

Chapter 1461:

One Punch Breaks the Armor

Pat! The old man slapped Zhou Changlong across the face. His face immediately started to swell up, and his men froze in place.

“Brother-in-law, why did you hit me?” Zhou Changlong stared at the old man, one hand pressed against his sore face.

The old man said darkly, “Yes, I only hit you this time. Next time, I’ll kill you. It’s better than being killed by the others, ruining my reputation, and embarrassing your sister! You can be a bad man all you please, but don’t be a stupid one. Do you not know the daughter of President Ji and the super aristocrat when they’re standing before you?”

“That is Han Sen and Ji Yanran?” Zhou Changlong’s face changed to one of disbelief.

“How many times have I told you? You can be bad, yes, but you need to know the faces of those you insult. I asked you to remember all the important people in the Alliance, and you don’t even know these two prominent figures? D*mn you!” After saying this, the old man slapped Zhou Changlong’s other cheek until it was swollen.

“Brother-in-law...” Zhou Changlong had once looked cruel and important to the assembly there, but before that old man, he was terrified.

The old man simply ignored him, and then walked towards Han Sen. He eyed the young man up and down, and with each step, he looked as if he was carrying a mountain on his shoulders.

Ji Yanran herself felt there was a monumental power approaching them. Han Sen stepped in front of Ji Yanran, and then that power was gone. She frowned. “Qiuming, your brother-in-law did something wrong. Are you going to take it out on us?”

Qiuming, as he approached, responded coldly, “I will correct him when he does bad deeds. But I can’t allow him to be bullied by others, either.”

“It’s no wonder you two are from Angel Gene. You’re both rotten,” Ji Yanran said angrily.

Qiuming still held himself in a manner that suggested he was superior by default. “Because of President Ji, I won’t kill him. But I need him to know, like any dog should, that he should respect the whip of a master.”

“Dear, be careful! Qiuming has been a demi-god for a long time. He might have a gemstone geno core,” Ji Yanran warned Han Sen in a hushed voice.

Han Sen nodded. He had heard about Qiuming when he was researching demi-gods. He was not from the Zhou family, but for some reason, he was allowed to join Angel Gene. He was as mean a person as one could be.

Zhou Changlong, who had just been slapped, now looked happy again. “Brother-in-law, teach that *sshole a lesson! Who cares if they are the daughter and son-in-law of the President?”

Han Sen watched Qiuming quietly approach, initially believing him to be bluffing.

As he walked, an armor of sorts appeared on his body. It looked sturdier than a mountain, and this mountain was coming close.

“An earth-element geno core? Interesting,” Han Sen said as he watched the old man approach.

Qiuming didn’t respond. He just quickened his pace and came towards Han Sen like an armored train.

The power he wielded looked as if it could sunder mountains.

Han Sen didn’t plan to dodge the attack, though. He simply threw his fist forward to meet with Qiuming’s.

“Kill him!” Zhou Changlong yelled to the sky, seeing Han Sen raise his fist towards his brother-in-law.

He knew the power Qiuming possessed, and he knew his geno core was gemstone class. It was called Heavy Earth Armor. When he battled the shura, his armor was strong enough to block blasts from their sun-class battleships without breaking.

Qiuming had the highest defense in all the Alliance, and yet, Han Sen hadn’t been a demi-god for very long. Taking a bash from the Heavy Earth Armor should have been enough to crush every bone in his body.

Qiuming frowned. He only wanted to teach the punk a lesson, not kill him.

Angel Gene and Han Sen had long been enemies. And while things might have been different in the sanctuaries, he wasn’t allowed to kill Han Sen in the Alliance.

With Han Sen not dodging his bash, Qiuming was set-up to do serious damage. It also reinforced his belief in Han Sen’s arrogance.

“You think I won’t dare hurt you? I’m going to cripple you! The Ji family won’t be able to save you now.” Qiuming’s eyes flashed with murder, and he came at Han Sen’s fist with greater force.

Boom!

The fist collided with the armor, and Qiuming’s train-like body came to a full-stop as if he had rammed head-first into an impenetrable wall.

As the people surrounding the conflict watched, everything came to a standstill. Their ears rang with the simple sound of silence, as their eyes told them something most stunning.

It hadn't ended yet, though. The armor Han Sen had thrown his fist at began to web with countless cracks.

Pang!

The Heavy Earth Armor that could protect its wearer from sun-class battleship blasts shattered, crumbling to the ground in pieces.

Zhou Changlong watched in shock as Qiuming's body went flying far away. He broke through eight Rainflower Trees on his descent, then began heaving blood.

"In my eyes, dogs are dogs. The only difference is their sizes. Big or small, there are no masters," Han Sen said coldly. Then, he left with Littleflower and Ji Yanran.

Zhou Changlong and all the workers were in shock. Qiuming had a godlike strength in their eyes, and they couldn't believe what Han Sen had done to him in a single punch.

The young couple were in shock, too, and they swiftly followed after Han Sen.

"Han Sen, we knew you were the first super aristocrat in the Alliance, but I didn't suspect you could destroy a demi-god like that with such ease. You were able to take him down in a single punch. You are so strong!" The young couple spoke to Han Sen with fervent excitement, as the first-hand viewing of that punch instantly brightened their mood.

"Why is he so strong? Is it because I don't have a super geno core? But he didn't even use one to break my Heavy Earth Armor!" Qiuming gritted his teeth as he lifted himself off the ground. His face looked pale as he watched Han Sen quietly walking away.

Chapter 1462: Number One Again

Qiuming hadn't expected Han Sen's fitness to have developed far faster than his geno core had. His body far exceeded what his geno core was capable of, and if he had used his geno cores, the attack wouldn't have been half as devastating.

"Discovering the sanctuaries has allowed humans to acquire superpowers. While that is most certainly good, there are downsides to this. It has given humanity a freedom of possibilities, and this unlimited wealth of possibilities has resulted in many believing they are above the law." Ji Yanran was discussing this with Han Sen as she flew the airship home.

"Demi-gods aren't gods. If they want to properly be above everyone, they'll need to upgrade to God status first," Han Sen said calmly.

Speaking of gods, Han Sen's mind returned to the god that was said to have tricked Dawn. Han Sen wondered if it really was simply a creature from the Fifth Sanctuary.

Han Sen went to relax, and although there had been trouble, it was behind him. Getting comfy again didn't take long.

Back in the sanctuary, he was still bound to the garden and his duty in it.

"Let's see if this sword skill is right." Upon arriving in the garden, the woman displayed on the stone immediately began speaking to Han Sen. This was the first time she had instigated a discussion.

Han Sen was surprised to hear her speak so soon. He looked at the rock and watched the woman close her green umbrella and begin casting a new technique.

She cast Heart Sword, but it was different. It wasn't a copy of his like last time. It looked very sad, and it tugged at the heartstrings of those who saw it. Fortunately, Han Sen had the fortitude and resolve to keep himself from shedding tears, but if it was a woman who was watching, he wagered they'd be crying their eyes out at the sight.

