The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

Chapter 901 - Stringer and Thunder Halberd

Faced with the new War Saint Locustman, the Centaursprite tribe suffered devastating casualties. Those that survived fled back to their settlement.

Han Wu recalled both War Saint Locustmen. They had fought bravely and sustained significant injuries. Thankfully, Locustmen had powerful regenerative abilities. Even without treatment, a single day of rest would be enough for them to make a full recovery.

Han Wu's gaze fell on the new Locustman. Its innate weapon had already transformed into the Thunder Halberd. When he checked its attributes, he was surprised to discover that it was slightly stronger than the first War Saint Locustman. The upgraded weapon was likely the reason.

To make things easier, Han Wu decided to give them names.

"From now on, you're Stinger," he said, pointing at the first War Saint Locustman.

Then he turned to the one holding the halberd. "And you're Thunder Halberd."

Stinger and Thunder Halberd knelt before Han Wu, grateful for the names he had bestowed upon them.

Han Wu had no intention of returning to the Centaursprite tribe just yet. His first priority was allowing his War Saint Locustmen to recover. At the same time, he needed to review the gains from the battle.

All the gifted Divine Essence he had received had been spent. His panel showed 120,000 energy points and 30,000 evolution points remaining. He still had a decent stockpile of materials, but the evolution points weren't enough to unlock a full evolution line. He would have to proceed gradually.

Looking at his current roster, Han Wu saw that he already had two powerful War Saint Locustmen as frontline fighters and an Iron Abyss Bug as a tank. The Nuclear Locusts could occasionally serve as mages for firepower. What the team still lacked was a healer.

Han Wu opened his Evolution Tree and filtered through the species he had already unlocked. None of the locust units he had cultivated through conventional methods possessed healing abilities. However, the species obtained through Random Evolution offered several options.

He picked one of the cheapest choices: the Nightwing Butterfly, a mature-tier Digital Sprite under the Sprite Civilization's system. Its skill allowed it to absorb life force from other living beings and transfer it to another target to heal injuries.

Han Wu linked the Nightwing Butterfly icon to the locust icon on the Evolution Tree. A transitional adolescent-tier species was needed to bridge the gap, and after a brief moment of consideration, he chose the Glutton Locusts.

He spent 2,000 evolution points, completing part of the evolution path.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Glutton Locust (adolescent, Elite life form) > Nightwing Butterfly (mature, Unique life form)]

Because the Nightwing Butterfly was relatively weak, its summoning cost was low. Han Wu easily summoned 200 of them and assigned them to heal the two War Saint Locustmen. As for the source of the life force they would use, Han Wu looked around before his eyes settled on the Iron Abyss Bug. The creature was massive, heavily armored, and clearly possessed an abundance of vitality.

At Han Wu's command, the 200 Nightwing Butterflies latched onto the Iron Abyss Bug and started siphoning its life force to heal Stinger and Thunder Halberd. With the treatment, both recovered rapidly. Within four hours, their injuries had fully recovered. Meanwhile, the Iron Abyss Bug had lost a third of its life force and entered a weakened state.

Han Wu fed it several materials and estimated that it would recover before long.

With Stinger and Thunder Halberd restored to full strength, the first order of business was a counterattack against the Centaursprite tribe. After killing their king, the hatred between the two sides had reached a point beyond reconciliation. To prevent the Centaursprites from seeking revenge later, Han Wu decided to wipe them out.

Under his command, Stinger and Thunder Halberd charged into the Centaursprite settlement once more. Without the Thunder Halberd Centaursprite King to restrain them, the two tore through the entire tribe with ease. They also found the tribe's treasure: the Centaursprite War Banner.

[Centaursprite War Banner: Grants endless courage to allies. Can be used as a weapon or as a material for ultimate-tier evolution.]

Han Wu immediately claimed it. This was now his fourth special material.

With the Centaursprite tribe eliminated, Han Wu once again followed his avatars' guidance. If he ventured deeper into the mountains, he would find numerous tribes like the Centaursprites. Wiping out any one of them would yield substantial rewards. Meanwhile, continuing north would take him into a snowy region with frigid temperatures.

Concerned that the cold would reduce his Digital Sprites' combat effectiveness, Han Wu abandoned the northern route. Instead, he turned his attention east and west, looking for a direction to explore.

While the avatars in his divine realm were surveying the eastern and western areas through the livestream feed, they spotted another contestant heading straight toward Han Wu's location. Based on the trajectory, they were certain the contestant was coming for him.

After receiving the report, Han Wu muttered, "Riding a perfect-tier Metal Tyrannosprite with over a dozen Tyrannosprites in tow. That's a pretty weak lineup. What does he want with me?"

Before Han Wu could figure it out, the contestant's silhouette appeared in the distance. He had to admit that a pack of Tyrannosprites charging forward with tyrannosaur-like bodies did look rather imposing. The sight almost made him want a batch of his own to play with.

The contestant arrived before Han Wu. His gaze immediately fell on the empty Centaursprite settlement behind them. The corpses had already dissolved into data, but the wreckage spoke for itself. One look was enough for him to conclude that the person standing before him was someone he absolutely couldn't afford to offend.

"Hello. My name is Loki. I'm a member of the Iron Fist family," he introduced himself.

Han Wu didn't know Loki's intentions yet, so he kept his real name to himself. "I'm Locust Plague."

Loki nodded approvingly. "Locust Plague. Strange name. Still, if you managed to secure a spot in this event, your background must be quite impressive."

"Do you need something? If not, I'm leaving," Han Wu said tentatively.

“Wait, brother. I’ll be straight with you. There’s something I want.” Loki glanced at the Centaursprite settlement behind Han Wu. “If I’m not mistaken, it should be in your hands.”

Han Wu could already guess that Loki was referring to the Centaursprite War Banner, but he played dumb. “What do you want?”

“A banner with a Centaursprite design on it. That material is very important to me,” Loki’s tone turned pleading. “I know it’s valuable, so I’m willing to trade a special material of equal value for it.”

Han Wu’s interest was piqued. “Oh? What do you have?”

Chapter 902 - Machinedrasprite Ruins

The moment Loki heard that, he knew a deal was possible. He quickly pulled five special materials from his inventory.

[Thor’s Hammer: A hammer forged from Digital Alloy. Indestructible. It can serve as a weapon for Digital Sprites or as a material for ultimate evolution.]

[Evil Trident: A trident forged from Dark Alloy. Contains extremely pure Dark Energy. It can serve as a weapon for Digital Sprites or as a material for perfect evolution.]

[Holy Ring: A ring imbued with Holy Energy. It can be worn by a Digital Sprite as an accessory to boost its strength or serve as a material for mature evolution.]

[Dark Gear: A gear containing Dark Energy. It can be fused into a Digital Sprite’s body to greatly increase its powers, though there is a chance the Digital Sprite will lose its mind.]

[Bone Spike Hammer: A hammer forged from the bones of a Zombie Tyrannosprite. It contains immense destructive power and can serve as a weapon for Digital Sprites.]

Han Wu examined all five materials. Some were valuable, while others were less impressive. The one that caught his eye was Thor’s Hammer. It could serve as both a weapon and a material for ultimate evolution, making it perfectly suited to his current needs. If he ever summoned a War Saint Locustman that wielded a hammer, it would be a perfect fit.

He also liked the Holy Ring. It contained Holy Energy, just like the Devout Crucifix he already possessed. Together, they could support mature and perfect evolution

respectively. If he could find one more Holy Energy item suitable for ultimate evolution, he could develop an entire evolution path centered around Holy Energy.

Holy Energy was versatile. It excelled at both support and tanking. If he could gather all the necessary components, it would be invaluable. As for the other three materials, they held little appeal for him.

“I want Thor’s Hammer and the Holy Ring,” Han Wu stated.

That request made Loki hesitate. The value of special materials depended on more than utility alone. Thor’s Hammer looked impressive, but it could only be used for ultimate evolution. Among all the contestants, how many could realistically raise an ultimate Digital Sprite?

The Holy Ring was different. It could be used for mature evolution, making it far more widely applicable. In terms of overall value, it was arguably on par with Thor’s Hammer.

After a moment of thought, Loki said, “That won’t work. One for one.”

Han Wu frowned.

“Do you not understand the supply-and-demand situation here? You’re the one asking me to trade, not the other way around. Besides, I have the strength to keep you here. If I did that, all your special materials would become mine.” A hint of threat lingered in his words.

Oddly enough, once Han Wu said it, Loki actually relaxed slightly. If Han Wu had truly intended to rob him, he would have already done so instead of negotiating.

“If you insist on trading one special material for two, it’s not impossible. You’ll need to throw in 200 crystals. Any type will do,” Loki countered.

Han Wu thought it over for three seconds before agreeing. Crystals were produced in decent quantities, but he had little use for them. At present, their primary purpose was to recharge the Iron Abyss Bug. He had killed plenty of Digital Sprites and accumulated a sizable stockpile. Trading away 200 of them posed no issue.

Han Wu handed over the Centaursprite War Banner and 200 crystals. In return, Loki gave him Thor’s Hammer and the Holy Ring. Both parties were satisfied with the deal.

Since the trade had gone smoothly and Han Wu possessed real strength, Loki proposed something else. “I actually know the location of some ruins not far from here. Interested in exploring them together?”

Han Wu raised an eyebrow. “What ruins? Tell me more.”

Loki's smile was barely noticeable. "Do you know that, in the history of the Sprite Civilization, there was once a period when several rulers dominated all the others? They were known as the Four Dark Masters. These ruins contain the evolution path and required special materials for one of them: Machinedrasprite."

"Machinedrasprite!" Han Wu repeated.

Its three attributes—mechanical, dragon, and dark—overlapped with his own.

"I'm very interested in your proposal. How do we split the loot?" Han Wu asked.

A cunning glint flashed in Loki's eyes. "Whoever can use an item gets it. If it suits both of us or neither of us, we roll a die to decide."

"No problem. Deal," Han Wu agreed without hesitation.

His quick acceptance didn't come from trust. It was quite the opposite. He didn't trust Loki at all, which was precisely why he was willing to set the rules. As long as both sides followed them, everyone benefited. The moment someone broke them and a conflict of interest arose, they would have no one to blame for the consequences.

With the Machinedrasprite ruins on his mind, Han Wu set off alongside Loki.

As they traveled, Han Wu continued communicating with his avatars. Through the extensive broadcast equipment, they confirmed that a set of ruins indeed existed along the route. The site was sealed, however, and the avatars couldn't see inside. They would have to wait until the two entered.

Before long, they arrived at the entrance. A massive mechanical door towered above them, making both Han Wu and Loki look tiny by comparison.

Loki was already familiar with the ruins. He stepped forward and entered a passcode.

With a deep grind of gears, the door opened. Beyond it lay a pitch-black, eerie interior.

Loki gestured to Han Wu. "After you, my friend."

Han Wu nodded and walked in with Stinger and Thunder Halberd. The Iron Abyss Bug was too large to fit through the entrance and had to stay outside.

Loki followed behind him. His perfect Metal Tyrannosprite barely squeezed through the entrance, and the smaller Tyrannosprites entered without difficulty.

As they moved inside, two small broadcast drones trailed after them. Back in Han Wu's divine realm, the avatars now had two screens to monitor. One tracked Han Wu's every movement, while the other followed Loki.

The pair maintained a cautious distance from each other and remained clearly on guard.

Just as they moved deeper into the dark space, an alarm blared.

“Intruders detected. Intruders detected...” the mechanical voice repeated endlessly.

Rows of mature Digital Sprites marched out from the corridor in tight formation. They were Commandrasprites, clad in lightweight armor and armed with assault rifles.

: Chapter 903

Chapter 903 - Real Plan

Stinger and Thunder Halberd immediately stepped in front of Han Wu. On Loki’s side, the Metal Tyrannosprite lifted him onto its shoulder while the other Tyrannosprites charged forward.

The Commandrasprites were small, and the charging Tyrannosprite easily scattered their formation. However, their assault rifles were no joke. The Tyrannosprites’ large frames made perfect targets, and a barrage of gunfire killed two of Loki’s Digital Sprites on the spot.

Loki’s heart ached at the loss, but for the sake of the Machinedrasprite ruins, he had to press on. He urged Han Wu to advance alongside him.

Han Wu figured this was only the first section of the ruins and not the time to turn hostile. He ordered Stinger to clear the Commandrasprites blocking their path. Stinger was fast and could fly. Without even using a skill, it impaled every last Commandrasprite.

The dead Commandrasprites dissolved into data. The energy that didn’t disperse solidified into small screws scattered across the ground. Han Wu had Stinger collect them and discovered they were no ordinary screws. They were made from an alloy called Dragon Metal, a material capable of enhancing draconic traits.

Han Wu asked Loki whether he wanted any of the screws. Loki declined without hesitation, so Han Wu kept them according to their agreement. He offered no explanation for why he needed them, and Loki didn’t mind. They were minor gains. The real rewards lay further ahead.

They continued forward and soon encountered more mechanized Dragon Digital Sprites. This time, they were Sealdrasprites. Unlike the Commandrasprites, Sealdrasprites carried

no firearms and relied entirely on melee weapons. They were agile and struck with precision. Under their assault, Loki lost another three Tyrannosprites.

Han Wu sent Stinger to deal with them. Once the Sealdrasprites dissolved into data, they left behind a collection of bolts forged from Dragon Metal. They also dropped a special material: a long blade.

Loki passed on everything again, and Han Wu took everything without a shred of hesitation.

Pressing onward, they arrived at a facility resembling a factory. Production lines hummed along rows of assembly stations, manufacturing the very Commandrasprites they had just fought.

“These production lines will keep churning out Commandrasprites nonstop. We have to destroy them,” Loki said with conviction and ordered his Metal Tyrannosprite to unleash its finishing move, Giga Cannon.

The missiles exploded, and every production line was either hit directly or caught in the blast, causing the entire manufacturing system to shut down.

Han Wu was impressed by the Giga Cannon’s power. Its destructive force rivaled the Nuclear Locust’s Self Detonation. However, the latter was an ultimate Digital Sprite that died after detonating. In contrast, the Metal Tyrannosprite was only a perfect Digital Sprite, yet it emerged unharmed after firing Giga Cannon. It merely needed a brief cooldown before it could fire again. Compared to the Metal Tyrannosprite, the Nuclear Locust had little to offer beyond its low summoning cost.

This only strengthened Han Wu’s desire to find a dragon-type evolution path for his core locust units and further boost their combat power.

While Han Wu was deep in thought, Loki and the Metal Tyrannosprite rummaged through the wrecked production lines and found a special material known as the Black Box. Its function was to help mechanical Digital Sprites learn powerful skills. Loki claimed he needed it and pointed to his Metal Tyrannosprite as justification.

Han Wu didn’t contest it. He wanted to see what Loki was really planning.

Beyond the production lines, they continued fighting through waves of Commandrasprites and Sealdrasprites. Stinger and Thunder Halberd dispatched them easily. After breaking through layer upon layer of resistance, Loki led them to a control room. Inside stood a terminal that controlled the entire ruins.

The moment Loki saw it, he burst into laughter. “I’ve finally found it.”

Loki rapidly entered commands into the terminal, and a blueprint appeared on the ruins' display. It detailed every step of Machinedrasprite's assembly process, including the exact placement of each component.

Han Wu quickly noticed that the Black Box Loki had taken from the production line was the Machinedrasprite's core.

"You knew all along that the Black Box was the Machinedrasprite's core?" Han Wu asked coldly.

Loki no longer bothered hiding his intentions. "Of course I did. Thanks to you clearing out all those annoying minions along the way, I was able to get my hands on the Black Box without any trouble."

Han Wu was puzzled. "With your strength, you could've handled those minions yourself."

"That's true, but this place's real guardians haven't appeared yet. They only wake up when someone tries to build a Machinedrasprite, like right now!"

Loki shoved the Black Box into the terminal. A piercing alarm echoed throughout the ruins. The floor beneath them cracked open, and two massive Dragon Digital Sprites rose from below.

[Gigadrasprite (Perfect Digital Sprite)]

[Megadrasprite (Perfect Digital Sprite)]

Although they were only perfect-tier, their auras indicated that they were Heavenrender life forms, just one step away from the World rank.

As the two colossal Dragon Digital Sprites awakened, Loki operated the terminal with practiced ease. Multiple layers of transparent glass panels materialized around him and sealed him inside. His Metal Tyrannosprite, however, wasn't so lucky.

The two Dragon Digital Sprites immediately targeted the Metal Tyrannosprite. Without Loki's commands, it couldn't even last three exchanges before the Gigadrasprite and Megadrasprite tore it to pieces.

After the Metal Tyrannosprite's death, they completely ignored Loki behind the glass. Their eyes shifted to Han Wu, Stinger, and Thunder Halberd. They were clearly coming for them.

Safe behind layers of protective glass, Loki grinned. "I'll need you to handle these two Dragon Digital Sprites for me. I've got a Machinedrasprite to build. If you will excuse me, I hope you survive. Hahaha."

With that, Loki descended through the glass barrier into the pit where the two Dragon Digital Sprites had been dormant. Another control room lay below, one that was normally impossible to access while the two guardians stood watch. Now that Han Wu had drawn their attention, Loki walked straight in.

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

Chapter 904 - Dragon Evolution Path

Stinger and Thunder Halberd faced off against the Gigadrasprite and Megadrasprite respectively. Despite being ultimate Digital Sprites, they were losing. The gap in their rank was simply too large.

Stinger and Thunder Halberd were only at the Earthsunder rank, while the two dragon-type Digital Sprites had reached the Heavenrender rank. Even though they managed to inflict numerous wounds, the damage was superficial. One solid hit from either dragon would leave them severely injured. Against the dragons' overwhelming physical power, the Locustmen were outclassed.

Watching his two Locustmen struggle, Han Wu searched for a way out of the situation. He had already spent his donated money. His panel displayed only the energy and evolution points he had earned from killing the Commandrasprites and Sealdrasprites.

It was nowhere near enough to unlock a new evolution path or summon a new War Saint Locustman. He could summon an ultimate Iron Abyss Bug, or two ultimate Nuclear Locusts, but neither option would make a meaningful difference against the Gigadrasprite and Megadrasprite.

After considering every possibility, Han Wu was left with one choice. He needed to spend more money.

I have already invested 1 million Divine Essence. What is a little more? That thought was enough to console him.

Since he had committed to spending, Han Wu wouldn't settle. He chose an evolution path that consumed a massive amount of resources, focused entirely on the dragon attribute!

Moments later, a system-wide notification flashed across every viewer's screen.

[Viewer "Wisdom Faction Welcomes All" has donated 1 million Divine Essence to contestant Han Wu. This is an official announcement.]

The comment section of Han Wu's broadcast exploded.

"Another million Divine Essence? Does the Wisdom Faction have money growing on trees? Can winning two divine wars really make you that rich?"

"Serious question. Is the Wisdom Faction still recruiting? I'll be their dog if that's what it takes."

"Is it really necessary to go this hard for a single event?"

"I give up. The Wisdom God King must be playing four-dimensional chess."

The viewers had lost their minds, overwhelmed by the Wisdom Faction's sheer spending power.

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Meanwhile, inside the Wisdom Faction, Xu Hai stared at the flood of membership applications pouring in. He thought he was dreaming. On a normal day, 100 applications would have been impressive. Today, the number had surpassed 10,000. The faction was on the rise!

When Xu Hai learned that Han Wu had been funding their advertising out of his own pocket, he was moved to tears. *What a great kid! Even while competing, he didn't forget to recruit members for the faction.*

The only problem was the advertising cost. Xu Hai couldn't help but wince. That was 2 million Divine Essence in total. Even if someone stripped the True Martial Faction down to their underwear, they still wouldn't be able to produce that much!

"You won't go broke from eating or drinking, but poor planning will ruin you. When Han Wu gets back, I'm going to teach him the meaning of frugality!" Xu Hai declared sternly while approving one application after another.

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On Han Wu's end, the 1 million Divine Essence arrived. With his funding secured, he opened his Evolution Tree once more.

Under normal evolution, the highest dragon-related species available to locusts was the Locust Dragon, which occupied the mature stage of the tree. The perfect and ultimate forms above it could only come from species generated through Random Evolution.

Han Wu quickly selected a dragon-focused evolution path.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Pterasprite (adolescent, Unique life form) > Locust Dragon (mature, Lord life form) > Green Dragon (perfect, King life form) > Yinglong (ultimate, Heavenrender life form)]

Activating that single path cost 800,000 Divine Essence. In the blink of an eye, he was down to 200,000. He couldn't afford to waste the remainder, so he invested every last bit into summoning a Yinglong.

The 200,000 Divine Essence converted to 2 million energy points, but summoning a Yinglong required 2.1 million. In an instant, his money disappeared without even leaving so much as a spare coin behind. He even had to dip into his reserves for the remaining 100,000 energy points.

When the 2.1 million energy points were spent, a Yinglong appeared, and pure Dragon Fear descended. Its mere aura was enough to make the Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite freeze in a panic and stop fighting.

Han Wu checked Yinglong's attributes.

[Yinglong (ultimate). Skills: True Dragon's Might, War Dragon Form, Dragon Bane. Description: An extremely powerful dragon-type Digital Sprite that deals double damage against all other dragon-type Digital Sprites.]

"Now that's strong!" Han Wu said, and gave Yinglong its order to crush the Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite.

Yinglong obeyed and activated its War Dragon Form. Its scales shuddered and erupted with golden light. Its claws gleamed like blades, and it moved with the swiftness of wind.

The Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite didn't dare face it head-on and tried to flee. Stinger and Thunder Halberd quickly moved to cut them off, while Yinglong targeted the Megadrasprite first.

Although both were Heavenrender life forms, and the Megadrasprite was technically stronger than Yinglong, it could do nothing but tremble under True Dragon's Might. Even in the face of death, it didn't dare resist. The fear was instinctive, etched deep in its bones.

The Megadrasprite died quickly and dissolved into data. The Gigadrasprite followed shortly after falling beneath Yinglong's claws.

The two powerful dragon-type Digital Sprites yielded 400,000 energy points and 60,000 evolution points upon death. Converted into Divine Essence, that was roughly 100,000. It was barely enough to recover a fraction of the cost! Both dragon-type Digital Sprites also left behind special materials.

[Megadrasprite Skull: A skull forged from Dragon Metal that greatly enhances draconic attributes. It could replace a dragon-type Digital Sprite's head or serve as a material for dragon-type or mechanical-type ultimate evolution.]

[Gigadrasprite Right Arm: An arm forged from Dragon Metal that greatly enhances draconic attributes. It can replace a dragon-type Digital Sprite's arm or serve as a material for dragon-type or mechanical-type ultimate evolution.]

Stinger flew over carrying yet another special material. It was the left arm that the Metal Tyrannosprite had dropped after being killed by the Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite. Its attributes were comparable to those of the skull and the right arm.

Yinglong looked at all three materials with obvious desire. Han Wu made his decision and handed them over.

Yinglong absorbed them, and its skull and arms underwent a transformation, becoming harder and more refined. Its Dragon Fear grew stronger as well. Better yet, after absorbing the three materials, Yinglong awakened two new skills.

[Turbo Claw: Extends the right claw to impale the enemy.]

[Infinity Arm: Uses the left arm to crush the enemy.]

Both skills greatly boosted Yinglong's combat power. With the powerful Yinglong by his side, Han Wu decided to head downward to check on Loki's progress.

Chapter 905 - Pseudo-Machinedrasprite

"The Androsprite's skull for the knee guards, the Metalpeasprite's cannon for the Infinity Cannon, the Megadrasprite's skull for the head, the Gigadrasprite's right arm for one claw, the Metaldrasprite's frame for the torso, the Metal Tyrannosprite's left arm for the other claw, and the Black Box core..."

Inside the core control room, Loki used the Black Box to access the ruins' inventory and started the Machinedrasprite's final assembly.

"These components are only replicas made from Dragon Metal, but once assembled into a Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, it should reach at least the World rank!" Loki muttered, "It couldn't be a more perfect final form for my Tyrannosprite unit's evolution."

The assembly progress bar inched forward.

[90%]

[91%]

Just as the assembly neared completion, with less than ten percent remaining, a thunderous crash echoed from above. Steel panels rained down from the ceiling.

Loki looked up and saw a strange dragon-type Digital Sprite clad in golden armor descending from above.

Loki gasped. “What is that? Did another contestant break into the ruins?”

Yinglong spotted Loki and attacked without hesitation. It launched Turbo Claw, extending its right claw straight at him. The glass panels shielding him blocked the strike. Yinglong’s Dragon Metal claw scraped across the surface, leaving only faint scratches.

Even so, Loki was shaken. He knew the glass was strong enough to withstand World attacks. The fact that Yinglong could even leave marks on it meant that its power couldn’t be underestimated.

While Loki was still trying to determine to whom Yinglong belonged, Han Wu and his two War Saint Locustmen descended into the core control room.

Loki’s eyes widened. “You’re alive?”

By his estimation, the Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite together were possibly even harder to deal with than the Machinedrasprite itself. Han Wu should have been overwhelmed, with his protection barrier depleted and his elimination all but certain. In the worst case, he could have been killed outright, yet there he was without a scratch.

“I should be thanking you, actually. It was your little trap that got me this powerful ally,” Han Wu said as Yinglong obediently flew to his side.

Loki’s jaw dropped. This powerful dragon-type Digital Sprite belonged to Han Wu!

“Even if you’ve got a strong dragon-type Digital Sprite, don’t get cocky. My Machinedrasprite will be assembled soon. When it is, none of you will escape,” Loki spat, his voice carrying a hint of jealousy.

He desperately wanted Yinglong for himself. The fact that it belonged to his enemy stung worse than any wound.

Han Wu ignored the threat and ordered his three Digital Sprites to attack the glass protecting Loki.

Stinger's piercing attacks only left negligible dots on the surface. Thunder Halberd's strikes carried tremendous force, yet they couldn't even leave a scratch. Yinglong fared better. Its enhanced arms, combined with its skills, managed to leave fine marks on the glass, but it was nowhere near enough to break through. At this rate, it would take three to five hours.

The assembly progress had already reached ninety-five percent. Even Han Wu recognized that time was running out. *Should I keep chipping away at the glass to drag Loki out or cut my losses and retreat?*

Seeing that Han Wu couldn't damage the glass, Loki taunted, "With trash Digital Sprites like yours, you think you can compete with me? Once my Machinedrasprite is complete, I'll be the strongest in this entire event. Nobody will be able to stop me! The Iron Fist Family's reputation will soar to its peak under my glory!"

Loki was already celebrating. After all, the progress bar had reached ninety-seven percent.

Han Wu stared at the increasingly scratched glass, thought for three seconds, then pulled an item from his material storage. It was Thor's Hammer, the very one he'd traded from Loki.

[Thor's Hammer: A hammer forged from Digital Alloy. Indestructible. It can serve as a weapon for Digital Sprites or as a material for ultimate evolution.]

The moment Loki saw it, his expression froze for a second. He quickly masked it with false composure. "That hammer is useless! This barrier can withstand World attacks."

Han Wu ignored Loki completely and ordered, "Yinglong, use this hammer to destroy his defense."

Yinglong grabbed Thor's Hammer and swung it into the glass. The first strike landed, but the glass still held.

Loki exhaled in relief. "See? That hammer is use—"

Before he could finish, a sharp cracking sound cut him off. A web of fractures spread across the glass, expanding with every passing second.

Panic flashed across Loki's face. He checked the assembly progress. It was already at ninety-eight percent. Only two percent remained. However, that final two percent was completely beyond his control.

Yinglong brought the hammer down a second time, and the glass shattered completely. With his protection gone, Loki stood exposed before Han Wu's three ultimate Digital Sprites.

“Kill him,” Han Wu said.

Stinger, Thunder Halberd, and Yinglong attacked in unison. Death Pierce, a thunderous cleave, and Turbo Claw struck simultaneously. The three powerful skills reduced Loki’s protection barrier to zero. The instant it reached zero, the event teleported him away. He was eliminated.

The Machinedrasprite’s assembly progress had reached ninety-nine percent. Han Wu rushed to the control panel and worked the interface, changing the Machinedrasprite’s master designation to himself.

For him, that was child’s play. While he had been fighting the Megadrasprite and Gigadrasprite, his avatars had been studying the operating system through the broadcast feed. By now, they had completely cracked it.

A beep sounded.

[Assembly progress: 100%]

Below, a towering mechanical figure emerged, ferocious and imposing. Its information appeared before Han Wu.

[Pseudo-Machinedrasprite (ultimate, Microcosm life form). Skills: Turbo Claw, Infinity Arm, Infinity Cannon. Description: Assembled from numerous Dragon Metal components. Extremely powerful.]

As Han Wu studied the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, it stared back at him with glowing crimson eyes and asked in a synthetic voice, “Are you my master?”

: Chapter 906

Chapter 906 - The Land of Chess

Han Wu knew that the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite before him still fell short of a true Machineddrasprite. Even so, it had reached the Microcosm rank.

How powerful would the real thing be? He couldn’t begin to imagine.

After confirming through the system that nothing else remained in the ruins, Han Wu led his Digital Sprites out. He now commanded formidable forces: the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite, Yinglong, two War Saint Locustmen, the Iron Abyss Bug, and 200 Nightwing Butterflies.

If necessary, he could also summon Nuclear Locusts for additional firepower. With this level of strength, Han Wu felt that he could carve out a territory in the Sprite Civilization.

After leaving the ruins, Han Wu gathered intelligence through his avatars. His current location had already reached the civilization's high-danger zones.

To the east lay the Chessboard Lands, a kingdom built by countless Chess Soldiers. According to the avatars' reports, four contestants had already fallen there.

To the west stood the Kingdom of Sin, a zone filled with Sin Digital Sprites and home to more than fifty ultimate ones. Nearly ninety-eight percent of contestants who entered hadn't returned.

To the north stretched a snowfield inhabited by powerful Ice Digital Sprites. Only three ultimate ones had been discovered there so far, but all wielded formidable ice abilities.

To the south was the Forest of Bewilderment, which was the ultimate Puppet Beast's territory. Twelve contestants had been defeated there, and two had failed to teleport out in time. The Puppet Beast had turned them into scarecrows.

Only moments earlier, Han Wu had felt powerful. After learning what surrounded him, he realized he wasn't as powerful as he had thought. For now, the wiser choice was to enter the least dangerous zone, gather resources, and cultivate his ultimate units into a proper army before challenging the high-danger zones.

He chose the Chessboard Lands, the safest of the four options.

On the way there, Han Wu noticed that the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite and the Iron Abyss Bug moved far too slowly. With them slowing the group down, the journey would take twice as long. Fortunately, a solution quickly presented itself. The Pseudo-Machineddrasprite had reached the Microcosm rank and possessed a Microcosm capable of housing other Digital Sprites. That allowed him to travel light and protect the weaker Digital Sprites.

As such, he immediately had the Iron Abyss Bug, the 200 Nightwing Butterflies, and the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite itself enter the Microcosm. He could summon them whenever he needed them.

Han Wu then rode Yinglong, with Stinger and Thunder Halberd at his side, and soon entered the Chessboard Lands.

The moment they crossed into the territory, the guards attacked them. Arrows rained upward from below. Against Yinglong's defenses, the arrows weren't even worthy of being used as toothpicks.

Still, getting shot at without fighting back wasn't Han Wu's style. He looked down and saw a neatly organized formation of Chess Soldiers firing volleys with disciplined precision. Wave after wave of arrows arced upward in orderly succession.

Before long, information about the Chess Soldiers appeared before him.

[Bow Soldiers (mature, Unique life form). Skills: Arrow Shot, Volley. Description: Well-trained archer Chess Soldiers whose range increases with the number of identical units in formation.]

[Shield Soldiers (mature, Unique life form). Skills: Shield Raise, Shield Bash. Description: Well-trained shield-bearing Chess Soldiers whose defense increases with the number of identical units in formation.]

[Spear Soldiers (mature, Unique life form). Skills: Pierce, Javelin Throw. Description: Well-trained spear-wielding Chess Soldiers whose attack power increases with the number of identical units in formation.]

Every type of Chess Soldier was incredibly weak on its own. They were only mature-tier, yet individually they were even weaker than some of the weakest species that Han Wu had encountered. Even the Magma Locust, a unit designed solely for Self Detonation, seemed superior by comparison.

Just as Han Wu was thinking that, a cannonball tore into his field of view and detonated dangerously close. Yinglong's scales absorbed the attack without issue, but Han Wu took the shockwave directly. His protection barrier lost fifty points.

The hit immediately sharpened his focus. He searched below and eventually spotted the source.

[Cannon Soldiers (perfect, Heroic life form). Skills: Launch, Self Detonation. Description: Cannon-type Chess Soldiers capable of both ranged and close combat. In formation, their blast radius, explosive power, and ammunition capacity increase with the number of identical units.]

More Cannon Soldiers were clustered nearby, and additional Chess Soldiers were converging on the area.

Han Wu's brow furrowed. Individually, those Chess Soldiers were weak, but their strength scaled with numbers. Once they formed proper battle lines, they could rival other Digital Sprites of the same tier. Digital Sprites like this needed to be culled.

Han Wu summoned the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite and the Iron Abyss Bug from the Microcosm. Using the Iron Abyss Bug as an airborne fortress to minimize incoming fire, he sent his other Digital Sprites into battle.

Stinger and Thunder Halberd moved the fastest, carving through hundreds of Chess Soldiers with ease. Yinglong was even deadlier. A single pass over the formation shredded more than 1,000 Chess Soldiers with its Turbo Claw.

The most terrifying of all, however, was the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite. Its metallic frame easily shrugged off most attacks. Its Infinity Cannon unleashed a shockwave that obliterated tens of thousands of Chess Soldiers in one blast. Entire formations crumbled to ash under the bombardment.

The Chess Soldiers' strength-in-numbers trait was completely neutralized in the face of the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite.

As the slaughter continued, energy and evolution points poured into Han Wu's account. In no time, he had accumulated 4 million energy points and 1.2 million evolution points. The rate of growth was staggering.

Han Wu was genuinely glad that he had chosen this destination. No other region nearby could offer such dense concentrations of enemies for the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite to eliminate.

After witnessing its overwhelming performance, Han Wu decided that the Pseudo-Machineddrasprite's next evolution path would focus on the mechanical attribute, with the Machineddrasprite as its final evolution.

Because he already owned a Pseudo-Machineddrasprite, he quickly located the Machineddrasprite icon within his Evolution Tree. Evolution had to proceed step by step, however, so he needed to determine the sequence.

He fed the screws and bolts he had collected from the Machineddrasprite ruins into the tree, along with a massive amount of evolution points. Soon, a brand-new evolution path took shape.

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

: Chapter 907

Chapter 907 - Digital Spirit

A new evolution path centered on the mechanical attribute was born.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Mechanical Locust (adolescent, Unique life form) > Mechanical Locust Dragon (adolescent, Lord life form) > Mecha Wyvern (perfect, King life form) > Machinedrasprite (ultimate, Microcosm life form).]

