

Chapter 1561:

Cactus

“What do you want?” Han Sen looked at Luo Yu, frowning.

Luo Yu curled his lips and said, “You want to go hunt some super creatures, right? Then, to respect Luo Lan, I’ll give you this chance.”

Han Sen was a bit surprised. He thought that Luo Yu meant him some harm, yet the man was inviting him to hunt super creatures. The super creatures must have been the ones discovered by Jia Shidao.

“Is that really necessary?” Han Sen looked at Luo Yu, his expression veiled. He had some idea of what Luo Yu intended.

“Are you too chicken to go?” said Luo Yu, disrespectfully.

“Of course I can go with you, but I’ll get half the super creatures I hunt.” Han Sen didn’t care much about what Luo Yu thought. If he could get life geno essences, he would totally go.

“No problem, as long as you can bring them down,” Luo Yu promised him easily.

“When shall we go?” Han Sen didn’t want to say anything more.

“Tomorrow,” said Luo Yu.

“Okay,” answered Han Sen. He then left the courtyard and went to meet Little Silver.

“Second brother, we tried so hard to find common ground with Jia Shidao and get rid of Han Sen. Why are we bringing him now?” asked Luo Hui.

Luo Yu said coldly, “I was going to kick him out before because I wanted to show him the power of our family, and I’m bringing him now to show him our power again. And I also want to show our great-grandfather that there are talents in our family. He’s just not giving us a chance.”

“That’s right. What was our great-grandfather thinking? Why is he using the Han’s instead of us?” muttered Luo Hui.

Luo Haitang’s choice had upset many from the Luo’s family. They were in no position to judge his decision, but none of them were happy about it. Now that they had finally met Han Sen, they wanted to perform well in front of Luo Haitang. They wanted Luo Haitang to know that they were better than Han Sen.

Luo Yu didn't think he was any worse than Han Sen. Han Sen might have been the first Super Aristocrat in the Alliance, but to them, that was only a joke.

With the help of Luo Haitang, the Luo's had already gained super genes, but because of the rules of the Luo family, they didn't publicize it.

Luo Li could only smile inside as she listened to Luo Yu rant. She knew Luo Yu and Luo Hui extremely well.

They indeed had some power, but neither of them was exceptional, and with the status of Luo Haitang in Godslayer Shelter, they had been spoiled since the day they were born. Even other demigods in the Alliance had to pay them so much respect that they thought they were the most powerful demigods in existence other than Luo Haitang and several other great beings. They despised ordinary demigods with all their hearts, and they overestimated themselves.

The next day, Han Sen took Little Silver to the square of Godslayer Shelter and found Luo Yu already standing there.

Jia Shidao was also there, and he was surprised to see Han Sen. He pretended to smile. "What a coincidence, Brother Han."

"Not a coincidence. I called him, and he'll be following us this time," said Luo Yu.

Jia Shidao coughed, feeling awkward. He had no idea what Luo Yu was thinking. It had been Luo Yu who asked Jia Shidao to kick Han Sen out, yet now the man had asked Han Sen to come with them.

Luo Yu took Han Sen to see several creatures, but he didn't say much. After all, it was not an easy job to domesticate powerful creatures. There were only a few super creatures in Godslayer Shelter, besides, even those super creatures in the shelter wouldn't let them drive them like this.

It was way more difficult to enslave super creatures than to kill them. Han Sen's super creatures were basically raised by him when they were only children. Mature ones like the little red horse wouldn't be as obedient as those like Little Silver, and it was difficult to manipulate them.

Everyone traveled under Jia Shidao's guidance, and Luo Li also followed them. Her fighting power wasn't great, as she only had a gemstone geno core. Luo Yu and Luo Hui weren't counting on her help; they just took her because they wanted her to be a witness.

Luo Li wasn't a Luo by blood, but she was responsible for assisting Luo Haitang with mundane tasks, so she spent more time with Luo Haitang than they did. If Luo Li saw it, that meant Luo Haitang also saw it.

