

The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

[1,077 words]

Chapter 621 - Mechanical Microcosm

“Die, you bastard!” the ninth guard roared as he raised his fist and attacked.

Han Wu didn't dodge. Instead, he reached out to catch it with his bare hand. Drawing on the Machine God's knowledge, a specialized mech gauntlet formed around his hand.

With a powerful crash, Han Wu caught the ninth guard's fist. A huge amount of steam burst from the gauntlet, yet Han Wu didn't move an inch. In fact, he didn't feel the impact at all. The gauntlet diverted the punch's impact, diverting it completely.

Fury twisted the ninth guard's face. Empowered by the Runic Lexicon, his strikes could shatter mountains, yet he couldn't even break Han Wu's hand. He tried again, convinced that Han Wu couldn't block it again.

Han Wu wouldn't give him the chance to do so. Mechanical armor flowed over him, transforming him into a living suit of armor.

A peculiar Divine Ring appeared behind him. It was the Mechanical Divine Ring, and under its influence, every mechanical part of Han Wu surged in power, their effects amplified a thousandfold.

Han Wu raised his left arm and activated Cable Form. Five thousand cables erupted outward, each one triggering Lightning Whip independently. A sea of electrically charged cables surged forward.

The ninth guard had no room to evade and threw his arms up to shield his face. At the same time, he covered the rest of his body with the Runic Lexicon to defend against the attack.

Han Wu grabbed him with the cables and unleashed an electric discharge.

The current coursed over the ninth guard, and he felt his flesh charring. Unfortunately for him, the assault did not end there. Han Wu raised his right arm and turned it into a massive laser cannon. Boundless energy converged, compressing to its limit before he fired.

“Condensed Laser Cannon: Starfall!” he shouted.

Even with the Runic Lexicon, the ninth guard couldn't withstand the strike. The laser engulfed him and reduced him to dust. Only his Runic Ring remained, silent proof that he had ever existed.

When the beam faded, a ravine 10,000 meters deep appeared before Han Wu. Molten rock splattered down its scorched walls. Han Wu was the artist who had painted the apocalyptic scene in front of him.

Kerry was slack-jawed. She realized that her caution around Han Wu had been meaningless. He could have ended her life with a single attack.

Even Han Wu was shocked by his laser cannon's destructive power. Its strength had reached a terrifying level. None of his peers could stop him now. The Machine God's infamy for firepower was no exaggeration!

He retrieved the ninth guard's Runic Ring and merged it with his own. Its influence amplified one of Han Wu's Divine Powers, Famine. Upon activation, he could affect everything within a 500-kilometer radius.

Han Wu also obtained the combination of runes to form the Boundary Breaker Runic Lexicon. With the necessary runes, collected, combined, and mastered, he could shatter barriers like the ninth guard once had.

Han Wu and the others traveled for several more days before they finally returned to the Divine Civilization. Once they arrived, Kerry immediately notified the college and requested a full screening for Han Wu.

As the Wisdom God King, Xu Hai conducted the investigation and confirmed that Han Wu was fine. Kerry was relieved. She then took the Nanite Mythril and returned to her divine realm to construct the chip for him.

Han Wu returned to his divine realm and distributed the spoils he had obtained from the Lawless Civilization among his units. Afterward, he noticed something that left him stunned. In addition to his divine realm's Microcosm, another one existed now. It was the Mechanical Microcosm of the Machine God. Under its governing Laws, every biological life form within it would slowly transform into an automaton.

Han Wu recalled how the automatons in the Lawless Civilization had self-destructed once they sustained lethal damage. Their self detonations appeared to be more powerful than those of his locusts.

Han Wu decided to move some of the locusts to the Mechanical Microcosm. Soon, one realm-year passed, and every locust in that Microcosm had transformed into an automaton. He then put them to the test. The mechanical locusts weren't just stronger, but their explosions were more powerful too.

The result captured his interest, especially since his journey had started with the exploding locusts. As his number of Microcosms increased, so did the size of his divine realm. Nurturing the locusts within the Mechanical Microcosm appeared to be a sound strategy, so he proceeded with his plan to nurture even more mechanical locusts.

From his vault, he selected two suitable Laws: Iron Body and Ultra Explosion. He embedded both Laws into the Mechanical Microcosm and anticipated the rise of powerful mechanical locusts.

He also ensured that his divine realm did not suffer neglect. After using the medal, his Microcosm became invulnerable to damage from an external source. At this point, it was effectively indestructible.

Three days later, Kerry finally completed the chip. They had initially planned to install the chip directly into Han Wu, but he had since found a better solution. He would install it directly into the Machine God.

Once the installation was complete, Han Wu mastered Stellar Plunder and was now able to plunder an opponent's Microcosm.

Ten realm-years later, within a grassy field of Han Wu's divine realm, an Epistian child sat with his back against the Mechmouse King and stared at the white clouds overhead.

The child suddenly asked the Mechmouse King, "My father and I have always called you *old friend* or *brother*. Should I give you a name?"

The child was none other than Ji Zhongyi. Han Wu had reincarnated his soul with his previous memories intact, granting him unparalleled learning ability. Though still young, the Epistians already regarded him as a genius.

The Mechmouse King shook its head lightly.

"You don't want a name? Do you already have one?" Ji Zhongyi was puzzled. He had known the Mechmouse King for forty years, yet he had been unaware that it had a name.

"What's your name then?" he pressed.

The Mechmouse King used its claws to write on a boulder.

Ji Zhongyi tried to read the words. "What are you writing? Pi... Ka?"

The Mechmouse King continued without pause, adding two final strokes.

"Pika V!" Ji Zhongyi exclaimed.

The Mechmouse King nodded, its eyes shimmering with a fragmented red dot.

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Chapter 622 - Visitors from the Divine River Civilization

[1,065 words]

Chapter 622 - Visitors from the Divine River Civilization

Han Wu had returned to the Divine Civilization for quite some time, but his friends still hadn't returned from the Heaven Stair Civilization.

One day, he unexpectedly received a request to meet a group of delegates from the Divine River Civilization. Apparently, they were stronger than the Divine Civilization. Han Wu rarely encountered experts from the Divine River Civilization, so he had no clear sense of their true strength.

The delegates briefly explained the purpose of their visit. A month earlier, they had received a final message from the Genesoldier Eagle Eye, who claimed to have discovered the Origin of Mutation at Imperial College.

Within the Divine River Civilization, the Origin of Mutation was also known as the Ultimate Terror. Its ability targeted genes, the civilization's very foundation. Its existence loomed like a guillotine suspended above the civilization's head.

Once the higher-ups received the message, they issued an absolute order to bring the Origin of Mutation back. Ideally, they wished to avoid offending or clashing with the Divine Civilization. However, if the Divine Civilization refused to surrender it, the Divine River Civilization would take countermeasures, regardless of the price.

