qin Shuang was astonished when she read the effects of the Sacred Objects.

Her Sacred Objects could even be upgraded! Once she became a Major God, she could merge the fragments to form the Rank 8 Sacred Object Tempest Heart, which was ten times more powerful than the combined effect of the four fragments.

"If I were a girl, and someone gave me God equipment and a Sacred Object set, I would've married them," Sun Qingnian said enviously.

Qin Shuang blushed so hard her ears turned red.

Han Wu glanced over at Sun Qingnian before patting Qin Shuang's shoulder. "Do you like it?"

She nodded. "Where did you get it?"

Han Wu smiled. Not wanting her to fret over it, he simply replied, "Someone was kind enough to give them to me."

Even a three-year-old would be able to tell he was lying.

"You don't have to tell me if you don't want to," Qin Shuang said, "but if you ever need it back, I'll return it to you without hesitation."

Her caring words brought out the teasing side of Han Wu. Gently tweaking her nose, he assured, "Don't worry, this is a gift. I have no intention of taking it back, and no one would dare to come and take it from you. Even if there is, I have a lot of powerful units. Who would dare to fight me?"

Qin Shuang recalled his powerful units. He had eight Earthsunder life forms! Even the graduating fourth-years didn't have so many. Han Wu was undoubtedly the strongest in the entire college!

Nodding shyly, she said, "I'll treasure these gifts."

Then, hugging the gift close, she dashed out of the room, unable to shake the feeling that something would happen if she stayed any longer.

Han Wu sent Sun Qingnian away before taking some time to ponder over what he needed to work on next.

The answer was obvious. His divine realm was only around two million sq km, far too small for a God like him.

Unfortunately, he lacked Divine Essence. He was so poor that all he could do was sell the items he looted from the Supreme Merchant Group. Fearing he would be scammed, he called Jiang Ming to help him set the price to be sold online.

Jiang Ming had been a merchant for many years and was extremely experienced in sales. After some time, Han Wu managed to put a price tag on every item he didn't have a use for.

Due to their high quality, his items were widely accepted, and he soon received an influx of Divine Essence in his account. In just three hours, he had received 60,390 Divine Essence.[1]

It was a staggering amount of money. Some Major Gods would never even see this much money in their lifetimes. And this was only a small portion of Han Wu's wealth.

He still had 70% of the items that he had stolen from the Supreme Merchant Group, along with various limbs and Sacred Objects that he had refined from the Desolate Beasts. The latter were on par with the items taken from the Supreme Merchant Group in terms of value.

If they could find a suitable buyer, the price could be multiplied many times over.

Nevertheless, having obtained enough Divine Essence, Han Wu started shopping for his divine realm.

The most important thing he needed was land. The size of a divine realm was essential to a God, as it acted as the living space for their units. Nurturing a large army required a large plot of land.

A large divine realm also helped to defend against invasions. With a large divine realm, one could contain invasions from another God to an undesired area, preventing more important regions from being affected.

Overall, a larger divine realm came with more benefits.

Han Wu was powerful enough that he was no longer willing to buy the more common land types. After all, his units needed a good place to live.

Thus, he ended up spending close to 10,000 Divine Essence buying a variety of terrains that could satisfy almost all of his races, allowing them to live comfortably and grow stronger.

Aside from his divine realm, there was also something else he needed urgently—food.

The effects of the Rank 6 Sacred Object Law of Gluttony and the Will of his Civilization on his core race meant they could undergo Random Evolution once they collected enough energy.

He needed to satisfy their need for food. Previously, his source of food came from his high school principal in the form of Flesh Golem corpses, but as he grew stronger, they no longer met the requirement for his army.

Han Wu needed to find a food source that was cheap and abundant for his locusts.

1. Do they not need to pay tax...? 🗨️

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## Chapter 493 - Requesting Help on the Forum

[ 1,208 words ]

### Chapter 493 - Requesting Help on the Forum

Even after searching online, Han Wu still couldn't find anything that fit his criteria. Some vendors sold corpses of various life forms, but those were usually the remains of powerful individuals.

It was fine to feed his core race premium corpses from time to time, but he couldn't afford it as their daily meals, not even if he had ten times the assets he possessed now.

Han Wu had no choice but to check the Imperial College forum in search of a solution.

The forum was filled with news about Han Wu.

[The previous first-year valedictorian did this to the daughter of Light...]

[His divine realm was only 2 million sq km in size. What kind of calamity did he experience?]

[I've never seen an Earthsunder life form before, and I saw eight of them today...]

[Elina received a grim reminder on this day...]

Various clickbait titles were posted on the forum. Han Wu glanced helplessly through them. These people were exceptionally talented at inciting hatred towards him. Unfortunately, he couldn't do anything to interfere with their freedom of speech.

Deciding to ignore them, he posted a new forum post stating that he would give 10 Divine Essence to anyone who could give him a good answer. The students quickly took notice of the high reward and started commenting.

[Have you heard of the Black Frog Civilization? It's a small civilization, but the native life forms there—Black Frogs—have astounding reproductive capabilities. They breed once a year, but can lay up to 300 million eggs at once and have a survival rate of 1%. If they were stronger, they could've taken over the universe with their numbers alone.]

[Don't listen to the guy above. Black Frogs are numerous, but he failed to mention their size. They're no larger than a fly! My core race, the Black Bear, can eat tens of millions of them in one bite. He's trying to trick you!]

[Hey, listen to me. You can buy what you need from the Fleshy Ravine Civilization. The Pale Grub they have over there is huge and nutritious. There's also a lot of them.]

[Don't listen to him, listen to me. Go and find the Silver Oak Civilization. The Silver Oak there produces enough sap to feed your core race.]

...

A deluge of comments flooded the post.

Suddenly, one of the commenters noticed something strange.

[Hold on, look at the profile photo of the original poster. They have the icon of a valedictorian. Is this the second-year valedictorian?]