Luo Yu and Luo Hui didn't make a single attack on their way. When they ran into groups of creatures, the demigods following them took care of the threat. Those demigods had attached themselves to the Luo's, but they didn't have the blood of the Luo's, so they couldn't practice the Falsified-Sky Sutra.

After more than four days, they finally arrived at the dune Jia Shidao had talked about.

The ground was covered in white sand, and Han Sen could see some random green shadows in the distance. They were enormous, bulbous cacti.

Jia Shidao pointed at those cacti and said, "Be careful, everyone. The cacti aren't plants; they're creatures. The super creatures that I talked about are the cacti at the heart of this dune."

"What kind of power do these cacti have?" asked Luo Yu.

Jia Shidao wasn't willing to say anything before they arrived, so Luo Yu didn't know any more than Han Sen.

Jia Shidao found no reason to conceal it anymore. He pointed at the cactus closest to them and said, "Those cacti aren't able to move, but they can spew their thorns out. The thorns can travel more than half a mile, so we need to be careful."

"No worries." Luo Yu summoned a beast soul shield, and he walked toward one of the cacti.

When they were only a thousand feet away from the cactus, it noticed Luo Yu. All of a sudden, thorns that were inches long spewed out. There were at least a hundred of them.

However, those thorns weren't able to pierce through Luo Yu's shield. The shield warded off everything, while Luo Yu kept marching toward the cactus. The cactus seemed to have endless thorns. After it finished firing the first round of thorns, they immediately grew back and started to spew out again.

However, none of the thorns were very strong, so the shield was able to ward them off. Luo Yu ran up to the cactus and slashed it in half.

"It is a creature, but it's only a mutant creature. Jia Shidao, are you sure there are cacti at the super level?" Luo Yu asked Jia Shidao after killing the cactus.

"There are, definitely. I accidentally got in here before, and I saw a cactus made of gold, and that's at sacred blood level. There's another one that looks like a crystal pillar, and that's definitely a super creature," said Jia Shidao.

"Then let's keep going." Luo Yu looked farther into the dune, then led the way with his shield.

Chapter 1562: Crystal Cactus

Ordinary cacti were not a threat to Luo Yu and the others. They had the power of Falsified Sky, and none of the cacti could even defend themselves against them.

However, Han Sen also realized that Luo Yu and the others had only practiced the first half of the Falsified-Sky Sutra. He didn't understand why Luo Haitang hadn't even taught his direct family members the complete version of the Falsified-Sky Sutra.

As for Luo Yu's body, it also looked strange to Han Sen. Both his strength and speed seemed to have reached super level, but his life force didn't seem as strong as it should have been. Instead, it had stayed at the sacred-blood level.

Han Sen didn't know that Luo Haitang had obtained a life geno essence a long time ago, but he wasn't able to absorb the life geno essence because of his practice of Shura Change.

The other Luo's like Luo Yu were ordinary humans, but they hadn't figured out a method of absorbing life geno essences from the First God's Sanctuary, not to mention the Fourth God's Sanctuary.

Back then, the gene liquid that most people now used to absorb life geno essences hadn't been invented yet. Those from the generation of Luo Yu's and Luo Hui's father studied it for a long time, and they finally came up with a special method to use life geno essences.

That method wasn't the same as the conventional method of absorbing life geno essences. They borrowed it from a geno solution designed for a Qi Gong, and it treated life geno essence as a geno solution.

Though the technique didn't allow the user to merge the life geno essence with their own flesh and blood, it did create a strange geno solution with the origin of power of the Luo's. The Luo's had another kind of special power aside from the power of Falsified Sky.

When they arrived at the Fourth God's Sanctuary, the geno solution they had condensed was transformed into a self geno core. More importantly, that self geno core still had the same ability to absorb life geno essences. When the geno core formed, it was automatically at super level.

Aside from that self geno core, they could also condense a second self geno core from the Falsified-Sky Sutra, which was why the Luo's were so proud.