[Mechanical Locust Dragon: Mechanized frame built based on the Locust Dragon. Skills: Dragon Breath, Super Self Detonation]

[Mecha Wyvern: Mechanized frame built based on the Wyverns. Skills: Wyvern Slash, Wyvern Breath]

[Machinedrasprite: Mechanized frame built on the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite. Skills: Turbo Claw, Infinity Arm, Infinity Cannon]

This mechanical evolution path was expensive because its final stage was the Machinedrasprite. It had cost Han Wu a total of 1.2 million evolution points, making it the most resource-intensive path he had created so far. It was also the strongest in terms of ultimate-tier power.

Because of its immense strength, summoning a Machinedrasprite required 10 million energy points. Han Wu currently had fewer than 5 million. He still needed to keep farming.

Below, the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite's Infinity Cannon continued to decimate wave after wave of Chess Soldier formations. The casualties were staggering.

At that point, the Chessboard Lands' ruler stepped forward. The Chess King, an ultimate Digital Sprite, approached Han Wu to surrender. It promised that if Han Wu stopped the attack, it would provide satisfactory compensation.

Han Wu agreed to hear the Chess King out, and the two met in a checkered plaza paved with alternating red and black tiles.

Despite being an ultimate Digital Sprite, the Chess King couldn't escape the inherent weakness of the Chess Soldier species. Its individual combat power was so poor that its strength only reached the High Lord rank, making it the weakest ultimate Digital Sprite Han Wu had ever seen.

When Han Wu checked its two skills, however, he immediately went on guard. The first, Scepter of the King, allowed it to command any Chess Soldier Digital Sprite to obey its orders. The second, King's Wrath, was a self-destruction skill whose power scaled with the number of Chess Soldiers in the vicinity.

Han Wu glanced at more than 100,000 Chess Soldiers surrounding him. He needed little imagination to understand how devastating King's Wrath would be in a place like that. He even suspected that the Chess King hadn't invited him to negotiate, but to lure him into a trap.

Running was no longer an option, so Han Wu ordered all his avatars to stay on high alert and be ready to gift him another 1 million Divine Essence at a moment's notice. He wanted to ensure he would have enough barrier durability to survive.

The Chess King received Han Wu warmly and offered a string of pleasantries. Han Wu had no interest in any of that. He only cared about the compensation.

The Chess King picked up on that and presented its offering. It was a box containing an egg-shaped artifact covered in intricate patterns. Han Wu scanned it and learned its name and function.

[Digital Spirit Authority]

It was a tool capable of storing evolutionary power. Any Digital Sprite that evolved with a Digital Spirit would advance beyond the standard five evolution tiers, which was known as the Armored Form.

Han Wu's eyes lit up. Digital Spirits could grant an additional evolution to an ultimate Digital Sprite that had already reached its growth limit. That was effectively a rank-up. He started imagining what would happen if the Microcosm Pseudo-Machinedrasprite absorbed Authority and entered its Armored Form.

Of course, not every Digital Sprite could use a Digital Spirit. Compatibility was essential. Forcing an incompatible Armored evolution would lead to disastrous results.

The Chess King watched Han Wu expectantly. It understood the cost of this battle and knew it couldn't defeat Han Wu's forces. It hoped that he would accept the compensation and leave as quickly as possible.

Han Wu was thinking something else entirely. Authority was undoubtedly valuable. However, compared to the energy and evolution points that over 100,000 Chess Soldiers represented, it wasn't enough.

"Not enough," Han Wu said bluntly.

The Chess King's expression stiffened. Authority was the most precious treasure it could offer, yet Han Wu was still dissatisfied! Its face gradually turned red, a telltale sign that King's Wrath was activating.

Han Wu quickly spoke up. "It's not impossible for me to leave. I just need one more thing besides the Digital Spirit."

The Chess King's anger eased slightly. "What do you want?"

"A special material infused with Holy Energy, one suitable for ultimate evolution," Han Wu replied.

He already possessed the Holy Ring and the Devout Crucifix. Both contained Holy Energy and could guide mature and perfect evolution respectively. If he could obtain a third material for ultimate evolution, he could develop a powerful holy evolution path. After all, holy power excelled in both support and defense.

The Chess King's face reddened again, and Han Wu immediately retreated behind the Iron Abyss Bug, worried the Chess King would detonate on the spot. Thankfully, reason prevailed over rage. The Chess King didn't want to die, nor did it want its death to drag countless Chess Soldiers down with it. It could meet Han Wu's demand.

The Chess King hurled its scepter toward him and declared, "I've fulfilled your request. Now leave the Chessboard Lands immediately!"

Han Wu caught the scepter and examined it.

[King's Scepter: A special material imbued with Holy Energy and sovereign authority, set with precious gems. It has a special effect on Royal Digital Sprites and can serve as a material for ultimate evolution.]

This material exceeded Han Wu's expectations. Satisfied, he stowed both treasures away, gathered his Digital Sprites, and left the Chessboard Lands as fast as he could before the Chess King changed its mind.

The materials required for the holy evolution path were now complete. All he lacked were enough evolution points to develop it.

Han Wu instructed his avatars to search the broadcast for a suitable area to farm evolution points. In the meantime, he took out Authority and tested his Digital Sprites for compatibility to determine which one would undergo this additional evolution.

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

: Chapter 908

Chapter 908 - Golden Scarab

Han Wu brought out the Digital Spirit, and his Digital Sprites lined up for testing.

He started with the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, the strongest of the group. If it could evolve once more, the upgrade would be tremendous. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite seemed to share that sentiment. Red light flickered in its eyes, and its desire for more power was unmistakable.

The result was disappointing. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite craved power rather than authority. Its compatibility with Authority wasn't high enough for fusion.

Han Wu moved on to Yinglong and got the same result. Stinger and Thunder Halberd failed as well.

Unwilling to give up, Han Wu tested the Iron Abyss Bug. To his surprise, there was a reaction this time. It had actually met the compatibility threshold for Authority.

Han Wu breathed a sigh of relief. He was a little disappointed that Authority hadn't gone to the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, but at least it wouldn't go to waste. Something was better than nothing.

His gaze settled on the Iron Abyss Bug. He wanted to see what the Armored Form looked like. Under his careful watch, the evolution began.

Authority landed on the Iron Abyss Bug's massive frame and instantly dissolved into golden light that engulfed it completely. In the next instant, the Iron Abyss Bug's form shifted. Rather than growing larger, it shrank until it measured only about two meters in length. Its appearance had changed dramatically. It no longer resembled a locust. Instead, it looked more like a type of dung beetle.

Han Wu had a bad feeling. He checked the Armored Form's information.

[Golden Scarab (Armored Form), Skills: Sacred Carapace, Dung Ball Launch, Forced Defecation. Description: A Noble Digital Sprite with powerful defense and special abilities.]

It's over. The Iron Abyss Bug is ruined! That was Han Wu's first thought upon seeing the Golden Scarab's skill set. It practically reeked.

"Maybe I should test the skills before judging it," Han Wu muttered.

He ordered the Golden Scarab to demonstrate its skills. Sacred Carapace created a powerful energy barrier around it. Its defense was even stronger than the Iron Abyss Bug's.

Han Wu was very satisfied with that one.

Then came Dung Ball Launch. On command, the Golden Scarab conjured a massive ball of dung twice its own size and hurled it at a rock Han Wu had designated. The ball smashed into the rock and burst apart. The rock remained completely fine. Everything within a five-meter radius, however, had turned a sickly yellow and now reeked with a stench that lingered endlessly.

Han Wu's assessment was that the damage was low, but it yielded the maximum amount of disrespect.

The third skill was Forced Defecation. The Golden Scarab targeted Yinglong first. Yinglong's stomach immediately churned, and it hurried off to the side to relieve itself. The effect was extremely pronounced.[1]

Han Wu then turned his attention to the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite. It's a pure Metal Digital Sprite. Surely Forced Defecation wouldn't work on it... right?

He was dead wrong. After the Golden Scarab used its skill, the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite expelled a pool of black oil and even started wobbling as it visibly weakened.

That gave Han Wu a new appreciation for the Golden Scarab's capabilities. If it could make even a Microcosm mechanical entity lose control like that, then this skill was no joke. In actual combat, a well-timed Forced Defecation could be devastating. The enemy would likely not die from it, but the humiliation alone could make them wish they had.

While Han Wu was considering how best to use the Golden Scarab's skills, a flash of golden light passed over its body. The Armored Form deactivated. Authority returned to its original state, and so did the Iron Abyss Bug.

Han Wu checked the time. The Armored Form had lasted only fifteen minutes.

That was short. Still, the skills are effective despite being disgusting. If used strategically, they can produce unexpected results in battle. In a roundabout way, it's an increase in strength. Han Wu accepted it.

Going forward, the Iron Abyss Bug would need Authority to recharge before it could enter its Armored Form again. With its massive frame, the Iron Abyss Bug had plenty of energy to spare. Recharging it was trivial.

While Han Wu was assessing the Armored Form's potential, the viewers watching his broadcast had completely lost it.

"I think I can smell it through the screen."

"I can already see the future: Han Wu is going to literally beat the crap out of someone, then weaponize it."

"Please stop. I'm about to throw up."

"Who's going to be the first unlucky victim? Anyone wants to place bets?"

"Some contestants are closing in on Han Wu. Think they'll be the poor souls who get buried in it?"

***

Han Wu's avatars were also monitoring his surroundings and relaying everything to him. Three contestants were heading his way. Based on their movements, they had locked onto Han Wu and were planning to capture him.

Han Wu found it baffling. He hadn't provoked anyone, so why was he being targeted? Then again, if they were willing to walk right up to him, it would only be fair to show them what a formidable opponent he was.

Danger had already crept up behind him while he was thinking. A perfect Chameleonsprite had silently positioned itself behind him and was ready to launch a surprise attack.

Han Wu couldn't see it with his own eyes, but his avatars, who were watching the broadcast from his divine realm, saw it clearly. They could even count every bump on the Chameleonsprite's skin. Through their mental link, they relayed the information to Han Wu.

A faint smile crossed his face. He wanted to see which fool had decided to pick a fight with him.

The moment Han Wu stood up to move, the Chameleonsprite attacked. Its tongue shot toward him, coated in a sticky fluid laced with corrosive and paralytic properties. If it made contact, his protection barrier would start losing durability.

Han Wu had already prepared for that. Just as the silent tongue was about to wrap around him, Thunder Halberd received its order. It swung with full force behind Han Wu, severing the tongue cleanly. Electricity coursed through the severed tongue and numbed the Chameleonsprite. It had failed its ambush and had been badly injured for its trouble.

Unfortunately for it, Han Wu was about to make things even worse for it.

1. Poop bending! ☜

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Chapter 909 - Trust Not ASingle Fart

When the paralysis wore off, the Chameleonsprite found itself surrounded. Han Wu's Digital Sprites closed in and beat it into data with sheer physical force. It scattered into nothing.

The Chameleonsprite's death alerted its owner, who immediately realized they had been discovered.

"We've been spotted. No point hiding anymore. There's no way one person can take all three of us!" the owner shouted.

The other two contestants agreed and charged toward Han Wu with their Digital Sprites in tow.

Through his avatars, Han Wu already knew that the enemy force consisted of twelve Digital Sprites. Two of them were the Concealsprite, the Chameleonsprite's ultimate evolution. They lurked behind the visible ones, completely invisible and ready to strike at any time.

Facing the incoming group, Han Wu smiled. "Iron Abyss Bug, it's your time to shine!"

The Iron Abyss Bug lumbered forward and activated Authority. Golden energy engulfed it, evolving into the Golden Scarab. Once the transformation was complete, the Golden Scarab faced the three charging contestants and their twelve Digital Sprites, then unleashed Forced Defecation.

In the next instant, the three contestants' faces darkened. A powerful urge surged through their guts, forcing them to slow down. Behind them, their Digital Sprites displayed even less self-control. The unmistakable sounds of release filled the air as every one of them unloaded on the spot.

The two invisible Concealsprites became fully visible the moment they lost control and were thoroughly occupied.

The three contestants immediately realized that some kind of ability had affected them.

"Brothers, hold it in. Whatever you do, hold it," the first contestant said through clenched teeth, his face beet-red.

"Right. This is being broadcast. Countless members of powerful families are watching us," the second one added.

"I don't think I can hold it much longer," the third contestant said, straining with everything he had.

There was a saying: "You can hold your bladder for a hundred miles, but a loose bowel won't let you take a single step." At that moment, nothing described the three contestants more accurately.

Han Wu held his Digital Sprites back. He simply watched from twenty meters away while urging the Golden Scarab to use Forced Defecation at maximum frequency.

The pressure tormented the third contestant. He felt gas building in his gut, desperate to escape.

“It’s just gas. It has to be just gas. I’m just going to let out a little air,” he told himself as he relaxed ever so slightly.

He then lost control, and an explosive chain of splattering sounds erupted and echoed across the entire broadcast feed.

The viewers fell dead silent, collectively holding their breath as though the stench would leak through the screen.

The sound seemed to carry a contagious power. The other two contestants felt the urge intensify tenfold.

“Hold on! Don’t fart! Don’t trust a single fart! It’s not gas!” the second contestant screamed at the first.

The first contestant desperately wanted to hold the line. He just couldn’t. A series of deep, muffled blasts rumbled from behind him like underwater depth charges. His pants turned a deep shade of yellow.

The second contestant felt as though he were suffocating. He fought with everything he had, refusing to let go. This was a live broadcast, and countless people were watching. If he lost control there, it would be no different from doing it in public.

The other two, however, didn’t share his determination. Caught between overwhelming relief and soul-crushing embarrassment, they exchanged a look. They knew they were already finished. They were socially dead, yet one brother remained standing with his dignity intact. That wouldn’t do. True brothers went down together.

The two of them flanked the second contestant in a pincer formation and moved closer step by step. Splattering and rumbling accompanied each step, and every footprint they left behind was yellow.

The second contestant felt himself losing control and nearly burst into tears as he shouted, “Stop! Please stop! I’m scared!”

They didn’t stop. They kept closing in.

The viewers were simultaneously revolted and glued to their screens, desperate to see whether the second contestant could hold out.

“Get away from me!” the second contestant snarled.

He definitely knew what his companions were trying to do, but the effort of shouting caused a momentary lapse in his lower body's defenses. What followed was a sustained chain of eruptions that sounded like a tractor engine turning over.

The second contestant stood frozen in place, as if struck by lightning.

The viewers collectively exhaled. Everyone had fallen. They could rest easy now.

After a brief silence, chaos erupted.

All three contestants screamed at Han Wu almost in unison, "I'll kill you!"

Never in their lives had they felt such a burning desire to kill someone. The event's rules restrained them, though. They had no real combat power of their own. All attacks had to come from their Digital Sprites, and those were already so exhausted that they were on the verge of collapse. They had no way to fight back.

The viewers assumed that this was already the climax of the broadcast. They were wrong. Han Wu had one more move.

"Golden Scarab, use Dung Ball Launch," he said gently.

The Golden Scarab obeyed. The endless supply of waste littering the area answered its call, swirling together into a dung ball four meters in diameter.

"No! Please, no!" The three contestants shook their heads in unison and tried to run.

Sadly, their legs had gone soft from the ordeal, and they couldn't escape. The dung ball rolled forward in a straight line, sweeping up the three contestants and their twelve Digital Sprites. It carried them fifty meters before slamming into a boulder and bursting apart.

The three contestants and their Digital Sprites lay buried in waste, unable to climb out. They weren't dead, but they wished they were.

Chapter 910 - Tacticians Play Dirty

Three beams of teleportation light flared in succession, and the three contestants were pulled out of the Sprite Civilization.

It wasn't their choice. Their families simply couldn't bear to watch any longer. Even if it meant forfeiting the hunting event, they had to rescue them. The psychological scars left by the Golden Scarab, however, would take far longer to heal.

With all three contestants gone, the twelve Digital Sprites they had brought were left without owners. Anyone who could establish contracts with them within ten minutes would become their new owner.

Han Wu glanced at them. Four were ultimate Digital Sprites: two Concealsprites, one Dugongsprite, and one Crabsprite. All of them were Sage rank. Despite being of the ultimate tier, they were pitifully weak.

Han Wu had little interest in them, but then he remembered that his Nightwing Butterflies could drain other Digital Sprites' life force to heal their targets. These twelve would make excellent mobile blood bags inside the Microcosm.

Good enough. They just need a wash, and they'll be fine. He found water, scrubbed them clean, and stored them inside the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite's Microcosm.

With that settled, Han Wu continued reviewing the intel his avatars had gathered. He had already gathered all the special materials required for a holy evolution path. Activating it demanded a massive number of evolution points, and the fastest way to earn them was by hunting large numbers of Digital Sprites or targeting powerful ultimate Digital Sprites.

Han Wu's forces were strong, and the Iron Abyss Bug's Armored evolution into the Golden Scarab gave him a unique advantage. He was starting to feel confident enough to challenge one of the high-danger zones.

He set his sights on the Kingdom of Sin to the west. It was teeming with Sin Digital Sprites, and his avatars had detected over fifty ultimate ones there. It was a goldmine of evolution points.

Han Wu reasoned that as long as those fifty-plus ultimate Digital Sprites didn't all converge on him at once, he wouldn't face any real danger. The ultimate Digital Sprites at his side gave him that confidence. With his decision made, he headed west.

Meanwhile, the remaining contestants started to receive messages from their families. No signal link existed between the Divine Civilization and the Sprite Civilization. The only way to relay information was through the Gift God King's donation channel. The minimum donation was 1 Divine Essence per message, a trivial cost for the families.

The most common message was simple: If you encounter an Armored Form Digital Sprite called the Golden Scarab, run. Don't look back. Anyone too slow would suffer the humiliation of soiling themselves on a live broadcast.

The three victims had already been teleported back to the Divine Civilization and placed under the care of specialists with the Hypnosis Jurisdiction. Their treatment plan included brainwashing, cosmetic alteration, name changes, and relocation to a different civilization.

Most contestants who had earned a spot in the hunting event came from elite families, and they understood their families' concerns well enough to comply.

A few, however, were defiant. One such person was Tyson, a member of the Fist Saint Family. His family instructed him to avoid the Golden Scarab. Tyson's response was to seek it out deliberately. He intended to prove through his own strength that he feared nothing.

When Tyson declared his intentions on camera, the Fist Saint Family's patriarch nearly suffered a stroke. *This disobedient brat is determined to charge headfirst into a pile of dung!*

"Pull him out! Make him forfeit! Tyson can die, but the Fist Saint Family's reputation must not be ruined!" the patriarch roared.

The family submitted a withdrawal request, only for Shaura to flatly reject it outright.

"Gift God King, why won't you let me bring that foolish child back?" the patriarch demanded.

Shaura glanced at the old man. "I decide every rule of this hunting event. If I don't want him to withdraw, he cannot withdraw."

The patriarch was so furious that he couldn't form a complete sentence. The Gift God King was clearly enjoying the spectacle and waiting for the Fist Saint Family to humiliate itself!

Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed.

A younger family member reassured the patriarch, "The Sprite Civilization is enormous. Tyson has no idea where to even find the Golden Scarab."

The patriarch let out a sigh of relief. Then he looked at Tyson's broadcast feed and nearly coughed up blood.

Viewers were donating messages to guide Tyson straight to his target.

[Contestant Tyson, you've received a donation from viewer "Whatever you do, DON'T go west past the Bone Burial Grounds, the Dark Pool, the Chessboard Lands, and into the Kingdom of Sin!" Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Tyson, you've received a donation from viewer "There's a punk called Han Wu in the Kingdom of Sin. You absolutely must not go fight him." Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Tyson, you've received a donation from viewer "Tyson is the GOAT! Go beat up Han Wu and your family will carve you a new page in the ancestral records!" Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Tyson, you've received a donation from viewer "A 300-pound Tyson can't produce 200 pounds of crap." Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

Tyson was good at connecting the dots. Multiple donations mentioned the Kingdom of Sin, Han Wu, and a certain unpleasant substance. There had to be a connection. Hence, he decided to head to the Kingdom of Sin and find Han Wu for answers.

Elsewhere, the Lade Family was also watching the hunting event. Their patriarch, Linus, studied the most popular broadcast, which happened to show Han Wu's Golden Scarab single-handedly defeating three contestants.

Beside him, Saliya watched with a flushed face.

"This young man... *Tsk, tsk*. Interesting indeed. While these are dirty tactics, you can tell that he's a real tactician," Linus said, pointing at Han Wu on the screen.

Then he recalled the entry slot his daughter had given away and asked, "My dear Saliya, you gave your spot to one of your students, didn't you? What's his name?"

Saliya's expression grew uneasy, and her eyes started darting around.

"Dad, why do you say this young man is a good tactician?" she asked, trying to change the subject.

"Because real tacticians play dirty," Linus replied. "My dear Saliya, you still haven't told me which one is your student. I'd like to watch his broadcast."

Saliya had no choice but to point, somewhat reluctantly, at the very screen Linus had been watching. "My student is that young man. The one who's the best tactician."

: Chapter 911

Chapter 911 - Bloodfang Bat

The moment Han Wu stepped into the Kingdom of Sin, his avatars immediately started gathering intelligence. They analyzed everything within a ten-kilometer radius and fed the results back to him.

Han Wu instantly learned the locations of nearby Digital Sprite clusters and the positions of the powerful ultimate ones. What he needed most right now were enough evolution points to develop the holy evolution path.

“Three kilometers to the left, there’s a Devilsprite nest. Let’s clear it out first,” Han Wu said.

The Devilsprite was the first enemy he had encountered after arriving in the Sprite Civilization. He still had a Devilsprite claw sitting in his material storage.

Han Wu’s Digital Sprites followed his command and flew toward the Devilsprite nest.

As they approached, a swarm of Lesser Devilsprites spotted them. The Iron Abyss Bug’s massive frame and the noise it generated in flight gave them away instantly. The Iron Abyss Bug couldn’t help it. It was simply too large.

Han Wu showed the Lesser Devilsprites no mercy. He had the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite use Infinity Cannon to clear the battlefield. Then Yinglong, Stinger, and Thunder Halberd handled the stragglers.

After wiping them out, Han Wu earned 40,000 energy points and 2,000 evolution points. The Lesser Devilsprites were simply too weak. As cunning as they were, no amount of tricks could overcome the sheer power gap. They couldn’t even scratch Han Wu’s forces.

The commotion drew the attention of the Devilsprites deeper in the nest. Devilsprites were the evolved form of Lesser Devilsprites and belonged to the mature tier. They ranked among the stronger mature Digital Sprites, but against Han Wu’s ultimate units, even a casual swipe was enough to crush them.

The slain Devilsprite dropped Demon Claws, and Han Wu soon discovered that Demon Claws of the same attribute could absorb one another when gathered in sufficient numbers.

More than a hundred Demon Claws merged into a grotesque, vicious claw over three meters long. It could serve as a weapon for a Digital Sprite or be used as a material during demon-attribute or dark-attribute evolution.

Han Wu was pleased. If he could gather even more and continue merging them, he could possibly create a material strong enough to support an ultimate evolution. That would let him develop a demon evolution path as well.

In addition to the Demon Claws, Han Wu obtained a Dark Gear, which could fuse into any Digital Sprite's body and greatly boost its power. However, it carried a high risk of driving the Sprite insane, making it a double-edged sword.

Most contestants would stay far away from a Dark Gear, terrified their Digital Sprites would lose their minds and turn on them. Han Wu wasn't worried. Dark Gears were toxic to normal Digital Sprites, but one type could use them without issue: the Nuclear Locust.

Nuclear Locusts existed for Self Detonation. A power boost from a Dark Gear simply meant a larger explosion. After the blast, both the Dark Gear and the Nuclear Locust would be destroyed. There would be no risk of going berserk. The two were a perfect match.

Han Wu stored the Dark Gear and continued deeper into the nest. Before long, he encountered a powerful perfect Digital Sprite: the Vampsprite. Unlike Devilsprites, Vampsprites were humanoid, strikingly handsome, and highly intelligent.

This Vampsprite had come to avenge its fallen subordinates, but upon seeing the multiple powerful ultimate units surrounding Han Wu, it quickly reconsidered. It wanted to surrender.

The sudden turn of events caught Han Wu off guard. This was the first time a native of the Sprite Civilization had voluntarily pledged loyalty to him. Under normal circumstances, the natives and those from the Divine Civilization were enemies.

The Vampsprite dropped to its knees and swore allegiance on the spot, then offered up the Devilsprite colony's treasure, the Blood Mask. It was a powerful special material that could grant a Digital Sprite the blood attribute during perfect evolution, along with formidable blood-related skills. If worn directly, it would grant an ability to drain life force.

The Blood Mask reminded Han Wu of his Nightwing Butterflies stored within the Microcosm. They were mature Digital Sprites that could drain the life force of other Digital Sprites to heal a target's injuries. If one underwent perfect evolution with the Blood Mask, what kind of abilities would it gain?

The evolution points required for a mature to perfect evolution weren't particularly high. Hence, Han Wu immediately ran the Nightwing Butterfly icon through the Evolution Tree and incorporated the Blood Mask into the process to enhance the outcome.

The Nightwing Butterfly's perfect form was soon determined as the Bloodfang Bat. Its frame grew to the size of a basketball, and through its successive evolutions, it had accumulated four powerful skills.

[Bloodfang Bat (perfect, Heroic life form). Skills: Bone-Melting Venom, Blood Drain, Crimson Halo, Corrupted Blood Arrow]

[Bone-Melting Venom: The Bloodfang Bat's attacks carry a toxin that dissolves flesh into blood.]

[Blood Drain: Absorbing blood heals its wounds and increases its strength.]

[Crimson Halo: All allies within the aura receive life force from the Bloodfang Bat to heal their injuries.]

[Corrupted Blood Arrow: Condense blood into a toxic arrow that causes the target to bleed endlessly until death.]

Han Wu reviewed the Bloodfang Bat's attributes and concluded that the evolution had been well worth it. Its combat power hadn't improved dramatically, but its healing capabilities had advanced by leaps and bounds. Previously, it required considerable time to absorb life force. Now, it absorbed blood directly, making its recovery speed incomparably faster.

The newly pledged Vampsprite watched the Bloodfang Bat with visible unease, recognizing it as a creature of the same type. However, it was still several times stronger than the Bloodfang Bat, so it had little concern about being replaced anytime soon.

While Han Wu was still celebrating the Bloodfang Bat's creation, his avatars sent him a message. A contestant was rapidly approaching. Han Wu and the Golden Scarab were his targets.

"Coming after me is one thing, but specifically looking for the Golden Scarab?" Han Wu said, confusion creeping into his voice. "Is that fellow constipated or something?"

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

Chapter 912 - The Name's Han Wu, What Do You Want?

Guided by donations from enthusiastic viewers, Tyson found his way to the Kingdom of Sin step by step.

"Where's that Han Wu guy?" Tyson asked, seemingly speaking to thin air.

Moments later, a donation notification arrived.

[Contestant Tyson, you've received a donation from viewer, "Three kilometers west, one kilometer north. Move fast, look cool. If you're late he'll be gone." Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

Tyson nodded and followed the directions. Mounting his ultimate Iron Fury Rhinosprite, he charged forward at full speed.

Digital Sprites along the way locked onto him, but none dared pursue. When the Iron Fury Rhinosprite ran, it was pure destruction in motion, like a speeding train. Anything that tried to block its path would be smashed to pieces.

Han Wu spotted the charge from a distance. Trees toppled, and the terrain split. Everywhere the Iron Fury Rhinosprite passed, it carved a trench through the landscape.

That kind of raw power made Han Wu want to test something. Was the Iron Fury Rhinosprite's charge stronger, or was the Iron Abyss Bug's defense tougher?

"Iron Abyss Bug, block it!" Han Wu ordered.

The Iron Abyss Bug obeyed, planting its massive frame directly in the Iron Fury Rhinosprite's path. Its six legs dug deep into the ground, and its steel carapace darkened as its defensive skill activated, turning into an immovable wall.

Under Tyson's command, the Iron Fury Rhinosprite charged head-on.

The collision shook the ground.

Nearly every viewer watching Tyson's and Han Wu's feeds stood up for a closer look. Who would win this clash?

What they saw was the Iron Abyss Bug slowly sliding backward. Six trenches gouged the earth behind its legs, but it still couldn't fully hold its ground.

Some viewers who had bet on Han Wu sighed, thinking he had lost. Those with sharper eyes, however, noticed that sparks flew from the point of impact where the Iron Abyss Bug's carapace scraped against the Iron Fury Rhinosprite.

Despite the friction, it showed no signs of cracking. The Iron Abyss Bug had managed to block the charge. It simply lacked the raw strength to remain completely stationary.

The Iron Fury Rhinosprite hadn't gained the upper hand either. It wanted to smash through the Iron Abyss Bug but couldn't. Despite its superior strength, all it managed was a slow push without dealing any meaningful damage. As such, the clash was effectively a draw.

Riding atop the Iron Fury Rhinosprite, Tyson locked eyes with Han Wu. His bull-like eyes went wide as he bellowed, “So you’re the one called Han Wu?”

Han Wu studied Tyson in return. He was broad-shouldered, barrel-chested, and packed with bulging muscles that looked ready to burst. He seemed even more imposing than the Iron Fury Rhinosprite beneath him. If the hunting event hadn’t sealed all of their powers, Han Wu could easily picture Tyson swinging fists the size of sandbags at his face.

“The name’s Han Wu,” Han Wu replied evenly. “What do you want?”

Tyson sized Han Wu up and down, found nothing impressive, and spoke without a shred of respect. “Nothing much. My family told me to stay away from you. I don’t believe in that nonsense, so here I am.”

Han Wu smiled. “You’ve had your look. What’s the plan now?”

“Obviously, I will beat you to show my family what I’m made of,” Tyson said as he summoned the rest of his Digital Sprites.

His core race was the Giant Horned Rhino. With his family’s support and his own effort, he had developed three complete evolution paths. The first was the Iron Fury Rhinosprite, renowned for its incredible charging power. He also had a hammer-wielding Raging Rhinoman and a cannon-bearing War Rhino Soldier.

The Raging Rhinoman had reached the Microcosm rank, which explained how Tyson had charged all the way to the Kingdom of Sin on a single Iron Fury Rhinosprite.

Looking at Tyson’s forces, Han Wu raised an eyebrow. He had thought his own strength was impressive. He hadn’t expected to find someone equally capable.

Han Wu sighed inwardly. He had underestimated the Divine Civilization’s geniuses. Dominating Imperial College was one thing, but compared to the entire civilization, he still had a long way to go.

Tyson’s strength ignited Han Wu’s fighting spirit. When facing a powerful opponent, the only path forward was to fight head-on and push beyond his limits. That was the Duel Jurisdiction’s essence: as long as life endured, the battle continued.

Han Wu summoned his Digital Sprites. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite stepped forward to face Tyson’s ultimate War Rhino Soldier. Yinglong took on the Raging Rhinoman. Stinger and Thunder Halberd turned their attention to the non-ultimate Digital Sprites.

Before they could act, the newly pledged Vampsprite charged in first. “Night Terror Raid!”

Countless bats swarmed Tyson’s rhino forces under the Vampsprite’s control, biting and draining blood to fuel its power.

The Vampsprite itself dove straight at Tyson, cracking a demon blood whip against his protection barrier. Each lash stripped over ten points of durability. Converted into Divine Essence, that amounted to more than ten units per hit.

Tyson's heart ached at the sight. He desperately wanted to trade blows with the Vampsprite, but the event's rules had sealed his powers. He had no choice but to pour every bit of Divine Essence he had received from donations into his barrier, hoping his three ultimate units could settle things quickly.

They couldn't. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite outclassed the War Rhino Soldier in both ranged and close combat. It was destroyed within moments before dissolving into data.

On the other side, the Iron Fury Rhinosprite, which had been locked against the Iron Abyss Bug, was now taking hits from Stinger and Thunder Halberd as well. Wounds covered its body, and its defeat was only a matter of time.

The Microcosm Raging Rhinoman sensed it was losing and erupted in fury. Rage fueled its strength, and it swung its iron hammer with such ferocity that even Yinglong avoided a direct clash. In terms of agility, though, Yinglong outclassed it. The Raging Rhinoman looked fearsome, but it held no real advantage.

All of this unfolded without Han Wu going all out. The Golden Scarab's Forced Defecation alone would have crippled Tyson's Digital Sprites before the fight even started. The outcome was just a matter of time.

Han Wu sat back and waited for victory. Then his avatars sent an urgent alert. Four powerful ultimate Digital Sprites had sensed something and were rapidly closing in on his position.

: Chapter 913

Chapter 913 - The Opportunist

The seven sins were divided into seven minor attributes: Pride, Envy, Wrath, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, and Lust. The Kingdom of Sin was a massive arena where Digital Sprites bearing these seven sin attributes slaughtered and devoured one another in their pursuit of the Sin Lord title.

Ultimate Digital Sprites were the symbol of a Sin Lord. Becoming one, however, was dangerous. A newly crowned Sin Lord was at its most vulnerable because it had to guard against attacks from the other Sin Lords, just like the situation unfolding now.

Han Wu received word that four powerful ultimate Digital Sprites had sensed a certain force and were rushing toward him. His first instinct was to fight.

However, his avatars had already identified them through the broadcast, and every one of them was terrifyingly strong. Han Wu couldn't take on all four at once. Splitting them up and eliminating them one by one was a different matter.

He recalled all his Digital Sprites into the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite's Microcosm, keeping only Yinglong outside. Ignoring Tyson's glares and taunts, he shot straight into the sky.

Tyson watched his opponent flee mid-fight and cursed on the spot. How shameless could one person be? Since when did a battle have a halftime break?

Without Yinglong's pressure, Tyson's Raging Rhinoman gradually calmed down.

That was when the four Sin Lords arrived. Tyson didn't even get a clear look at them before their auras sent him flying. By the time he could see again, his Raging Rhinoman was already surrounded.

The four Sin Lords revealed themselves: the Wrath Brutesprite, the Greed Black Widow of Despair, the Wrath Shimmersprite, and the Envy Violetsprite. Each bore a sin-attribute prefix that identified its alignment. The Raging Rhinoman was like a small child facing grown men. Under their assault, it couldn't even fight back.

Tyson fell in despair. That was his last remaining ultimate Digital Sprite. If the Sin Lords killed it, he would have nothing left.

This was the Kingdom of Sin. Any random Digital Sprite that took a dislike to him could finish him off. He had no way to rescue the Raging Rhinoman. As such, he begged the viewers who had guided him there for donations so he could summon a new ultimate unit and fight back.

All he received was silence.

In the end, the Fist Saint Family couldn't bear to watch any longer and donated 50,000 Divine Essence so that Tyson could summon an Iron Fury Rhinosprite. The family's intent was for Tyson to ride it and escape.

Unfortunately, Tyson was far too reckless for that. He ignored the family's instructions and sent the Iron Fury Rhinosprite charging straight into the melee. After one charge, the Raging Rhinoman remained trapped, and the Iron Fury Rhinosprite was beaten to death.

Tyson had nothing left. As he watched his Digital Sprites die before his eyes, rage flooded his vision. Without a second thought, he charged in himself, swinging his sandbag-sized fists.