Under this mandate, the delegates came to Imperial College to meet with Han Wu. They promised that as long as he was willing to hand over the Origin of Mutation, they would give him a single vial of first-series Gene Catalyst.

The Gene Catalyst was one of the Divine River Civilization's most renowned creations. Even the weakest ones, those of the fifth series, were highly sought-after commodities. A first-series Gene Catalyst was far rarer, an almost priceless resource.

Han Wu declined. The Origin of Mutation wasn't merely his subordinate but a friend who had saved him numerous times. Although the first-series Gene Catalyst was tempting, he wouldn't betray his friend.

The delegates' representative tried to persuade him. "Mr. Han Wu, you haven't even heard the name of the Gene Catalyst we are willing to part ways with. I believe you would reconsider once you see it."

Han Wu smiled and gestured for the delegate to continue.

The delegate presented the Gene Catalyst they had brought. It was the first-series Void Hunter. Once activated, it would allow Han Wu to traverse different layers of space. It also contained four genetic seals, and each unlocked seal would grant him a power befitting of a first-series Gene Catalyst.

A single Void Hunter meant that Han Wu would receive four powerful Divine Powers at once. The offer was tempting. Han Wu had survived so many perilous adventures precisely because he had many powerful Divine Powers, and there were clear reasons for that advantage.

First, each ascension granted him a random Divine Power. Second, his Chosen One talent allowed him to gain another powerful Exclusive-grade Divine Power per ascension. Third, he always ascended in foreign civilizations, which granted him another Divine Power for free. Finally, some of his Divine Powers came from the specific Laws of the foreign civilizations, such as his 256 Martial Castes from the Warring Kingdom Civilization.

Those four factors explained how he accumulated so many Divine Powers and why he easily outpaced the other students. With one Void Hunter, he would obtain four new Divine Powers. The temptation was immense, but he still shook his head. He didn't want it.

The delegate stared at him in confusion, then came to the wrong conclusion.

"Do you want more resources?" the delegate asked. "With my authority, I can add another thirty vials of fifth-series Gene Catalyst. You can use them to nurture your units. Is that enough?"

Han Wu smiled bitterly. "I'm sorry, but the Origin of Mutation is my brother. No amount of resources will change my mind. Please give up."

Han Wu rose to leave. The delegate tried to stop him and resume the negotiations, but Han Wu ignored him and returned to his divine realm.

The delegate frowned. If he failed to bring the Origin of Mutation back now, he would face a harsh punishment.

“We have no choice,” he muttered coldly. “We will declare war and use our might to take the Origin of Mutation back forcefully.”

The next day, Imperial College sent Han Wu a personal message. The Divine River Civilization’s delegates had issued him a formal challenge.

If he accepted and won, the Divine River Civilization would stop harassing him and even give him the Void Hunter for free. If he lost, the delegates would take the Origin of Mutation back. Should Han Wu decline, the delegates stated that they would return home and issue an official declaration of war between the two civilizations. In that case, war would be unavoidable.

Imperial College faced a delicate decision. Xu Hai was the one who delivered the news to Han Wu.

In truth, Han Wu had little choice. To protect the Origin of Mutation, he would have to accept the challenge and win. The only alternative was to surrender the Origin of Mutation immediately to prevent the war.

Imperial College had already decided for Han Wu that declining was not an option. Han Wu was a genius, and as long as he didn't die, he was destined to become a God King. Still, the college couldn't drag the entire civilization into a war solely for his sake.

Naturally, Han Wu understood the college’s dilemma and his own position. Acceptance was the only path forward. After he agreed, the challenge’s rules were formally presented to him.

Both parties were required to choose five champions to enter the specific arena that the Divine River Civilization had prepared. The objective was simple. The two parties would defend the crystal located at their base. Victory would go to the party that destroyed the opposing crystal first.

All champions that entered the arena would have their powers sealed. They had to kill the opposing champions or mobs to gain experience before they could unlock portions of their powers.

Han Wu then noticed a special rule. Any chosen champion had to be a World life form. This condition left him at a loss. Within the Divine Civilization, most World life forms were God Kings or their powerful units.

Calling a unit to fight felt undignified, so he needed to find God Kings who were willing to help him. The problem was finding one. With no clear options, he decided to test his luck.

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[951 words]

Chapter 623 - Finding Teammates

There were only three World life forms on Han Wu's side now: himself, the Origin of Mutation, and the Umbral Mouse.

Han Wu and the Origin of Mutation were powerful fighters and the very reason this challenge had been issued, so their participation was unavoidable. The Umbral Mouse was a hardcore Support with no offensive capability, so Han Wu didn't include it in the roster.

He still needed three God Kings to complete the lineup. His first thought was his master, Xu Hai. As the Wisdom God King, Xu Hai had grown steadily stronger since his first ascension. Moreover, he had the Great Enlightenment Ring, which allowed him to evolve any Skill to its maximum potential, making him a valuable teammate.

Han Wu sent a request to his master. Xu Hai answered and agreed after a brief consideration. As Han Wu's master, he had benefited from the rewards that Han Wu had fleeced from the Heaven Stair Civilization. He felt it was only right to return the favor, and participating in the challenge suited that purpose perfectly.

Relieved to have secured a third teammate, Han Wu called the God King of Death. Victory would be all but guaranteed if Death accepted his invitation. As a Mesocosm expert, defeating an ordinary World life form was child's play for him.

It took a long time for Death to answer. Han Wu explained the situation and extended the invitation, but Death declined. He was currently in a distant civilization with Darkness on an important mission and couldn't return in time.

The rejection left Han Wu deflated, as it meant he had to give up on both Death and Darkness. He didn't give up and contacted the Blazing God King, only to receive an automated message stating that Blaze was in closed cultivation to improve his strength and would call them back later.

Han Wu was truly stumped now. The few God Kings he knew were all unavailable. His final hope rested with the White Mane God King. Commerce was among the weakest God Kings he knew, but at least he was still a true God King.

After thirty seconds, Commerce answered. Han Wu explained the situation and made the offer. Commerce remained silent for five seconds before stating that he would accept in exchange for two Laws.

Han Wu cursed inwardly. Commerce had previously requested only one Law for helping him repel the Imperial College's invaders. Not much time had passed, yet the price had doubled. With no alternatives left, Han Wu had no choice but to agree.

Even with Commerce on board, they still needed another member. Han Wu considered bringing the Umbral Mouse along as a hard Support, but Commerce interjected. He claimed he could find another God King weaker than himself, and the cost would be only one Law.

Han Wu accepted the proposal.

Three hours later, Commerce brought his old friend Jia Gui to the rendezvous point.

Han Wu wanted to reject him outright. Commerce was already a weak God King, and Jia Gui was even weaker. Han Wu knew that even the Umbral Mouse was stronger than Jia Gui.