Having two self geno cores, with one of those cores immediately rising to super level, gave the Luo's the leverage to roam the Alliance.

However, there was a huge downside to this method; their bodies hadn't reached super level, so the Luo's were physically weak. Their life forces hadn't reached super level, which was why they felt strange to Han Sen.

A couple hundred miles into the dune, they began to find cacti made of gold. They were all sacred-blood creatures, yet they were still killed by Luo Yu and Luo Hui with one strike. The power of half the Falsified-Sky Sutra was already extraordinary.

Han Sen also killed several golden cacti with his Taia and gained a beast soul. It was a heavy mace that was made of gold, and it looked forceful.

However, Han Sen didn't know how to use this kind of unpopular weapon, so he would have to trade it.

The cacti were bizarre. They were grown in the sand, so they couldn't move at all, and the only attack techniques they had were thorns. Their flesh and blood weren't edible either. If Han Sen hadn't already killed some, he wouldn't even have thought they were creatures.

Luo Yu and the others weren't surprised to see Han Sen slaying the sacred-blood creatures. If Han Sen couldn't even do that, Luo Haitang wouldn't have valued him.

"Those cacti!" After walking a thousand miles into the dune, Jia Shidao pointed in front of them.

Han Sen and Luo Yu and the others all followed Jia Shidao's gaze. They saw a cactus that was ten feet tall, made of crystal, simmering under the sun. And it wasn't the only cactus. Behind that cactus were many other crystal cacti with a variety of shapes.

Everyone stopped walking, and nobody dared to move forward anymore. Even Luo Yu and Luo Hui had to be careful when they faced super creatures.

After all, their bodies were only as sturdy as sacred-blood creatures, so they might be killed by super creatures.

"You want to kill a super creature, right? Now it's your chance to do so. Let's see whether you can actually do it or not," said Luo Yu, looking at Han Sen.

Han Sen took a look at those cacti made of crystal. He shook his head and said, "I don't even know what those cacti are capable of yet, so I'd better test them first."

Although the previous cacti couldn't move at all, nobody could guarantee that these cacti wouldn't be able to move either, so Han Sen didn't want to risk it.

"If you're too scared to try it, then I'll do it first," said Luo Yu while summoning his geno core.

A red crystal armor covered Luo Yu's body, and a blade appeared in his hands.

That red crystal armor looked bizarre. Han Sen felt that it was made of life geno essence, but he couldn't tell how that had been done.

Luo Yu's blade looked like the She-King Blade, but it wasn't as delicate.

"This is so weird. The power of that crystal armor doesn't seem to be connected to the Falsified-Sky Sutra at all, but it gives Luo Yu terrific power." Han Sen's interest was piqued.

Luo Yu lifted his shield and dashed toward the cactus closest to him. Just like the ordinary cacti, it spewed out many thorns that looked like crystal. The thorns flew toward Luo Yu like a storm.

Dang!

The thorns pierced Luo Yu's sacred-blood shield. However, the thorns that hit his body were warded off by the crystal armor, so they didn't injure him at all.

Han Sen nodded. "The Luo's indeed have something to be proud of. With that armor, only a few humans like Gu Qingcheng would actually be able to hurt him."

Luo Yu rushed toward the crystal cactus like a heavy-armored soldier. The thorns hit his armor, making a sound like rain on a tin roof, but they still failed to pierce through the armor. Luo Yu was getting closer and closer to the cactus. The blade in his hand that contained the mysterious power of Falsified Sky slashed toward the crystal cactus.

Jia Shidao was exhilarated, and he couldn't help yelling, "Luo Yu is incredible! We can't even compare with him."

Luo Hui smiled. "It was right of you to cooperate with us. Big brother's geno core has both attacks and defense. Killing creatures that can't move their bodies will be easy for him. Just wait here for the rewards."

Luo Yu's blade hit the crystal cactus as they spoke, but in the next second, Luo Yu's face fell.