The Wrath Brutesprite didn't even notice him. A casual stomp crushed his protection barrier, and he was teleported out.

His absurd end drew sighs from every viewer. The Fist Saint Family was livid. They had just donated 50,000 Divine Essence, and Tyson had survived less than three minutes. When he returned, the family would make sure he learned exactly how many forms of discipline they possessed.

High above, Han Wu sat atop Yinglong and watched the four Sin Lords tear each other apart below.

After absorbing the Raging Rhinoman and the Iron Fury Rhinosprite, all four had grown stronger. The Wrath Brutesprite benefited the most. Its frame had doubled in size, its strength had become immense, and its defense was unmatched.

Han Wu watched as it grabbed the Greed Black Widow of Despair in one hand and the Envy Violetsprite in the other, thrashing them around wildly. Both Sin Lords suffered severe injuries. The Wrath Shimmersprite took one look at the situation and fled at blinding speed.

That left one Sin Lord at full strength and two on the verge of collapse.

Han Wu decided it was time to act. First, he would weaken them further. He summoned the Iron Abyss Bug, which immediately underwent Armored evolution into the Golden Scarab and used Forced Defecation on the three Sin Lords below.

The results were immediate. While enduring the Wrath Brutesprite's beating, the Greed Black Widow of Despair started uncontrollably expelling waste.

The viewers quickly caught on.

"Look at that! The Wrath Brutesprite is absolutely unstoppable. It literally beat the crap out of the Greed Black Widow of Despair."

"Brutal. The Wrath Brutesprite's strength has to rank near the top in the Kingdom of Sin."

"The Envy Violetsprite seems fine, though."

"It's a plant. What is it going to excrete?"

"Wait, something's off. Look, the Wrath Brutesprite is going too!"

"This looks familiar, doesn't it? Kind of like..."

"My eyes! The Wrath Brutesprite's shorts are about to burst!"

The Wrath Brutesprite was too enraged to realize it had been affected. It beat the Greed Black Widow of Despair to the brink of death, then tossed it aside and turned its attention to the Envy Violetsprite. Under its assault, large sections of the Envy Violetsprite's roots were ripped away, spilling green fluid everywhere. Now, both Sin Lords were critically wounded.

Just as they were about to die, the Wrath Brutesprite regained a sliver of reason. It needed to absorb their sin power before they died. If they died first, half the power would dissipate. As it shrank slightly and its rage faded, it finally noticed that its shorts were filled with filth.

In that moment of stunned confusion, Han Wu descended from above. All of his ultimate Digital Sprites followed. Today, he would play the opportunist!

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

Chapter 914 - The Holy Evolution Path

The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, Yinglong, the Golden Scarab, and the Vampsprite attacked the Wrath Brutesprite on Han Wu's command. Every devastating skill they had slammed into its body.

Thunder Halberd and Stinger split off to finish the half-dead Greed Black Widow of Despair and the Envy Violetsprite. Both Sin Lords quickly fell under their combined attacks and dissolved into data. Han Wu received a massive amount of energy points and evolution points.

Stinger and Thunder Halberd also brought back the special materials the two Sin Lords had dropped. Han Wu kept everything and turned his full attention to the Wrath Brutesprite.

The siege drove the Wrath Brutesprite into a deeper rage, which fed it even more power. Its body swelled, and its defense skyrocketed. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite and Yinglong fought it head-on, while the Vampsprite used Night Terror Raid, inflicting countless small wounds across its body.

Stinger and Thunder Halberd rejoined the battle, darting in and out to stack damage at any opportunity. When any Digital Sprite took damage, Han Wu released the Bloodfang Bats from the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite's Microcosm to drain blood and heal the wounded.

Even with all that, it took a full hour to grind the Wrath Brutesprite down into mere data. Every one of Han Wu's Digital Sprites collapsed from exhaustion once the fight was over. The Wrath Brutesprite had been an absolute monster of endurance.

The 5 million energy points and 200,000 evolution points that flooded his account made it all worthwhile. Between Tyson's two ultimates and the three Sin Lords, Han Wu had made a killing. His total now sat at 15 million energy points and 860,000 evolution points.

The dropped materials were also impressive, but the real prizes were the three items left behind by the Sin Lords. Like Digital Spirits, these were treasures capable of granting an additional evolution to a Digital Sprite.

[Greed Sin (adolescent): A compatible user can undergo Sin Evolution and enter Greed Mode.]

[Envy Sin (adolescent): A compatible user can undergo Sin Evolution and enter Envy Mode.]

[Wrath Sin (mature): A compatible user can undergo Sin Evolution and enter Wrath Mode.]

Han Wu could barely contain his excitement as he examined the three Sins. How lucky could one person get?

The Golden Scarab's Armored evolution had turned the Iron Abyss Bug from a pure tank into a tank that could also support. A single extra evolution had completely transformed an ultimate Digital Sprite. These Sins could do the same.

Han Wu's first thought went to the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, his strongest unit. Giving it a Sin would be an enormous boost, and its loyalty meant zero risk of betrayal. Unfortunately, he quickly found that none were compatible. It appeared that it wasn't time for the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite to become stronger.

Sighing, Han Wu moved on. Neither Yinglong, Thunder Halberd, nor the Iron Abyss Bug was compatible with the Sins either. Only Stinger was compatible with the Envy Sin.

The fusion allowed Stinger to undergo Sin Evolution and become the Envy Stinger Locustman King. Purple patterns of envy coiled across its body, radiating a sharper presence than before. Its power jumped from the Earthsunder rank straight to the Microcosm rank.

Han Wu was thrilled. The birth of his second Microcosm Digital Sprite meant his overall strength had grown once more.

The newly pledged Vampsprite seized the moment to request a reward. It had fought the Wrath Brutesprite as a mere perfect Digital Sprite, but its contribution was undeniable. After some thought, Han Wu gave the Vampsprite the Demon Claw rather than a Sin.

The Demon Claw had absorbed enough materials of the same type to reach ultimate-evolution quality, making it a perfect fit for the Vampsprite's level. The Vampsprite was visibly disappointed but dared not verbalize it. Taking the Demon Claw, it started absorbing its energy and working toward its ultimate evolution.

Meanwhile, Han Wu, with 820,000 evolution points in hand, was ready to build the holy evolution path. He invested 800,000 evolution points along with the special materials, using up the Holy Ring, the Devout Crucifix, and the King's Scepter.

The holy path lit up.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Glow Butterfly (adolescent, Unique life form) > Aurora Bird (mature, Lord life form) > Angewosprite (perfect, King life form) > War Angel (ultimate, Heavenrenderer life form)]

Once the path was fully activated, Han Wu immediately spent 8 million energy points to summon a War Angel. She resembled Amelia, the War Angel in Han Wu's divine realm, and gripped a scepter as her weapon.

Her information appeared before him.

[War Angel (ultimate). Skills: Scepter of Light, Seven Heavens, Holy Covenant, Sin Bane. Description: a powerful angel Digital Sprite that counters all sin, demon, and dark Digital Sprites.]

[Scepter of Light: Can cast all basic light-attribute spells.]

[Seven Heavens: Releases seven energy orbs radiating heat on par with the sun to incinerate all evil.]

[Holy Covenant: Sacrifices the user's life force to create a seal to finish off the enemy.]

[Sin Bane: Deals bonus damage against all sin, demon, and dark Digital Sprites.]

The moment Han Wu saw the War Angel's information, he knew he'd made the right call. She was the perfect counter for the Kingdom of Sin. She was every Sin Lord's worst nightmare. Han Wu was already itching to collect all seven Sins.

"With the War Angel, the Kingdom of Sin is mine for the taking!" Han Wu smiled, reaching out to his avatars for intel. "Now, who's next on the list?"

The reply came quickly. Ten kilometers to the south lay the territory of the Gargoylesprites, ruled by a Sin Lord bearing the Sloth Sin.

Chapter 915 - The Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant

Han Wu wasn't the only one watching his broadcast. Countless families were also studying his every move, hoping to use his strategies to guide their own contestants.

The results were consistently terrible. When Han Wu attacked a Devilsprite village, they searched for one too, only to stumble into an army of Ghoulsprites led by an ultimate Phantom King instead.

They also copied his assault on the Chessboard Lands, thinking the Chess Soldiers were easy targets. In the end, they were destroyed by the organized formations.

When Han Wu started earning Sins in the Kingdom of Sin and evolving his ultimates, these families once again sent their children in. However, their armies were made up of perfect Digital Sprites at best, meaning they couldn't even clear the weaker sin-attribute nests, let alone challenge a Sin Lord.

Han Wu's avatars shook their heads as they watched these disasters unfold one after another. Copying was fine, but did these families ever stop to consider if it was within their capabilities to do so?

The initial investment of 2 million Divine Essence meant Han Wu now had ultimates escorting him everywhere. None of these copycats were willing to match that amount, yet they expected to replicate his success. It was truly laughable.

Han Wu dismissed the reports with a scoff. He had no interest in commenting on their failures.

Riding Yinglong, Han Wu soon arrived at the Gargoylesprite territory ten kilometers south. Even from the fringes, he could see Gargoylesprites of every shape and size standing motionless throughout the territory.

Some resembled small demons, while others looked like hungry ghosts. A few had even taken on beast-like forms. Regardless of their appearance, though, all shared one trait: their petrified state granted them extraordinarily high defense.

Ordinary attacks couldn't break through a Gargoylesprite's defenses. Ultimates, however, were a different story. Large numbers of Gargoylesprites crumbled under the assault of Han Wu's forces. The survivors, realizing their stone shells wouldn't save them, shed their petrified forms and attacked.

The Iron Abyss Bug quickly underwent Armored evolution into the Golden Scarab. First, it cast Sacred Carapace on Han Wu to bolster his defense, then unleashed Forced Defecation on the surrounding Gargoylesprites.

The active Gargoylesprites lost control and were quickly drained of strength. The petrified ones dropped pebbles from their rear ends, shrinking with each piece lost. They had no choice but to break out of petrification and attack.

The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite stepped forward. One blast of its Infinity Cannon reduced the entire mob to rubble. Once the fodder was cleared out, Han Wu finally laid eyes on the Sin Lord, the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant.

Its mountain-sized body was sprawled flat on the ground in a deep slumber. Its petrified state made it harder than steel. Even the Iron Abyss Bug couldn't compare.

"Can any of you wake it up?" Han Wu asked.

Waking it was the only way to break its petrification. That was the only way they could fight it.

Stinger, freshly promoted to the Microcosm rank, stepped forward. It channeled its Microcosm into its purple-patterned spear.

"Stinger Holy Sword, Death Pierce!"

The strike penetrated the Petrified Mountain Giant's body, but the impact area was too small for the giant to care. Its only reaction was to roll over and snooze on.

Thunder Halberd patted Stinger on the shoulder in consolation. At least Stinger had made the giant turn over. Thunder Halberd hadn't even managed that much.

Han Wu looked at Yinglong. It shook its head. The Petrified Mountain Giant wasn't a dragon, so Dragon Bane was useless.

The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite tried next. Its Infinity Cannon left two scorch marks on the giant's surface, but they healed within a minute.

Han Wu turned to the Golden Scarab as a last resort. "Make it defecate. Force it out!"

The Golden Scarab unleashed Forced Defecation. The Petrified Mountain Giant let out an earth-shaking fart that sent tremors through the ground. Falling rocks stripped over

seventy points from Han Wu's protection barrier, but there was zero effect aside from that.

Han Wu quickly called off the skill. Any more of that and the falling debris alone would crush them all.

"Is there really no way to wake this thing?" he muttered in frustration. This was the first opponent that had completely stumped him.

The War Angel stepped forward. "Let me try."

Han Wu glanced at her. Even the Microcosm rank Pseudo-Machinedrasprite couldn't do it; how could a Heavenrender War Angel?

Still, there was nothing to lose, so Han Wu stepped aside and let her try.

The War Angel activated Seven Heavens. Seven orbs of solar heat struck the Petrified Mountain Giant's back. At first, nothing happened. Then the orbs melted through the stone skin, and the giant finally reacted.

It reached for its back, trying to claw the orbs off, but its bloated body meant its arms were too short to reach. Layers of stone fell away from its body under the sustained heat—the sign of petrification breaking.

The Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant was finally rousing after an age of slumber.

: Chapter 916

Chapter 916 - The Giant Crest

Han Wu hadn't expected the War Angel's skill to carry such devastating power. The Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant's defense dropped alongside its petrification.

Seeing this, Han Wu quickly rallied all his Digital Sprites to prepare for battle. Explosions soon filled the sky, and blood was spraying everywhere.

Stinger, Thunder Halberd, and Yinglong took advantage of their ability to fly, carving countless gashes across the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant's body with ease. Massive streams of blood flowed down its frame like crimson waterfalls. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite switched to unlimited bombardment mode and started firing one Infinity Cannon blast after another.

The War Angel unleashed Seven Heavens multiple times, embedding several orbs of relentless heat into the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant's body. No matter how hard it tried, the giant couldn't pry them off.

The Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant fought back, its enormous body moving slowly as it swung its palm with incomparable force. Han Wu's Digital Sprites dodged every strike with ease. Despite its tremendous strength, the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant couldn't land a single hit. It was truly pitiful.

The Vampsprite stepped forward to absorb the blood that fell from the giant's body, using it to boost its own strength while providing cover for the other Digital Sprites.

Han Wu carefully observed the fight.

After three grueling hours, the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant finally collapsed from severe injuries and massive blood loss. The earth shook as it fell, and an avalanche of rubble rained down from above. Thankfully, Han Wu managed to jump onto Yinglong's back in time to avoid being crushed.

With that, the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant dissolved into data. Han Wu received a massive amount of energy points and evolution points along with two extremely rare treasures.

The first was the perfect tier Sloth Sin, which allowed a compatible user to undergo Sin Evolution and enter Sloth Mode.

The second was the Giant Crest. This could be applied to an entire race, and could help any ultimate tier giants or related species to go beyond and reach the super ultimate evolution!

Han Wu stared at the two treasures in amazement.

The Sloth Sin was perfect, stronger than the three Sins he had obtained before. That alone was a pleasant surprise. Even so, it was nothing more than an appetizer when compared to the Giant Crest.

The Giant Crest involved an evolution beyond the ultimate tier. Moreover, this wasn't limited to one individual, but an entire race!

Han Wu had already built several evolution paths and had since gained a solid understanding of ultimate-tier power. An ultimate Digital Sprite's strength was at least Sage rank, with the stronger ones reaching Earthsunder or Heavenrender. A Digital Sprite like the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite that could reach Microcosm rank as an ultimate was a rare sight.

Each normal evolution typically boosted a unit by one to three life ranks. Han Wu estimated that having one more super ultimate evolution would result in Microcosm rank at minimum, possibly even Subcosm rank.

The thought that his units could reach Subcosm rank through natural growth alone made his heart pound. If he locked in the giant-attribute evolution path, he wouldn't even need to train in foreign civilizations. He could focus on raising units in his divine realm and reach Mesocosm-rank strength easily!

"I have to figure out the giant-attribute evolution path, no matter how many evolution points or energy points it costs!" Han Wu declared to himself.

Meanwhile, the major families monitoring Han Wu's progress had also spotted the Giant Crest, and every single one of them let out a sharp gasp. They had just laid eyes on a shortcut to becoming the strongest in the Divine Civilization!

All they needed was the Giant Crest, then invest Divine Essence to obtain the Evolution Blueprint and integrate it into their divine realms. Powerful units would follow effortlessly!

Ambitions stirred as the Giant Crest's existence became public knowledge.

"Hurry, contact that Han Wu kid and buy the Giant Crest! I don't care if you have to threaten him or bribe him, just do whatever it takes to get it!"

"Reach out to Gift God King Shaura. He has to hand the Evolution Blueprint over to us, the Destruction Clan. This is our clan's hope for rising to power."

"Mobilize every family member stationed across the Sprite Civilization. Gather them in the Kingdom of Sin and take the Giant Crest from Han Wu by force."

These families hadn't grown powerful by being naive. They were all cunning foxes. Nothing was set in stone yet. Whoever seized the Giant Crest first rightfully earned it.

It didn't even matter if this meant bearing a bad reputation for a while. Once one had the Giant Crest, they could simply vanish for a hundred years and return as the undisputed ruler. When that day came, might made right. Strength was the law!

Han Wu had just stored the Giant Crest in his material inventory when a flood of donation messages arrived.

[Contestant Han Wu, you have received a donation from the viewer "Sell the Giant Crest to our Raptor Clan. 5 million Divine Essence, non-negotiable. The Raptor Clan will help you become a God King." Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Han Wu, you have received a donation from the viewer “Hand the Giant Crest over to the Destruction Clan, or we’ll kill you.” Total: 1 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Han Wu, you have received a donation from the viewer “As expected of the student that little Saliya picked. The Lade family needs a fine son-in-law like you.” Total: 1,000 Divine Essence.]

[Contestant Han Wu, you have received a donation from the event organizer “Shaura.” Total: 500,000 Divine Essence.]

[Attached message: Kid, you really gave me a huge surprise. Rest easy. The rules won’t change because of any family’s threats. The Divine Civilization’s power structure has been set in stone for a long time, and I look forward to watching a powerful new God rise up and break the mold. Ura!]

***

Seeing the threats and bribes from the various families had made Han Wu uneasy, fearing the organizers would cave to pressure and force him to hand over the Giant Crest. Seeing the Gift God King Shaura’s message, however, erased every concern.

As long as the rules held, Han Wu had nothing to fear. This time, he was going to leave every last family in his dust and come out on top!

With his mind made up, Han Wu tested his new Sloth Sin on each of his Digital Sprites. The first one he tried it on turned out to be compatible. It was the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite.

Han Wu immediately handed the Sloth Sin over for fusion. Before long, the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite completed its Sin Evolution. Its post-evolution form was completely different from Stinger’s transformation.

Its legs had fully regressed. Its claws, heads, and shoulder cannons, on the other hand, had quadrupled in number. The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite had gone from a mobile firepower platform to a fixed, massive gun emplacement. It had sacrificed mobility for vastly superior firepower.

Han Wu checked its post-evolution stats.

[Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress, Sin Lord of Sloth (Microcosm rank). Skills: Multi Infinity Cannon, Extreme Turbo Claw, Super Infinity Arm, Dragon Ray.]

Although the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress remained at Microcosm rank after its Sin Evolution, Han Wu could sense that it had reached the peak. It was only a step away from the Subcosm rank.

Han Wu looked forward to the day it could break through. That would require a fortuitous encounter, though, and couldn't be rushed. As Han Wu finished reviewing the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress's stats, another flash of evolution light appeared before his eyes.

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

Chapter 917 - Greed Neo Vampsprite

"Who's evolving?" Han Wu looked over in surprise to see the Vampsprite undergoing its own ultimate evolution.

It had absorbed a massive amount of the giant's blood during the fight against the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant. That Blood Energy, combined with the Demon Claw Han Wu had given it, pushed the Vampsprite's stored energy to its limit.

The Vampsprite understood that the battles ahead would only get harder, and it simply couldn't contribute enough at the perfect tier. The only option was to advance to the ultimate tier. Only by growing stronger and helping Han Wu more could it earn greater rewards. It was with this resolve that the Vampsprite underwent its ultimate evolution.

Han Wu fixed his gaze on the Vampsprite. This was his first time watching a native of Sprite Civilization evolve on its own. He coordinated with his avatars to observe the process from every angle.

Han Wu spotted dozens of Evolution Icons for the Vampsprite to choose from within the hazy glow of evolution light. Each icon represented a different species—some strong, some weak. If the Vampsprite evolved into a powerful race, its intelligence would carry it to great heights. If it picked a weaker one, it would need many times the effort to reach the same level.

Considering the Vampsprite's efforts during the battle against the Sloth Petrified Mountain Giant, Han Wu decided to lend it a hand. He used his avatars to capture screenshots of every Evolution Icon that flashed by and checked their attributes.

After looking through every possible race the Vampsprite could evolve into, he identified the three that stood out as the strongest.

[Belial Vampsprite: Combines wisdom and raw power, surpassing the original in every stat.]

[Neo Vampsprite: Specializes in summoning various types of familiars to attack.]

[Venom Vampsprite: Gains a massive body and tremendous strength at the cost of its sanity.]

Taking into account the Vampsprite's usual fighting style of maintaining an elegant posture while releasing swarms of bats, Han Wu called out, "Choose Neo Vampsprite!"

His voice wasn't loud, but it reached the Vampsprite's ears with perfect clarity. The Vampsprite followed Han Wu's suggestion and searched for the Neo Vampsprite icon, then charged toward it and merged with it.

Powerful energy radiated outward from its body. When the pillar of evolution light faded, the Vampsprite had completed its ultimate evolution, becoming a Neo Vampsprite.

[Neo Vampsprite, ultimate (Heavenrender life form). Skills: Demon Mouth, Nightmare Swoop, Bloodstream Claw, Heart Strike. Description: a powerful Demon King-type Digital Sprite and the final evolution of the Vampsprite.]

[Demon Mouth: Summon an endless horde of familiars.]

[Nightmare Swoop: Use the power of nightmares to twist the target into a wretched form.]

[Bloodstream Claw: Freely extend both arms to strike the target.]

[Heart Strike: A concentrated blast of Dark Energy.]

These stats were several times more powerful than the old Vampsprite.

At that moment, the Neo Vampsprite suddenly flew toward Han Wu. Seeing this, Han Wu assumed the Neo Vampsprite was using its newfound ultimate-tier strength to try to take him hostage. He couldn't have been more wrong.

The Neo Vampsprite didn't lay a finger on him. Instead, it dropped to its knees with a thud. Then, plunging a claw into its own chest, it ripped out its heart and offered it to Han Wu.

"Master, please accept my heart," the Neo Vampsprite surrendered.

This gesture genuinely shocked Han Wu. Tearing out its own heart on the spot was a bit... too zealous for his taste. Still, the Neo Vampsprite's intentions were crystal clear. It was offering its heart to prove its loyalty.

The Neo Vampsprite had watched Han Wu shower Yinglong, Stinger, and the others with rare treasures while only giving it scraps. It clearly wasn't one of Han Wu's inner circle yet, and this was its way of earning that recognition.

If Han Wu accepted the heart, it meant he would treat the Neo Vampsprite as one of his own. That meant it would finally be considered during the distribution of top-tier materials.

After mulling it over for three seconds, Han Wu accepted. The Neo Vampsprite's potential and strength were both admittedly impressive. Moreover, with its heart in his hands, he essentially held its lifeline. It was only fair that he invested more resources into the Neo Vampsprite from now onward.

Han Wu's policy was to be generous to his own people. Thus, after accepting the heart, he pulled out two Sins—Wrath and Greed—and tested them on the Neo Vampsprite.

It immediately matched with the Greed Sin.

As a native of the Kingdom of Sin, it fused with the Greed Sin with ease. It was fresh off its ultimate evolution, but was immediately undergoing a Sin Evolution as well, gaining yet another boost.

Its strength shot straight to the Microcosm rank and officially became a Sin Lord, the Greed Neo Vampsprite. The Greed Sin didn't change its form. Instead, it amplified every aspect of its existing power. The Greed Neo Vampsprite was at least twenty times stronger than it had been before its ultimate evolution.

Empowered by its new abilities, the Greed Neo Vampsprite grew even more loyal to Han Wu. Drawing on its knowledge of the Kingdom of Sin, it revealed the location of another Sin Lord it knew of—Gluttony.

This immediately piqued Han Wu's interest. After all, his rise itself was owed much to Gluttony's influence. Raising a powerful Gluttony-type Digital Sprite would be a fitting tribute to his roots.

Han Wu followed the Greed Neo Vampsprite's lead toward the Gluttony Sin Lord's territory.

Meanwhile, a large number of family heirs had gathered inside the Kingdom of Sin.

These heirs came from different families and factions, but they shared a single goal: to seize the Giant Crest from Han Wu. Using information relayed through donations, they already knew the number, levels, and skills of every Digital Sprite Han Wu had, as well as his exact location.

"Everyone, since we all share the same goal, I won't waste words. Our objective is to take the Giant Crest from Han Wu. Before we can do that, we need to kill all of his Digital Sprites," one of them began.

“His Digital Sprites are powerful,” another added. “No single family can handle them all, so I suggest each family takes on one Digital Sprite.”

“Han Wu will be a toothless tiger without his Digital Sprites. He’ll be ours to deal with as we please. After that, getting the Giant Crest will be a matter of individual ability,” said Gu Bei of the Destruction Clan.

“Agreed. Our family will handle Yinglong,” someone volunteered.

“Our family will take on one of the War Saint Locustmen,” said another.

One by one, the families divided up Han Wu’s Digital Sprites among themselves, unaware that Han Wu’s avatars had been watching their every move the entire time.

When Han Wu received the intelligence, a playful smirk crossed his face. “Things are getting interesting. Let’s see who gets the last laugh!”

Chapter 918 - Gluttony Heavenly Dog

Han Wu and his group followed the Greed Neo Vampsprite to an orchard, which was home to large quantities of dark purple fruit that grew year-round.

The Greed Neo Vampsprite explained that the fruit was highly toxic. Any Digital Sprite below the ultimate tier that ate one risked death. Even ultimates would suffer drowsiness, vomiting, and fatigue. Only a Sin Lord bearing the Gluttony Sin could eat this fruit without ill effects. Not only could it digest the fruit normally, but it could even extract rich nutrients from it to strengthen itself.

Han Wu found this fascinating. It was strikingly similar to his own locusts, which had a constitution that let them ignore most toxins. Even if they consumed poison, they could shrug it off and keep growing.

Following the Greed Neo Vampsprite’s lead, Han Wu’s group reached their target, the Gluttony Fatsprite. At first glance, Han Wu actually thought the Gluttony Fatsprite was an ordinary wild boar. It looked no different from a common pig, even grunting as it walked.

After checking its stats, however, Han Wu realized he had badly underestimated it. The Gluttony Fatsprite was far more powerful than it appeared.

[Gluttony Fatsprite, Sin Lord of Gluttony (Microcosm rank). Skills: Blubber Defense, Wild Rush, Devour. Description: a Sin Lord skilled in defense and adept at offense. Life forms that underestimate it tend to become its next meal.]

[Blubber Defense: Use its own fat for defense, effectively blocking physical attacks.]

[Wild Rush: Gather every shred of strength in the body for a devastating ram.]

[Devour: Swallow any energy attack like food and digest it internally.]

Han Wu's eyes lit up when he saw Devour. It was like a simplified version of the Conversion Jurisdiction. Basically, the Gluttony Fatsprite was immune to energy attacks, had powerful defense and offense, and had virtually no weaknesses.

This opponent wasn't weak at all. In fact, it was genuinely troublesome. Nevertheless, the more flawless an enemy appeared, the easier it often was to finish them off once you found the crack.

Han Wu's gaze shifted to the Iron Abyss Bug. The Iron Abyss Bug immediately understood his nonverbal cue and activated Armored Evolution, transforming into the Golden Scarab. It then cast its signature skill, Forced Defecation, on the Gluttony Fatsprite without hesitation.

Han Wu planned to drain the Gluttony Fatsprite through the forced bowel movements, then pile on the damage with everyone at once. Unexpectedly, the Gluttony Fatsprite showed no concern when it felt the urge to go. If anything, it became excited.

Waste fired out rapidly on one end. Meanwhile, the other end used Devour to gorge on the fruit from the nearby trees. When it got really desperate, it even gnawed on the tree trunks. The Gluttony Sin processed the food and rapidly converted it to waste, which was then expelled.

This sight left Han Wu dumbfounded. The Gluttony Fatsprite had turned the Golden Scarab's skill into a glorified digestive aid!

Even after ten minutes of this, the Gluttony Fatsprite hadn't weakened in the slightest. In fact, it was even more energetic than before, and its strength had actually grown a notch. Han Wu's eyes widened. This was definitely one of the most absurd things he had ever seen.

He quickly ordered the Golden Scarab to stop using Forced Defecation. At this rate, the nonstop eating and excreting would eventually push the Gluttony Fatsprite to the Subcosm rank.

Deciding on a different approach, Han Wu summoned the newly evolved Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress. Everything within a ten-kilometer radius quickly became its bombardment zone.

Its Multi Infinity Cannon was devastating. It obliterated the entire fruit orchard in moments. The Extreme Turbo Claw and Super Infinity Arm chased the Gluttony Fatsprite relentlessly, clawing and ramming it without stopping.

Unwilling to put up with this for any longer, the Gluttony Fatsprite lowered its head, stomped the ground, and charged straight at the immobile Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress.

A thunderous boom rang out. The Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress was left with a massive dent, but the Gluttony Fatsprite took the full force of the recoil. The impact gave it a concussion, and it collapsed to the ground.

Not one to waste an opening, Han Wu called in every Digital Sprite for a group beatdown. The Gluttony Fatsprite was killed while unconscious.

Han Wu picked up the Gluttony Sin and a thick Boar Hide that had been left behind. The Boar Hide was a special material that could help a Digital Sprite complete its perfect evolution, granting it the Blubber Defense skill. This was not particularly useful for Han Wu at the moment, but still a potent material, so he stored it away.

Finally, he turned his attention to the Gluttony Sin.

[Gluttony Sin (adolescent): A compatible user can undergo Sin Evolution and enter Gluttony Mode.]

Han Wu tested it on all his ultimates that hadn't yet undergone a Sin Evolution, but none of them matched, so he turned to his Evolution Tree instead.

He had raised Glutton Locusts before, so he had experience with them. Scanning through the billions of species icons on the Evolution Tree, he quickly found the right species to build a Gluttony-focused evolution path.

Over the course of these battles, Han Wu had accumulated a solid stockpile of evolution points, not to mention the Gift God King Shaura's 500,000 Divine Essence donation. While this wasn't enough for the giant-attribute evolution path, it was fortunately more than enough for the Gluttony path.

An investment of 650,000 evolution points later, the Gluttony evolution path was completely lit up.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Glutton Locusts (adolescent, Elite life form) > Iron Fang Ant Queen (mature, Heroic life form) > Abyss Cerberus (perfect, High Lord life form) > Heavenly Dog (ultimate, Earthsunder life form)]

With the path active, Han Wu invested 4.8 million energy points and summoned a Heavenly Dog. True to its name, the Heavenly Dog was a canine. It wasn't large, and it even looked a bit scrawny.

Appearances were deceiving, though, and underestimating it would be a costly mistake. Han Wu tested it against the Gluttony Sin and found it compatible, so he immediately commenced the fusion.

The Sin Evolution altered the Heavenly Dog's form considerably. It went from walking on four legs to standing upright on two, almost like a human. Its body, however, still looked entirely canine.

Han Wu checked its stats.

[Gluttony Heavenly Dog, Sin Lord of Gluttony (Microcosm rank). Skills: Ferocity, Rabid Bite, Moon Eater. Description: a powerful canine Demon King capable of swallowing the sun, the moon, and the stars.]

[Ferocity: Drastically boost speed and strength, as well as cause its attacks to inflict a viral infection.]

[Rabid Bite: A ranged energy attack fired from its mouth.]

[Moon Eater: Swallow the target whole and digest it. Successful digestion yields a power boost, but failure leaves the Heavenly Dog in a weakened state.]

Han Wu patted the Gluttony Heavenly Dog's head, satisfied that his overall strength had grown once more.

: Chapter 919

Chapter 919 - Ruined City

Driven by the promise of enormous profit, the families had united like never before. Those participating in the event tracked Han Wu's every move through donation messages and were even aware that he had gained a new Digital Sprite, the Gluttony Heavenly Dog.

"We can't let Han Wu keep getting stronger," Gu Bei of the Destruction Clan muttered.

The family members around him nodded in agreement.

"Let's move now!"

“Who’s going to handle the extra dog?”

“The Life Family will take it!”

After a round of assignments, dozens of families and over a hundred contestants advanced toward Han Wu’s position. Han Wu’s avatars had been watching their every step and relayed their positions and plans in full.

When Han Wu received the intel, he couldn’t help but break into a bright, confident grin. If these people wanted to come, they would have to be prepared to forfeit their spots in the competition. He knew he couldn’t fight over a hundred contestants on his own, so instead, he headed deeper into the Kingdom of Sin.

He kept only Stinger, the Greed Neo Vampsprite, and the Gluttony Heavenly Dog by his side. The rest of his Digital Sprites remained in the Microcosm, ready to be summoned when the fighting began.

The Sin Lords residing deeper in the Kingdom of Sin were naturally more powerful than those dwelling on the outskirts. These Sin Lords typically commanded one or more large Digital Sprite races that served them, with the promise of protection in return.

Guided by his avatars, Han Wu soon arrived at a ruined city. The city was full of crumbling buildings, with large numbers of Digital Sprites living inside them. Every one of these Digital Sprites shared a common trait. They were humanoid.

Some were fusions of machines and humans; others were half-human, half-beast; and a few resembled demons in human form. Their evolution levels varied, but they all bore distinctly human features.

From the intelligence his avatars had gathered, Han Wu learned this was the territory of the Sin Lord known as the Lust Dark Demon Queen, and she had a personal philosophy of only accepting humanoid Digital Sprites.

Han Wu glanced at his Digital Sprites, then chose to keep only Stinger by his side. He then called out Thunder Halberd as well. The two of them would guard him.

As he had the aura of someone from the Divine Civilization, his presence naturally drew hostility from the local humanoid Digital Sprites. The Digital Sprites stepped forward to drive him out, but Stinger and Thunder Halberd released their powerful ultimate-tier presences, and they immediately retreated. They couldn’t afford to provoke a Sin Lord.

Meanwhile, the family members followed the donation intel and closed in on the ruined city. The moment they set foot inside, they were similarly met with hostility from the humanoid Digital Sprites. The difference was that they actually attacked the invading group this time.

There were three reasons for this. First, the sheer number of them triggered the Digital Sprites' collective anger. Second, most of the Digital Sprites these family members brought were non-humanoid, which violated the Lust Dark Demon Queen's standards. Finally, the average evolution level of their Digital Sprites was relatively low, with few ultimates among them, and they looked like easier targets.

All three factors combined meant the family members were hit with a coordinated assault the instant they entered the ruined city. Han Wu's group had pushed the humanoid Digital Sprites around and left them with nowhere to vent their frustration. This group of newcomers gave them the perfect opportunity to do so.

Still, the family elites weren't pushovers, either. These were Digital Sprites from a defeated civilization. The fact that they dared to fight back was seen as audacious in itself. Thus, the counterattack began.

Over a hundred contestants directed their Digital Sprites in fierce retaliation. The scale of the battle was immense. Stray energy blasted a towering building to rubble virtually every second. Countless humanoid Digital Sprites died in the battle, and the contestants suffered losses too.

Three unlucky contestants had their protective barriers drained to zero by stray attacks and were forcibly teleported out of the competition.

Han Wu's avatars watched the fiery spectacle with quiet amusement. May the war rage on. Ideally, they'll tear each other apart.

While this was happening, Han Wu was hiding in a ruined building some distance away. His amusement didn't last long as he felt a wave of overwhelming power sweep past overhead. He quickly had Stinger and Thunder Halberd surround him, shielding him from detection.