As if sensing the displeasure in Han Wu's eyes, Jia Gui patted his chest confidently. "Are you looking down on me? I, Jia Gui, was a valuable contributor during the invasion of the Heaven Stair Civilization. One Law is more than enough to hire me, and you won't regret it..."

Han Wu smiled bitterly. He knew about the so-called merit that Jia Gui was talking about. He was the one who had captured Jia Gui and pried the information out of his mouth.

Jia Gui was still lost in his boastful speech when Commerce introduced Han Wu. Only then did Jia Gui realize that the man before him was the same Han Wu who had captured him in the past.

Any ordinary person would have died of embarrassment, but Jia Gui was unfazed. He patted his thin chest confidently. "I might look skinny, but my bones are packed with strength. Don't worry. I specialize in tricking opponents into working for us."

Han Wu felt a trace of reassurance. At the very least, he had finally assembled five teammates. He then led the group to the delegates' representative, where they would depart for the dedicated challenge ground to familiarize themselves with the environment.

The delegates' representative didn't stop them. Instead, he carefully explained every detail of the challenge site and the rules.

Han Wu studied the map of the challenge ground. It spanned a million square kilometers. The area wasn't especially large, but the terrain introduced many strategic considerations.

First, there were two plazas positioned at opposite corners of the battlefield. At the center of each plaza stood a massive crystal, which served as the core that they had to protect. The party that lost their crystal would lose.

Beyond the crystals, the map was divided into two territories. Each party controlled half of the land, and numerous wild beast nests dotted their respective areas. Once the battle commenced, those nests would spawn beasts at regular intervals. It was guaranteed to be an exciting match.

Then there were three paths that stretched from each base to the opposite side of the battlefield. Those lanes ran along the upper, middle, and lower sections of the land, directly linking both territories.

Han Wu couldn't glean much else from the map alone. He needed to experience the challenge site firsthand.

He had been inside for barely five minutes before he staggered back out, his appearance dishevelled. The challenge ground was extremely oppressive and had suppressed his strength as a World life form down to the King rank. It was brutal.

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[1,160 words]

Chapter 624 - Two Parties

After a few inquiries, Han Wu learned that the challenge ground enforced a special rule regarding leveling up. Participants had to level up before they could unlock portions of their power. That rule ensured that everyone began from the same starting line, preserving fairness and balance.

Han Wu and the others had to admit that the rule was clever. He had to secretly admit that he had worried about having to carry both Commerce and Jia Gui. With this restriction in place, their chances of winning improved considerably.

When the day of the match arrived, the two parties faced each other. Both the Divine Civilization and the Divine River Civilization had sent representatives to serve as referees and professional emcees.

"The Divine Civilization and the Divine River Civilization have always coexisted peacefully. We hope that after this match, we can maintain this relationship," announced the head delegate from the Divine Civilization to the opposing delegates before the match.

That statement carried a subtle warning. The Divine Civilization had made an exception accepting the challenge, and the Divine River Civilization was expected to follow the match's rules no matter what.

Naturally, the Divine River Civilization's delegates understood the implication at once.

"The Divine River Civilization always stands by its word. However, we've sent powerful fighters as our representatives this time. I hope that you will stand by your word as well," the opposing head delegate said.

"Naturally."

The opposing head delegate added, "There is one more matter to clarify. On this challenge ground, the champion will stake their lives. Death is a real risk. If you die inside, you die for real. I hope that your party has prepared for this."

The head delegate from the Divine Civilization scoffed. "Don't worry about it."

With the formalities complete, both parties entered the battlefield's perimeter. The two emcees also took their positions in the commentary booth.

"Good day, everyone, I am your number one emcee from the Divine River Civilization, Gold Mic Qiu Yun!"

"Hi there! I'm everyone's friend, Yu Meng!" The Divine Civilization's emcee was a pretty young woman. Her voice soothed the audience, and her fan club erupted across the livestream.

"My wife, Yu Meng! I heard her voice today! What a blissful day."

"Yu Meng is my wife! Get out of here."

"Yu Meng, stop working! I will make sure to give you the best life you could ever have!"

The livestream went wild even before the start of the match.

Yu Meng's appearance ignited the entire livestream. Her influence drew in viewers from across the Divine Civilization. They all clamored for her attention, and some even went so far as to teach their units to mash the like button.

The livestream's popularity skyrocketed.

Qiu Yun could only stare in disbelief. He felt almost unnecessary. Yu Meng alone could carry the excitement of the entire match. Even so, with his professional career on the line, he still controlled the stream and guided the audience's focus back to the match itself.

The two emcees started introducing the participants from both parties.

Yu Meng took the lead with the Divine Civilization. "Every champion of the Divine Civilization is a top-tier expert! We have the newly ascended Wisdom God King; the ever-moving Commerce God King; the strongest student of Imperial College, Han Wu; Jia Gui, the strong World life form who earned great merit during the invasion against the Heaven Stair Civilization; and finally, the Origin of Mutation, a World life form capable of mutating genes!"

The livestream erupted.

"There are World life forms in this challenge. What kind of level is that supposed to be? Are they strong?"

"Go study more if you don't even know this. World life forms can rival God Kings. This is basic knowledge. What kind of education did you even go through?"

"I'm actually a high-school teacher, and I didn't know that. I've always thought that Sage life forms were the strongest."

...

On the other side, Qiu Yun started introducing the Divine River Civilization's participants. "The team we've sent this time consists entirely of first-series Super Genesoldiers! They are Torrent, Warmaster, Carnage, Oracle, and Selene!"

The livestream audience showed little reaction, but the Divine Civilization's referee was stunned. They knew that the Divine River Civilization used numbers to classify their genes' strength. The first series represented the pinnacle of their gene system. This was an all-star team! What shocked them even more were the five titles themselves. They were all notorious fighters of the Divine River Civilization.

Torrent was the strongest tank, known for exceptional leadership and battle prowess. Warmaster was born with innate equipment forged from Obsidrum, a rare metal capable of suppressing Divine Points and highly effective against Gods. Carnage was a man that could give the God King of War a run for his money. Oracle was the strongest sensory-type warrior, capable of detecting virtually anything. Selene was the civilization's strongest summoner, able to call forth contracted beasts.

When the Divine Civilization's referee recognized the five powerful Super Genesoldiers, they gasped. Almost everyone assumed that Han Wu was destined to lose this time.

The Origin of Mutation relayed the same information to Han Wu. As a first-series gene itself, it could clearly recognize the other first-series genes. Upon learning how powerful their opponents were, Han Wu felt a surge of concern. However, retreat was no longer an option.

“The enemy is strong. If we want to win, we have to defeat them quickly before they grow.” Xu Hai said after analyzing the situation. Unfortunately, he had too little data. With more information, he could have found a way to defeat all five Super Genesoldiers.

