The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 721 - You Have a Bottom Line?

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 721 - You Have a Bottom Line?

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After sending a message to Sun Qingnian via the locust, Han Wu felt disgusted to the bone.

When Qin Shuang asked why, he found himself at a loss for words for the first time. Still, he reckoned that she would discover the truth sooner or later, so he told her as plainly as possible that Sun Qingnian was most likely freeloading off a nine-year-old girl.

Qin Shuang was appalled. She had tolerated Sun Qingnian mooching off an eighty-year-old woman, but this was beyond her limit. To think he would target someone so young. To think he would latch onto any female, regardless of age.

The two fell silent until Sun Qingnian came running out, still carrying his wife on his back. More than twenty guards followed behind them.

“Han Wu, Qin Shuang, you are finally here!” Sun Qingnian called, beaming.

Han Wu glanced at his wife and sighed in heavy disappointment. Meanwhile, Qin Shuang shot him a look of pure disgust.

Sun Qingnian introduced them. “This is my wife, the daughter of Everlight City’s city lord, Jin Tuantuan.”

He then turned to her. “These two are my best friends, Han Wu and Qin Shuang. They are also a couple.”

Jin Tuantuan hopped down and bowed elegantly. “My husband has told me about his two sworn allies and friends. It’s an honor to meet you both today. Just like he said, you two really look good together.”

Qin Shuang looked at her with pity, then glared at Sun Qingnian, as if he were something less than human.

Sensing their thoughts, Sun Qingnian hurried to explain, “Wait, you guys are misunderstanding something. Tuantuan is already eighteen this year. She’s of marriageable age!”

Han Wu frowned. Tuantuan barely reached 1.2 meters in height, and her cute face was still plump and soft.

“You are telling me that she's actually eighteen?” Han Wu blurted.

“She’s eighteen! I’m telling the truth!” Sun Qingnian insisted.

Jin Tuantuan explained, “I am indeed eighteen. My condition is due to an unfortunate side effect from cultivating a special technique. I can no longer age. Thankfully, my husband doesn’t resent me and is willing to accept me.”

Han Wu and Qin Shuang’s disdain eased slightly, though it still left an unpleasant aftertaste.

Sun Qingnian eagerly ushered them into the vast and tastefully decorated mansion. Ribbons and lights filled the space, and everyone wore smiles, laughing in joy.

Sun Qingnian spoke with obvious delight. “My father-in-law had told me that once I married Tuantuan, he would support me with all his power in the contest for the legendary Armament Spirit. Han Wu, you’d better work hard, or you won’t even qualify as my rival.”

Han Wu remained cautious. “Are you sure you want to get married here? How about Ms. Shi Shan? How do you plan to explain this to her?”

Sun Qingnian patted his chest proudly. “I’ll explain everything to her once my baby fully recovers. I’ll tell her that I treasure Tuantuan and that I am sincere about marrying her.”

Qin Shuang was not pleased with his answer. “And Shi Shan? Are you going to break up with her?”

“Why should I?” Sun Qingnian replied. “Our love is real, so why can’t we stay together?”

Han Wu was momentarily rendered speechless. “Do you really think Ms. Shi Shan will agree? She’s the bloody Blazing Warrior God. She’ll burn you alive!”

Sun Qingnian shrugged. “Even if my baby burns me, I’ll still insist that Tuantuan has a place by my side. That’s my bottom line as a man.”

“Since when did you have a bottom line?” Qin Shuang scoffed. “What a playboy.”

Jin Tuantuan, however, disagreed. “I will not let Big Sister Shi Shan burn my husband. If I can’t be the legal wife, I’m more than happy to be his mistress.”

Han Wu and Qin Shuang wondered whether the world had gone mad or if they had. They had only entered the Divine Weapon Civilization a few dozen days ago. How had Sun Qingnian managed to win over Jin Tuantuan in such a short time?

Moreover, judging by the scale of the celebration, the city lord had already approved their marriage. In other words, in just ten days or so, Sun Qingnian had secured not only a wife but also his father-in-law’s support.

Han Wu secretly gave Sun Qingnian a thumbs up. In a twisted sense, Sun Qingnian was remarkable. He even considered proposing that Imperial College establish a course taught by Sun Qingnian on cultivating charisma and mastering the art of freeloading in foreign civilizations. If such methods worked, there wouldn’t be a need for invasions. They could marry and bring the various civilizations’ powerful experts back to the Divine Civilization. Their civilization would be rich!

Sun Qingnian has shown me a brand-new path to conquer the universe. While Han Wu was still lost in thought, Sun Qingnian led them to a room to rest.

Once the guards and Jin Tuantuan were gone, Sun Qingnian’s composure collapsed, panic setting in. “Han Wu, you must help me!”

Han Wu chuckled. *You acted unfazed in front of her, and now you ask for my help only after everyone has gone.*

Since they were friends, he decided to help him a little. “Don’t worry. Once we return to the Divine Civilization, if Ms. Shi Shan truly intends to burn you, I’ll step in and save you.”

Sun Qingnian shook his head. “I’m not worried about that. It’s something else entirely. I’ve promised my father-in-law that I would lead Everlight City to obtain first place during the contest to obtain the legendary Armament Spirit.

“But you know that I don’t have the ability to do so! I need your help. Join my team and help me win in the contest. Don’t worry, my father-in-law only wants the prestige. You can take the legendary Armament Spirit yourself since you will be the one who claims it. He won’t stop you at all.”

Han Wu had already considered doing this, even without Sun Qingnian asking. The real question now was whether he would help Sun Qingnian and align himself with Everlight City.

“Before I agree. I want to understand something. What are Everlight City’s chances of winning without me?” Han Wu asked.

"Not even 1%," Sun Qingnian answered awkwardly.

Everlight City was one of the four major cities beneath Divine Weapon City. The other three were Wushuang City, Lingxiao City, and Wanyao City. Even though the four cities were technically equal in name, Everlight City usually ranked last in overall strength.

If they failed to achieve anything notable this time, they would be removed from the rankings. Once that happened, Everlight City would descend in turmoil, with every noble fighting for themselves. The Jin family of Everlight City would also perish.

Thus, the city lord’s decision to marry his daughter to an outsider was a Hail Mary. If Sun Qingnian actually succeeded in leading Everlight City to obtain the legendary Armament Spirit, the Jin family would only lose their daughter in exchange for ten years of development and success. It would be a huge gain.

However, if Sun Qingnian lost, the city lord would allow Jin Tuantuan to leave the Divine Weapon Civilization with Sun Qingnian. In that way, she would avoid assassination attempts from the other noble houses and preserve a lineage for the Jin family.

Sun Qingnian’s father-in-law had considered everything before agreeing to the marriage. Naturally, Han Wu wasn’t privy to any of this.

After displaying his Divine Weapons, Han Wu asked, “What if I join? What do you think our chances of winning would be?”

Sun Qingnian thought it over and answered, “At least 2%.”

Han Wu rolled his eyes. “Then we might as well give up.”

Even with him on the team, the chances had only increased by 1%.

“Wait, no. Han Wu, if you don’t help me, no one will. I only calculated the chances of you joining alone. If you use your reputation to rally others from our civilization to join us, our chances will increase.”

“Let me think about it.” Han Wu didn't give an immediate answer. He had no idea who would be willing to join him based on his reputation alone, nor how the city lord would treat outsiders like them.

Still, this was the best answer Sun Qingnian could hope for, and it was the one he wanted.

“Han Wu, please consider this carefully. I will ask my father-in-law to provide you with the best reception and resources.” Sun Qingnian spoke in a tone that suggested his words were meant not only to Han Wu, but for someone else hidden in the room.

: Chapter 722

Chapter 722 - Whose Aquadine?

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Jin Buhuan, the city lord, was reading a spy report in his study.

“Sun Qingnian’s friend said he would think about it?” Jin Buhuan asked the spy kneeling before him.

“Yes, city lord. Those were his exact words.”

“What a sly little fox,” Jin Buhuan remarked. “This Han Wu must be special for Qingnian to speak of him with so much favor. Send someone to check his strength tomorrow.”

“Yes!” The spy made no move to leave.

Confused, Jin Buhuan asked, “Is there anything else to report?”

The spy raised his head to stare directly at Jin Buhuan. “I have questions about this whole situation.”

Jin Buhuan frowned at the spy. This spy was the most loyal of his men and had served him for decades.

Sighing, he asked, “What kind of question?”

“Those outsiders. Can they be trusted? Young lady Jin Tuantuan is a pearl in your palms, yet she’s married to those savages. I simply cannot agree to it. Those outsiders are weak. I’m certain that any guard on my team can easily defeat them. How can we possibly rely on them to bring glory back to Everlight City?”

Jin Buhuan’s frown deepened. The spy was not only unconvinced and unwilling but also hid a blazing ambition to take either Han Wu’s or Sun Qingnian’s places beneath all of that emotion.

“I understand. You can test Han Wu’s ability on your own tomorrow. I will give you a proper explanation if you win. But if you lose, you’ll have to bear the consequences.”

The spy’s expression turned incredulous. Jin Buhuan was essentially asking him to bet with his life, but there was an undeniable opportunity buried under that threat. A chance to take Han Wu's or even Sun Qingnian’s place.

“I understand!” the spy answered before retreating from the study.

Jin Buhuan sighed. “Ten years... It’s time to rotate someone new into his position.”

Nothing happened that night, but the next day, the spy changed into a guard’s uniform and forcefully barged into the courtyard where Han Wu and Qin Shuang were staying.

“Search everywhere!” he shouted the moment he barged in. “Search even the ground itself. Dig up the entire place!”

The commotion startled Han Wu and Qin Shuang. Walking out of their room, Han Wu asked, “What’s happening?”

The spy eyed Han Wu closely. “A thief entered the mansion and stole something invaluable. A guard saw the thief escape into this courtyard. I’ve received orders to search this place. Please do not obstruct us from carrying out our duty!”

Han Wu was upset. The tone of the guard made it clear that they weren’t so much here to find a thief as to treat them as criminals! Having been awake all night cultivating his Black Mountain Scripture, Han Wu was certain that this so-called thief hadn’t entered this courtyard at all. He could sense everything around him while cultivating, and had heard no one entering this place.

At that moment, a guard came running over. “I found the Aquadine in their room. It matches the description of the item reported to be stolen from the mansion!”

“Someone, come and capture these two thieves!” the spy ordered.

When the guards moved, Han Wu shouted, “I want to see who here dares to touch us!”

Since these guards were trying to frame him, he felt no need to be polite. The worst-case scenario was that they would offend the entirety of Everlight City, but as outsiders, this mattered little to Han Wu.

The spy scoffed. “The proof is here. You still want to add on to your crime by resisting arrest?"

Han Wu glanced over at the Aquadine that the guards had brought out. The room where he and Qin Shuang resided hadn’t had it before, but the guards had indeed taken it out of their room.

That could only mean someone had purposely planted it there to frame them. Luckily, Han Wu had a plan to counter this.

“Who said this was evidence?” Han Wu asked boldly. “Why are you taking my Aquadine?”

“Your Aquadine? This is the city lord’s Aquadine!” the spy shouted, having been the one to take it from the city lord’s vault in the first place.

“What do you mean it’s the city lord’s Aquadine? It’s mine,” Han Wu insisted, shifting his stance to snatch the Aquadine from the spy with the aid of the Freespirited Ape God. “You said that this is the city lord’s Aquadine? Do you have proof? If you can tell me the specific details of the Aquadine, I will admit that it’s the city lord’s.”

With that, Han Wu hid the Aquadine in his sleeves. Unbeknownst to those around him, he was secretly using his Small Locust Blade to quietly shave the Aquadine inside his sleeves.

Furious at Han Wu’s insolence, the spy rebuked, “And you dare call yourself innocent? Everyone here saw you take the Aquadine from my hands!”

“What do you mean?” Han Wu asked innocently. “I’m only taking back my Aquadine. If you think about it, you’re the real thief here, taking my Aquadine and claiming it as the city lord’s.”

Faced with Han Wu’s bewildering logic, the spy decided to stop wasting time and instead brandish his Divine Weapon.

“You want to play rough? Fine, let's see who’s afraid of who.” Han Wu smirked, summoning his twenty-one Small Locust Blades and surrounding the guards.

Han Wu chose not to kill them but instead directed the Small Locust Blades threateningly against the necks of the guards. If they moved, they would have their throats slit.

The spy was in shock. Han Wu’s control over the small blades was beyond belief. It was on a different level entirely. The spy felt as though he had brought a blade to a gun fight. Fearing for the guards’ lives, the spy stopped his act and called for Han Wu not to hurt anyone.

Han Wu scoffed. “You said that this Aquadine is the city lord’s. Do you have proof? If your description of the Aquadine is accurate, I will willingly surrender and get locked up.”

The spy had no choice but to describe the Aquadine's roughness, even detailing the associated ore growing from the back. Fortunately, he had inspected the Aquadine when he had taken it out of the vault, so he knew what it looked like.

Han Wu wagged his finger. "No, you're wrong. My Aquadine is triangular."

"Triangular? That's impossible! Do you really think I would be fooled by such an obvious lie?" the spy asked incredulously. The Aquadine had been in his hand not too long ago. How could he not know the shape?

Smiling widely, Han Wu revealed the Aquadine from his sleeve. It was clearly triangular.

"That—that's not my—not the city lord's Aquadine!" the spy shouted.

Han Wu chuckled. "Of course not. I already told you, it's mine!"

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Chapter 723 - What Does a Sieve Look Like?

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 723 - What Does a Sieve Look Like?

"Stop spouting nonsense and give back the city lord's Aquadine!" the spy shouted furiously, losing his composure. Aquadine was a precious ore. The punishment for losing it would be a heavy one.

"I already told you, I didn't take the city lord's Aquadine. In fact, it's the other way around. You're trying to take my Aquadine and claim it's the city lord's." Realization dawned on Han Wu's face. "*Oh,* I get it! You stole the city lord's Aquadine and planned to use mine as a substitute, so no one notices, right?"

The huge scandal was pinned back onto the spy, causing him to rage even more. He was supposed to be the one doing the framing and catching, but now he had turned into the thief instead.

"Stop telling lies and cooperate! Come with me to aid the investigation, or I'll kill you on the spot!" the spy threatened, no longer bothering with his facade.

Fighting and killing Han Wu was his best chance of replacing him in the upcoming contest, and rather than running around in circles, the spy decided to decisively deal with him right here and now.

The surrounding guards all brandished their weapons, following the spy's lead and threatening Han Wu, "Put down your weapon and do not resist!"

"Why so talkative if you want to kill me? Just come at me." Han Wu scoffed, his Small Locust Blades dancing tauntingly in the air.

The spy's bloodlust only grew at the sight of the flimsy little blades.

Even though the Small Locust Blades radiated the pressure of a God-grade Divine Weapon, the spy reined in his fear. After all, he had a God-grade Divine Weapon too. The spy roared, his blade releasing a God-grade pressure far stronger than the Small Locust Blades'.

"I'll show everyone here how weak outsiders are!" the spy shouted, charging forward.

Although Han Wu appeared to look down on him, he was actually taking the battle very seriously, willing the twenty-one Small Locust Blades to stab at the spy in unison.

The spy rapidly swung his blade around his body, halting the Small Locust Blades in their tracks. Seeing this, Han Wu willed the Small Locust Blades to attack again, except this time from varying angles.

"What are you guys waiting for? Take him down!" the spy shouted at the guards while protecting himself from the onslaught.

The other guards snapped out of it and attacked.

Han Wu grabbed another copy of his Small Locust Blade. This copy came from the effect Split, meaning it had the same properties and parameters as the original. That copy then also split into twenty-one copies of its own.

The unpredictable attacks threw the guards into chaos.

One smarter guard defended against the Small Locust Blades while slowly approaching Qin Shuang. Having noticed that Han Wu and Qin Shuang were together, he was hoping to stop Han Wu's attack by taking Qin Shuang hostage.

Han Wu noticed the guard's plan, but did nothing to stop it. The smart guard would realize the error of his ways very soon.

The guard was five meters away from Qin Shuang when he pounced. Already on guard against potential ambushes, Qin Shuang swiftly summoned her Fulther Blades and deflected the attack.

Then, summoning her Feather Dart, she pierced the guard with a flurry of them. With a flick of her finger, the Feather Darts discharged lightning at the same time, electrocuting the guard. His dying screams struck fear into his allies.

The spy raged when he saw the guard's charred remains. "How dare you kill my brother! I will kill you!"

No longer willing to hold back, he summoned his most powerful Divine Weapons: three God-grade blades. He then unleashed his three-blade arts against Han Wu's Small Locust Blades. Even a single blade had been enough for him to protect himself. Three meant he could defend and retaliate at the same time.

Han Wu also revealed his full strength, flicking out his Explosive Locust Blade to blast the spy backward. He then summoned the humanoid Locust-V.

The guards were in shock. They had never seen a humanoid Divine Weapon before.

"You rascal. I was just joking. Why did you lock me up for so long?" Locust-V grumbled after getting summoned.

"Stop joking around and turn him into a sieve."

Locust-V lit up. "Then I won't hold back."

With that, Locust-V turned both of its arms into six-barreled Gatlings, aimed them at the spy, and fired.

At first, the spy could still deflect the bullets using his three-blade arts, but once Locust-V changed its bullets to Armor Piercing Rounds, the spy started to fall back. The three God-grade blades also rapidly lost their durability.

Seeing this, Locust-V eagerly turned the Armor Piercing Rounds into Explosive Rounds, which peppered the spy in continuous blasts. The spy soon collapsed to the ground with heavy injuries. Locust-V approached, muzzle pointed at his chest.

"Spare me," begged the spy, conceding defeat.

Locust-V didn't care. "What does a sieve look like again? *Oh*! I remember now."

Unleashing several rounds, the spy was soon turned into a bloody sieve.

Locust-V gleefully absorbed the blood of the spy before turning to the other guards with blood-red eyes.

"Can I turn the rest into sieves as well?" it asked Han Wu.

“Go ahead.”

Locust-V laughed maniacally as it rained bullets onto the other guards. Having two arms meant it could shoot in two different directions at once. Many of the guards were hit and couldn’t escape.

Suddenly, a powerful pressure came from above and pinned Locust-V to the ground, putting an abrupt halt to the bloodbath. Han Wu looked up to see a dignified middle-aged man with golden robes walking toward him.

The surviving guards kneeled while enduring the pain of their wounds. “City lord!”

Jin Buhuan, the city lord of Everlight City, had arrived. He had been observing everything from a distance with the intention of intervening after the spy lost. Even so, he hadn’t expected Han Wu to summon a humanoid Divine Weapon.

As a city lord, Jin Buhuan naturally had access to more information than the others and instantly recognized that it was a God-grade Armament Spirit. This left him in shock at Han Wu’s strength.

After killing the spy, Locust-V started killing the other guards. When Jin Buhuan saw this, he knew he had to stop the unnecessary losses, which was why he chose that moment to appear.

Regardless of the slaughter, Han Wu’s strength caused Jin Buhuan to look upon him with newfound respect and appreciation. This had only confirmed that Han Wu was indeed the candidate he needed for the contest.

Chapter 724 - Everlight City’s Team

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“Friend of Qingnian, you are indeed as talented a warrior as he had described,” Jin Buhuan praised.

Then, glancing at the kneeling guards, he shouted, “You disgraceful lot. Get out!”

The guards hastily fled, dragging the corpses on the ground behind them.

Han Wu ignored Jin Buhuan’s praise. Everyone here was a sly old coot. There was no need to feel pleased about a superfluous act.

“I accidentally injured your guards. I hope you’ll forgive me,” Han Wu said, feigning an apologetic stance.

Jin Buhuan dared not call him out as he wanted Han Wu’s help. “I’ve heard about your courageous exploits from Qingnian. It seems you’re the savior that the heavens sent down to rescue us.

“Let’s skip the pleasantries for now. I’m here to officially invite you to join Everlight City’s faction, lead our city’s team, and retrieve the legendary Armament Spirit. Qingnian must’ve mentioned this to you before. If you let me know what you need, I will do my best to fulfill it.”

Han Wu had been waiting for this. His goal in the Divine Weapon Civilization was to obtain the Armament Spirit, and joining the Everlight City was likely the quickest way to achieve that.

“I have three conditions. If you agree to it, I will join Everlight City’s team.”

Jin Buhuan nodded. “State your conditions. What is it that you need?”

“Firstly, I need every single member in the team to listen to my command. I will kill those who refuse.”

Jin Buhuan carefully considered this, then said, “No problem. You have the qualifications to do so with your strength.”

“Secondly, I need an area to train. This is to increase the strength of both my team and me. I need Everlight City to find a suitable location, something like a hunting ground of sorts.”

Having anticipated this condition, Jin Buhuan readily agreed, “I’ve already found a place for you. There’s a zone called Nightglow Mountain, thirty kilometers out of Everlight City. There are plenty of mutated beasts there. They’re yours to hunt if you so wish.”

Pleased with the response, Han Wu outlined his third condition, “For my final condition, I want Everlight City to provide the materials needed to upgrade the Divine Weapons of my teammates.”

Jin Buhuan hesitated. If Han Wu had wanted Everlight City to provide the materials needed to upgrade his own Divine Weapons, Jin Buhuan would’ve been alright with it. However, agreeing to provide materials for his teammates was simply too vague.

The current team was small, but there was no saying how large it would grow. Every new addition was a number of Divine Weapons. Everlight City was rich, but it didn’t have infinite money.

“Young Han Wu, what about this? Everlight City can provide all of the materials needed to upgrade your Divine Weapons. As for your team, we’ll only provide enough to upgrade a single Divine Weapon for each member,” Jin Buhuan suggested. “I might be the city lord of Everlight City, but I cannot agree to such an expense on my own. I will need to discuss this with the other Jin family members as well.”

Han Wu understood his problems, but he also had to consider the benefits for him and his team. After a series of back-and-forth negotiations, the two eventually agreed that Everlight City would provide the materials to upgrade all of Han Wu’s, Qin Shuang’s, and Sun Qingnian’s Divine Weapons.

As for the possible newer members, Jin Buhuan promised that Everlight City would provide the materials needed to upgrade one Divine Weapon per member.

The two were satisfied with the arrangement, and Han Wu agreed to fight for Everlight City. Sun Qingnian was elated when he heard that his calculative father-in-law and his best friend had come to an amicable conclusion.

Thus, Han Wu, Qin Shuang, and Sun Qingnian became the core members of Everlight City’s team. There wasn’t much time left before the legendary Armament Spirit appeared, and Han Wu had to increase the team’s overall strength as quickly as possible.

For that, he prepared an expedition. The rest of the team were the children of the various noble households in Everlight City. Before they arrived, their families had already advised them not to go against Han Wu, as he held the authority to execute them without question.

But the children of the noble household were used to throwing their power around, and that advice went in one ear and out the other. They immediately assumed that their families were lying, so they wouldn’t do anything stupid.

Of these young nobles, Li Ruizhe was the worst, having been spoiled to the point of believing himself untouchable. When he heard an outsider would lead the team, he voiced the loudest complaints.

He refused to let an outsider have authority over him. So, he and his friends concocted a plan to embarrass Han Wu on the day of the expedition.

The day of the expedition soon arrived. Han Wu, Qin Shuang, Sun Qingnian, and Jin Tuantuan reached the rendezvous point on time but saw no one there. Seeing this, Sun Qingnian assumed that their message had stated the wrong location.

The four waited for an hour before the rest of the team members finally arrived.

“*Aiyo~*” Li Ruizhe crowed condescendingly. “You guys came here so early. Thanks for your hard work.”

The others laughed, refusing to give their team leader any respect. Han Wu simply looked at them with a smile. Those who knew him personally were aware that this seemingly pleasant smile actually foreboded a terrible fate for his opponents.

Jin Tuantuan wasn't close to Han Wu, but as he was her husband's best friend, she felt obliged to defend him.

"Do you know what time it is?" Jin Tuantuan scolded. "Why are you so late? Don't tell me you didn't know what time we were supposed to gather?"

The group became disgruntled at her reprimand. They knew what time they needed to be there, but Li Ruizhe had called for everyone to be late on purpose, so Han Wu knew his true place in the social hierarchy.

Their families were weaker than Li Ruizhe's, so none of them dared to disobey his orders. Li Ruizhe and his family held more power over them than an outsider after all.

"Jin Tuantuan, whose side are you on?" Li Ruizhe's tone turned mocking. "*Oh*, I just remembered that you married an outsider and are no longer a part of Everlight City."

While the Li household was weaker than the Jin household, the difference was minor. If Everlight City were truly kicked out of the ranking as one of the top four cities under Divine Weapon City, the Jin family would decline, allowing the Li family to swoop in and take over.

This was the reason Li Ruizhe dared to challenge Jin Tuantuan, the daughter of the city lord.

Jin Tuantuan fumed. "You—You're spouting nonsense!"

"You can't even grow any taller. Why don't you quickly head back to your husband's embrace and cry?" Li Ruizhe derided.

The pointed jab at her insecurity brought tears to her eyes. This excessive mockery also pissed off Sun Qingnian, but Han Wu stopped him from stepping forward.

"You're late," Han Wu said. "Give me a reason why."

"A reason? I can just make one up if you need one. My two chambermaids were servicing me late into the night yesterday, so I overslept. Is that a good enough reason?" Li Ruizhe asked, derision in every syllable.

His answer made the others behind him laugh.

Han Wu was practically beaming. "You overslept? That's not a proper reason for me."

“Who cares if it's proper or not. I overslept. That’s my answer. What will you do about it?” Li Ruizhe asked, slightly irked by Han Wu’s unrelenting smile.

“Since you like sleeping so much, you can sleep forever,” Han Wu said benevolently.

A flash of light flitted past Li Ruizhe’s throat, and a line of blood appeared. Li Ruizhe held his throat in disbelief. He never expected Han Wu to actually kill him.

His trachea had been severed. No matter how hard he gripped his throat, he simply couldn’t breathe. It didn’t take long for him to die from a mix of blood loss and asphyxiation.

Han Wu turned to the other latecomers. “Who else overslept?”

All of them shook their heads. Their families’ warnings belatedly echoed in their ears. It hadn’t been a threat or a lie to scare them at all! Han Wu truly held the authority to kill anyone who refused to obey him!

Chapter 725 - Overthrow the Jin Family

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Li Ruizhe’s death had successfully intimidated the group, so killing another was unnecessary. Still, he was furious at them for making him wait an hour for nothing. They had wasted his precious hour. He simply couldn’t let them off so easily.

Despite feeling this way, he remained undecided on the severity of the punishment. If he were too harsh and they were injured, it would affect the performance of the entire team during the contest. However, if he made it too light, they would just shrug it off.

In the end, he decided to leave the matter of punishing the group to Jin Tuantuan. She immediately came up with the brilliant idea to spank them. When the noble children heard her suggestion, they hastily requested Han Wu to punish them harshly instead.

Stripping their pants down to be spanked was simply too humiliating for the young masters to bear. Although it wouldn’t hurt them all that much physically, their egos would take a tremendous blow.

Unfortunately for them, Han Wu thought it was a great idea. Not only was it humiliating enough that they would remember the lesson, but he could also vent his anger through

spanking too. He decided to personally dish out the punishment and grabbed a willow twig to aid him in the endeavor.

By the time he was finished, the young masters' faces were redder than their butts, and the twig had been snapped in half. Once the punishment was over, he casually gauged their overall strength.

After that, he informed them of their next meeting time and location before allowing them to head back. Upon returning to their respective households, the young masters tearfully reported what they had endured to their parents.

That night, all the noble families besides the Jin family sent representatives to a secret meeting.

"He's just an outsider, yet he dares to kill the third young master of the Li family! He's too arrogant and ruthless. I suggest that we force the Jin family to hand him over to be punished. That way, we can avenge the third young master."

"That bastard caned my son's butt! Isn't that the same as caning my honor?"

"Jin Buhuan probably invited that outsider to cull the strength of our younger generation. We cannot keep him around any longer."

The representatives grew increasingly angry as they discussed, until eventually they had unwittingly outlined Han Wu's execution date. Only the representative of the Li family, who had actually lost their third young master, said nothing.

Unable to bear the humiliation, the others were on the verge of marching to Jin Buhuan's mansion and forcing him to cripple Han Wu so they could vent their anger.

"Everyone, please calm down and listen to me," the representative from the Li family finally said.

"Old Li, your family's child was killed. You should be the first in line for this hunt."

"Old Li, we aren't instigating anything, but if this had happened to me, I wouldn't be able to take it lying down. I would've gone and killed that bastard myself."