The surge of power almost certainly belonged to the Lust Dark Demon Queen. She had sensed Han Wu's presence. The aura of someone from the Divine Civilization was like a firefly in the dark. It was nearly impossible to miss.

Despite detecting him, the Lust Dark Demon Queen didn't go after him yet. Instead, she flew straight to the city's edge, where the hundred-plus contestants had created a much bigger problem.

The Lust Dark Demon Queen descended and raised her hand. A black barrier rose from the ground, separating the contestants from the humanoid Digital Sprites. The barrier was incredibly sturdy, and no matter how hard the contestants' ultimates attacked, they couldn't break through.

The humanoid Digital Sprites, on the other hand, didn't have that problem. Their attack freely passed through the barrier to strike the contestants. Two more contestants had their protective barriers drained to zero and were forcibly teleported out.

Gu Bei, the organizer of this whole operation, was losing his mind. They hadn't even seen Han Wu yet, and they'd already lost five members. The cost was getting absurd. He would rather these contestants had died fighting Han Wu.

"Vile Gods, leave my territory," the Lust Dark Demon Queen declared, her seductive voice carrying an icy edge that kept everyone at arm's length.

Under the protection of his ultimate Digital Sprite, Iron Gorillasprite, Gu Bei approached the black barrier, forcing down his temper as he addressed the Dark Demon Queen, "We mean no disrespect. We merely seek someone who is hiding somewhere in this city! If you help us find him, we'll leave immediately and even offer you a valuable gift!"

The Lust Dark Demon Queen was highly intelligent. Gu Bei's words reminded her of the lone aura she had sensed on the way here. Perhaps letting them in was the quickest way to resolve this problem with minimal damage.

Still, having been at the mercy of the Divine Civilization before, the Dark Demon Queen was convinced that their denizens couldn't be trusted. One careless mistake and they'd deceive her. She needed to negotiate terms carefully first.

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

: Chapter 920

Chapter 920 - Because You're Ugly

"If you want to enter my territory, you play by my rules," the Lust Dark Demon Queen said, raising a hand to halt the humanoid Digital Sprites.

"Of course," Gu Bei agreed on behalf of the group.

The contestants could take this city if they committed to it, but the cost would be steep. Their real target was Han Wu and the Giant Crest. Everything else was secondary. If fighting the Dark Demon Queen cost them most of their forces, they'd never pull off the actual objective.

"I decide who enters. I will kill anyone who sets one foot inside my territory without my permission," the Dark Demon Queen declared.

One contestant stepped forward to protest. “Who do you think you—”

“Lady Dark Demon Queen, you have the final say,” Gu Bei cut in, bodily blocking the contestant and turning to glare at the guy.

The contestant feared the Destruction Clan’s reputation more than any Digital Sprite, and promptly shut his mouth.

The Dark Demon Queen nodded, then swayed forward a couple of steps, surveying the crowd of contestants.

“You, you, you, and you, plus you,” she said, her slender finger pointing out five from the group, including Gu Bei. “The five of you may enter.”

“Why do they get to go in and we don’t?” someone immediately objected.

“Because you’re ugly. You’re too hideous to set foot in my territory,” the Dark Demon Queen replied without a shred of mercy.

The objector nearly exploded with rage. Where was the decency? One didn’t go around slapping people in the face, nor did they go around calling people out on their sore spots! When did Digital Sprites become so cutthroat?

The others had their own complaints. If only five of them could enter, that meant the rest of them couldn’t seize Han Wu. These families weren’t about to walk away empty-handed after coming all this way and even losing contestants in the process.

“Once the five of us are inside, we’ll flush Han Wu out.” Gu Bei reassured them. “Then we’ll settle things among ourselves to decide who gets the Giant Crest.”

“Destruction Clan, you’d better keep your word! Otherwise, the Life Family won’t stand for it.”

“Neither will the Light Family!”

Under threat from the assembled contestants, Gu Bei had no choice but to comply. The Destruction Clan was as strong as any other family, but they had no God King backing them. If an entire faction turned against them, the consequences would be devastating.

“I’m a man of my word. I won’t deceive anyone,” Gu Bei promised.

The other four chosen contestants pledged the same, going so far as to swear on their families’ names before the rest of the group agreed to let them go.

Watching the broadcast, the excluded families donated small amounts of Divine Essence to the five chosen contestants as compensation. Battling Han Wu would certainly cost

them, and the donations served as an advance payment. Gu Bei alone received 700,000 Divine Essence in donations, which only boosted his confidence further.

As the five contestants led their Digital Sprites toward the ruined city, the Dark Demon Queen stopped them again. “Non-humanoid Digital Sprites are forbidden from entering.”

“You’re pushing your luck!” one of the five snapped. How dare a mere Digital Sprite try to stop them at every turn?

The Dark Demon Queen’s expression darkened. Dense shadows descended on the man, forming a pitch-black coffin around him. The muffled sounds from within gave way to silence only three seconds later.

The coffin then dispersed to reveal the contestant’s corpse. His skin had turned purple, as though he had been suffocated. Stranger still, his protective barrier was intact with its durability untouched. He hadn’t taken a single direct hit before death, which meant the forced teleportation mechanism had never triggered.

This brutal death was enough to make every contestant realize that the Lust Dark Demon Queen was no ordinary Digital Sprite. She was a Microcosm-rank life form. While killing all of them was likely beyond her, picking off a few would be effortless.

“I won’t tolerate disrespect again,” the Dark Demon Queen said flatly.

This time, no one dared voice a complaint, not wanting to be the next to die.

“The four of you may bring only humanoid, semi-humanoid, or human-featured Digital Sprites into my territory. All other forms are banned,” the Dark Demon Queen instructed.

The other three quickly agreed. Gu Bei, however, glanced at the Iron Gorillasprite beside him with some concern.

He had built several evolution paths, but his core unit was the gorilla. Nearly every Digital Sprite he owned looked like a gorilla. Besides the Iron Gorillasprite, he had the ultimate Gorilla Gunner, the Berserk Gorillasprite, and the King Gorillasprite. If none of them could enter, he may as well not go at all.

“May I ask, what Digital Sprites count as resembling humans?” Gu Bei inquired.

The Dark Demon Queen had some appreciation for this particular contestant. Not only had he stayed calm and composed, but he also hadn’t insulted her.

Thus, she did him the favor of genuinely studying the four ultimate gorilla Digital Sprites standing beside Gu Bei. Each one was clearly intelligent, grinning widely and trying to win her favor. When her gaze swept over Iron Gorillasprite’s chiseled, bodybuilder-like physique, the Dark Demon Queen caught herself licking her lips.[1]

“Come in, then,” she finally relented.

Gu Bei was thrilled. Catching Han Wu wouldn’t be a problem with his full strength. Once he caught him, the Giant Crest would go up for fair competition, as promised, but everything else Han Wu owned remained up for grabs. Those spoils would be split among Gu Bei and the other three without anyone else having a say.

Using the special materials from Han Wu’s collection to enhance his own evolution paths would allow him to create all sorts of powerful Digital Sprites, dramatically improving his odds in the overall competition. This was what Gu Bei was truly betting on.

1. Ayo?! ☜

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

: Chapter 921

Chapter 921 - Within the Rules

The three other contestants borrowed a handful of ultimate humanoid Digital Sprites from their allies. Between the four of them, they had fifteen ultimates in total. With preparation handled, they entered the ruined city.

While the four had been busy with their preparations, the Lust Dark Demon Queen had been trying to track down Han Wu. She blamed him for drawing so many Gods from the Divine Civilization into her territory and stirring up trouble.

Han Wu, meanwhile, had been monitoring the situation outside through his avatar. When he saw four contestants and fifteen ultimate Digital Sprites moving into the ruined city to hunt him down with the Lust Dark Demon Queen’s support, he knew he couldn’t stay.

The moment he showed himself, the live stream caught it, and the viewers tipped off Gu Bei’s group. All four of them broke into a full sprint after him. Their fifteen ultimates gave chase as well, cutting off every direction he could run.

The Lust Dark Demon Queen and every humanoid Digital Sprite in the ruined city also closed in from all sides. Han Wu soon found himself completely cornered. There was nowhere to go. With only Stinger and Thunder Halberd at his side, he had no chance of escaping.

Han Wu was left with no choice but to use everything he had. His powerful Digital Sprites were released one after another.

The Lust Dark Demon Queen's beautiful face was filled with alarm as she took in the sight before her. Sloth, Greed, Envy, Gluttony. Four Sin Lords already sat within Han Wu's team. Beyond that, he also had a War Angel, the natural counter to Sin-type Digital Sprites. The lineup made her quietly regret her decision.

She could've held her own against the mob of Gods outside and slipped away if things turned sour. With Han Wu, however, she doubted she would survive long enough to escape if he actually decided to take revenge.

Gu Bei's group, on the other hand, was not surprised, having already looked into Han Wu's roster.

"Don't be scared, everyone! He's only got eight ultimates. We've got fifteen, nearly double his number. The advantage is ours!" Gu Bei said, trying to fire up the other three contestants.

Han Wu let out a short laugh at Gu Bei's confidence before wordlessly summoning eight Nuclear Locusts.

"What about now?" Han Wu asked, still smiling.

The Nuclear Locusts were weak on their own, sitting around the Sage rank in terms of raw strength, but they had been built with the sole purpose of Self-Detonation in mind. Their explosion was powerful enough to wipe out an Earthsunder life form. With a bit of luck, it could take down a Heavenrender as well.

Despite being rattled, Gu Bei maintained an outward calm. "Tossing in a bunch of trash ultimates to increase your numbers? Han Wu, is that all you've got?"

Every contestant on the field knew about the Nuclear Locusts. As long as they were prepared for them, no one was going to get caught off guard. The fifteen ultimates on their side included several support types. A wave of defensive buffs, healing effects, heat resistance, and fire immunity was quickly stacked on all fifteen of them. These were solid countermeasures against any Self-Detonation attempt.

"Han Wu, just surrender. Some things just aren't meant to be yours," Gu Bei called out.

Han Wu had no patience for this nonsense. "Don't belong to me? Is my backing weaker than yours? Is my standing lower? I earned the Giant Crest fair and square. You're the ones doing the stealing. Stop trying to guilt-trip me with that high-and-mighty act. It doesn't work on me."

Being called out so plainly on a live stream left Gu Bei's group looking terrible. Every viewer watching that feed heard every word. The great families behind this attempted robbery felt the heat. Their actions were no different from those of a common bandit.

“Han Wu, watch your mouth. This is an event. The rules don’t prohibit taking things from others!” Gu Bei retorted, falling back on the rulebook.

Han Wu scoffed contemptuously. “You’re right, it’s allowed. More than ten families ganging up on one person. Are you trying to bully me because I don’t have a family or clan behind me? I admit, the Wisdom Faction I belong to has only just gotten started. We’ve only recently found our footing in the world, but behind me also stands the Death Faction. If you take from me, you’d better be ready for one, if not two God Kings to show up at your door.”

That warning visibly unsettled the three other contestants. Their families each had powerful Gods on call, but that meant nothing against the Wisdom God King and the Death God King.

Gu Bei caught on to Han Wu’s plan quickly. He was clearly using those two God Kings to intimidate them into backing down. The others’ resolve was already faltering.

“Han Wu, don’t make a mountain out of this,” he said before the others could waver further. “It’s a hunting event. Competition and losses are part of the deal. I trust that the Wisdom God King and the Death God King won’t come after individual families over something so trivial.

“I’m sure the Gift God King, who runs this event, won’t sit by and let things go too far either. If you’re smart, you’ll hand it over. I speak for the group when I say I’ll let you walk away free as long as you comply. If you refuse, get ready to be eliminated.”

A few sentences were all it took to calm the other three contestants down again. Their actions fell within the rules. If the Wisdom God King or the Death God King truly came looking for trouble over that, it would be a direct insult to the Gift God King.

While the Gift God King’s full strength was unknown, he was still third-in-command of the Wealth Faction, the number one faction in the Divine Civilization. The Wealth Faction would never allow the other two God Kings to act so freely.

At the end of the day, as long as Gu Bei’s group stayed within the rules, they had nothing to fear. They could weather a period of bad reputation, lie low for a few decades, and rise again once their units were powerful enough. At that point, no one would dare to bring up this disgrace.

Having worked through this logic, the contestants were no longer hesitant. They ordered their Digital Sprites forward, ready to take down Han Wu’s team and capture Han Wu.

Han Wu also gave his own order to launch a devastating strike on the area.

The eight summoned Nuclear Locusts flew out, but not toward the four contestants and their fifteen ultimates. They flew toward the humanoid Digital Sprites watching from the surrounding high-rise buildings.

Eight thunderous explosions shook the city. The blasts killed countless humanoid Digital Sprites. In an instant, Han Wu received over 10 million energy points and more than 500,000 evolution points, all at a cost of a mere 800,000 energy points.

This one move had granted him enough energy points to summon a Machinedrasprite.

Unfortunately, the attack also enraged the Lust Dark Demon Queen. She struck back hard, unleashing a powerful skill directly at Han Wu.

“Black Coffin!”

A pitch-black coffin swallowed Han Wu, and his countdown to death began.

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

Chapter 922 - War Saint Locustman Legion

Han Wu was trapped in total darkness. It was airless and suffocating. Every instinct told him he was running out of time. He struck against the walls of the black coffin with all his strength, but they held like solid steel, impossible to break from within.

Then, he heard a seductive voice counting down beside his ear.

“Three, two—”

The Black Coffin shattered with a *crack*. The War Angel had brought her scepter down on it and split it apart.

The War Angel wasn’t at Microcosm rank, and her raw strength fell well short of the Lust Dark Demon Queen’s, but her Sin Bane skill gave her a massive natural advantage against dark and sin-type abilities, which largely closed the gap between them.

“You, holy scoundrel, how dare you break my skill?!” the Lust Dark Demon Queen shrieked.

Han Wu had barged into her territory, caused endless trouble, and blown up a large number of her followers. For his War Angel to have shattered her technique on top of everything else truly incited her desire to make him pay.

The Lust Dark Demon Queen immediately issued an order for every Digital Sprite in the ruined city to attack Han Wu. She would see him dead before the day was out.

Gu Bei's group was thrilled. The four of them had been struggling to corner Han Wu with fifteen ultimates. Things would be much easier now that the Lust Dark Demon Queen was joining the fight.

Immediately, a massive number of humanoid Digital Sprites rushed toward Han Wu. The latter's reaction surprised them all. Rather than being alarmed, he was actually delighted.

In Han Wu's eyes, these Digital Sprites weren't enemies coming to surround him, but walking deliveries of energy points and evolution points headed straight for his door. The Lust Dark Demon Queen was truly generous!

Han Wu was always magnanimous to those who were generous to him. He would make sure she was reborn somewhere decent.

He sent his Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress and Greed Neo Vampsprite to handle the wave of incoming humanoid Digital Sprites. The Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress immediately converted itself into a turret, firing its Multi Infinity Cannons in a continuous barrage without cooldown, blanketing everything within ten kilometers in heavy fire.

The Greed Neo Vampsprite activated Demon Mouth. A flood of familiars answered the call and attacked the surrounding humanoid Digital Sprites. Although individually weak, their numbers were overwhelming. Each one also drained blood from its target to feed power back to the Greed Neo Vampsprite. It was a terrifying skill.

Han Wu gained enormous amounts of energy points and evolution points from the chaos. The Lust Dark Demon Queen watched her followers being slaughtered. Each death struck her heart painfully, and she eventually ordered all humanoid life forms to retreat immediately. Unfortunately for her, it was already too late. The Greed Neo Vampsprite wasn't going to let a single target escape.

In a rage, the Lust Dark Demon Queen fired off Black Coffin again, trying to finish Han Wu once and for all, but the War Angel simply shattered it like before. Wanting to stop the Lust Dark Demon Queen from further threatening Han Wu's life, the War Angel decisively activated her most powerful skill, Holy Covenant.

It would end an enemy's life at the cost of her own. At her strength, the War Angel wouldn't normally be able to kill a Microcosm-rank life form outright, but the amplification from Sin Bane was enough to bridge that gap.

The skill landed, and the Lust Dark Demon Queen was killed with the War Angel's sacrifice.

Gu Bei and his group stood frozen.

The powerful Lust Dark Demon Queen had died just like that? She was a Digital Sprite strong enough that their whole group combined couldn't get through her defenses!

Gu Bei shook himself out of his daze. "Don't let the display throw you off! He's burned through most of his strength. Seize this opportunity to take him down!"

The other three contestants realized that Gu Bei was right about there being an opportunity. The Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress and the Greed Neo Vampsprite were tied up with the surrounding humanoid Digital Sprites, and the War Angel had sacrificed herself. This left only five Digital Sprites at Han Wu's side. They were Stinger, Thunder Halberd, Yinglong, the Iron Abyss Bug, and the Gluttony Heavenly Dog.

It was the weakest his defenses had ever been. With fifteen against five, the odds had shifted dramatically in their favor.

"Go! Kill his Digital Sprites, kill them all!" Gu Bei led the charge.

All four of his ultimates surged forward. The other three contestants followed his lead and launched their own attacks. Losing with numbers and strength on their side would be a true embarrassment.

Facing a combined assault from the fifteen ultimate Digital Sprites, Han Wu was genuinely terrified, enough so that his hands shook when he went to summon a War Saint Locustman, and he accidentally added an extra zero to the count.

Accidentally spending 10 million energy points, he summoned ten War Saint Locustmen in one go. War Saint Locustmen were born as Earthsunder life forms and were naturally skilled with weapons. The moment they appeared, they each grabbed a weapon and threw themselves into a brawl against the fifteen opposing ultimate-tier Digital Sprites.

Han Wu noticed that one of the newly summoned War Saint Locustmen favored a hammer, so he tossed Thor's Hammer to that one.

Armed with a powerful weapon, the War Saint Locustman's fighting strength spiked immediately. It hammered the Iron Gorillasprite until its Digital Alloy coating cracked apart, making it the first ultimate to die in the battle.

Gu Bei felt it like a punch to the chest. The Iron Gorillasprite had been one of his most carefully cultivated creations, yet Han Wu had wiped it out so effortlessly.

The losses persisted as the fight wore on.

When the contestants watching from outside received news of the Lust Dark Demon Queen's death, they came flooding into the ruined city. A massive wave of summoned Digital Sprites charged toward the battle.

Their numbers were comparable to the humanoid Digital Sprites that had been stationed there, and their average strength was high, with most of them reaching at least a King life form. There were more than forty ultimates among them.

Even with twelve War Saint Locustmen and a large number of other ultimates, Han Wu still faced overwhelming numbers and strength. He was left with only one option.

“Retreat!” Han Wu ordered, opening the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress’s Microcosm to store the slower Digital Sprites inside. He then spent 2 million energy points to summon twenty Nuclear Locusts as a rear guard.

Han Wu knew a single Nuclear Locust wasn’t powerful enough to stop the pursuers, so he stuffed all of the special material he had collected from the Kingdom of Sin—the Dark Gears—into each of the bugs, triggering a massive boost to their strength and explosive might.

A chain of thunderous blasts rang out as Han Wu fled with his War Saint Locustman squad.

The explosions stopped his pursuers in their tracks, causing them to fall behind again. Gu Bei could do nothing but watch as Han Wu’s silhouette shrank into the sky.

Slamming his fist into the ground, he cursed, “Damn it! We have to keep chasing. We can’t go back to our families empty-handed!”

Chapter 923 - Lust Umbral Demoness

Han Wu flew more than a hundred kilometers before finding a place that looked safe enough to rest. Overall, the battle against the Lust Dark Demon Queen and pursuing contestants had ended favorably for him.

When he tallied everything up, he had gained over 10 million energy points and 1.2 million evolution points from the fight. After accounting for his expenses, he still had 2.3 million energy points remaining. More importantly, amid the chaos, he had managed to snatch the special material dropped by the Lust Dark Demon Queen.

[Lust Sin (perfect): A compatible user can undergo Sin Evolution and enter Lust Mode.]

The Lust Dark Demon Queen had also dropped a gemstone.

[Demon Queen Gem: A Digital Sprite that absorbs this gem gains the Black Coffin skill. It can also serve as an evolution material for dark-attribute Digital Sprites' ultimate evolution.]

[Black Coffin: A Demon Lord's ultimate technique driven by overwhelming Dark Energy. Any target sealed inside for more than three seconds will suffocate to death.]

Seeing Black Coffin's description, Han Wu shuddered. He knew that skill all too well. It had trapped him twice during the fight. If the War Angel hadn't broken the coffin within three seconds both times, he would already be dead. That alone proved how powerful the skill was and how valuable it would be to acquire.

The problem was that, among his ultimate Digital Sprites, only the Greed Neo Vamdemon had any connection to darkness. None of the others possessed dark attributes.

That raised another question. Should he develop a dedicated dark evolution path?

The dark attribute wasn't unfamiliar to him. He possessed the dark attribute himself and even held a Dark Aspect. Among the core-race units he had raised, the Dark Cursed Bug showed the greatest potential. His divine realm's development had also depended heavily on its contributions. Given all that, a dark evolution path was clearly necessary.

Han Wu already had the required materials and evolution points, so he moved quickly and made it his first priority. After searching through billions of icons on the Evolution Tree, he settled on a path and invested 800,000 evolution points, along with various special materials, to unlock it completely.

[Locust (juvenile, Common life form) > Dark Cursed Bug (adolescent, Elite life form) > Dark Fairy (mature, Heroic life form) > Witchsprite (perfect, King life form) > Umbral Demoness (ultimate, Heavenrender life form)]

The ultimate Umbral Demoness was the result of Han Wu incorporating the Demon Queen Gem into the evolution line. He spent 2 million energy points and summoned one Umbral Demoness.

The moment he laid eyes on her, he froze. The Umbral Demoness still retained faint traces of her locust origins, but more than ninety percent of her appearance was indistinguishable from that of a human. Her figure was extraordinary, her face stunning, and a seductive fragrance radiated from her without warning.

Caught off guard, Han Wu fell under the Umbral Demoness' charm in an instant. He snapped out of it quickly, but a cold sweat still broke out across his back.

His soul was exceptionally strong, yet even he had been momentarily ensnared. If someone like him could be affected, what would ordinary life forms do against this? They would be utterly lost.

Han Wu checked the other Digital Sprites. Every single one of them was staring at the Umbral Demoness with glazed expressions, including the Machinedramon, which was made of pure metal. Even an iron machine wasn't immune.

This wasn't seduction; it was practically a digital virus.

Han Wu coughed once, and all the Digital Sprites snapped back to attention. The Umbral Demoness merely responded with a small, quiet smile.

He immediately realized that she was a perfect fit for the Lust Sin. He ran a compatibility check between the Lust Sin and the Umbral Demoness, and the result showed very high compatibility. As such, he bestowed the Lust Sin to the Umbral Demoness.

Once she absorbed it, the last faint traces of locust features vanished completely. From the outside, she appeared completely human.

Han Wu quickly checked her stats.

[Lust Umbral Demoness, Sin Lord of Lust (Microcosm rank). Skills: Lethal Attraction, Dark Gem, Black Coffin, Dark Dominator. Description: A powerful humanoid Demon Lord-type Digital Sprite. Irresistibly captivating and desired by all life forms.]

[Lethal Attraction: Has an overwhelming allure over all life forms and non-life forms.]

[Dark Gem: Grants mastery over a wide range of basic dark-attribute skills.]

[Black Coffin: A Demon Lord's ultimate technique fueled by overwhelming Dark Energy.]

[Dark Dominator: Absorbs negative energy such as Dark Energy, Sin Energy, Evil Energy, and many others from other life forms and converts it for personal use.]

After undergoing Sin Evolution, the Lust Umbral Demoness had grown significantly stronger and was now on par with the recently slain Lust Dark Demon Queen.

With a powerful fighter added to his roster, Han Wu felt more confident about what lay ahead. For now, however, his immediate priority was still accumulating energy and evolution points.

Gu Bei's group would catch up to him soon, and he needed stronger forces before they did.

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Elsewhere, Gu Bei's group regrouped and assessed the damage. Their losses from the battle were severe. Twelve ultimate Digital Sprites had been killed, while the casualties among perfect and mature Digital Sprites were too high to count.

Even that wasn't the worst of it. Twenty-three contestants had their protective barriers drained to zero and were forcibly teleported out during the battle. Fewer than eighty contestants remained.

The scale of the losses sparked a wave of resentment, and Gu Bei bore the brunt of it. Some contestants blamed him for leading four people and fifteen ultimate units into battle yet still failing to stop Han Wu. In their eyes, that amounted to throwing the match.

Gu Bei found the accusation deeply unfair. It was true that he and three others, along with fifteen ultimate units, had failed to bring Han Wu down, but the entire group hadn't managed to stop Han Wu either.

Nobody had held back. Han Wu was simply too powerful. His casual summoning of twenty ultimate Nuclear Locusts to stall the pursuit represented an investment of 200,000 Divine Essence.

Gu Bei genuinely believed that with such a resource advantage, he could have matched Han Wu. The problem was that although the Destruction Clan was far from poor, it would never give Gu Bei 200,000 Divine Essence to spend freely.

Almost no family was willing to imitate Han Wu and dump 2 million Divine Essence into a single hunting event, even though they knew that the Giant Crest inside could produce powerful units. Every family feared walking away empty-handed, especially since the conflicts between them could never be fully resolved.

In the end, the coalition of more than eighty contestants fell apart within the ruined city. They split into several smaller squads and fanned out along different routes to continue tracking Han Wu, each hoping to be the one to take the Giant Crest from him.

Chapter 924 - The Glory of the Destruction Clan

In the VIP lounge, the Lade patriarch and Saliya had just finished watching Han Wu's fight in the Ruined City. Both had been holding their breath throughout the entire battle. They were relieved that Han Wu had ultimately escaped from his pursuers.

"Little Saliya, your student really is something," Linus said with admiration.

Saliya tilted her chin up slightly, a hint of pride on her face. "*Hmph*. Who do you think taught him?"

Linus laughed. “You seem very pleased with this student.”

“Of course I am. Han Wu is the most talented student I’ve ever taught. Unless something unexpected happens, he’ll probably remain the most talented I ever teach.”

“Little Saliya, have you ever thought about... taking things further between the two of you?” Linus asked cautiously.

Saliya furrowed her brow in confusion. “What do you mean?”

Linus raised both hands and brought his thumbs together.

Saliya’s face immediately turned red. “Dad, don’t be ridiculous. Han Wu has a girlfriend.”

“So what? My little princess is so accomplished. Are you really no match for some girlfriend of his?” Linus said, perfectly unbothered.

Saliya’s annoyance flared. “Dad, Han Wu is my student. Say another word, and I’ll ignore you.”

Faced with Saliya’s temper, Linus relented. “All right, all right. I won’t say another word. Your love life is your own. Dad won’t interfere.”

Just then, someone knocked on the door. Linus had no idea who would be visiting his VIP room at this hour.

“Come in,” Linus said.

A white-haired elder in a black robe stepped inside.

Linus immediately rose to his feet, surprise evident on his face. “Elder Gu, what brings you here? Please, have a seat.”

The elder was Gu Feng, one of the Destruction Clan’s senior elders. He sat down without the slightest display of courtesy. His gaze swept over Linus before shifting to Saliya. “I heard that the entry pass Han Wu used to participate in the event came from the Lade family?”

The question alone was enough for Linus to understand why Gu Feng had come.

“That’s correct. I imagine you’ve already investigated Han Wu’s background. He has no connection to the Lade family. He’s a student of the Wisdom God King. We were simply trying to build ties with the Wisdom Faction. Han Wu is the Wisdom Faction’s Holy Son, and if he were willing to put in a good word for us before the Wisdom God King, it would save our family a great deal of effort.”

At no point did Linus mention Saliya by name. Instead, he portrayed the Lade family as modestly as possible, framing them as desperate to gain the Wisdom Faction's favor.

The explanation achieved its purpose. Gu Feng said nothing further and left the VIP room.

After he left, Saliya turned to her father. "Dad, you seemed afraid of something. The Destruction Clan doesn't even have a God King behind them. What is there to be afraid of?"

Linus moved quickly and covered her mouth with his hand. "Little Saliya, never say something like that out loud.

"Yes, the Destruction Clan looks like a fallen family now. Thirty years ago, however, they were one of the most powerful families in the Divine Civilization. Back then, the Destruction Faction truly stood at the top. Their status wasn't based on reputation alone but on undeniable strength.

"They may have declined since then, but no one knows whether the old patriarch left behind his Destruction Jurisdiction before he disappeared. That uncertainty alone is enough to be cautious. There's no benefit in making an enemy of a family like that. The consequences could follow you for a very long time."

Saliya gave a half-understanding nod, then asked, "How did the Destruction Faction fall in the first place?"

A wistful look appeared on Linus' face. "The Destruction God King was renowned throughout the known civilizations. Under his leadership, the Divine Civilization could basically go wherever it pleased within the known universe.

"That level of power left him feeling dissatisfied. Against his family's objections, he entered the Chaotic Starfield in search of greater challenges and never found his way back out."

Saliya's eyes widened. She had heard of the Chaotic Starfield. It was a restricted civilization sealed within the Imperial College's archive. Even Xia Tian, the current fourth-year valedictorian, hadn't been granted access because he hadn't held the title for four consecutive years.

Viewed that way, keeping Xia Tian out was the right decision. If even the Destruction God King had gotten lost there, a mere God like Xia Tian had no business entering it.

"Did the Destruction Faction ever try to find the Destruction God King?" Saliya asked.

"Of course they did. How many people who enter the Chaotic Starfield ever return? That's precisely why the Destruction Faction declined. After enough failed attempts, the major powers joined forces to seal the Chaotic Starfield.

“Imperial College kept one entrance open solely to maintain the seal and prevent the Chaotic Starfield from expanding. That process requires life forms to be sent inside regularly to sustain it. Without that arrangement, the Chaotic Starfield would have been erased from history long ago,” Linus said.

Saliya nodded and silently committed the information to memory.

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After leaving the Lade family’s VIP room, Gu Feng teleported directly to Imperial College and sought out the Wisdom God King.

Xu Hai received him warmly.

Gu Feng wasted no time and immediately stated his purpose. He wanted Xu Hai to persuade Han Wu to surrender the Giant Crest.

“The Giant Crest is vital to the Destruction Clan. It may be the key to rescuing the Destruction God King from the Chaotic Starfield, and its significance extends to the entire Divine Civilization. I ask that Your Majesty give this matter careful consideration.”

As he spoke, Gu Feng moved to kneel.

Xu Hai stepped forward and stopped him before he could. However, he refused the request.

“I was there when the Destruction God King stood at the height of his power, and I witnessed his power firsthand. He has been missing for far too long. The Divine Civilization has prospered without his protection all these years. I believe my meaning is clear enough, Elder Gu.

“Despite his youth, Han Wu has already demonstrated extraordinary talent. His future potential may rival that of the Destruction God King himself. I believe investing in his growth is far more worthwhile than devoting resources to searching for someone who has been missing for so long.”

When Gu Feng heard the response, an icy killing intent erupted from him. Although he was no God King, the pressure he exuded felt even more imposing than that of one.

“Since Your Majesty is unwilling to help, I have nothing more to say. Before I leave, however, I have one word of advice. Children aren’t as resilient as those of us who have lived for ages. A young life can be cut short at any moment. Keep a close watch over yours.” He pushed the door open and left without another word.

Xu Hai stared in the direction Gu Feng had gone, then slammed his palm down on the table. “Preposterous!”

Chapter 925 - The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King

Through his avatar's live stream, Han Wu navigated around one contestant squad after another and slipped into the next Sin Lord's territory.

The contestants had learned their lesson from the events in the ruined city. This time, none of them intended to enter a Sin Lord's territory without a solid plan in place first.

This domain was inhabited entirely by dragon-type Digital Sprites. Han Wu brought the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite and Yinglong with him and blended in among the residents.

To his surprise, the Digital Sprites there showed no hostility toward him despite his status as a member of the Divine Civilization. Instead, every one of them focused on Yinglong. They could sense its Dragon Bane skill. Among dragon-type Digital Sprites, one that possessed Dragon Bane was considered pure-blooded dragon nobility.

News of Yinglong spread quickly. Before long, an ultimate Heavyarmor Raptor arrived to greet Han Wu.

"The Tyrannosprite King requests your presence." The Heavyarmor Raptor spoke in a human tongue.

Curious about the nature of this Sin Lord, Han Wu brought Yinglong and the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite with him and followed the Heavyarmor Raptor to a palace. A long row of stone sculptures lined its entrance, each depicting a different dragon-type Digital Sprite in perfect detail.

Han Wu examined them and asked the Heavyarmor Raptor, "Did your Tyrannosprite King carve these stone sculptures?"

The Heavyarmor Raptor replied, "Yes, though *carve* isn't quite accurate. He petrified the originals. Every one of them was once a living ultimate Digital Sprite."

Han Wu was stunned. The rows stretched into the distance, containing at least eighty stone sculptures of varying sizes. Every one of them had once been a living ultimate Digital Sprite? The Tyrannosprite King's power was on an entirely different level.

Remaining vigilant, Han Wu followed the Heavyarmor Raptor inside. The moment he entered the throne hall, he saw it packed with ultimate dragon-type Digital Sprites. At the

far end of the hall, seated upon a raised throne, sat a black-armored figure. It opened its eyes, and its cross-shaped pupils glowed with purple light.

Han Wu quickly checked the Digital Sprite's stats.

[Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, Sin Lord of Pride (Subcosm rank). Skills: Dark Gaia Force, Dragon Bane, Dark Battle Tornado, Dark Courage Shield, King of Tyrannosprite Kings. Description: An absolute ruler among dragon-type Digital Sprites, with overwhelming authority over all dragon-type Digital Sprites.]

[Dark Gaia Force: Concentrates the world's negative emotions into a single point and hurls it at an enemy as an energy sphere.]

[Dragon Bane: All attacks and skills are especially effective against dragon-type Digital Sprites.]

[Dark Battle Tornado: Spins at high speed, transforming into a dark tornado that drills toward enemies.]

[Dark Courage Shield: Uses the Dark Courage Shield on its back to block incoming attacks.]

[King of Tyrannosprite Kings: Possesses every skill available to the Tyrannosprite line, and holds absolute dominion over all Tyrannosprite Digital Sprites.]

After reading the descriptions, Han Wu felt numb. *Powerful. Incredibly powerful. How could anything be this powerful?*

He had every reason to believe that if the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King wanted him dead, it could do so by raising a hand. Even if Han Wu released every Digital Sprite under his command, he doubted he could withstand a single attack from this creature.

As Han Wu was reading the stats, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King was examining him in return. It glanced at Yinglong and the Pseudo-Machinedrasprite, then spoke. "Too weak. You, from the Divine Civilization, I know you have more than two Digital Sprites. Bring out everything you have."

Han Wu was in no position to argue. He opened his Microcosm and released all of his ultimate units. Out came the twelve War Saint Locustmen, led by Stinger, the Iron Abyss Bug without its Armor Evolution, the Gluttony Heavenly Dog, the Greed Neo Vamdesprite, and the Lust Umbral Demoness.