[Hey, you're right! The third and fourth-year valedictorians have different photos, and the first-year valedictorian hasn't been decided yet. This has to be the second-year valedictorian!]

[We found a boss to follow. Please look after me.]

[Please look after me!]\* 10086

The post turned into a spam of repeated messages. Han Wu immediately closed the forum. He was trying to ask a question and was caught instead.

News of his asking for a source of food spread rapidly, and soon everyone within the college knew about it, including the Xiang Meng trio.

The trio was busy invading a civilization. The native life forms there were the Dark Demon Bugs, which fit his criteria. So, Xiang Meng contacted him.

Han Wu picked up the call. "Brother Meng, what's up?"

"Han Wu, I heard you're looking for a source of food for your core race? I have a good suggestion here." Xiang Meng sent some documents to Han Wu.

Han Wu opened them up. It was a middle-sized civilization called the Enlarged Civilization. As the name suggested, everything within it was massive. The plants and life forms were humongous, and even the dirt was a hundred times larger than in other places.

The most abundant life forms there were the Dark Demon Bugs. They were huge, with newborns measuring two meters long. They also swiftly grew larger as they aged.

The largest Dark Demon Bug the trio had seen was several hundred thousand meters long, enormous even for the Enlarged Civilization. Han Wu checked the data and considered them a possible candidate. However, he needed to check it out himself to be sure they were truly suitable for his locusts.

After some discussion, Han Wu followed the coordinates that Xiang Meng gave him. Several jumps through space later, he arrived at the Enlarged Civilization, where the three were already waiting for him.

"Junior Han Wu, I didn't think we would meet again so soon," Xia Tian greeted.

Ye Ling smiled and waved at him while Xiang Meng gave him a passionate hug. After greeting them, Han Wu checked his surroundings.

As Xiang Meng had described, everything in this civilization was larger than normal. The four of them were like ants among humongous plants peering up into the blue sky.

A single blade of grass could grow eighty meters tall here. It was almost as tall as some ancient trees.

Han Wu opened his divine realm, and a figure appeared. It was Amelia, the locust that had previously mutated into a War Angel. She twirled in the air before landing beside them.

Xiang Meng's trio stared at Amelia's strange three wings in confusion. A regular angel had wings in pairs: two, four, six, and so on. Why was Amelia different? Could it be a

hybrid of a two-winged angel and a four-winged angel? Or was it a six-winged angel that had fallen from grace?

Though their hearts were full of questions, they dared not give voice to them. After all, Amelia was an Earthsunder life form, far stronger than all their units combined.

“Amelia, go and find some Dark Demon Bugs.”

She nodded before soaring up into the air.

Han Wu then summoned more of his lower-ranking locusts. Thanks to Random Evolution, his lower-ranking locusts came in all shapes and sizes.

The trio was stunned and confused.

Xiang Meng could no longer resist his curiosity. “Han Wu, I thought your core race was locusts? Why do you have so many different races? Did you collect them?”

“Senior Meng, it’s a long story, but they are my core race,” Han Wu answered honestly.

Xia Tian was perplexed. “Junior Han Wu, are you pulling our legs?”

There were wolves, tigers, chameleons, pigs, and all kinds of animals among the summoned life forms. Not one of them was a locust.

“Of course not. I explored the Desolate Civilization and managed to take a sliver of its Will. The core race of my divine realm can now use Random Evolution. That’s why they all look like this.”

“Random Evolution?” Xia Tian stared at Han Wu’s varied core race with amazed interest.

At that moment, Amelia returned with a Dark Demon Bug that was around ten meters long. She threw it on the ground with a dull thud. It appeared to be quite fleshy.

“Go and eat,” Han Wu instructed his lower-ranking units.

They eagerly pounced and sank their teeth into the Dark Demon Bug, finishing it in just ten minutes. Many of them gathered enough energy to activate Random Evolution, and soon, a blood-red energy turned them into bloody eggs.

The senior trio was in shock.

“Han Wu, what are your core race doing?” Ye Ling asked curiously.

“They’re evolving.”

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[ 930 words ]

## Chapter 494 - Han Wu's Path

The trio had never seen Desolate Beasts before and were thoroughly fascinated by Han Wu's core race. Upon learning that his units would soon evolve into different life forms, they decided to stay and observe the entire process.

They waited two hours before the first blood-red egg started to hatch. Xiang Meng noticed it first and quickly called the two to check it out.

Cracks webbed across the egg. Then, a new life form emerged.

It was a young mammoth!

As Xiang Meng's core race was the mammoth, he could identify its species the moment it hatched. It was a rare species of mammoth born in the Demonic Civilization called the Demon Mammoth.

If his memory served him right, the life form that had turned into the red egg was a Sabertooth Dog. The Sabertooth Dog was an Elite life form at best, while the Demon Mammoth was a Unique life form with strength rivaling that of a Heroic life form.

The trio was dumbfounded. They never expected Random Evolution to lift the unit's grade by such a large margin. What kind of change would they get if they could use it on their own core races?

Despite having already experienced it once, they were still caught off guard when the second egg hatched. This time, it was just a regular pug. They clearly remembered the egg had been a tiger-like life form before. Why did it become worse?

Bewildered, Xia Tian glanced at Han Wu, hoping for an explanation.

Han Wu splayed his arms open. "This is the charm of Random Evolution. I have no idea what they could become."

Xiang Meng's voice rose an octave. "How is that good? It was a good unit before it evolved, but now it's much weaker. What use is there to this?"

"You're not wrong, but you forget that Random Evolution can be activated many times," Han Wu explained. "It doesn't matter if it fails because there's always another chance in

the future. Also, while their form is random, their Life Energy always doubles. Even if they aren't a strong race, their overall strength could still be alright. If one got lucky and evolved into an exceptionally powerful race, it would be like winning the lottery for me."

Xia Tian remained unconvinced. "But Random Evolution is unpredictable. The chance of getting a powerful unit is exceedingly rare."