"You have sorrow in your heart. Tell me what ails it and perhaps I can help you." When the green-clothed woman finished, Han Sen let out a long sigh.

The green-haired woman did not respond. She opened her umbrella and stood on a bridge. Rain was falling in the scene depicted, and she stood facing away from Han Sen.

Over the next few days, she did not talk. So, Han Sen used this time to finish rebuilding his Crystal Core and Bulwark Umbrella.

Perhaps he was mistaken, but Han Sen felt that the new Crystal Core and Bulwark Umbrella were stronger than they had been before.

After a while, the woman he hadn't seen for a while finally returned. She appeared in the garden, looking the same as she always did. Almost nothing could tarnish her starchy image.

Sometimes, Han Sen took to wondering how old she might have been. He theorized she might have made a wish like Dawn did, to that god, in the hopes of becoming immortal.

But Uncle Bug told him the woman and the elder from the Ning family hadn't made a wish. They were the only two of the Seventh Team that didn't.

There was something Han Sen still didn't understand. If Han Jinzhi had entered the sanctuaries after joining Blood Legion, that meant he already knew about the sanctuaries when he encountered that god. He should have known it wasn't real. Furthermore, why did he make a wish?

“Ghost Moon came looking for me. She wants to replace you. You have two months left. If you cannot wake her up, you will be relieved of this task and she will be made the new priest,” the woman said.

“If she can be the priest, why not let her?” Han Sen said.

The woman laughed. “I did tell you I’d cut your head off if you failed, didn’t I? If you’re still not producing results in the next two months, watch your neck.”

Han Sen felt depressed. He was hoping Ghost Moon would replace him so he could get off scot-free. It seemed the woman was very reluctant to let him go.

“To grow a better holy child, I have a request,” Han Sen told the woman.

“Go on, tell me.” The woman sounded fairly interested.

“I was hoping I might use the geno core storage of this shelter,” Han Sen said, after spending a moment deliberating whether or not he should ask.

The woman was not keen on letting him go, but he did want some form of liberty and freedom. If he was allowed to enter the geno core storage, he could leave the garden. And that meant he could escape for a time.

“What does the geno core storage have to do with you being able to look after the holy child?” the woman asked.

“If I am too weak, how can I effectively teach her? There is nowhere else I can grow my talents right now, but I can do that in geno core storage,” Han Sen explained.

The woman nodded. “Okay, but remember: you have two months left. If the holy child has yet to awaken, your head belongs to me.”

“I’ll try my best.” Han Sen was happy.

The woman seemed to not know the green-clothed woman had spoken to Han Sen on a number of occasions, and since his task was effectively complete, he had nothing to worry about.

After she was gone, Han Sen walked out of the garden. The guards did not prohibit his passage, and he was able to go straight to the geno core storage.

In the Elysium Shelter’s spirit hall, the woman was lounging on the throne. There was a mirror in front of it, and the image of Han Sen was there.

“Interesting. He made the holy child speak. He really is that old liar Han Jinzhi’s heir. He is a very good liar himself, especially to women.” The woman was talking to herself, having watched Han Sen’s every movement with the device.

Han Sen prepared to enter the geno core storage with his Bulwark Umbrella. He wanted to get first place with that now, so he could reinforce it nine times.

When he practiced his Dongxuan Sutra, he felt as if he had achieved some sort of breakthrough. It might have suggested the Bulwark Umbrella would be silver soon, so he couldn’t miss out on the opportunity of reinforcing it before that occurred.

The woman watched Han Sen use the Bulwark Umbrella in the geno core storage. She looked at him strangely. "An umbrella geno core? It looks so similar to the holy child's geno core. Is that just a coincidence?"

Han Sen entered the geno core storage and began testing the umbrella before the Rockman.

The woman turned the mirror off, as it could only keep an eye on Han Sen while he was in the sanctuary. With him in the geno core storage, she was unable to see him.

"Master, the ranking on the bronze geno core storage leaderboards have changed. Another bronze geno core leapfrogged to first place," an Elysium spirit informed her.

Chapter 1463: Entering the Painting

"A new geno core has immediately reached first place again? Is this world truly changing?" The woman frowned, and then asked the spirit, "Which geno core reached the top?"

The spirit answered, "Master, it was a geno core called Bulwark Umbrella. It even managed to displace Six Paths, which now sits at second place."

"Bulwark... Umbrella?" A weird look fell across the woman's face. She retreated into her thoughts. "An umbrella geno core? Is that just a coincidence?"

Bulwark Umbrella reaching the top sent another shockwave across the Fourth God's Sanctuary. Everyone was talking about it.

The umbrella hadn't been the sole achiever of this, as a few others had been able to reach first place on their debut. The higher-ups of the Fourth God's Sanctuary were starting to feel squeezed.

"Does this mean we're at the dawn of a new era? So many powerful geno cores are coming into existence now. This is a frightful time we live in." All the spirits felt like this. They were scared.

However, no one except for Six Paths knew that all the geno cores, so terrifying to the spirits and creatures, belonged to Han Sen. And he still had his Coin geno core, which had yet to show up.

Han Sen did not want his Coin geno core up there, as it was recognizable to humans.

He did not worry too much about the umbrella's presence there, though. And within the next month, he guessed that it might reach the silver level, too. That meant he wouldn't have to fight with it to keep up appearances and maintain the quota.

Aside from Six Paths, he didn't think anyone would actually challenge his Bulwark Umbrella, anyway.

And just as Han Sen thought about this, it happened. Six Paths sent Han Sen a challenge request. He ignored it, however. If he leveled up to silver class in the timeframe he expected to, he didn't need to accept any fights.

With his task done, Han Sen left the geno core storage. Venturing down a street in Elysium Shelter, Han Sen noticed how strong all the spirits and creatures were there.

Han Sen scanned as many as he could with his Dongxuan Aura, and he knew right then and there that he'd have no hope of making an escape if they were to follow on his heels.

He returned to the garden, and he found the woman reclining on a lawn chair.

"I am glad to see your Bulwark Umbrella has reached first place." She addressed him before Han Sen could even say hello.

Han Sen knew how to hide things well, so his facial expression didn't even move. He asked, "What umbrella?"

The woman hadn't expected him to confess. "You are a little different than that old liar Han Jinzhi. I'll admit I may have underestimated you."

"What do you mean?" Han Sen blinked.

"That man lies just the same, but at least you are able to teach the holy child. If you can wake her up, the Crocodile Scissors are yours. And your freedom will be returned to you as well." After saying this, the woman got up and left.

"It sounds like she can watch my every move. She must have seen me entering the geno core storage with my umbrella. But there's no way she can tell for certain that I was the one who took first place, is there?" Han Sen frowned, and he proceeded to think, "If she saw me enter the geno core storage with the umbrella, she must be able to watch me here in the garden. And if she sees the garden, she must have heard the woman in the painting talk to me. It's strange how she never said anything about that."