Han Wu nodded. “Alright.”

The Origin of Mutation considered advising him to withdraw if necessary, but it held back after seeing Han Wu’s resolve.

Before long, a flash of light transported them into the challenge ground, and their party appeared on the plaza. Two structures stood on the plaza. The first was the crystal that they had to protect. It could also summon life forms to aid them in battle. The second was a fountain that allowed rapid recovery by standing near it.

The moment Han Wu entered his territory, a notification appeared.

[Please select a unit to bind with the crystal. (The energy used to summon units is fixed at each level. Please select carefully.)]

Han Wu looked at them for input.

Xu Hai reassured him. “Do what you must. We believe in you.”

Commerce and Jia Gui offered no objections. At present, they were technically mercenaries, so they wouldn’t interfere with his decision.

The Origin of Mutation spoke next. “Choose your locusts. I will make them stronger.”

Han Wu nodded and bound his locust to the crystal.

[Binding Complete. Crystal Level: 1. Can summon 10 locusts per minute.]

[Locust, Level 1. Heroic life form. Abilities: Flight, Bite, Corrosive Spit.]

[Binding complete.]

[Five minutes until the first wave of beasts is summoned. Prepare yourself.]

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[968 words]

Chapter 625 - Level up!

Han Wu checked his data.

[Name: Han Wu]

[Level: 1]

[HP: 100%]

[Energy: 100%]

[Gold: 0]

[Unlocked Strength: 1%]

[Power Slot: 1 (Unequipped)]

[Ability Slot: 0]

[Equipment Slot: 0]

Han Wu froze when he saw the clean interface. All his strength had been sealed away! How was he supposed to fight now?

He was left with one empty Power Slot, which he could use to select one of his powers. He reviewed the list of available powers: Sacrifice, Famine, Life Infusion, Merge, 256 Martial Castes, True Demon King Transformation, Reincarnation, Replicate, Energy Conversion, Undying, and Avatar Creation.

After a brief assessment, he chose the option best suited to the situation: True Demon King Transformation. His companions also faced the same restriction. Aside from the Origin of Mutation, the others took time to weigh their choices.

Han Wu said, "We need to hunt the beasts that spawn from nests to level up and gain more abilities, equipment, or Power Slots. I've opened a communication channel and the map, and I've also marked all known nest locations.

"The fogged areas indicate enemy territory. We should avoid those for now. We will move individually. Each of us will take two locusts and level up as quickly as possible."

Xu Hai nodded and headed toward the nest near the upper lane with two locusts. Commerce also took two locusts and moved toward the lower lane. Jia Gui knew he was weak, so he followed Commerce with two locusts of his own. He even claimed that he was worried about Commerce and wanted to provide support.

Han Wu couldn't care less. Only he and the Origin of Mutation remained with the four locusts.

The Origin of Mutation had already made preparations. "I've adjusted the settings. Every ten minutes, ten locusts will be summoned and automatically fly to us. Everyone will get two locusts per wave."

Han Wu nodded. "I don't need any. Take all four locusts with you instead."

He then ran to a nearby nest in the middle lane to farm for experience points and level up.

The Origin of Mutation opened its mouth as if to speak, but Han Wu had already disappeared. It shrugged and used Controlled Mutation on the four locusts. Soon, the locusts reached Level 4, with significant improvements to their parameters. In exchange, their remaining lifespan was reduced to three more days, which was sufficient for this match. With the upgraded locusts in tow, the Origin of Mutation ran toward a nest in the middle lane.

Five minutes later, the first beast wave emerged. The type of beast varied depending on the location.

Han Wu reached the Level 1 Demon Soldier Ants' nest. Each ant had a hardened exterior, two sharp mandibles, and great strength. There were five of them in the nest.

Han Wu pounced and activated True Demon King Transformation. The restriction's suppression limited his transformed height to five meters, and he lost his energy every second. He could maintain this form for only ten seconds.

Han Wu used that brief window to strike decisively. With a flurry of punches, he killed them all. They had just been transported there before their deaths. Their end was pitiful, but Han Wu considered it meaningful. After all, they gave Han Wu half the experience points he needed to level up, 50 gold, and even a material called Demon Soldier Ant Carapace.

Once they died, a timer appeared above the nest, indicating that the next wave would spawn in five minutes. Han Wu had no intention of waiting. He collected the material, and a crafting recipe surfaced in his mind. This was one of the challenge ground's rules.

He also learned that forging equipment required multiple materials. Even the weakest item, the Demon Sealing Blade, which could unlock 1% of his strength, required three materials. Gold could substitute for missing materials. The Demon Sealing Blade needed 150 gold to replace the remaining two components. Once forged, he could equip it in his Equipment Slot and activate its effect.

After receiving the experience points, Han Wu knew what he had to do. "I have to hunt down more."

Han Wu sprinted toward the next nest. This time, he encountered a liger. Only one occupied the nest. It appeared that it had survived in the nest for a longer period as it had reached Level 2. Defeating it with just 1% of his strength proved difficult. With True Demon King Transformation active, he could use 2% of his strength.

Han Wu defeated the liger in six seconds, and it dissolved into experience points, filling the bar completely. He reached Level 2, and three choices appeared before him.

[1: Unlock 1% strength]

[2: Unlock 1 Ability Slot]

[3: Unlock 1 Equipment Slot]

After a brief hesitation, Han Wu chose to unlock an Ability Slot. He suspected that it allowed him to equip one of his Skills, and the system quickly proved him right. A list of his many Skills opened before him. Without hesitation, he selected the strongest among them: Black Dragonification.

He already had the True Demon King Transformation and hoped to fuse the two to unlock the Black Dragon King Transformation, his trump card.

As expected, a notification appeared once he chose it.

[Detected high compatibility between the True Demon King Transformation and Black Dragonification. You may spend 8 Points to unlock your new ability: Black Dragon King Transformation.]

Han Wu was stumped. Unlocking it required 8 Points, yet he was only Level 2! The demand felt so unreasonable that he would have preferred the system rob him outright.

Waiting until Level 10 just to obtain the Black Dragon King Transformation was not an option, and he could not leave the choice unmade. With no alternatives, he was forced to shelve the plan for now.

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[1,027 words]

Chapter 626 - Slaughter Knife

The liger's death not only gave Han Wu experience points, but also 80 gold and its pelt. Placing his hand on the material, he saw it could be used to craft a variety of items. At

the moment, he also had a total of 189 gold—50 came from the Demon Soldier Ants, 80 from the liger, and 59 from his locusts' shared gold.

If he had powerful locusts, he could easily stomp the enemy's crystal. Unfortunately, at his level, he found it hard to roam his own territory, much less destroy the opponent's crystal.