Han Wu chuckled. "That's fine. Having a slim chance is better than having none at all. Not all of your units will become a Heroic, Lord, or High Lord life form even if you nurture them earnestly. Exceedingly powerful individuals are meant to be few and far between. As for the ones that become regular races, they'll still be quite strong with all that Life Energy in them. At the very least, they won't be weaker than a locust."

The trio found no flaw in Han Wu's words. Though it sounded illogical at first, it was actually quite reasonable once they considered it further. Even they couldn't assign the resources fairly amongst their core race, with the talented ones benefiting more while the untalented ones receiving less.

Moreover, Random Evolution did indeed give Han Wu's weak core race a chance to become stronger. Every evolution was another opportunity. They only succeed once to become a talented race.

It was definitely faster than the old-fashioned way. The trio grew excited. They wanted to follow in Han Wu's footsteps and test out Random Evolution.

Xiang Meng was fairly simple-minded and asked Han Wu to teach them on the spot. Xia Tian and Ye Ling looked at him scornfully for his rudeness. Who would want to share their secret method of nurturing powerful units?

Han Wu, however, didn't mind at all. Not only was he not worried about being copied, but he was actually hoping his experiences would inspire others.

"It's simple. First, enter the Desolate Civilization and find a Desolate Beast with a sliver of the Will of the Desolate Civilization. You can then slay it and incorporate it into the Will of your divine realm. Once you do that, there's a large chance that your core race will obtain Random Evolution. Simple, right?"

The trio was flabbergasted. It was easier said than done, and the risk involved was extremely high.

To begin with, it was difficult to enter the Desolate Civilization. Furthermore, it was a massive civilization that followed the law of the jungle, with strength on par with the Divine Civilization.

Even survival would be an issue there, let alone hunting down powerful prey that contained the sliver of the Will of the Desolate Civilization. Not to mention, a Desolate Beast acknowledged by the Will of the Desolate Civilization could not possibly be weak.

Wanting to confirm this, Xia Tian asked one last question, "Junior Han Wu, how strong was the beast that you killed?"

"Around the peak of an Earthsunder life form." Han Wu pursed his lips. "It killed almost all of my Earthsunder life forms."

The trio inhaled sharply. Han Wu had eight Earthsunder life forms, and even he almost died. Evidently, the Desolate Beast had been exceedingly powerful.

This confirmed it. It was almost impossible to get Random Evolution.

"I think we should just focus on invading the Enlarged Civilization for now." Ye Ling coughed. "The Desolate Civilization is too strong for us. We aren't confident in conquering it."

Both Xia Tian and Xiang Meng nodded in agreement.

Han Wu, on the other hand, sighed at their lack of fighting spirit. After all, what if they succeeded?

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## **Chapter 495 - Choices for Divine Jurisdiction**

[ 1,123 words ]

### **Chapter 495 - Choices for Divine Jurisdiction**

After spending some time in the Enlarged Civilization, Han Wu and his units had killed tens of thousands of Dark Demon Bugs. They were huge and thick with muscle, so they served as a suitable food source for his core race.

He confirmed that the civilization would become a key supply of nourishment for them. To establish a stable connection there, he started scouting the area for a hidden location and eventually found one: the nest of the Dark Demon Bug Queen. The queen measured 100,000 meters long, and even the senior trio had no hope of defeating her.

Han Wu observed the nest from afar and detected a sliver of the Will of the Enlarged Civilization within it.

Usually, the clone of the Will of a Civilization carried power beyond the limits of their species, and he was certain that the Dark Demon Bug Queen ahead of them fit that pattern.

He first summoned all his Earthsunder life forms and ordered them to surround it.

Xia Tian and his two friends were disheartened when they sensed the presence of eight Earthsunder life forms at once. They couldn't even defeat their junior with their combined strength, and the realization embarrassed them. Still, with Han Wu serving as their vanguard, they managed to earn a few minor rewards.

The battle broke out when the Dark Demon Bug Queen lifted its head. It almost panicked on the spot when it spotted eight Earthsunder life forms closing in from every direction. It was only a single Earthsunder life form, so how could it defend against eight of them simultaneously?

It tried to flee but failed. Its massive frame, once a point of pride, became its greatest obstacle. Ultimately, the eight Earthsunder life forms pummeled it to death, and the sliver of the Will of the Enlarged Civilization was extracted from its corpse.

However, Han Wu did not absorb it into his divine realm. His core race relied on numbers, and if they all grew 100 times larger, the food requirements would rise a hundredfold. He couldn't support them under those conditions, so he decided to give it away instead. He passed it to the senior trio and left the decision to them.

The trio had gained a major reward without lifting a finger, and they couldn't accept it for free. After some discussion, they opened their joint vault and offered Han Wu another sliver of a Will of a Civilization they had once invaded.

At first, he declined. Once he understood its effects, he accepted it with real enthusiasm. The sliver came from the Oviparity Civilization and could hasten the incubation time of oviparous life forms. It was useless to core races that gave birth, but it suited Han Wu perfectly. His locusts were oviparous, so this Will could greatly reduce the incubation time and increase the numbers drastically. It worked far better for him than the Enlarged Civilization ever could.

Han Wu found a safe spot and started refining it. His other units followed his earlier command and started assembling a stable gate within the Dark Demon Bug Queen's nest.

With so many units working together, the gate reached completion in no time. Han Wu then stationed a Sage life form to guard this place and left 100 million locusts behind to hunt and transport the Dark Demon Bugs' flesh into his divine realm.

After dealing with everything, he said goodbye to the seniors and returned. The trio looked at the stable gate that Han Wu had built and sighed with admiration. They were supposed to be the seniors, yet the roles had somehow shifted.

Xia Tian tried to lift their spirits. "Let's stop dreaming and work harder. We still need two more slivers of the Will of the Enlarged Civilization. We should finish the job faster now."

Ye Ling and Xiang Meng nodded and started their invasion of the civilization. Invading and conquering other civilizations was a common practice in both Imperial College and the Divine Civilization.