"Maybe for her to wake up, it will require more than for the lady to just speak." Han Sen didn't think she'd expose things freely.

Perhaps this was a way in which the woman was telling Han Sen that the talking bit wasn't enough, and he'd need to do more.

"In that case, how can I get her to wake up?" Han Sen wondered to himself.

Han Sen went to the stone and spoke to it. Again, there was no reply, and so he just gave up and went back to practicing with Taia.

Han Sen could put his faith into performing the technique, but for him to achieve the proficiency of Six Paths, he had a long way to go. Without the Six Paths Sword geno core, the workload and difficulty were much higher.

But Han Sen was just shooting the breeze, and his practice might prompt the woman on the stone to speak.

Han Sen put his whole focus into the skill. Heart Sword required a lot of faith, and he had to remain as concentrated as possible.

When he finished, he looked at the stone again. She hadn't shown any response. She was still standing on that bridge, facing away from him.

"Her body is good, but I wonder what her face looks like," Han Sen said.

Due to there being a heavy rain, her face had still been partially obscured when she performed the technique for him before. He still hadn't had a chance to see her properly.

After that, the mad voice of a woman rang out from the rock. "How dare you judge a woman like that! You are clearly nothing good."

Just as Han Sen sought to reply, the umbrella in her hand began to spin like a pinwheel. As it spun, it produced the image of a black hole that seemed to exert a tangible magnetic effect.

Han Sen immediately felt a strange power grab hold of him, summoning him ever closer to that hole in the stone.

Han Sen couldn't escape it, and he found himself thrown against the rock.

He didn't feel pain, though. When he was thrown against the stone, it felt as if he had been thrown into water.

More accurately, Han Sen had been drawn into the canvas that was the stone. He was now inside the painting.

Han Sen had touched the rock and the painting before, and it was unmistakably solid. Having now entered it, he felt very strange. He looked around, and just as the image had depicted, it was raining. But he was also able to see many things he couldn't from the previously 2D representation of the painting.

There was a small river with a stone house nearby. The stone bridge he frequently saw was in front of Han Sen, and there stood the woman, just like she always had.

In that rain, the woman looked towards Han Sen. The rain was heavy, but even though Han Sen could not see her face clearly, he could tell she was mad.

"There's a world inside the painting? Is the painted rock a geno core?" Han Sen asked the woman.

The green-clothed woman did not speak. She merely clutched the umbrella tightly and began walking towards him.

Han Sen was then able to see her face. She looked very pretty, but at this point in time, she looked very angry as well.

The face also seemed familiar to Han Sen.

Chapter 1464: A Sword Skill That Can Change a Lot

There many pretty women in the world, but the prettiest one had to be the mystic woman.

The face of the woman before him was the very same as hers. Even her eyes and her eyebrows were the same as the mystic woman's. For all intents and purposes, they were identical.

"Are you playing with me?" Han Sen frowned, looking at the green-clothed woman.

The green-clothed woman did not respond, and she merely used her umbrella like a sword. Then, she cast Heart Sword, the technique she had learned from Han Sen.

The skill's performance flowed like water, driven through a passion of hatred and overwhelming sadness.

Han Sen used Taia to block the umbrella, but it kept on coming at him. He had to keep stepping back, clearly at a disadvantage.

Han Sen wondered, after seeing her performance, whether the mystic woman used a sword too. Regardless, she was obscenely powerful. He had even witnessed her slaying mighty super creatures in a single strike. She was far stronger than Han Sen, whatever the case might have been.

The green-clothed woman used Heart Sword, but her speed and power were definitely inferior to the mystic woman's abilities. Her power was comparable to Han Sen's, and performance-wise, you wouldn't think she and the mystic woman were the same person.

The green-clothed woman kept on attacking, though, not giving Han Sen the opportunity to catch his breath.

Han Sen used Taia and attacked back with his own Heart Sword.

It was different than the green-clothed woman's Heart Sword. Han Sen's display of the skill was strong. There were rhythm and order to it all, despite it also looking like he was messing around. He struck at her during every crucial opportunity he was offered, catching her by complete surprise every time.

The green-clothed woman boxed Han Sen into a corner on a number of occasions. But in every single instance of this, he was able to slip away and send her reeling into a dangerous spot of her own.

Not long after, she realized she was the one at a disadvantage. She was being suppressed by Han Sen.

She wanted to fight back, but Han Sen was always there. Seeing her sword skills getting suppressed, she found it more and more difficult to maintain her combination of hatred and sadness.

“Are you that woman?” Han Sen was the one with the advantage now, and so he was in the position to ask questions.

When Han Sen said this, though, he noticed it wasn’t a very good question. He didn’t even know what the woman’s name was, after all. Phrasing such a question, in the heat of such a moment, wasn’t easy to do.

The green-clothed woman did not speak. She changed the skill she was employing via the umbrella into one he had never seen before.

After that, the green-clothed woman regained her advantage. The tables had turned once more, and it was Han Sen who was being suppressed.

This sword skill was very different than Heart Sword. This skill was so free, it was reminiscent of the clouds in the sky. It was impossible to determine how she would strike and from where.

If Han Sen’s skills were all pre-determined and set, then the woman’s skills were undefined and always changing.

Her sword skills were so free. They looked complex and complicated, almost as if they were composed on the spot. But there was a thread of unity and clarity underlining it all, as if it was not a random composition. She used this skill, whatever it was, very well.

No matter how Han Sen struck, the woman was able to block each and every time. He thought he could break her attacks, but it looked surprisingly dangerous to risk it.

“This is so powerful. Who can have a brain that smart; one that can produce such a complicated skill?” Han Sen was taken aback by her performance of this.

Han Sen had mastered Heavenly Go and the Dongxuan Sutra, so he was very good at predicting the enemy. But seeing this skill now, even he was thrown for a loop. The constant changes in the skill were striking, and difficult to decipher and keep up with.

The movements of this skill were never expected.

Han Sen was losing, but he was not afraid. In fact, he was quite happy. He realized there weren’t any other sword skills out there that were more suitable to him than this.

With his Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go, this skill was perfect for him. It’d be the exact sort of technique he’d need; one that could constantly change and flow.

Han Sen waved Taia, not wanting to beat her. He just wanted to see how far and broad the changes of that skill could go.

The skill didn’t disappoint him. The possible alterations were endless and limitless.

Han Sen kept on fighting her, and as he did so, he thought about the changes and possibilities.

There were so many changes, Han Sen was unable to remember them all. He had to find the rule or algorithm that dictated the changes that were possible if he wanted to learn the skill properly and in secret.

Han Sen watched her for so long, but this rule escaped him. He couldn't figure it out, and the constant changes made it seem as if she had combined every skill in the entire world into one. It was as if she was using every sword skill ever created.

"This is a good skill. Who could possibly be smart enough to create this technique?" Han Sen admired it a lot.

He didn't think the woman had made the skill herself because when he saw her use Heart Sword, she didn't look like a very generous person. This wasn't a matter of talent; if you weren't a generous being, you simply couldn't create a skill like this.