"Patriarch of the Li family, what are your thoughts? You should tell us."

The group stared expectantly at the Li family's patriarch.

"My son's death pains me greatly, but I also know that Han Wu could only act so wildly because of the city lord's support! As long as Jin Buhuan remains in power, we cannot do anything to avenge my son."

The others nodded in agreement. Even so, Jin Buhuan and his family had survived in Everlight City for many years. It would be incredibly difficult to take them down.

“I have a plan,” said Old Li. “I hope everyone can give their thoughts on it.”

He then explained his shockingly devious plan.

His idea was to have everyone continue to send their children to Han Wu’s so-called training, only to restrict them from joining the day of the contest itself. This would surely pull the rug directly underneath Jin Buhuan.

Everlight City would fall in rank, and the Jin family would be weakened. By then, the noble families could get rid of the Jin family once and for all. Everyone would get a piece of the pie.

“Are you sure that’s appropriate?” one representative asked hesitantly. “The Jin family has treated us well. Our main income is earned through fulfilling their labor requests.”

“Treated us well? Do you like being their slave? Have you considered that they think of you not as people but as dogs to do their bidding?” The Li patriarch sneered. “I know that your family has close ties with the Jin family, but have you not wondered why they pay you so little, even though you do so much? The Jin family looks down on you, and yet you’re defending them. Are you dumb?”

The other families murmured in agreement. They all had some form of collaborative agreement with the Jin family, but the Jin family did indeed treat them like disposable partners.

“Damn it! It’s time to overthrow them!”

“Yeah! The Jin family has drained us dry!”

“The Wang family will note down this grudge. The Jin family will pay!”

The flames of rebellion had been fanned. The Li patriarch’s smile grew with every furious remark. He could practically already see the Jin family’s downfall.

: Chapter 726

Chapter 726 - Working Together

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 726 - Working Together

Back in the Divine Civilization, Luo Yun, the representative of the College Alliance, was slowly analyzing the data on the screen. The representatives of the other colleges were also checking the data of their own students.

The Divine Civilization had sent 10,000 students into the Divine Weapon Civilization, but only 3298 remained. The Warfare College had the highest percentage of surviving students, with 84% still alive in the Divine Weapon Civilization.

The Imperial College and the Demonic Imperial College were ranked second and third, respectively, with 61% and 53% of their students remaining. The other colleges fared much worse. Some colleges had even lost all of their representatives.

“This batch appears to be doing well,” Luo Yun said. “The survival rate is higher than the previous time by 6%. It’s also remarkable that the Warfare College has a survival rate of 84%. That’s the highest we’ve ever recorded for a single college. If this persists till the end, the Warfare College’s application to be upgraded to a top-tier college will likely be approved.”

The Warfare College was indeed a powerful first-rate college, and had applied to be promoted to a top-tier college in hopes of attracting more excellent students and obtaining more resources.

Luo Yun’s praise left the representatives of the Imperial College and the Demonic Imperial College feeling threatened. It was one thing to have a weaker performance than the Warfare College, but it was another for them to become a top-tier college.

The cake for top-tier colleges was only so big, and having another top-tier college meant their slices would be reduced. The existing competition was already tough enough.

Worse still, the graduates of the Warfare College were all huge spenders. As they were knee-deep in invasion year-round, they were constantly trying to earn money to increase and upgrade their troops.

If the Warfare College became a top-tier college, both the Imperial College and the Demonic Imperial College would see a dramatic reduction in their allocated resources. The Imperial College and the Demonic Imperial College simply couldn’t allow the Warfare College to climb the ranks.

Even so, there was nothing they could do to change the situation. It wasn’t like they could simply jump into the Divine Weapon Civilization and kill the avatars of everyone from the Warfare College. Not to mention, the College Alliance wouldn’t allow it even if they could.

“Rather than fighting each other, why don’t we improve our own strength?” Xu Hai proposed. “If we can maintain this survival rate, we could win. I believe that the Warfare College’s high survival rate can be attributed to their tactic of working together. We should learn from them.”

The representative from the Demonic Imperial College nodded. “In that case, we should use our single-use authority to send a message to our students.”

Xu Hai nodded, but before they did, they needed to find a locus for the other students to congregate. After mulling it over, he turned to Luo Yun for a favor. “I would like to request a chance to check the data for the student Han Wu, from Imperial College.”

Luo Yun approved his request, and Han Wu’s information soon appeared in Xu Hai’s hands. Reading the report, he nodded with approval. Han Wu had not let him down. Not only was he developing well, but he had also gathered several students to work with him and had solidified his standing in Everlight City.

After confirming his information, Xu Hai used his single-use authority to send a message to every student from the Imperial College within the Divine Weapon Civilization.

“To all surviving students, please pay attention. Please head to Everlight City and meet with Han Wu. This is to bolster the survival chances of each individual student. Remember, do not fight amongst yourselves, and do not jeopardize the interests of the group.”

The representative of the Demonic Imperial College also applied to inspect the data of a student. However, unlike the Imperial College, the fourth-year valedictorian of the Demonic Imperial College hadn’t grown as strong as expected.

The said valedictorian was holed up in a small city to slowly gather strength. They simply didn’t have the strength to lead the surviving Demonic Imperial College students in the Divine Weapon Civilization.

Left with no other option, the Demonic Imperial College representative sought help from Xu Hai and proposed to let their students gather around Han Wu as well. Unfortunately, this came at a cost. The rewards reaped by their students would significantly reduce, but there was little else to be done if they wanted to maintain their survival rate.

As the two colleges had been on friendly terms for many years and considering the benefits for the Divine Civilization as a whole, Xu Hai ultimately agreed. The representative of the Demonic Imperial College sent a message to their students soon after.

The other colleges panicked when they saw this. The top-tier colleges were doing everything they could to maintain their survival rates. The second and third-rate colleges couldn’t afford to slack either. If they didn’t work hard, their survival rate could fall to

0%. This would become an excuse for the College Alliance to shave off even more of their resource allocation.

Even so, the second and third-rate colleges refused to work with the top-tier colleges. Their students were far weaker, and those from the top-tier colleges far more arrogant. If their students were to work with those from the top-tier colleges, they would inevitably be looked down upon and treated as fodder.

However, the second and third-rate colleges didn't want to work with the weaker colleges either. In the end, they all decided to ally with the first-rate college, the Warfare College.

The Warfare College's performance was on par with the Imperial College and Demonic Imperial College, but with the benefit of being more straightforward. Their students didn't abuse their authority. More importantly, if the Warfare College wanted to become a top-tier college, they would struggle to do so alone, meaning they were open to allies.

As expected, the Warfare College representative accepted their requests without delay. There was no reason to turn down the chance to obtain so many lackeys.

Many of these colleges used their single-use authority to tell their students to gather in Wushuang City, the headquarters of the Warfare College's students.

The Divine Civilization's actions translated into chaos within the Divine Weapon Civilization, as most of the students obediently headed to their respective cities. These two factions from the Divine Civilization built up rapidly.

In Everlight City, Han Wu had accepted 512 students from the two colleges in just five days and sent them to the hunting grounds of the Jin family to train.

Wushuang City was also rapidly getting stronger. In just four days, they had accepted 2189 students. The sheer number of lackeys meant the Warfare College's faction in Wushuang City ballooned to become the number 1 clan in the city.

This naturally attracted the attention of Wushuang City's city lord. He planned to choose several elites from the Warfare College's faction—the War Clan—to fight for Wushuang City in the contest.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 727 - Upgrading Divine Weapons

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 727 - Upgrading Divine Weapons

Two men in yellow robes walked toward Everlight City. These men, Huang Mao and Huang Pi, were the personal guards of Lady Huang. Huang Mao checked his compass to confirm that the needle still pointed toward Everlight City.

“They have to be here!” Huang Mao exclaimed.

“Will it do that thing again?” Huang Pi asked skeptically. “When we closed in on them last time, they just suddenly disappeared.”

A couple of days ago, they had followed the compass into Carefree Valley when the needle abruptly flipped to the opposite direction, forcing the pair to travel 10,000 kilometers to Everlight City.

“Probably... not?” Hesitation lilted Huang Mao’s tone.

“Whatever. Let’s just enter the city first. I haven’t had meat in so long. Once we get inside the city, let’s find an inn and order ten roasted chickens!” Huang Pi salivated at that thought.

After paying the toll and having the guards check their identity plates, the two successfully entered Everlight City. Just then, a group of people on horses passed by them to leave the city. It was Han Wu and his team!

Han Wu had split the team into two groups. The first comprised the children of Everlight City’s noble households. Their Divine Weapons were already strong, so Han Wu could bring them on daily excursions to Nightglow Mountain to train in different hunting styles.

The second team was made up of the allied students from Divine Civilization. Rather than heading out, Han Wu instructed them to train within the Jin family’s special hunting area. They were to slay the monsters and mutated beasts there to unlock as many Divine Weapons as possible.

Han Wu intentionally hid the existence of each group from the other, so neither was aware of the other’s existence. The only exceptions to this were Han Wu, Qin Shuang, Sun Qingnian, and Jin Buhuan. Even Jin Tuantuan had no idea about this arrangement.

Han Wu and the noble children rode past Huang Mao and Huang Pi.

Huang Pi obliviously continued to sniff the air, searching for a good inn. Huang Mao, on the other hand, was keeping a constant eye on the compass and saw when the needle turned to follow Han Wu.

“Look! The needle moved!” Huang Mao called out to Huang Pi.

Huang Pi almost collapsed to the ground when he saw the needle pointing back outside. “Is there an end to this or not? We’ve already traveled 10,000 kilometers to make it here. How could it be pointing that way again? Is Lady Huang’s compass broken? I give up. Let’s just head back. She can find someone else to do this!”

"It's not what you think,” Huang Mao quickly assuaged. “The needle was following that group who just exited the city on horseback.”

Relieved, Huang Pi hesitantly asked, “Should we chase them?”

As he uttered those words, he suddenly caught the fragrant scent of roasted chicken coming from an inn around the corner.

“Lady Huang’s task takes precedence. Let’s chase them,” Huang Mao said, resolution in his voice.

“Alright,” Huang Pi said sulkily, casting forlorn looks over his shoulder in the direction of the inn.

***

Han Wu and his team gathered to train on Nightglow Mountain. As the days passed, the children of the noble households had seen noticeable improvements in strength. Their teamwork had also greatly improved, allowing them to bring down the stronger mutated beasts with ease.

At this point, they had nearly hunted the strong mutated beasts of Nightglow Mountain to near extinction. Still, despite honing their teamwork and each having at least one God-grade Divine Weapon, they still dared not rebel against Han Wu.

This was only partially due to Han Wu’s authority to execute them. The truth was, his training regime itself had instilled a sense of fear into them. Besides killing mutated beasts, they also engaged in group battles against Han Wu alone.

It had been ten days of trying to beat him to no avail. Han Wu’s Small Locust Blade was simply too unpredictable and difficult to defend against. Even a hundred of them working together were no match for the Small Locust Blades.

Moreover, the Small Locust Blade was only one of Han Wu’s Divine Weapons. He had many others in his repertoire. The young masters couldn’t even begin to fathom Han Wu’s true strength. Some even assumed that he was as strong as Jin Buhuan.

In reality, Jin Buhuan was much stronger—as strong as the other three City Lords, hence why Everlight City was among the top four. Han Wu would be hard-pressed to reach that caliber of strength even after spending all his available resources on upgrading his Divine Weapons.

Han Wu was aware of this, and wanting to become stronger, he continued to work hard. While the young masters hunted the strong mutated beasts, Han Wu and his friends hunted the weaker ones that lived in packs because it was more efficient for farming essence.

Under their bombardment, another pack of mutated beasts was swiftly eliminated from Nightglow Mountain. Sun Qingnian despaired when he didn't get much essence and was considering hunting the strong mutated beasts with the other young masters.

Han Wu's and Qin Shuang's overwhelming firepower meant he obtained little essence when with them. It simply wasn't enough!

Thankfully, before Han Wu and Qin Shuang's arrival, he had received abundant resources from Jin Buhuan, allowing him to unlock eight out of nine of his Divine Weapons. If not for that, he would've had to go hunting alone.

After killing them, Han Wu summoned swarms of Glutton Locusts with his Gluttonswarm Ring to devour the corpses, leaving only the useful parts behind. He wanted to sell the materials to the army of Everlight City in exchange for rewards.

Han Wu's Divine Weapons had become significantly stronger after several days of hard work. His Small Locust Blade was already a 2-Star God-grade Divine Weapon at rank 89. Upgrading it from one to two stars didn't grant it a new effect, but it did randomly upgrade the potency of an existing one.

Tough, the effect obtained by equipping the gem, had since been elevated to Divine grade, and Han Wu looked forward to seeing which effect would be improved next.

His other Divine Weapons had also been upgraded. The Explosive Locust Blade was at rank 89 in the Divine grade. It wouldn't be long until it became a God-grade Divine Weapon.

The Locust Soul Orb had also reached Divine grade after absorbing the souls of the fallen mutated beasts and had gained a new effect called Soul Amelioration. This allowed it to upgrade its souls using spiritual energy.

Ah Da and Ah Er had been strengthened, and even the Armament Spirit of the Locust Soul Orb had been upgraded to the Divine-grade Calamitous Ghost Tiger.

As for Locust-V, it was the one Divine Weapon Han Wu didn't need to concern himself with. The God-grade Armament Spirit within it was completely self-sufficient, and Han Wu let it roam around the mountains to hunt its own prey.

Locust-V had since become Han Wu's second God-grade Divine Weapon purely through its own efforts. For its effect, he opted for absolute firepower and chose Adaptable Barrel,

which allowed Locust-V to change the shape of its barrels and thus the power of its bullets as needed. Locust-V was now capable of releasing shots on par with Qin Shuang's Railgun.

Finally, his Gluttonswarm Ring was a Divine-grade Divine Weapon at rank 64. As long as he provided it with a steady stream of food, it was only a matter of time before it reached the God grade.

In addition to all of this, he had also unlocked his sixth Divine Weapon.

Chapter 728 - Do You Dare to Respond?

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 728 - Do You Dare to Respond?

Han Wu's sixth Divine Weapon was actually something of a misnomer, being a piece of armor.

[Abyss Armor]

[Divine Equipment]

[Rank 1]

[Durability: 200/200]

[Effect: Abyss (Divine)]

[Skill: None]

[Description: Formed from the Abyss Bug. Contains the power of the abyss.]

The Abyss effect massively increased resistance toward physical and elemental attacks. The starting parameters placed the Abyss Armor as a typical, or even slightly weak, piece of defensive equipment. Fortunately, he still had the three God-grade effects to choose from.

[1: Reflect (God): Exhaust durability to reflect all damage. The higher the damage, the more durability consumed.]

[2: Iron Wall (God): Massively improves defensive capabilities. Durability increases tenfold every time the Divine Weapon is upgraded.]

[3: Invulnerable (God): Attacks that cannot pierce through the Divine Weapon's defenses are nullified.]

Han Wu carefully inspected each one. The first reflected his enemy's attacks, granting protection to him while inflicting damage to his enemies at the same time. However, it had the critical flaw of rapid durability loss, especially against a barrage of weaker blows.

The second effect increased its durability, which was typical for armor-type Divine Weapons. A tenfold increase with each upgrade meant Han Wu would be a walking fortress after several upgrades.

The third appeared weak on the surface, but was actually pretty amazing. While attacks that could break through the armor's defensive threshold would still hurt and consume durability, weaker attacks wouldn't have any impact whatsoever. If Han Wu played his cards well, there was a good chance he could become effectively immune to attacks.

After careful consideration, Han Wu chose the third effect, Invulnerable.

Aside from unlocking his sixth Divine Weapon, he had also gathered 75% of the essence necessary for his seventh as well. Based on his rate of progression, it would only take another two days or so to unlock it. His main concern was that the legendary Armament Spirit would appear before then.

He was about to check on the young masters and test their strength once again when mist suddenly enveloped him. The white mist soon encompassed the area, obscuring everything from sight.

Sun Qingnian was holding hands with Jin Tuantuan, yet he couldn't even see her face.

"Han Wu, this mist is unnatural. Jin Tuantuan warns the two of you to be careful," Sun Qingnian shouted.

"I hear you," Han Wu called back. "You protect yourself. Also, Shuang'er, don't move. I will find you through your voice."

Cultivating the Black Mountain Scripture had greatly sharpened Han Wu's senses, so navigating through the mist with just sound alone was no issue for him. Meanwhile, Qin Shuang obediently stood in place, continuing to talk and shout to broadcast her location.

It didn't take long before she heard something approaching. She glanced around in search of Han Wu but could sense no one.

Where are those sounds coming from? she wondered.

Instinctively looking down, her alarmed gaze met that of a crawling Huang Mao. The Deceiver's Cord on her arm shot out like an arrow toward him.

The Deceiver's Cord had belonged to Master Huang. When Huang Mao saw it, he knew that he had found the right person. The Deceiver's Cord was undoubtedly an excellent Divine Weapon, but it was useless against the Huang family. It attempted to coil around Huang Mao, but he chanted something, and it relaxed itself.

Huang Mao then pulled out a gourd-shaped Divine Weapon and taunted, "Do you dare to respond?"

"*Hmph!* Childish!" She sneered, preparing to fight.

An incredible suction came from the gourd, pulling Qin Shuang in and swallowing her whole.

"First one down," Huang Mao crowed. "This is a good start."

He then checked the compass and saw the arrow was shifting once more. There were multiple people he had to deal with to avenge Master Huang. Going back down on all fours, he crawled through the grass in search of his next prey.

When Qin Shuang went silent, Han Wu immediately knew something was amiss. He rushed toward where he last heard her, but she wasn't there. There was nothing within the white mist.

"Qin Shuang, please be alright," Han Wu muttered to himself, panic rapidly rising within him.

Huang Mao popped out from where he had been waiting in the grass. "Do you dare to respond?"

Han Wu turned to see a vague yellow silhouette. "Who are you?"

The gourd's effect triggered, and a powerful suction came from its mouth once more. Han Wu was sucked toward the gourd. He was halfway inside the gourd when he managed to shoot his Small Locust Blade out, shattering the gourd and releasing him. Qin Shuang was also freed.

As expected, this thing had captured Qin Shuang! If not for his quick reflexes, he would've been defeated as well.

The shattering of the gourd lit a fury within Huang Mao. Lady Huang had granted him this Divine Weapon, and it was his favourite one. A burning desire for retribution sparked within him.

He hissed, and the Deceiver's Cord that he had taken from Qin Shuang shot toward Han Wu. Upon recognizing its target, it abruptly stopped mid-air and raced back to a stunned Huang Mao.

What's wrong with it? Why isn't it tying him up? Is there a barrier around him?

Chapter 729 - Kill Him and Get His Loot!

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 729 - Kill Him and Get His Loot!

Huang Mao didn't know that Han Wu had previously abused the Deceiver's Cord and even tried to split it into several strands. Furious that his gourd had been shattered and that the Deceiver's Cord refused to act, Huang Mao knew he needed another plan.

He quickly dove into the white mist to find another way to get back to them, but Han Wu wouldn't let him escape easily. He threw the Explosive Locust Blade at the spot where Huang Mao had disappeared.

The fiery explosion engulfed the area, and the heat cleared the surrounding mist. Han Wu finally caught a glimpse of Huang Mao's true form. He looked humanoid and was covered in yellow fur. This was his monster form, where his melee attacks were devastating. However, part of his fur had been scorched by the blast.

Enraged, Huang Mao wanted to tear Han Wu apart. He took pride in his fur, and Han Wu's attack felt like disfigurement. Still, he remained rational enough to recognize Han Wu's strength. He had a feeling that a direct confrontation would be a mistake, so he retreated into the mist.

A moment later, Han Wu's Explosive Locust Blade reformed, but Huang Mao was gone, and the mist was gathering itself again.

Han Wu decided to wake Qin Shuang before dealing with anything else.

Qin Shuang gradually regained consciousness. Thankfully, she was unharmed and had only fainted. When she learned that the culprit was a weasel, like Huang Si, her anger flared. He had been following them everywhere, and she swore to skin him alive if she got her hands on it.

First, they had to deal with the mist. Han Wu considered his options and decided to use his maze-exploring method. He summoned his Glutton Locusts through the Gluttonswarm Ring. The locusts heeded his commands and positioned themselves at one-meter intervals. With one locust per meter, they could relay information in real time. Even with the mist obscuring their vision, Han Wu could still navigate the area.

Through the locusts, Han Wu discovered that Huang Mao was still trying to ambush them. He circled nearby, waiting for a chance to kill them.

Han Wu smiled. From experience, he knew that the best hunter appeared as prey. To Huang Mao, he was the predator, and Han Wu was the prey. Without Huang Mao knowing, Han Wu could see him, and now the roles had reversed.

Han Wu took out four Small Locust Blades. Under his control, they silently hovered around Huang Mao.

Just as Huang Mao prepared to attack, the Small Locust Blades attacked first. They shot forward, splitting into eighty-four Small Locust Blades that struck from every direction. The barrage pierced Huang Mao.

Han Wu approached it, but before closing in, he threw an Explosive Locust Blade as a precaution. The blast cleared the mist and revealed Huang Mao sprawled on the ground, snarling in his own pool of blood, his animalistic nature laid bare.

“Lady Huang will never let you go!” he shrieked.

Han Wu frowned. “Then tell her to find me.”

He then controlled the Small Locust Blade to decapitate Huang Mao. He died and reverted to a charred weasel. Even in that form, his body was larger than a human’s. No one knew what he had consumed to grow so large. After his death, he dropped several Divine Weapons, including shards of the broken gourd, the Deceiver’s Cord, the compass, and a comb.

Han Wu collected and examined them. The gourd was a special Divine Weapon with a specific activation condition. It could only absorb those who responded to the user. Once inside, the victim would lose consciousness. If too much time passed while being unconscious, the victim would starve to death. However, its value had dropped drastically due to the damage.

The Deceiver’s Cord required no introduction. Han Wu had obtained it once again, though this time it remained quiet.

Han Wu showed no mercy. He split it into three parts, reducing it from a 2-Star God-grade Divine Weapon to a Divine-grade one. It lost its sentience, and its effects were dramatically reduced. Still, this was much better for the two since it was more obedient.

The compass was something amazing, a sentient 4-Star God-grade Divine Weapon with a special activation condition. However, it refused to submit to Han Wu, no matter how he threatened it.

Coincidentally, the Locust Soul Orb had advanced to the Divine grade and could house another soul. He decided to bind Huang Mao's soul and use the compass as its anchor. With this arrangement, the compass had no choice but to obey him.

Although the method was convoluted, he had obtained a powerful Divine Weapon, which pleased him. He named the third soul Ah Mao.

As for the fourth Divine Weapon, it was a comb. Han Wu picked it up with high expectations, only to be stunned. It was a 1-Star God-grade Divine Weapon, but it was extremely useless. Its sole effect was to enhance the hair or fur it combed, making it more luxurious. It also required a special activation condition.

Han Wu regarded its creator as a crazy idiot. After all, someone had used valuable materials to craft something so useless.

After Qin Shuang learned of its effect, she wanted to use it. She washed the comb, then used it on her hair. The strands became softer, thicker, and noticeably more lustrous despite their black color. The change elevated her presence.

Han Wu stared, mouth agape, at the result. He reconsidered its value and saw it as a miraculous item for beautifying hair. Who could resist having a head full of soft, lustrous hair?

After storing the Divine Weapons, Han Wu noticed that the mist lingered. He was alarmed, as it likely meant that a second foe remained. Thankfully, he no longer needed to search blindly.

"Ah Mao, find your companion," he ordered the new soul.

Ah Mao grasped the compass, which pointed in one direction. As a precaution, Han Wu summoned his Glutton Locusts to scout ahead. They walked for 300 meters and spotted a monster similar in stature to Ah Mao. He was the second weasel working alongside Huang Mao.

He was busy plucking feathers from a wild chicken, unaware that his companion had been killed. He also failed to notice Han Wu's presence. Nearby, a small jade bottle was continuously releasing white mist.

"A bad comrade is worse than a good enemy. That glutton probably can't do much to us right now. Might as well kill and loot it," Han Wu murmured.

His four Small Locust Blades shot toward Huang Pi. At the last moment, they split into eighty-four copies and forcefully stabbed Huang Pi. Then something unexpected happened.

The Small Locust Blades, which had been effective all this time, lost all durability the moment they touched Huang Pi and shattered.

“Who’s trying to attack me with a knife? It’s useless!” Huang Pi finally reacted. He could see through the mist and could easily locate Han Wu. “You are ambushing me? I’ll grind you into paste.”

Huang Pi grew larger, and his fur bristled like iron needles. A shimmering golden glow spread across his skin, forming what looked like searing golden armor.

Han Wu realized that this was what had allowed Huang Pi to withstand his Small Locust Blades.

Chapter 730 - Within Divine Weapon City

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Huang Pi pounced with his claw outstretched.

Han Wu couldn’t avoid the blow, and since the Small Locust Blade couldn’t defend against it, he was forced to tank it head-on.

The claw hit him solidly. He prepared for pain, but was surprised to find that none came.

Huang Pi couldn’t tell whether Han Wu felt anything, so he struck several more times. Each blow landed cleanly, yet none had any effect.

Han Wu examined himself and understood what had happened after he saw his Abyss Armor. The Invulnerable effect had nullified every strike. Since his blows couldn’t pierce Han Wu’s defenses, they were all negated. None of his physical blows worked!

Han Wu had to admit that Invulnerable lived up to its God-grade status.

Huang Pi landed several more blows but still failed to injure him.

Han Wu flicked his Explosive Locust Blade and blasted Huang Pi away. The searing flame scorched his fur and revealed the golden sheen across his frame.

Qin Shuang seized the opening and attacked. Her Sparrow Bow released lightning arrows without mercy. Even though the arrows couldn’t pierce his defenses, the electricity coursed through him and attacked him from within.

After several hits, Huang Pi started to feel paralyzed and slowed down.

Han Wu summoned the three souls within his Locust Soul Orb before transforming it into the Calamitous Ghost Tiger, pinning Huang Pi to the ground.

At the same time, Qin Shuang gathered energy into her coin, charging her Railgun. At the last moment, Han Wu recalled the souls just as she fired. Powerful lightning erupted and tore through the area, dispersing the surrounding white mist.

The scent of charred flesh filled the air. Huang Pi lay unrecognizable, killed by the Railgun. He dropped four Divine Weapons.

The first was Mist Bottle, a 2-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. It was the same jade bottle that had been spreading the mist across the area. Naturally, its effect allowed the user to release dense mist to obscure vision. Han Wu had experienced it firsthand and knew its value.

The second was Adamantium Armor, also a 2-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. It functioned like a second skin that covered the user and rendered their body as impervious as an iron wall. It was compatible with Han Wu's Abyss Armor, so the latter could absorb it.

After the absorption, the Abyss Armor obtained a new skill, Adamantine, which enhanced its defensive properties for a short period. It paired well with Invulnerable.

The third was a pair of claws called Hooked Needles, a 1-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. Its quality was average, but it was compatible with Qin Shuang's Feather Dart. She absorbed it and pushed Feather Dart to its maximum rank. With additional materials, she could upgrade it into a God-grade Divine Weapon.

The fourth was a bronze mirror, a 3-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. The user could observe everything within a fifty-kilometer radius. It was an excellent scouting tool, but its Armament Spirit was temperamental and refused to serve Han Wu.

With no better option, Han Wu fed it to his Locust Soul Orb. It obtained a new skill that allowed it to scout within a ten-kilometer radius. It could also send any soul it controlled to a designated location within that range. This skill made ambushes easier to set up.

Han Wu felt satisfied with the loot.

With the two weasels dead, the mist around them dissipated.

Sun Qingnian and Jin Tuantuan hurried over. "Are you two alright? I heard the sound of fighting from your direction."

Han Wu scoffed. "Do we look alright?"

Sun Qingnian gave him a quick once-over. “You look fine on the outside. Do you feel hollowed out? You should let Qin Shuang test it out once you get back.”

Han Wu rolled his eyes. Even now, Sun Qingnian couldn’t resist dirty jokes. Still, the ambush had taught Han Wu something important. The natives possessed a wide range of methods due to their diverse Divine Weapons. One wrong mistake could lead to elimination.

“It seems that just increasing our raw power isn’t enough. Starting today, we’ll conduct special training scenarios to prevent this from happening again. Yes, let’s do so. We’ll increase the intensity for those young masters tomorrow,” Han Wu said.

Sun Qingnian was at a loss for words. He could only pity the young masters, who had no idea what awaited them.