The universe birthed numerous civilizations. If the Divine Civilization wanted to grow, it'd need to invade others. At the same time, it was the cradle of new civilizations.

Back in Imperial College, Han Wu quickly took the replacement classes and even worked through the night to refine the Will of the Oviparous Civilization. He finally succeeded, and his divine realm became even stronger now. Moreover, his heavy spending on his Divine Authorities paid off and both of them reached 100%. The time had come to develop his Divine Jurisdiction.

Jiang Ming's conditions showed that he could not complete a Divine Jurisdiction overnight. He needed to choose a direction first.

Every Major God could receive one Divine Jurisdiction and work on advancing it. Han Wu was different. His Defiance gave him a faint sense that he could choose two, but he faced a simple question: which one should he choose?

He read a lot of books and gained a basic understanding. There were many ways of obtaining a Divine Jurisdiction, but most of those ways fit into three different methods.

The first involved receiving it from their Divine Aspects. For example, a God who excelled in using the Light Aspect could choose it as their Divine Jurisdiction, receive the power of light from other civilizations, and strengthen their Divine Jurisdiction.

The second required creating one. The silver dragon Erebard offered a clear example. Han Wu had helped him reincarnate. In his previous life, Erebard had been exceedingly powerful and held the powerful Water, Wind, Fire, and Earth Aspects. He had combined all four and invented the Chaos Divine Jurisdiction.

The third method relied on inheriting it from a Major God or God King. Many Major Gods obtained their Divine Jurisdictions in this way, but powerful ones were far too few and far between.

There were other options, but most couldn't be replicated, so Han Wu didn't consider them. He carefully reviewed everything he had learned so far and searched for the path that suited him.

Han Wu locked himself inside his divine realm for six entire days to study and reflect but emerged without an answer. He still didn't know which path to take. He had the Death, Darkness, War, Destruction, Life, Light, Peace, and Creation Aspects, but he didn't know which one he excelled at. Each offered an extraordinary path toward becoming a powerful Major God, but others had already explored them.

Han Wu's ambition pushed him to look for a path no one had attempted, which left him at an impasse.

At that moment, Qin Shuang messaged him. She wanted to invite him to explore another civilization called the Fulgur Oldwood Civilization.

Han Wu had no plans, so he accepted.

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[ 1,103 words ]

## **Chapter 496 - Fulgur Oldwood**

Ever since her battle with Elina, Qin Shuang had been in a difficult position. Her divine realm had suffered heavy damage, but thankfully, it was easy to rebuild the infrastructure with Han Wu and Jing Jing's help.

Still, the real problem lay with the population of her core race. Only 5% of her Thunder Sparrows had survived the ordeal and fully recovered, but their low numbers slowed their reproduction speed drastically. If she wanted to regain her full strength, she must first restore their population.

Qin Shuang had searched through many sources and learned that the Fulgur Oldwood Civilization was home to the Thunder Sparrows. She planned a trip there to capture some and bring them into her divine realm.

Even though she couldn't convert any captured Thunder Sparrows into her core race, she could still use them to breed with her own. Their offspring would count as her core race. She was hoping that this approach would help accelerate the speed of her core race's recovery.

Han Wu and Qin Shuang bought their tickets through Imperial College portal, tore them apart, and transported immediately to the Fulgur Oldwood Civilization.

Han Wu felt the suppression from the Will of the Fulgur Oldwood Civilization the moment they arrived. Although they were Gods, they still couldn't shake it off. Under the suppression, they could only summon a tenth of their units at most.

Han Wu was frustrated because that limit barely let him summon one Earthsunder life form, and capturing Thunder Sparrows would take far too long.

However, they were already there, so they couldn't return empty-handed. They decided to try how fast they could capture the Thunder Sparrows. If the pace seemed fast enough, they would stay and continue the work. If it didn't, Qin Shuang would have to consider spending a large sum to purchase many Thunder Sparrows online instead.

Considering how flight would aid in capturing the Thunder Sparrows, Han Wu summoned the fastest airborne unit in his divine realm, the War Angel Amelia. She had affinity for the light, lightning, and fire attributes, so she adapted well to the environment.

Qin Shuang watched Amelia with envy and admiration. She was an Earthsunder life form, and Qin Shuang only had a Sage Gold Crown Thunder Sparrow. The gap between their strength was enormous.

Han Wu noticed her expression and offered, "Do you want one? I can help you create one."

She shook her head. "Han Wu, you've given me enough. I would rather you create more Earthsunder life forms to protect yourself than create one for me. I need you to stay safe."

Her concern moved him. "I still want you to have an Earthsunder life form of your own. You need protection even more than I do. We can't let anything like the duel with Elina happen again."

Han Wu recalled that scene and shuddered at how close it had been. If he had arrived any later, Qin Shuang's Core would've shattered and she would've fallen from grace. The outcome would have humiliated her more than death because she valued her pride.

Qin Shuang judged his point as reasonable. She acknowledged her talent but considered it equal to that of a regular student at Imperial College. Han Wu was a true prodigy who surpassed her with ease, much less the descendants of God Kings and Major Gods. If she could command an Earthsunder life form, she would definitely be much safer. At least, Han Wu would be more at ease.

"Then let's work hard," Qin Shuang said.

Han Wu smiled. He had worried that the proud Qin Shuang would reject his suggestion. Once she agreed, he started scanning the area for an Earthsunder life form within the

Fulgur Oldwood Civilization. Unfortunately, the suppression weakened his detection range, and he only located nothing beyond a King Thunder Sparrow.

Qin Shuang tried to comfort him and said they would find one as they kept exploring the place.

Han Wu nodded and commanded Amelia to start working. They needed to capture as many Thunder Sparrows as possible. Amelia was smart and immediately set out to hunt them.