The geno core blade that contained the power of Falsified Sky slashed the crystal cactus, but it couldn't injure the crystal cactus in the slightest.

The geno core blade was a geno core condensed from the Falsified-Sky Sutra, so it couldn't grow immediately to super level like the first self geno core. It was still a gemstone core.

The body of the crystal cactus was too solid. Even if it had the power of Falsified Sky, the sword couldn't break the body of the crystal cactus at all.

Chapter 1564: Ostentation

Jia Shidao and the others looked completely horrified as the crystal cacti surrounded them like a forest.

Luo Yu and Luo Hui also looked frightened. Luo Yu had the armor, so he wasn't afraid of the thorns of the crystal cacti. However, Luo Hui didn't have any armor to protect him. If those crystal cacti attacked him from all directions at the same time, there was no way he would survive it.

Luo Yu wouldn't be much better off. Though he had armor to protect him, those crystal cacti had already surrounded him like a cage. No matter how strong his armor was, he would still die if he couldn't break free.

Just as everyone was starting to panic, the crystal cacti separated and made a path in the direction of a mountain valley.

Two creatures that looked identical were walking down either side of the path. The two creatures looked like jade, and their shapes looked like the legendary White Beasts.

Luo Li was shocked when she saw two mutant creatures coming out. She shouted, "Those are super creatures called White Beasts. I saw one once when I was following Luo Haitang. However, he said that White Beasts are extremely rare creatures, and it's difficult for them to procreate. He thought there might have been only one White Beast in the entire Fourth God's Sanctuary. He wanted to domesticate the White Beast that we saw, but it managed to escape. It's extremely powerful. Now two White Beasts just showed up at the same time. What is this place?"

Both Luo Yu and Luo Hui looked sick after hearing what Luo Li said.

A terrifying cactus forest, and two super creatures that even their patriarch praised. They had even less chance of surviving now.

The two White Beasts walked down the path. They stepped aside without attacking Han Sen or the others.

After the White Beasts stepped aside, the group saw another creature walking behind the White Beasts. That creature was a black bull with goat horns, and there was white mist surrounding its hoofs as if it were stepping on the clouds.

"Sky Cloud Sacred Beast!" Luo Li was horrified.

Though Luo Li didn't say anything about the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast, the name itself had already made Luo Yu and Luo Hui desperate.

Jia Shidao didn't know what a Sky Cloud Sacred Beast was, but he could tell from Luo Yu and Luo Hui that it was even more terrifying than a White Beast.

The Sky Cloud Beast kept walking toward them. Though it didn't let out its power, it made Luo Yu feel an indefinable sense of pressure. Sweat covered his palms. If it weren't for the crystal cacti blocking their way, they would have run far away instead of standing there staring at the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast.

Luo Yu and Luo Hui had both heard of Sky Cloud Sacred Beasts before. They were berserk super creatures, and they were some of the most powerful creatures in the Fourth God's Sanctuary.

No matter how arrogant and proud Luo Yu and Luo Hui were, they wouldn't be naïve enough to think that they could actually rival a berserk super creature. They were already sinking into hopelessness as the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast walked toward them. They didn't see any chance that they would survive.

The Sky Cloud Sacred Beast walked into the encirclement. It didn't even glance at Luo Yu and the others; instead, it stepped directly toward Han Sen.

"Are you Sky Sword Han Sen?" The Sky Cloud Sacred Beast stared at Han Sen with its eyes that looked like brass bells.

“I’m Han Sen, but I won’t call myself Sky Sword. Who are you?” Han Sen was a little dazed. He had already prepared to have a huge battle.

He’d been planning to use the technique he learned in God’s Ruin and summon his Destiny’s Tower to smash his way out. He hadn’t expected the terrifying creature to call out his name.

Luo Hui and Luo Yu looked between the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast and Han Sen, confused, as they didn’t know what was happening. Clearly, Han Sen didn’t know what a Sky Cloud Sacred Beast was, yet it had called Han Sen’s name, so apparently, it was coming for him.