Checking the map, he noted that six nests were in cooldown. One from the top, one from the bottom, and four from the middle. He and the Origin of Mutation were clearly very efficient, each equivalent to two Xu Hais or four Commerce God Kings and Jia Guis.

As he glanced at the map, he saw that another nest in the middle had been defeated. At this rate, they would likely destroy all the middle nests within a few hours. Han Wu decided to change directions.

After farming some more, he realized the nests were actually a type of resource. Having more nests would raise the speed at which they could level up. The Origin of Mutation could handle all of the nests in the middle, and the top and bottom nests would be dealt with in due time.

With all three lanes accounted for, Han Wu pondered the bold idea of heading into enemy territory to farm their nests instead. Defeating nests on the enemy side meant occupying one of their resources. Every nest he conquered would only widen the gap between the two teams, effectively securing victory for their side.

Gratified with this strategy, Han Wu charged in the direction of the opponent's territory, dealing with any nest he came across along the way. On the journey, he ended up leveling up twice, placing him at level four. When it came to upgrades, he selected the option to unlock his strength by 1% both times.

Half an hour later, he reached the border between the two lands. The area in front of him was the enemy's territory. Although the map revealed nothing but white fog, Han Wu could observe the land with his own eyes.

There was a nest situated near the border of the two lands with eight Saber Rabbits. As no one had dealt with them for a while, the rabbits had reached level 6.

A thrill ran up Han Wu's spine just considering the amount of experience he would get. It could even be enough for him to level up twice!

Deciding to act swiftly, he used Black Dragonification to turn into a black dragon. Unfortunately, having only 3% of his strength unlocked meant he wasn't large at all—only 3 meters long.

Though not as intimidating as a Great Dragon, he was still in excellent form. This form doubled his strength, which would make it effortless for him to defeat the rabbits.

He charged in and started beating up the Saber Rabbits. The rabbits fought back valiantly, but couldn't pierce through his scales. It only took him a minute and twelve seconds to defeat them all, obtaining an abundance of experience, gold, and materials in the process.

Having reached level 5, he was once again given three options to upgrade himself. The reward selection was noticeably better this time.

[1: Unlock 2% Strength]

[2: Upgrade Black Dragonification]

[3: Special Equipment: Slaughter Knife]

Han Wu carefully considered the latter two options. Upgrading the Black Dragonification granted him the Black Dragon King Transformation and would triple his power while transformed. It was extremely tempting.

However, after checking the stats for Slaughter Knife, he discovered that it could unlock 1% of his strength after killing 100 life forms with it. Han Wu's eyes lit up with glee.

Strength was the basis of everything. Even a 1% increase had a notable effect on his abilities. Thus, he chose to abandon the second option in favor of a strong foundation.

Despite not having an equipment slot yet, Han Wu decisively chose Slaughter Knife. With the special equipment ready to go, Han Wu's desire to level up only grew more fervent, prompting him to venture ever deeper into enemy territory.

Outside the challenge grounds, the livestream displayed the conditions inside the competition venue. The spectators held their breath as they saw Han Wu rashly enter the enemy's territory.

The top-down view of the match showed Carnage and Warmaster lying in wait ahead of Han Wu, as if aware that he would appear on their path.

The livestream became flooded with comments crying "rigged" to express their opposition.

"Everyone, don't worry. Warmaster and Carnage aren't there because it's rigged, nor is it a coincidence," Qiu Yun hastily explained. "It's because the Divine River Civilization's team has a powerful sensory-type warrior. His title is Oracle. You can see that the first ability he selected is called All-seeing. This ability allows him to view the entire field from above. That's why Warmaster and Carnage know to wait for Han Wu there."

Qiu Yun's commentary cleared up most of the spectators' doubts, and the comments saying "rigged" in the chat rapidly disappeared.

"Doesn't that mean Han Wu is in great danger right now?" Yu Meng exclaimed in alarm.

That single sentence tugged at the hearts of many audience members watching the livestream.

"Who is this Han Wu that Yu Meng cares so much about? I'm going to look him up."

Thirty seconds later, this guy posted another comment. "I'm an idiot to even dare question the ability of our Boss Han Wu. He's too overpowered!"

"He's a second year, but he's not only ascended as a Major God, but also the owner of the Blood Coliseum?! Is this real?"

"I feel like my university education was a waste. Stupid principal, give me a refund!"

Han Wu's achievements left the commenters and audience members in shock.

Even so, that didn't change the fact that he was walking steadily into Warmaster and Carnage's trap.

Everyone, including the emcees, had their eyes fixed firmly on the screen.

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

Chapter 627 - Jia Gui, the God of Dragging People Down

[1,099 words]

Chapter 627 - Jia Gui, the God of Dragging People Down

The only thing on Han Wu's mind was leveling up. He wanted to equip the Slaughter Knife as soon as possible.

Once he had it equipped, he wouldn't have to waste precious levels on unlocking his strength anymore. Killing the beasts in another nest brought Han Wu's experience bar to 20% from leveling up.

“I just need to level up again,” Han Wu muttered, approaching a bush that was as tall as a person.

Everyone watching the livestream tensed. They could see that Warmaster and Carnage were hiding in that very bush.

If Han Wu neared it unawares, he would undoubtedly suffer a devastating ambush. He could even be killed. Would this be the downfall of this famous genius?

Even the referees stared intently at the screen, wondering if they were about to call out first blood. Inside the challenge grounds, Han Wu calmly walked toward the bush, but as he was about to enter Warmaster and Carnage’s attack range, he abruptly stopped.

Warmaster and Carnage stiffened. Had Han Wu discovered them? If he had, why didn’t he attack? As the pair were about to strike, Han Wu suddenly retreated, vanishing from view in the blink of an eye.

The pair wore the same baffled expression as the viewers in the livestream.

Why did Han Wu run away? What exactly was going on? Had he discovered Warmaster and Carnage or not? Even Qiu Yun couldn’t figure it out. This was the first time in over a thousand matches that he had encountered such a situation.

“Look, there’s a problem with Commerce and Jia Gui!” Yu Meng suddenly exclaimed.

The camera immediately switched to the duo in question. A level 9 Vine Demon had tied up Commerce and Jia Gui. The locust following them had perished. The two of them barely qualified as competitors, with only high defense and HP to their names.

The Vine Demon repeatedly whipped their bound and suspended forms, leaving them lacerated and bleeding. If this continued, the two would meet their end. Left with no other choice, Commerce requested help in the group chat. After checking the map, Han Wu realized that he was the closest, so he rushed back to assist.

A wave of relief washed over the viewers. Commerce and Jia Gui’s call for help had been well-timed. If they had been even a second later, Han Wu would’ve been the one sending a distress signal. Still, it was embarrassing for a measly Vine Demon to bind a God King and a World life form.