Meanwhile, Qin Shuang and Han Wu moved deeper into the Fulgur Oldwood Civilization. The name fit well since thunderclouds covered the sky and thousand-year-old trees rose across the forest floor. Lightning struck the trunks from time to time, yet the trees resisted every blast and remained unharmed.

Han Wu noted the value of the bark and summoned Hammie, the chief of the Scorching Dwarves, to inspect the wood and judge whether it could be made into gear.

After a careful look, Hammie reached a conclusion. The wood was suitable to be crafted into lightning resistant gear; however, there was a drawback. Once the tree lost its Life Energy, its lightning resistance would plummet and would turn into a regular piece of old wood within about ten days.

Han Wu sighed. If the old wood could retain its lightning resistance, someone else would've occupied this place long ago. Leaving such good material unused felt wasteful. He ordered Hammie to cut down a tree so they could test it and look for a way to preserve its value.

Hammie worked hard and soon brought back several logs cut into five-meter sections.

Han Wu placed his hands on the wood and examined it. He noticed the tree's Life Energy leaking away the moment it was cut. As it did, its lightning resistance plummeted just as Hammie had reported.

Han Wu had a sudden thought. *What if I channel Life Energy into the wood? Will it regain its lightning resistance?*

Han Wu had the Life Aspect, so he decided to test it. He poured Life Energy into the wood until it regained its original form. Its lightning resistance climbed back up with it and reached its peak.

Han Wu noticed faint arcs of lightning across its surface. This was an indicator that the wood was a valuable material that could conduct electricity. He was elated that he finally uncovered its secret.

It appeared that the wood could convert its Life Energy into lightning resistance, and once its Life Energy reached full capacity, it would release Lightning Energy instead. In other words, it transformed Life Energy into Lightning Energy and shifted its nature from defense to offense.

The wood's characteristics gave Han Wu a sudden idea. *What if I merge it with one of races that have affinity for lightning? Will it result in something unexpected?*

Since Han Wu hadn't captured any Thunder Sparrows yet, he decided to summon hundreds of half-dragons from his divine realm to test the theory.

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

[ 1,164 words ]

## **Chapter 497 - Fulgurwood Binding**

Qin Shuang connected her divine realm and opened a gate for Amelia to release the Thunder Sparrows she had caught. In just half a day, she captured 10 million Thunder Sparrows. At this pace, they expected that they would only need to stay there for a month before the reproduction rate of her Thunder Sparrows returned to its former peak.

Han Wu decided to continue his research on the half-dragons and the wood. Using Creation and Life, he bound the half-dragons and the wood together in a union known as Symbiotic Binding. The wood drew on the half-dragons' Life Energy to keep its own energy from fading, while the half-dragons used their abundant Life Energy to sustain it. When needed, they could channel more of their Life Energy to gain short bursts of potent lightning attacks.

The initial results looked promising. Many half-dragons sacrificed a portion of their Life Energy to boost the strength of their lightning damage.

Still, he needed time to study their stability. To help them adjust to the sensation of wood growing along their bodies, he even shaped wooden spears from the same material. The lightning covering the wood made them even stronger than the half-dragons' tridents.

Those who lacked skill with spears relied on their talent to create the Lightning Trident Skill. They shaped lightning into a trident and fused it with the wooden spear to form a weapon of lightning and wood. The result looked stunning. He then ordered them to assist Qin Shuang in capturing the Thunder Sparrows, and he used the assignment to test their stability.

Twenty days passed, and only eighty-nine of the original half-dragons remained. Eleven had died because their Life Energy drained away or because powerful Thunder Sparrows attacked them.

The surviving eighty-nine half-dragons had grown formidable. Their wooden spears absorbed their Life Energy but didn't drain them enough to matter. Instead, it granted them powerful combat capabilities.

Han Wu judged the results and knew that he had succeeded. He tentatively named the binding of lightning-affinity races to the wood Fulgurwood Binding. This binding sacrificed Life Energy for Lightning Energy and was very useful to those with affinity with lightning.

Upon learning of his breakthrough, Qin Shuang hoped that she could use it on her Thunder Sparrows as well.

Considering that they could fly and couldn't carry heavy gear, Han Wu fashioned the wood into anklets that fastened to their talons. By sacrificing their Life Energy, they could obtain Lightning Energy from the wood and increase their talons' power.

Amelia also yearned for the Fulgurwood Binding and wanted Han Wu to grant it to her. However, regular wood couldn't withstand her immense strength, so they needed the core of a 100,000-year-old tree.

Trees filled the area, but it was difficult to find one of that age. Thankfully, he had Merge. Using it, he merged 10,000 trees together and finally obtained a 100,000-year-old tree.

He shaped the tree's core into a wooden sword, just as Amelia wished. Even though it was made of wood, its edge was just as sharp and resilient as metal. Amelia received the weapon with delight and soared through the air in a burst of joy.

The wooden sword looked like a sturdy toy when no one channeled Life Energy into it. Once they did, potent Lightning Energy would encompass the entire wooden sword.

Amelia could then use her lightning-based Skills freely with the Lightning Energy. She wouldn't need to worry about running out. As for the Life Energy she lost, she could restore it by drawing on her Light and Fire Energy. In a sense, she converted her Fire and Light Energy into Lightning Energy, and her lightning Skills became her primary attacks.

With the sword, Amelia grew visibly stronger and was no longer one of the weakest among Han Wu's Earthsunder life forms. She now surpassed Bakir and Karot.

The Fulgurwood Binding's success gave Han Wu his first reliable way to enhance life forms with a lightning affinity. At the same time, he had an epiphany into the nature of energy conversion.

The Fulgurwood Binding worked because the old wood served as a medium that converted Life Energy into Lightning Energy. He also noticed that Amelia could convert Fire and Light Energy into Life Energy. That meant energy could be converted from one form to another once he grasped the governing rules.

*What about conflicting pairs such as Light and Dark or Life and Death?*

he wondered.