“It is indeed Sky Sword, your highness. My young master wants to meet you, so please come to the shelter and greet him.” The Sky Cloud Sacred Beast nodded at the White Beast beside it.

One of the White Beasts moved to lay down in front of Han Sen. It seemed that it wanted Han Sen to ride it.

Luo Yu and the others were all bewildered. Even if Luo Haitang came here by himself, he wouldn’t have had such a welcoming. After all, Luo Haitang was so ferocious that many creatures and spirits hated him. If the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast met him, there might have been a huge battle instead of a warm welcoming like this.

Besides, the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast had said it had a master. This being was terrifying enough to control a Sky Cloud Sacred Beast, and he had just invited Han Sen to his shelter with such an ostentatious presentation. They couldn’t even imagine what was going on.

“Sorry, may I ask who your young master is?” Han Sen couldn’t think of anyone he knew who could afford something so grand.

“You’ll know when you meet him.” Sky Cloud Sacred Beast didn’t answer the question directly.

Han Sen saw that the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast didn’t mean anything hostile, and besides, he didn’t really have a choice. Instead of asking more questions, he just sat down on the White Beast.

The Sky Cloud Sacred Beast turned around and began walking deep into the dune while the White Beast carrying Han Sen followed it.

Little Silver was lying on Han Sen’s head. He squinted his eyes and looked at the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast in front of him. Bao’er was riding the small Ice Seahorse behind Han Sen, and Little Star quickly followed as well.

“What should we do?” Luo Hui asked anxiously.

They were still encircled by the crystal cacti and couldn’t get out.

“He’s the son of sister Lan. He’ll be merciful.” Luo Li then followed Han Sen, looking at him riding the White Beast with a complicated expression.

Luo Yu clenched his teeth and asked Luo Hui and the others to follow him.

Jia Shidao didn’t have any other choice. He was nervous, but the whole thing also seemed a little unbelievable. He didn’t know what was happening, or what he was getting himself into.

Under the guidance of the Sky Cloud Sacred Beast, everyone arrived at the deepest area of the dune. They saw a shelter that looked like a bronze mountain, and it was spectacular.

There was a spirit waiting in front of the shelter. When Luo Yu and the others saw the spirit, they looked more upset. Luo Haitang was well-known in this shelter. He was respected, but he had made lots of enemies as well.

Usually, Luo Haitang's enemies were all horrifying beings.

Luo Yu and Luo Hui recognized the spirit when they saw him standing in front of the bronze mountain shelter. That spirit was a descendant of one of Luo Haitang's enemies, and it had a great reputation in the sanctuary.

If that spirit knew that they were descendants of Luo Haitang, they might be doomed.

Chapter 1565: Skysword Is My Teacher

Luo Yu and Luo Hui's faces were a little pale. While they were still fidgeting nervously, the spirit appeared.

"Skysword Teacher, you are finally here. I waited for you for the longest time." The spirit walked in front of Han Sen and bowed seriously. He spoke with much excitement.

Luo Yu, Luo Hui, and Luo Li were frozen. Jia Shidao had no idea who the spirit was. Luo Yu knew about the spirit, and he watched as the spirit bowed towards Han Sen. It was an unimaginable thing, and they initially believed themselves to be dreaming.

The son of Furnace Emperor was Xu Mi, and he and his mother were second-gen emperors. He had bowed to a human, and they never thought something like that would ever occur. After all, since when had humanity achieved such a reputation? And since when had they earned the right to such respect?

Even Luo Haitang, despite becoming so famous, had never earned the respect and privilege Han Sen was getting. But now they saw Xu Mi bow to Han Sen and welcome him into the shelter; the level of prestige and respect he had earned was no joke.

Han Sen had promised Xu Mi he'd teach him a sword skill, but he never expected to meet the spirit here. With much surprise, Han Sen said, "Furnace Shelter is here?"