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Within Divine Weapon City, Lady Huang sensed that her two guards’ life force had been severed. She remained calm rather than angry. Using a special method, she located her compass and caught a glimpse of the person holding it.

She gritted her teeth when she saw Han Wu. “You puny humans. How dare you kill the elite of my Huang family? If not for the legendary Armament Spirit’s imminent appearance, which I cannot leave, I would’ve flayed you alive and tormented your soul!”

Someone then called from outside, “Lady Huang, General Liu sent someone to request an audience.”

Lady Huang scoffed, “What does that old dog want with me? The legendary Armament Spirit will appear soon. Is it one of his little tricky plans again? Tell them that I am in closed-door cultivation. Unless the legendary Armament Spirit appears, I won’t meet anyone!”

“Understood.”

Lady Huang continued forging her Divine Weapon in the room. Her 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon, the Celestial Shackles, grew stronger with each refinement.

Outside of her residence, General Liu listened as his subordinate relayed the message. Rage surged through him, and he hurled his wine glass to the ground. “That stupid old grandma. How dare she insult my honor!”

His advisor stepped in to calm him. “Sir, please be at ease. Even if Lady Huang refuses to cooperate, your strength still gives you the advantage in the upcoming contest for the legendary Armament Spirit.”

General Liu sighed. “Have you prepared the tributes?”

“The bandits spread across several regions have confirmed that everything is in order. A million living sacrifices. They can have everything ready by tomorrow. They have also prepared extra, just in case.”

General Liu nodded in approval. “I will make everyone in the Divine Weapon Civilization kneel before me, Liu Changqing! Once I obtain the legendary Armament Spirit, I will show them all.”

The advisor knelt. “General Liu, you will succeed!”

***

In a land beyond Divine Weapon City, the blacksmith Master Ou cracked open his master’s bones and revealed lines of text engraved within them. It was a special refining method that his master had spent half his life researching. It allowed the user to refine a Divine Weapon with their own flesh and blood, greatly improving its strength and affinity.

Master Ou committed those lines to memory and sighed. “The legendary Armament Spirit will be born soon. I must use it to grow stronger and avenge my master! General Liu, Lady Huang, and Baili Changhe. Just wait. I will avenge him!”

Excitement surged through him as he merged his Divine Weapon, the forging hammer, into his body. His flesh suddenly shrank, and his skin loosened. Throughout the entire process, his Divine Weapon advanced to 8 Stars.

Chapter 731 - Overwhelming Information

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 731 - Overwhelming Information

Within Everlight City, Jin Buhuan reviewed the reports sent by the spies that he had planted in the other three cities. Each report detailed the opposing teams’ strength.

He frowned as he read and couldn’t calm himself down. He quickly summoned Sun Qingnian and Han Wu.

Sun Qingnian asked, “Father-in-law, what’s wrong?”

“Here, read these yourselves.” He handed them the reports.

Sun Qingnian grabbed them and began reading them.

“Wushuang City team. Leader: Gan Xiangyu. Main Divine Weapon: Coiled Dragon, 6-Star God-grade. Possesses 6 God-grade Divine Weapons...

“Lingxiao City team. Leader: Feng Wuji. Main Divine Weapon: Taiqing Sword, 7-Star God-grade. Possesses 4 God-grade Divine Weapons...

“Wanyao City team. Leader: Sun Qianqian. Main Divine Weapon: Sea Calming Staff, 7-Star God-grade. Possesses 6 God-grade Divine Weapons...

“Are these reports... accurate?” Sun Qingnian asked, uncertain.

Jin Buhuan stared at him in silence. Sun Qingnian realized that his question was pointless. If the information were false, the spies wouldn’t have submitted it. Moreover, the reports only covered what the spies had uncovered. The other three cities definitely had hidden trump cards.

Compared with them, Everlight City was indeed inferior. The strongest fighter was Han Wu, yet the Small Locust Blade was his main and only 2-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. He also only had two God-grade Divine Weapons, while the rest were below that grade.

On paper, Han Wu had already lost. However, only Han Wu knew how far that assessment was from reality. Even though his Divine Weapons ranked low, each possessed exceptional effects. Even the newly unlocked Divine-grade Abyss Armor rivaled a 1-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. He chose not to reveal this.

By contrast, Sun Qingnian’s official data was much better. With early resources from his father-in-law, his main Divine Weapon, the Tri-Tail Blade, had reached 5-Star God grade, and he had unlocked eight Divine Weapons. His overall standing matched that of the other cities’ leaders.

Jin Buhuan wanted to replace the leader, but he had already invested heavily in Han Wu, so he felt that it was a waste to let him go. He decided to call them both to discuss the matter.

“You’ve read the reports. The other three teams are formidable. Other than them, many other clans and teams, including those from the Divine Weapon Civilization, will participate in this contest. It will be intense.

“With your current strength, I fear that you won’t be a match for them.” He directed this at Han Wu, hoping he would volunteer to step down and allow Sun Qingnian to take the lead.

Han Wu knew that and smiled. “I understand, and I can relinquish the position, but my resources must remain unchanged. That is my final condition if I am to continue fighting for Everlight City.”

He had joined the team for the sake of the resources. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have invested so much time and effort training those young masters. It would have been more efficient to hunt mutated beasts on his own.

Jin Buhuan’s anger flared. He suspected that Han Wu was playing the fool. He intended to change the leadership to reduce Han Wu’s allocation of resources.

Even with ample support, Han Wu’s parameters remained weak, so what justification did he have to continue? Han Wu was clearly trying to exploit the situation.

“I say…” Jin Buhuan rose to his feet, and his superior pressure bore down on Han Wu. Since Han Wu refused to concede, he decided to confront him directly.

Sensing his intent, Sun Qingnian stepped between them. “Father-in-law, please be reasonable! While Han Wu’s Divine Weapons may be lower in grade, they are still powerful. I have faith in him that he’s no weaker than the other leaders!”

Sun Qingnian’s words sounded rebellious to him.

“Are you questioning my decision?” Jin Buhuan snapped. His Divine Weapons responded to his anger and appeared at once. The pressure of 8-Star God-grade Divine Weapons enveloped the two of them. He stared at Sun Qingnian like a dog who had forgotten its master.

Sun Qingnian met his gaze, straightened, and spoke with resolve, “Father-in-law, you misunderstand me. I am not questioning you. I am stating the truth. I can stake my life that Han Wu is better than the rest. Everlight City should be thankful that he leads the team. Your family should be as well. If you want to strip him of his resources and benefits, then you should do the same to me!”

Jin Buhuan’s eyes widened. This was the son-in-law that he had chosen! He felt blind for ever believing this man would bring prosperity to his family.

He wanted to kill Sun Qingnian, and he was going to, but Jin Tuantuan, who had been eavesdropping outside, burst into the room and stepped between them. Her small frame contrasted with her resolute gaze and stance. “Father, I won’t let you harm my husband!”

Qin Shuang, who had followed her in, entered without a word and stood beside Han Wu. Whatever came next, she would face it with Han Wu.

Jin Buhuan glared at his rebellious daughter, then at the three outsiders. He felt dizzy from his anger and howled, “Out! Get out! I don’t want to see any of you!”

Jin Tuantuan tried to speak, but Sun Qingnian pulled her from the room. She apologized to him, “Husband, please don’t blame my father. Anger has clouded his judgment.”

Sun Qingnian waved his arm to show he didn’t mind. After all, he was his father-in-law. Even if he had acted wrongly, Sun Qingnian would endure it for Jin Tuantuan’s sake.

Still, after Jin Buhuan’s challenge, it was possible that Han Wu wouldn’t stay there any longer. Sun Qingnian looked at him, his gaze pleading. He was hoping that Han Wu would stay and help Everlight City.

Han Wu smiled. “Didn’t he say the grades of my Divine Weapons were too low? Then we’ll just need to raise them. But let me be clear. If he cuts off my resources and benefits, I will leave without hesitation.”

Sun Qingnian said, “Don’t worry, brother. I will stop him, even if it costs me my own benefits. You are my big brother, and I won’t let you go so easily.”

Han Wu nodded. Now the final decision rested with Jin Buhuan.

Chapter 732 - Secret Realm Training

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 732 - Secret Realm Training

The next day, Jin Buhuan summoned all of them again. Compared to the previous day, he looked more exhausted. When he faced them, the warmth he had once shown was gone.

“Father-in-law, is there something you want to discuss with us?” Sun Qingnian broke the silence first. He worried that Jin Buhuan would quarrel with Han Wu.

Jin Buhuan sighed. “I gave it some thought last night. I still think there’s a large gap between you and the other team leaders.”

The atmosphere tensed up at once.

Sun Qingnian was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He had to decide whether to remain in Everlight City or follow Han Wu. If he left, should he bring Jin Tuantuan with him?

Jin Buhuan paid no attention to his thoughts. “So, I am going to give you special training.”

“Special training?” Sun Qingnian visibly relaxed. “That’s great! What does it involve?”

Jin Tuantuan sighed with relief too. She carefully approached him and held his arm. “Father, what is the special training about?”

Jin Buhuan calmed down a little when he heard her voice. “Our family once discovered a strange secret realm. After some exploration, we confirmed that it connects this place to an ancient battleground from another civilization.

“After years of neglect, it is filled with foreign life forms. Our family previously sent a secret group of elites to train, but most of them perished. Those that survived, however, grew substantially stronger.”

Sun Qingnian spoke up. “But what does that have to do with increasing Han Wu’s Divine Weapon grades?”

“Within that ancient battleground are many Divine Weapon shards. Even the weakest shard is a 1-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.”

“Really? I want to go too!” Sun Qingnian was excited. He wanted to grow stronger too.

Jin Buhuan shook his head. “No. We only have enough materials to open the secret realm once. Only one person may enter.”

Sun Qingnian hesitated, suspicion creeping in. “Father-in-law, are you sure this is a special training in a secret realm? Please swear that this isn’t an attempt to assassinate Han Wu.”

“*Hmph!* I do not employ such underhanded tricks.” Jin Buhuan bristled at the accusation, but Sun Qingnian still struggled to believe him.

He looked at Han Wu, silently urging him to refuse. After all, only the students who survived to the end of this event would have their results counted. Anyone eliminated midway would gain nothing.

Han Wu considered it briefly and asked, “Are there really many Divine Weapon shards inside?”

Jin Buhuan nodded. “There are. There are also a lot of rare materials and ores.”

“Then I accept.”

Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang tried to persuade him not to be rash. They could still achieve good results by minimizing risk and surviving until the end.

Han Wu disagreed. “Since I want strength and power, I must see it to the end. If I don’t go through hell myself, how can I gain strength beyond measure?”

Sun Qingnian sighed and gave him a thumbs-up. “All right, you win. You are a warrior through and through, so go ahead! If anything happens to you, I will just forfeit this exam as my apology.”

Jin Tuantuan quickly let go of her father and ran to Sun Qingnian. “Husband, I don’t permit you to say that.”

Sun Qingnian smiled. He said nothing more and looked at Jin Buhuan seriously. If Jin Buhuan set a trap for Han Wu to perish inside, he would relinquish his results, repeat the year with him, and even cut ties with Jin Tuantuan, painful as it would be, as payback for the betrayal.

Jin Buhuan really wanted to slap him. Was he really someone that despicable in Sun Qingnian’s eyes?

With Jin Tuantuan standing beside Sun Qingnian, he suppressed the urge. “I will prepare the materials.”

He quickly gathered everything and forced open the gate to the secret realm. Only one person could pass through.

Han Wu stored a lot of food and some materials in his Dimension Bag. As he prepared to enter, Jin Buhuan gave him a jade pendant. “Wear this. We can communicate through it. I will inform you the moment the legendary Armament Spirit appears.”

“No problem.” Han Wu accepted the jade pendant, said his farewells, and stepped through the gate.

As soon as he entered, the materials sustaining the gate lost their energy and shattered.

Just as Jin Buhuan had said, only one person could enter. Now that Han Wu had entered, no one else could follow. Everyone was hoping that Han Wu would return with good results.

Han Wu found himself in a world of crimson. Everything shared the same dull red hue, whether it was the ground, the mountain, or even the plants. He worried that he would get some sort of eye impairment if he stayed there too long.

The moment he appeared, some of the organisms wandering nearby noticed him and attacked. One strange monster, with the lower body of a dog and the upper body of a minotaur, threw a spear at him.

Han Wu had cultivated the Freespirited Ape God, and while he only grasped a portion of it, he had grown quite nimble. He twisted aside, avoided the spear, and threw his Small Locust Blade. It split into twenty-one copies and stabbed the strange monster from all sides. It collapsed and died, and two shards emerged from its corpse.

Han Wu picked them up. They were Divine Weapon shards, both God-grade, rated 1-Star and 3-Star respectively. They were useful to him. The Small Locust Blade absorbed the 3-Star shard and advanced, moving one step closer to 3-Star God grade.

While he was checking the corpse, more monsters of various shapes and sizes noticed him and attacked.

Han Wu didn't retreat. He attacked with his Small Locust Blade mercilessly. When he couldn't kill those with higher defenses, he used the Explosive Locust Blade. When that failed, he summoned Locust-V and let those monsters experience the force of a headshot. The Locust Soul Orb also participated, summoning the three souls and turning into the tiger.

All four competed with Locust-V to see which could gather more shards. Amid that competition, Han Wu reaped the most benefits. Numerous shards piled up at his feet, and he used them to upgrade his Divine Weapons.

At this rate, he could upgrade them all to the God grade within three days. By then, his strength would reach an unimaginable height.

: Chapter 733

Chapter 733 - Hei Qi's Invasion

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Within Wushuang City, inside the War Clan's meeting room, Hei Qi sat at the table, radiating sinister Dark Energy. Even while motionless, he exuded a pressure that made others recoil.

Gan Xiangyu studied his problematic little sworn brother. Why was he so obsessed?

"Hei Qi, we already have Han Wu's report. When the legendary Armament Spirit appears, he will definitely join the contest. You can kill him then."

"Why reveal yourself now?"

Both Gan Xiangyu and Gong Jun were trying to persuade him.

“Three days, and another three days, and another three days, and yet another three days. It’s been half a month, Brother Xiangyu! Letting him live any longer is a humiliation to me!” Hei Qi shouted, his voice thick with bloodlust.

Gan Xiangyu frowned. He was having a headache. He had indeed sent someone to assassinate Han Wu after discovering his location, but circumstances had changed. The War Clan had become core members of the team representing Wushuang City.

Wushuang City had two aces. Gan Xiangyu was the public face and official leader, while Hei Qi was the hidden card. If the latter acted now, he would reveal their second ace in advance. That would be unwise.

Moreover, they had learned that Han Wu was the team leader for Everlight City. If Hei Qi went there to kill him, Everlight City’s city lord would not sit idly by. If the city lord killed Hei Qi in retaliation, Gan Xiangyu would have no grounds to plead for mercy!

“Hei Qi, listen to me. Wait a few more days for the legendary Armament Spirit to appear. You can kill Han Wu then, and I won’t stop you,” Gan Xiangyu promised.

“No, I’ve decided. No one can stop me, not even you.” Hei Qi stood, turned into a blur of shadow, and vanished.

Gan Xiangyu sighed. Due to the contract with the evil god, Hei Qi was stronger than him now. The only reason Hei Qi remained in the War Clan was the faint sliver of conscience that compelled him to heed Gan Xiangyu’s words.

Now, even that seemed to have been washed away by hatred. The evil god’s bloodlust had turned him into a mindless war machine.

“Gong Jun, take nine men and follow him in secret. Try to bring him back if the situation turns bad,” Gan Xiangyu instructed.

“Gan Xiangyu, you think too highly of me. Do you really believe nine of our best men and I can bring down Hei Qi?”

The core members of the War Clan all knew that Hei Qi was the strongest among them.

Gan Xiangyu sighed. “As long as he kills Han Wu and his grudge is settled, his reason will probably return. You can bring him back then.”

Gong Jun opened his mouth to argue, but Gan Xiangyu growled, “This is an order!”

Gong Jun turned serious and replied in a firm, military tone, “Yes, sir!”

As students of Warfare College, they were all soldiers at heart, and soldiers followed orders. No matter how hard the mission, they had to stake everything to complete it.

“Go, and be careful,” Gan Xiangyu instructed before leaving the meeting room.

The other core members followed. Gong Jun sighed and slammed the table, but he still gathered the men and silently trailed after Hei Qi.

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Wushuang City wasn’t far from Everlight City. With Hei Qi’s strength, he arrived after running through the night and into the half day. His desire for revenge and his desire to wash his humiliation away filled his body with power.

“Kill Han Wu. Kill Han Wu. Kill Han Wu!” he murmured repeatedly. The obsession clung to him like a lingering grudge he could not release.

The Everlight guards spotted Hei Qi from afar and immediately reported the dangerous figure to their higher-ups.

One of Everlight City’s generals arrived and sensed the evil aura emanating from Hei Qi. His heart skipped a beat. This man is unquestionably evil!

“You, who are you? What are you doing here?” he demanded.

Hei Qi ignored him and unleashed his blade pressure toward the city gates. His 8-Star God-grade blade had consumed his other Divine Weapons and carried numerous powerful effects. This Divine Weapon was on par with those in possession of the city lords of the four strongest cities.

The blade pressure left a twenty-centimeter deep gouge on the city wall. A few more blows would shatter it completely.

The general felt his scalp go numb. He had known that the man was dangerous, but not to this extent. Even the gate made of solid Adamantine Wood couldn’t hold him back. How could flesh withstand such power?

“Quick, call the city lord!” the general shouted, then ordered the soldiers to ready their bows. They had to delay Hei Qi with long-range attacks.

Jin Buhuan received the report and immediately rushed over. He saw the shattered city gate and the fallen guards. A demonic black figure was charging through the streets of Everlight City.

Hei Qi cut down everyone in his path, shouting, “Han Wu, come out! If you don’t come out, I will keep killing!”

Hei Qi's black blade killed many civilians, which angered Jin Buhuan. The reason no longer mattered. Attacking Everlight City's citizens in broad daylight was an outright insult.

"You barbarian! How dare you attack Everlight City? Die!" Jin Buhuan summoned his Divine Weapon, and immense pressure enveloped Hei Qi.

Hei Qi felt as if thousands of tons pressed down on him. His movements slowed and dulled. Even lifting his blade became difficult. Under that pressure, his blood streamed from his nostrils, and his senses started to fade.

As he was about to be crushed to death, a deceptive voice rose from the depths of his heart. "Understand me. Accept me. Become me, and I will lend you my power. With overwhelming power, you won't have to fear anyone. All will look up to you. Become me. Become me..."

Hei Qi couldn't resist the alluring voice and slowly succumbed to the temptation. "Give me power. Give me power!"

His senses quickly returned, and a blood-red eye opened on his black blade. Black gas burst from the weapon and flowed into his body. At the same time, sharp bone armor formed over him, and a demonic mask grew across his face. His aura intensified, and the pressure surrounding him dissipated.

Hei Qi swung his blade. Even without channeling additional energy, the sheer force of it caused the walls to crumble.

The sudden power-up alarmed Jin Buhuan. He felt the looming threat of death and went all out.

"Armament Baptism!" Jin Buhuan shouted, and his eight Divine Weapons appeared, forming an array around Hei Qi.

The pressure intensified severalfold, and Hei Qi buckled. This was the strongest level of pressure that Jin Buhuan could achieve. He had once used this technique to crush ten powerful criminals into paste.

Unfortunately, it was useless against Hei Qi. Instead, he started absorbing the energy from the black blade at a faster rate. His bone armor grew menacing, and he slowly adapted to the pressure. He endured until the force weakened, then released a powerful blade pressure in response.

An explosion erupted. Jin Buhuan and his Divine Weapons were blasted backward, and he crashed hard onto the ground.

Hei Qi instantly appeared beside him, stomped down on his head, and asked sinisterly, “Where is Han Wu?”

Jin Buhuan suspected that Hei Qi had spared him only because he believed Jin Buhuan knew Han Wu’s whereabouts.

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 734 - Millions of Small Locust Blades

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 734 - Millions of Small Locust Blades

Hei Qi pressed his black blade against Jin Buhuan’s neck. “Bring me to Han Wu!”

If Jin Buhuan remained silent, his head would roll in the next instant. He had no choice. “I will take you to him!”

Jin Buhuan stood up and glanced toward a corner of the street. Jin Tuantuan was trying to run to him, but Sun Qingnian held her back safely. Relief settled in his chest. There were only two things he cared about in life: his family’s prosperity and Jin Tuantuan’s happiness.

At present, the state of his family remained unknown, but at least he had found a good son-in-law. If even he, the powerful city lord, lost, Sun Qingnian and the others would stand no chance. As a father, he would rather Jin Tuantuan live as a coward and have a long life.

“Bring me there!” Hei Qi growled. The evil god had possessed him.

Jin Buhuan feared that the fight would endanger the city, so he led Hei Qi outside its walls. They stopped ten kilometers away, far enough to spare the city from damage. He then took out the jade pendant.

Before Han Wu entered the secret realm, he had given an identical one to Han Wu, one that could summon him back here. Now was the time.

He crushed the pendant and murmured, “Please don’t blame me. If sacrificing you can save my city, then I have no choice.”

The shattered pendant turned into a one-way gate.

Within the secret realm, Han Wu had just cleared a wave of monsters when the gate appeared before him.

How many days have passed? Has the Armament Spirit appeared? He wanted to stay longer to upgrade his Divine Weapons, but the jade pendant could only be used once. If he didn't leave now, he wouldn't be able to return for a long time.

"I should be fine. My Divine Weapons have improved enough. The Armament Spirit comes first," he murmured, stepping into the gate.

He emerged and immediately saw a strange monster clad in bone armor and wreathed in black gas. Jin Buhuan stood beside it, his face filled with shame and regret.

Hei Qi spoke sinisterly. "Han Wu, we meet again."

Han Wu frowned. "Who are you?"

Hei Qi paused, his anger surging. At that moment, the evil god's influence slipped, and his own ego flared. "You don't recognize me?"

Han Wu studied the bone armor, the huge mask, and that black gas. He shook his head. "Nope. I don't know anyone as ugly as you."

Hei Qi was stunned. He had been humiliated when he was weak, and now he was humiliated again, even after gaining power. What was the point?

"I am Hei Qi, and I will kill you!" He wanted to see Han Wu's fear and hear him beg for mercy.

Instead, after learning the strange monster's identity, not only was Han Wu not afraid, but he even mocked him. "Did you drink a jar of radioactive wastewater, or did you eat some sort of mutated beast to end up like this? Your bones are on the outside, and you don't even have skin and muscles anymore. Terrible, indeed. I doubt your mother would recognize you."

Each word struck Hei Qi like a blow. Rage consumed him, and he had no interest in arguing. He wanted to cripple Han Wu, then slowly torture him to death. He moved, and the black blade released a powerful blade pressure that could sever Han Wu's arm in one swing.

Han Wu appeared relaxed, but he remained fully alert. He wasn't an idiot. Hei Qi had already defeated Jin Buhuan, which meant he was extremely dangerous. Escape was impossible, so his only chance to survive was to fight. He also wanted to test his Divine Weapons' strength, so he welcomed the opportunity.

Han Wu summoned his Small Locust Blade. After several days within the secret realm, it had reached 6 Stars and rank 65.

Each time it was upgraded, one of its effects improved. Tough had upgraded after the Small Locust Blade reached 4 Stars, raising the effect to the God grade. Another upgrade enhanced Seven Killings, elevating it to God-grade as well, allowing each blade to split into seven additional blades. The remaining two upgrades enhanced Split, enabling the Small Locust Blade to divide across thirty generations.

In theory, given enough time, he could control up to 1,073,741,824 “original” Small Locust Blades. In practice, time remained the limiting factor. For now, Han Wu had only managed to gather 10,000 Small Locust Blades.

He summoned all of them and used Triplicate and Seven Killings. The 10,000 blades multiplied into millions, blotting out even the sun. Under his control, they flowed like a river of steel to block Hei Qi’s black blade pressure.

The individual blades couldn’t withstand the blade pressure and shattered. Han Wu lost more than 10,000 blades before blocking the blow. Still, with millions at his command, the loss amounted to only a fraction. The remaining blades surged forward and pierced toward Hei Qi.

Hei Qi panicked and swung his blade to protect himself. Each blow shattered several blades, but their numbers were overwhelming. Like a locust swarm, they descended on him from various angles.

His bone armor and mask shattered under the assault. His sinister face was exposed in the open air. He refused to yield, wouldn’t admit defeat, and couldn’t accept that Han Wu was that powerful.

The evil god’s voice echoed in his mind again. He didn’t care anymore; he would win at any cost.

“I need strength. Unlimited strength!” Hei Qi roared.

Many eyes popped across the black blade, each one channeling immense power into him. The horrifying power formed thicker bone armor and an even more grotesque mask. Beneath him, a throne of unknown crystal slowly took shape as well.

The overwhelming aura pushed back against the pressure from Han Wu’s millions of blades. If this continued, Han Wu would die.

At that moment, Jin Buhuan staggered forward despite his injuries and approached Han Wu. “Han Wu, listen to me. If you use your Divine Weapons together with the Jin family’s secret technique, we might be able to defeat this monster. The technique is called Armament Baptism!”

: Chapter 735

Chapter 735 - Armament Baptism

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It was a dire situation, so Han Wu had no choice but to nod.

Jin Buhuan understood that if they didn't kill the monster now, it would eradicate Everlight City once Han Wu died. Thus, he resolved to teach his family's secret technique, one that no outsider had ever learned, to secure victory.

He swiftly placed his palms against Han Wu's temples. "I will use it once, and you must remember every movement. You can't make a single mistake!"

He channeled his energy into Han Wu, and a small golden figure appeared before him, controlling the Divine Weapons to form an array.

The array required eight Divine Weapons, and Han Wu coincidentally had exactly eight. The structure appeared only once in his mind, and he committed it to memory.

At the same time, Hei Qi completed the ceremony to inherit the evil god's power. Nine eyes opened along the length of the black blade, each representing a single evil god. For the sake of killing Han Wu, he had borrowed the strength of all nine.

The surge of power made Hei Qi feel invincible. Yet before he could trample every life form in this world, he had to kill Han Wu, the person who had humiliated him most. Only then could he relinquish everything and return to the evil god's embrace.

"Die!" Hei Qi roared.

At that moment, Han Wu activated Armament Baptism. His eight Divine Weapons rose behind him and settled around Hei Qi, forming a Ba Gua array. Then, an energy chain linked the weapons together.

With the array completed, Hei Qi felt the familiar pressure descend again, as if numerous Divine Weapons were crushing him.

Still, compared to Jin Buhuan's Armament Baptism, Han Wu's was far weaker, even with God-grade Divine Weapons. The array could suppress an enemy of equal strength or even

one a step stronger, but Hei Qi exceeded him by several levels. The pressure alone was not enough.

Hei Qi smiled as he slowly stood up. He would destroy the array when Han Wu attacked.

Han Wu's millions of Small Locust Blades surged into the array and fused with it. Each blade offered only a negligible increase in strength, raising the pressure by a fraction of a percent. However, with millions of blades reinforcing it, the pressure surged to 2,000 times what Hei Qi had initially endured.

Under that force, Hei Qi's bone armor shattered, and his mask cracked before dissipating. The throne beneath him crumbled into sand and scattered into the wind as if it had never existed.

Blood streamed from every orifice, and his senses gradually faded. This time, no voice spoke in his mind. One by one, the eyes along the black blade closed, and the power they had lent him withdrew.

The pressure pinned Hei Qi to the ground, and his bones started to crack. The evil god's power had been recalled!

"Die!" Han Wu snarled, intensifying the pressure to crush Hei Qi completely.

At that moment, Gong Jun, who had trailed after Hei Qi from Wushuang City, intervened. Seeing Hei Qi on the verge of being crushed, he shouted, "Mercy!"

Han Wu sensed an arrow flying toward him. It traveled only ten meters or so before he cut it down with his Small Locust Blade. It was both a warning and his final act of restraint. If Gong Jun advanced, his head would fly instead of the arrow.

Still, Gong Jun seized the moment of distraction, summoned his Divine Weapon, a cannon, and fired several rounds at the array trapping Hei Qi. However, they had no effect.

Unfortunately, his orders were absolute, and he had to save Hei Qi at any cost. He risked everything and charged toward Han Wu while pulling the trigger. His intent was simple. If he couldn't break the array, he would deal with the one controlling it.

A massive cannon shell shot through the air. Han Wu tried to intercept it, but its power was overwhelming. Even five Small Locust Blades couldn't stop it.