The display stunned every dragon-type Digital Sprite in the throne hall. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, however, paused only briefly when its gaze landed on the Lust Umbral Demoness. It barely acknowledged the rest of Han Wu's lineup.

“Is that all?”

Assuming it was evaluating whether his strength met some requirement, Han Wu summoned every non-ultimate Digital Sprite from his Microcosm as well.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King didn’t even spare them a glance. “Is that all?”

Thinking his display still wasn’t sufficient, Han Wu spent another 100,000 energy points and summoned one more ultimate Nuclear Locust. Although it was individually weak, its Self-Detonation power was formidable. At the very least, it was another ultimate he could present.

Only then did the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King give a single nod, finally acknowledging that Han Wu’s strength had met whatever threshold it had in mind.

“I need you to do something for me,” it said.

Han Wu found the request baffling. Such a powerful being needed his help? The very idea sounded absurd. Nonetheless, he was the weaker party here and had little choice but to listen.

“What kind of help?” Han Wu asked, desperately hoping that it wouldn’t amount to a death sentence.

“Go to the World Tree and pick a ripe fruit for me,” the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King said. “I won’t ask you to do it for free. Consider this your advance payment. I’ll give you more once the task is complete.”

As it spoke, it tossed something toward him. Han Wu caught it and read the description. His eyes widened.

That item was invaluable to him. With it in hand, Han Wu might even be tempted to challenge the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King right now. After all, what he was holding was a Fusion Chip.

If one were to place the chip on two Digital Sprites that shared a deep bond, they could undergo a Fusion Evolution. The resulting power increase was comparable to gaining an entirely new ultimate evolution.

: Chapter 926

Chapter 926 - The Dark Dragoness

Han Wu lay in the room that the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had arranged for him, mind racing as he turned over the burning questions in his mind.

What's up with the World Tree? Why doesn't the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King just go to pick the fruit itself? Is it lacking in strength? Does it not have enough forces? Or is there something at the World Tree that serves as the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's natural enemy?

After considering various possibilities, Han Wu felt the natural enemy theory was the most likely. Moreover, that enemy was probably a dragon-type Digital Sprite. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had most likely sent for him after learning that Yinglong had the Dragon Bane skill.

Its strength couldn't be anything ordinary if it could stand up against the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. Han Wu seriously doubted whether his ultimate Digital Sprites could match it.

If he wanted to complete the mission to pick the World Tree's fruit, he had to make the best use of every resource at his disposal to strengthen his Digital Sprites.

The Fusion Chip in his hands was the critical piece of these preparations. The question was which two Digital Sprites to choose for the Fusion Evolution. On top of that, the two needed to share a deep bond. That was an incredibly tall order. Even Digital Sprites born as twins couldn't necessarily achieve that level of synchronization.

Unless one is being controlled by the other? That could be enough to create the connection.

Han Wu already had candidates in mind if that approach worked. He summoned the Lust Umbral Demoness. She arched an eyebrow, her gaze filled with endless allure, her seductive figure enough to enthrall any living creature.

At this point, Han Wu's live stream was flooded with comments.

"Love it. Keep it coming."

"He should let the Umbral Demoness out more often."

"This isn't about to turn into pay-per-view content, is it? I'm kind of looking forward to it."

Han Wu's avatars scrolled through the comments with a collective snort of disdain. He wasn't that kind of person! The stream was live. Even if he had the nerve, he wouldn't have the guts.[1]

Pointedly coughing once, Han Wu summoned Yinglong, the one with Dragon Bane.

“Demoness, charm Yinglong and make it obey you. Yinglong, don’t resist,” Han Wu instructed.

The Lust Umbral Demoness nodded, glancing at Yinglong. Instantly, Yinglong’s eyes went blank and glassy. It would do as the Lust Umbral Demoness ordered without question.

Han Wu couldn’t help but marvel at the Lust Umbral Demoness’s power. She was born to captivate with her Lethal Attraction and was capable of charming creatures across entirely different species with ease. In the future, she would be one of his greatest assets.

Pulling out the Fusion Chip, he handed a piece to each of them. The Fusion Evolution triggered the instant the two activated the chip. Their two forms overlapped and merged within a pillar of dark light, completing the evolution.

A striking figure covered in elegant, form-fitting scale armor and radiating a uniquely dangerous allure appeared before Han Wu.

Han Wu quickly checked the fused Digital Sprite’s stats.

[Dark Dragoness, fusion form (Microcosm rank). Skills: True Dragon Might, War Dragon Form, Dragon Bane, Dark Gem, Black Coffin, Dark Dominator. Description: The supreme ruler among dragon-humanoid Digital Sprites. Has immense intimidation and allure over all dragon-type and dark-attribute Digital Sprites.]

The Dark Dragoness’s rank was still at Microcosm rank, but Han Wu could feel that her true combat power was approaching Subcosm rank. In terms of individual fighting strength, the Dark Dragoness was the single most powerful Digital Sprite he owned.

“Not bad.” Han Wu looked her over with an approving nod.

The Dark Dragoness tested her own body, getting used to her newly gained power. This strength still couldn’t match the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, but it was enough to cover Han Wu’s retreat if things went awry. That alone boosted Han Wu’s confidence in the mission.

At dawn, the Heavyarmor Raptor from before came to find Han Wu and escort him to the mission area. Han Wu didn’t hesitate, gathering his Digital Sprites to follow the Heavyarmor Raptor along with the rest of the dragon-type Digital Sprite escort.

The contestant squads waiting outside the territory had been planning to intercept Han Wu, but the sheer ferocity of the escort led by the Heavyarmor Raptor scared them off.

Han Wu was happy to enjoy the easy ride. Before long, they arrived at a place called the World Tree Forest. This was the central region of the Kingdom of Sin. The dragon-attribute Digital Sprites stopped at the forest’s edge and refused to go any closer.

“The Tyrannosprite King awaits your good news,” the Heavyarmor Raptor said in human tongue.

It seemed the rest of the road was Han Wu’s alone.

He summoned every ultimate Digital Sprite he had. With Stinger leading the War Saint Locustman legion to act as his scouts, Han Wu officially stepped into the World Tree Forest.

They were attacked the moment they entered.

Swarms of Digital Sprites with leaves or flowers sprouting from their heads rushed in to stop their group from advancing. Han Wu showed no mercy toward these weak Digital Sprites and ordered them to be destroyed immediately.

The Gluttony Heavenly Dog leaped out, opened its massive jaws, and activated Moon Eater. A violent suction erupted from its mouth, pulling the weaker Digital Sprites in and swallowing them whole. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog’s strength grew slightly after digesting them.

That little skirmish was only an appetizer for entering the World Tree Forest. As they walked deeper, Han Wu discovered that the interior of the forest was essentially a massive kingdom made up of every kind of Digital Sprite imaginable.

There were many plant-type Digital Sprites, but they were individually weak. Not long after, a wave of insect-type Digital Sprites swarmed in. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog and the Greed Neo Vampsprite attacked together.

The Gluttony Heavenly Dog swallowed some, while the Greed Neo Vampsprite’s summoned familiars drained the rest. Han Wu reaped 800,000 energy points and 40,000 evolution points.

This massacre appeared to have drawn attention because an ultimate Digital Sprite soon appeared to block their path. Han Wu identified it as a Gold Saber Leosprite. Among the ultimate Digital Sprites, it was fairly average and ranked somewhere in the middle in strength.

However, it had a formidable skill called King of Beasts, which suppressed any beast-type Digital Sprite in its presence. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog couldn’t bring out even half of its strength while standing before the Gold Saber Leosprite.

Fortunately, Han Wu had plenty of other powerful Digital Sprites to call on. On his command, the Golden Scarab hit the Gold Saber Leosprite with Forced Defecation, then the Greed Neo Vampsprite’s familiars swarmed in while the Machinedrasprite followed up with Turbo Claw strikes.

It didn’t take long for the Gold Saber Leosprite to be beaten into scattered data and dissipate into the air. It dropped a piece of fine fur and two saber fangs, all of which Han Wu pocketed.

They were still only halfway to the World Tree.

1. Just do it! ☜

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

Chapter 927 - The War Tyrannosprite King

The Digital Sprites along the route grew steadily stronger as Han Wu pressed on. The outermost ring had been full of juvenile Digital Sprites, then came adolescent and mature in the middle ring.

Closer to the center, perfect Digital Sprites appeared with increasing frequency, and ultimate Digital Sprites soon also showed up from time to time to block his advance.

Fortunately, Han Wu’s combat experience allowed him to direct his ultimate Digital Sprites with precision, keeping casualties to a minimum. After fighting through waves of enemies, he finally reached the base of the World Tree.

It towered into the clouds, trunk completely bare without a single leaf or branch. Han Wu guessed that only the canopy at the very top would bear fruit.

As he was about to order his units to charge upward, a voice came from the other side of the World Tree. “The Dark Tyrannosprite sent you, didn’t it? Turn back. I won’t let you pick the World Tree’s fruit.”

Han Wu turned to see a Digital Sprite that appeared nearly identical to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, differing only in the color of its body. He quickly checked its information.

[War Tyrannosprite King, Guardian Form (Subcosm rank). Skills: Gaia Force, Dragon Bane, Battle Tornado, Courage Shield, King of Tyrannosprite Kings. Description: An absolute ruler among dragon-type Digital Sprites, with immense intimidation over all dragon-type Digital Sprites.]

The stats were practically a mirror of the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King’s.

No wonder the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King doesn't dare to come here itself. It's afraid of this War Tyrannosprite King, Han Wu thought to himself.

His guess had been right after all. A natural enemy of the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King guarded the World Tree.

"You're powerful, but I have a job to do. I'm picking the World Tree's fruit no matter what," Han Wu said firmly.

The War Tyrannosprite King shook its head and stepped out from behind the World Tree. A myriad of faint scars were visible beneath its heavy armor, proof that it had survived countless battles and lived to tell the tale, a testament to its strength.

"The World Tree is the foundation of the Sprite Civilization's stability. Its fruit contains the condensed life essence of billions of Digital Sprites. If you take it, the civilization's life balance will collapse, and countless Digital Sprites will die," the War Tyrannosprite King explained, urging Han Wu to give up.

Han Wu let out a cold laugh. "I don't care if the life forms of the Sprite Civilization live or die."

The War Tyrannosprite King understood the problem. Han Wu wasn't from the Sprite Civilization. He had no reason to care about their survival.

With nothing left to discuss, the War Tyrannosprite King revealed its power, and the crushing pressure of a Subcosm-rank life form descended.

The force pressed down on Han Wu hard enough that his bones started cracking. All of his abilities were sealed inside this place, and his protective barrier alone couldn't withstand this intense pressure.

Luckily, Han Wu had his Digital Sprites. The twelve War Saint Locustmen formed a ring around him, with Stinger at the center, and released their own ultimate-tier pressure in unison. As the twelve shared the same origin, their auras merged as one, easing the burden on Han Wu considerably. His other Digital Sprites sprang into action as well.

The Pseudo-Machinedrasprite triggered Sin Evolution and transformed into the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress. Its Multi Infinity Cannons locked onto the War Tyrannosprite King and opened fire without a second's delay. Dragon Ray beams followed close behind.

Yinglong and the Lust Umbral Demoness activated Fusion Evolution, becoming the Dark Dragoness. Though only at the Microcosm rank, her true combat power wasn't far from the Subcosm rank. She engaged the War Dragon Form, activated True Dragon Might, and charged straight at the War Tyrannosprite King with a wave of darkness trailing behind her.

The Greed Neo Vampsprite, the Gluttony Heavenly Dog, and the Golden Scarab in its armored evolution all joined the assault as well.

Even the War Tyrannosprite King struggled to hold off this many powerful Digital Sprites at once. It mentally worked through its options while blocking attacks with Courage Shield.

These Digital Sprites belonged to Han Wu. Based on the War Tyrannosprite King's knowledge of those from the Divine Civilization, these Digital Sprites would lose their reason to keep attacking once Han Wu was out of the picture.

Mind made up, it twisted its body and launched itself at Han Wu as a spinning tornado. Battle Tornado was blisteringly fast and carried immense force. Even from a distance, Han Wu could feel its lethality. The viewers watching the live stream held their breath, terrified that the strike would tear Han Wu apart.

At that critical moment, Stinger activated Sin Evolution and became the Envy Stinger Locustman King. As Locustman royalty, Stinger could briefly absorb the power of its kin to boost its own strength. Using the borrowed power of the other eleven War Saint Locustmen, Stinger caught the War Tyrannosprite King's killing blow on the tip of its long spike.

The Dark Dragoness then seized the opening to fire off a Black Coffin, sealing the War Tyrannosprite King inside.

Although there was a gap between their strength, Dragon Bane allowed the Dark Dragoness to deal double damage against dragon types. The result was that the War Tyrannosprite King couldn't break the Black Coffin open from inside.

Han Wu knew that experience well. It was nearly impossible to break out from within the Black Coffin once it was sealed shut. The only way out was for an ally to crack it open from outside.

However, the War Tyrannosprite King had no allies, and even if it did, none could breach Han Wu's wall of Digital Sprites in three seconds.

"Three, two, one, zero!" The Dark Dragoness counted down.

No movement came from inside the Black Coffin, but it didn't disperse either.

The Dark Dragoness turned to Han Wu with a grim expression. "It's not dead. Something's protecting it."

Han Wu tensed. "Can it break free?"

The Dark Dragoness started to nod, then aborted the motion to shake her head. “At my energy level, I can keep it suppressed for about ten minutes, but not any longer than that.”

Han Wu took a deep breath. Ten minutes was enough to try.

Without another word, he flew straight toward the World Tree’s canopy under the escort of Stinger and the other War Saint Locustmen.

It took them roughly nine minutes to catch sight of the canopy.

Han Wu’s eyes swept over the branches, but saw only leaves. There was no fruit to be seen.

“What’s going on? Does this World Tree not bear fruit?”

: Chapter 928

Chapter 928 - A Narrow Escape

Stinger stayed by Han Wu’s side to guard him while the other eleven War Saint Locustmen circled the World Tree canopy. They searched high and low but couldn’t find a single fruit.

At this point, Han Wu was starting to wonder if he’d been tricked.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had no reason to do that, though. With its strength and the dragon-type Digital Sprite legion under its command, it could’ve effortlessly wiped Han Wu out. Why bother with such an elaborate setup?

The fruit had to be somewhere in the canopy. They just hadn’t found it yet.

“Keep looking!” Han Wu ordered.

The eleven War Saint Locustmen frantically scoured the branches, desperate to find the fruit to put Han Wu’s mind at ease. Han Wu searched on his own as well, taking advantage of the intel from his avatars through the live stream.

The avatars soon spotted something. A glowing figure had flashed briefly in a hidden corner of the canopy. Following their guidance, Han Wu headed over with Stinger as his guard.

There, he found a glowing figure curled up in the small corner. It looked like a four-year-old child—round, chubby, and pale—but something about it felt off.

Han Wu quickly checked its stats and confirmed that this glowing figure was the fruit he had been searching for. This naturally surprised him. He had expected the fruit to be, well, an actual fruit, not a baby.

Regardless of the form the World Tree's fruit took, all he had left to do was grab it and bring it back to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. Han Wu immediately ordered Stinger to capture it. The little thing was small, but fast and skilled at dodging. Even Stinger, with its agility, couldn't catch it.

Han Wu quickly blocked its path and called the other War Saint Locustmen back to help. After a frantic chase, he finally got his hands on the World Tree's fruit. Not wanting to risk it escaping, he opened a Microcosm and locked it inside.

The moment he did, the World Tree beneath his feet moved. It wasn't his imagination. The tree was genuinely trembling. The World Tree had sensed that its fruit had been separated from the Sprite Civilization and sought revenge for its lost child.

The entire World Tree Forest started contracting inward from the edges. Trees awakened in droves, transforming into mature Treesprites with swinging branches. They sent countless vines skyward and turned the entire forest into a giant cage. Inside the cage, more vines split and spread, creating layers upon layers of smaller prisons.

Han Wu's avatars observed the situation through the live stream and relayed it to him immediately. Understanding the severity of the situation, he called for Stinger and the War Saint Locustmen to descend and escape.

Countless vines erupted from the World Tree in an attempt to stop him. The Locustmen sliced through every one of them, but the World Tree was never short on life force. For every vine the War Saint Locustmen cut, ten more grew in its place. It was determined to capture Han Wu and take back the fruit.

Before Han Wu even reached the ground, he spotted the War Tyrannosprite King climbing upward at terrifying speed, its eyes blazing with fury when it spotted him.

Han Wu had actually taken the World Tree's fruit! This would throw the entire World Tree into chaos and send shockwaves through the whole Sprite Civilization.

"Hand over the fruit!" the War Tyrannosprite King roared.

Han Wu scoffed and continued his descent to rejoin the rest of his Digital Sprites. The War Tyrannosprite King only became more enraged at the blatant dismissal. Gathering Gaia Force, it formed an enormous energy sphere and threw it at Han Wu.

The attack was devastating enough to kill any ultimate Digital Sprite on impact. Faced with a strike of that magnitude, Han Wu simply opened his Microcosm and threw out a disposable fodder, an ultimate Dugongsprite.

The Gaia Force collided with the Dugongsprite, obliterating it. Not even a hint of its body remained. Its death, however, bought Han Wu precious time to escape.

As Han Wu finally reached the ground, he looked around to see the rest of his Digital Sprites badly hurt. The War Tyrannosprite King had injured them after breaking free from the Black Coffin. Thankfully, it had been more concerned with the World Tree's fruit and hadn't gone for the kill.

Han Wu quickly recalled his wounded Digital Sprites into his Microcosm. Inside, the Bloodfang Bats went to work healing them while Han Wu tried to escape the forest.

Layers of vines blocked every path. The War Saint Locustmen couldn't cut through them fast enough, and the War Tyrannosprite King was closing in from behind. In that desperate moment, Han Wu fell back on his signature tactic: Self-Detonation!

Vines were susceptible to fire, and Han Wu happened to have fire-attribute Digital Sprites. On the way in, he had killed enough Digital Sprites to gather nearly 9 million energy points and 800,000 evolution points. This was the time to spend them.

He burned through the energy points to summon a massive swarm of Magma Locusts. These locusts were cheap and could release large amounts of lava, making them perfect for the situation.

As the Magma Locusts Self-Detonated, lava splashed across the spreading vines and set them alight. Flames raced along the vines, turning the forest into a sea of fire.

Countless Treesprites and other Digital Sprites were caught in the blaze. Waves of Digital Sprites died with every passing second.

The War Tyrannosprite King burned with fury when it saw the raging inferno. It wanted to keep chasing Han Wu, but it also couldn't bear to watch its fellow forest-dwelling Digital Sprites burn to death.

It was forced to choose a side.

In the end, the War Tyrannosprite King abandoned the pursuit in favor of activating the King of Tyrannosprite Kings. This skill gave it access to every ability that all other types of Tyrannosprites had. It selected a Frost Breath technique belonging to an ice-type Tyrannosprite and started putting out the surrounding lava and flames.

The freezing worked rapidly, allowing many Digital Sprites to narrowly escape death. Han Wu, meanwhile, seized the chance, blasting a hole through the Treesprites' prison of vines with his Nuclear Locusts and escaping through it.

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

Chapter 929 - Dark Courage Shield

The dragon-type Digital Sprite legion waiting outside greeted Han Wu after escaping the World Tree Forest.

Han Wu glanced back to see the flames still spreading behind him. The War Tyrannosprite King wouldn't be catching up anytime soon, but once it did, everything would be over.

The Heavyarmor Raptor looked up at Han Wu, about to ask how the mission went.

"We need to return now! I've got the World Tree's fruit," Han Wu urged the Heavyarmor Raptor before it could say a word.

The Heavyarmor Raptor was overjoyed. It let out a roar and rallied all of the dragon-type Digital Sprites to hold the line against anything pursuing from the forest. It then carried Han Wu towards the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King as fast as it could.

Han Wu rode on the Heavyarmor Raptor's back, keeping only Stinger at his side for protection. Every other Digital Sprite was sent back to the Microcosm to recover.

The mission to steal the World Tree's fruit was complete. The only question that remained was whether to actually hand it over to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

World Trees changed depending on their civilization. This one, having grown inside the Sprite Civilization, had adopted the characteristics of a Digital Sprite. Its fruit had gone a step further, resembling a Digital Sprite.

The fruit's powers, though, were still a mystery that Han Wu had yet to figure out. It was beyond the event system's capabilities and his own understanding.

The one thing he knew for certain was that the fruit was incredibly valuable. If the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King got its hands on it, the creature would definitely grow stronger.

Would the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King still pay what it owed after it powered up? Even if it did pay up, would it let Han Wu go? This was a hunting event, with Han Wu acting as one of the hunters and the Digital Sprites as his prey.

If he could take down the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, first place would be practically guaranteed for him. After all, he reckoned no contestant's Digital Sprites could compare to it in terms of raw strength.

While he mulled it over, the Heavyarmor Raptor had brought him back to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's throne hall.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King rose from its throne and asked him seriously, "Did you really bring back the World Tree's fruit?"

Han Wu nodded.

"Give it to me," the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King commanded, voice thick with authority.

Han Wu shook his head.

The dragon-type Digital Sprites around the hall roared in unison, furious that Han Wu would defy the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. The cross-shaped pupils in the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's eyes trembled as it fought to contain its anger.

"What are your terms?" it gritted out.

"Give me the promised reward first," Han Wu demanded.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King reached behind its back and removed the Dark Courage Shield. This was the reward it had planned to give Han Wu, provided he actually obtained the World Tree's fruit.

Han Wu hadn't expected the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King to offer a piece of its own equipment. The Dark Courage Shield looked special, but he wouldn't know the exact stats until he held it.

A guard respectfully took the Dark Courage Shield from the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and presented it to Han Wu. The data flooded into his mind when he took it.

[Dark Courage Shield: An important piece of the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's gear, super ultimate tier. Contains pure Dark Energy and is embedded with a Courage Crest that draws on the wielder's courage to resist incoming attacks. The greater the courage, the stronger the defense. (Requirement: The wielder must possess both Dark Energy and dragon attributes.)]

Han Wu's eyes lit up. The Dark Courage Shield was at the super ultimate tier.

It would've been great if the Iron Abyss Bug could use it, but the requirement unfortunately ruled that out. The only one among Han Wu's forces qualified to wield it

was the Dark Dragoness after her Fusion Evolution. With this shield, the Dark Dragoness's strength could rise another tier.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King pressed him. "The reward has been given. Hand over the World Tree's fruit."

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's overall power had dropped without the Dark Courage Shield, especially its defense. Its aura, however, remained fierce. The surrounding ultimate dragon-type Digital Sprites roared alongside it, urging Han Wu to comply.

Han Wu considered his next course of action and decided to wait until the Dark Dragoness fully bonded with the Dark Courage Shield before making a move.

Opening his Microcosm, he took out the World Tree's fruit. The moment the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King saw the fruit's chubby little form, power surged through its entire body. It crossed the distance in a single step, snatched the fruit in its claw, and held it tight.

The World Tree's fruit struggled but couldn't break free.

"It really is the World Tree's fruit. I can finally shed this cursed identity and escape this civilization!" the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King bellowed toward the sky.

Han Wu watched with stunned silence as the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King shoved the fruit straight into its mouth.

Eating it raw? That doesn't seem right. Forget boiling it, at least roast it first. Isn't it afraid it'll get a stomachache swallowing it whole like that? The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King has zero standards.

The fact that it had swallowed the fruit in one gulp was a real blow for Han Wu. That meant the fruit was gone for good, foiling his plan to take it back once the Dark Dragoness grew stronger.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's body started trembling uncontrollably. Han Wu could faintly see root-like tendrils surfacing across its skin, similar to the World Tree's own roots. As the fruit took effect, these tendrils rapidly dried out, cracked, and peeled away from its body.

Once the process finished, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's raw power hadn't changed much, but its emotional state had ascended to elation.

Han Wu quietly stepped back, ready to slip away. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had gotten what it wanted, which meant Han Wu had lost his usefulness. Staying any longer could invite trouble.

A badly wounded ultimate dragon-type Digital Sprite burst in just as he barely reached the doorway. Han Wu recognized it as one of the ones the Heavyarmor Raptor had left outside the World Tree Forest.

“Tyrannosprite King, the World Tree Forest has gone berserk! A Tyrannosprite that looks just like you is headed this way!”

The words had barely left its mouth when Han Wu’s avatars sent him the same warning. “Get out now! The War Tyrannosprite King is coming, and its form looks very wrong!”

Chapter 930 - Betraying the World

Time to go, Han Wu thought, bolting out of the hall in the opposite direction.

He already had his reward. Picking a fight with the War Tyrannosprite King at this point was suicidal.

Still, he didn’t leave entirely, opting to hide at the edge of the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King’s territory. Several contestant squads lay in ambush beyond the border. Even knowing Han Wu was close, none of them dared to trespass. The Heavyarmor Raptor and its dragon-type escort had already scared them once.

As Han Wu hid, he observed the live stream via his avatars. The two Tyrannosprite Kings had already met face to face.

The War Tyrannosprite King was in a state of blind rage. Countless vines had spread across its body, forming a ring covered in blood-red flowers and golden fruit. The sight was unsettling. Han Wu couldn’t tell whether the War Tyrannosprite King was still an animal or a plant.

He checked its stats again via his avatars.

[War Tyrannosprite King, Fusion Form: World Tree Form (Subcosm rank). Skills: Gaia Force, Dragon Bane, Battle Tornado, Courage Shield, King of Tyrannosprite Kings, World Tree Will. Description: The absolute ruler among Digital Sprites after fusing with the World Tree. Possesses limitless combat power and infinite life force.]

Han Wu’s jaw dropped. The War Tyrannosprite King had fused with the World Tree to become all but invincible! Limitless combat power plus infinite life force was the definition of unbeatable.

Seeing this, Han Wu couldn't help but worry about the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. If it were defeated, the War Tyrannosprite King's next target would surely be the person who had stolen the World Tree's fruit: Han Wu.

A chill ran down his spine. He needed to raise a Digital Sprite capable of standing up to the War Tyrannosprite King, and fast.

He handed the Dark Courage Shield to the Dark Dragoness. The dual compatibility of Dark Energy and Dragon Energy triggered a massive power boost, pushing the Dark Dragoness from the Microcosm rank straight into the Subcosm rank.

Although this placed the Dark Dragoness as the War Tyrannosprite King's equal in rank, she was still considerably weaker in actual combat strength. Han Wu stuck with his policy of avoiding a fight unless absolutely necessary and kept an eye on the situation from his hiding spot.

"Hand over the World Tree's fruit, and I might spare you," the War Tyrannosprite King snarled at the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King only laughed. "I've already absorbed it. I'm free. Can't you feel it? The Guardian Seal on my body has been removed. I can leave this ruined, commodified civilization whenever I want!"

"What?!" the War Tyrannosprite King exclaimed in disbelief.

It carefully scanned the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King's body, only to realize the other spoke the truth. The Guardian Seal was truly gone.

This realization only deepened its fury. "Why? Have you forgotten? You're a child of the World Tree too! Why would you betray it? Why would you abandon your duty as its guardian?"

The War Tyrannosprite King couldn't understand it. The two of them had been born as twin Digital Sprites. Blessed by the World Tree, they had both become its guardians and mastered the powerful Fusion Evolution together.

It had always treated the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King as a brother, believing they would fulfill their duty to protect the World Tree until the day they died.

Then, the Dark Tyrannosprite King had betrayed everything, fled to the Kingdom of Sin, and underwent Sin Evolution. Now it had even consumed the World Tree's fruit to shed its identity as a guardian entirely.

"You ask why I've betrayed it?" the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King asked coldly. "Have you forgotten how the World Tree treated us? What did the World Tree do when the Gods from the Divine Civilization attacked with overwhelming force, and our Fusion Evolution

couldn't hold them off? I made up my mind to leave the moment the World Tree abandoned us and chose to surrender. I've decided to leave this civilization and live for myself!"

"The World Tree is our mother!" the War Tyrannosprite King roared.

"No. It's not my mother. I was just its tool. Not anymore," the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King said, as if a weight had finally been lifted from its shoulders.

These words only drove the War Tyrannosprite King into a deeper fury. The endless thorns growing from its body thrashed violently, a sign of the World Tree's rage.

"Just give me a little more time. I can still talk to him," the War Tyrannosprite King pleaded with the World Tree fused inside its body.

The World Tree refused. It had chosen to grovel and surrender when faced with the powerful Gods of the Divine Civilization, but against its former guardian, it chose to strike with full force.

It ignored the War Tyrannosprite King's feelings entirely and seized control of its body. Endless positive energy gathered between the War Tyrannosprite King's claws.

"Gaia Force!" the War Tyrannosprite King roared unwillingly.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King answered in kind with negative energy gathered between its claws. "Dark Gaia Force!"

Two massive energy spheres collided in midair with a resounding explosion. The shockwave sent smaller ultimate Digital Sprites flying several kilometers. The War Tyrannosprite King used its Courage Shield to block the blast and came through unharmed.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, however, no longer had its Dark Courage Shield. The shockwave drove it backward, leaving countless small cuts across every gap in its armor.

The fight continued. The War Tyrannosprite King attacked again, twisting its body into a spinning tornado. The thorns attached to its frame made Battle Tornado even more ferocious.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King countered with Dark Battle Tornado, but the collision sent it hurtling over a dozen kilometers, leaving it severely wounded.

The War Tyrannosprite King's Gaia Force gathered once more. This time, it intended to bomb the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King into oblivion.

Chapter 931 - A Question of Feelings

The destructive power of Gaia Force grew with its size, scaling rapidly with every passing second. Suddenly, the War Tyrannosprite King was hit by a sudden urge in its bowels, breaking its concentration on the energy sphere.

“Who did that?” bellowed the War Tyrannosprite King.

Han Wu didn’t step out, but his strongest Digital Sprite did. The Dark Dragoness walked into the open. When the War Tyrannosprite King noticed the Dark Courage Shield strapped to her back, its expression turned vicious.

“How do you have that shield—No, go back. I’m the one in control of this body—World Tree, let me control my own body—” Conflicting voices streamed out from the War Tyrannosprite King’s mouth.

Han Wu could see the War Tyrannosprite King and the World Tree fighting over control through the live stream. The trigger was the Dark Courage Shield that the Dark Dragoness carried, which had originally belonged to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

A single shield is enough to make the War Tyrannosprite King defy the World Tree and fight for control? Is its resentment toward the Dark Courage Shield that deep, or is something else going on?

Han Wu mulled it over and ordered the Dark Dragoness to check on the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. He knew perfectly well that he would be next if the War Tyrannosprite King finished off the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

His forces alone couldn’t beat the War Tyrannosprite King. Helping the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King survive meant gaining an ally and increasing his chances of survival.

The Dark Dragoness found the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King badly wounded. Its injuries were severe enough to cripple its fighting ability, and it needed healing immediately.

Han Wu immediately sent a swarm of Bloodfang Bats over to treat its wounds. Meanwhile, the War Tyrannosprite King seemed to have persuaded the World Tree to grant it control of its body once more.

“Why is your Dark Courage Shield on her?” it asked angrily.

This one sentence nearly fried Han Wu's brain. *Why does it sound so jealous? Could it be? Does the War Tyrannosprite King have feelings for the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King? They're both technically siblings, though. That's a complicated family dynamic...*

The Dark Dragoness's original form was the Lust Umbral Demoness, and her greatest talent was in seduction. When she sensed the War Tyrannosprite King's emotional turmoil, she smirked playfully and deliberately went to support the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

"Don't you touch him!" the War Tyrannosprite King roared, closing the distance in a flash and bringing a massive claw strike down on the Dark Dragoness.

The Dark Dragoness activated her War Dragon Form, blocked the blow with the Dark Courage Shield, and countered with an Infinity Arm strike. The War Tyrannosprite King was too enraged to bother gathering energy for a ranged blast and went straight into close combat.

The War Tyrannosprite King was stronger, but the Dark Dragoness could still hold out for a bit while the Bloodfang Bats healed the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King surveyed the battle with its trembling cross-shaped pupils. If not for Han Wu's intervention and healing, it would have died.

"Help me!" the Dark Dragoness called out as soon as she sensed that the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King was awake.

"Don't you dare get involved!" the War Tyrannosprite King screamed at the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, fury blazing to new heights.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King was a smart Digital Sprite and could clearly distinguish friend from foe. Without any hesitation, it threw itself into the fray and turned it into a two against one fight.

At a disadvantage, the War Tyrannosprite King was forced to fight defensively. The Dark Dragoness seized an opening and trapped it inside a Black Coffin. While it was sealed, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King gathered Dark Gaia Force.

The moment the War Tyrannosprite King broke free, the massive energy sphere slammed into it head-on. The thorns covering its body took severe damage. In its fused state, however, its regeneration was limitless, and its injuries healed at blinding speed.

When Han Wu saw this, he immediately brought more Digital Sprites into the fight.

Stinger, in its full form as the Envy Stinger Locustman King, absorbed the other War Saint Locustmen's power and drove a devastating thrust at the War Tyrannosprite King. The Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress unleashed a barrage of its Multi Infinity Cannons and

Dragon Ray at the War Tyrannosprite King. The Greed Neo Vampsprite activated its killing move Heart Strike as it channeled massive Dark Energy into a concentrated blast.

This combined bombardment dealt damage at a rate faster than the War Tyrannosprite King could heal. Its injuries slowly stacked up.

Then the Gluttony Heavenly Dog stepped up and used Moon Eater to swallow the War Tyrannosprite King whole. With the power of Gluttony, the War Tyrannosprite King was digested within the Heavenly Dog's stomach, generating huge amounts of energy for it to absorb.

The fusion of the War Tyrannosprite King and the World Tree made for a ridiculously tough opponent. They fought their way free, only to be dragged back into the group assault before it could unleash a powerful blow.

After four cycles of this, the World Tree finally realized it couldn't break through the wall of Digital Sprites. If this kept going, the Gluttony Heavenly Dog, which had already devoured the War Tyrannosprite King four times, would break through to the Subcosm rank.

Escaping from its stomach would become far more difficult if that happened. On top of that, Han Wu had used energy points to summon a War Angel. Though only at the Heavenrender rank, the War Angel had Holy Covenant, a skill that traded her life to take an enemy down with her. She couldn't fully kill the War Tyrannosprite King, but she could take a significant chunk of its remaining life.

Finally accepting that it couldn't win, the World Tree decisively separated from the War Tyrannosprite King's body and used the Will of the Sprite Civilization to flee.

The War Tyrannosprite King collapsed into a weakened state once the fusion was undone. Powerful Digital Sprites surrounded it, and it realized that it had lost completely.

The most hurtful part was that the World Tree, which it had revered above all else, had abandoned it and fled. The War Tyrannosprite King had always treated the World Tree as its mother, but in that moment, its heart went cold.

Chapter 932 - The Hundred-Year Service Contract

Without the World Tree's Life Energy, the War Tyrannosprite King had lost its infinite regeneration.

Han Wu's Digital Sprites gathered energy, preparing to finish it off, but the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King rushed to stop them. "Please, don't kill the War Tyrannosprite King."