Slash!

The tip of the umbrella made contact with Han Sen. It produced a wound that bled.

"Good skill. What is the name of it? Who created it?" Han Sen used Taia again to strike, and he risked his life to do it. It made the green-clothed woman, who thus far had the advantage, stagger back a little. It kept Han Sen in the game.

"Why? Am I not capable of creating this?" the green-clothed woman asked. Her hands did not stop moving, and her ever-changing sword skill went back to suppressing Han Sen.

"This is not a skill for women. Only a man with a generous heart could create something like this." Han Sen kept on swinging Taia to fend off the changing sword skill.

When the green-clothed woman heard Han Sen say this, her face changed. The umbrella raged with powerful attacks now, more than ever.

Han Sen was hit again, and the blood from the wound splashed his face.

Under the constant barrage of attacks he was facing, this was the sixth strike that had nicked him. But Han Sen didn't feel much pain. He was more excited than ever.

And it was then that, through the woman's blitzing rage, Han Sen saw a unifying thread that connected the entire skill.

Chapter 1465: Who Is She?

“This woman definitely didn’t create this sword skill. If she had, she wouldn’t be using it so angrily and allowing me to notice the unifying thread.” Han Sen was happy to learn this. That being said, he noticed it was only one branch of the greater trunk of the skill.

This thread, the particular moveset he was tracking, was like the starting point of a ball of twine. From this, Han Sen could unravel it all, bit by bit, and get to the core of what lay under the hood of the skill.

But it wasn’t easy, and the fight between sword and umbrella had cost Han Sen a lot of blood. Although the fight was going much better for the woman than it was for him, that didn’t quell the fire of excitement that burned in his heart.

And now, as the fight continued to rage, the secrets of her techniques unraveled. His understanding was increasing as they fought. It was very lucky for Han Sen to discover a skill that suited him so well, with his mastery of the Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go.

The Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go weren’t lethal attacks. They applied to the user’s versatility and movement. Han Sen had always wanted to find a hyper geno art that went well with these two techniques.

Now, seeing this woman’s skills, he giddily concluded that his desire was about to be fulfilled. Once he learned the skill, it would only require small modifications. After that, it’d fit his usage of the Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go like a glove.

It was like cooking, he thought. The Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go were like cooking techniques that allowed for the preparation of delicious food.

But to formulate a feast, you needed ingredients. You couldn’t have a feast with just rice on offer.

The woman’s sword skill was a bounty of different ingredients, all of the highest quality. With the cooking skills of the Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go, whatever he produced was sure to be momentous.

Although the woman fought hard, he suspected there was a note of restraint in her movements. It didn’t seem as if she wanted to kill him.

If she explicitly wanted to kill him, he wouldn’t have lasted against her with his unfinished Heart Sword.

And if the woman had truly wanted Han Sen dead, he wouldn’t have stuck to making use of Heart Sword, either. His Double Fly was not as complicated as her skill, but its simplicity meant he could fight and challenge her almost as an equal.

The woman noticed Han Sen’s simmering excitement as they fought, despite the injuries he had incurred. She was surprised, and his unexpected reaction made her anger subside a little.

And then, all of a sudden, she noticed the sword skills Han Sen was employing had changed. The skills he was now using were similar to the ones she employed herself.

The woman was shocked. "He is practically making use of Ghost Sword! Ghost Sword Priest was the very first swordmaster of the Elysium. He spent a thousand years crafting the basis of this technique, and he spent many more years modifying it further. When Ghost Sword Priest taught me, it took me an entire year just to get a handle on it. How is this human learning it so swiftly?"

The woman could not allow herself to believe Han Sen was actually using Ghost Sword, but after some time passed, the expression on her face become more and more complicated.

She couldn't let herself believe that he was using Ghost Sword, but his moves had echoed her own for so long, it was unmistakably similar.

Han Sen was replicating the woman's precise techniques shortly after she used them.

To make things worse, she realized that Han Sen was not only copying her, but performing the very same skill to an even better degree.

It wasn't that Han Sen had changed the core skill; it was just that when Han Sen used Ghost Sword, his timings were far more precise and his accuracy and precision were flawless.

Han Sen had been losing, but when he started making use of her skill, he fared much better. They were locked in a stalemate, as far as she could tell.

The woman was in absolute shock. She finally accepted that Han Sen was indeed using Ghost Sword and that this was something he had learned directly from her.

"Did you learn a sword skill such as this before our encounter?" the woman asked Han Sen, leaping away from the fight.

"Kind of." Han Sen nodded.

Han Sen had never actually learned Ghost Sword, of course, but he could replicate the primal essence of the skill. Through his proficiency with Heavenly Go and the Dongxuan Sutra, he was able to learn Ghost Sword with relative ease. He just had to get to grips with the underlying rule and thread that connected it all.

If Han Sen hadn't learned those two, he would never have been able to start casting Ghost Sword in the manner he just had. This wasn't a skill you could just pick up, remember, and use. The complicated movements the skill required were just one of the many bases you had to cover.

The woman looked at Han Sen with a confused expression. She opened her umbrella and spun it.

Han Sen then felt as if something was sucking him. It lasted a while, and when the suction was gone, he found himself standing before the rock. The woman was where she always had been, standing solemnly on a bridge.

“Don’t tell Gu Qingcheng you entered the Avoid Worldstone.” The woman’s voice rang out from the stone.

“Who is Gu Qingcheng? Are you referring to that woman?” Han Sen snapped out of his daze and looked straight at the green-clothed woman.

Han Sen knew she wasn’t the mystic woman, despite their appearance being nearly identical. They were very different people on the inside.

“Didn’t she tell you?” The stone continued to sound with the green-clothed woman’s voice.

“No. This is the first time I’ve heard her name.” Han Sen stared at the woman in the painting, and after a bit, he asked her, “Who are you, then? Gu Qingcheng’s twin sister?”

There was no response. It didn’t seem as if she was prepared to answer him.

“The mystic woman is called Gu Qingcheng? It’s a name that certainly sounds human. I’ve never heard of a spirit or creature possessing the name Gu. Dark Spirit uses the name Ling and Elysium folk use Ghost, so I don’t think Gu is something that would be used by spirits or creatures,” Han Sen reckoned to himself.

“Who is the green-clothed woman, then? Is she a sister or a straight-up doppelganger of Gu Qingcheng? Or is she just a spirit inside a painting? And why won’t she let me tell Gu Qingcheng I entered the painting?” Han Sen’s mind was filled with a number of questions. He continued to look at the green-clothed woman, but she was still facing away from him.

Chapter 1466: The Chance for Escape

Although the woman in the painting wasn’t willing to elaborate on her association with Gu Qingcheng, Han Sen thought it might have been for the best. Gu Qingcheng was most likely watching his every move, anyway.

But Han Sen got ahead of himself, and it turned out she hadn’t actually seen him enter the painting. She watched him intently, but she had only seen Han Sen standing in front of the stone doing absolutely nothing. She hadn’t seen him enter the image on the rock, at all.