At such close range, the shell exploded ten meters from Han Wu. He couldn't evade the blast in time. After all, he had to maintain the array and couldn't afford to falter. Flames surged toward him, and he raised his arm to shield his face.

Thankfully, he wasn't alone. Jin Buhuan was beside him. In response to the ambush, Jin Buhuan summoned his Divine Weapons and formed an array. In the next instant, a mirror materialized and reflected the explosion.

Using the moment when the flames obscured their vision, Gong Jun swung his cannon like a baseball bat. He struck the weakest link in the Armament Baptism, the Explosive Locust Blade.

With it shattering, the array disappeared. Gong Jun dragged Hei Qi out of the array and fled.

Han Wu sensed the array break. He quickly recalled his Small Locust Blades and turned them into a torrent of steel to chase after Gong Jun. Millions of blades severed all escape routes. If they attacked, Gong Jun and Hei Qi would die.

At that moment, Gong Jun shouted, "Where are you guys? Stop him!"

Nine more people appeared and used their Divine Weapons to block the blades, allowing Gong Jun to escape. Their actions amounted to a declaration of war against Han Wu.

Han Wu redirected his blades to kill them before pursuing Gong Jun and Hei Qi. Unexpectedly, the moment the blades descended, the nine figures tossed their weapons and surrendered.

"We surrender! We are from the Divine Civilization, and we shouldn't fight one another!"

"Luo Yun, the alliance representative, has already instructed us not to fight among ourselves, to preserve Divine Civilization's strength and maximize our shared interests."

"If you attack us, we will all report you for killing members of your own civilization. You won't escape punishment!"

Han Wu frowned because they were invoking the College Alliance to pressure him to stop!

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 736 - Kill with a Borrowed Blade

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 736 - Kill with a Borrowed Blade

The nine of them panicked, unsure whether their threats would work, but they relaxed when Han Wu's attacks stopped. Even the Imperial College's valedictorian would think twice before crossing the College Alliance, and they believed that they had played their cards well.

"We lost, but we have our honor. We need to grow stronger and secure more resources. You can't take our freedom away."

"Also, we need to join the contest to get the Armament Spirit. This task comes from the College Alliance. You must assist us."

"The College Alliance..."

They spoke over one another until Han Wu shouted, "Enough!"

He turned and realized that Gong Jun had escaped with Hei Qi while they had stalled for time. There was no way to catch them now. Anger surged through him, yet the nine continued talking, as if they expected him to support them!

Faced with their unreasonable demands, he pinned them to the ground with his Small Locust Blades. Shocked, they continued shouting that the College Alliance wanted them to work together. They clung to that claim in hopes of surviving.

At that moment, Han Wu figured out everything. As someone from the Divine Civilization, he did have to be wary of the College Alliance's rules, so he wouldn't kill them. The natives, however, were a different story.

After restraining them, he vented his anger by passing the verdict to Jin Buhuan. "City Lord Jin, they were the ones who helped the two escape. I trust you know what to do with them."

Jin Buhuan stared at the broken city gate, the fallen innocents, and his disheveled state. He growled vengefully, "Execute them. Only then will my heart calm down."

"All yours."

The nine immediately understood Han Wu. He planned to have someone else kill them!

"Han Wu, you can't do this! We should stand together as members of the same civilization. We need to..."

"City Lord of Everlight City, we belong to the team representing Wushuang City. Are you not afraid that they will come after you if you kill us?"

"Release us, or Wushuang City won't spare you."

Their threats only enraged Jin Buhuan further. “So it was Wushuang City that slaughtered my people, broke my city walls, and even wants to take it further? Fine. Do they really think I have no temper and will do what they want? I will execute you first, then go to Wushuang City and demand an explanation.”

He summoned his Divine Weapons and killed them in a fit of rage. Their Divine Weapons fell to the ground, and Han Wu collected them without any intention of sharing.

Jin Buhuan didn’t mind. Even though the outsiders’ Divine Weapons were unique, he rarely relied on Divine Weapons at his level. Even if he took them, his strength wouldn’t improve significantly, so he would rather Han Wu keep them.

He now understood why Sun Qingnian was so adamant about Han Wu being their leader. His strength was undeniable. He was glad that he allowed Han Wu to enter the secret realm to train.

“Han Wu, we must avenge this grudge, but I must first return to Everlight City and stabilize the situation. Will you go to Wushuang City to demand an explanation?” Jin Buhuan asked expectantly.

Han Wu wanted to kill Hei Qi once and for all. Otherwise, Hei Qi could pose an unknown threat if he recovered. “I am willing, but I need resources to upgrade my Divine Weapons.”

Jin Buhuan smiled, “Of course. The city vault has many rare resources. Use them as you see fit. We will be your steadfast ally.”

Han Wu returned the smile. Jin Buhuan’s sudden change in attitude stemmed from the strength that he had demonstrated. In the Divine Weapon Civilization, might remained the foundation of any alliance.

They returned to Everlight City, where Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian greeted them with visible shame for their inability to help. Han Wu and Jin Buhuan, however, felt relieved that they didn’t. It was shameful, but survival mattered more.

Jin Buhuan initiated the reconstruction efforts for Everlight City, while Han Wu and the rest ran to the city vault to grow stronger.

As members of the Divine Civilization, they enjoyed special privileges granted by the Divine Weapon Civilization. As long as their Divine Weapons absorbed the required materials, their weapons could be upgraded. The natives did not share this advantage, but in exchange, Divine Civilization members required far greater quantities of material.

For the natives, the same resources would have been enough to forge five or six Divine Weapons. Yet despite consuming such a large quantity, Han Wu’s Small Locust Blade only

advanced to 8 Stars. Further upgrades required more than materials alone; it also needed essence.

Han Wu then took out the Divine Weapons that he had collected from the nine executed individuals to upgrade his Small Locust Blade.

The Small Locust Blade and these Divine Weapons were all products of both the Divine Weapon Civilization and Divine Civilization, so they were compatible. After absorbing them, it reached 9 Stars. This was the Divine Weapon Civilization's limit. Even Jin Buhuan didn't have a Divine Weapon of that caliber.

Han Wu was now stronger than Jin Buhuan. With his strength, he could take control of Everlight City, but he wouldn't do so. He was friends with Sun Qingnian, and since the latter was the son-in-law, he had to protect him.

Aside from the Small Locust Blade, Han Wu examined the two new Divine Weapons that he had unlocked in the secret realm: the Heavenly Demon Spike and the Dark Curse Nail.

With the secret realm's resources, both weapons had already reached God grade. Using the abundant resources in the vault, he upgraded them even further.

He sent an order and gathered the staff of the mansion. They assembled the required materials, and cartloads were transported where Han Wu resided.

Both the Heavenly Demon Spike and the Dark Curse Nail upgraded rapidly until they reached 5-Star God grade. They were now equally powerful with his other Divine Weapons. He possessed eight Divine Weapons in total, one at 9 Stars and the other seven at 5 Stars. He was no longer weak.

Jin Buhuan consoled his people before preparing to dispatch an elite group of assassins to follow Han Wu to Wushuang City.

Chapter 737 - Who Has More People?

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 737 - Who Has More People?

This time Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang swore that they would fight alongside Han Wu. With such abundant resources, both of them grew stronger.

Sun Qingnian unlocked his final Divine Weapon. After unlocking all nine, the atlas turned into a cultivation technique, the Nine-Tail Rumble Scripture, which only he could learn.

With his nine Divine Weapons as the core, he could temporarily transform into a nine-tailed fox and possess the power of a Heavenrender life form.

Qin Shuang was no weaker. She unlocked all eight of her Divine Weapons, and her atlas turned into a chain that allowed her to temporarily borrow power from her true body. She had already consumed the Annihilating Lightning Catalyst and was a Heavenrender life form, so she could temporarily possess Heavenrender power as well.

Han Wu had ten Divine Weapons but had unlocked only eight. He still needed some time to unlock the last two. Nonetheless, after seeing what Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang obtained from fully unlocking theirs, he looked forward to what awaited him.

With anticipation, he checked his two new Divine Weapons. The information on the 5-Star God-grade Heavenly Demon Spike and Dark Curse Nail appeared before him.

[Heavenly Demon Spike]

[5-Star God Equipment]

[Rank 3]

[Durability: 3978/3978]

[Effect: Durable (Divine), Sure-Hit (God), Deadly Venom (God)]

[Skill: Spiral Pierce]

[Description: Formed from the Heavenly Demon Insect. Contains incredible piercing capabilities.]

Durable increased the Divine Weapon’s durability and hardness. Sure-Hit granted it the ability to strike its target without fail.

Deadly Venom coated the weapon with a toxic blend that corroded, infected, paralyzed, and inflicted other debilitating effects.

Spiral Pierce was a skill that spun the Divine Weapon at high speed to amplify its damage.

[Dark Curse Nail]

[5-Star God Equipment]

[Rank 8]

[Durability: 327/327]

[Effects: Shadow Stun (Divine), Resonance (God), Clone (God)]

[Skills: Shadow Nail, Shadow Nail Barrage]

[Description: Formed from the Dark Curse Bug. Contains the power of darkness.]

Shadow Stun immobilized the victim by pinning its shadow. Resonance inflicted random damage across the victim's body once the shadow was pinned. Clone allowed the Divine Weapon to summon clones that had 50% of its original attributes.

Shadow Nail turned Dark Energy into Shadow Nails that carried 1/100 of the Divine Weapon's original attributes, while Shadow Nail Barrage turned Dark Energy into numerous Shadow Nails with 1/1000 of its original attributes.

Both weapons were powerful. One excelled in one-on-one combat, while the other was suited for team battles. With them, Han Wu was more confident about heading to Wushuang City.

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They traveled at full speed and reached Wushuang City after a day and a night.

A massive city wall isolated the city from the outside world. Enormous banners bearing the characters for *Wushuang* hung along the walls, giving the city an imposing and majestic presence.

By comparison, Everlight City's beauty appeared more fleeting. When they reached the front gate, they found it closed. Above the city gate hung a long banner with five words: *Look at the big picture.*

Han Wu laughed. Gan Xiangyu was clearly trying to tell him that the bigger picture mattered more than solving their personal grudges.

"Big picture? Bullshit." Han Wu flicked his Explosive Locust Blade, and flames reduced the banner to ashes.

"Call your men out, or we will attack!" Han Wu shouted.

The guards saw the banner burn and quickly sent a report to the city.

Gan Xiangyu soon appeared atop the city wall and looked down at them. "My foolish cousin has committed a crime, and I am willing to apologize on his behalf. Please give me a chance. Once this is over, I will come and personally thank you in the Divine Civilization."

His voice carried downward, but Han Wu pretended not to hear. “What are you saying? You are too high up! I can’t hear you. Come down here.”

Gan Xiangyu frowned. As the Warfare College’s fourth-year valedictorian, he would graduate soon. He was technically Han Wu’s senior, but now, even after lowering himself to apologize, Han Wu wanted him to go down too? That was excessive.

Seeing that Gan Xiangyu refused, Han Wu smiled coldly. “Since you won’t come down on your own, let me help you.”

He drove the Heavenly Demon Spike into the city wall. It was constructed from solid stone and solidified with molten metal that had hardened within. It was supposed to withstand a Divine Weapon, and even God-grade ones could only chip away at it.

However, Han Wu’s Heavenly Demon Spike functioned like a powerful drill that pierced through most defenses. With Spiral Pierce, he easily carved hundreds of holes on the wall.

As the structure weakened, the section beneath Gan Xiangyu collapsed. He had to jump onto the next section to keep his footing.

Han Wu continued drilling into the city wall. When the second section collapsed, Gan Xiangyu couldn’t take it any longer. He jumped down and landed in front of Han Wu. “Junior Han Wu, are you really waging war now? In that case, don’t blame me for killing you!”

Han Wu rubbed his ears. “I can finally hear you. You want war? Fine. Since you insist, I will give it to you. Let’s do this.”

Gan Xiangyu was frustrated because Han Wu twisted his words. He was even more devious than the Warfare lecturers, but still, that suited his taste.

“Fine. If you want war, we will have war. Warfare College has always fought in groups. Don’t say that I didn’t warn you. You still have time to back down.” As he spoke, 200 Warfare students marched out from Wushuang City.

Behind them came thousands of students from other colleges, all converging after hearing the news.

“Think carefully. Are you going to challenge us, or get beaten up? Don’t blame us for using numbers to our advantage,” one of them chided.

At Warfare College, bullying others with numbers carried no shame. Losing was!

Han Wu was unfazed. “So you want to rely on numbers? Fine. I will play along. Also, who was the one who said that just now? Take a good look and see who has numbers on their side.”

He pointed upward. Above him hovered his 9-Star God-grade Small Locust Blade, now split into more than 60,000 copies. He then activated Triplicate and Seven Killings, multiplying them into the tens of millions. The sheer number of blades blanketed the sky. He faced thousands with tens of millions at his command. The advantage was obvious.

Chapter 738 - I Will Shoulder The Crime For Killing You!

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 738 - I Will Shoulder The Crime For Killing You!

"*Oi, oi, oi*, are you kidding? Are those all God-grade Divine Weapons?"

"Be more confident. They are indeed all God-grade Divine Weapons."

"How does he have that many? Is he cheating?"

"Stay calm. We need to remain composed in the face of danger. He must have some sort of treasure that allows him to do so."

Gan Xiangyu frowned when he looked up. There were too many blades. Gong Jun had failed to report this when he returned. He didn't believe that Gong Jun would lie since there was no point. The only explanation was that Han Wu had powered up in that short period.

Gan Xiangyu was dejected. Everyone had created a clone with 10 Divine Essence, so how was Han Wu so special?

Numbers aren't everything. A Divine Weapon must have a limit to its growth. If it relies on numbers alone, it must have a glaring weakness. Maybe they are too weak to even pierce through my defenses?

That was his reasoning. He wore a 6-Star God-grade Silver Dragon Armor with incredible defenses. He believed that the Small Locust Blades couldn't pierce it.

That belief held true for a single blade, but the situation was different when faced with millions. The advantage in numbers wasn't a joke. Even a stone could be pierced through by water droplets, much less his armor.

Han Wu looked at him, "If you are so confident, why don't we test it?"

He then sent 10,000 blades downward. They surged like locusts, rushing at Gan Xiangyu.

He activated his Silver Dragon Armor, and a barrier appeared. The blades deflected off its surface. Those from Warfare College at the rear chuckled.

“I thought they were powerful, but they’re just useless little blades that are louder than they look.”

Gan Xiangyu disagreed. He realized that the deflected blades could curve back and resume their assault. That meant they were not single-use Divine Weapons. Each strike, however, significantly reduced their durability.

After enduring thousands of attacks, Gan Xiangyu noticed that his Silver Dragon Armor’s durability was also declining.

As the attacks grew more frequent, its durability dropped further. Although many blades had already broken, the relentless barrage did not slow. At this rate, his armor would fail first.

He quickly waved his spear, the Coiling Dragon, to deflect them. As he waved it, dragon-shaped illusions soared outward to hit the blades. That way, he reduced the number that reached him.

“Is that how you intend to play?” Han Wu commanded even more Small Locust Blades to join the fray.

The others from Warfare College couldn’t let Gan Xiangyu fight alone and moved to assist.

“All of you, stand back! Don’t interfere!” Gan Xiangyu shouted, stopping them. “This is our battle. You lot don’t have the right to interfere!”

He knew how powerful Han Wu was. If he turned his attacks on the group, they would suffer heavy casualties. It was one thing for Han Wu to bear the blame afterward, but if they intervened, the Warfare College’s survival rate would drop rapidly. As a graduating student, Gan Xiangyu wanted to secure as much as possible for the college instead of sending his juniors to their deaths.

“I won’t attack them as long as they don’t interfere,” Han Wu said.

More Small Locust Blades poured into the battlefield. Gan Xiangyu wildly attacked with all of his Divine Weapons. Each attack damaged numerous blades.

Han Wu remained unconcerned. He had plenty to spare.

Gan Xiangyu’s Divine Weapons were slowly being damaged.

Three minutes later, his Silver Dragon Armor cracked. Five minutes later, his Coiling Dragon fractured. Seven minutes later, his Flying Dragon was destroyed.

As more of his Divine Weapons fell, he struggled even to escape from the blades, much less attack Han Wu.

Many of the Warfare students could no longer stand by.

“We are all from the same civilization, and you’ve gone too far! Everyone, attack. We need to protect Senior Xiangyu!” one of them shouted.

Gan Xiangyu was his idol, and he couldn’t stand to watch him die here.

The others roared in agreement and moved to fight, but Gan Xiangyu stopped them with a shout. “This is my personal battle. Do not interfere! This is an order!”

He was already covered in wounds, blood seeping through his clothes.

Han Wu frowned. “I am here for Hei Qi only. Why are you standing in my way? Hand him over, and I will leave.”

Gan Xiangyu smiled bitterly. “No can do. He’s my cousin, and you’ll have to walk over my dead body if you want to get him.”

Han Wu’s frown deepened. “What great cousins. For the sake of that bond, I will bear the crime of killing you here.”

He summoned all his Small Locust Blades and sent them raining down.

Gan Xiangyu had fought for so long, yet he had only destroyed 1 million Small Locust Blades. Nine million still filled the air. Their combined force was enough to kill everyone present. Gan Xiangyu was not powerful enough to resist. He had lost.

“Hei Qi, this is the last thing I could do for you. You must seize the legendary Armament Spirit for me,” he muttered, facing his end.

Just as the blades were about to pierce him, something unexpected occurred. A faint yet peculiar pressure surged outward from Wushuang City, deflecting all of Han Wu’s blades. The force also pushed Han Wu and his companions backward. Fortunately, the repelling force lacked strength and only sent them back about ten meters.

Sun Qingnian rolled across the ground and could not help but curse, “Who dares to ambush us? Can’t you fight fair?”

An androgynous voice rang out. “You bastard! How dare you come to my Wushuang City to cause trouble? Is this what Jin Buhuan taught you?”

Han Wu looked ahead and saw a masked figure approaching. The mask, woven of gold and silver, gleamed faintly. The newcomer wore elegant robes, carried two swords, and their movements were strange. With only a few steps, they crossed several hundred meters and arrived at Gan Xiangyu's side.

Gan Xiangyu spoke weakly. "City Lord, I apologize for the humiliation."

Han Wu now understood that the androgynous voice belonged to the city lord of Wushuang City!

Chapter 739 - Defeating the City Lord of Wushuang City

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Faced with the city lord's questioning, Han Wu replied in a tone that was neither humble nor arrogant. "Hei Qi damaged Everlight City and slaughtered its civilians, so City Lord Jin ordered us to capture him and bring him back to be executed."

The city lord of Wushuang City glanced at Gan Xiangyu. "Is this true?"

Gan Xiangyu nodded helplessly.

The stunned city lord of Wushuang City turned back to Han Wu. "Wushuang City will handle this matter ourselves. Since you aren't causing trouble without reason, I will forgive your crime of breaking the city walls. Leave now. If you dare to stay within Wushuang City's territory any longer, I will kill you without mercy."

The city lord of Wushuang City clearly wanted to protect Hei Qi. However, Han Wu couldn't stand this, and he directed the nearly 9 million Small Locust Blades to hover behind him.

"Outsider, what is the meaning of this?" asked the city lord of Wushuang City, eyes narrowing behind their mask.

"It means if you don't hand over Hei Qi, I will slaughter the entire Wushuang City!" Han Wu declared boldly.

He was from the Divine Civilization. Slaughtering natives of the Divine Weapon Civilization was no sweat off his back. Moreover, it wasn't as though he was killing without reason. He had evidence on his side.

The twin swords in the city lord's hands emanated an invisible pressure. "I was willing to spare your life, but it seems you don't know what's good for you. Since you dare to threaten my Wushuang City, don't blame me for no longer letting you leave!"

With that, he swung both swords, unleashing two powerful blade pressures. Han Wu used Small Locust Blades to block the blow. It took 50,000 Small Locust Blades to neutralize them.

A peculiar force erupted from the city lord of Wushuang City, blowing away Han Wu's 9 million Small Locust Blades like before. This pressure also pushed him and his group back.

Before he could stabilize himself, the city lord abruptly appeared beside him as if he had teleported, and a long sword stabbed toward Han Wu's body. Fortunately, the Abyss Armor bought Han Wu some time.

Qin Shuang decisively unleashed Annihilating Lightning upon the city lord. Despite it being an extremely powerful elemental attack, it barely pushed him back.

The Abyss Armor's durability dropped significantly, but it thankfully didn't shatter. Han Wu became even more cautious than before.

"Han Wu, we'll help you!" Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian decisively released their strongest forms.

Qin Shuang borrowed energy from her true body to transform into her Annihilating Lightning form. Heavenrender power erupted as she turned into pure lightning.

Sun Qingnian transformed into a Nine-Tailed Fox. Each tail contained a Divine Weapon and inflicted heavy damage when he swished them.

The threat of two Heavenrender combatants had the city lord's hackles rising. The twin swords in his hands transformed. The left sword turned azure, blooming with a hundred meters of light. The right sword turned purple as it limberly coiled and twisted like a snake.

These two swords easily repelled Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian's combined attacks. Meanwhile, Han Wu remained on the sidelines, carefully observing the city lord's attacks and looking for openings in his movements.

The wide sweeping motions of the azure sword caused widespread damage with every swing. At the same time, the wily purple sword would attack from tricky angles.

“Attacking without defending... Are you too confident, or do you just think I can’t match your firepower?” Han Wu muttered to himself as he summoned his other Divine Weapons.

Locust-V popped out. Changing into its humanoid form, it recognized the city lord’s swords and immediately grumbled, “Heavenly Strike and Thunderous Flame! I have to say, you really know how to find trouble.”

Han Wu was already used to Locust-V’s talkative personality, so he paid no mind to its petulance. However, he was curious as to why Locust-V knew about the city lord’s Divine Weapons.

“Don’t ask me. I don’t know why I know either. I just do.” Locust-V shrugged. “I also know how to break through them.”

“Tell me,” Han Wu urged.

Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian were already struggling under the attacks of the two Divine Weapons.

“It’s simple: suppressive fire. Give it no chance to attack. I can do that easily,” Locust-V bragged, hands morphing into gun barrels.

After determining the appropriate size, it unleashed a hail of bullets upon the city lord, forcing the latter to go on the defensive.

Seeing this, Han Wu summoned his other Divine Weapons and swiftly launched the Explosive Locust Blade over as well. Its explosion engulfed the city lord.

Han Wu’s other Divine Weapons also showed their strength. Stabbing the Heavenly Demon Spike toward the city lord, he activated Spiral Pierce, turning the Divine Weapon into a powerful drill. Its Sure-Hit effect meant it wouldn’t stop until it hit the city lord.

As the smoke and flames from the previous explosion dispersed, Han Wu was able to see the city lord of Wushuang City using his swords to block the Heavenly Demon Spike and Locust-V’s barrage.

This was the limit of the city lord’s strength. Not one to leave things up to chance, Han Wu threw the Shadow Nail at the city lord’s shadow.

The original Shadow Nail and over a dozen Shadow Nail clones pierced the shadow. Under the effects of Resonance, the city lord suffered significant damage in the areas where his shadow had been stabbed.

Not only was he injured, but Shadow Stun had also trapped him. The city lord could not move until its effect ran out and could only watch helplessly as Han Wu’s Heavenly Demon Spike destroyed his Heavenly Strike.

Spiral Pierce, combined with Deadly Venom, caused Heavenly Strike to shatter into pieces. Thunderous Flame moved to block Han Wu's attacks in Heavenly Strike's place, but there were simply too many to counter.

There was Qin Shuang's Annihilating Lightning, Sun Qingnian's Nine-Tails Fox form, Locust-V's suppressive fire, and the Heavenly Demon Spike's Spiral Pierce. Even the strongest Divine Weapon couldn't possibly block so many attacks at once.

Moreover, Thunderous Flame wasn't a shield and didn't have high durability or defensive effects. Under everyone's combined attacks, its durability quickly ran out, and it also shattered.

The city lord couldn't resist their blows any longer. The Heavenly Demon Spike stabbed through his chest, and he fell to the ground, heavily injured. Although he wasn't quite dead yet, it was only a matter of time before he succumbed.

"The destruction of Wushuang City will start with you," Han Wu solemnly declared, directing the Heavenly Demon Spike to pierce the city lord's head.

: Chapter 740

Chapter 740 - Loyalty

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Gan Xiangyu and the others watched as the mighty city lord of Wushuang City fell. Two Divine Weapon shards burst out from his body.

The Heavenly Thunder twin swords were his only two Divine Weapons, both at 9-Star God grade. They made for excellent materials, so Han Wu collected them to use for upgrading his own Divine Weapons.

His gaze swept across the opposing group from the Divine Civilization. "Who here dares to stop me?"

The group immediately snapped out of their frozen shock and retreated several steps back.

Han Wu was strong enough to kill the city lord of Wushuang City, let alone them. The only thing that could protect their lives was the College Alliance's instructions. Even then, they

strongly suspected that if they dared to block his path again, he would ignore it and slaughter them all.

“Now tell me where Hei Qi is,” Han Wu demanded, grabbing Gan Xiangyu.

All of Gan Xiangyu’s Divine Weapons had been shattered and had yet to reform, meaning he couldn’t even muster the strength to resist.

“If you don’t speak, I’ll be sure to slaughter every single student from the Warfare College,” Han Wu threatened.

Gan Xiangyu faced a difficult situation. On one side was his sworn brother, whom he had known since childhood, and on the other was his college’s future.

Han Wu was forcing him to choose between his two loyalties. In the end, Gan Xiangyu decided on a third option: not to choose at all!

Gan Xiangyu’s clone exploded. Blood and flesh splattered all over Han Wu. Death became a final rebellion against Han Wu’s ultimatum.

Stunned, Han Wu coolly wiped the blood from his face. “A true man indeed. When I return to the Divine Civilization, I will befriend you.”

His gaze then turned to the others from the Divine Civilization. Having killed the city lord of Wushuang City and even forcing Gan Xiangyu to commit suicide, the others dared not go against him.

“I don’t know, don’t look at me!”

“I don’t know either!”

“I... I might as well just die too!” With a boom, another Warfare College student committed suicide to protect the secret that even Gan Xiangyu refused to reveal.

Han Wu couldn’t help but secretly admire their resolve. This exam in the Divine Weapon Civilization brought significant benefits to those who survived. Yet, some of them were willing to give that up out of loyalty.

“Since no one wants to speak, you can all return to the Divine Civilization together!” Han Wu thundered.

Of course, this was only a threat. He didn’t actually plan to kill all of them. After all, the College Alliance’s words still had some sway over him. He wanted to continue his studies at the Imperial College and go to the Chaotic Starfield in his fourth year, so he couldn’t outright ignore their instructions.

Fortunately, his intimidation worked.

“Don’t attack,” a person said, stepping forward. “I might have a clue about the person you’re looking for.”

He wasn’t a student from the Warfare College but from another college who came to join the War Clan. The furious students from the Warfare College glared daggers at him. Gan Xiangyu and several seniors had chosen to die for that secret!

“Don’t glare at me like that. I’m not from your college. I want to live until the end of the contest for the legendary Armament Spirit. Is that so wrong? Hei Qi is also from the Divine Civilization. Is his life more valuable than ours? Why should I be sacrificed for him? Why should everyone here be sacrificed?

“You can hate me now, but I think you’ll be thanking me once we leave the Divine Weapon Civilization and receive our rewards!” Then, turning to Han Wu, the student said, “I saw Gong Jun dragging Hei Qi into a secret chamber inside the War Clan. I can take you there!”

“Good, lead the way.” Han Wu wasn’t worried about being deceived, as such an act brought no benefits and would only result in death.

The student led Han Wu’s group into Wushuang City.

Inside Wushuang City, various noble families had learned of the city lord’s death and sent their finest warriors to assassinate Han Wu’s group. However, under the protection of nearly 9 million Small Locust Blades, no one could harm him.

Han Wu killed a large number of powerful assassins and absorbed a considerable amount of essence. The ninth Divine Weapon in his Divine Weapon Atlas was soon unlocked, but he had no time to check it. Instead, he followed the student to the War Clan’s secret chamber.

“Inside is the War Clan’s secret chamber. I was fortunate enough to enter and select several precious materials to upgrade my own Divine Weapons once,” the student said respectfully.

Han Wu used his Heavenly Demon Spike to smash open the door to the secret chamber. Inside was a mountain of materials. There was also the sound of someone fleeing in panic. Hastily giving chase, he made it just in time to see Gong Jun’s back as he carried Hei Qi away.

“Kill them!” Han Wu activated the Freespirited Ape God technique to increase his speed as he rushed forward.

Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian couldn’t keep up at all.

Han Wu rapidly closed the distance. Realizing he wouldn't be able to shake him off, Gong Jun decisively used his final trump card.

As one of the War Clan's founders, Gong Jun controlled a large amount of resources. Among them was a secret realm from the city lord of Wushuang City. Inside existed a large number of mutated beasts for the War Clan's members to train.

This secret realm had become Gong Jun's best way to escape Han Wu. Opening a portal, he rushed in, still carrying Hei Qi. He then started to close the portal behind him.

Unfortunately for him, he had severely underestimated Han Wu's speed. The Freespirited Ape God technique allowed Han Wu to boost his acceleration in an instant, allowing him to enter the secret realm right behind Gong Jun.

The gate closed. Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian watched helplessly as Han Wu disappeared without a trace.

"That was reckless of him. What if there's a trap inside?" Qin Shuang complained.

Ever confident in Han Wu, Sun Qingnian comforted her. "Don't worry. Even if there's a trap, I believe Han Wu will return safely."

Sun Qingnian's reassurance put Qin Shuang slightly more at ease.

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The first thing Han Wu felt upon entering the secret realm was endless heat. The second was emptiness beneath his feet.

Gong Jun had unexpectedly set the gate in mid-air and was fleeing on a flying Divine Weapon! Meanwhile, Han Wu plunged into the sea of lava below.

Staring at the churning lava, Gong Jun breathed a sigh of relief before letting out a contemptuous scoff. "Hmph, brainless idiot. The magma below will burn you to ashes. Don't you know not to pursue a desperate enemy?"

This secret realm required those who entered to stay at least a day before they could leave. Thus, Gong Jun had no choice but to find a place and wait for Hei Qi to recover from his injuries before making other plans. As he flew off, he failed to notice a figure slowly rising from where Han Wu had fallen.

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Chapter 741 - It’s Lonely to be Unparalleled

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As Han Wu fell toward the lava, his first thought was to use the Small Locust Blades to carry him away. He quickly changed his mind upon actually coming into contact with it.

Surprisingly, what engulfed him wasn’t scorching him but a pleasant warmth, similar to a sauna. So, Han Wu took a deep breath before he plunged into its depths, pretending to be swallowed whole in hopes of deceiving Gong Jun into lowering his guard.

After Gong Jun left, Han Wu floated to the surface of the lava. There wasn't a single burn mark on his body. Not even his hair was singed. He had one of his Divine Weapons to thank for this miracle.

The Abyss Armor not only had extremely high physical resistance but also elemental resistance. Combined with Invulnerable, which allowed the Abyss Armor to take no damage from attacks that couldn't break its defense, the lava did absolutely no damage to Han Wu.

“Even this desperate situation couldn’t harm me at all. How lonely it is to be unparalleled,” Han Wu muttered, walking on the lava as if on flat ground.

He didn't dare summon his other Divine Weapons. The lava was ineffective against him because of the Abyss Armor, but his other Divine Weapons didn’t have the same protection. While in the lava’s damaging range, their durability would surely suffer.

Unwilling to take that risk, Han Wu wandered around in search of a place to climb out. However, on the way, he encountered many mutated beasts in the sea of lava.

Fire Bats emerged from the magma below. Their mouse-like forms were shrouded in flames, with sharp fangs that protruded from their mouths and a fleshy pair of wings.

They flew and pounced at him the moment they saw him[1]. Han Wu ran for his life. Fortunately, with the Freespirited Ape God technique, he was able to flee, and he soon found a scorching rock to clamber up.

Although the rock was searing hot, it was far enough from the lava. Han Wu hurriedly summoned his Small Locust Blades to attack the Fire Bats. After effortlessly killing several of them, Han Wu noticed that the Small Locust Blades' durability was rapidly decreasing.

The blood of the Fire Bats ran hotter than magma, far beyond what the Small Locust Blades could withstand. Han Wu hastily changed tactics and summoned his other Divine Weapons.

As the Explosive Locust Blade had the fire attribute, it didn't suffer from loss of durability, but its explosions also didn't harm the bats at all.

The Locust Soul Orb's attributes leaned towards the Yin, making it susceptible to heat damage. The Gluttonswarm Ring, the Heavenly Demon Spike, and the Dark Curse Nail were even worse. When exposed to high temperatures, their durability would continuously decrease. It was completely unsustainable.

Only Locust-V had some resistance to high temperatures, so he summoned it and unleashed a barrage of bullets on the mutated beasts.

After killing a large number of Fire Bats, Locust-V asked, "How did you come to this place?"

"Do you know what this place is?" Han Wu asked in lieu of a response.

"Of course I do." Locust-V patted its small chest proudly. "But why should I tell you?"

Han Wu's eyebrow twitched. Despite being confined time and time again, it still hadn't learned obedience and kept trying to challenge him for no reason. "I'll count to three. If you tell me what you know, I won't confine you. Otherwise, you'll suffer. One—"

"I'll talk, I'll talk, okay?!" Locust-V immediately gave in. "This is actually the depths of the planet's core, and also a natural forging site for Divine Weapons. Look in the lava. There are stones that don't melt even in that heat. Those are good materials that can be used to strengthen Divine Weapons—"

Han Wu jumped into the lava before Locust-V could even finish.

Locust-V watched as Han Wu moved nimbly in the lava, fishing out the aforementioned stones as if taking things from a bag, and gave a thumbs up. "You're really awesome!"

After collecting a few stones, Han Wu set them before Locust-V and asked, "What's this thing called, and how do you use it?"

"This is a Furnace Stone. It can be used to upgrade fire attribute Divine Weapons," Locust-V explained. "It can also be used to strengthen Divine Weapons in general, but the latter requires a highly skilled blacksmith."

Han Wu was somewhat disappointed. There was obviously no blacksmith in this burning hellhole! Even so, being able to use it to upgrade fire attribute Divine Weapons was still pretty good.

Luckily, Han Wu had a fire attribute Divine Weapon: the Explosive Locust Blade. He fished out a large amount of Furnace Stones from the lava and allowed the Explosive Locust Blade to absorb them all.

As Locust-V said, the Explosive Locust Blade's rank rapidly increased, and its explosive might reached impressive heights.

Each explosion effectively hit like a missile at this point. It was truly spectacular. Wanting to boost its power further, Han Wu also took out shards of Thunderous Flame from his Dimension Bag as well.

Between the Thunderous Flame sword shards and the Furnace Stones, the Explosive Locust Blade soon became Han Wu's second Divine Weapon to reach 9-Star God grade.

This was an unexpected but pleasant surprise. Han Wu's next task was to find Gong Jun's hiding place. It would be quite the challenge, given that it was only he and Locust-V in this vast lava.

Locust-V then proposed that Han Wu fuse an Armament Spirit into the Explosive Locust Blade. The material for the Armament Spirit was the Firebat Cores that the Fire Bats had left behind.

The Firebat Cores contained part of the Fire Bats' egos and could also record various skills of their race. Moreover, with a Fire Bat Armament Spirit, the Explosive Locust Blade could transform into a Fire Bat and take flight, which would save Han Wu a lot of effort.

Deciding to follow Locust-V's suggestion, Han Wu used the Firebat Cores to fuse an Armament Spirit into the Explosive Locust Blade.

Fortunately, there was no lack of Fire Bats in this sea of lava. Han Wu fused a tremendous amount of Firebat Cores, and the Armament Spirit soon formed. Then, it started ranking up.

At first, it was only a Common-grade Fire Bat, then a Faith-grade Elite Fire Bat, then a Divine-grade Fire Bat General, and finally, a God-grade Firebat King! Although it was a God-grade Armament Spirit like Locust-V, the Firebat King was far inferior in terms of intelligence.

Despite this, it had one distinct advantage over Locust-V: it was especially obedient! It followed his commands without a peep, and Han Wu couldn't help but like the Firebat King more than Locust-V for it.

The Firebat King's massive body carried Han Wu out of the sea of lava, soaring to scan the area for Gong Jun.

After some searching, Han Wu finally discovered traces of Gong Jun and Hei Qi in a cave far from the lava. Their situation didn't seem good.

1. I thought bats had poor eyesight? ☜

: Chapter 742

Chapter 742 - I’m Going to Laugh

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“Hei Qi, you’re still injured! You need to rest!” Gong Jun insisted.

Hei Qi ignored him and stood up. “Where’s Han Wu? Where are you, Han Wu?! Come fight me to the death!”

Gong Jun frowned. Hei Qi was stubborn beyond belief. If not for Gan Xiangyu’s orders, he would’ve abandoned Hei Qi a long time ago.

“This is Wushuang City’s secret realm: the Planetcore Forge. You lost to Han Wu, and I rescued you from imminent death!” Gong Jun explained.

“Impossible. I’m stronger than even Brother Xiangyu. How could I lose to Han Wu?! You’re obviously lying to me. You must be. I know, Han Wu must’ve bought you off! You and Han Wu are in this together!”

Hei Qi’s eyes became crazed. Under the influence of the Evil God Contract, his consciousness blurred, and he even developed false memories. He recalled Gong Jun and Han Wu working together to defeat him. They even killed Gan Xiangyu.

“You traitor!” Hei Qi roared. “Xiangyu trusted you, yet you joined hands with Han Wu to kill him. I'm going to kill you!”

The black sword flew into Hei Qi’s hand. When Hei Qi grasped it, an eye opened on the blade. More false memories planted themselves in Hei Qi’s mind, causing him to lose himself in boiling rage and dizzying madness. The black sword then shot out several black blade pressures, forcing Gong Jun to retreat from the cave.

This guy is nuts! Gong Jun inwardly cursed.

He had helped Hei Qi escape, only to be hunted by him instead. This sheer absurdity of the situation drove Gong Jun to stop caring about Hei Qi altogether. He mounted his flying Divine Weapon and prepared to leave. When the one-day timer was up, he would leave this place, uncaring of whether Hei Qi lived or died.

Just as he took off, he spotted Han Wu in the air, staring at him with a smile.

“You're not dead?!” Gong Jun exclaimed. He had seen Han Wu fall into the sea of fire! How strong was his life force that he could even withstand the lava?

Damn it! Gong Jun cursed in his heart. What is he? A ghost eternally haunting me that I can never get rid of?

“Give me the token for opening the portal, and I won’t kill you,” Han Wu said, blocking Gong Jun from leaving.

Naturally, Gong Jun didn’t hand over the token, but instead mocked, “You want the token? You think you can get the token from me?”

With that, Gong Jun turned his flying Divine Weapon around and flew in the opposite direction. His flight speed was extremely fast. Even those with mastery over flying would find it hard to catch up.

Unfortunately for Gong Jun, he had once again underestimated Han Wu. The Armament Spirit of the Explosive Locust Blade was the Firebat King, a native organism of this place. Racing it on its home turf was futile.

Shortly after Gong Jun fled, he realized that Han Wu was flying right next to him. Han Wu even waved.

Infuriated, Gong Jun accelerated further, staging a high-speed race against Han Wu above the sea of lava. This stirred the Firebat King’s competitive spirit. How could it, the Firebat King, lose in a flying race?

It gathered its strength and absorbed the ambient Fire Energy in the air. Then, the Firebat King transformed into a ball of flames that launched forward with a sonic boom, swiftly catching up once more.

Gong Jun summoned his Divine Weapon and fired a cannonball at the Firebat King in a fit of rage, but the Firebat King nimbly dodged the attack.

Han Wu wasn’t about to let that slide. If Gong Jun wanted to shoot at him with his cannon, then Han Wu could just as easily return fire with his Gatling gun. Locust-V appeared on Firebat King's body, transformed his raised arms into gun barrels, and fired at the flying Divine Weapon beneath Gong Jun.

The flying Divine Weapon's durability rapidly dropped, forcing Gong Jun to find an area far from the lava sea to land before its durability was exhausted.

Even then, Gong Jun refused to give up. He summoned his many Divine Weapons, which consisted mostly of firearms, and unleashed a barrage of bullets on Han Wu.

Han Wu remained unmoved.

Locust-V swept the area with gunfire. Its bullets intercepted and detonated all the cannonballs and incoming bullets in mid-air. The Firebat King also charged toward Gong Jun under Han Wu's command before detonating itself.

A massive explosion rocked the area. Huge plumes of fire exploded upward. The already unbearable heat rose by another few degrees. Gong Jun managed to block the damage from the explosion with his Divine Weapons, albeit disheveled and covered in dust, but two Divine Weapons were destroyed as a result.

Meanwhile, Han Wu's Explosive Locust Blade reformed, and the Firebat King reappeared. It had instantly revived with full health!

Its sharp little eyes locked onto Gong Jun again, ready to make up for its failure to blast him to bits with another attempt.

The surrounding temperature was a sweltering furnace. Gong Jun's body trembled when he noticed the Firebat King's eyes on him.

What the hell, is this ever going to end?!

Gong Jun ran.

The Firebat King chased after him. Han Wu already knew Gong Jun's attempt to escape was futile.

Another self-detonation from the Firebat King, and Gong Jun sacrificed another two Divine Weapons to protect himself. This time, though, the force of the blast still blew him back. Sacrificing his Divine Weapons wasn't enough to keep him completely safe.

Serious burns marred his body. If not for his strong life force, the Firebat King's Explosive Flare would've already roasted him.

"Go ahead and run! Let's see where else you can go!" Han Wu called, gleefully watching the show from the sidelines. As he was preparing to seize the token from Gong Jun's body, he suddenly sensed danger.

Han Wu instinctively dodged. A black sword stabbed at where he had been standing. When he saw the black sword, he immediately thought of its owner, Hei Qi!

Hei Qi abruptly appeared beside his weapon, grabbing and raising it high.

"Han Wu, you will pay for this!" he roared, slashing at Gong Jun.

Han Wu was stunned. What's happening? Why is he attacking his own comrade? Is this some kind of strange new tactic?

Gong Jun, however, was so furious that he even coughed up blood. "Are you stupid? You're attacking the wrong person!"

Thoughts of revenge and the corruption of the evil god had long clouded Hei Qi's consciousness. He was far beyond reason.

Ignoring Gong Jun, he snarled, "Han Wu, it feels bad to see your friend get hurt, right?"

Han Wu had no idea what Hei Qi was doing. I don't feel bad at all. In fact, I really want to laugh.

"Stop pretending not to care! I know what you're thinking!" Hei Qi roared, striking at Gong Jun again.

The sharp blade sliced through Gong Jun's neck.

Gong Jun's wide eyes and gaping mouth as he died seemed to express something along the lines of: "Hei Qi, you idiot! I should've left you to die outside Everlight City instead of saving you!"

Use arrow keys (or A / D) to PREV/NEXT chapter

Chapter 743 - The Giant Locust Blade

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 743 - The Giant Locust Blade

Han Wu finally realized that Hei Qi had gone mad.

Unfortunately, he could only summon the Explosive Locust Blade and Locust-V while he was this close to the sea of lava. These two Divine Weapons were undeniably powerful, but they weren't enough to take down Hei Qi. For that, he would need the Small Locust Blades, which would take constant heat damage and couldn't be effectively used.

So, Han Wu decided to play the long game. His priority was getting the token from Gong Jun's body.

Despite going mad, Hei Qi had regrettably retained his intelligence. The first thing he did after killing Gong Jun was pick up the token with his blade.

“You want to leave, right?” he asked, turning to face Han Wu. “Then you have to face me first.”

Hei Qi swung his blade, unleashing a black blade pressure that easily cut through boulders and churned the lava. Han Wu used the Explosive Locust Blade to block it, but the blade pressure destroyed it.

Locust-V continued its barrage of bullets, but Hei Qi dodged them with ease, even having the leeway to occasionally retaliate. Even so, Hei Qi wasn’t having a good time. The protection of the Evil God Contract wasn’t enough to prevent heat damage.

The two were locked in a stalemate for long enough that the next day came. With the timer up, Hei Qi used the token to escape. Han Wu activated the Freespirited Ape God technique to follow Hei Qi out of the secret realm.

Outside, without the restrictions of the blistering heat, the two could finally fight to their heart’s content. Black energy emanated from Hei Qi, and nine eyes opened on his black blade.

Han Wu summoned all of his Small Locust Blades. After Triplicate and Seven Killings, 9 million Small Locust Blades covered the sky. Even the deranged Hei Qi felt powerless at the sight.

In truth, it wasn’t Hei Qi who wanted to retreat, but the evil god possessing him. It recognized the fight as a death wish. Before Han Wu could even attack, the evil god took control of Hei Qi’s body and fled.

The Small Locust Blades flew at supersonic speed but couldn’t catch up. Even Han Wu couldn’t give chase despite using Freespirited Ape God. Furious, he cursed Hei Qi. The latter was hung up on revenge, yet he was the first to run from the fight!

Catching sight of Han Wu’s Small Locust Blades from a distance, Qin Shuang and Sun Qingnian rushed over to check on him. Han Wu informed them of Hei Qi’s escape. Both of them sighed. This had been a waste of time.

Frustration welled up within Han Wu. Hei Qi’s speed was beyond his expectations. Even Han Wu couldn’t catch up!

“I need to complete my training for the Freespirited Ape God,” he said firmly.

It was no exaggeration to say that his speeds after mastering the technique would allow him to pluck the moon and catch abyssal fish.

Still, they didn’t return from this venture empty-handed. Han Wu had killed the city lord and turned Wushuang City itself upside down. None of the noble families dared to do

anything to Han Wu, and even offered large sums of money and resources in hopes that Wushuang City would be spared.

Han Wu accepted their gifts. There were many materials that he could use to upgrade his own Divine Weapons. While his Small Locust Blades and Explosive Locust Blade had reached 9 Star and couldn't be upgraded further, he did have several more Divine Weapons that could be upgraded.

Recalling that he had unlocked his ninth Divine Weapon earlier, Han Wu also took this opportunity to check it.

[Giant Locust Blade]

[1-Star God Equipment]

[Rank 1]

[Durability: 1000/1000]

[Effect: Gigantify (God)]

[Skill: Tenfold, Hundredfold]

[Description: Formed from the Giant Locust. Contains the power of giants.]

Han Wu summoned it. At two meters long, it appeared like a magnified version of the Small Locust Blades and far more durable than his other Divine Weapons.

Using Tenfold caused it to grow to twenty meters long. The sight was jarring and intimidating. Its parameters had also increased to match its size. The durability grew tenfold and was now at 10,000. That was enough durability to carve a path through a mountain!

Han Wu then tried Hundredfold. This time, the already massive blade grew until it was 200 meters long. Even his estate couldn't contain it!

Pointing it up to try and get a better gauge of its size, he realized it was large enough to dwarf most buildings. A single swing from this humongous blade would be a spectacular sight.

After playing around with his new weapon, Han Wu went on to choose its God-grade effect.

[1: Afterblow (God): Divine Weapon obtains an afterimage that deals a second blow that follows each attack.]

[2: Superheavy (God): The impact behind the Divine Weapon’s blows grows in proportion to its size.]

[3: Eviscerate (God): Infuses attacks with destructive powers. Divine Weapons hit by it will have their max durability reduced, and injuries on the flesh will not heal.]

He carefully considered each one. The first was simple but brutal. It turned one blow into two and doubled his damage.

The second strengthened the weapon when it grew bigger. A massive, heavy blade would definitely deliver significant damage with this effect.

The third reduced the upper limit of the durability of the opposing Divine Weapon, and the opponent’s wounds couldn’t be healed. This was powerful, but the sheer size of the blade meant there could be instances where the opponent’s Divine Weapons could block against it.

Moreover, most life forms were already likely to die from the impact if they were attacked head-on. Thus, though the third appeared powerful, it was arguably the one with the fewest use cases.

After much consideration, Han Wu decided to go for the second option.

The Giant Locust Blade became stronger, and its quality improved. Using the resources that the noble families had sent over and the Furnace Stones he had picked up in the secret realm, he ranked up all his Divine Weapons.

As the Abyss Armor had aided him greatly in the secret realm, he decided to pay special attention to upgrading it. It soon became his third 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

Absorbing the gifted materials and Furnace Stones had multiplied Abyss Armor’s defensive capabilities, allowing it to nullify most blows from Divine Weapons below 9 Stars. Its Invulnerable effect had come ever closer to reality. Han Wu could stand in the middle of the enemy army and get hit all he wanted, yet still be safe with it protecting him.

Almost no one in this civilization could harm him now!

Chapter 744 - The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch

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Outside of Wushuang City, a group of men in red carried a palanquin. They stopped when they saw the city's devastated walls. The curtain slowly lifted to reveal a woman with a red shawl covering her face. She was one of the two emissaries of the Profound Netherworld Cult: the Yin Emissary, the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch.

Her position in the cult was second only to the cult leader, on par with the Yang Emissary. The old man that Han Wu had killed before was a minor member with only enough status to carry her shoes—that was, if she didn't disdain him.

"What happened to Wushuang City?" she asked. "The walls have crumbled!"

The one leading the way quickly kneeled. "Matriarch, apparently, a powerful expert came seeking revenge. Both the team leader of Wushuang City and even the city lord himself were slain.

"That half-and-half bastard was killed? Good. Now no one can stop me." She chuckled, letting the curtain fall back into place. "Move out!"

As they approached Wushuang City, the guards noticed that the group was all in red and assumed it was a marriage procession. They planned to stop them in hopes of receiving some money to buy alcohol.

However, as the procession neared, the guards caught sight of their banner. Chills ran down their spines. This group was from the Profound Netherworld Cult!

Still, something didn't seem right. The Profound Netherworld Cult was known for donning either black or white clothes, not red. Unsure of what to do, the guards decided to send someone to call for the general on duty.

After Han Wu's calamitous arrival, the nobles of Wushuang City were all scared into submission. They felt as though they would be the next on the chopping block if they made any misstep.

The general on duty was a family member of the previous Wushuang City city lord and was already treading on thin ice. He was not only worried about the other noble families taking the assets of their house, but also feared Han Wu would come knocking if they didn't treat him right.

At first, the general didn't pay much attention to his underling's report. Although the Profound Netherworld Cult was powerful, they dared not do anything to the four strongest cities.

Then, he belatedly realized that the city lord was gone. The Profound Netherworld Cult could actually seize this opportunity to take over the city. Thus, he decided to head out and greet them in hopes of expanding his network a little.

When he reached the gate and saw the procession in red, he immediately whipped the guard who had called him.

“Since when does the Profound Netherworld Cult wear red and sit in a palanquin?” he scolded, whip lashing fiercely at the guard. “Do you think they have marriages for the dead? If this is really the Profound Netherworld Cult, I will eat that palanquin!”

The general was using this as an outlet to vent his frustration from the stress. Walking out of the city to check the procession, he saw that they were indeed holding the banner of the Profound Netherworld Cult and assumed that they were faking their way into the city using the cult’s name.

“Are you really from the Profound Netherworld Cult?” he asked, a note of mockery in his tone as he toyed with his whip. “Your disguise is terrible. Even children know that the Profound Netherworld Cult only wears black or white. Do you think you can fool me with your red clothes?”

The person leading the procession tried to stop the general from closing in, but the general whipped a bloody wound on their face. The guards in red were going to attack when the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch’s delicate voice echoed from the palanquin.

“Let him come,” she gently commanded.

Even just her voice alone seemed to conjure up the image of a beauty in the general’s mind. Lust gripped his heart as he approached. *I wonder whose bride is this? I should have a taste first*.

Ignoring the ashen faces of the guards in red, he opened the door to the palanquin.

Inside was a bride in red. A red shawl hid her undoubtedly exquisite face from view, but her body certainly didn’t disappoint. The general audibly gulped. This was more exciting than his first time.

He slowly lifted the shawl, only to see a ghostly face covered in maggots. Her sagging flesh had a black-green hue.

“General, am I pretty?”

The general’s legs turned to jelly, and his throat felt as though it had been stuffed with cotton. He could neither run nor scream, only watch as a mummified arm dragged him into the palanquin.

“Move on,” shouted the leader of the procession.

The procession continued. When the guards tried to stop them, the general popped his head out of the window and ordered them to give way. It wasn’t until the procession had

passed through the gates that one of the guards noticed a strange liquid leaking from the palanquin. Touching the liquid, he realized it was blood!

Immediately after entering the city, the general was tossed out. His body was mummified, and while he was still breathing, he had lost his mind.

The procession moved swiftly until it reached a large estate. According to the estate sign, it was the Hu family estate.

One of the guards in red knocked on the door. The guards within the estate checked the peephole and saw a pair of red eyes. As if hypnotized, the guard opened the door for them to enter.

The procession attracted the attention of those in the estate. Some even ran back to report to the patriarch. When the patriarch heard about the banner of the Profound Netherworld Cult, he immediately knew who they were looking for: his son-in-law, Guan Nan.

The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch's sultry voice echoed through their estate. "Those from the Guan family, as long as you can give us what the Profound Netherworld Cult is looking for, we will not disturb you again."

Her voice was met with silence. Sighing, she uttered a single command, "Kill."

Her guards exploded into action. The servants in the estate fell one after another. Blood splattered onto the guards' clothes, turning them ever redder.

Unwilling to let his family suffer this horrendous fate, the Hu family patriarch grabbed his Divine Weapon to attack, but was pinned down before ever even nearing the palanquin.

"Where is Guan Nan?" asked the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch.

The Hu patriarch remained silent, so her guards started executing the Hu family one by one before him.

"Wait, stop killing!" the Hu patriarch shouted. "I'll talk! Guan Nan is visiting a friend with his family. They are at the city lord's mansion. If you don't believe me, I can send someone to fetch them."

The Hu patriarch hoped that his son-in-law hadn't been exaggerating about knowing the person who had killed the city lord. If not, the Hu family line would end today.

"I'll give you fifteen minutes. If he doesn't arrive by then, I'll kill you and your family."

Chapter 745 - Do You Think I’m Pretty?

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 745 - Do You Think I’m Pretty?

In the city lord's mansion, the Guan Nan brothers were drinking with Han Wu. They had never expected to meet again in Wushuang City. Fate worked in mysterious ways indeed.

They were making merry when a servant from the Hu family suddenly barged in. “Sir, bad news! The Profound Netherworld Cult has found us. They’re only giving us fifteen minutes to get you to the Hu family estate before they kill us all!”

The Guan brothers jumped to their feet.

“That damned Profound Netherworld Cult!” Guan Nan sneered. “How dare they try to bully us!”

With that, he turned to bid goodbye to Han Wu. “Benefactor. I suppose this is the end for today. If I live through this, let’s drink together again.”

Han Wu frowned. “Never thought the Profound Netherworld Cult would chase you all the way to Wushuang City. They’re truly relentless.”

When he first arrived in the Divine Weapon Civilization, an old man calling himself the old ghost of black mountain had been on his way to kill Guan Nan, when he encountered Han Wu and died by his hands instead.

This was where Han Wu had obtained the Black Mountain Scripture. Much time had passed since then, yet the Profound Netherworld Cult was still hunting the Guan family.

Guan Nan was Han Wu’s friend. There was no way he could let him meet his end just like that. “Since I’m also here, let me go with you. I might be able to help.”

Guan Nan was touched. He had found out that Han Wu had killed the Wushuang City’s city lord, their team leader, and the allied forces of the noble families, so he knew Han Wu was stupidly powerful.

“Thank you, benefactor.”

With that, they rushed back to the Hu family estate. Corpses littered the ground. Guan Nan’s father-in-law was pinned to the floor while the rest were being forced to their feet.

None of them looked to be in good condition, but at least they were still alive. Guan Nan sighed in slight relief before glancing at the guards in red and the palanquin behind them.

“I am Guan Nan, the patriarch of the Guan family,” he declared. “Come at me. Don’t harm the Hu family.”

The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch chuckled. “It seems you’re a real man. The Profound Netherworld Cult wants something simple. As long as you can give it to us, we won’t trouble you any longer. If not, we’ll send both your families to hell.”

Rage swelled within Guan Nan. His family had done nothing wrong, but the Profound Netherworld Cult continued to hunt them for their family treasure.

“The treasure of the Guan family will never fall into the hands of evil beings like you,” he shouted defiantly.

“Then say goodbye to your father-in-law and his family. Kill.”

Her guards brandished their Divine Weapons, preparing to start their massacre, when Han Wu’s Small Locust Blades intervened, countering their blows and knocking them back from the Hu family.

“Such an interesting Divine Weapon…” the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch said, audibly intrigued. “It’s both strong and weak.”

Han Wu ignored her as he and his friends positioned themselves in front of the Hu family. “Guan Nan, go ahead. I will protect them.”

“Thank you, benefactor!” Guan Nan said, smiling in relief.