To the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, the War Tyrannosprite King had always been a younger brother. Now that the World Tree had abandoned it, perhaps it could finally understand how the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had felt back then.

"Let me die!" the War Tyrannosprite King howled. Abandoned by the World Tree it worshipped and betrayed by its closest companion, it had nothing left to live for.

"Shut up!" the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King snapped, "The world is vast. The World Tree isn't the only thing worth living for. You shouldn't be trapped here."

A tiny spark of hope lit up in the War Tyrannosprite King's eyes before quickly fading. "I'm a guardian. The Guardian Seal is inside me. I can't leave this civilization."

At that moment, Han Wu walked over. "I know how to fix that. All you need is a fruit of the World Tree, right? I can go pick another one."

"The World Tree only produces one fruit every hundred years. You already picked one. It won't grow another anytime soon," the War Tyrannosprite King said with a sigh.

Han Wu waved his hand and smiled brightly. "Whether it grows a fruit or not isn't up to it. What I want to know is this: do you want to be free?"

The War Tyrannosprite King looked at Han Wu's beaming face and gave a firm nod.

"Good. I can help you get one fruit. What can you give me in return?" Han Wu revealed his true purpose.

The War Tyrannosprite King hesitated. It owned nothing of value beyond its armor and the Courage Shield on its back. The armor was tailored to its frame and would be useless to Han Wu. The only thing it could offer was the Courage Shield.

Han Wu couldn't use it, however. The Courage Shield required its user to possess both the light and dragon attributes. Han Wu didn't have a Digital Sprite that met those conditions yet. Still, with no other option, the War Tyrannosprite King removed the shield and offered it to him.

Han Wu's eyes practically lit up at the sight. The Dark Courage Shield was already super ultimate-tier equipment. This Courage Shield had to be just as impressive.

Even so, Han Wu wasn't satisfied with that alone. He could tell the difference between a single meal and a steady supply. He put on a displeased expression and refused the shield.

“The shield is powerful, but I don’t have a Digital Sprite that can use it. To me it’s just scrap,” he claimed.

The War Tyrannosprite King panicked. Freedom was within reach, and it had to seize it. It simply had nothing else to offer. If it passed up Han Wu’s offer, it couldn’t challenge the World Tree on its own. Freedom would remain an unattainable dream.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, far smarter than the War Tyrannosprite King, saw through Han Wu immediately. “Just say what you really want.”

Han Wu dropped the act. “I love talking to smart people. Since you don’t have anything worth the price of a fruit, you’ll have to work off the debt instead. Serve me for a hundred years. After that, you’re free. Room, board, training resources are all included during your term of service.”

The live-broadcast audience went wild.

“The audacity. He’s not even trying to hide it.”

“Hiring a Subcosm powerhouse for a hundred years, and all it costs is one of the World Tree’s fruits? Actual capitalists would line up to call you boss.”

“Please open a class. I’ll attend it on my knees.”

“Bro, the water is deep. Let me handle it. I’d only need fifty years of service!”

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The War Tyrannosprite King didn’t find the terms unreasonable. Obtaining a fruit was dangerous. Because of the Guardian Seal, it couldn’t act against the World Tree and would be unable to help.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had shed its Guardian Seal, but as a Digital Sprite born in this civilization, it couldn’t harm the World Tree either. Everything would fall on Han Wu alone.

A hundred years of service in exchange for that kind of assistance seemed fair. Still, the decision would determine the next century of its life. The War Tyrannosprite King needed time to think.

Han Wu graciously gave it that time, then turned to the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King.

“Now we need to discuss the matter of the War Tyrannosprite King’s life,” Han Wu said, grinning as brightly as ever.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King frowned in confusion. The War Tyrannosprite King would almost certainly agree to serve. What did any of this have to do with itself?

“I can see you’re confused. Let me walk you through the math,” Han Wu said. “We defeated the War Tyrannosprite King together. I have the right to decide whether it lives or dies. You’d agree with that, yes?”

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King nodded. In any civilization, the victor decides the loser’s fate. That was an iron rule.

Han Wu continued, “You stopped me from killing it. In other words, you saved its life, but you haven’t compensated me for it.”

“It’s going to serve you for a hundred years. Isn’t that compensation enough?” the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King shot back.

“Don’t mix things up. That’s the payment for picking the World Tree’s fruit. These are two separate deals,” Han Wu replied.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King couldn’t help laughing in disbelief. It had fought countless battles across ages and faced many members of the Divine Civilization, yet it had never met anyone as shamelessly brazen as Han Wu.

“What if I refuse?” the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King challenged.

“All of you, kill the War Tyrannosprite King. I want to see what kind of special materials it drops!” Han Wu ordered immediately.

His Digital Sprites obediently gathered energy again and were ready to give the War Tyrannosprite King a permanent farewell.

The War Tyrannosprite King was the most bewildered of all. One moment they were negotiating a hundred-year contract, and the next they were about to execute it? What was happening? It was ready to agree! A hundred years was perfectly acceptable!

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King couldn’t let its brother die. It told Han Wu to stop and demanded, “What do you actually want?”

“You’ve already given me most of your valuables, so here’s the deal. You serve me for a hundred years too. A hundred years of service for your brother’s life. That’s a bargain,” Han Wu claimed.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King weighed its options. It genuinely feared that if it refused, Han Wu would actually kill the War Tyrannosprite King. That was the only bond it still had left in this world.

“Fine. I agree,” the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King said.

The corner of Han Wu’s mouth curled upward. He tried to suppress it, but he couldn’t.

He raised a hand to call off his Digital Sprites, then turned to the confused War Tyrannosprite King. “The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King has already agreed to serve me for a hundred years. If you agree as well, I can arrange for you two to live together.”

The War Tyrannosprite King’s breathing immediately grew heavier. “I’m willing! Yes! Absolutely yes!”

It was the most resolute answer the War Tyrannosprite King had ever given.

Chapter 933 - The Giant Evolution Path

[Contestant Han Wu, you have received a donation from the event organizer “Shaura,” totaling 1 million Divine Essence.]

[Attached message: Kid, you’ve given me another surprise. Back then, we fought those two until they broke apart and still couldn’t subdue them. You pulled it off. Keep going. I’m rooting for you. Ura!]

Han Wu’s eyes widened. The Gift God King was truly generous, tipping 1 million Divine Essence in a single donation. Lavish spending was practically the God King’s defining trait.

With this 1 million Divine Essence, certain plans could finally move forward. One of them was unlocking the giant evolution path.

To boost his combat strength, Han Wu decided to give it a try. He searched through his Evolution Tree for suitable species. When he reached the super ultimate tier, he found that even after converting all of the donated Divine Essence into evolution points, he was still 1.2 million short.

The higher the cost, the stronger the resulting Digital Sprite. Han Wu had already invested 2 million Divine Essence of his own and had no intention of spending much more. The remaining evolution points would have to come from the World Tree Forest.

Han Wu proceeded to summon a creature from the partially completed giant path to strengthen his forces for the upcoming World Tree campaign.

[Locust (juvenile, ordinary life form) > Giant Locust (adolescent, Elite life form) > Little Giant (mature, Heroic life form) > Cyclops (perfect, King life form) > Skyreach Giant (ultimate, Heavenrender life form)]

Han Wu spent 71.5 million energy points and summoned one ultimate Skyreach Giant. Its massive body towered over a thousand meters tall, dwarfing every dragon-type Digital Sprite in the vicinity.

Looking up at the Skyreach Giant, Han Wu recalled the unused Wrath Sin in his possession. He took it out and tested it on the giant. Unfortunately, the compatibility was too low.

The War Tyrannosprite King, standing nearby, noticed the Wrath Sin in Han Wu's hand and volunteered to try it. The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King had already undergone Sin Evolution, and the War Tyrannosprite King didn't want to fall behind.

The attempt succeeded. The War Tyrannosprite King underwent Sin Evolution and became the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King. Its strength grew substantially. Although it still fell short of its previous fused state with the World Tree, the improvement was significant.

Han Wu laughed bitterly, then turned his attention to the Skyreach Giant's stats.

[Skyreach Giant (ultimate). Skills: Supertough, Superstrength, Giant Charge. Description: A powerful, ancient race of giants. Pure embodiment of physical power.]

[Supertough: Extremely durable physical constitution that grows even tougher as body size increases.]

[Superstrength: Possesses immense raw power that scales with body size.]

[Giant Charge: A full-body charge that utilizes every muscle fiber. Capable of smashing through any obstacle in its path.]

After reviewing the data, Han Wu concluded that the Skyreach Giant was a pure physical fighter. Such specialization made it easy to counter, but there was truth in the saying, "Overwhelming force can crush all technique." If the Skyreach Giant's physical gifts reached a sufficient level, the outcome would be terrifying. As such, Han Wu looked forward to seeing what it would become after its super ultimate evolution.

With his forces assembled, he set out for the World Tree Forest once more. This time, his escort included not only the Heavyarmor Raptor and the dragon-type Digital Sprites, but also the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King.

The two Tyrannosprite Kings marching alongside him were enough to drive off every contestant squad lying in wait. Their families had already sent word through donations

that the bounty on Han Wu had been cancelled. Everyone knew he now had two Subcosm fighters at his side. Nobody could compete with that.

Gu Bei cursed when he received the news. If the contestants had listened to him and joined forces during Han Wu's first trip into the World Tree Forest, the Giant Crest would have changed hands long ago.

Now it was too late. Han Wu had grown into an untouchable giant. Trying to uproot him was nothing more than a fool's dream. It was better to focus on their own gains.

Han Wu arrived at the edge of the World Tree Forest without incident. Inside, countless Digital Sprites had taken defensive positions.

This was the World Tree's home ground. Even after losing the War Tyrannosprite King, it could find another guardian to fuse with, and that new fusion would still possess Subcosm strength.

The new guardian was the Briar Crownsprite. Her individual strength wasn't the greatest among the World Tree's guardians, but she was the most compatible fusion partner.

This time, Han Wu didn't enter the forest. Instead, he remained at the perimeter and directed his entire army to bombard the interior. He intended to claim the World Tree's fruit while gathering enough evolution points for the Skyreach Giant's super ultimate evolution.

The Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress activated Multi Infinity Cannons. The Greed Neo Vamdesprite's Demon Mouth summoned endless familiars. The War Angel and the Lust Umbral Demoness combined light and dark magic. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog kept using Moon Eater, swallowing Digital Sprites and feeding itself. Stinger led the War Saint Locustmen legion and Yinglong on the front line.

Numerous Digital Sprites were reduced to scattered data. The World Tree Forest was being eroded under the assault.

Seated atop the World Tree, the Briar Crownsprite couldn't tolerate it any longer and decided to take out Han Wu. She activated her skill, and over 10,000 thorny whips surged from the forest.

At Han Wu's command, the Skyreach Giant charged forward and grabbed the whips with brute force, dragging the fused Briar Crownsprite out of the forest one agonizing meter at a time.

The two Tyrannosprite Kings couldn't attack the World Tree directly. They could, however, help the Skyreach Giant pull.

Together, the three of them pulled the fused Briar Crownsprite out into the open. She was small in stature, with a ring of thorns behind her body adorned with roses and golden fruit.

When she saw the two Tyrannosprite Kings helping Han Wu against her, the World Tree seized control of the Briar Crownsprite and scowled. “You dare betray me?”

Both Tyrannosprite Kings responded with cold laughter and pulled harder, helping the Skyreach Giant rip apart the Briar Crownsprite’s thorny whips. Their actions spoke louder than words.

Chapter 934 - The World Tree’s Misery

More thorny whips and vines erupted from the Briar Crownsprite’s body, curling and coiling like thousands of venomous snakes as they lashed out at everything around her.

The Skyreach Giant tried to grab them again, but this time the Briar Crownsprite was ready. The new whips were covered in barbed spikes. As soon as the spikes pierced the Skyreach Giant’s flesh, they took root and started feeding on its flesh. Every time the Skyreach Giant pulled away, it tore off strips of its own skin and muscle. The sight was brutal.

Han Wu was about to summon the Magma Locusts when he realized that the Briar Crownsprite could easily redirect their flames and use them to burn his own forces. As such, he summoned his Glutton Locusts.

A massive swarm of Glutton Locusts surged toward the Briar Crownsprite. Wherever the thorny whips and vines struck, the locusts simply devoured them. Their relentless feeding weakened the vines considerably, and many of the Glutton Locusts gained energy in the process.

Han Wu could see that the Skyreach Giant was a poor match for the Briar Crownsprite, so he ordered a swap. The Lust Umbral Demoness and Yinglong triggered Fusion Evolution once more. Combined with the Dark Courage Shield, they transformed into the Subcosm Dark Dragoness.

The Dark Dragoness activated War Dragon Form and charged the Briar Crownsprite in full combat gear. She shredded every vine and whip in her path before reaching the Briar Crownsprite and slamming her into the ground.

The World Tree possessed nearly limitless life force, and so did the Briar Crownsprite. Their fusion had virtually inexhaustible regenerative power. Even Han Wu found that difficult to overcome.

The Briar Crownsprite seemed convinced she couldn't lose. She could endure a hundred blows, a thousand, even ten thousand, and recover from every one of them. Han Wu's Digital Sprites had no such luxury. A single serious wound could spell the end.

Despite being pinned to the ground, the Briar Crownsprite showed no concern. She was already regenerating and planning her next attack.

The Dark Dragoness devised a solution. While holding the Briar Crownsprite down, she tore off one of her arms and flung it away. Fresh plant tissue immediately sprouted from the stump, and a new arm regrew in the blink of an eye.

The Dark Dragoness kept ripping off limbs and throwing them aside. What looked like a petty catfight was actually a calculated feeding strategy.

The Gluttony Heavenly Dog swallowed every severed limb through Moon Eater. The energy gained from digesting those limbs accumulated rapidly, pushing the Gluttony Heavenly Dog beyond its limits. It broke through from the Microcosm rank to the Subcosm rank in no time.

Now that it was stronger, Moon Eater didn't stop at severed limbs. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog swallowed the Briar Crownsprite whole. No matter how many thorny whips and vines the Briar Crownsprite produced, none could withstand the Heavenly Dog's stomach acid. It could corrode stars and moons, let alone a plant-type Digital Sprite.

After several cycles, the World Tree fused within the Briar Crownsprite was the first to falter. It could regenerate infinitely, but each time the Gluttony Heavenly Dog swallowed it, a portion of its power was absorbed. If this continued for a few thousand cycles, the Gluttony Heavenly Dog would rank up again, making escape from its stomach impossible.

The World Tree was afraid. It was genuinely terrified of nurturing its own nemesis. In the end, it surrendered to Han Wu. Even in defeat, it retained its dignity. It declared that, as the Will of the Sprite Civilization, it would never accept any demands from Han Wu. If he pushed further, it would file a complaint with the Gift God King and let her decide. It believed that Shaura would side with it for the sake of the Sprite Civilization's development.

What the World Tree didn't expect was Han Wu's complete lack of restraint. Instead of backing down, he ordered the Dark Dragoness to tear it apart again. The Gluttony Heavenly Dog eagerly feasted on its severed limbs and grew visibly healthier, its skinny frame filling out with vitality.

The World Tree's complaint to Shaura went nowhere. No reply ever came, and its hope turned to despair. It refused to believe that Shaura hadn't received its plea. She had simply chosen to leave it on read.

Han Wu delivered his ultimatum. "You've got two options. One, give me a World Tree's fruit. Two, I kill you, and the Sprite Civilization loses its World Tree. Pick one."

If the World Tree had tear ducts, it would have been sobbing.

"I can only produce one fruit per century!" it protested.

"So you're choosing death? Fine by me. Dark Dragoness, Heavenly Dog, finish it!" Han Wu ordered immediately.

The Dark Dragoness and the Gluttony Heavenly Dog advanced eagerly.

The World Tree finally gave up and howled, "I'll give it to you! It's just one fruit! Fine!"

It forced itself to break its own biological rules, burning through most of its life force to produce a fruit on the spot. The fruit ripened quickly, and the World Tree presented it to Han Wu.

He noticed that this one wasn't a bouncing, chubby baby like the last one. It was just a plain fruit, so he asked, "You're not trying to pass off a fake, are you?"

The World Tree was on the verge of tears. It had burned most of its life force to produce this fruit, and now it was being accused of offering a counterfeit? The insult was cruel!

Thankfully, the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King recognized the fruit immediately. It was clearly inferior to the previous one, which the World Tree had nurtured over a long period, but it was functional enough to serve its purpose.

The Wrath War Tyrannosprite King reluctantly ate it. Vines burst from its body as the Guardian Seal was erased. It was finally free, a Digital Sprite that was no longer bound to the World Tree. It could now honor its contract and serve Han Wu for a hundred years.

Han Wu turned back to the World Tree with a new demand. "My other native Digital Sprites want to leave the Sprite Civilization too. Do they also need to eat your fruits? Hurry up and produce a few hundred more for my forces."

The World Tree wanted to cry, but it had no tears. It was completely drained. Even if Han Wu squeezed it dry, it couldn't produce another fruit anytime soon. Besides, native Digital Sprites like the Greed Neo Vamdesprite didn't even need a fruit to leave. They could simply walk out.

The World Tree suspected that Han Wu was exploiting it purely for the sake of exploitation, but it had no proof.

In the end, the Gift God King intervened through a donation message and persuaded Han Wu to leave the World Tree alone.

The death sentence was lifted, but that didn't mean that the World Tree escaped without consequences. Han Wu declared that he would slaughter every World Tree guardian in the forest to teach the World Tree a painful lesson.

: Chapter 935

Chapter 935 - Han Wu Deserves It!

"Stop killing them, please, I'm begging you!" the World Tree wailed.

Its desperate cries couldn't stop Han Wu's resolve.

The Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King watched their former companions fall one after another. Sorrow weighed heavily on them, but neither made a move to stop Han Wu. They understood that the World Tree had brought this upon itself. It had abandoned its believers to save its own skin. Everything happening now was the consequence of that choice.

As the Digital Sprites were slaughtered, a flood of evolution and energy points poured into Han Wu's reserves. He finally had enough to complete the super ultimate evolution for the giant path.

Just as Han Wu was about to trigger the final evolution, Gu Bei arrived with his Digital Sprites. The two Tyrannosprite Kings moved to intercept him, but Han Wu waved them off. He wanted to see what Gu Bei thought he could accomplish.

"Han Wu, if I were you, I'd hand over the Giant Crest. You have no idea what it means to the Destruction Clan, or to the entire Divine Civilization," Gu Bei said.

Han Wu scoffed. "You're right. I don't. Why don't you enlighten me?"

Gu Bei ignored the mockery and continued calmly, "Thirty years ago, the Divine Civilization was at its peak. My great-grandfather, the Destruction God King, ushered in that era of prosperity."

"So?" Han Wu looked at Gu Bei with amusement, waiting for the rest of the performance.

“If we find the Destruction God King, the Divine Civilization can reclaim its former glory. The Giant Crest is the single most important tool for strengthening the Destruction Clan and making that possible.

“Han Wu, I’m giving you a chance to help the Destruction Clan. Hand over the Giant Crest. Once we’ve grown strong and found the lost Destruction God King, you’ll be celebrated as a hero of the entire Divine Civilization!” Gu Bei stood tall, as though refusing the offer would amount to treason.

After listening, Han Wu started clapping.

“There’s actually something I’ve never told you. I’m the Destruction God King. I just haven’t fully recovered my strength yet. Transfer me 10 million Divine Essence right now, and once I’m back to full power, I’ll make you Crown Prince of the entire Divine Civilization. How does that sound?” Han Wu delivered every word with a perfectly sincere expression.

Gu Bei’s face turned green. Han Wu was blatantly lying through his teeth while making a complete mockery of the Destruction Clan.

Gu Bei pointed at him furiously. “You... You’re mocking the Destruction God King!”

Han Wu dropped the act and snorted. “Your family gets to produce a Destruction God King, but I can’t be one? Did your family patent the title?

“The nerve of you, demanding my Giant Crest. Even if the Destruction God King were standing right here, he’d at least have to name a price. I’ve never heard of a God King shamelessly ordering a junior to hand over a treasure for free.”

The barrage of insults left Gu Bei’s face cycling between green and red.

“Then name your price. How much Divine Essence for the Giant Crest?” Gu Bei asked through clenched teeth.

“The Destruction Clan was the backbone of the Divine Civilization thirty years ago. Riding on your past glory must be exhausting. Tell you what. Give me the Destruction Jurisdiction, and the Giant Crest is yours. Fair trade, right?” Han Wu said casually.

That pushed Gu Bei over the edge. If the Destruction Clan still possessed the Destruction Jurisdiction, would it have fallen this far? Han Wu clearly had no intention of selling. Every word had been part of the game.

“Han Wu, remember this insult. The Destruction Clan will repay it a hundred times over,” Gu Bei threatened, then turned to leave with his Digital Sprites.

Han Wu had no intention of letting him leave that easily.

“You two, the young master of the Destruction Clan is leaving. Fire off a farewell salute, won’t you? That Gaia Force of yours should do nicely,” he told the two Tyrannosprite Kings.

They understood immediately. Two Gaia Force spheres shot toward Gu Bei’s retreating figure. Gu Bei wasn’t foolish enough to face two Subcosm attacks head-on. He forfeited the hunting event without hesitation and teleported out. Meanwhile, the Digital Sprites he left behind were blasted apart and reduced to scattered data.

With Gu Bei gone, Han Wu let out a long breath. “Finally, some peace and quiet. The air smells fresher without those flies buzzing around.”

The two Tyrannosprite Kings exhaled alongside him. They were beginning to realize that life under Han Wu had its perks. When something annoyed you, you could simply vaporize it. It was immensely satisfying.

With the nuisance out of the way, Han Wu openly produced the Giant Crest and loaded it into his giant evolution path. The moment the path lit up, the Destruction Clan’s dream of seizing the Giant Crest was extinguished for good.

Han Wu examined the super ultimate form that the evolution had unlocked.

[Mythic Titan (super ultimate, Subcosm rank). Skills: Mythic Power, Titan Body, Giant's Ancestor. Description: A powerful titan born of myth, carrying the strength to shatter heaven and earth.]

[Mythic Power: Awakens a Divine Jurisdiction ability tied to personal growth.]

[Titan Body: An extraordinarily resilient physique that can freely alter its size.]

[Giant's Ancestor: As the progenitor of all giants, it can wield every skill belonging to the giant race.]

Han Wu went numb after reading the stats. Every Mythic Titan was a Subcosm life form born with a Divine Jurisdiction. Han Wu suspected it wouldn’t be a fully developed Jurisdiction, but even an incomplete one was extraordinary. The moment a Mythic Titan came into existence, it would qualify to serve as a Major God in the Divine Civilization.

Titan Body granted an incredible physical foundation. Giant's Ancestor provided access to every giant skill in existence.

The three skills were simple yet devastatingly comprehensive. A thousand Mythic Titans would be enough to overturn the Divine Civilization’s entire power structure. Ten thousand would allow Han Wu to walk wherever he pleased throughout the known civilizations, and every civilization’s Will would have no choice but to smile and applaud as he walked past.

The Gift God King declared Han Wu the event's winner the moment the evolution path fully unlocked, even though other contestants were still competing.

Nobody watching the live broadcast or participating in the event raised a single objection. After all, Han Wu deserved it!

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

Chapter 936 - The Will of Evolution

Han Wu checked his remaining evolution points after receiving the notification that he would soon be leaving the Sprite Civilization. There weren't enough to unlock a full new evolution line, but there were enough to complete the ultimate evolution for his healing line.

After searching through the evolution tree, he settled on his choice.

[Blood Wraith (ultimate, King life form). Skills: Blood Siphon, Crimson Halo, Blood Possession. Description: A pure-support Digital Sprite that absorbs Blood Energy to heal injuries and can also function as a living blood supply.]

[Blood Siphon: Absorbs blood and stores energy.]

[Crimson Halo: Friendly targets within the halo receive Life Energy from the Blood Wraith, restoring injuries.]

[Blood Possession: The Blood Wraith enters a target's body through a wound, acting as replacement blood while repairing injuries from within.]

With that, Han Wu's evolution points were all spent. As his time in the event came to an end, he was teleported to a special space within the Sprite Civilization.

A familiar voice called out from behind him, "Han Wu, you really do keep delivering surprises."

Han Wu turned around to see the Gift God King Shaura approaching with an Evolution Blueprint in hand.

"Kid, you're the winner of this event," Shaura said, handing him the Evolution Blueprint. "Here's your reward."

The moment Han Wu touched it, he felt it draw something from him. It was collecting every evolution line he had created. Once it finished absorbing them, ten evolution lines appeared clearly on it: Self-Detonation, Locustman, Defense, Dragon, Mechanical, Healing, Holy, Gluttony, Dark, and Giant.

Each line felt familiar. These were all the lines he had built during his time in the Sprite Civilization. The units born from these lines would be treated as core races in his domain, meaning his divine realm would shift from a world of random species to one built around fixed, purpose-bred races. The diversity would decrease, but his overall combat strength would soar.

Unfortunately, these new units wouldn't appear overnight. Han Wu would still need to invest resources and time, guiding each new generation from Common locusts down one of the ten prescribed evolution paths.

After thanking the Gift God King Shaura and checking in with his teacher Saliya, Han Wu brought the Evolution Blueprint back to his divine realm.

Every existing law layered in his divine realm was broken down and absorbed into the Blueprint. Random Evolution, Ovipary, Assist, Divine Weapons, and more were all merged into a single unified system that covered every Microcosm under Han Wu's control.

This system was called the Will of Evolution.

Under the Will of Evolution, every newborn locust would grow according to Han Wu's prescribed evolution lines. Existing units would live as before, but as older generations naturally died out, these newer forces would eventually become the backbone of Han Wu's domain.

Beyond the Evolution Blueprint, Han Wu also brought back four powerful Digital Sprites. These weren't virtual summons created by energy points, but natives of the Sprite Civilization. Han Wu could bring them out because they were real living beings.

These four were the Sloth Machinedrasprite Fortress, the Greed Neo Vampsprite, the Pride Dark Tyrannosprite King, and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King.

Once inside Han Wu's divine realm, the four immediately noticed the different laws, but the thing that struck them most was actually Han Wu's strength.

All of Han Wu's abilities had been sealed while inside the Sprite Civilization, and he had seemed weak. With nothing suppressing him anymore, his Subcosm-rank strength was on full display. The two Tyrannosprite Kings sensed that Han Wu's power was stronger than their own.

"Settle in and get used to the environment. I've got something to take care of," Han Wu said before promptly vanishing.

The four Digital Sprites received the permissions Han Wu had set up for them. They were given considerable freedom as his elite forces. They could explore any Microcosm they wished, settle anywhere they liked, and request whatever resources they needed.

Han Wu could feed these four until they couldn't eat another bite.

While the Digital Sprites explored, Han Wu teleported to his Life Microcosm, which housed the Origin of Mutation's research lab.

The Origin of Mutation had sent a message the moment Han Wu returned. Its research on Kokkai Hanwu had reached the final stage, but the subject's lack of cooperation required Han Wu's help to come and intimidate it.

The Origin of Mutation had since replicated Kokkai Hanwu's mutant gene structure and could now cultivate embryonic offshoots of the nine great giants. These weren't as strong as the original, but they had remained solid options compared to other species.

When the Origin of Mutation heard about the Mythic Titan line that Han Wu had created, however, it immediately moved to terminate this research. Kokkai Hanwu's nine forms weren't even in the same league as a Mythic Titan.

The Origin of Mutation's usual procedure for scrapped research subjects was grim. It ground them into paste and fed them to newborn units. The stubbornly defiant Kokkai Hanwu instantly surrendered when he heard this, agreeing to do as the Origin of Mutation and Han Wu instructed from then on.

Han Wu couldn't help but feel a little sympathy as he gazed at the face identical to his own. Kokkai Hanwu had once been his body, after all. Nevertheless, he wasn't about to accept the surrender with just words alone, and he had the Epistians draw up nine ironclad contracts.

From that day onward, Kokkai Hanwu officially joined Han Wu's forces as the designated Commander of Giants.

The good news didn't stop there. The Soul Microcosm also sent word that the Underworld, which Han Wu had spent a fortune in Divine Essence and resources to build, was finally complete.

: Chapter 937

Chapter 937 - Trouble is Brewing

Han Wu teleported to the Soul Microcosm and finally laid eyes on the Underworld he had poured so much time and resources into building. The first thing he felt upon stepping inside was the high concentration of Spirit Aura.

This made sense, as the construction materials were Spirit Stones mined in the Giant Shadow Civilization, which were worth tens of millions of Divine Essence on their own.

The dense Spirit Aura nourished the souls stored here and prevented memory loss caused by soul degradation. As for why preserving those memories was important, well, Han Wu naturally had his reasons.

He regularly invaded other civilizations. Each one contained unique techniques and knowledge tied to its local laws. Much of that knowledge was destroyed in war, with physical records lost and lineages broken. In these situations, memories became invaluable.

Collecting souls and extracting key memories would thus allow Han Wu to effectively capture the cultural heritage of every civilization he conquered. While techniques could lose some effectiveness without the original civilization's laws to support them, they still provided crucial data.

Han Wu could even copy those memories and implant them into newborn souls, giving fresh units innate knowledge of powerful techniques from birth.

That was just one of the Underworld's minor features. The most important function was reincarnation, which was also tied to Han Wu's own Reincarnation ability. Basically, the system could select high-quality souls for rebirth across his Microcosms. Reborn with their past-life memories intact, these souls could grow rapidly and produce talent at an accelerated rate.

The Underworld could also refine complete souls into pure Spirit Aura. Stubborn, hostile, or low-value souls unfit for reincarnation could be melted down and recycled. Locusts bred fast, so not every newborn could carry a high-quality reincarnated soul. This essentially gave ordinary souls a use as well.

During his tour, Han Wu discovered a statue at the Underworld's core that bore a striking resemblance to himself. Upon calling over the officials in charge, he learned that the statue was the Underworld's emblem. Any official could invoke Reaper Seal through it to perform soul collection.

The statue also had a function that surprised even Han Wu. It could nurture a soul-related Divine Jurisdiction via the slow, steady absorption and refinement of souls. This took a long time, but required zero effort on Han Wu's part.

Han Wu was thrilled. The Jurisdiction born from the Underworld could help him grow even stronger one day. With that, he finished his inspection feeling satisfied. His only

regret was the lack of any large-scale war to fill the Underworld with souls and demonstrate its full capacity.

“Maybe I should ask my teacher if there’s a good civilization that needs conquering.” Han Wu chuckled, deciding to visit Xu Hai back at the academy.

When he arrived, Xu Hai was busy in his office, processing a flood of applications to join the Wisdom Faction. Han Wu’s performance in the hunting event had given the faction explosive publicity, and its ranking had climbed like a rocket since its founding just a few months ago, already reaching twenty-third on the Divine Civilization’s faction rankings. They were a dark horse indeed.

Experts were predicting they would break into the top ten within a year. Xu Hai knew that most of the credit belonged to Han Wu.

The longer he mentored his student, the fonder he became, so much so that the thought of adopting him had crossed his mind more than once, or failing that, letting Han Wu adopt him.

Of course, Han Wu, being a respectful and upstanding young man, would never allow such a thing. The generational math alone was absurd. If he called Xu Hai “teacher” while Xu Hai called him “father,” Han Wu would technically become his own grandfather.

Xu Hai shook the ridiculous thought away, smiling as his student approached. “Han Wu, come sit. What have you been up to these past few days?”

Han Wu summed up his experiences in refining his True Martial Jurisdiction, competing in the hunting event, and cultivating units. Xu Hai listened patiently, offering guidance wherever Han Wu ran into gaps in his understanding.

Although the Wisdom God King’s practical strength was not the greatest, he was undeniably one of the foremost authorities in theory and skill analysis within the entire Divine Civilization. Many of Han Wu’s lingering questions found answers under Xu Hai’s guidance.

Their conversation was interrupted by a knock at the door.

“Teacher, I have an urgent report,” He Xu called from outside.

“Come in,” Xu Hai said.

He Xu pushed the door open and smiled when he saw Han Wu. He was pleased with his junior. Their recent collaboration had been more profitable than years of prior effort combined.

“What did you find?” Xu Hai asked.

He Xu got straight to the point. “I’ve been tracking the Destruction Clan and discovered that they’ve been secretly contacting the War Faction.”

Han Wu raised an eyebrow. As he had clashed with the Destruction Clan during the event, the Wisdom Faction’s investigation into them almost certainly had something to do with him.

“I’d like to hear about this too, sir,” Han Wu said.

“You should know. Better safe than sorry,” Xu Hai replied. “While you were in the hunting event, the Destruction Clan sent someone to ask me to persuade you to hand over the Giant Crest. I refused. After that, I noticed them making moves behind the scenes that seemed aimed at you, so I had He Xu investigate. I never thought it would actually come up positive.”

He Xu nodded. “I suspect the Destruction Clan is planning to team up with the War Faction against Han Wu, or possibly against the Wisdom Faction as a whole.”

Xu Hai frowned. Even without the Butcher and Evilspawn, the War Faction remained firmly in the Divine Civilization’s top ten factions. Its foundations ran deep. If it declared war on the Wisdom Faction, the situation would be dire.

While the three of them were working through countermeasures, Xu Hai’s communicator lit up with an incoming call from Su Lan, the Goddess of Enchantment.

Feeling somewhat awkward in front of his two students, he answered the call.

“Xu Hai, something terrible has happened,” she said with clear urgency. “The God King of Darkness has fallen!”

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

: Chapter 938

Chapter 938 - Withdrawal Request

While Xu Hai’s call was ongoing, Han Wu also received a call from Sun Qingnian, which he picked up immediately.

“Han Wu, I just learned something that’s going to shake the entire Divine Civilization. The divine war between the Dark Faction and the Light Faction, which has been going on for fifty years, ended twenty minutes ago. The God King of Darkness has fallen!”

Having just heard it from Su Lan, Han Wu was not taken by surprise. “I just found out too.”

“Do you know why the evenly matched divine war suddenly ended today?” Sun Qingnian asked.

Han Wu raised an eyebrow. “You’ve got insider information, don’t you? Stop holding back and just tell me.”

“My informant says two outside forces barged into the war. The first was a special unit sent by the War Faction. They crushed several of the Dark Faction’s ace squads with overwhelming force. The second was the Destruction Clan. Unconfirmed reports claim that the God King of Darkness died at the Destruction Clan’s hands.”

Han Wu hissed as the pieces fell into place. The War Faction and the Destruction Clan had intervened in the Light Faction’s divine war. Their goal was most likely to pull the Light Faction into an alliance.

All three of those forces had a grudge against Han Wu, and he couldn’t shake the foreboding feeling that he was the next target on their list.

He didn’t doubt Sun Qingnian’s intel for a second. Although his friend was reckless and fickle when it came to romance, he was actually loyal to the point of taking a blade for a friend. Any information he passed along had been verified.

With that, Sun Qingnian hung up. Xu Hai’s call ended soon after as well. The Wisdom God King’s face was pale.

“Sir, we have to go rescue her!” He Xu said from the side.