Han Wu sank into deep thought and decided to start his research. He formed an orb of black energy in one hand that contained the traits of Death, Darkness, War, and Destruction. His other hand formed an orb of white energy that contained the traits of Life, Light, Peace, and Creation. He slowly merged the two orbs together and comprehended what was happening.

Qin Shuang could tell he had entered a special state and didn't disturb him. In fact, she even commanded her Gold Crown Thunder Sparrow to guard him and keep the other Thunder Sparrows away.

Three years passed before Han Wu woke from his comprehension. His bones cracked as he rose. His joints had grown stiff after so much time without movement. He pushed Divine Points through his energy, and his joints loosened until they felt stronger than before. Then he turned to Qin Shuang.

Qin Shuang instinctively knew that Han Wu had changed without looking. His gaze pressed against her back with a solid weight, and the strange pressure made her believe that he had ascended into a Major God.

Han Wu seemed to read her thoughts and denied it. "I'm not a Major God yet. I've reached the threshold, though. I think I know how to ascend now."

Qin Shuang was stunned. Han Wu was only a second-year student and was already on the threshold of becoming a Major God. It was a terrifying concept.

The graduating students of Imperial College were typically peak Demigods. Some of the powerful Gods would return to the college to teach. Yet Han Wu had already surpassed them and now brushed against the gateway to Major God. His progress far exceeded the realms of a genius. It felt unreal.

Qin Shuang knew he had left her far behind, and the realization stung.

"What's wrong? Aren't you happy that I've figured it out?" he asked.

“I am, but...” She was crestfallen. She knew she was talented, but she felt inadequate before him.

As if sensing her mood, he chuckled. “Don’t worry. Everyone is different, after all. Maybe you will surpass me someday.”

Qin Shuang rolled her eyes. “As if I would believe that.”

Given her family’s talent and background, becoming a God had already posed a challenge. Becoming a Major God, much less surpassing Han Wu, felt like a distant dream.

Han Wu smiled. “No need to dwell on it. Time to get to work. I managed to locate an Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow. Let’s go catch it for you.”

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

[ 1,062 words ]

## **Chapter 498 - Inheritance Ceremony**

Han Wu brought Qin Shuang together as they rose into the sky. They traveled for 1,000 kilometers before she finally managed to sense the Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow’s aura. She glanced at Han Wu and worried that he would be unable to capture it.

Han Wu smiled and offered no explanation. He approached the Thunder Sparrow and released his Divine Authority to announce his presence.

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow had been enjoying the nearby Thunder Sparrows’ worship, so Han Wu’s arrival irritated it. It launched itself toward him and unfurled its Lightning Domain. The thunderclouds overhead merged into that domain, and thousands of lightning bolts rained down in unison, each one locked onto a single target: Han Wu.

Qin Shuang feared the barrage would injure him, but she was surprised to see him float in the air without a scratch. The lightning bolts condensed in his palm while the Lightning Energy brightened and dimmed from time to time.

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow noticed the condensed energy in Han Wu’s hands and was horrified. It quickly attacked by releasing more lightning. All of its attacks landed, but Han Wu wasn’t harmed at all. In fact, the Lightning Energy continued to gather in his palm and change from time to time.

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow was intelligent enough to know what was happening and panicked. It had never met a foe immune to its lightning. It tried to fly away, but Han Wu was faster. He turned the energy in his palm into a sprout and carefully placed it on the Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow's back.

The sprout quickly grew into a 10,000-meter-tall tree that pinned the Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow and clamped its wings with roots and vines. It tried to blast the tree with lightning, but the tree was a Fulgurwood, so it absorbed every strike without harm.

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow realized it had lost and started pleading beneath the tree.

Han Wu landed and spoke in a hard voice. "Surrender or die."

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow wanted to live and refused to cast aside its pride, yet fear rose when Han Wu gathered Death Energy gathered to his finger and pointed at it. It abandoned its stance and chose to surrender.

Han Wu called Qin Shuang over to sign a Spiritual Blood Contract with it. She would gain permanent authority over it, and it would have to follow her orders.

The Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow balked at such a one-sided contract, but Han Wu condensed the Death Energy at his fingertips again. Once it reluctantly accepted the contract, he placed the Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow in Qin Shuang's divine realm.

Qin Shuang felt delighted to gain an Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow, though she also wondered what Han Wu had done to subdue it.

Han Wu chuckled. "This is the base form of my Divine Jurisdiction, called Conversion. I can turn any type of energy into energy that I control before releasing it."

Qin Shuang's eyes lit up. "Does that mean you are invincible right now?"

She understood that many powerful Skills relied on massive amounts of energy. If Han Wu could absorb, convert, and release that energy as his own, those Skills would be useless against him. The result bordered on invincible!

Han Wu shook his head. "My Divine Jurisdiction isn't that strong yet. There's a limit to the conversion. Also, some Skills are purely physical, and I can't absorb those at all."

Qin Shuang nodded. Even though his Divine Jurisdiction had only just formed, its strength already seemed outrageous. She could already envision what would happen if someone tried to overwhelm him with sheer energy.

They had stayed in the Fulgur Oldwood for nearly four years. Qin Shuang had captured enough Thunder Sparrows and even secured an Earthsunder Thunder Sparrow, which exceeded their expectations.

Han Wu had also obtained the initial form of his Divine Jurisdiction and the Fulgurwood Binding. Their time there had been a bountiful harvest, and they returned to the Divine Civilization in high spirits.

Han Wu was about to go somewhere else but stopped with a frown. A huge pool of blood was pouring out from the Blood Coliseum in his divine realm, and the units inside evacuated at once. They relayed their report to him through prayer.

Han Wu inspected the Blood Coliseum and watched the rising flood of blood gather in it. The moment it recognized him as the inheritor, the blood dissipated swiftly and left only a string of messages.

The Blood Coliseum had gathered 500 candidates. It was time for the inheritance ceremony to start, and all the candidates had to return within three days. Anyone who arrived late or failed to appear would face punishment for breaking the rules.