Some of the more attentive viewers were calculating the contributions of the Divine Civilization’s team. Xu Hai had led the locusts to clear fifteen nests in the top lane. The Origin of Mutation cleared forty-two nests in the middle lane with its mutated locusts.

Han Wu had cleared a total of eighteen nests in the jungle, twelve of which were in enemy territory. Meanwhile, Commerce and Jia Gui cleared a mere nine nests combined despite bringing 40% of the locusts with them.

The viewers couldn't help but wonder, *When did God Kings and World life forms become this pathetic?*

Commerce was at least redeemable for reaching level 4, having led the charge in every battle. Jia Gui, on the other hand, only stood at the back and cheered. As a result, he was only level 2, making him dead last among all the participants in the match.

Even the new beasts spawning from the nests were higher level than him. While level wasn't everything, it still accounted for 90% of an individual's strength, with the remaining 10% depending on their initial abilities.

Yu Meng then checked the ability that Jia Gui had initially chosen. It was called Windrun and doubled one's speed when escaping. Despite this, Jia Gui still failed to flee from the Vine Demon. It was a useless ability!

Even Qiu Yun couldn't help but comment, "If I weren't certain that Jia Gui was personally selected for your Divine Civilization's team, I'd suspect that he was a spy from our civilization."

As soon as he said that, the livestream exploded with a flurry of comments.

"He might as well be a spy with this performance."

"Jia Gui, just admit you're a spy. We'd feel better about it."

"This is basically six against four. How are we supposed to win? Just surrender!"

Inside the challenge ground, Han Wu had arrived on site. Activating his True Demon King Transformation, he tore apart the level 9 Vine Demon, rescuing Commerce and Jia Gui.

Han Wu didn't even entertain the thought that Jia Gui was a spy. While they hadn't interacted much, their few encounters were enough for Han Wu to believe that Jia Gui was just genuinely terrible. In fact, he was already regretting not going with Umbral Mouse instead. A hard support would've been better than a total liability, but it was too late to change his mind at this point.

"Jia Gui, why don't you just guard the high ground and not leave the fountain?" Han Wu suggested, suppressing his anger.

"No, I took the money, so how can I slack off?" Jia Gui objected. "I, Jia Gui, have never done anything half-hearted!"

The viewers watching the livestream couldn't hold it in anymore. They flooded the chat with their comments.

“I’m begging you, Jia Gui, please just slack off. At least we’ll lose more slowly.”

“He really... I’m crying. Dragging down teammates this confidently is truly impressive.”

“He actually received payment for this? Give me the money instead! I’ll show him who’s stronger!”

Jia Gui’s behavior left Yu Meng speechless. While technically dedicated, he was undoubtedly dragging the team down, all while boldly spouting that he never slacked off.

After three long seconds of silence, she could only squeeze out a few consolatory words. “Senior Jia Gui... Well, I guess his mentality is pretty good.”

Inside the challenge ground, Han Wu almost transformed into a black dragon and sacrificed a teammate. After much persuasion from Commerce, Han Wu finally suppressed his anger and turned to pick up the Vine Demon’s drops.

The Vine Demon dropped two types of materials: the Vine Whip, used to craft weapons and equipment like belts, and the Level Crystal, used to raise the level of their base crystal.

Fortunately, killing the Vine Demon had also filled Han Wu’s experience bar, allowing him to reach level 6. Unlike before, he didn’t unlock his strength but decisively opted for an equipment slot.

Han Wu would grow rapidly now that he had the Slaughter Knife equipped.

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Chapter 628 - Summoning a Thousand Units

[1,084 words]

Chapter 628 - Summoning a Thousand Units

Back in the plaza, Han Wu tossed the Level Crystal into their base crystal, increasing its energy and propelling it to level 2.

Two upgrade options appeared before him. The first was to increase the number of summoned locusts fivefold, an option reserved for mass units. The second was to improve the quality of the locusts, taking the elite units route.

As the Origin of Mutation had Controlled Mutation, which it could use to mutate level 1 locusts into level 4, having more locusts would be undeniably more helpful for plundering resources.

Thus, Han Wu chose the first option. He also placed all the materials he had collected during his expedition beside the crystal. Carrying them around was pointless when he didn't have the extra equipment slots for weapons.

Commerce had teleported back with Han Wu, and upon spotting the materials, asked seriously, "Can I have these?"

Han Wu glanced at him in silent question.

Coughing, Commerce quietly explained, "My initial ability is Wealth Accumulation. Everything on my person can be counted as an asset."

Han Wu immediately understood. Commerce's Divine Ring allowed him to spend assets to enhance his own strength. The strength of this ability was highly dependent on the number of assets Commerce had. Naturally, the God King wanted to claim these materials as part of his accumulation of wealth.

Han Wu nodded. At that moment, an asset value appeared above Commerce's head. Commerce had purposely revealed it to him. The value had doubled with the claiming of Han Wu's materials. A higher number would give Commerce a greater increase in combat power when he activated his Divine Ring's ability.

Jia Gui had also teleported back with them, and seeing Commerce obtain so many things for nothing, mumbled enviously, "I'd like some materials too..."

"Scram!" Han Wu barked.

"Alright then." Jia Gui retreated to the sidelines.

The longer Han Wu looked at Jia Gui, the angrier he grew. If his rage continued to swell, he would actually sacrifice Jia Gui to his Slaughter Knife. Forcing himself to ignore Jia Gui, he headed toward the bottom lane.

Han Wu rapidly cleared the beast nests in the bottom lane, and Slaughter Knife quickly received its first upgrade, unlocking 4% of Han Wu's strength. He also soon reached level 7. This time, he didn't use his new upgrade chance, instead saving it to upgrade his Black Dragonification to Black Dragon King Transformation.

The Divine Civilization's players worked hard to level up; the Super Genewarriors from the Divine River Civilization weren't slacking off either.

After failing to ambush Han Wu, Warmaster and Carnage headed to the top and middle lanes, respectively. Meanwhile, Torrent led the soldiers from their base crystal to the bottom lane.

Under the guidance of Oracle in the plaza, the three slaughtered beasts at a rapid pace. Their summoned soldiers also rapidly leveled up. Once they had enough high-level soldiers, they would launch a great assault against the Divine Civilization's team. The Super Genewarriors wanted to show them the consequences of provoking the Divine River Civilization.

As the four of them carried out their duty, a little girl doodled on the plaza ground rather than leveling up. In reality, she was a 35-year-old woman with a younger appearance. Though outwardly looking as if she were playing around, she was actually drawing the summoning array for a thousand troops, making use of whatever materials she could find to do so.

After carefully inspecting her finished work, she chanted, "Goblins, loyal to me, answer the call of Selene and descend onto this world!"