Han Sen spent much time mulling over the relationship between the green-clothed woman and Gu Qingcheng, but he couldn’t come up with any plausible theories.

The next morning, Gu Qingcheng came looking for Han Sen in the garden. His heart leaped when he saw her, fearing she might have known about his brief stint inside the painting.

"I'm leaving the shelter for a while. For the duration I am gone, you'd best stay put in the garden," Gu Qingcheng said, surprising Han Sen.

"I'm stuck here. I don't know where I'd go even if I did leave." Han Sen exaggerated a shrug.

"You know what I mean." Gu Qingcheng turned to leave, not willing to spare time explaining things any further than that.

"Where are you going?" Han Sen asked.

Gu Qingcheng hesitated and answered, "To get something. If you can make the holy child revive, it'd be good for you and her both. But remember, you'll have to wake her up first."

Before she left completely, she said one more thing: "While I'm gone, don't set one foot outside this garden."

Han Sen knew what she was implying. There was every chance the Elysium might come for him wielding pitchforks in her absence, so it was best for him to stick to the safety of the garden.

Han Sen knew this was her way of being nice to him, but her absence still made for his best chance of escaping.

The next day, Han Sen decided not to follow Gu Qingcheng's commands. Instead, he slipped out of the garden and made his way to the geno core storage.

No one confronted him on his way there, and although the spirits looked at him with extra hostility, they did nothing. As usual, they simply tried to kill him with a nasty stare.

Han Sen went back and forth a few times from there. With no threats and nothing prohibiting his coming and going, he really did think this would make for the perfect chance to escape.

Many spirits and creatures were coming and going on the east side of Elysium Shelter. They did not belong to Elysium Shelter, and it seemed as if some manner of business had brought them hither.

Han Sen watched them for two days, and over the course of that time, he saw many more creatures and spirits than he had expected. There wasn't much in the way of security, either. Han Sen figured he'd be able to hide in the crowds to slip out. All he needed to do was pick the right opportunity for making a move, something he wagered would not be difficult.

"An emperor class shelter has this glaring vulnerability? No way. This has to be some sort of trap. Perhaps this is all a ruse established by the Elysium, setting me up for an easy excuse to take my life. If I stay, they'll have no reason or just cause for killing me. I'll be safe. If I leave, they'll undoubtedly cherish the ability to hunt me down," Han Sen thought with concern.

Han Sen hesitated to depart. It looked like a great opportunity for an escape, but it looked like a trap, too.

“You want to leave?” As Han Sen wondered what he should do, the green-clothed woman spoke to him from the stone.

“Why would I do such a thing?” Han Sen was shocked by the sudden question, and he quickly turned to deny what she had suggested.

“Whatever you’re seeing is just a trap,” the woman informed him, seeming to disregard what Han Sen had said.

Han Sen’s face changed, and he didn’t deny his desire to leave again.

She went on to say, “If you think you can trust me, I have a way in which you can escape. Would you like to give it a try?”

“Why would you want to help me?” Han Sen curiously eyed the lady.

The woman coldly answered, “I’m actually helping myself. I want to escape, but I want you to come with me.”

“Aren’t you the holy child of the Elysium? Why do you want to leave?” Han Sen asked with surprise.

She fell silent for a little while, then said, “I am the holy child of the Elysium, but I don’t want that title. I don’t want any of this. I just want to be an ordinary, run-of-the-mill spirit.”

“Okay, and what does this plan of yours involve?” Han Sen was neither interested nor willing to hear whatever sad life story she seemed about to tell him. He wanted a way out, so he was going to get down to brass tacks.

The lady quietly murmured, “While Gu Qingcheng is gone, I can help you escape. But unless you can get me my spirit stone back, I’m not going anywhere.”

“Where is your spirit stone?” Han Sen didn’t think she was the sort to lie to him. And if she had a way in which they could escape successfully, he didn’t mind helping her out.

The woman in the painting said, “The spirit stone in the spirit statue is mine, believe it or not.”

“The spirit stone in the spirit statue is yours?” Han Sen frowned.

If her spirit stone resided inside the spirit statue, the only way she could get it back was if she pledged obedience to someone else.

The spirit hall would have many guards, however. Getting in would not be easy, and going for the stone would be a much harder method of escaping the shelter.

“If it’s not my spirit stone, who else would it belong to? Gu Qingcheng is just a human, after all,” the woman inside the painting said.

“Gu Qingcheng really is a human?” Han Sen had been wondering if she truly was.

He found it difficult to believe an entire spirit family like Elysium would willingly obey a human. And if Gu Qingcheng was a human, then why was the woman inside the painting a spirit?

The woman did not answer Han Sen directly, and when she spoke next, she actually mocked him. "You humans aren't afraid to die, are you? Even in the midst of all this, you're going to ask questions like that?"

"I was just asking. I want to help you get your stone back, but my powers won't take me any further than the gates." Han Sen shrugged again.

"Who said you have to walk in through the front door?" The green-clothed woman smiled. "I told you the spirit stone in the spirit statue is mine. I can control the shelter, and that means I can send you to the spirit hall with ease. All you have to do is grab the spirit stone."

Han Sen was wary of trusting her. If things were that easy, why couldn't she have gone and taken it herself?

"But there is one minor issue we have to deal with first."

There was a catch, of course.

Chapter 1467: Another Geno Battleground

The minor issue mentioned by the green-clothed woman was a berserk super creature guarding the spirit statue.

The green-clothed woman could send Han Sen to the spirit hall with ease, but Han Sen would have to slay the beast in order to grab the stone that was embedded in the statue's forehead.

According to her, the berserk super creature had resided in the shelter since before the Elysium elders perished.

Over the years, the berserk super creature had only become stronger and stronger. Its power was immense, and with that thing guarding the spirit statue, Han Sen didn't fancy his chances.

Even after inquiring about the berserk super creature's powers and abilities, he wasn't entirely sure whether or not if he should agree.

"Let me think about it." Han Sen didn't reject the offer outright.

"You don't have much time to dwell on this. When Gu Qingcheng returns, this opportunity will be gone," the woman said.

"Just let me think for a moment." Han Sen was still not convinced.

Han Sen was smart. He knew the limits and extent of his own capabilities well. He knew squaring-off against a berserk super creature for a spirit stone was a fool's errand for someone of his strength.

The only way Han Sen would be able to grab the spirit stone was if he entered the spirit hall completely undetected and remained out of sight.

The green-clothed woman did not rush Han Sen to make a decision. "Do you know what Gu Qingcheng went to do?"

"Do you know?" Han Sen knew she was being rhetorical.

The woman said, "You have entered the geno core storage, haven't you? Do you know about the geno core battleground?"

"Of course." Han Sen nodded.

"There are two different types of geno core battlegrounds. You have only seen one. There is another type that requires a special geno core storage to enter," the woman explained.