During the call, he had heard the Goddess of Enchantment say that the Light Faction’s forces were hunting down the Dark Faction’s remnants. Su Lan could be in serious danger if no one intervened.

Xu Hai’s expression was terrifying. Veins of red crept across his eyes as he fought to keep his emotions in check.

“The Wisdom Faction can’t get involved,” he finally said, voice coming out low and strained.

He Xu shot to his feet. “Why not?!”

Having followed Xu Hai for years, He Xu naturally knew his teacher’s temperament well. The Wisdom God King was no coward.

“If I were just Xu Hai, I could go,” Xu Hai said. “But right now, I’m the Wisdom God King and the leader of the Wisdom Faction. I have a responsibility to every member of this faction. I can’t drag the Wisdom Faction into the conflict between the Light and Dark Factions.”

Han Wu could feel the urgency and anguish radiating off his teacher. Walking over, he grabbed a sheet of paper from the desk, scribbled a few words, and slapped it down.

Xu Hai picked it up with trembling hands. The paper stated two simple words: Withdrawal Request. Han Wu was requesting to leave the Wisdom Faction.

“Han Wu, this situation is too complicated. The God King of Darkness’s sudden fall is a sign that something bigger is going on. I won’t allow you to get involved!” Xu Hai said firmly.

Han Wu stood his ground. “Sir, some things aren’t so easily avoided. I’ve already made enemies of both the War Faction and the Destruction Clan. They’re not going to let me go. I’m not running, and I won’t run. If I leave the Wisdom Faction now, they can’t use me as an excuse to come after you. This isn’t just about helping you. The Dark Faction has been good to me. The God King of Darkness helped me when I was in trouble. Even though he’s fallen, I haven’t forgotten that debt.”

“Han Wu...” Xu Hai’s voice cracked.

What a kid, he thought to himself. What have I done to deserve a student this good?

“Wait for my good news, sir.” Han Wu turned to leave.

“Hold on,” Xu Hai called out. “I’m not comfortable with you going alone.”

He wiped the corner of his eye, then opened his interface for the faction and tapped through a series of commands.

Less than a minute later, furious banging came from the door. It swung open to reveal Jia Gui, face twisted with rage, one hand still pounding the air and the other holding his pants up. He had left in such a rush that he hadn’t finished getting dressed.

“Xu Hai, what the hell gave you the right to kick me out of the Wisdom Faction?” Jia Gui demanded. “I’ll have you—”

His tirade came to an abrupt halt when he spotted Han Wu standing to the side, the words dying in his throat as if he had been grabbed by the neck.

“Han Wu, buddy! You’re here too,” he said, his furious expression melting into a smile. “If I’d known, I wouldn’t have come.”

Han Wu looked at Jia Gui, then back at Xu Hai. “Sir, you want him to come with me?”

Jia Gui had no idea what was going on. All he knew was that he’d been kicked from the faction while sitting on the toilet. Life in the Wisdom Faction was good, filled with fine food, ample resources, and adoring students. Losing all of that was unthinkable.

When he heard Han Wu’s question, he realized Xu Hai was likely assigning him to work alongside Han Wu, and his legs went weak at the thought.

“Jia Gui recently ascended as a Major God,” Xu Hai said with a nod. “His progress has been extraordinary, especially after absorbing the Concealment Jurisdiction. I’m confident he’ll be a major asset on this mission.”

Han Wu glanced at Jia Gui. Across their several collaborations, Jia Gui had proven unreliable in more ways than one, but his luck was consistently absurd.

“Alright, Jia Gui and I will head out together,” Han Wu agreed, pulling a 3-Star Divine belt from his divine realm and tossing it to Jia Gui to hold up his pants.

Jia Gui caught the belt with his gnarled, bark-like hands, sighing inwardly as he did. Accepting a belt from Han Wu was the same as boarding his bandit ship. It was anyone’s guess if he’d make it out alive.

Han Wu took the lead as the pair made to leave. Jia Gui took the opportunity to linger and silently mouth a message at Xu Hai through the open office door. So I used a few of your resources. You didn’t have to sell me to your student. Thanks a lot!

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

Chapter 939 - Destination: Paradise Island

Jia Gui anxiously followed Han Wu. “Han Wu, buddy, where exactly are we going? Who are we fighting this time?”

Tagging along with Han Wu pretty much guaranteed trouble. The question was merely the target. Han Wu only ever played for the highest stakes.

“Potential opponents include the Light Faction, the War Faction, and the Destruction Clan,” Han Wu said over his shoulder.

Jia Gui swallowed hard. “Please let it be the Destruction Clan. They’re fewer in number.”

“It’s all three at once,” Han Wu clarified.

Jia Gui’s heart rate spiked. “How many on our side?”

Han Wu pointed at himself, then at Jia Gui.

“Just the two of us?!” Jia Gui asked in disbelief. He knew Han Wu played it bold, but this was another level entirely.

“Relax. We’re not trying to win a fight. We’re rescuing someone. Get them out, and we’re done,” Han Wu explained, sparing Jia Gui a complete meltdown.

Jia Gui let out a breath. He had genuinely thought Han Wu was planning to take on three factions solo. “Where are we headed?”

Han Wu contacted Sun Qingnian before answering, “Paradise Island.”

“Paradise Island!” Jia Gui’s legs nearly gave out.

He’d been around long enough to know the place by reputation. It was known as the closest point to heaven. Han Wu was dragging him on a one-way trip to the afterlife.

“Can I sit this one out?” Jia Gui asked weakly.

“Sure. Either you come with me to Paradise Island, or I send you to paradise. Your choice.”

Jia Gui gulped. “I know the way. I’ll lead.”

Paradise Island was a foreign civilization near the Divine Civilization. Light, fire, and lightning attributes were massively amplified inside, while other attributes were suppressed to varying degrees. Dark attributes in particular couldn’t reach even ten percent of their normal output.

These conditions had fueled rampant growth among the local creatures. Sage life forms were everywhere, and Heavenrender threats were a dime a dozen. Even powerful God Kings avoided the place unless absolutely necessary. It was known as the closest point to heaven for a reason.

After roughly ten hours of transit, Han Wu and Jia Gui arrived near Paradise Island. They hadn’t teleported directly into it because the Light Faction had locked down every teleportation station on the island. Large numbers of their faction members guarded every entry point.

From their ship, Han Wu spotted a God, backed by over a dozen humanoid figures draped in black cloaks, at their nearest entry point. Based on their auras, Han Wu estimated each of them at the Microcosm level.

One God and over a dozen Microcosm-rank life forms manned a single checkpoint. It seemed the Light Faction was dead serious about wiping out the Dark Faction's remnants.

This didn't intimidate Han Wu. He was ready to deploy his forces and fight through. Even dozens of Microcosm life forms were no problem for his units at this point.

Jia Gui stopped him. "If you start a fight here, you'll draw guards from other sectors. Worse, you'll alert the entire Light Faction that you're here to rescue people. I don't think that's smart."

Han Wu gave Jia Gui an appraising look. For once, something sensible had come out of that mouth. "Then what do you suggest?"

"We sneak in. I've gotten a basic handle on the Concealment Jurisdiction. I can mask both of us and slip past the guards without them noticing a thing."

Han Wu's view of Jia Gui went through a sudden revision. The man was evolving into a legitimate support asset. His progress genuinely surprised Han Wu.

"Lead the way," Han Wu agreed.

They disembarked and approached the entry point on foot. Jia Gui activated Concealment Jurisdiction, wrapping both him and Han Wu in its effects as they crept toward the guards.

They passed right through without triggering a single alarm. While they passed by, Han Wu tried to peek at the figures under the black cloaks, but saw nothing. They were wrapped fairly tightly. Since time was of the essence, he put a pin in his curiosity and continued inward.

Han Wu immediately felt something restricting him the moment they set foot on Paradise Island. He tried to connect to his Microcosms but got no response. Some kind of barrier had been laid over the island, preventing him from summoning his units.

This was devastating to any other regular Gods from the Divine Civilization.

Testing his other abilities and finding them all functional, Han Wu breathed a sigh of relief. Even without his units, his personal strength was more than enough to handle anything on the island.

Jia Gui, by contrast, was on edge. Paradise Island's fearsome reputation had him jumping at shadows. One wrong move, and they could attract the attention of some wild beast.

Han Wu was speechless. Jia Gui was still a Microcosm life form. Setting aside his subpar skills in fighting, he could at least use the strength of a Heavenrender life form during a fight. There was no reason to panic.

Ignoring Jia Gui's jumpiness, Han Wu continued exploring the island. They were ten kilometers in when they encountered their first attack.

A fifty-meter python, as thick as a barrel, lunged at them, and Jia Gui instantly dove behind Han Wu.

Han Wu felt embarrassed on his behalf.

The python was only at the Sage rank. Jia Gui could've punched it to death. It appeared he had forgotten he was a powerful fighter beyond the World rank. He kept trying to run when there was an enemy, and would only fight if cornered. Deciding to help Jia Gui grow a spine, Han Wu grabbed him by the collar and tossed him straight into the python's gaping mouth.

He watched as Jia Gui was swallowed whole.

: Chapter 940

Chapter 940 - The Magic Compass

About three minutes later, Jia Gui clawed his way out of the python's corpse, drenched in blood and cursing under his breath. When he saw Han Wu's bright, handsome face, however, he wisely shut his mouth.

"No need to thank me. It's what I do," Han Wu said before Jia Gui could speak.

Jia Gui wanted to commit murder. If he could beat Han Wu, he would've already tried. Unfortunately, all he could do was swallow his rage and follow Han Wu deeper into the island to search for the Dark Faction's survivors.

The native life forms were genuinely powerful. Every few kilometers brought another dangerous encounter. Han Wu established a simple rule: Jia Gui would handle anything below Sage rank, while Han Wu would take care of anything that was Sage rank and above.

The kills were profitable. Han Wu's Reincarnation ability dragged the slain creatures' souls into the Underworld. On top of that, his Slaughter Jurisdiction triggered Sacrifice

with every powerful kill. The rewards so far included resources useful for strengthening his units, but nothing Han Wu needed immediately.

With Han Wu pressuring him, Jia Gui was forced into fighting proactively. His speed was excellent, and the Concealment Jurisdiction let him mask his presence. He was a natural assassin. The only problem was that he lacked a proper weapon.

Han Wu started guiding Jia Gui to shape his Divine Authority into a dagger. His technique was crude, but Han Wu believed his sharp mind would refine it with practice.

Three days passed with no sign of the Dark Faction's survivors, but Han Wu resolutely pressed on. One day, after killing a Heavenrender life form, his Slaughter Jurisdiction activated and presented him with three options.

[Option one: Blood Gem. A valuable gemstone that grants lifesteal properties when embedded in equipment.]

[Option two: Magic Compass. Points the user toward whatever they're thinking of. Three uses remaining.]

[Option three: Crimson Queen. A 7-Star Divine longsword with fire attributes.]

None of these items was particularly strong, but the second option perfectly served his present needs, so Han Wu chose the Magic Compass without hesitation. It would make locating the Dark Faction's survivors significantly easier.

Focusing his mind, he pictured Su Lan's face. The compass needle spun and locked onto a direction. Xu Hai could rest easy once Han Wu found Su Lan.

Han Wu pocketed the compass and set off with Jia Gui.

Five hundred kilometers ahead, large numbers of black-cloaked figures were combing the area. Every single one radiated Microcosm-rank pressure. Commanding them was Elina, a direct descendant of the Light God King and the Daughter of Light.

After her defeat at Han Wu's hands, Elina had spent years training within her family. With both massive resources and elite instruction at her back, she had reached the Major God level and awakened an incomplete version of the Light Jurisdiction, matching her ancestor. She was the family's most celebrated prodigy.

The memory of losing to Han Wu, however, had never faded. It was a thorn lodged in her heart that periodically ached. She had sworn to tear Han Wu apart if she ever met him again. For now, though, she focused on hunting the Dark Faction's remnants.

Finding half a footprint in the dirt, she ordered, "The remnants are nearby. Search every inch."

The print was clearly human, fresh enough to have been made within the last two hours. The only humans on Paradise Island were the two factions, and Elina had already confirmed it wasn't from her own side.

She led her forces in pursuit. As soon as she left, three figures rose from beneath the ground.

"They're finally gone," the shortest figure said.

"If they don't find us nearby, they'll double back. When does this end?" asked a melodic second voice. Were Han Wu present, he would have immediately recognized it as belonging to the Goddess of Enchantment, Su Lan.

"Su Lan, you're close with the Wisdom Faction. Ask them for help. I'll repay the favor after I become the God King of Darkness," the third figure said.

Su Lan glanced at the speaker. His name was An Yunian, a Major God of equal standing to her and the God King of Darkness's own son and heir. If only his personality were better.

He kept asking her to call for someone from the Wisdom Faction to come and help. There were many factions other than the Light Faction hunting for them. It would be catastrophic if the Wisdom God King got dragged into this, but An Yunian still kept pestering her about it.

"You! Are you even listening to me?" An Yunian demanded, raising his voice.

Visibly pissed, Su Lan snapped, "An Yunian, you have no right to order me around. Forget becoming the God King of Darkness. Even if you already were one, I respected the old God King's character, not the title."

"You! My father's body hasn't even cooled, and you already refuse to listen to me? You're probably already itching to jump to another faction, aren't you?" An Yunian accused.

He had long considered the Dark Faction his personal inheritance and Su Lan his woman. Learning that she and Xu Hai had grown close drove him mad.

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

: Chapter 941

Chapter 941 - Finding Su Lan

“Whether I join the Wisdom Faction is none of your business,” Su Lan said flatly. “The Dark Faction dissolved the moment the old God King fell. I’m a free agent now. I can go wherever I want. You have no say in my decisions.”

This naturally pissed An Yunian off. Even when in front of others, this woman refused to give him an inch. He raised his hand to strike her, but dark-attribute attacks saw a ninety percent suppression rate on Paradise Island, and the amount of power he could gather was laughable. It couldn’t scratch Su Lan, just push her further away.

The short Major God quickly stepped between them and talked Su Lan down. “Wait, Su Lan, please forgive the young master. The Dark Faction is in shambles, and the young master is just too agitated to think straight.”

Sighing, Su Lan decided to let it go for the sake of their shared history. An Yunian, on the other hand, was already scheming ways to bring Su Lan to heel.

Meanwhile, Elina and her squad hadn’t gone far before she stopped. She suspected the half-footprint was a deliberate decoy, and that the Dark Faction survivors were still hiding in the area she had just left.

Do you think faking half a footprint can fool Elina? she thought to herself. You guys are underestimating Elina.

She relayed this suspicion to the Light God King, who immediately ordered his forces to flood Paradise Island with reinforcements. They would seal the area Elina had identified and eliminate every last survivor.

Han Wu, still en route, noticed that the path ahead was full of Light Faction units all heading in the same direction he was. This worried him, but it also confirmed that the Magic Compass was pointing in the right direction.

He picked up the pace. With Jia Gui on his back, maintaining the Concealment Jurisdiction to mask his presence, the two of them moved through the enemy lines like ghosts.

After covering five hundred kilometers, a second use of the Magic Compass narrowed down the location. Han Wu arrived at the spot but found no one. There were no visible hiding places either. They had to be underground.

Jia Gui volunteered before Han Wu could start digging. Tunneling was his specialty, honed through years of hiding and fleeing. After identifying the right spot, he dug straight down.

Fifty meters below the surface, he broke into an underground cavern. Inside were dozens of people from the Divine Civilization. They initially mistook Jia Gui for a Light Faction pursuer and attacked.

Han Wu dropped in just in time to neutralize the incoming attacks with his Conversion Jurisdiction before announcing his identity and purpose.

Many of the Dark Faction members recognized his name and knew about his ties to the Wisdom Faction and the God King of Darkness. His arrival excited them.

Su Lan came forward to greet him. Seeing that she was safe, Han Wu let out a breath and said, “Ma’am, Xu Hai sent me to bring you home.”

This one sentence summed up Xu Hai’s feelings for her.

Su Lan was deeply moved, but also worried. Paradise Island was crawling with enemies. That Han Wu had gotten in was already a miracle in itself. How could he get over sixty Dark Faction members out?

Han Wu was thinking the same thing. Sixty people couldn’t move unnoticed. The Light Faction would spot them instantly.

While everyone puzzled over the problem, An Yunian stepped forward, expression slightly sour at his spotlight and attention being stolen with Han Wu’s arrival. Nevertheless, he kept that resentment to himself. He needed Han Wu’s help to escape.

“Han Wu, you risked your life to save us. On behalf of the Dark Faction, I thank you. As for how to get out, I actually have an idea,” An Yunian said.

Every Dark Faction member perked up, though slightly annoyed that he’d been sitting on this the whole time.

Han Wu was interested. “Explain.”

“The Light Faction has locked down all spatial abilities on Paradise Island. No one can open anything using spatial abilities or even summon their units. My Shade Jurisdiction, however, can override the barrier and carve out a space large enough to hold everyone. There’s one catch, though. The space has to be anchored to someone’s shadow, and that person can’t enter the space themselves. If you let me attach the shadow space to your shadow, you could carry all of us out.”

“If you have this shadow space, why didn’t you carry everyone out yourself?” Han Wu asked.

An Yunian froze. It was true. He absolutely could have done it. The problem was that exposing himself on Paradise Island, where his dark attribute was crippled, would have painted a target on his back. The native creatures and the Light Faction’s hunters would’ve surely killed him long before he could escape, so he had never considered it.

Han Wu's blunt question made things awkward for him. Having no answer, An Yunian said nothing.

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

: Chapter 942

Chapter 942 - Breaking Out

Seeing An Yunian's expression, Han Wu realized that he had asked an inappropriate question. For the sake of the late God King of Darkness, he changed the subject. "On my way here, I noticed a large number of units from the Light Faction converging here. We need to move now."

Everyone panicked. The failed divine war had already drained them. Being cornered on Paradise Island, the one place that suppressed them most, had pushed them to their limits. The fact that the Light Faction was closing in meant the entire Dark Faction was on the verge of truly being uprooted. If not for Han Wu's warning, they wouldn't have known until it was too late.

"Han Wu, please help the Dark Faction," An Yunian pleaded. "As the future God King of Darkness, I will never forget this debt!"

Han Wu nodded. Although his primary goal was retrieving Su Lan, he also had the secondary one of rescuing the rest of the Dark Faction. It was naturally best if he could achieve both in one fell swoop.

"Then let's not waste time. Do it now," Han Wu said.

An Yunian activated his Shade Jurisdiction, and pure Dark Energy poured into his shadow, expanding it until it covered all the Dark Faction members. One by one, they sank into the shadows and entered the constructed space.

Finally, An Yunian stepped onto Han Wu's shadow. His shadow merged with Han Wu's, completing the attachment. The entire Dark Faction was now hitching a ride on Han Wu.

Han Wu had never seen a Divine Jurisdiction like this before. The Divine Civilization really was full of hidden talents. He called Jia Gui, and the two of them climbed back up through the tunnel.

The moment they surfaced, Han Wu sensed massive numbers of life forms closing in from every direction, combing the area for the Dark Faction's hiding spot. Fortunately, they hadn't found it yet.

Han Wu signaled Jia Gui to activate his Concealment Jurisdiction, perfectly masking their presence. The only drawback was that the shadow beneath him was far too large. Jia Gui couldn't hide it completely with his level of mastery.

The resulting sight was bizarre. An enormous dark shadow zipped across an otherwise empty stretch of open ground.

Han Wu didn't have the luxury of getting caught up in details like this. As long as he moved fast enough to clear the area before anyone could connect the dots, it wouldn't matter.

Charging forward at full speed, he blew through the first line of Light Faction units in the blink of an eye. These were regular units with limited perception, so he easily slipped past without notice.

The real challenge was the second layer of Microcosm-rank black-cloaked fighters and Major Gods all actively scanning for the Dark Faction's survivors.

Han Wu needed to be extra careful. Drawing on his Duel Jurisdiction, he activated his Duel God Physique. On top of that, he activated the True Martial Jurisdiction to supercharge his muscles for maximum explosive speed.

He took a deep breath, then launched himself forward at a full sprint with Jia Gui under his arm. Jia Gui clamped both hands over his mouth and nose, terrified that the sheer speed would force a sound out of him.

They punched through the second encirclement. The black-cloaked figures and the supervising Major Gods obliviously continued their search.

Han Wu sighed with relief. The greatest challenge was behind them. All that remained was clearing Paradise Island's outer perimeter. Once they were off the island, Han Wu and the Dark Faction members could reconnect with their divine realms and summon their units. Their ability to defend themselves would skyrocket.

Maintaining top speed, Han Wu ran toward the island's edge. The Dark Faction members sensed that they had cleared the encirclement from inside the shadow space and celebrated.

As far as they were concerned, the worst was over. As long as they made it out of Paradise Island, they could at least fight if the Light Faction's forces discovered them.

An Yunian's mood shifted the moment the danger passed. It was his Shade Jurisdiction that had made this escape possible. Without it, most of the people in this space would've been left in that cavern to die. This thought gave him a sense of superiority and power over everyone present.

He glanced at Su Lan. A single thought was all it would take to eject her from the shadow space. Forced out into the open, she would face one of two fates: be torn apart by Paradise Island's native creatures or hunted by the Light Faction. Either way, she would die.

An Yunian's lips curled. Today, he would make Su Lan submit.

"Su Lan!" he called out.

The Dark Faction members looked up in confusion. Why was he singling her out at a time like this?

"You said the Dark Faction dissolved after my father died. If you're not a member of the Dark Faction, why should you enjoy the benefits of one? I'm a kind man, though. If you swear loyalty to me, I'll let you stay in my shadow space. Otherwise... I don't need to spell out what happens."

Su Lan knew An Yunian was exploiting the situation to force her into submission, but she held her ground. After all, she hadn't backed down from him before Han Wu arrived, and she certainly wasn't about to start now.

"An Yunian, get this through your head. The person carrying everyone to safety right now calls me ma'am. Do you really think you're in a position to threaten me?"

An Yunian scoffed. "Stupid woman. Han Wu calls you that because of your relationship with the Wisdom God King. He cares about Xu Hai, not you, whereas I'm the future master of the Dark Faction. I represent the entire faction. What's one expendable woman compared to that?"

The surrounding Dark Faction members nodded along. The choice between an entire faction or a single woman was obvious.

"You have one choice: submit to me, or sever your relationship with the Dark Faction!"

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

Chapter 943 - Thrown the First Punch

Faced with An Yunian's threats, Su Lan showed no sign of hesitation or willingness to compromise. "If the Dark Faction's future is in your hands, then I'd rather leave it altogether. From this day forward, I'll have nothing to do with the Dark Faction ever again!"

An Yunian was so furious that veins bulged across his forehead. "Fine. Since you've chosen to leave the Dark Faction, there's no place for you here anymore. When you're out there getting torn apart by wild beasts or tortured by the Light Faction, don't regret this decision!"

"I won't!" Su Lan declared.

An Yunian immediately moved to expel her from the shadow space.

At that moment, more than a dozen members of the Dark Faction stepped forward to intervene, pleading on Su Lan's behalf.

"Young Master An, you can't just abandon Su Lan on Paradise Island like this. She has contributed so much to the Dark Faction. Even if she has chosen to leave, the least we can do is bring her out of here safely."

"Young Lord, the Goddess of Enchantment is speaking out of grief over the God King of Darkness' death. If you throw her out now, it's no different from killing her."

"An Yunian, if you insist on kicking Su Lan out, then I'm leaving too!"

Instead of making him reconsider, their pleas only fueled his killing intent. "How wonderful. You really are the elite my father cultivated. His corpse isn't even cold yet, and you're already defying my orders to defend some woman who's screaming about leaving the faction. My Dark Faction has no need for traitors like you!"

With a single thought, An Yunian expelled Su Lan and every member who had spoken up for her from the shadow space.

Han Wu had been sprinting at breakneck speed when several figures suddenly tumbled out of his shadow. Among them was his mentor's wife, Su Lan. He slammed on the brakes and stopped. Jia Gui, who had been slung over his shoulder, flew five meters from the abrupt stop.

Han Wu ignored Jia Gui and turned to Su Lan. "What happened?"

An Yunian poked his head out of Han Wu's shadow and answered instead. "Don't worry about it, Brother Han Wu. These people left the Dark Faction on their own. No need to concern yourself with whether they live or die. Let's keep moving."

Han Wu frowned, dismissed An Yunian's words entirely, and approached Su Lan. "Ma'am, what's going on?"

Su Lan glared at An Yunian's head protruding from Han Wu's shadow. "We left the Dark Faction, so we were kicked out of the shadow space."

"See, Brother Han Wu? She admitted it herself. They're no longer Dark Faction members. You really don't need to bother with them. Just get us safely off Paradise Island," An Yunian said confidently. "As the future Darkness God King, I will never forget what you've done for the Dark Faction."

Han Wu turned back toward An Yunian and flashed a bright, cheerful grin. "The future God King of Darkness, huh? Kiss my ass!"

Han Wu stomped down hard on his own shadow, and the shadow space attached to it shattered on impact. An Yunian and the rest of the Dark Faction members were forced out of the shadows and into the open.

An Yunian was mortified. "Brother Han Wu, what is the meaning of this?"

"Who are you calling brother? Who's your brother? Who am I to call myself a brother to the future God King of Darkness? Give me a break," Han Wu said.

"Han Wu, I'd advise you not to burn any bridges. The Dark Faction may have lost this battle, but it's still ten times the size of the Wisdom Faction. I'm giving you a chance to help the Dark Faction here. Don't push your luck!" An Yunian's voice was menacing, as though refusing to help them would be Han Wu's greatest loss.

Han Wu scoffed and turned back to Su Lan. "Ma'am, let me get you off Paradise Island first."

Su Lan felt a surge of satisfaction as Han Wu stood up for her. She finally understood why Xu Hai valued him so highly. He spoke well, acted with integrity, and even she, his *Ma'am*, had been won over.

"Han Wu, is there any way you can bring all of us out together?" Su Lan asked.

The dozen or so people behind her had been expelled from the shadow space precisely because they had spoken up for her. She couldn't be as heartless as An Yunian.

Those former Dark Faction members were deeply moved. They all felt that they had made the right choice. Following Su Lan was far better than following An Yunian.

Before Han Wu could respond, An Yunian mocked them from a distance. "You idiots, you're counting on him to get you out? Does he even have the ability? With his strength, he'll only be able to take Su Lan. The more people he brings, the greater the chance of

being spotted. Dragging along a bunch of dead weight is a death sentence. Don't look at me like that. I'm telling you the truth. You guys are gullible idiots!"

An Yunian's taunts drew Han Wu's attention. Since An Yunian had already thrown the first punch, Han Wu saw no reason to hold back.

"Is your stupidity hereditary, or did you develop it yourself? When the God King of Darkness decided to have kids, did he throw away the baby and raise the placenta instead?" Han Wu jeered.

"Han Wu, I'd advise you to show me some respect. I am the future God King of Darkness!" An Yunian shouted.

Han Wu shook his head. "If you become the God King of Darkness, the Dark Faction will never see the light of day."

An Yunian was livid, but he quickly composed himself. "I see. You're just jealous of me. Jealous that I'm better than you. Even without your help, I can use my Shade Jurisdiction to bring every member off Paradise Island. Can you do the same?"

That remark unsettled the former Dark Faction members behind Su Lan. Very few abilities could open pocket spaces under a spatial lockdown. Now that their relationship with An Yunian had completely fallen apart, asking him for help was out of the question. Escaping Paradise Island on their own strength alone was nothing more than a pipe dream. They were truly screwed.

Han Wu let out a snort of laughter.

"What are you laughing at? Stop laughing!" An Yunian barked, certain that Han Wu was mocking him.

"It's just a shadow space. What's the big deal?" Han Wu replied.

Su Lan's eyes widened. "Han Wu, do you have the Shade Jurisdiction too?"

Han Wu shook his head. "No."

Su Lan's expression fell. If Han Wu didn't have the Shade Jurisdiction, what was he talking about?

"What I do have is an ability that can copy the Shade Jurisdiction's effects." Han Wu muttered as he activated Replicate.

His aura shifted immediately, becoming strikingly similar to An Yunian's. When An Yunian had attached his shadow to Han Wu's, he had already fulfilled the contact

requirement for Replicate. As a precaution, Han Wu had copied An Yunian's Jurisdiction. Still, he hadn't expected to need it so soon.

"See? Shade Jurisdiction. I've got it now." As he spoke, his shadow expanded rapidly and engulfed Su Lan and the former Dark Faction members. One by one, they sank into the darkness.

An Yunian stared in shock. It took him a long moment to recover before he pointed at Han Wu and demanded, "How do you have the Shade Jurisdiction? That's my Jurisdiction!"

Han Wu scoffed and dropped into a sprinter's stance. Jia Gui dusted himself off, hopped onto Han Wu's shoulder without needing to be told, and resumed his role as a portable Concealment charm.

"I wish your Dark Faction all the best," Han Wu said, glancing back at An Yunian. "Assuming you make it off Paradise Island alive."

He shot forward like an arrow toward the outer perimeter.

As Han Wu disappeared, the native creatures caught the scent of An Yunian and the other weakened members and came swarming in.

An Yunian had no choice but to gather what remained of the Dark Faction and flee, though they moved at a painfully slow pace compared to Han Wu.

Chapter 944 - Meeting Elina Again

The Light Faction's scouting parties sent back a report. They had discovered an underground cavern where the Dark Faction remnants had been hiding, complete with clear signs of long-term habitation.

The cavern was empty now, however. The Dark Faction remnants appeared to have slipped past the perimeter, likely not long ago.

Upon receiving the report, the Light Faction assembled a massive force of Gods and their units to surround Paradise Island with multiple layers of encirclement. The Light God King issued a direct order to eliminate every last Dark Faction remnant.

This was the perfect opportunity to wipe out the Dark Faction once and for all. If every remnant was killed, the Light Faction could enjoy decades of uncontested growth. Its ranking within the Divine Civilization was guaranteed to rise even higher.

After receiving the Light God King's command, Elina rushed to the outer perimeter of Paradise Island and summoned numerous units to reinforce the blockade.

Han Wu's superior speed brought him to the outer perimeter first. From a distance, he could already see the Light Faction's units surrounding the area. The sheer concentration of light-attribute life forms produced a blinding golden radiance that stung his eyes even from afar.

If he was able to summon his own units, he wouldn't be worried. Unfortunately, he couldn't connect to his divine realm right now. All those elite troops sitting idle inside it were useless to him here.

Han Wu was confident he could fight his way out alone, but it would require him to go all out. The moment he did that, the Shade Jurisdiction he had copied from An Yunian would deactivate, exposing the former Dark Faction members hidden within his shadow space and forcing them into battle. Han Wu could already predict that the casualties would be severe.

As for having Jia Gui use the Concealment Jurisdiction to mask his presence and slip through undetected, that strategy had only worked when the guards were spread out. Now, the Light Faction's units were packed so densely that not even a fly could slip through, let alone a full-grown man like him.

"What do I do?" Han Wu muttered, momentarily at a loss.

Su Lan emerged from his shadow, surveyed the scene outside, and immediately understood the situation.

"Han Wu, if it really comes down to it, leave us behind and get yourself out." She looked as though she had already made up her mind.

Han Wu stopped her right away. "Ma'am, I came here to bring you all back. Things are difficult right now, but they're still within my ability to handle. At worst, we'll wait here. I'll contact my avatar and have it bring units from the Divine Civilization. Even if we have to force our way through, I'll make sure everyone gets out safely."

His words deeply moved Su Lan and the former Dark Faction members. A person's true character revealed itself in times of crisis. Han Wu had no obligation to get involved in this mess, yet there he was, refusing to abandon them.

A thought started to take root among the former Dark Faction members. Maybe they should swear allegiance to Han Wu and serve under him. He hadn't ascended into a God King yet, but his potential was staggering. Reaching that rank was practically guaranteed. Joining him now was an early investment.

Han Wu had no idea what they were thinking. He had already contacted his avatar and ordered it to bring units to rescue them.

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On the other side, An Yunian was leading his Dark Faction members toward the perimeter. For Han Wu, this journey would have been effortless.

For An Yunian, it was a nightmare. His personal strength was far inferior to Han Wu's, and all of his abilities were entirely dark-attributed. On Paradise Island, where such powers were heavily suppressed, he could exert only about ten percent of his true strength. Worse still, nobody among his group possessed anything comparable to Jia Gui's Concealment Jurisdiction.

An Yunian's aura was fully exposed. Paradise Island's native creatures tracked him by scent alone. Fortunately, luck remained on his side. Under their relentless pursuit, he pressed onward and eventually reached the outer perimeter.

The moment he arrived, he saw the Light Faction's units blanketing the area in a dazzling wall of light, like tens of thousands of miniature suns suspended in the sky. The brilliance was so intense that he could barely keep his eyes open.

Despite his best efforts to conceal his aura, he lacked a true Concealment Jurisdiction. The Dark Energy leaking from him was detected by a patrolling Light Faction Major God, who immediately dispatched a swarm of units to surround him.

Having just escaped the native creatures, An Yunian and his remaining Dark Faction members had no choice but to keep running. His strength was already severely limited, and now he was being hunted from two directions. It didn't take long before he was captured.

Despite fierce resistance, most of his followers were killed or gravely wounded. An Yunian himself was beaten to within an inch of his life because of who he was. The Light Faction took him prisoner, intending to bring him before the Light God King for a public execution.

With An Yunian and numerous Dark Faction members either dead or captured, the Light Faction concluded that the remnants had been dealt with. As such, the siege started to scale down.

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At present, Han Wu and Jia Gui were resting in a tree while Su Lan and the others lay hidden within Han Wu's shadow.

Han Wu happened to glance toward the outer perimeter and noticed that the guard presence had thinned considerably. His pulse quickened.

His avatar and the units hadn't arrived yet, but an opportunity had presented itself first. With so few guards, he and Jia Gui had a chance to slip past the Light Faction's watch.

Han Wu woke Jia Gui, who instinctively hopped onto Han Wu's shoulder and resumed his role as a Concealment accessory. By now, he seemed accustomed to it. It was certainly easier than fighting the native creatures.

Han Wu sprinted toward the perimeter with Jia Gui on his shoulder. As he drew close, he confirmed that the number of guards had indeed dropped significantly, to less than a third of what it had been. Groups of units were still leaving one after another.

He slipped into the guarded zone and carefully inched his way outward. Everything proceeded in silence, and he drew no attention at all.

Just as Han Wu thought they were about to slip through unnoticed, a light arrow streaked through the air and struck his shadow. Under the Shade Jurisdiction's influence, his shadow remained pitch-black and unchanged even under the intense light, which was exactly what gave him away.

"Dark Faction vermin, I have found you!" The Daughter of Light, Elina, emerged with her Radiant Ministers flanking her. Her gaze locked directly onto Han Wu.

A terrifying wave of light-attributed pressure descended upon Han Wu's position, shattering Jia Gui's Concealment Jurisdiction and exposing Han Wu completely.