The space around her summoning array warped as goblins appeared one after another. There was a veritable army of them—a thousand to be exact—all Heroic life forms. After completing the summoning, Selene returned to the fountain to recover her energy before preparing for the next wave.

Under Oracle's command, the goblins charged towards the top lane, the one weakest in defense for the Divine Civilization.

A thousand goblins charged forward. That number of enemies was enough to make people tremble with fear.

Xu Hai, responsible for the top lane, took one look at the goblin army before decisively calling for help in the group chat. He knew he couldn't deal with it alone.

The Origin of Mutation was the closest to him and swiftly sent over a hundred level 4 locusts in response. The locusts attacked the goblins like a dagger through flesh, prompting a huge battle between both sides.

The locusts had an aerial advantage due to their ability to fly and had saliva with extremely corrosive properties that could eat away at the goblins upon contact.

However, Selene's Heroic goblins were no pushovers either. As forest-dwellers, they were also skilled at stone throwing. Grabbing stones from the ground, they launched them at the level 4 locusts above, striking their weak points with great accuracy and dealing considerable damage.

Even so, it appeared the locusts' corrosive spit was even more destructive, enough to make up for the enormous difference in numbers between the two armies.

There were massive casualties on both sides. The goblins lost half of their army. The locusts also suffered heavy losses. Neither side gained any advantage.

Divine River Civilization's first invasion failed. Nevertheless, the goblins had killed quite a few level 4 locusts, which had granted their team significant gold and experience.

Warmaster hid among the goblin army, fighting alongside them, and his level swiftly rose to level 9. With his Obsidrum equipment, which allowed him to equip a complete set of armor and a battle axe forged from Obsidrum from the start, he also had the early game advantage.

Investing all his upgrades into his strength meant Warmaster had unlocked 10% of his strength at level 9.

Once my strength is completely unlocked, I can defeat all of them, he thought to himself, gripping his Obsidrum battle axe. Deciding to play it safe, he continued marching down, hunting all the beasts he encountered.

Meanwhile, Han Wu had also noted the message stating that there were 1000 Heroic goblins attacking and saw that the Origin of Mutation had saved the day. The mutated locusts killed the goblins, but they had also suffered heavy losses in the process.

Han Wu's heart ached. That was over a thousand life forms! If he had killed them with his Slaughter Knife, he would've unlocked 10% of his strength. Unfortunately, he was too far away to assist. He couldn't wait for the next wave of goblins.

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[1,037 words]

Chapter 629 - Slot Machine

Back in the livestream, everyone saw how Han Wu's team secured the victory against the goblin army and felt baffled. The reaction made sense. After all, the Divine River Civilization had been competing masterfully, while the Divine Civilization had been stumbling repeatedly. Between the two, most viewers had expected the Divine River Civilization to win.

Meanwhile, Han Wu focused on clearing the beasts and quickly reached Level 10. He automatically unlocked a Power Slot and received three level-up options.

The Power Slot allowed him to equip another Divine Power, so that didn't need explanation. What surprised him were the three options, each far better than expected.

[1: Unlock 5% Strength]

[2: Unlock 1 Divine Aspect]

[3: Unlock Special Equipment: Giant Belt]

The first option was straightforward and powerful. It would boost his strength significantly, but he dismissed it. He already possessed the Slaughter Knife and could unlock his strength gradually. He saw no reason to waste the chance to unlock his strength right now.

The second option was more versatile. He had eight Divine Aspects, each formidable. Any one of them could serve as the core Divine Aspect of another God.

The third option drew his attention because of the equipment's effect. Thus, he checked the Giant Belt's data.

[Giant Belt: Once equipped, increases HP by 200% and accumulates points from killing beasts. Upon reaching 100 points, the wearer can become a giant, with all stats increased by 400%.]

Han Wu hesitated, then chose to forego it. Both effects were good, but they overlapped too much with his existing abilities. He already had the True Demon King Transformation, which scaled with his level. At Level 10, the transformation increased his stats by 1,000%.

Then there was Black Dragonification, which allowed him to transform into a black dragon, boosting all parameters by 500% while granting him dragon breath and flight. Black Dragonification alone surpassed the Giant Belt, so there was no need to take it.

In the end, he chose to unlock one of his Divine Aspects. He had eight in total: Death, Darkness, Destruction, War, Life, Light, Creation, and Peace. He could choose any of them, but death was abundant here, so he selected the Death Aspect.

After unlocking it, his vision changed. Strange wisps of white smoke drifted in every direction. This was Death Energy. When he drew closer, he realized that he could absorb it naturally. At the same time, an interface appeared before him.

[2/1,000]

It displayed the amount of Death Energy that he could absorb. If it reached 1,000, he would obtain some special powers, though their nature remained unknown.

Back in the Divine Civilization's plaza, Commerce and Jia Gui were guarding the crystal. The locusts had killed many beasts, earning them a large amount of gold and experience points.

Commerce had reached Level 5. It was a special threshold because it granted better options. Commerce chose the special equipment Slot Machine. It wasn't an offensive tool and contained three cylinders. Each cylinder displayed four different patterns: Blank, Unlock Strength, Ability Slot, and Equipment Slot.

One could insert one gold to play the Slot Machine once. If all cylinders stopped at the same pattern, the user would gain the corresponding reward. Commerce calculated the probability and concluded that there were three winning combinations out of sixty-four.

As long as one's luck wasn't terrible, they could expect three wins for every 64 gold spent. It seemed like a guaranteed profit. Clearing a single beast nest yielded at least 50 gold.

Commerce notified everyone, and the three members clearing the nests were shocked. After all, they had found a way to grow stronger even faster. All they needed was to spend gold.

Since they also needed to guard their territory, they returned one by one to use it. The remaining members held their positions to prevent the Divine River Civilization's team from attacking.

As the team's core, the Origin of Mutation returned to the fountain to recover and use the Slot Machine. It had killed countless beasts and accumulated 13,000 gold. After spending 8,000 on forging equipment, it still had around 5,000 left. Even so, this far exceeded what Commerce and Jia Gui had earned.

Commerce watched as the Origin of Mutation spent its gold, playing several thousand times. The supposed 3-in-64 probability proved false. Out of 5,372 attempts, the Origin of Mutation won only four times.

The Origin of Mutation almost smashed the machine in rage. It had burned through all its gold and expectations! It left, grumbling under its breath.

Soon, it was Xu Hai and Han Wu's turn. They assumed that the Origin of Mutation had simply been unlucky and trusted their own luck.

They were wrong. Han Wu spent 4,800 gold and won three times, giving him a win rate of roughly 1 in 1600. Xu Hai spent 5,700 gold and won four times, with a rate of about 1 in 1,425. Had Commerce not been their ally, they would have suspected him of rigging the machine.

Commerce was speechless too. The Slot Machine hadn't behaved as his calculations predicted, and he started to doubt his own math. They could have forged more equipment with that gold. Instead, it had been largely wasted.