For their punishment, the Blood Coliseum in their divine realm would spawn Sanguine Combatants in a number ten times greater than the life forms living there to slaughter them.

Han Wu grew serious. When he first became a candidate, there were only 350 of them. Little time had passed, yet the number had already risen to 500.

“Sanguine Combatants... The Blood Coliseum has really gone crazy this time,” he muttered.

Sanguine Combatants were Unique life forms from birth and natural fighters. One's divine realm would stand no chance if the Blood Coliseum suddenly spawned Sanguine Combatants ten times a candidate's units.

Even Han Wu didn't dare to break that rule because his units achieved victory through numbers. If there were ten times more Sanguine Combatants, he'd have to battle at least 1 trillion of them.

He couldn't take them on, and he was also looking forward to the ceremony. With his current strength, he had a chance to become the Blood Coliseum's inheritor.

Han Wu explained the situation to Qin Shuang before transporting himself to the Blood Coliseum through the Permanent Coordinates.

Due to the ceremony, all matches were canceled. However, many spectators still arrived since they wanted to witness the rise of the new inheritor.

When Han Wu returned to the Blood Coliseum, his name appeared on the screen. Everyone was excited when they noticed Locust Plague.

Han Wu quickly checked his adversaries. The list included two Major Gods, eighteen Gods, 210 Demigods, and 270 Divine Beings. None of the 500 candidates had relinquished their candidacy because the Sanguine Combatants would destroy their divine realm. They couldn't accept losses of that scale.

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

[ 1,235 words ]

### **Chapter 499 - Dueling Lands**

When the 500 candidates gathered together, the rules were announced. First, the Blood Coliseum would turn a huge stretch of land that measured 100 million square kilometers for the battle. The Dueling Lands would contain many treasures that could strengthen the candidates' units.

All 500 candidates must summon every unit they commanded. No one could leave the ceremony until every one of their units had fallen. The final survivor would become the Blood Coliseum's inheritor and receive the inheritance of a God King.

Everyone wanted the prize, and danger matched the reward. Only one contender would remain out of 500, and no one could predict the outcome. Even Divine Beings had a real chance to claim the crown since there were various objects that could improve their units there.

Once the rules were listed, the crowd erupted in cheers, and the 500 candidates were transported to the massive Dueling Lands.

Han Wu appeared there with every unit from his divine realm. His massive army occupied 100,000 square kilometers just by themselves. Their mismatched forms made it hard to tell that they were his core race. This was the downside of Random Evolution.

The other candidates received the same treatment. Each one appeared in a separate region, and all of their units materialized beside them. All candidates received a point total and a place on a ranking board visible to the crowd. The strength of their units determined most of their score.

[Common: 1 points]

[Elite: 10 points]

[Unique: 100 points]

The grading continued upward. At the top stood a Major God called Crouching Dragon with 930 billion points. The Ant God held second with 840 billion points. A God called Shark Teeth followed with 810 billion. Fourth place belonged to a Major God called Sandstorm with 790 billion.

Han Wu also earned a high score of 730 billion, which placed him sixth. He reached that number because he had recently restored his divine realm's size and his core race had repopulated until it numbered 20 billion. However, it was still a far cry from his peak. If he were at his peak, he could easily secure several thousand billion points on his own.

Although points offered a rough sense of an army's size, they shouldn't be used to measure one's strength. Some Gods relied on sheer numbers to overwhelm their foes, but their individual fighting units weren't strong.

The Ant God, who held second place, served as a clear example. His initial point total was 840 billion, but his points plummeted soon after. In just four hours, his points had dropped by 100 billion. It was evident that the Ant God was weak and fought using overwhelming numbers.

Han Wu monitored the leaderboard while he ordered his units to scout the area. As they did, his points constantly dropped, which made sense because casualties during the scouting phase were inevitable.

A short while later, his units reported the discovery of a strange object. He quickly led the rest of his army to the location and spotted a small shrine that housed a gnarly mud statue. A sign beside it explained that one could receive the Swamp God's blessings by offering 100,000 Water Stones.

Han Wu recognized it as a treasure of another civilization. While 100,000 Water Stones didn't count as much, gathering that many here posed a challenge since he didn't know where to mine them in this foreign land.

Nonetheless, he had a plan. First, he commanded his units with elemental abilities to strike him with their attacks. He then absorbed the energy with his new Divine Jurisdiction, used Creation to convert it into Water Stones, and offered them to the shrine.

The mud statue smiled slightly upon sensing the Water Stones' energy. It drew the stones into its mouth, and the entire surface softened until it felt damp to the touch.

At that moment, Han Wu felt something different. A thin layer of mud formed around his units like armor. It was soft and couldn't block physical strikes, yet it could block certain elemental attacks.

This was the Swamp God's blessing, and it would last until the ceremony ended. At the same time, the blessing raised his total points by 10%, and he now held third place with 805 billion points.

After the point increase, Han Wu debated trying for another blessing. He inspected the shrine again and noticed that another line of text had appeared. It claimed that he could gain the Swamp God's weapon if he offered 1 million Water Stones.

The offer intrigued him. If 100,000 Water Stones earned him a 10% boost, what could 1 million bring?

He repeated his earlier strategy and converted the energy from his units into Water Stones. Before long, he gathered 1 million of them and offered them to the mud statue to absorb them. The mud statue turned damp and thin trails of water seeped from its surface.

Han Wu then sensed that all his units had learned a new Skill called Mud Bomb. As its name implied, the Skill mixed water and mud to form a mud bomb that clung to its target and hardened quickly as it dried.

Mud Bomb boosted Han Wu's overall points by another 10%, pushing him into second place with 880 billion points.

His sudden rise drew the crowd's attention. Everyone wanted to know why his score kept climbing while most candidates were losing points. As curiosity spread through the spectators, many noticed the shrine. Their interest grew, and they started searching for information about it online.