If not for Han Wu, his family would’ve been long dead. Guan Nan then summoned his Divine Weapon, a massive reclining moon blade with a dragon engraving. The pressure emanating from it indicated that it was a powerful Divine Weapon. As he attacked the palanquin, green energy converged around the blade.

A giant replica of the Divine Weapon made from pure energy appeared and swung downward. “Heaven-Earth Severance!”

This was the secret technique of the Guan family; the strongest move up his sleeve to kill all manner of evil beings. This single slash could dissipate monsters and ghosts alike.

The powerful energy blade cleaved the palanquin into pieces, revealing the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch. She gripped the edge of the blade, holding back a blow that deterred all manner of evil beings with just a single hand. The energy blade sizzled against her flesh, but even then, it failed to sever her.

Squeezing down, she crushed the energy blade. The backlash hit Guan Nan hard, causing him to fly backward with a spray of blood from his lips.

“Heaven-Earth Severance is indeed a powerful secret technique,” the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch commented, unfazed. “No wonder the cult leader wants it.”

Despite her unaffected appearance, she was secretly hiding her palm from sight. The large gash on her palm was growing increasingly severe, her flesh festering with every passing second. This was the power of Heaven-Earth Severance.

Unfortunately, Guan Nan was several times weaker than the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch, and his strike wasn’t enough to stop her.

In no hurry to kill Guan Nan, she bowed to Han Wu and the rest.

“If I’m not mistaken, you’re the young hero who killed the city lord, right? I am the Yin Emissary of the Profound Netherworld Cult and am known as the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch. I hope you won’t interfere with the matters of the Profound Netherworld Cult. I’m willing to let you and the people you’re protecting go. I only want Guan Nan. How does that sound?” she proposed.

Han Wu smiled. “I don’t think so. He’s my friend. You barge into my friend’s home and want to take him away. Do you really think I’ll do nothing?”

“Are you not afraid of offending the Profound Netherworld Cult?” she asked with an eerie chuckle.

“The Profound Netherworld Cult? I’ve already offended you guys when I killed the old man calling himself the old ghost of the black mountain.”

She let out a startled bark of laughter. “That old ghost is only a minor member of our sect. His death doesn’t concern us. I hope you won’t interfere with this matter and ruin your future.”

“If I don’t?” Han Wu asked, summoning 20,000 of his Small Locust Blades. He then used Triplicate and Seven Killings to multiply them into 3 million blades.

This was him holding back. If not, there would be enough Small Locust Blades to blot out the sky entirely.

The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch sensed the pressure emanating from the blades but showed no fear. Instead, she pulled her shawl open to reveal her black-green face covered in maggots.

“Do you think I’m pretty?” she suddenly asked.

Her ghastly appearance and unexpected question caused even Han Wu, who had seen a lot of crazy scenes, to feel disgusted. That was when he abruptly realized that his surroundings had changed.

He was sitting on a bed in a room filled with decorations. This was the night of his marriage. They were about to consummate their union.

Did I get hit by her illusion? Han Wu wondered with a grimace.

A voice broke him out of his musings. “Husband, am I pretty?”

Frowning, Han Wu turned his head to see Qin Shuang in a red wedding gown. She was lifting the red shawl that veiled her face, a radiant smile on her face that washed away all other thoughts in Han Wu’s mind.

“Of course you are.”

Chapter 746 - Heaven-Earth Severance

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 746 - Heaven-Earth Severance

Qin Shuang slowly approached Han Wu, gracefully extending her slim, white hands to his face. Before she could even touch him, a growl rumbled from within Han Wu. A ferocious tiger leaped out of his body, pinned Qin Shuang down, and bit her.

Han Wu snapped out of his daze, and the illusion shattered.

“Are you shocked to find that I have a Divine Weapon that’s related to my soul?” He sneered.

The Calamitous Ghost Tiger sent the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch flying back. Her grotesque eyes darted about, carefully assessing the threat. Meanwhile, the Locust Soul Orb returned to Han Wu before summoning the three souls within it to protect him.

In front of him crouched the tiger, Ah Mao guarded the back, Ah Da the left, and Ah Er the right. The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch couldn’t harm his soul like this. Seeing that she couldn’t attack Han Wu, she turned to Qin Shuang, who was protecting the Hu family as well.

She had seen Qin Shuang in Han Wu’s subconscious, which was why she had pretended to be her in the illusion. Aware that Qin Shuang was important to Han Wu, she decided to attack her soul and take her hostage.

Han Wu didn’t stop her. Qin Shuang could handle herself. The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch would die soon.

As expected, a thunderous boom rang out as soon as her soul touched Qin Shuang's. The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch appeared to have been struck by lightning. Her red wedding dress was charred black as she fell to the ground and turned to ashes.

Han Wu chuckled at the sight. The Scarlet Ghost Matriarch had chosen the wrong target. Qin Shuang could temporarily borrow the strength of her true body, which had Soul Lightning, allowing her to attack souls directly.

When the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch died, her guards all let out horrific shrieks before turning to ashes as well. Guan Nan was flabbergasted. It had ended far more easily than he had expected!

Han Wu helped him up, and they inspected the ashes of the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch together. There were seven Divine Weapons buried in her ashes, each related to the soul.

These suited his Locust Soul Orb, so he decided to absorb them to upgrade it. The Locust Soul Orb soon reached 8 Stars. It was a shame it didn't reach 9 Stars, but at least it had grown stronger.

The Calamitous Ghost Tiger's body had gained a thin shroud of red gas made of bloodlust. Even if it missed its attacks, the red gas would still damage the enemy upon contact. Han Wu was delighted with the results of the battle. Guan Nan, on the other hand, was worried.

"The people from the Profound Netherworld Cult are dead. What are you worried about?" Han Wu asked, confused.

"Benefactor, you might not know this, but that was the Yin Emissary, the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch. According to rumors, the Yin and Yang Emissaries work closely together. Since the Yin Emissary was here, that means the Yang Emissary must be close by. I fear that he will attack soon."

"That's not a problem. Let them come. I'll just deal with them." Han Wu chuckled.

A wave of relief washed over Guan Nan. He was well aware of Han Wu's strength and was grateful to have his support. Han Wu had helped him so many times that he felt indebted to him, and the Guan family always repaid their debts.

After considering it briefly, he said, "Benefactor, you've saved us numerous times now. We don't have anything to repay you with other than our secret technique. Please accept it. I insist."

"Secret technique? Was it the one that you used just now?" asked Han Wu.

In truth, he wasn't all that impressed with Guan Nan's Heaven-Earth Severance earlier. It couldn't even kill the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch. What use was it?

“Indeed. It’s the secret technique of the Guan family,” Guan Nan excitedly explained. “According to legends, my ancestor used it to carve this land itself."

Han Wu didn’t have the heart to say that if it was that strong, the Profound Netherworld Cult wouldn’t be able to threaten their family.

“This is a powerful blade technique,” Guan Nan continued obliviously, “and it depends on the weapons you use. The most suitable Divine Weapons are those similar to the reclining moon blade.”

Han Wu was too lazy to learn it, so he feigned sadness. “That’s a shame. I don’t have a weapon like that. It seems I can’t learn it.”

“Don’t worry, a regular blade will work too. Even if you can’t unleash the technique’s full might, you can at least still use 80% of it. With your power, I’m certain that you could unleash an incredible attack. The Heaven-Earth Severance’s main use isn’t in regular combat but in fighting against evil beings like those from the Profound Netherworld Cult. I’m certain it’ll be of great help to you.”

Han Wu didn’t want to learn it, but he was helpless in the face of Guan Nan’s insistence. It wasn’t like he could tell his friend that his family’s secret technique was weak. After learning it, however, he realized that the technique hid profound depths.

The technique didn’t exhaust his own energy but absorbed the natural ambient energy to unleash the blow. The weapon’s size and strength directly affected the amount of energy it could absorb. Naturally, more energy meant a stronger blow.

Under Guan Nan’s careful guidance, Han Wu learned the basics within half a day. He could cultivate it more in the future since it wasn’t exactly a convoluted technique.

That night, the Guan brothers shared drinks with Han Wu. Unfortunately, as Guan Nan had expected, the two emissaries worked closely together, and the Yang Emissary arrived that same night in search of the Scarlet Ghost Matriarch.

The moon shone brightly as a group of people wearing black carried a huge coffin into Wushuang City.

The guards tried to stop them, but the figures in black slew them all. During the fight, the coffin never once touched the ground. They then carried the coffin to the Hu family estate.

After losing hundreds of servants in the fight that day, the Hu family estate was deathly quiet. The conspicuous figures in black entered the estate with the coffin and were immediately spotted by the guards.

Already numb from the tragedies of the day, the Hu patriarch informed Guan Nan about it before ordering everyone to return to their rooms to sleep. They were not to come out, regardless of what they heard.

Everybody was quick to obey, all wanting to stay out of it. They had witnessed Han Wu's strength and trusted him to solve it.

Thus, only the Guan brothers and Han Wu walked out of the hall to greet the uninvited guests.

An arrogant voice came from within the coffin. "Where is the Yin Emissary?"

"She's probably back home now," replied Han Wu.

"Home?" The Yang Emissary was perplexed.

"Yes, her home: hell, the underworld, or even the land beyond the west. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?"

"You rude bastard. How dare you trick me!" snarled the voice. "Kill him!"

Chapter 747 - My Blade is Thirsty

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 747 - My Blade is Thirsty

The figures in black summoned their Divine Weapons. Han Wu smiled, summoning several hundred of his Small Locust Blades, before multiplying them into tens of thousands.

The Small Locust Blades slashed past the men with a surprisingly metallic clash. Most of the Small Locust Blades had been deflected. Only some had managed to stab them. Yet, even those stabbed continued to charge as if they felt no pain.

Han Wu flicked the Explosive Locust Blade at them. The explosion blasted them back. The fire then morphed into a Fire Bat and chased them down. Its flames burned away their robes, revealing their greenish-black skin.

"Those aren't humans!" Guan Nan exclaimed. "Those are Iron Corpses! They're impervious to most attacks!"

Their indifference to Han Wu's Small Locust Blades and the flames of his explosions had baffled him earlier, but now he understood. They weren't living beings at all!

"You are correct," said the voice from the coffin. "Unfortunately for you, nobody who's seen the true nature of my Iron Corpses gets to live for very long."

The Iron Corpses charged at them.

"Benefactor, my Heaven-Earth Severance can stop them. Both my brother and I can only fight one Iron Corpse each. Please stall for time for the rest of them," Guan Nan said.

"Why bother with something so troublesome?" Han Wu frowned. The Iron Corpses were annoying, but Han Wu hadn't even tried his other seven Divine Weapons yet.

Summoning Locust-V, he pointed at the Iron Corpses. "Destroy them."

"What if I don't?" Locust-V asked playfully.

Han Wu glared.

Seeing the seriousness of his gaze, it immediately did a 180. "I will complete the mission."

It raised its arms at the Iron Corpses and changed the barrel sizes until they were the size of its wrists before firing a slew of Armor Piercing Rounds. Each bullet was like a mini cannonball that left gaping holes in the Iron Corpses. The powerful impact also knocked them backwards. In just a minute, all of the Iron Corpses had been dismembered.

Locust-V jokingly saluted Han Wu. "Mission accomplished."

Han Wu waved his hand, gesturing for it to stand aside. Only the Yang Emissary remained.

"What's wrong? Do you need me to invite you out of your coffin?" Han Wu asked, summoning his latest Divine Weapon, the Giant Locust Blade.

When Guan Nan saw the two-meter-long blade, he couldn't help but regret not teaching Han Wu Heaven-Earth Severance earlier. That giant blade was much larger than his own reclining moon blade!

As if sensing the threat from Han Wu, the lid of the coffin launched high into the air with a loud bang before landing vertically at the coffin's edge.

The Yang Emissary stepped out, looking like a humanoid golem crafted from pure gold. He wore golden armor, and even his skin was radiant gold. Han Wu sensed the presence of a Divine Weapon similar to his Abyss Armor emanating from the man.

It appeared the golden armor had a similar effect to Invulnerable. If he wanted to break through its defenses, he would need a single powerful blow. Anything less would be nullified.

“It seems that you’re strong enough to kill my Iron Corpses. If you surrender yourself to me, I will spare you,” the Yang Emissary said with an air of lofty benevolence.

Han Wu shrugged. “But my blade is thirsty. Tell you what, I’ll give you a 199-meter head start before I attack.”

“You gnat. You dare look down on me? I will show you my unyielding power!” With that, he leaped forward, landing on the ground with the solid heft of metal that cracked the tiles.

Han Wu swung his Giant Locust Blade down. “I gave you a chance to run. Don’t blame me for this.”

As his Giant Locust Blade fell, he activated Hundredfold, and the blade grew to 200 meters long, with a weight and impact that reflected its new size. Han Wu also used the Guan family’s secret Heaven-Earth Severance technique at the same time.

A massive energy blade, larger than his Giant Locust Blade, swung downwards.

The Yang Emissary belatedly realized his mistake, but it was too late to escape. The blow landed cleanly. The ground shook with a loud explosion. The slumbering Hu family was startled awake, and unable to help themselves, they quickly ran out to check on the situation.

A meter-wide gouge started from the front of the estate and stretched far beyond what the eye could see. The Hu family patriarch slumped to the ground, murmuring to himself in awe.

Guan Nan had taught Han Wu Heaven-Earth Severance, but even he was left stunned. In all honesty, he had never really believed the words of his ancestors about a single cleave splitting the world apart. Seeing Han Wu’s swing, however, he changed his mind. Han Wu could really split the world apart if he mastered the technique.

Han Wu was the most surprised out of them. When he had swung the blade down, he had briefly felt as though he had gained the strength of his true body. He knew it was probably just in his head, but the power of Heaven-Earth Severance was undeniably satisfying regardless. Perhaps he could even split a Microcosm in half once he mastered it.

As for the Yang Emissary, he had paid the price for his arrogance. Several golden drops of blood on the ground were all that remained of him. The rest of the body was probably scattered far down the gouge.

The slash had not only awakened the Guan family and the Hu family, but also the other nearby noble households. They quickly sent their men to check and soon received news of the massive gouge extending from the Hu family estate. A brief investigation revealed that both the Yin and Yang Emissary of the Profound Netherworld Cult had been killed.

Several eyewitnesses reported that Han Wu had been seen on site—the same Han Wu who had killed the city lord. The noble households dared not say a peep. Soon, a hidden message spread throughout the city.

The Hu family was nominated to be the newest noble family, and their son-in-law, Guan Nan, became the most likely candidate for the next city lord.

As for Han Wu, he departed Wushuang City with Sun Qingnian and Qin Shuang the very next day. Jin Buhuan had sent them a message the previous night stating that the legendary Armament Spirit was about to appear.

: Chapter 748

Chapter 748 - Five Teams

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 748 - Five Teams

The legendary Armament Spirit was the Divine Weapon Civilization’s greatest treasure. One appeared every ten years, and each appearance drew countless civilizations to compete for it. This time was no different.

Everyone within the Divine Weapon Civilization could sense when it would appear. A massive array appeared just above Divine Weapon City, allowing contestants to transport themselves to the secret realm where the legendary Armament Spirit was born.

However, the array had strict limitations. It could transport only 100 contestants at a time, while millions sought entry into the secret realm.

How was the priority determined? The allocation had already been decided. Of the 100 slots, Divine Weapon City received 30%, or thirty individuals. Each of the four strongest cities received fifteen, totaling sixty. The remaining ten were left for independent cultivators to compete for among themselves.

Naturally, many complained about the inequality, especially the independent cultivators. Many of them came from other civilizations, risking their lives and leaving their cozy homes to test their luck, only to face discrimination.

However, they were also the weakest faction. Against the five powerful teams, they could only compete for the last ten spots unless they united to defeat at least one of the teams.

The Divine Weapon team held a geographical advantage and was already in position, looking down on the independent cultivators as they arrived one by one.

The four strongest cities arrived through transportation gates. As they opened, their teams stepped through in order. The first team was Wanyao City's, led by Sun Qianqian. Their team numbered 359, split evenly between monsters and outsiders.

Next came Lingxiao City. Their leader, Feng Wuji, led a team of 482. Almost two-thirds were outsiders, while the remaining one-third were natives. Half of them wore azure feathered garments, and the others wore black or white.

Then it was Wushuang City's turn. The War Clan marched through the gate. Their leader was no longer Gan Xiangyu, but Hei Qi, who had returned only after confirming that Han Wu had left.

Hei Qi appeared calm as he surveyed the scene. Behind him stood the rest of the War Clan, numbering 2,000. Only a small fraction were offspring of Wushuang City's noble households; the rest came from the Divine Civilization.

Their massive team didn't impress the first two teams. Instead, they drew disdain.

Sun Qianqian scoffed. "A ragtag group of incompetent fighters. They are not worth our time."

Feng Wuji didn't even give a single glance.

At last, the gate for Everlight City activated. The other three teams waited eagerly. Both Sun Qianqian and Feng Wuji had heard that Everlight City's leader, Han Wu, was formidable. He had led a small group into Wushuang City to find someone, killed the city lord, and even subdued the noble households through brute force. They were curious to see what kind of man possessed such overwhelming power.

Han Wu led the Everlight City team out of the gate. Behind him were Sun Qingnian, Qin Shuang, and Jin Tuantuan. No one else followed.

The four at the front turned back in confusion as well. Where were the others? It seemed unlikely they had been lost after a few steps.

"Everlight City is too arrogant! They only sent four people?"

“No matter how strong they are, I doubt that they can fend off the combined attacks of hundreds of people. Also, the secret realm is very dangerous. Four people won’t be enough.”

“Isn’t that better for us? We can just eliminate them and take their fifteen slots for the secret realm.”

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The independent cultivators murmured as they discussed Everlight City’s unusual team.

Within Everlight City, Jin Buhuan seethed with anger. After all, the noble households had abruptly withdrawn their offspring from the team!

“You guys really want to see Everlight City fall from the ranks of the four strongest cities? Fine. If this is how you want to do things, don’t blame me for being heartless after this,” Jin Buhuan growled and opened the secret realm his family controlled.

The various members of the Divine Civilization who had been training within it walked out and entered the gate to Divine Weapon City.

Two minutes after Han Wu and the others exited, more people appeared from Everlight City’s gate. Xiang Meng, Xia Tian, and the others from Imperial College were among them. The rest came from the Demonic Imperial College, including Xu Mengmeng.

The independent cultivators frowned at their sudden appearance. In the end, Everlight City fielded 387 members. Aside from Jin Tuantuan, all of them were outsiders.

With all four teams from the strongest cities assembled, the city lords, who acted as the final representatives for their teams, walked through their respective gates and sat on their thrones in Divine Weapon City.

Wushuang City no longer had a city lord, so they sent an interim one instead.

Now that all four teams had arrived, the city lord of Divine Weapon City appeared and prepared to send the first wave into the secret realm.

“Does anyone object to the slot allocation?” the city lord asked.

Objections erupted from below, especially from the independent cultivators. They could only send ten people at a time, so they were understandably angry.

There were nearly 10 million independent cultivators present. If only ten could enter at a time, even after the contest ended, 99.9999% of them would still remain outside.

The city lord had expected that. “If you object, you may challenge one of the five teams. If a team is wiped out, its slots will transfer to you, the independent cultivators.”

The crowd roared with enthusiasm and started assessing which of the five teams was the weakest. The outsiders hidden among the independent cultivators were ready to assassinate their targets for a chance to enter the secret realm first.

In response to the rising fervor, the Divine Weapon team acted first. Their leader, Nie Yuntian, stepped forward, and a large bell appeared behind him. It rang, and the sound overwhelmed the 10 million independent cultivators’ voices. Some of the weaker ones suffered ruptured eardrums.

“I am Divine Weapon City’s team leader, Nie Yuntian. Those who refuse to submit… come at me!”

The other teams followed, displaying how terrifying they could be.

Sun Qianqian summoned her Divine Weapon, the Sea-Calming Staff, and planted it before her. It instantly expanded and turned into a 100-meter-long pillar. Its pressure was unmistakable. It was a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon, far stronger than the reports had suggested.

“I am Wanyao City’s team leader, Sun Qianqian. Please take care of me.”

Lingxiao City’s team leader, Feng Wuji, revealed his Divine Weapon as well. It wasn’t the Taiqing Sword mentioned in the reports but a pair known as the Golden Wheels of Sun and Moon. They consisted of the Golden Sun Wheel and the Golden Moon Wheel. The Sun Wheel burned with blazing heat, while the Moon Wheel radiated cold calm. Together, they radiated the pressure of a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

A powerful aura then erupted from Wushuang City’s team. Hei Qi snarled, and all nine eyes on his black blade opened simultaneously. The sinister aura around him intensified, marking him as someone no one wished to face.

The independent cultivators quickly turned their attention to Everlight City’s team. Based on their intel, this team was supposed to be the weakest. Nearly 10 million gazes fixed on Han Wu.

Han Wu grinned and revealed his Divine Weapon, the Small Locust Blade. It was also a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon, but because of its quality, its aura was weak, comparable to that of a 5- or 6-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

The independent cultivators’ eyes sharpened with intent. If the leader was so weak, the rest would be no better. As such, they prepared to strike.

At that moment, the sky darkened. Everyone looked up and saw the sky was filled with the same Divine Weapon in Han Wu's hands. There were close to 10 million of them, one for every independent cultivator present.

Although each Small Locust Blade's aura was weak, the staggering number erased the difference.

Naturally, the independent cultivators panicked. None of the five teams were easy targets!

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Chapter 749 - Join Them If You Can't Beat Them

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 749 - Join Them If You Can't Beat Them

The independent cultivators couldn't defeat the five teams, but if they didn't fight, their slots would remain too few. If they continued to waste time here, they wouldn't even get a chance to enter the secret realm.

Some of the more perceptive cultivators found a shortcut: join one of the five teams. Among them, Divine Weapon City had the most slots. They could transport thirty people at the same time, double the number assigned to each of the other four cities. It was also three times the number available to independent cultivators.

Moreover, the Divine Weapon team consisted of 600 members. If they managed to join and ended up among the last to be transported, they would enter the secret realm by the twenty-first wave, which was much better than fighting among 10 million independent cultivators.

A muscular, yet smart, warrior raised his cudgel and addressed Nie Yuntian. "I am Ci Mu, and I have a 7-Star God-grade cudgel. I wish to join the Divine Weapon team. I hope you will accept me, Leader Nie."

Nie Yuntian studied him, judged that he could be useful, and nodded. "I welcome you to my team, Ci Mu!"

With Ci Mu's successful entry, others quickly followed, displaying their Divine Weapon in hopes of joining one of the five teams. Divine Weapon City had the largest quota, so they

were willing to accept more people. Those with 7-Star God-grade Divine Weapons or higher were admitted.

The Wanyao team had a specific requirement. Sun Qianqian accepted only monsters with powerful Divine Weapons, and many were selected under her criteria.

Lingxiao City also attracted many powerful independent cultivators and applied its own selection method. Someone in their team could observe Qi. Those with clear Qi were usually upright people who performed good deeds, while those with murky Qi were more likely to resort to deceit for personal gain. Such individuals were usually evil bastards and driven away. Feng Wuji oversaw the process, ensuring that no one lingered after rejection.

As for Wushuang City, they refused all applicants; they already had 2,000 people. Since they could only send fifteen at a time, it would take 140 waves for all of them to enter the secret realm. By then, most resources would be gone. There were no benefits in expanding their ranks.

Some cultivators turned their attention to Everlight City. Its smaller numbers and the presence of outsiders made it seem more approachable than the native-led teams, and several sought to join.

Han Wu and the other three discussed and established a rule: they would only accept natives with powerful Divine Weapons. Their goal was to recruit talented people for Everlight City.

The natives who dared to compete were usually lone warriors with ambition and expectations. Regardless of what they gained, they would not return to their respective civilizations like the outsiders once the event ended. Instead, they would remain in the Divine Weapon Civilization and grow. Though ranked last among the four strongest cities, it still possessed formidable power.

By recruiting natives, Everlight City could retain talent even after Han Wu and his companions departed.

Jin Buhuan observed everything and felt quietly grateful for their decision. While his former allies were trying to bring him down, outsiders like Han Wu were repaying his kindness. Jin Buhuan wanted to cry and swore that he would treat Han Wu and his companions as family as long as he lived. Anyone who harmed them would be his enemy, and he would show no mercy!

Han Wu was unaware that his actions had earned Jin Buhuan’s trust.

As they continued selecting candidates, a familiar voice called out, “Han Wu, can I join the Everlight City team?”

Han Wu turned and saw a skinny old man, little more than skin and bone. The man's clothing looked familiar.

Qin Shuang noticed the forging hammer that he carried and exclaimed, "Are you Master Ou?"

"Master Ou?" Han Wu echoed in shock.

The man before him bore little resemblance to the Master Ou he remembered. Even if Master Ou had been begging for food on his way to Divine Weapon City after they parted, he could not have become so old and skinny!

"Master Ou, what happened? Did something bad occur?" Han Wu asked.

Master Ou smiled bitterly and explained briefly. "I used my master's secret technique. I sacrificed my own flesh and blood to nurture my Divine Weapon."

He then presented his Divine Weapon for Han Wu to inspect.

Han Wu touched it and was surprised beyond belief. The forging hammer's effect was too powerful! It had nine God-grade effects, and they all complemented each other.

Han Wu suddenly felt that his own 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon was worthless by comparison.

"I knew it. A true Divine Weapon is one forged by your own hands," Han Wu remarked.

Master Ou chuckled. "In that case, may I join the Everlight team? I have grudges to settle on my master's behalf. I have to fight those from Divine Weapon City, and this is a good opportunity."

Han Wu nodded. "Of course! Master Ou, I can vouch for both your strength and character!"

Many independent cultivators managed to join the five teams, but even more were turned away. Many of them were outsiders with no ties to the Divine Weapon Civilization, and they were accustomed to causing trouble.

After being rejected, their thoughts turned radical, and they launched attacks. They would rather die than accept rejection.

The moment they acted, the Divine Weapon City's city lord activated the plaza's special effect. Those who attacked any of the five teams were branded as rule breakers and transported to special zones assigned to the five teams. Each team had to eliminate the rule breakers within their own zone before they could be transported onward.

The deathmatch’s rules within these zones were simple: one-on-one until death. The five teams also enjoyed a special privilege. They could send in as many men as needed until they secured victory.

Against a powerful rule breaker, they could send in disposable pawns to wear them down before delivering the final blow.

Han Wu frowned at this rule and selected some of his more powerful people from his team to handle the situation.

Within five minutes, the hundreds of rule breakers who had attacked the Everlight team were wiped out. Han Wu himself killed eighty of them, roughly three-fifths of the total. His overbearing aura intimidated the remaining independent cultivators. They abandoned any thoughts of attacking the five teams and waited patiently for the city lord to transport them.

At last, the first wave started. Members of the five teams and the independent cultivators were randomly selected and transported.

: Chapter 750

Chapter 750 - Lady Huang

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A hundred of them were transported into the special realm in the first wave, including Han Wu. Outsiders like him were unaware of a hidden contest rule.

Those who killed the rule breakers had a higher chance of being selected for transport. Since Han Wu had killed the most, his chance of entering during the first wave was the highest, so his selection was no surprise.

He arrived in an unfamiliar space without his allies and decided to scout the area first. The secret realm appeared to be an abandoned city. Vegetation covered the walls, and sections had collapsed.

Han Wu frowned a little because the dilapidated place felt off, though he couldn’t identify why. “I need to figure out this place as soon as possible.”

He summoned his Divine Weapon, the Gluttonswarm Ring, summoned 100,000 Glutton Locusts, and spread them throughout the area. He could see what the locusts saw and checked every building within a 2.5-kilometer radius. What he found shocked him. This place wasn't abandoned at all.

Almost every building contained several mummified corpses. They appeared completely drained of fluids. Some were humanoid, while others had beast-like forms. Worse, they were hostile.

If he had barged into the buildings himself instead of using the locusts, he would have most likely attracted dozens of them at once.

He had his Abyss Armor, whose mighty defensive power meant he wasn't afraid of getting surrounded. Still, he wouldn't provoke those unknown corpses and get surrounded on purpose.

"I don't have any information about this place or the legendary Armament Spirit. I should prioritize finding my friends first," he murmured.

He then summoned his Locust Soul Orb and called forth Ah Mao. Using the latter's compass, Han Wu started tracking down Qin Shuang. The compass spun and pointed in a certain direction.