Commerce was about to stow it away when Jia Gui decided to test his luck. "Should I try?"

Because he was too weak, Han Wu had asked him to stay at the fountain. Hence, he was only Level 3 and possessed little gold. He had just 1,300, all earned from the shared loot provided by the locusts.

Commerce looked at his old friend and nodded. *Might as well let him try. Not that it could get any worse.*

Jia Gui was excited and placed gold.

Ding!

He won and received an Ability Slot.

Commerce froze. Jia Gui won on his first attempt. He thought it was a fluke and motioned for Jia Gui to continue.

Jia Gui failed until the seventh try, when he won again and unlocked 1% strength.

Commerce was stunned, while Jia Gui saw hope and decided to spend all of his gold.

"I'm all in!" He laughed like a maniac as he fed all of his remaining gold into the Slot Machine.

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[1,123 words]

Chapter 630 - Plan B

Opportunities to turn one's life around rarely came more than once in one's entire lifetime. Jia Gui understood how precious this one was, and he decided to stake everything on it. He would prove that he wasn't a burden to his team.

The Slot Machine kept chiming as he won repeatedly. Notifications flooded in until Commerce tuned them out. The winning odds had been abysmal, yet Jia Gui continued to hit winning results.

Is the system skewed to favor the weak? Commence wondered.

Jia Gui emptied his gold reserves and unlocked 52% of his strength, 45 Ability Slots, and 41 Equipment Slots. He was now several hundred times stronger and the strongest member of the team.

“Xiu Lian, can you forge a pair of boots that increase my speed? I will run to their side, smash their crystal, and be back before you know it.” Jia Gui chuckled, his confidence finally justified.

The livestream erupted.

“Has everything changed? Did he save the world in a past life?”

“Jia Gui is my idol from now on!”

“He couldn’t do anything, and now he’s dominating. This is insane!”

“He turned the tide. Go, Senior Jia Gui!”

The two emcees fell silent. Several seconds passed before they recovered. They had witnessed various winning strategies: swarm tactics, precision sniping, even suicidal detonations that traded one life for three.

All of them could be replicated, except this one. The new tactic that relied entirely on luck and reckless gambling. Obtaining the special equipment Slot Machine was already rare, and replicating Jia Gui’s outrageous streak of fortune was even less likely.

Qiu Yun finally managed a single sentence. “I suppose nothing in this world is fixed.”

Yu Meng nodded. “Agreed.”

Jia Gui’s explosive growth made the other three realize that they had a rare opportunity to end the match swiftly. They gathered every material they possessed at the plaza and commissioned Commerce to forge the equipment.

With abundant resources at his disposal, he forged a lot of equipment. At Jia Gui’s request, he produced twenty-one pairs of speed-enhancing boots.

Once Jia Gui equipped them all, he became a blur.

“Alright, wait for my good news!” he called, then sprinted alone toward the enemies’ territory.

Commerce waved him off, then glanced at the Slot Machine. If Jia Gui could do it, why not him? He was the Slot Machine’s owner. With a bit of luck, he could become the

second Jia Gui. If that happened, victory would be certain. He could even demand a greater reward from Han Wu later.

He decided to bet on it. He scratched his white hair and tossed 10 gold into the Slot Machine to test his luck.

The machine spun and displayed the results for everyone to see. The viewers leaned in, their reactions mixed with anticipation and dread. The good news: three identical markings. The bad news: all Blank.

No one could tell if he was unlucky or not. The same result occurred all ten times, and Commerce almost died of frustration.

Li Xiulian, the Commerce God King, had traveled and traded across thousands of worlds. This was the stupidest slot machine he had ever encountered, and it belonged to him!

“I will break you if you don’t let me win!” he barked.

After issuing his threat, he placed another unit of gold. This time, it responded. The first cylinder stopped on the pattern that unlocked 1% of his strength. The second landed on the same symbol. The third cylinder slowed, ticking toward a stop.

Commerce readied himself for his reward. The third cylinder clicked into place on the same pattern. Then the entire Slot Machine exploded, and the blast hurled Commerce backward!

Laughter erupted across the livestream. The viewers sympathized, but they laughed all the same.

“What just happened? Did it destroy itself? Don’t tell me the Slot Machine came from the Commerce God King’s rival.”

“The Slot Machine’s explosion was only ten percent funny. Watching the Commerce God King go flying was one million percent funnier.”

“The Slot Machine made it clear that it would only accept ten rolls at a time.”

The explosion left Commerce physically unharmed but deeply shaken. The blast scarred his mind, and he would need time to recover.

The Divine Civilization is progressing smoothly. Oracle of the Divine River Civilization observed Jia Gui’s upgrades and the Slot Machine’s explosion in full detail. His title was no exaggeration. He truly was the Divine River Civilization’s foremost sensory-type Super Genesoldier.

“One of them has grown considerably stronger. If this continues, we may lose,” he warned his teammates.

As the team leader, Torrent decided to proceed with Plan B. Both Carnage and Selene agreed.

For the first time since the battle started, Oracle left his position and moved to the middle lane, while Carnage ran back to the plaza. Selene had already prepared the second summoning array to summon another 1,000 goblins.

This time, however, they weren't sent to attack. They were Carnage's fuel. He slaughtered them all, and his power swelled as their broken corpses piled at his feet. When the last of them fell, he signaled for Selene to continue.

She summoned another 1,000, and Carnage cut them down without pause, growing stronger with each kill.

Meanwhile, Jia Gui reached the enemy side thanks to his twenty-one pairs of boots. With that much equipment, he had indeed become the fastest among them.

“*Hehe*, I can already taste my victory. I'm coming!” Jia Gui shouted gleefully as he crossed into the Divine River Civilization's plaza.

He suddenly stopped when he saw the crystal floating above a huge pile of corpses. Blood and viscera soaked the ground. Carnage stood atop the pile of corpses, radiating a suffocating bloodlust. His eyes were sharp like blades.

Jia Gui's legs nearly gave out. He had a feeling that he would die the moment he got close. However, if he didn't approach, how could he destroy the crystal? He didn't know what to do.

Carnage suddenly raised his blade and descended from the pile of corpses measured steps. Each footfall stirred the reek of blood, thickening the air.

The pressure broke Jia Gui's composure. He lost control of his bladder, then turned and fled. Windrun showed its value here as he moved with explosive speed.

By the time Carnage's blade had fully risen, Jia Gui had already disappeared from sight.

The livestream audience struggled to comprehend what they had just witnessed. Several seconds passed before someone commented.

“Wait, that's it?”

“I thought I saw Senior Jia Gui. That had to be a dream.”

“You aren’t dreaming. He showed up and left a puddle of piss to prove it.”

“A weakling remains a weakling even after ascending into a God...”

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