"Are you saying Gu Qingcheng went to another geno core battleground? What is she doing there?" Han Sen asked.

The woman quietly told him, "It is called Geno Battleground, but this one is a battleground for combatants to claim the geno cores of others."

"What does that mean?" Han Sen frowned.

"The demi-gods that enter this battleground can kill their opponents and claim their geno cores. Geno cores grow quickly in that place, and they can level up quite fast," the green-clothed woman said.

"There's a place like this? How can I get there?" Han Sen asked with shock.

"To enter a Geno Battleground, you first need an access point for the geno core storage. But it has to be a special geno core storage access point. Gu Qingcheng left so she could modify her own geno core storage to allow this. When I wake up, she will force me into this battleground and make me level up quickly."

"Does this benefit her in any way?" Han Sen asked quietly.

"I don't know, but you are my priest and you must go with me. There is a high chance you will be killed in such a place," the woman said.

"Why? I think you're weaker than me." Han Sen laughed.

The green-clothed woman rebutted, "If I die in there, I can revive via my spirit stone. If you die, you die. How's that for a comparison?"

"I understand." Han Sen bore a wry smile and shook his head.

“If you don’t want to be forced into the Geno Battleground, this is the only way to avoid that. If you take my spirit stone, I will help you escape Elysium Shelter,” the woman said.

“But there is a berserk super creature there. Even if I did grab your spirit stone from the statue, getting out would be a different matter entirely. When I take the stone, you won’t be able to control the shelter anymore. You won’t be able to zap me out, and I’ll have that berserk super creature breathing down my neck.”

“Who said I can’t? If I can’t do something that simple, what’s the point of me being referred to as a holy child?” The volume of her voice dropped then, and she said, “I have an escape route. Grab the stone, and I’ll get you out of that hall.”

“Let me think about it.” Although Han Sen was tempted, he didn’t entirely believe her. They were still practically strangers, and Han Sen didn’t know her too well.

“Wimp,” the woman said, then stopped talking. Her mood soured, and she looked mad.

Han Sen cared little about upsetting her, though. He would rather go to the Geno Battleground to level up his geno core than risk his life by infiltrating the spirit hall.

Over the next few days, though, she tried many times to convince Han Sen to change his mind and get the spirit stone for her. He eventually ignored all mentions of the subject.

She knew Han Sen was not willing to risk this for her, and her attitude eventually took a turn. After a while, she ignored him completely.

When Gu Qingcheng returned and noticed that Han Sen had actually stayed in the garden, she smiled. “You didn’t disappoint me. You really are the heir of Han Jinzhi. You two might always lie to others, but you never allow yourselves to be tricked, either.”

“My grandfather is Han Jinzhi, but he was only a small officer. He’s not the one you keep referring to.” Han Sen sighed.

Han Sen had picked up on one thing for sure; something had happened between Han Jinzhi and Gu Qingcheng. That was why Gu Qingcheng didn’t like Han Sen very much. It probably boiled down to him being a descendant of Han Jinzhi.

Gu Qingcheng looked at Han Sen with disdain and said, “Don’t talk crap. That old fox might be able to fool others, but I’m the only one he never could. You didn’t get tricked by the holy child into doing something stupid, however. Not bad.”

“You know she is awake, don’t you?” Han Sen asked Gu Qingcheng.

She nodded and said, “It is best not to believe anything she says. Otherwise, you’ll end up dead before you know it, without a clue how it came about.”

“Then, what were you doing while you were away from the shelter?” Han Sen asked.

“Modifying the emperor class geno core storage. I required a rare geno component. I was the only one in Elysium Shelter who could retrieve it.” Gu Qingcheng actually looked happy. “The geno core storage’s modifications should be finished soon. Then, you may enter with the holy child.”

“At least the woman in the painting didn’t lie about this,” Han Sen thought to himself.

Chapter 1468: Geno Battleground

“Are you sure I can revive the holy child?” Gu Qingcheng always sounded like she was certain Han Sen could get the job done.

Gu Qingcheng smiled. “If an Elysium spirit became a priest, the holy child would ignore them. You are human, and that’s different. Furthermore, you perform well. If she wanted to make a move, she was bound to wake up sooner rather than later.”

Gu Qingcheng looked at the woman on the painting and said, “Am I right?”

The stone did not reply, and the green-clothed woman pretended not to hear a word.

“But you still need to hurry. There is only a month left to go,” Gu Qingcheng said.

Han Sen asked, “Then what marks her as revived?”

“You need to get her to leave the painting,” Gu Qingcheng replied to Han Sen swiftly.

Gu Qingcheng left after that. Han Sen looked back at the woman in the painting, and he noted how strange the relationship between the two must have been. What Gu Qingcheng said had been intoned for the woman in the painting to hear.

“Hey, beautiful! What’s the relationship between you and Gu Qingcheng?” Han Sen asked the painted lady.

“That is none of your business, wimp.” The green-clothed woman seemed angry.

“Humans only live once. I have to be careful!” Han Sen did not think fearing death was a bad thing.

“There is nothing else you can do now, anyway. You’ll have to go to the Geno Battleground. It’ll be fun, seeing how you end up dying.” The woman’s words were chilling.

When Han Sen heard her, though, he was happy. That meant she really might exit the painting.

Han Sen chatted a little more with her, but overall, she sounded upset. Eventually, she retreated into silence and stopped talking completely.

A few days later, the Dongxuan Sutra had its breakthrough. Han Sen's body evolved, and so did the Bulwark Umbrella. The umbrella was now a silver geno core.

Jadeskin was getting close to the breakthrough point as well. It wouldn't be much longer until that followed suit.

After that day, the green-clothed woman continued to ignore Han Sen completely. It made him worry quite a bit, as the deadline for the deal with Ghost Moon was getting near.

If the green-clothed woman did not exit the painting in three months, and Ghost Moon was then made priest, Gu Qingcheng had said she would behead Han Sen. Whether or not she'd actually do it remained to be seen, though.

No matter what Han Sen said to her, the lady ignored him. He tried to discuss serious matters, tell jokes, and even read her stories. It was all to no avail, and he might as well have been talking to any old stone.

The three months were over. In that time, Crystal Core also managed to reach silver. Only Real Blood and Coin were still bronze geno cores.

And when the deadline hit, the green-clothed woman was continuing to ignore Han Sen. While Han Sen's mind raced for an idea of what he might do next, Gu Qingcheng appeared in the garden with a few spirits in tow.

Ghost Moon was there, and she bowed to Gu Qingcheng. "Master, three months have elapsed. The human failed to revive her. Please, allow me to replace him as priest."

"That was the deal. You will indeed replace him as priest." Gu Qingcheng nodded.

"Thank you, Master." Ghost Moon and the spirits all looked delighted, and they all bowed before Gu Qingcheng.

"I also said I would remove his head if he failed within the three months he was given. Now that you have become the priest, I will give this task to you. You may be the one to execute him," Gu Qingcheng coldly told Ghost Moon.