Meanwhile, some of the Major Gods in the crowd were shocked to see the shrine.

"I never thought that a shrine would be there."

"The candidates are really unlucky if they end up with it."

"Not quite. What if they are strong enough to kill it? Wouldn't they gain plenty of rewards?"

"Kill it? It sounds easy on paper. That shrine holds an evil God from another civilization that someone sealed. Killing it won't be easy. I just hope that young man won't doom himself because of it."

The shrine became the center of every conversation.

After he offered it 1 million Water Stones, Han Wu studied the shrine and noticed a new line of text. Now it demanded 10 million, and he would gain the Swamp God's blessing again.

Han Wu was surprised to learn that he could make offerings more than once and wanted to learn what kind of blessing it was. He followed the same approach as before, creating 10 million Water Stones and offering them to the mud statue to absorb them.

The statue reacted at once. Mud surged outward, and its form changed rapidly. It broke the shrine and swelled until it stood 1,000 meters tall.

Han Wu looked up at a giant, bipedal frog-like life form with rows of sharp teeth. It was also coated in green mud. It flexed its limbs and shook off several huge gobs of mud. Then it turned its gaze toward Han Wu, the one who had set it free.

“You pitiful being. I shall grant you my blessing for setting me free,” it croaked. “Your blessing is to die in my hands!”

It drove both hands to the ground, and the entire region softened. Han Wu’s units sank bit by bit as the earth beneath them and beneath Han Wu turned into a swamp!

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

[ 893 words ]

## **Chapter 500 - Swamp Ego**

“Die in my swamp and become nutrients!” howled the ugly Swamp God.

It could already picture Han Wu and his units sinking into the swamp forever. Then shock hit when it saw what happened next. Han Wu’s units unfurled their wings and shot into the air. The swamp would never claim them.

Han Wu beat his translucent wings and pulled himself out of the mud. “Are you dumb? I can fly.”

The Swamp God seethed. It had never imagined that its prized Skill could be neutralized so easily. How could it stomach it? Since the ambush had failed, it could only attack head-on. Under its command, the mud turned into dragons that lunged at Han Wu.

The mud never even reached him as a frost Great Dragon used its breath and froze the mud torrent midair. Leng Ning appeared before Han Wu in her half-dragon form. Through Reincarnation, he had taken her soul and turned her into a Great Dragon who grew stronger day after day. She was now as strong as a Sage life form.

The Swamp God glared at them and howled, but there was nothing it could do. Its dominion over the swamp was strong, but many elements could bring it down and ice was one of them. Once frozen, the mud lost its pliability. It could no longer latch onto enemies or drag them under, which rendered it useless.

“Consider yourself lucky!” The Swamp God turned to leave in a storm of anger.

Han Wu scoffed. “Since when did I say you could leave?”

Leng Ning charged forward and used her strength to drive her powerful fist packed with Ice Energy into the Swamp God. The blow sent it 100 meters away and shattered half of its body.

Still, the Swamp God showed no concern. The shattered mud fragments thinned into water and flowed back to its form. It was unharmed.

“You can’t kill me. Staying here will waste time for both of us,” the Swamp God said.

“Is that so? I don’t believe it.” Leng Ning punched again and froze the Swamp God solid.

Han Wu then ordered his units to tear apart and devour the frozen mud. They finished the task quickly without leaving a single drop of mud behind.

Unexpectedly, the Swamp God’s voice rose from within their bodies. “You can’t kill me, but I can kill your units easily.”

A huge amount of mud burst from the units’ orifices along with fragmented pieces of their organs.

The Swamp God’s ugly face appeared once more. Han Wu had lost roughly 10,000 units, which pleased the Swamp God. It loved watching its enemies stand helpless before it.

Rage burned through Han Wu. Those units made up only a small part of his army, yet they were still his subjects. He had to avenge them.

“Everyone, do whatever you can to kill it!” he barked.

Steely and Karot stepped forth. The two hadn’t even attacked when a wave of Wind Energy and a surge of blazing Fire Energy rolled off them and sent fear through the Swamp God.

The two types of energy could easily counter its mud. It tried to flee, but it was too late. Steely summoned swirling winds to trap it while Karot spewed scorching fire at the cyclone. The fire ignited the cyclone and turned it into a burning vortex.

The intense heat baked the Swamp God until it lost all its moisture, and its solidified mud shell melted into lava.

Han Wu spotted a small orb amid the lava and retrieved it. He checked its data and learned that it was the Swamp God's Divine Ego. It came from outside the Divine Civilization and functioned similarly to the Divine Aspects and Divine Authorities.

If he absorbed it, he could control the swamp's power. It counted as good post-battle loot. Han Wu stored it in his vault and commanded, "Search the area and report the moment you find a shrine."

His orders moved through the threads of faith to every unit, and they earnestly searched their surroundings.

Han Wu found a clean patch of ground and waited for their reports. They soon discovered something unusual to the northwest. His units were being killed. Through his units' eyes, he saw several pitch-black humanoid figures. They were powerful and could hurl fifty-kilogram stones to crush their foes.

Han Wu wouldn't let it continue, so he headed toward that area. As soon as he arrived, he formed invisible hands with his telekinesis, pulled his units out of danger, and pushed the enemies away.

After ordering his other units to heal the injured ones, he examined the pitch-black humanoids to identify them. Their information unfolded before him.

[Race: Black Ants (Humanoid form)]

[Rank: Unique]

[Talents: Superstrength, Black Carapace]

[Skills: Mighty Fist, Boulder Toss...]

Han Wu studied the data and noticed an uncanny resemblance to his Locustmen! What could his enemy have done to turn them into humanoids? He wanted answers, and he knew how to draw out the owner: kill enough units and the owner would definitely show up.

Han Wu executed his plan and commanded all his Unique life forms to attack at once. His units detonated themselves, easily breaking the Black Ants' formation and injuring them in the process.

When enough Black Ants died, a powerful Divine Authority appeared before Han Wu.

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