Han Wu summoned his Explosive Locust Blade, turned it into the Firebat King, mounted it, and flew toward the indicated direction. From above, he saw an astonishing sight. Countless mummies were pursuing the life forms that had been transported there.

The mummies appeared to be unkillable. Even when smashed to dust, they reformed after a while and resumed their attacks. It also seemed that the mummies regained some vitality when they devoured contestants.

Han Wu also noticed something unusual. Mummies that had eaten nothing bore no markings, but those that had fed carried the number 1 on their bodies. He didn't understand its meaning for now, so he set it aside and continued toward Qin Shuang.

Elsewhere, Lady Huang had been fortunate enough to enter the secret realm in the first wave. Unlike the outsiders and the independent cultivators, she already knew how this secret realm functioned.

She first observed her surroundings before taking out a map, a Divine Weapon that sketched its environment in real time. She activated it, and everything within a 100-meter radius of the map was displayed. As she moved, the map updated with her position. It was highly detailed, and she could check the layout of every building.

Lady Huang located a house without any mummies and crawled inside through a window.

The house was old and coated in dust. No one had lived there for a very long time. She, however, felt a surge of excitement and started rummaging through it as if she had found a treasure chest. She checked the closet and found a Divine Weapon shaped like a staff.

Elated, she quickly grabbed it and channeled her energy into it. It wasn't particularly powerful, so she quickly refined it. It was only a Common-grade Divine Weapon, but it had a special property.

Only a Divine Weapon originating from this secret realm could kill the mummies. The mummies also contained something valuable. Over the past ten years, their bodies had accumulated a special metal that attracted the legendary Armament Spirit. If one gathered enough of that metal and forged a Divine Weapon from it, the legendary Armament Spirit could be attracted to them.

Now that she had a weapon capable of killing the mummies, she no longer crept about like a thief. Instead, she stepped into the street and struck the buildings with her staff to lure the mummies out.

As she had expected, they heard the noise and rushed out to hunt her down.

At that moment, she activated her Divine Weapon, the Celestial Shackles. Numerous chains burst from her and bound the nearby mummies. The rule stated that regular Divine Weapons couldn't harm them, but since the Celestial Shackles only restrained rather than injured them, she could bypass that limitation.

She stabbed the staff into a mummy's heart. Once struck, the mummy crumbled into dust. Almost every mummy left behind a speck of metal. She gathered them all, as she would need them to forge a powerful Divine Weapon to serve as a vessel for the legendary Armament Spirit.

While she was on her killing spree, an outsider suddenly appeared down the street, with countless mummies chasing him. He had tried to use his own Divine Weapons to kill them, but they never stayed down; they regenerated and continued their pursuit. Worse, the faster he ran, the more mummies he attracted. He was already exhausted, but he still couldn't shake them.

When he spotted Lady Huang, a devious plan formed in his mind. Since the mummies craved living flesh, he decided to run past her and pass them onto her! To him, as long as Lady Huang could distract them, he could escape.

He sprinted toward Lady Huang and inadvertently entered her Celestial Shackles' range.

"You are lucky. I don't have time to kill you. I will leave these mummies to you instead!" he said wickedly.

He tried to flee, but the Celestial Shackles were faster. A chain shot out and bound him.

“Did I say you could leave?” she asked calmly.

“Let me go! Do you know who I am? I will smash your stupid chains with my Divine Weapon!” he shouted and attempted to summon his chainsaw to cut himself free. In the next instant, he realized that he couldn’t summon his Divine Weapon at all!

The Celestial Shackles had not only bound him but also his energy. Without it, he couldn’t summon anything.

“I think you should deal with the mummies that have been chasing you.” She chuckled and threw him into the horde of mummies.

Bound by the chains, he couldn’t resist. The mummies tore into him, and he soon died under their bites. Surprisingly, the mummies took the Divine Weapons he dropped. One of them, marked with 1, seized his chainsaw. The moment it did, the number changed to 2, and it grew stronger.

It revved the chainsaw and attacked Lady Huang. The weapon roared and appeared to carry unstoppable power, but the moment the Celestial Shackles bound the mummy, the chainsaw stopped.

“A higher-grade mummy drops more metal. Let me see how much you will yield.” She held her staff and stabbed it into its heart.

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: Chapter 751

Chapter 751 - Repose Effect

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After searching the area, Han Wu located Qin Shuang. She was boxed in by a large group of mummies. She sent out hundreds of Feather Darts to destroy them, but within moments, they were back to normal and continued the chase. They behaved as if they wouldn’t die until they devoured her.

More mummies gathered around her, and the pressure mounted. Han Wu arrived there just in time, pulled her onto his Firebat King, and flew them out of danger.

From the air, they saw that the pursuing mass of mummies stretched for hundreds of meters. There were too many of them! Qin Shuang felt that she had barely escaped death.

“These mummies are too hard to deal with. I can’t shake them off,” she said with a sigh. They reminded her of Han Wu’s ten Cockroaches with their tenacious regeneration, though the mummies seemed stronger. They regenerated without consuming anything and embodied extreme durability.

Han Wu nodded. “We need a way to kill them permanently. First, let’s find Sun Qingnian and the others.”

Using the compass, he visualized Sun Qingnian. The needle spun aimlessly, which meant Sun Qingnian was unlucky and hadn’t entered this secret realm in the first wave. The same result followed when he visualized Jin Tuantuan.

When he visualized Master Ou, the compass reacted. The needle steadied and pointed in a fixed location. He quickly spurred the Firebat King to fly in that direction.

Qin Shuang didn’t slack off either. She scanned the terrain below and committed it to memory, forming a rough map in her mind.

It didn’t take long for Han Wu to locate Master Ou. What puzzled them was how easily Master Ou was dispatching these mummies. Using the forging hammer as his Divine Weapon, he easily killed them. Master Ou had also collected enough of the strange metal that dropped from the slain mummies to form a fist-sized lump in his pocket.

“Master Ou, how did you kill them?” Han Wu asked urgently. If he could do the same, their situation would no longer be so dire.

Master Ou explained. At first, he had no effective method to deal with the mummies. Coincidentally, he noticed one of the mummies carrying a scythe.

After smashing the mummy, he seized its weapon. As a blacksmith, he recognized it as a sealed Divine Weapon that required energy to activate. He refined it with his energy and discovered that, even though it was only a Faith Divine Weapon, it could kill the mummies.

After that discovery, he gathered as many Divine Weapons as he could find in this secret realm, melted them down, and coated the metal onto his forging hammer. In this way, his forging hammer became a powerful weapon capable of permanently killing the mummies.

Qin Shuang and Han Wu were stunned. They quickly followed his example, gathering as many Divine Weapons as they could before refining them. Soon, they found that they could tear through the mummies that had been troubling them as easily as paper. Even so, their efficiency was low.

Han Wu noticed that the mummies dropped little orbs or flecks of a strange metal. No one knew its purpose, but since each mummy dropped some, it was most likely extremely important.

At that moment, he had an idea. What if I coat my Divine Weapon with this strange metal? Will something happen?

He decided to test it out and requested Master Ou to lend him the metal that he had collected.

Qin Shuang used her lightning to melt the metal, then dipped Han Wu's smallest Divine Weapon, the Small Locust Blade, into it. Their supply was limited, so she only managed to coat three of Han Wu's blades.

Han Wu controlled them and attacked the mummies. Although they didn't die from a single strike, they weren't healing either. He pressed the attack and finally pierced a mummy's heart. This time, it died and turned to dust, leaving behind a small fleck of the strange metal.

"I did it!" he shouted excitedly.

Qin Shuang and Master Ou shared his excitement because their efficiency in harvesting the metal had just increased.

Through sustained effort, he killed the thousands of mummies surrounding them with his three Small Locust Blades. He then summoned the Glutton Locusts to collect the metal flecks.

Master Ou didn't recognize the metal. Despite decades of experience as a blacksmith, he had never seen anything like it. The prospect of forging a Divine Weapon from it intrigued him. However, they had too little metal. Their entire stockpile would only yield at most half of a Small Locust Blade. They needed more.

They searched the buildings one by one and found many sealed Divine Weapons. Although their parameters were normal, they all shared the Repose effect, which was essential for harming and killing the mummies.

Drawing on his blacksmithing experience, Master Ou urged Han Wu to gather as many Divine Weapons as possible. By extracting the metal and coating their Divine Weapons, they wouldn't be helpless against the mummies anymore.

The trio worked together to refine the Divine Weapons. The metal they obtained from them differed from the metal dropped by the mummies. It was silver.

After coating their Divine Weapons with it, a significant amount remained. Master Ou used the surplus, along with his forging hammer, to craft a brand new Divine Weapon on

the spot. He forged a 1-Star God-grade short sword, and its Repose effect had reached God grade as well. At this point, it was the most effective weapon against the mummies.

The mummies struck by a Divine Weapon with a Common-grade Repose would suffer permanent wounds. Those struck by this short sword, even if it was only a stab, would explode into ash.

With their weapons upgraded, the three considered their next move. They continued searching the buildings and found scraps of books and scrolls that hinted at the ruined city's past.

Master Ou pieced the different articles together and formed a plausible account. According to the texts, a plague had once swept through this region. Those infected gradually lost all bodily fluids until they became mummies.

The plague spread swiftly, infecting large numbers in a short time. To stop the plague, the region's king gathered a lot of cultivators and eventually found a solution.

Using a special regional ore known as Ashsilver, they forged weapons capable of killing the infected and stopping the spread.

At first, the strategy worked, and the plague came under control. However, as more Ashsilver weapons were created, the forging process's byproducts turned into another disaster. People got sick from the exposure, and those affected suddenly craved living flesh. The more they consumed, the stronger they became. Under the combined threat of the plague and the Ashsilver pollution, the kingdom fell into ruin.

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: Chapter 752

Chapter 752 - Target: Lady Huang

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Master Ou told Han Wu and Qin Shuang about the compiled information from the various records.

Unfortunately, the latter half of the scroll that likely depicted the time after the fall of the kingdom had been torn off. Still, some of the little information they had scraped together was vital—the fact that this secret realm once had a king, for one.

A king meant a palace, a place where a priceless item like the legendary Armament Spirit would surely be hidden. However, there was still the matter of figuring out the location of said palace.

After a period of fruitless wandering, Master Ou told them his mission. He wasn't here for the legendary Armament Spirit but to avenge his master. The three people he wished to exact vengeance on were part of the Divine Weapon City's team.

The chances of him completing his mission were low if he were to continue wandering aimlessly. Coincidentally, Han Wu had a Divine Weapon that allowed him to locate people: the compass. Master Ou named his three enemies—General Liu, Lady Huang, and Baili Changhe—and Han Wu checked their names on the compass.

Only Lady Huang's name elicited a reaction, meaning she was the only one in the secret realm. The other two weren't here yet.

"I hope you two will help me. As long as I avenge my master, I'll give everything I obtain here in this secret realm to you two."

Both Han Wu and Qin Shuang carefully considered his offer before eventually agreeing to it. After all, Master Ou was a good ally. Not to mention, Lady Huang's name sounded familiar to Han Wu.

After he had killed Master Huang, Lady Huang had sent two of her guards, Huang Pi and Huang Mao, to assassinate him. He had already dealt with the pair, but the grudge against her remained. Thus, not only was he helping Master Ou, but he was also removing an enemy for himself.

At his command, Ah Mao used the compass to lock onto Lady Huang's position, and the trio set off on the Firebat King, with Qin Shuang continuing to map the land below on the way.

They soon neared Lady Huang. She was hunting down the mummies en masse, her Celestial Shackles capturing every mummy within a fifty-meter radius. Those bound lost all manner of resistance, helpless to do anything but wait for Lady Huang's Divine-grade trident to stab their hearts.

As the trio observed her, she noticed the compass's presence in her vicinity. There was no mistaking the Divine Weapon she had forged with her own two hands.

Glancing up, she noticed the trio. Her eyes then fixed onto Ah Mao's soul. The Locust Soul Orb controlled Ah Mao's soul, forcing his loyalty to Han Wu.

Yet, when Ah Mao saw Lady Huang, his body started trembling. His fear of Lady Huang had been etched deep into his soul. There was a chance that he would lose control and attack the trio if it remained outside, so Han Wu hastily recalled him into the Locust Soul Orb.

Ah Mao's soul was more than enough for Lady Huang to figure out that the trio was likely responsible for her son's death. Master Huang was her favourite child, and his death had hurt her deeply.

"You three!" she shouted angrily. "One of you killed my beloved fourth son!"

"His death was a result of his actions," Han Wu replied.

"Bullshit! I'll bury your body with him!" With that, she tossed all the mummies still bound in her Celestial Shackles toward them before summoning her Divine Weapon.

A handkerchief appeared, growing and growing until it was the size of a rug. It then carried her up into the air towards the trio.

"Don't let her get fifty meters within us," Master Ou warned. "Her Celestial Shackles block the connection between us and our Divine Weapons."

"Alright, we can just shoot her from far away," Han Wu said, summoning his Small Locust Blades.

Considering Lady Huang's strength, he decisively summoned all his 20,000 Small Locust Blades, which multiplied to 30 million after Triplicate and Seven Killings. The sheer number blotted out the sky like a huge cloud.

"Kill her!" The Small Locust Blades rained down onto Lady Huang.

As they entered the radius of her Celestial Shackles, chains shot out from her body and automatically deflected them.

The number of chains also increased in response. A rough count revealed a whopping 560 chains in total—enough to envelop her body and deflect all of the Small Locust Blades.

Han Wu summoned Locust-V.

"I never thought you would actually make it here!" it exclaimed, peering around gleefully, evidently knowing where they were.

"I don't have time for idle chit-chat. See her? Blast her head off!"

Locust-V pouted, but still heeded Han Wu's orders. Armor Piercing Rounds and Explosive Rounds were unleashed in rapid fire from its arms-turned-barrels.

Lady Huang’s Celestial Shackles blocked all of them.

Fortunately, the effects of both bullets still drained the durability of the Celestial Shackles. Seeking to exhaust it faster, Han Wu retrieved his Heavenly Demon Spike, rolling it in his palm before throwing it at Lady Huang with Spiral Pierce.

Several chains blocked it, but under the effects of Sure-Hit, it simply rotated ever faster, causing the durability of the Celestial Shackles to suddenly drop.

Lady Huang panicked for the first time since the battle began.

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Chapter 753 - Maxed Out Dark Curse Nail

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 753 - Maxed Out Dark Curse Nail

The Celestial Shackles were Lady Huang’s strongest Divine Weapon. It had powerful effects and could automatically recover its high durability. In other words, Lady Huang had never had to worry about it shattering before.

So, when she saw its durability decreasing rapidly, she panicked. If things continued, her Celestial Shackles would actually break. That was a reality she refused to accept.

She summoned several other Divine Weapons to stop Han Wu’s barrage from hitting her Celestial Shackles while attempting to close the distance. As long as she could get them within her fifty-meter radius, she could bind all three of them. If that happened, their connections with their Divine Weapons would be broken, granting her the final victory.

Unfortunately for her, she had underestimated their strength. Han Wu had yet to go all out. Qin Shuang and Master Ou were also still charging up their attacks.

Borrowing the power of her true body, Qin Shuang channeled the power of Annihilating Lightning into the coin, gradually turning it black. Master Ou channeled his energy into his forging hammer and waited for the opportune moment to strike.

As Lady Huang pushed through Han Wu’s attack and was about to enter the fifty-meter radius she needed, Qin Shuang unleashed her Annihilation Railgun.

The black coin morphed into a ray of black light that shot straight toward Lady Huang before exploding with a thunderous boom. All 560 Celestial Shackles became conductors for the lightning.

Lady Huang was left heavily injured, with countless small wounds marring her skin, each oozing blood. The attack had also left her paralyzed, which gave Master Ou the opening he needed to strike.

“Master, your disciple is going to avenge you!” Master Ou cried, hurling the forging hammer at Lady Huang.

The energy-filled hammer hit her squarely and unleashed all its built-up energy in a single instant, blasting Lady Huang to the ground with such force that it left a crater in the earth. Her Celestial Shackles and her other Divine Weapons all shattered into pieces, durability exhausted from the explosion.

She lay in the crater, on the verge of death, breaths coming out in faint, strained puffs. Master Ou flew down and retrieved his hammer before approaching her.

The severity of her injuries all but ensured her death in the near future. Even so, she couldn’t help but beg for mercy, “Please, spare me. I’ll give you everything I have in exchange for my life.”

Her pleas sparked fury within Master Ou. Raising his hammer, he roared, “You can say those words to my master in the afterlife. You probably still remember this hammer!”

Lady Huang’s eyes widened in disbelief as she finally recognized Master Ou’s forging hammer. At that moment, the last vestiges of life drained away from her, and she died with her eyes open in shock.

Master Ou let out a sigh, his shoulders slightly lighter with the knowledge that one of his three revenge targets had been dealt with. Then, following up on his promise, he gathered all of Lady Huang’s Divine Weapons and gave them to Han Wu and Qin Shuang.

Of these, the most valuable was Lady Huang’s shattered Celestial Shackles. She had refined it thousands of times, and its power exceeded that of a regular 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. Though shattered, the materials remained, and some of its effects still lingered.

Seeing this, Han Wu summoned his Dark Curse Nail. The main use for Dark Curse Nail was to immobilize his enemies. It was only a 6-Star God-grade Divine Weapon, so he allowed it to absorb the fragments of the Celestial Shackles.

As expected, their compatible affinities as support-based Divine Weapons allowed the Dark Curse Nail to rapidly rank up. It jumped several grades to become his fourth 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

Its quality had improved, and it also gained a new effect called Seal. Enemies whose shadows got hit by the Dark Curse Nail had a high chance of having their energy sealed away.

This complemented its original effect of Shadow Stun. The two effects together would make it so enemies not only couldn't move but also couldn't channel energy. This was no different from being sentenced to an execution.

Satisfied with the results, he gleefully kept it, already looking forward to the next time he could use it. Qin Shuang didn't receive anything as precious as the Celestial Shackles, but she did claim all the other dropped Divine Weapons from Lady Huang. Absorbing them brought all her Divine Weapons to 7 Stars.

This was naturally a great improvement from before, when she only had one 7-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. Equipping all her Divine Weapons would effectively allow Qin Shuang to temporarily fight against those with 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapons.

Afterward, Han Wu summoned his Glutton Locusts to devour Lady Huang's body. They also collected the special metal that Lady Huang had collected—three kilograms worth. If used sparingly, Master Ou could forge a dagger.

However, a dagger was still weaker than Han Wu's Small Locust Blade, making it essentially useless. So, instead, Master Ou melted the special metals down and coated them onto Han Wu's Small Locust Blades, bringing him up to 300 coated blades.

The only downside was that Triplicate and Seven Killings couldn't replicate the metal coating onto the copies, or he would've had 40 to 50,000 of them. Still, 300 was already plenty.

Han Wu directed these coated blades to kill more mummies and gather more metal.

Master Ou, meanwhile, was too busy searching for a library in this ruined kingdom to help with the collection efforts. After some time, he managed to find one, and he entered it, hoping to find some books or scrolls that recorded the history of this place within.

The ancient books nearly crumbled under his touch, so he had to handle them with immense care. There was a chance that they would simply turn to dust if he misjudged his strength.

After half a day of searching, he finally found some records.

: Chapter 754

Chapter 754 - Monster Blade

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The records were consistent with Master Ou’s previous discoveries. However, in addition to the story of the plague and pollution bringing the end of the kingdom, these also documented details about the king himself.

According to the records, the king ruled with wisdom and compassion, allowing his subjects to live happy and prosperous lives. Then, one day, the kingdom found a vein of special ore within its mines.

The king fell in love with it at first sight, naming it Royal Gold—a metal for kings—and banning anyone from mining it. Even so, its lucrative price made illegal mining operations inevitable.

Royal Gold was sold through the black market. Some bought enough of it to forge Divine Weapons. A particularly brave soul even gifted a Divine Weapon forged entirely from Royal Gold to the king.

Though unhappy with the blatant disrespect of his law, the king still paid the person handsomely. Not long after, that man died, and the plague started to spread.

Although the records themselves drew no ties between the plague, Royal Gold, and the king, Master Ou’s instinct told him they were connected. The flecks of metal collected from the dead mummies were likely also Royal Gold, as it matched the descriptions found in the records.

It seemed that metal was more mysterious than they had previously thought. Mind still brimming with questions, Master Ou told Han Wu and Qin Shuang about his findings.

Both Han Wu and Qin Shuang agreed that the metal within the mummies was likely Royal Gold, and perhaps even the cause of the plague. Just to be safe, they pooled their Royal Gold into a small pouch and kept it in the Dimension Bag.

Han Wu also decided to leave the collection of Royal Gold exclusively to the locusts. This way, they could reduce the frequency with which they came into contact with it.

After resting for some time, Han Wu checked the compass again. Both Sun Qingnian and Jin Tuantuan were still outside, but one of Master Ou’s targets, General Liu, had been sent in. The trio quickly flew toward him.

With the Firebat King’s speed, the trio was hovering high above General Liu in less than two hours. The scent of blood wafted up from below.

The trio was trying to pinpoint General Liu when a blood-red beam hit the Firebat King, and they plummeted from the air. Thankfully, Han Wu's quick reflexes allowed him to summon his Small Locust Blades to safely catch them before they hit the ground.

As they landed, they saw a muscular man glaring at them with bloodlust in his eyes. This man was General Liu! There was no trace of wariness in his expression, just the zeal of a predator that had found its prey.

Noticing Master Ou's forging hammer, General Liu let out a booming laugh. "I was wondering who you guys were! If you're holding his hammer, that must mean you're that person's disciple or son!"

Master Ou trembled from the anticipation of avenging his master. There was no trace of fear to be found on his face.

"He was no match for us last time." General Liu chuckled. "We managed to strip him of his honor before chasing him out of the city. Now, it seems he sent a junior instead of coming himself. Pathetic."

"You have no right to talk about him!" Master Ou snapped.

General Liu scoffed. "He's nothing more than a coward. I never would've remembered him if not for that hammer."

Indignation rose within Master Ou. He was more than ready to smash General Liu in with his hammer.

"Wait, don't get close!" Han Wu warned. "Something's strange about his Divine Weapon."

Master Ou glanced at General Liu's blade and noticed a mist of blood shrouding it. It appeared fresh, as if the blood was recently spilled—only, the mummies in this secret realm didn't have blood.

Did he kill the other participants who entered the secret realm? But there are no bodies around here... Master Ou wondered, perplexed.

General Liu gleefully brandished his blade, blood mist trailing in its wake as he swung it around. "Your friend has a good eye. This is my monster blade. I sacrificed a million people to empower it before I entered the secret realm."

His words left the trio in shock.

"S-sacrifice?" Master Ou stammered. "A million people? Did you just say that you sacrificed a million people?"

“Of course. This competition is only held once every ten years. During the previous one, I sacrificed 100,000 people and failed to defeat my opponent, so this time, I made sure to sacrifice a million. My monster blade is impossibly powerful now. No one here is my match today,” General Liu bragged.

Han Wu and Qin Shuang shifted uncomfortably. Although they had each killed more than a million life forms, they had only ever slain enemies. General Liu, on the other hand, had almost certainly sacrificed a million innocents!

Even those from the Divine Civilization condemned such an evil act.

“How evil,” Han Wu growled. “I’ll kill you to enact justice for the heavens.”

Master Ou nodded in agreement.

General Liu wasn’t afraid in the slightest, assured of his victory despite being outnumbered.

Both sides moved at the same time. Han Wu summoned and copied all his Small Locust Blades. With a single command, all 30 million stabbed toward General Liu.

Master Ou channeled energy into his hammer in preparation for a decisive blow. Meanwhile, Qin Shuang summoned her Sparrow Bow and fired hundreds of lightning arrows at General Liu.

General Liu summoned the evil spirit in his monster blade. Dense blood mist surged toward the trio, the Armament Spirit of the blade shrouded within.

It was a hundred meters tall, and its body was composed of sticky red blood. The faces of the sacrificed flickered across its form, each contorted into expressions of pain and despair. Their souls and bodies had become a part of the blade. Even in death, they suffered.

The attacks from the trio landed but did nothing to the Armament Spirit.

The monster blade had a powerful effect that allowed it to split the damage it received between every being that had been sacrificed to it. The impact from their attacks was split into 1 million parts, low enough that it wouldn’t even kill a chicken, much less General Liu.

“Time to be sacrificed to my blade!” General Liu bellowed like a demon relishing in a surefire victory.

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Chapter 755 - Sacrificing for the Greater Good

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Han Wu frowned. This was his first time seeing such a unique effect. It basically increased the damage threshold a million times, effectively making General Liu invincible.

The trio was at a loss when General Liu attacked. The massive Armament Spirit splashed sticky blood everywhere as it moved. Blood rained down and hit the ground with a bizarre sizzle.

Han Wu continued to attack it with his 30 million Small Locust Blades, but each strike was split across the 1 million souls.

It was the equivalent of each victim being bitten by a mosquito 30 million times. The attacks were annoying and constant, but didn't hurt at all. Moreover, contact with the blood corroded the Small Locust Blades, which caused their durability to fall sharply.

Master Ou struck with his energy-filled hammer as well, but it was useless. The energy discharged was similar to the explosion from an atomic bomb, but even that was easily mitigated when divided into a million units.

Worse still, the Armament Spirit needed to be destroyed in a single blow. If not, it would simply recover from the split damage, ready to absorb more blows.

This was practically a form of invincibility in itself. Even Qin Shuang's Annihilating Lightning, channeled with the power of her true body, only managed to provoke General Liu and failed to deal any meaningful damage to the Armament Spirit.

"I already told you, it's time to be sacrificed to my monster blade!" General Liu bellowed.

The Armament Spirit had forced them into a corner, and the wretched blood was on the brink of drowning them.

"I'm sorry, this is all on me," Master Ou said regretfully. "If I didn't ask you guys to help me exact revenge, this wouldn't have happened."

Han Wu, however, had yet to give up hope.

Noticing the resolve on his face, Qin Shuang asked, “Han Wu, do you have a final trump card?”

“I do.” Han Wu nodded. “But it's a little too weak to destroy that Armament Spirit in one blow.”

Master Ou immediately handed Han Wu his hammer. “You’re an outsider! You can use your Divine Weapon to absorb my hammer. That’ll increase the rank of your Divine Weapon tremendously!”

Han Wu hesitated. The hammer was as important to Master Ou as his own life.

Still, Master Ou endured the pain in his heart and shouted, “Stop dilly-dallying. I can always reforge it. We, on the other hand, only have one life!”

The forging hammer was a product of years of hard work—a gift from his late master, and also a part of his body. In truth, he was reluctant to have Han Wu use it as nourishment for his Divine Weapon, but there was no other choice. This sacrifice was for the greater good.

Han Wu nodded, grabbing the hammer before summoning his ninth Divine Weapon, the Giant Locust Blade.

The forging hammer had inherited the love and care of two entire generations. Its true power had long surpassed a regular 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

The Giant Locust Blade’s rank increased significantly after absorbing the hammer, boosting it instantly to become a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon. It also received a powerful effect called Thousandfold.

Han Wu immediately activated the new effect, and his Giant Locust Blade grew to 2000 meters long. As it grew, Superheavy also activated, increasing its mass a thousandfold as well.

The massive blade swung down with such might that it broke through the damage threshold of the monster blade.

The Giant Locust Blade almost cleaved through the Armament Spirit of the monster blade, dealing a severe blow. Once again, the damage was split into a million units, allowing the Armament Spirit to gradually recover.

The Armament Spirit had endured the blow!

General Liu wiped a thin sheen of sweat off his forehead. The 2000-meter-long blade had nearly destroyed his monster blade. Fortunately, the damage hadn’t managed to surpass

the absolute limit of his Armament Spirit, allowing it to recover and attack Han Wu with its sticky blood.

It was going to eradicate the man who had almost succeeded in killing it.

Han Wu narrowly avoided the blood. “This isn’t over yet!”

With that, he activated his newly learned skill, Heaven-Earth Severance.

The surrounding energy surged into the 2000-meter-long Giant Locust Blade. A massive energy blade, larger than the actual blade itself, appeared.

Fear welled up within General Liu. The Giant Locust Blade alone had almost killed his Armament Spirit. This energy blade was larger and more powerful. He couldn’t help but doubt whether his Armament Spirit could endure it.

Ordering his Armament Spirit to escape with him, they fled, attempting to place as much distance between them and the descending energy blade as possible. As long as they could avoid the blow, both he and his Armament Spirit could live another day.

Han Wu wasn’t going to let that happen. Aiming at the fleeing pair, figures already a thousand meters away, he shouted, “Sever!”