Ghost Moon did not hesitate. She pulled out her scimitar and immediately approached Han Sen.

Han Sen had been thinking about how he might escape, and if there truly was no way to get out of the shelter, then he'd have to just run to the Alliance.

His fitness was good, but his geno cores were still lacking. At least he was able to practice and work on his geno cores in the Alliance. When he got the geno cores to gemstone class, he could teleport back and perhaps escape Elysium Shelter under those conditions.

With a plan in mind, he moved in front of a tower. When Ghost Moon came close, he was going to run inside and leap into the teleporter.

"Hang on!" Before Han Sen made his move, the green-clothed lady suddenly spoke.

Everyone turned to look toward the stone in shock. Gu Qingcheng smiled, as if she knew this would happen.

The painting suddenly looked like a swirling vortex, as if a spinning tear in the dimension had manifested upon it. The green-clothed woman, with her umbrella, began walking out of the painting.

Not long after, she emerged into the garden like a real human.

She looked exactly like Gu Qingcheng. They went to stand next to each other, and they were so identical, no one could tell them apart.

All the spirits, Ghost Moon included, suddenly knelt before the green-clothed lady and said, "The holy child!"

"Keep him as the priest and let him join the Geno Battleground," the green-clothed lady said coldly.

The faces of all the Elysium spirits changed, but no one dared to challenge or second-guess her command. After the green-clothed lady said this, she exited the garden.

Han Sen quickly followed after her. He ignored the angry stares of all the Elysium spirits.

"Thank you for saving me," Han Sen quietly told her. The Elysium spirits had stopped following after they reached the geno core storage.

The green-clothed woman coldly rolled her eyes and responded, "I am not so nice that I would save a wimp. I'm dragging you to die elsewhere, that's all."

The green-clothed lady walked into the geno core storage teleporter. She used her umbrella to enter, as if it were a key.

Han Sen thought to himself, "The geno core storage has tiers. With my power, there should be nothing to fear. No one should be able to kill me where I'm going. Perhaps I'll just level up quick, and that's that. Plus, our tiers might be different and we won't be compatible."

Han Sen looked around the geno core storage. He had come here a lot, but it didn't seem as if anything had changed. He was unable to tell if this place had indeed been modified.

Han Sen used his Bulwark Umbrella as the key to enter the geno core storage.

There was a flash, and when his vision returned, Han Sen was shocked by what he saw. The moon had turned red, and the mountain river and trees were red, too. It was all so very weird.

There was no Rockman, and neither was there a geno core tablet. There was only a teleporter, and the woman was standing near it, watching him.

Chapter 1469: Heavy Armor

“What’s going on? You and I both have a silver geno core?” Han Sen looked at the green-clothed woman with surprise. This geno core storage looked very different.

“I told you, this geno core storage has received some modifications. We’re in a different sort of Geno Battleground, and in here, any and all geno core levels can gather. Your silver geno core will be brutally murdered here, though.” The woman slightly raised her lips.

“What is your geno core’s level?” Han Sen smiled.

“Mine is gemstone. I only need a little bit more juice to level it up to super.” The woman sounded cocky.

Han Sen was able to predict this state of affairs, though. Her fitness was similar to his, so it was very likely she had a gemstone geno core.

Han Sen did not step out of the teleporter, though. He wanted to go back with his umbrella.

He had finished the task of waking up the holy child, so Gu Qingcheng had no reason to want him dead. If he returned and spoke to her, perhaps he’d be allowed to leave Elysium Shelter now. If she really wasn’t going to let him, he’d come right back.

But Han Sen noticed the teleporter wasn’t doing anything. It was like it had been broken, refusing to send him back.

“Don’t waste your time. You can’t get out unless you find the Geno Core Tablet. Unfortunately, the Geno Core Tablet is near a dangerous place. Many elites like camping there, so they can kill any who try to leave,” the woman said coldly.

“That’s bothersome.” Han Sen frowned.

The woman smiled. “Now do you regret not listening to me, when I told you it was time for us to run?”

Han Sen laughed, looked right at her, and said, “Well, now that we’re partners, for the time being, how about you tell me your name? I can’t keep calling you, you, you, you.”

“Pah! Who would think of partnering up with such a wimp? If your geno core wasn’t such a low level, I’d just kill you and take it for myself. It’s not even worth the effort,” the green-clothed woman said, then kept walking.

Han Sen didn’t take offense, so he just followed after her.

If she truly wanted Han Sen dead, he wagered she wouldn’t have exited the stone right as Ghost Moon was about to kill him. It also took a while for Han Sen to teleport in. She had obviously waited, and if she cared that little about him, she could’ve been long gone by now.

“Even if we’re not partners, I should still know your name. It’s horrible to keep calling you, you, you.” Han Sen stopped by her side and turned towards her.

“Elysian Moon,” the woman said with a wintry tone.

“Elysian Moon? That’s a very good name. It’s as bright as the black-perched comfort the moon provides.” Han Sen smiled.

The green-clothed woman just stared at him. “It’s Elysian. It still bears an association to the Elysium.”

“Elysian Moon. Elysian Moon.” Han Sen said it twice. “That sounds similar to Ghost Moon.”

“She copied my name, but we’re nothing alike.” Elysian Moon smirked.

Han Sen continued following her. It sounded as if she didn’t like Han Sen, but she still seemed content to walk alongside him. She was a very different person now, not like the quiet person who originally inhabited the painting.

They continued to speak as they walked, but Elysian Moon spent the entire time mocking Han Sen. Repeatedly, he had to just laugh it off.

They crossed over a mountain, then stopped, looking at each other. Elysian Moon turned to look over a nearby valley. “Come on out! If you wish to kill us, cowardly assassination from the shadows is a bad idea.”

As her voice echoed back out of the valley, the heavy sound of footsteps followed it out, bouncing off the gulches of the valley.

They saw a minotaur, decked out in heavy armor. It had a ruby spear, and its eyes were red, too.

“It’s a Geno Battle Soul,” Elysian Moon said, finger pointing at the minotaur.

“What is a Geno Battle Soul?” Han Sen asked.

“The creatures that occupy the Geno Battleground count as geno cores themselves. Killing them will strengthen your own.” Elysian Moon paused. “But Geno Battle Souls are rare, and they’re always at least gold level. This one, however, looks gemstone class. Killing it is sure to increase my geno core.”

Elysian Moon swung her umbrella and rushed forward to engage the minotaur.

Boom!

The umbrella and the spear collided against one-another, instigating a fearsome mixture of terrifying power that generated shockwaves. The impacts tore apart the ground, leaving them fighting in a deep crater.

In the next second, Elysian Moon opened her umbrella. As it spun in her hands, a phantom force of suction began to pull the minotaur towards it.

The minotaur tried to resist and pull itself away, but it was unable to get free. It was vacuumed in.

When the minotaur was sucked inside, she stopped spinning her umbrella. Han Sen saw the umbrella, and on it, he now saw the picture of a heavy armor-clad minotaur. It looked disturbingly alive.