"It's you!" Elina exclaimed. The moment she recognized Han Wu, the fury in her eyes blazed

Chapter 945 - A Toad Going After a Swan

"Elina, what a coincidence." Han Wu greeted her awkwardly as he set Jia Gui down.

Jia Gui's eyes were glued to Elina. As the Daughter of Light, her beauty was already extraordinary. Combined with her graceful figure and an aura of noble purity, she was enough to leave anyone speechless.

Jia Gui was completely dumbstruck and blurted out like a man possessed, "Now that's what I'm talking about. That's the one!"

Only then did Elina notice Jia Gui. He was short, scrawny, covered in wrinkles, and spectacularly ugly. She thought a rat had somehow gained sentience.

She dismissed Jia Gui and turned her attention to Han Wu. She had once told him that if he joined the Light Faction, she would willingly offer herself to him. Han Wu had refused, then nearly destroyed her divine realm in the process.

It had taken her a long time to repair it. That experience had shown her Han Wu's true colors. He was never going to side with the Light Faction. Since her faction couldn't have him, nobody would.

"Han Wu, what are you doing here?" she demanded.

Her eyes drifted to his shadow, which was disproportionately large and deep. She couldn't detect the former Dark Faction members hiding within it, but she could sense boundless darkness radiating from inside.

"Nothing much. I came to catch a few creatures to bring back and raise," Han Wu said casually.

Elina didn't believe a word of it.

"I've long heard that you have ties to the Dark Faction. It looks like you're here to rescue the remnants. Unfortunately for you, you're too late. They've all been wiped out. The Dark Faction will never appear in the Divine Civilization's history again!" she said triumphantly.

A flicker of surprise crossed Han Wu's face. He knew the Dark Faction forces on Paradise Island had numbered around sixty. After they split up, one group was in his shadow while the other had followed An Yunian. It seemed that the other group was wiped out.

Su Lan and the others listened from within the shadow. Once they realized that An Yunian and his people had been eliminated, their reactions varied. Some genuinely mourned comrades they had fought beside for years. Others felt grim satisfaction upon realizing that An Yunian's decision to expel them had ultimately saved their lives.

Regardless of how they felt, every former Dark Faction member was certain they had made the right choice by following Han Wu. He had now saved them twice.

"There's nothing to be surprised about. The Light Faction's power is beyond anything you can imagine," Elina continued. "If you pledge yourself to the Light Faction now, it's not too late."

She still valued his talent and made one final attempt to recruit him before resorting to force. She knew full well that the odds of Han Wu accepting were slim to none.

Han Wu shook his head without hesitation. “I’ve told you many times. I’m not joining the Light Faction.”

Elina’s expression hardened. “Then die here.”

She ordered the Radiant Ministers behind her to start gathering Light Energy.

Han Wu was currently under Replicate’s effects. Maintaining the Shade Jurisdiction prevented him from using his own Jurisdictions to fight back.

Just as he was weighing whether to reveal his true strength, the timid Jia Gui stepped forward, his expression deadly serious. “Wait!”

Elina shot him a look of pure disgust, as if he were nothing more than a rat that had turned into a man. “You’re going to stop me?”

Jia Gui thumped his bony chest. “Beautiful lady, my name’s Jia Gui. Don’t let this face fool you. I’m a World powerhouse with the potential to become a God King!”

“The Commerce God King? He’s my pal. The Wisdom God King? That’s my buddy. The Death God King? He and I used to drink together...

“I’m not saying all this to brag. Just do me a favor today and let Han Wu go. I’ll throw a banquet tomorrow. You and me, a nice dinner. We’ll get to know each other better—”

Before he could finish, a Radiant Minister behind Elina blasted him with a bolt of aurora. Jia Gui flew more than a hundred meters before carving a shallow trench across the ground.

“What a revolting fly,” Elina muttered.

Han Wu glanced back at Jia Gui. Based on what he knew of Jia Gui’s strength, that single aurora bolt wasn’t enough to kill him. What he couldn’t figure out was why the normally cowardly Jia Gui had stepped forward of his own accord. Then the answer struck him. Considering Jia Gui’s behavior, he had fallen for Elina.

Han Wu let out a long sigh, mourning the doomed one-sided infatuation of a toad pursuing a swan.

Elina ordered the Radiant Ministers to charge another volley at maximum output, this time aimed directly at Han Wu.

Han Wu’s timing was impeccable. The instant the Radiant Ministers fired, he burst into motion. Even without activating a Jurisdiction and relying on physical strength alone, he was already a match for those at the Microcosm rank. After obtaining the True Martial Jurisdiction, he had pushed his physique and bodily control to an even greater degree.

He effortlessly dodged the aurora and closed the distance to Elina in a heartbeat. His fist, harder than steel, hurtled toward her cute face.

Unexpectedly, a hand shot up and intercepted the blow before it could land. Whoever had blocked it matched Han Wu's strength.

Han Wu retreated several steps to widen the distance. The one who had intervened was a masked figure clad in black, radiating Microcosm energy. The figure's physical prowess was impressive enough to make even Han Wu wary.

Elina recovered from her brief panic.

"Han Wu, I underestimated you." She gestured at the masked guard. "Sadly, your little tricks are useless against my escorts. Surrender."

"Is that so?" Han Wu replied.

Shadows gathered around him, wrapping tightly around him like a suit of black combat armor. Since he couldn't use other Jurisdictions while the Shade Jurisdiction was active, he would lean into it fully.

Han Wu possessed the Darkness Aspect, and his understanding of darkness was no less than An Yunian's understanding. The Shade Jurisdiction was a branch of the Dark Jurisdiction, and the two shared significant overlap.

Drawing on his mastery of darkness, he manipulated the shadows and pushed his current combat strength to its limit. It was still far from his true power, but it would be more than enough for the opponent before him.

Seeing Han Wu ready to fight in earnest, Elina grew cautious and instructed the masked guard, "Don't kill him. I want him alive."

"Understood," the masked guard replied.

From the crater behind Han Wu, Jia Gui pleaded, "Don't hurt the pretty lady. At least, don't hit her face."

"Get lost!" Han Wu snapped.

In the next instant, he and the masked guard clashed.

: Chapter 946

Chapter 946 - Who Dares!

Two dark blurs tore across the battlefield, the sound of their collisions echoing nonstop. Dark-attribute abilities were severely weakened on Paradise Island, but for Han Wu even a ten percent boost from the Shade Jurisdiction was enough to tip the scales.

After an intense exchange, Han Wu landed a devastating Collapsing Fist that caved the masked guard's chest. The Microcosm fighter died on the spot.

Han Wu didn't kick the corpse away. Instead, he reached down and pulled the cloth from the guard's face. His pupils contracted sharply. The masked guard was Huang Shengjun, the same man who had escaped from his divine realm!

Han Wu flung the corpse aside, wary that Huang Shengjun would suddenly revive and launch a surprise attack. At the same time, a question nagged at him. The Butcher had possessed Huang Shengjun to escape Han Wu's divine realm through endless self-detonation fueled by consuming lives. Was this the Butcher's corpse, or was it actually Huang Shengjun's?

He kept a careful eye on the corpse, but there was no reaction. He also received a notification for a Sacrifice harvest. That confirmed that Huang Shengjun was dead.

Yet Huang Shengjun was supposed to have 16.3 billion lives. How could he have been killed so easily? Something didn't add up.

Han Wu looked at Elina. She had to know the truth.

Elina had also seen the guard's face, and she was just as shocked. She hadn't expected one of her escorts to be the senior student Huang Shengjun.

If this one was Huang Shengjun, then who are the others? Elina beckoned, and two more masked guards answered her call. She pulled the coverings from their faces, and the sight made her gasp.

Both of them were Huang Shengjun. Three Huang Shengjun had existed simultaneously.

Elina recalled that the Light Faction had recently gained a mysterious guard force numbering more than 10,000, with each member at the Microcosm rank. Were they all Huang Shengjun?

The thought was staggering. She didn't want to believe it, but the evidence literally stood right before her.

Han Wu fell into deep thought. Three Huang Shengjun were bizarre enough. Before entering Paradise Island, he had also seen a checkpoint guarded by over a dozen masked figures. The other checkpoints likely had similar deployments.

Could every single one of those guards be Huang Shengjun? He felt his head spin. Did I stumble into a nest of Huang Shengjuns? Even Avatar Creation isn't this absurd.

"Elina, what exactly is going on?" he demanded.

Elina was still trying to make sense of it herself and had no interest in explaining anything to Han Wu. She did realize one thing, though. The advantage was still hers.

She pointed at the two Huang Shengjuns beside her. "Take him down."

The two Huang Shengjuns charged, both erupting with Microcosm power. Having fought one already, Han Wu knew their attack patterns. He exploited the gaps in their coordination, slipped through their pincer attacks, and lunged straight at Elina.

The Radiant Ministers scrambled to fire a desperate volley, but nothing could stop Han Wu from seizing Elina by the throat.

With the hostage in his grasp, the Radiant Ministers and the two Huang Shengjuns froze. Only Jia Gui, who had just dragged himself out of the crater with injuries that were still healing, shouted, "Han Wu, be gentle! You're hurting her!"

Han Wu found Jia Gui's concern for the enemy absurd, but it didn't stop him from pressing Elina for answers. "Tell me what's going on."

Shadow Energy coiled around Elina like invisible ropes, tightening until they bit into her skin.

"I'll never tell you. Kill me if you want. The Light Faction will avenge me!" Elina rasped through her constricted throat.

She suddenly turned toward the Radiant Ministers and the two Huang Shengjuns. "Ignore me! Kill him!"

At her command, the Radiant Ministers and the other units started charging Light Energy. Meanwhile, the two Huang Shengjuns rushed forward once more.

Han Wu snorted and shoved Elina directly into his shadow space. He wasn't worried about her escaping. More than a dozen former Dark Faction members were inside. Restraining her wouldn't be a problem.

Forced back into battle, Han Wu now faced two Huang Shengjuns at once. On the other side, the Radiant Ministers shifted tactics and bombarded him with concentrated light

beams to create openings. Fortunately, the thick layer of shadow armor woven from the Shade Jurisdiction absorbed the weak light attacks without issue.

Eventually, the noise of the battle drew the attention of nearby Major Gods, who arrived with their units and masked guards in tow. They saw Han Wu fighting two Huang Shengjuns and noticed that Elina was nowhere to be found.

A Radiant Minister hurried over, explained the situation, and pointed at Han Wu.

“You kidnapped the Light Faction’s Holy Maiden? You must be tired of living,” a Major God roared. His units and masked guards joined the fight.

The number of Huang Shengjuns Han Wu had to contend with jumped from two to five. Five Microcosm Huang Shengjuns working in perfect coordination was more than he could handle. He was quickly pinned to the ground.

In the distance, Jia Gui activated his Concealment Jurisdiction and vanished. Hidden from sight, he desperately searched for a way to save Han Wu.

“Hand over Holy Maiden Elina!” the Major God bellowed.

More Light Faction Major Gods continued converging on the area.

Han Wu knew with certainty that if he didn’t unleash his true power, he would die there. If he died, everyone sheltered by the Shade Jurisdiction would die with him. He had no other option.

He released Replicate, and the Shade Jurisdiction dissolved. The former Dark Faction members materialized, and Elina appeared among them, bound with ropes from condensed Divine Points, leaving her unable to fight.

The arriving Major Gods took in the scene with a mixture of delight and alarm. They were delighted because so many Dark Faction stragglers remained to be captured. At the same time, they were alarmed because Elina was in their hands. She was the Light God King’s most treasured descendant. If their rash actions got her killed, they couldn’t bear the consequences.

“Forget about me! Kill them!” Elina shrieked despite her bindings.

A former Dark Faction member punched her square in the head and knocked her unconscious.

The shouting stopped, yet the Light Faction Major Gods had already received her command.

“For the Daughter of Light! Kill these Dark Faction scum!”

Every Light Faction unit surged forward. Every masked guard unleashed their Microcosm power, ready to slaughter their enemies.

Then a steady, commanding voice cut through the chaos and reached every ear on the battlefield. “Who dares!”

It was Han Wu, his full strength finally unleashed.

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

: Chapter 947

Chapter 947 - You Are My God!

Han Wu erupted with authority, tearing free of the five Huang Shengjuns pinning him down. He oozed out power like a flood.

The World Ring appeared first, manifesting before everyone and transforming into the imposing Great Dragon Ring. In an instant, his aura became far more domineering and aggressive.

That was only the beginning. Han Wu activated the Third Stage of his Demon King Transformation, Fetterbane Dragonforge. A terrifying, tyrannical, savage pressure exploded outward as he expanded to a towering height of 100,000 meters.

Some of the weaker units suffered ruptured internal organs on the spot from the sheer force of his presence alone. Even the Major Gods, masked guards, and other powerful units felt crushing despair wash over them.

Su Lan and the former Dark Faction members were equally stunned.

“Su Lan, your student is absurdly strong!” one of them exclaimed.

Su Lan abandoned every shred of composure and cried out in pure awe, “Han Wu, you are my God!”

Revealing his full strength was enough to intimidate everyone present. However, Han Wu could sense more Light Faction members rushing toward the area. The ordinary units didn’t concern him. The masked guards did, or rather, the Huang Shengjuns.

More of them arrived, gathered in formation, and their auras started merging. Because they were all Huang Shengjun, their energy signatures were perfectly identical, and the

fusion reached complete synchronization. A giant, amplified projection of Huang Shengjun took shape above them.

From the projection, Han Wu recognized the War Faction's Formation Might technique.

The Huang Shengjuns roared in unison and threw a punch. The projection mirrored the motion, sending a colossal fist at Han Wu with a force ten times greater than that of an ordinary Microcosm life form.

Han Wu was a Subcosm powerhouse, far above the Microcosm rank. He raised a hand and effortlessly swatted the combined strike. Without pause, he drew out his Light Aspect and held it high.

The Light Aspect erupted into an endless flood of divine radiance. Under Paradise Island's unique conditions, the light grew dozens of times more intense than usual.

Han Wu scattered it outward like a shower of seeds. The radiance split into countless light arrows, each as powerful as an aurora bolt, and wiped out more than sixty percent of the Light Faction's units in a single sweep.

Even the Major Gods struck by the attack suffered heavy injuries and couldn't recover quickly.

The Huang Shengjuns rallied Formation Might once more and blocked Han Wu's attack. As more Huang Shengjuns joined, the formation's power continued to grow.

Han Wu couldn't afford to drag out the fight. Every passing moment only put him at a disadvantage. As such, he drew a second Divine Aspect, the Death Aspect.

Dense Death Energy gathered in his palm and condensed into a gray sphere the size of a small fruit. He swallowed it in one gulp. Then he aimed at the formation, activated Proclamation of Death, and shouted, "Die!"

Death swept through the air like a passing breeze. More than a dozen Huang Shengjuns collapsed instantly as death claimed them.

Han Wu immediately coughed up a mouthful of blood. Killing more than a dozen Microcosm beings with a single Proclamation had burned through every last bit of Death Energy converted from his reserves. If he hadn't possessed such a resilient physique, the energy drain alone would have left him incapacitated.

With the Huang Shengjuns dealt with, Han Wu ignored the remaining Major Gods and units. He bent down, scooped up the former Dark Faction members, and prepared to charge forward.

He was right at Paradise Island's outer edge. Only a short distance remained before he could escape. Once outside, he could reconnect with his divine realm, summon his units, and access his Microcosms.

He had barely taken two steps when an icy chill ran down his back. In the next instant, a gleaming spear plummeted from the sky, pierced clean through him, and pinned his towering 100,000-meter frame to the ground.

Han Wu strained with everything he had to push himself up, but he couldn't move. Agony ripped through his chest, and blood sprayed from his mouth in violent sprays.

The former Dark Faction members he had been shielding in his hands leapt down and tried to wrench the spear free with their suppressed strength. It didn't even budge.

A regal, absolute voice reached their ears. "You think you can escape my strike?"

Han Wu recognized the voice. It belonged to the Light God King. They had met once before, and their opposing ideals had put them at odds from the beginning. Now they faced each other again.

"It's over. It's all over."

The former Dark Faction members sank into despair. The Light God King's arrival meant that Han Wu had failed to escape and that they were all going to die there.

Under the Light God King's pure, overwhelming pressure, Han Wu felt as though a mountain were bearing down on him. He realized that at the Subcosm rank, he couldn't gauge the Light God King's true power. That could only mean one thing. The Light God King was stronger than him.

"Hand over Elina," the Light God King commanded. His voice carried a force that made even Major Gods feel compelled to obey.

The unconscious Elina was handed over without resistance. The Light God King gave her a quick examination. Once he confirmed that she was unharmed, he turned his attention back to Han Wu and the others.

In the Light God King's eyes, Su Lan and her group were Dark Faction remnants who had to be eliminated. On the other hand, Han Wu was not a Dark Faction member. He could spare his life and use him as leverage against the rising Wisdom Faction. If necessary, Han Wu could become the spark that ignited a conflict. A living Han Wu was worth far more than a dead one.

"Keep Han Wu alive. Kill the rest." The Light God King issued his decree.

The Major Gods and Gods answered the call, mobilizing waves of units to launch suicidal charges against Su Lan and the others.

The former Dark Faction members were seasoned veterans and formidable fighters in their own right. Even on Paradise Island, where Dark Energy was severely restricted, their hand-to-hand combat skills allowed them to hold back the swarm of units for a while.

However, holding them back was all they could do. In the end, the Light Faction would grind them down. A heavy sense of despair settled over every one of them.

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

: Chapter 948 - Clash

Chapter 948 - Clash

The Light Faction's units closed in, steadily shrinking the former Dark Faction members' room to maneuver. The Light Faction Major Gods watching from the perimeter joined the assault, launching divine skills from a distance.

Inside Paradise Island's special zone, their attacks were dramatically amplified. On the other hand, the former Dark Faction members suffered weakened defenses under the zone's effects. Faced with such overwhelming odds, some of them began to falter.

Han Wu watched them get injured and desperation surged through him. He refused to let this rescue mission end in failure. Gathering every ounce of strength he had left, he poured everything into one final effort and activated the effects and incomplete versions of his Duel, Conversion, True Martial, and Slaughter Jurisdictions respectively.

"Duel God Physique, Energy Conservation, True Martial God Physique, and Slaughter Domain!"

With multiple Jurisdictions active at once, Han Wu started wrenching the glowing spear from his body. At the same time, the incomplete Slaughter Domain expanded outward. Every creature Han Wu had ever slain poured out of the Slaughter Domain and hurled itself at the Light Faction's units, buying the former Dark Faction members precious breathing room.

"Pathetic. You are struggling for nothing," The Light God King loomed above and unleashed his authority. "Suppression and Purification!"

The creatures flooding out of the Slaughter Domain were crushed without mercy. When the Goddess of Enchantment witnessed the scene, she abandoned all hope of escape. The former Dark Faction members would die there. That was their fate. Han Wu, though, wasn't one of them. He shouldn't die in this place.

As such, Su Lan poured every last Divine Point into breaking apart the war spear lodged in Han Wu's chest. "Han Wu, forget about us. Run! With your strength, you can absolutely break through the Light Faction's siege."

The spear contained the Light God King's Jurisdiction, making it incredibly difficult to destroy. After activating his Conversion Jurisdiction's Energy Conservation, Han Wu had been dismantling the spear's energy and converting it into his own. Working together, they finally shattered the spear.

Han Wu rose to his feet again. His wounds closed stubbornly under Undying's effect, and the crushing pressure of his Fetterbane Dragonforge form swept across the battlefield once more.

The Light God King raised a hand. "Still haven't accepted your fate? A feeble spark like you dares defy my light, as radiant as the sun itself. Fool."

A violent column of light engulfed Han Wu's 100,000-meter-tall frame. Under its searing heat, the Fetterbane Dragonforge exoskeleton slowly carbonized and crumbled. Han Wu pushed his Conversion Jurisdiction to its limits, converting as much of the Light Energy as possible into his own power.

Unfortunately, even that wasn't enough. The gap between him and the Light God King remained insurmountable. Attacks infused with the Light Jurisdiction couldn't be absorbed so easily.

The Light God King increased the output further. "Kneel."

The pillar of light seemed determined to purify Han Wu out of existence. The Fetterbane Dragonforge exoskeleton could no longer endure. It shattered with a thunderous crash, and Han Wu reverted to his base form, burns covering every inch of his body.

Meanwhile, Undying continued working, faithfully consuming energy to heal his injuries at a visible rate.

Unfortunately, Han Wu couldn't win. Not like this. He was nowhere close to the Light God King's level. Left with no other option, he played his final card: the Minute Hand ability!

In an instant, Temporal Energy erupted from within him, and everything within 1,000 meters of him froze in place.

The countdown commenced. He had sixty seconds.

Han Wu immediately activated his Demon King Transformation again. The moment the towering form took shape, he moved at blistering speed, gathering every former Dark Faction member and binding them to him. He ran without looking back. If he could just cross out of Paradise Island's boundary, he could connect to his Microcosm and draw upon its power.

The Light God King retaliated frantically. Countless miniature spears of condensed light screamed toward Han Wu, only to freeze the instant they entered his thousand-meter radius. Under the Minute Hand ability, everything within that range except Han Wu himself was locked in temporal stasis. The incoming attacks were no exception.

The Light God King's mind raced. If direct attacks couldn't reach Han Wu, he would cage him instead. In the next instant, a boundless wall of light erupted from the ground and rose to the heavens, completely sealing off Paradise Island's edge.

Even with time frozen, Han Wu couldn't break through the wall quickly enough. The Minute Hand expired before he could escape Paradise Island. He was just one wall away from freedom.

"Surrender." The Light God King appeared in person, followed by a host of Light Faction Major Gods and masked guards. They advanced rapidly on Han Wu.

Bitterness crossed Han Wu's face. The wall of light behind him had sealed away every last shred of hope. He had utterly lost in this contest of power against the Light God King.

Then a figure appeared right in front of him. It was Jia Gui!

The man who had remained invisible throughout the entire battle was suddenly here.

The Light Faction Major Gods eyed him with open contempt. The battle was practically over, and the outcome was decided. What could he possibly accomplish now? With the Light God King present, Jia Gui could have all the tricks in the world, and it wouldn't make a difference.

Jia Gui was terrified, but he hurried to Han Wu's side anyway. "Brother Han Wu, guess what I just did?"

Han Wu was in no mood for guessing games. Death was staring him in the face.

Seeing Han Wu's lack of interest, Jia Gui dropped the act and pointed behind his back. "I snuck out. Then I contacted your avatar and had him send something over."

Han Wu reached out and touched it. The sensation was instantly familiar. It was Peerless! Jia Gui had actually brought it here!

The moment his hand closed around Peerless, a flood of power poured into him, and his injuries healed instantly. Peerless was a World Divine Weapon. It was a world unto itself!

The Light God King sensed that something was wrong and raised his hand again, launching thousands of Jurisdiction-infused miniature war spears.

Han Wu swung Peerless and unleashed a devastating technique.

“Skyshell!”

The Black Tortoise Armament Spirit erupted and materialized as a colossal dome, shielding Han Wu and the former Dark Faction members.

Han Wu felt his energy reserves drop sharply, but it didn’t matter. He immediately followed up with another slash.

“Sky Eater Slash!”

The Sky Eater Slash resonated with the Kunpeng Divine Art within him. A massive Kun[1] materialized and lunged at the Light Faction forces, swallowing countless enemies whole.

Energy surged back into Han Wu, replenishing his reserves. With enough of his energy restored, Han Wu spun around and struck the wall of light behind him.

“Skypiercer!”

The energy coalesced into a spiraling spike that drilled relentlessly into the wall of light, boring through it and carving open a passage.

The Light God King’s eyes blazed with killing intent. “Han Wu, I won’t let you leave!”

He raised his hand, and boundless Light Energy gathered into a magnificent spear. It was the Spear of Victory, one of the effects derived from his Light Jurisdiction. Its power was enough to kill a God King. Today, the Light God King would use the Spear of Victory to end Han Wu.

1. The mythical whale that could swallow the heavens ☜

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

: Chapter 949

Chapter 949 - Reinforcements

Four figures appeared outside of Paradise Island: Steely, the Origin of Mutation, the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King, and Bow God Bart, now carrying the Void Hunter gene.

Bow God Bart collapsed the moment they touched down, having ripped open wormholes the entire way to save time. Getting the group to Paradise Island had drained him completely.

“Rest here. We’ll go greet our God!” Steely said in a low voice.

The three pressed forward. Spotting the towering wall of light stretching to the sky, Steely closed his eyes and reached out through the bond between a Saint and his God.

He found Han Wu’s position almost instantly. “Our God is on the other side of this wall!”

The three of them hurried to the base of the wall. Steely immediately drew over a hundred Obsidrum greatswords and charged his attack, while the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King gathered Gaia Force to blow the wall apart.

The Origin of Mutation raised a hand, signaling them to stop, as it could establish a link with Han Wu, even from this distance. Making that connection, it found that Han Wu was in mortal danger at that very moment. It had to act now.

“Hour Hand!”

A temporal barrier extending a hundred meters in diameter blanketed the area, encompassing Han Wu on the other side of the wall.

The Second Hand, Minute Hand, and Hour Hand each had trade-offs.

The Second Hand charged quickly and covered the widest area, freezing everything within 10,000 meters. The Minute Hand needed moderate charge time and covered a moderate area of 1,000 meters. Finally, the Hour Hand required the longest charge but covered the smallest range, only a hundred meters.

Time froze around Han Wu. He and all the former Dark Faction members near him couldn’t move. Although their minds were alert, their bodies and energy refused to respond.

Han Wu could have forced his way out of the stasis by pushing against it with sheer willpower, drastically shortening its duration, but chose not to. After all, the Origin of Mutation hadn’t used the Hour Hand to hurt him. It was to save him.

The Spear of Victory had already been thrown, locking onto Han Wu's position and moving at the speed of light. Even within the frozen space, it crept forward at a speed of roughly one meter per second. Han Wu had fewer than a hundred seconds left.

"Again? What is this?" The Light God King was baffled.

Temporal abilities were extraordinarily rare and enormously draining. Han Wu had used one just moments ago. For another to be employed so soon, and one that lasted even longer at that, was unheard of.

But it didn't matter. The Light God King still believed victory was his to take. Temporal abilities alone couldn't stop his Spear of Victory, which was born from his Light Jurisdiction. Han Wu would still die in one hundred seconds.

On the other side of the wall, Steely and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King were also caught in the stasis field and could no longer attack the wall. The Origin of Mutation was on its own.

It fished a compressed slab of dried flesh from its pocket, shoved it into its mouth, and chewed.

"Gene Lock!"

The Origin of Mutation transformed into a second Wrath War Tyrannosprite King and gained access to all of its formidable abilities. Although it wasn't well-versed with them, it could still use them well enough.

Its massive new body spun like a drill, slamming into the wall of light. The wall cracked under the tremendous piercing force, and a large hole opened up.

The Origin of Mutation emerged on the other side, right in front of the Light God King. The Light God King's eyes lit up the moment he saw the Origin of Mutation in its Wrath War Tyrannosprite King form.

The creature's physique, powerful body, and devastating skill captivated him. He could sense it radiating the essences of fury, combat, light, and dragon. Most importantly, it was of the light attribute, a perfect fit for the Light Faction.

This one glance had the Light God King convinced. He had to have it. It would become the Light Faction's banner.

That was when the Origin of Mutation scooped Han Wu and every former Dark Faction member up with one enormous claw, brought them through the hole, and dragged them beyond Paradise Island's boundary.

The Hour Hand ability ended, and the Spear of Victory buried itself in empty ground, its energy condensed but unexploded. The Light God King snarled, visibly pissed.

At the same time, Han Wu and the others snapped out of the stasis and reconnected with their divine realms. Power surged through Han Wu, far greater than before.

Hundreds of Microcosms materialized behind him, forming a miniature galaxy orbiting his body. Some were Death Microcosms formed through invading, as well as absorbing Death Energy; others were worlds claimed through Stellar Plunder; and most came from his units. All of them answered to Han Wu.

Drawing on the energy of these Microcosms, every one of his injuries vanished, and his reserves were replenished. Peerless blazed with blinding white light as staggering energy was poured into it.

On one side of Han Wu, Steely's hundred-plus Obsidrum greatswords merged into a single colossal blade 10,000 meters long. The Obsidrum Judgment was ready.

On the other side, the fully armed Wrath War Tyrannosprite King condensed a Gaia Force sphere over a hundred times larger than its own body, poised to drop it at any moment.

The Light God King bellowed at the Light Faction members behind him, "Pour every last drop of your Light Energy into me now!"

In a heartbeat, endless Light Energy flooded into the Light God King. Combined with Paradise Island's terrain bonus for light-attribute power, his Jurisdiction's output received an enormous boost.

"Holy Radiant Shield!" the Light God King roared, activating the second effect of his Light Jurisdiction. A titanic shield of pure light materialized in front of him and the entire Light Faction force.

Tens of thousands of gemstones appeared to stud its surface. A closer look revealed they weren't gemstones at all, but Microcosms. The shield formed just as Han Wu's side launched their assault.

Steely and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King unleashed their attacks.

Peerless erupted with its fiercest glow.

"Dragon Slayer!" Han Wu roared, doubling the power of the next swing. "Heaven-Earth Severance!"

With that, he brought the blade down.

A slash carrying the combined force of heaven and earth fell. Three Subcosm attacks crashed into the Holy Radiant Shield at the same time.

The sky and earth warped. Shockwaves blasted outward, collapsing huge sections of Paradise Island.

When the dust cleared, the Light God King's expression was murderous. A massive crack ran across the Holy Radiant Shield. Han Wu's Heaven-Earth Severance had carved right into it.

That meant Han Wu's blade had the power to kill him.

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

Chapter 950 - Clash of Formation Might

With tens of thousands of Microcosms feeding it energy, the crack in the Holy Radiant Shield sealed shut in moments, looking as good as new. The truth that had been dealt, however, wasn't as easily undone.

Han Wu had just broken through the Light God King's shield.

"He's hurt. Finish him. Again!" Han Wu bellowed.

Steely and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King charged their attacks again. Peerless in Han Wu's hand reignited.

When the Light God King saw this, his expression turned grim. Han Wu had proven that he had the strength to kill him. For the sake of self-preservation, the Light God King chose not to risk it.

His gaze shifted to the masked guards behind him as he ordered, "Protect your king!"

Over a thousand masked guards radiating World auras leaped out of the Light Faction's ranks. Han Wu already knew that every one of them was Huang Shengjun.

These Huang Shengjuns released their auras in unison. Energy surged upward, coalescing into a colossal Huang Shengjun projection. This was the War Faction's technique, Formation Might, which concentrated the power of many into a single devastating attack.

The Huang Shengjun projection threw a punch. Its crushing pressure engulfed Han Wu, Steely, and the Wrath War Tyrannosprite King. Han Wu scrambled to switch techniques and threw up the Skyshell to block. The Skyshell dome shattered under the blow.

The Huang Shengjun formation immediately started gathering energy for a second strike, this time one that reached Subcosm rank and beyond. The collective strength of the group clearly outpaced any individual.

Han Wu decided to stop holding back. After all, he knew how to use Formation Might too.

Summoning his units, an endless swarm of locusts poured out of his Microcosms in staggering numbers, blanketing the sky above him and blotting out the light itself.

Locusts weren't smart enough to learn Formation Might on their own. Fortunately, Han Wu had already figured out a workaround. He issued a command to all the locusts to summon their totems.

An army of Han Wus equal to the swarm of locusts materialized in the air. Copies of him carpeted the sky and ground alike.

The Light Faction and the Dark Faction all stared in disbelief. One Han Wu was already hard enough to deal with. An infinite army was beyond comprehension.

The Light God King's expression was the grimmest of all. He had expected the masked guards to finish the job. Instead, he was now staring down an endless number of Han Wus. Between the Huang Shengjun army and the Han Wu swarm, the two sides were eerily similar.

Every Han Wu received the real Han Wu's command and activated Formation Might. Their strength varied, and each totem could only attack once, but their sheer numbers and near-telepathic coordination produced an overwhelming surge of coordinated force. A titanic Han Wu projection took shape.

The Han Wu projection threw every ounce of power into a single punch aimed at the Huang Shengjun formation. It carried the combined energy of every locust and totem.

The blow landed. Only a handful of Huang Shengjuns positioned at the very edges survived. The rest were pulverized, their Formation Might crumbling along with them.

Energy spent, the Han Wu projection vanished, but he had achieved his goal of dismantling the entire thousand-strong Huang Shengjun legion. Han Wu had come out far ahead.

The Light God King couldn't remember the last time somebody had pushed him this hard. However, as a true God King, he refused to give up, even with the Huang Shengjun corps destroyed.

If he couldn't rely on his subordinates, that just meant he would have to handle it himself.

He stepped forward and appeared outside Paradise Island's boundary. The terrain's light-attribute bonus vanished, but in exchange, he gained access to the units in his Microcosms.

Legions of light-attribute creatures poured out of tens of thousands of Microcosms. With their massive collective faith fueling him, the Light God King revealed his true strength and fully unleashed his Light Jurisdiction.

[Effect 1: Spear of Victory. Anyone struck suffers purification of both body and spirit. Resisting purification costs over ten times the normal energy output. Accepting it implants a forced Light Faith.]

[Effect 2: Holy Radiant Shield. A shield inlaid with tens of thousands of Microcosms. The Light God King's ultimate defense.]

[Effect 3: Radiant God Physique. A divine body capable of absorbing limitless Light Energy and releasing it in devastating bursts.]

[Effect 4: Lumen Aura. Emits a brilliant radiance that blinds the other life forms.]

Each effect was devastatingly powerful in its own right. With all four active, the Light God King was fighting at his absolute peak.

Han Wu narrowed his eyes against the pressure. Lumen Aura was already making his eyes sting. If not for his Jurisdictions protecting him, he would've gone temporarily blind.

The others weren't as resilient. The former Dark Faction members lost their sight instantly. Even the concealed Jia Gui was blinded by the glare. Han Wu had no choice but to hide them all inside one of his Microcosms to keep them from becoming liabilities.

The Light God King's greatest strength lay in his exhaustive mastery of Light Energy. He had fused Light Energy with his own Divine Points to a degree that made his attacks nearly impossible for Han Wu's Conversion Jurisdiction to process in real time. Moreover, in this peak state, he approached the Mesocosm rank.

Han Wu could feel it before the first exchange. He was outmatched.

Still, being outmatched didn't mean he would surrender. His title, Invictus, meant to win forever, and it was one he intended to keep. Even if he couldn't win, he could at least force a tie.

In other words, running was the correct call. Running from a stronger opponent wasn't shameful. It was far more dignified than getting ground up into dirt. Fleeing, of course,

also required some technique. He had to move fast, watch every angle, and above all, guard against a cheap shot.

Han Wu stared down the Light God King through slitted eyes and started backing away, offering no opening.

The Light God King wasn't about to let him leave. He charged forward, the Spear of Victory spinning through a dazzling array of thrusts aimed at every vital point.

Han Wu had combat experience. Between that, his Duel God Physique, and the incomplete True Martial God Physique, he could keep up for a while.

At that moment, Steely's Obsidrum Judgment finished charging up.