The skill swung down with such force that the world itself was split in half. The surrounding air blasted outward, as if cleaved into two.

The Armament Spirit hastily tried to evade it, but to no avail.

Even splitting the damage into a million units wasn’t enough to mitigate the mighty blow. The Armament Spirit exploded into a million blood parts, painting the ground a bright red.

General Liu was frozen in shock. His strongest Divine Weapon had lost to Han Wu’s Giant Locust Blade. The terrifying results had completely sapped his strength, and he didn’t even have the will to summon the rest of his Divine Weapons to fight back.

Master Ou rushed forward, seizing the opportunity to stab General Liu with a 1-Star God-grade short sword that he had forged with Ashsilver.

General Liu’s heart was pierced through, and he collapsed to the ground, face frozen in an expression of wide-eyed dismay. The leader of the bandits responsible for trafficking and kidnapping innocents was dead.

“Master, I’ve exacted revenge on the second person for you!” Master Ou cried out. His revenge was two-thirds to completion.

Chapter 756 - Tiger-Shaped Pendant

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 756 - Tiger-Shaped Pendant

After General Liu's death, the monster blade became an ownerless Divine Weapon. Han Wu picked it up and heard a weakened Armament Spirit pleading with him to sacrifice the lives of others to complete its resurrection. Only then could the blade unleash its full powers; otherwise, it was as useful as a piece of rusted metal.

As a member of the Divine Civilization, Han Wu was accustomed to invading other civilizations regularly and had no qualms about sacrificing tens of millions of enemies. However, he found the Armament Spirit within it incredibly annoying.

As long as he held onto the blade, it would continuously urge him to sacrifice lives to it. This was akin to mental corruption. Though it didn't affect him at the moment, there was a risk that its incessant pleas could influence his decision-making in the future.

Han Wu valued his clarity of mind and total control over his body, so he decided not to use it. Still, a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon was hard to destroy. While he could use another Divine Weapon to absorb it, he was worried that they would develop an evil consciousness under the influence of this Armament Spirit.

After going through his Divine Weapons, he made his choice.

First, he trapped General Liu's soul within the Locust Soul Orb, then used the blade as the soul's anchor. As a soul, General Liu couldn't act independently, only according to Han Wu's commands. That drastically reduced the chance of him using the blade for evil.

This hit two birds with one stone. Not only could the Locust Soul Orb acquire immense power if Han Wu were to sacrifice a million life forms to it, but it had also become a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon after absorbing its fourth soul.

Satisfied that another of his Divine Weapons had been maxed out, he turned to tell Qin Shuang and Master Ou the good news when he heard a cacophony of voices echoing from the distance.

A crowd of people was running toward them. Han Wu recognized them as students from the Demonic Imperial College.

"Great! We found Han Wu! We're saved!"

“Han Wu, please help us! Mummies were chasing us, and two of our friends failed to escape. Please rescue them!”

“Han Wu, please help them, or they’re toast!”

Han Wu frowned. *Is everyone from the Demonic Imperial College this rude? Do they think I’m their nanny?*

“What does their death have to do with me?” he asked coldly.

The students were stunned.

“We’re from the same team, the Everlight City team. Aren’t you our team leader? Shouldn’t you help the team?”

“We’re from the Demonic Imperial College. If we die here, our results will be voided. Do you know how much failing even a single major class affects us?”

“You’re strong. Helping us should be no sweat off your back. Why won’t you save them?”

Han Wu scoffed. “The world doesn’t revolve around the weak. I’m strong because of my efforts. Also, what do your results have to do with me? Do you always get your results by relying on someone stronger?”

The students dared not argue. Three seconds passed in silence before someone stepped forward.

“Han Wu, what will it take for you to rescue the two from the mummies?” the person asked. “We won’t hesitate to pay the price if we can, since their results depend on their survival too.”

Han Wu nodded. “That’s how you should make requests. I’m curious. How did so many of you guys meet so easily?”

“Our seniors gave us all a beacon. Those with beacons can automatically detect each other within a five-kilometer radius,” the student explained, showing Han Wu the beacon in question.

It was a Divine Weapon, with the beacon appearing to be the end-user part of a support-oriented Divine Weapon.

Examining the beacon, Han Wu asked offhandedly, “Where are the mummies?”

“They’re in the northwest.” The student pointed into the distance.

Han Wu summoned his Explosive Locust Blade, grabbed the student, hopped onto the Firebat King, and flew off. It didn't take long for them to see thousands of armed mummies swarming two students from the Demonic Imperial College.

The two fought fiercely, but they were outnumbered. The pair would likely fall to exhaustion within the next ten minutes if nothing was done.

Han Wu summoned the Small Locust Blades that had been coated in Royal Gold and attacked the mummies.

The blades stabbed through their hearts, and the mummies fell one after another. Beads of Royal Gold were left behind as they turned to dust.

"Are you two alright?" Han Wu asked.

The two students collapsed to the ground from exhaustion and stress, the adrenaline from the near-death situation rushing out of them.

"Thanks for your help," one said, standing up.

Han Wu recognized the student as one of Xu Mengmeng's friends, Firewind.

"Is Mengmeng here?"

Firewind chuckled. "When I was transported, neither Mengmeng nor White Ice had been transported yet, but I'm not sure if that's changed."

Han Wu nodded. He had once had a good discussion with Xu Mengmeng, so he cared for her a little. Since Firewind was her friend, he decided to tell him everything he knew about the place.

"Never thought the method to deal with those mummies was so simple," Firewind said, stunned. "The mummies have been chasing us relentlessly, and we even almost died at their hands. This is so embarrassing."

"Just be careful next time," Han Wu advised, preparing to leave.

"Han Wu, thanks for the assist," Firewind called before tossing a tiger-shaped pendant to Han Wu. "I found this in a building. My detector tells me that there's some strange energy coming from it. It might be of use to you."

Han Wu examined the pendant. The material used to forge it was clearly unusual, and there was indeed a strange energy contained within it. He didn't know what it was used for, but he had a feeling that it was important.

"Thanks."

Firewind smiled. “I hope it’ll be of use to you.”

Chapter 757 - Hei Qi and Baili Changhe

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 757 - Hei Qi and Baili Changhe

More and more people were transported into the secret realm as time passed.

A light flashed, and Hei Qi found himself in a new place.

“That damn rule. It sent me in so late into the contest,” Hei Qi growled with dissatisfaction.

Despite killing many rule breakers, it had still taken a few waves for him to be transported. It had gotten to the point where he had even been considering killing his own team to increase the chances of entering this place. Fortunately, he was transported into the secret realm before his patience could get the better of him, saving him some energy.

Once inside the secret realm, Hei Qi summoned his black blade. The nine eyes on the blade scanned their surroundings with their respective effects.

“I’m going to kill Han Wu!” he roared.

Then, another voice murmured from his mouth, “No, it's suicide to go and find Han Wu. You will not go.”

“Kill!” cried a third voice. “I need to kill more people! Kill everyone I see!”

“Divine Weapons. I’ve caught the scent of Divine Weapons. I want to devour them all!”

Each voice differed from Hei Qi’s usual speech. A thick plume of evil energy shrouded him as the nine eyes darted about in search of a target.

Hei Qi suddenly disappeared and reappeared five hundred meters away, cutting down a member of the Divine Weapon Civilization. The blade sliced through their body, draining their life force dry.

Seizing the dropped Divine Weapons, he allowed the black blade to absorb them.

“Not enough. This isn’t enough. I need more!” Hei Qi snarled greedily, the nine eyes on the blade darting about once more.

At the same time, Baili Changhe, of the Divine Weapon City's team, was transported into the secret realm. As one of the five greatest blacksmiths in Divine Weapon City, he held considerable power.

Each of the five greatest blacksmiths had their own specialty. For instance, Lady Huang excelled in forging support-oriented Divine Weapons, General Liu in evil blades, and Baili Changhe in defensive Divine Weapons.

Baili Changhe's pride was such that he confidently proclaimed himself the foremost expert on defensive Divine Weapons in the entire Divine Weapon Civilization. He was a stout user of his own defensive Divine Weapons and even donned five layers of armor.

The first layer, a silk inner layer, increased his resistance to elemental damage. Meanwhile, the second, a cotton layer, reduced the impact of blows. The next layer, a chainmail, defended against piercing and slashing attacks, and the fourth, a metal armor, protected against blunt force. Finally, the outermost layer, a platemail forged in a stupa motif, raised both physical and magical defense as well as reflected damage.

The five armors made him as durable as the city walls that protected Divine Weapon City. In addition to his armor, he also equipped a variety of shields—a small, round shield on his arm to block projectiles, a shield made from an extremely rare wood to defend against melee attacks, and a tower shield as tall as him on his back.

During emergencies, he would turn and use the tower shield as protection. Not only could he defend against the attack, but the impact would also propel him away from his enemies.

He wore all of these on a regular basis. In truly dire circumstances, he would use a skill to raise his defense threefold. Almost no one in the Divine Weapon Civilization could ever hope to crack through his defense.

Baili Changhe greatly relied on his defensive power to survive in the contest for the legendary Armament Spirit, and it had already come in useful several times. Unfortunately, his luck ran out when he encountered Hei Qi.

The moment the two locked eyes, Hei Qi swung with his black blade. Baili Changhe raised his shields to block the attacks, reflecting the damage back to Hei Qi.

Feeling provoked, Hei Qi swung his sword faster and faster. Even the mighty wooden shield couldn't withstand Hei Qi's incessant slashes and was soon cut into strips.

Baili Changhe felt helpless. The constantly reflected damage would've normally left his opponent heavily injured and out of commission. The issue wasn't that the damage wasn't hitting, but that Hei Qi appeared to be enjoying it.

Such misfortune! To think I would encounter a pervert who gets excited from cutting himself! Baili Changhe thought to himself.

This wasn't his first time encountering a person who became more powerful and fervent with every injury, but they didn't get any easier to deal with. Not wanting to spend more time than necessary on Hei Qi, he quickly activated one of his Divine Weapon's skills, Air Wall.

Four walls of air shot out from him, repelling everything in its path.

Hei Qi was unaffected. His blade had an effect that could cut barriers, allowing him to easily slice through the walls of air and continue to attack. His relentless slashes soon broke the round shield as well.

As Hei Qi showed no signs of stopping, Baili Changhe decisively chose to turn around and use his tower shield to escape. Hei Qi struck the tower shield on Baili Changhe's back, blasting the latter away from the impact.

Despite this, Hei Qi persistently gave chase. For the next three hours, Hei Qi chased Baili Changhe, getting strikes when he could and gradually chipping away at his armor and shields.

Just how much do they hate me? Baili Changhe wondered, on the verge of tears. *The grudge must be deep for them to chase me an entire fifty kilometers without rest.*

When his final layer of armor broke, Baili Changhe was forced to use his strongest defensive skill, Golden Body, to save his life. The effect negated all damage, but only lasted three minutes. In other words, he either had to escape within that timeframe or stop Hei Qi from attacking him. If not, he would die trying.

"Wait, stop! Brother, father, uncle, grandfather! What do you want? Just tell me what you want! I can give you whatever you want if I can!" Baili Changhe pleaded.

Hei Qi's blade swung down, uncaring for his pleas.

Terror overwhelmed Baili Changhe. He had never met a madman like Hei Qi before.

Suddenly, Hei Qi's blade halted, and a distorted voice said, "I want you to make armor for me!"

Baili Changhe's skill in forging defensive Divine Weapons was obvious after attacking him for so long.

"I don't have anything here. What can I use to forge for you...?" Baili Changhe whimpered. Regardless of his talent, he still needed materials and a forge.

Hei Qi's blade descended once more, but Golden Body nullified the damage. Still, it was enough to strike fear into Baili Changhe's heart.

"Ok! I'll do it! I'll do it!" Baili Changhe cried helplessly. "I'll make armor for you!"

He had no choice but to use his own broken Divine Weapons to make the armor.

Chapter 759 - Vermilion Bird Palace

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 759 - Vermilion Bird Palace

After exploring the ruined city for some time, the trio eventually stumbled across a massive, ancient building. Though the giant mural on one of its walls had faded, they could still make out that it depicted a bird.

"A building of this size is probably important. There might be something good in it," Han Wu commented.

Aware that Qin Shuang was already in agreement, he glanced at Master Ou, implicitly proposing they head in.

Master Ou nodded. Sacrificing his forging hammer to be absorbed meant he was no longer able to participate in combat. All he could do was hide behind Han Wu and Qin Shuang and try not to get injured.

The only Divine Weapon he had left was the Ashsilver short sword, which he had forged to use against the mummies, but it was too weak to deal with those transported into the secret realm. Basically, he desperately needed a Divine Weapon to protect himself—preferably one as powerful as his forging hammer.

"I agree, let's head inside," Master Ou said.

The trio circled the building and found the main entrance. Han Wu used all his strength to push it open, but the doors simply wouldn't budge. It was as if they had been sealed shut.

Qin Shuang examined the doors more closely and found an indentation resembling the pendant that Firewind had given Han Wu, so she called him over.

The pendant fit perfectly. But nothing happened.

Han Wu tried channeling his energy into it to no avail. It appeared the matching shapes were a mere coincidence.

“It doesn’t matter if the pendant is useless. I’ll just break this door apart!” Han Wu cried, summoning his sharpest weapon, the Heavenly Demon Spike, to attack the door.

Sparks flew as the rotating spike drilled into the door. Three minutes passed in this manner, yet the door remained intact, with the Heavenly Demon Spike having lost a third of its durability.

Han Wu frowned. The toughness of this door itself seemed a promise of great treasure within. Frustration welled up within him. Treasure was on the other side of the wall, but he just couldn’t get to it!

Seeing this, Qin Shuang thought of another plan. The door couldn’t be brought down, but perhaps the walls were a different story. Though significantly wider than the door itself, at tens of meters thick, it was doubtful that they were made from the same material. As long as the Heavenly Demon Spike could pierce through it, the thickness would not matter at all.

Her quick thinking impressed Han Wu. If Master Ou wasn’t here, he would’ve hugged and kissed her.

“Alright, let’s try that,” he said, attacking the wall beside the door with the Heavenly Demon Spike.

As Qin Shuang predicted, the wall was weaker than the door, and a few seconds later, metal shards were flying from the drill point.

Han Wu increased its power, and it didn’t take long before the Heavenly Demon Spike broke through. With the viability of this route confirmed, he then spent the next hour expanding the tunnel until it was large enough for them to get through.

Han Wu entered the tunnel first to check the route, summoning thousands of Small Locust Blades to hover before him as a precaution. If anything felt off, he would send them forward to kill anything in his path.

As the wall spanned tens of meters thick, it took a while before Han Wu got through. The inside looked as though it had been frozen in time, likely preserved from the moment the front doors were sealed shut.

Fiery reds adorned the space. An engraving of a large flaming bird could be seen on both the ceiling and the floor. The bird resembled a rare beast called the Phoenix, but with some differences. It seemed smaller, yet appeared more powerful.

Rare ores also lined the shelves along the walls. After years in this building, these ores had absorbed the surrounding energy and had been enhanced.

Han Wu tried touching them when a notification from the Divine Weapon Civilization appeared.

[Detecting one of the four ancient proving grounds, the Vermilion Bird Palace. Touching the ores on the shelf indicates willingness to participate in the Vermilion Bird's trial. Choose wisely.]

Han Wu lit up with excitement. He had accidentally encountered a place for trials! The Divine Weapon Civilization was large and powerful, so their trials undoubtedly had some great reward.

Upon asking the Divine Weapon Civilization, it answered that the reward was an Armament Spirit. However, if he wanted to merge it with a Divine Weapon, the compatibility between the two had to be above 80. Thankfully, it seemed he could check the compatibility of the Armament Spirit with his Divine Weapons before starting the trial.

Han Wu hastily looked around for the dusty device meant to check the compatibility and placed his Small Locust Blade onto it. Its compatibility rating was only 70—a fail.

Then came his other Divine Weapons. The results were disheartening. The only Divine Weapon with an compatibility rating of 80 and above was his Explosive Locust Blade, but it already had an Armament Spirit. Han Wu feared his Divine Weapon would explode if he merged another into it.

After some thought, he decided to ask the Divine Weapon Civilization about this.

It seemed the presence of the Armament Spirit within his Explosive Locust Blade wouldn't affect the trial of the Vermilion Bird Palace. If he succeeded, the palace would grant him a God-grade Armament Spirit. The two would then have to fight over the habitation of the Divine Weapon.

If the new one won, it would absorb the old one and become stronger. If the old one won, it would absorb the new Armament Spirit and gain a new effect.

Han Wu cared little for the results of this battle. Regardless of which one won, his Explosive Locust Blade would become stronger, which was all that mattered to him.

: Chapter 759

Chapter 759 - Just Try It

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Before starting the trial, Han Wu first reported back to Qin Shuang and Master Ou. While there were no dangerous traps in the Vermilion Bird Palace, there were also no Divine Weapons either—a fact that had Master Ou a little crestfallen.

Once he entered and spotted the large number of rare ores on the shelves, however, his eyes lit up. It didn't matter if there were no Divine Weapons. He could just forge one himself.

After a quick discussion, they all agreed that Han Wu would go first to gauge the difficulty of the trial.

Han Wu touched the largest ore he could find, and the temperature inside the palace instantly shot up dozens of degrees. A regular person would've burned to a crisp in minutes. Thankfully, both Qin Shuang's and Master Ou's constitutions were reinforced enough that they only felt slightly uncomfortable, not in any real danger.

A series of teleportation arrays lit up across the palace as the heat rose. The trial had officially begun!

Twelve Vermilion Envoys teleported in one after another, each dressed in vivid red robes that covered them from head to toe, their bodies wreathed in flames. They looked both divine and formidable.

Han Wu's Small Locust Blades shot forth and stabbed into the envoys' bodies, but their wounds closed in the blink of an eye, and the Small Locust Blades paid heavily for it in durability.

That told Han Wu all he needed to know. These Vermilion Envoys were mummies too. Regular Small Locust Blades wouldn't work against them; he needed to switch to the Royal Gold-coated ones.

All three hundred of his coated Small Locust Blades shot out, tearing through the twelve envoys. Unfortunately, things didn't go as well as he had hoped.

Although their wounds no longer closed as easily, the flames wreathing the envoys granted them a regenerative power that gave them something akin to an undying body. Their offensive strength was equally troublesome. The combined fire they unleashed was intense enough to outright melt a large number of Han Wu's Small Locust Blades.

They unleashed an unrelenting barrage of fireballs. While these couldn't break through his defenses, they effectively stalled his progress.

As the Small Locust Blades were failing to deal any real damage to the envoys, Han Wu had no choice but to summon Locust-V.

Locust-V sized up the twelve Vermilion Envoys, eyes gleaming with delight as it teased, "You've at least grown strong enough to face opponents like these. I'll give you that much."

Han Wu was speechless. It seemed Locust-V still hadn't quite grasped its place. He was its master, and it was supposed to respect him, but he decided to let it go for the moment.

"What's the best way to deal with them?"

"The Vermilion Envoys have mastered control over their own flames, and their resistance to countering elements is high," Locust-V explained. "Taking them down won't be easy."

Han Wu's brows creased. That told him absolutely nothing useful. He wanted a solution, not a review of how impressive the envoys were.

"Get to the point. No solution, and it's back to isolation for you," he threatened.

Locust-V flinched at the unpleasant memories of isolation. Even a Divine Weapon perceived being locked away was a punishment, but the loneliness really took its toll on an Armament Spirit.

"You're no fun," Locust-V muttered sulkily. "Their resistance to other elements is strong, so countering with a different element won't get you far. But using fire against them will get you a much better result."

Han Wu was stunned. What did Locust-V take him for? Using fire against the Vermilion Envoys? How senile did one have to be to come up with that? Their bodies were already burning with roaring flames!

"Just try it," Locust-V insisted, catching the look on his face. "I guarantee you every single one of them will go quiet!"

With no better option available, Han Wu decided to try anyway. He took out the Explosive Locust Blade and hurled it at one of the envoys. Just before it made contact, he triggered it remotely.

Flames blasted out with a resounding boom. The fiery blaze surged wildly, swallowing all twelve Vermilion Envoys in an instant. Han Wu watched in shock as the envoys, already wreathed in flames, were scorched half to death.

Seizing the opening, he sent his Small Locust Blades in, piercing their hearts. Their regeneration slowed to a crawl, and they fell one after another until none remained.

Han Wu had cleared the trial.

A Vermilion Bird Armament Spirit wreathed entirely in flames descended into his Explosive Locust Blade. The Vermilion Bird Armament Spirit and the Firebat King Armament Spirit then burst out from within the blade, fighting each other for the right to inhabit it.

Both were God-grade Armament Spirits, but the Vermilion Bird was the stronger of the two in quality. Thus, it won by a wide margin and claimed the Explosive Locust Blade as its own, with the Firebat King reduced to nothing more than food for it.

The new Armament Spirit gave the Explosive Locust Blade a renewed gleam. The firepower contained within it had at least doubled.

Satisfied, Han Wu rewarded Locust-V by letting it out to roam for a while longer.

With Han Wu's trial done, Qin Shuang stepped up for her turn. Her Divine Weapons were closely tied to her core race, the Thunder Sparrows. The Vermilion Bird and Thunder Sparrow shared a great deal in common, so her Divine Weapons naturally also had exceptionally high compatibility with the Vermilion Bird Armament Spirit.

Her twin-blade Divine Weapon in particular had a compatibility rating of 98, a near-perfect match. Clearing the trial would mean a tremendous boost to her individual combat strength.

As Qin Shuang reached out for a rare ore, a long staff suddenly extended through the tunnel Han Wu had made through the wall and knocked the rare ore clean off its shelf before Qin Shuang could activate the trial.

Han Wu followed the length of the seemingly endless staff back to its source. The captain of the Wanyao City team, Sun Qianqian, strode in through the tunnel with the other end of the Sea-Calming Staff in hand.

"This palace belongs to Wanyao City now. Everyone else, scram!" Sun Qianqian ordered, walking in like she owned the place.

It was as though Han Wu and the other two weren't even worth acknowledging in her eyes.

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Chapter 760 - Fighting Sun Qianqian

<h4 data-testid="heading" class="font-set-b18 flex items-start !font-sans sm:font-set-b26">Chapter 760 - Fighting Sun Qianqian

Qin Shuang didn't take Sun Qianqian seriously. She simply moved to a different rare ore and reached for it. Sun Qianqian immediately raised the Sea-Calming Staff and aimed it at her, this time targeting Qin Shuang herself rather than the ore.

The staff shot forward at incredible speed. Han Wu saw it and lunged forward, his Giant Locust Blade appearing in his hand as he activated Tenfold. The twenty-meter blade swept upward and knocked the staff off course.

Qin Shuang successfully touched the rare ore, and her trial commenced.

On the other side, Sun Qianqian fixed her large, round eyes on Han Wu. “Everlight team leader, you actually dared to block me. You must be tired of living!”

Han Wu let out a cold laugh. “Is that so? Then come and kill me.”

“Gladly!” Sun Qianqian didn't waste any more words and swung the Sea-Calming Staff. With each swing, a flurry of staff illusions flew toward Han Wu. He took every hit head-on, relying on the Abyss Armor, and felt nothing.

“You dare to call others irrelevant when you are this weak? Looks like you're the irrelevant one,” Han Wu jeered.

His taunt enraged her. As the daughter of Wanyao City's city lord, she was admired wherever she went. She had always had everything she wanted. Yet now, a team leader from a city on the verge of falling out of the top four spoke to her like this.

Did he think Wanyao City was a joke? Did he think Sun Qianqian was just a pretty face?

“You asked for it!” she snapped. Her staff technique shifted. Instead of overlapping staff illusions, golden figures emerged from her one by one. Each gripped a golden staff and rushed toward Han Wu.

He still didn't dodge, deciding to test how much force these golden figures carried. The first one connected, slamming him. He felt no pain at all, but the Abyss Armor lost a small amount of durability. That blow had pierced his defense, only to be absorbed by the armor.

The Abyss Armor was a powerful 9-Star God-grade defensive Divine Weapon with the Invulnerable effect and exceptionally high defense. For a single blow to chip its durability meant the strike had already exceeded the limits of a 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapon.

Meanwhile, dozens more golden figures surrounded him.

Han Wu watched them close in and finally turned serious. “That's more like it. I don't like taking losses. Since you landed one hit on me, I'll return the favor. You don't mind, do you?”

He summoned one Small Locust Blade and sent it toward Sun Qianqian. She snorted, unimpressed by its faint pressure.

Just before the blade reached her, however, it split into 147 blades under the Triplicate and Seven Killings effects. They all shot toward her with a sudden burst of speed.

She tried to summon a Divine Weapon to block them, but it was too late. The blades struck her.

Monsters like her placed great emphasis on physical conditioning, and Sun Qianqian was among the strongest. The blades only managed to pierce her skin before the muscle beneath stopped them. Even as Han Wu drove them forward, they couldn't penetrate any deeper.

Sun Qianqian then flexed her muscles, snapping all the blades off through sheer physical strength. The wounds bled briefly, then healed almost instantly, as though they had never existed.

She felt no pride in that. Instead, humiliation rose within her. She was the young mistress of Wanyao City, yet these little things had managed to wound her. They were light wounds, but a wound was still a wound!

“You will pay for hurting me. Golden Monkey Staff Art, crush him!” Sun Qianqian ordered. The golden clones raised their staves and charged at Han Wu together.

Han Wu didn’t stand idle. He drew the Explosive Locust Blade, now with its new Armament Spirit, and detonated it in his hand.

Flames burst outward and split into more than 1,000 fireballs shaped like Vermilion Birds. They shot in all directions and struck every clone Han Wu had marked as an enemy.

Sun Qianqian drew the brunt of the assault as over 100 Vermilion Bird fireballs detonated around her, their flying sparks burning holes through her clothes. Meanwhile, the clones melted under the flames, dissolving into energy that scattered through the air.

Han Wu stepped out of the fire unscathed, looking as composed as ever.

After two losses, Sun Qianqian stopped holding back and equipped all her 9-Star God-grade Divine Weapons: the Phoenix Tail Iridium Crown on her head, the Golden Chainmail over her body, the Lotus Silk Runners on her feet, and the Sea-Calming Staff in her hand.

With them, her monster Combat Bloodline was awakened. She moved like lightning, leaving afterimages as she closed in on Han Wu and brought the Sea-Calming Staff down with force.

Han Wu refused to be pushed back. He activated Freespirited Ape God and matched her speed with his Giant Locust Blade.

They traded several blows, and Han Wu held his ground without falling behind. Still, that wasn't his full strength. During their exchanges, he summoned numerous Small Locust Blades and spread them out. He waited for an opening, forced Sun Qianqian back with the Giant Locust Blade, and commanded the tens of millions of blades hovering in the air to pour down on her from all directions.

The blades came from every angle. Although they couldn't pierce through Sun Qianqian's armor, they could wear it down through constant impact, steadily draining its durability, much like water carving through stone.

Her armor was strong, but it didn't have anything like the Invulnerable effect. Once it shattered, it would enter a reformation phase that would take a very long time for armor of that caliber. Thus, she had to ensure that wouldn't happen.

Sun Qianqian spun the Sea-Calming Staff in wide arcs, furiously striking away every blade that got close to her.

Han Wu seized the opening, summoned Locust-V, and unleashed a continuous barrage of suppressive fire on her. At the same time, the Heavenly Demon Spike spiralled toward her with Spiral Pierce. Lastly, the Dark Curse Nail waited in Han Wu's other hand for the right moment.

They wore each other down in that manner for an hour, until Sun Qianqian was the first to falter.

Han Wu simply had too many ranged options. She had to manage the endless Small Locust Blades and Locust-V's suppressive fire simultaneously. Meanwhile, the Heavenly Demon Spike's Spiral Pierce was the most punishing, specifically designed to tear through durability. The Sea-Calming Staff shattering in her hand was proof enough.

Without her most powerful Divine Weapon, Sun Qianqian had to fall back on a spare, a 9-Star God-grade longsword with no particularly strong effects. She used it to fend off Han Wu's attacks while trying to find a way out of his range.

"Don't bother. You can't escape my range. You're finished," Han Wu said, his tone final.

"Monsters never lose!" Sun Qianqian roared, slashing aside the incoming Small Locust Blades.

She knew she was running on fumes, but she wouldn't admit it out loud. *Is this really where I die?*

She rejected the thought. The moment she found her answer, her mind cleared. A golden armored ape figure rose behind her, beat its chest with a thunderous roar, and sent every Small Locust Blade flying. At the brink of death, Sun Qianqian's Combat Bloodline fully awakened!