No. It really was alive.

“So powerful. If she used that ability when we last fought, perhaps I could have suffered the same fate as the minotaur.” Han Sen was shocked.

Han Sen’s heart sank, and he again thought to himself, “It is an umbrella geno core, but why can mine only offer protection? I hope it has developed some new abilities, now that it has reached silver.”

Han Sen looked at his umbrella, which was now a silver core. There didn’t seem to be any changes, and its color was still standard black.

As Han Sen eyed the geno core, more footsteps began to resonate from the valley. It wasn’t just one minotaur.

The footsteps were rapid, and it sounded as if there were thousands of the creatures. This was confirmed when they saw many more pouring out of the valley.

“Didn’t you say Geno Battle Souls are rare? What do you call this?!” Han Sen’s face changed. No matter how strong he was, he couldn’t face an entire army of those minotaurs.

“That’s just what I heard off another spirit.” Even Elysian Moon looked disheartened.

Han Sen turned around and started to run. Elysian Moon followed, and she was just as quick as him. The minotaurs were all wielding ruby spears as they gave chase.

Chapter 1470: Bulwark Umbrella’s Defense

Han Sen and Elysian Moon were both incredibly fast runners, and the minotaurs had a hard time keeping up with them.

But when Han Sen turned around to get a peek, his face changed. There were at least two hundred of the fiends pursuing them, and now they were raising their ruby spears up towards the sky, ready to launch them from a distance.

The spears vanished from their hands, and when they appeared again, they were all falling from the sky like rain. It was impossible to dodge them.

Han Sen gritted his teeth and opened his Bulwark Umbrella. His only option now was to block them.

Bulwark Umbrella was only silver class, however. It was two tiers lower than the gemstone geno cores, so he was unsure if it'd be able to protect him fully.

Elysian Moon held her own umbrella and did the same, shielding herself from the descending spears.

There was a constant patter of thudding noises, and much to his relief, he realized the ruby spears were unable to damage his Bulwark Umbrella.

"Are those minotaurs not all gemstone class, perhaps?" Han Sen wondered. He looked at Elysian Moon, and he noticed a number of crude marks had been left across her umbrella after she blocked the spears. If she had to do this a few more times, her umbrella would undoubtedly break.

Han Sen thought to himself, "Perhaps it is a good thing that the Bulwark Umbrella focuses on defense. Her umbrella is gemstone class, yet it is unable to withstand those spears. My silver class umbrella can withstand them with ease. The difference is fairly massive."

As Han Sen thought about this, the minotaurs prepared to throw another rain-like volley of spears.

Han Sen continued to clutch his umbrella as a wave of noise crashed against its top. It stood strong and did not buckle. Still, Han Sen wasn't shaking off the minotaurs as he ran, and he wouldn't make any progress if he kept on simply blocking their spears.

Han Sen ran for a long time, and after a while, he heard a moan. He turned around and saw Elysian Moon's umbrella had been pierced through. The umbrella had broken, and the spear that broke it had dug right into Elysian Moon's shoulder.

Several spears had struck that same spot on her umbrella, and it had finally crumpled.

Their geno cores were the same tier, but since Elysian Moon's geno core wasn't primarily defensive, it wasn't entirely unexpected that it had broken. But following that one spear which managed to break through and hurt her, there was already another volley of javelins descending, ready to pierce through the rest of the umbrella and riddle her with holes.

"Over here!" Han Sen waved to Elysian Moon.

Han Sen was starting to understand just how scary the Geno Battleground really could be, and having a partner in such a place was better than venturing there all alone. Han Sen didn't want to be left to his own devices.

Elysian Moon looked back at Han Sen strangely. She was surprised that her gemstone geno core was unable to block the ruby spears, whereas Han Sen's silver geno core was doing just fine.

Minutes before, she had just been mocking Han Sen's silver geno core. She thought it'd be rather embarrassing for her to then take refuge beneath it.

She bit down on her teeth and decided to keep on running, avoiding the protection Han Sen's umbrella could provide.

Han Sen thought she must have had a trick up her sleeve, so he didn't ask her again. He just kept on running. There was a woodland not too far off from them, and he hoped the switch in geography would provide them an opportunity to slip away and lose their pursuers.

When Han Sen had almost reached the eaves of the forest, he turned back to look at Elysian Moon. Her umbrella was now closed, and whenever the spears came bearing down on her, she smacked them away.

But there were too many in each volley, and each wave resulted in an additional injury. To make matters worse, there was still that first one protruding from her shoulder.

The minotaurs were still coming, and they lifted their powerful arms, gearing up for another throw.

Elysian Moon looked pale, and her green clothes were now dyed red. She looked to be in poor condition.

Han Sen decided to run back and force her to take cover underneath his Bulwark Umbrella. And after he got into position, a lot of ding dong noises quickly followed, as the spears washed across his shield like another heavy rainfall.

"Why did you come back?" Elysian Moon clenched her jaw again.

"Save the chit-chat for later." Han Sen wrapped an arm around her waist and helped her run into the cover of the nearby woodland.

The heavy armor minotaurs weren't giving up the pursuit just yet, however. And when they came stomping through the forest, their heavy armor knocked down any trees that stood in the way of their desperate chase.

"Let me down!" Elysian Moon was being carried beneath Han Sen's armpit, and she shyly pleaded for him to let her go.

"My umbrella is only so big. It can cover two people, but now that we're running, and you're injured, perhaps we should focus on shaking our tail first." Han Sen did not put her down, and simply kept on running.

Han Sen looked back as the minotaurs bulldozed the forest behind them. Even the trees that were two-people wide were knocked down effortlessly.

Fortunately, savaging the forest had slowed down their advance somewhat. Han Sen, as swift of foot as he was, gained some distance on them.

After running for another hundred miles, the minotaurs were out of sight. Han Sen slowed to a stop by the banks of a river.

Han Sen looked back and made sure he could no longer hear the sounds of footsteps. Then, he said, "It looks like they're gone."

“Put me down!” Elysian Moon was still beneath Han Sen’s armpit, and her second request was just as shy.

“Oh, sorry!” Han Sen put her down, then saw that she was bleeding. “Are you okay?”

“I’m okay.” Elysian Moon’s body glowed, signifying she was trying to repair her own wounds.

It didn’t look to be very effective. Her wounds were still oozing blood, and her face was becoming paler and paler.

“The powers of those minotaurs are strange. It’s like they are forbidding me from healing my own injuries.” Elysian Moon confessed after a while. She was in dire shape.

“Really? It’s lucky you are a spirit then, since you can respawn,” Han Sen said.

Elysian Moon shook her head. With a wry smile, she said, “I lied to you. My spirit stone wasn’t in the spirit statue. It’s inside me. If I die, I can’t respawn.”

Han Sen frowned and gave her a look, but did not say anything.

Elysian Moon went on to say, “The reason I asked you to break the spirit stone in the statue was simply because it belongs to my enemy. I didn’t plan to escape. I just wanted him dead.”