Xu Mi smiled. "Teacher, Furnace Shelter has the ability to teleport. We moved here recently, but we didn't expect to meet you. This is most fortuitous!"

After entering Furnace Shelter, Xu Mi brought Han Sen to a hall.

Luo Yu and the others saw Bao'er and Little Star following, and they started to follow as well. They, however, were stopped.

"Wait here. If it wasn't for Mister Skysword, you humans from Godslayer Shelter would have all been killed." The White Beasts hummed. They were guarding the left and right sides of the entrance to the hall.

Luo Yu did not know where they could go. They did not want to walk around in Furnace Shelter, so they just waited outside. They were quite nervous, but they were still glad Han Sen was there. Otherwise, they might have been killed.

Of course, if Xu Mi knew about the grudge between Luo Haitang and Furnace Emperor, they'd still be on the chopping block.

"What did he do? Why do spirits like Xu Mi obey him? Not even Big Luo receives treatment like that." Luo Li looked towards the hall with a complicated expression. The way inside had been closed now, though, so she couldn't see what Han Sen was doing there.

"Xu Mi, is this the teacher you requested?" Inside the hall, Furnace Emperor—who looked like a god—looked at Han Sen and frowned.

Xu Mi had made it sound important when he requested that Skycloud Beast bring back Han Sen. Furnace Emperor thought Xu Mi was going to get a very powerful teacher.

He did not expect it to be only a human—one who was not even super, at that.

"What can you teach my son?" Furnace Emperor was not happy with Xu Mi's decision, but he wasn't so brash as to throw Han Sen out right then and there.

"Xu Mi wants to learn a sword skill from me, so it is a sword skill I will teach him," Han Sen answered.

Xu Mi quickly stepped in to say, "Father! Teacher's sword skills are strong, and even Six Paths said his talent is as high as the sky. That is why he is called Skysword."

Furnace Emperor heard that and was actually convinced. To earn the compliments of Six Paths, Han Sen had to have been powerful indeed.

But Furnace Emperor could not tell what was so special about Han Sen, so he said, "If you have earned the name Skysword, and earned the appreciation of Six Paths Emperor, your sword skills must indeed be good. My garden has a swordmark. It was delivered by Holy Sword Emperor during his ascension to the Fifth Sanctuary. You can take a look at it. Perhaps you may learn something."

The Holy Sword Emperor he mentioned was an emperor who was good with the sword. He was powerful in the Fourth God's Sanctuary, around five-hundred-thousand years ago. His most impressive talent was his proficiency with the sword.

When he leveled up, he broke the dimension with his blade. The aftershock crashed against a mountain, leaving a cleft across the landscape that never faded away.

The mountain belonged to Furnace Emperor, and he had it moved to the gardens so it would be close to Xu Mi. It was easier for Xu Mi to learn the sword skills from it, by having it there.

Holy Sword Emperor's sword skills were special. Many sword elites had made the pilgrimage to visit that scar, but more often than not, they did not learn anything. Some were very seduced by it, though, and some even came close to losing their swordheart.

Furnace Emperor wished to let Han Sen take a look so he could test the fortitude of the human's mind. If the scar did claim Han Sen's heart and he was seduced by the swordmind, no matter how good people said he was, he wouldn't be a good enough teacher for Xu Mi.

Xu Mi knew this was Furnace Emperor's game, but he didn't think Han Sen would end up getting seduced by the swordmind. So, he said, "Teacher, let me take you to the swordmark."

Han Sen and Furnace Emperor did not have much to talk about. Talking to the spirit, who was sitting loftily on his throne, was boring. So, he was happy to leave with Xu Mi.

Han Sen brought Bao'er along with him to the garden. And while it was called a garden, it was huge. The thousand-meter-high mountain only took up a fifth of the space there.

Han Sen looked at the mountain. There was a swordmark there that had almost cut the mountain in two.

Xu Mi explained, "Holy Sword Emperor broke the vacuum with his sword and created a way that led him to the Fifth Sanctuary. The swordwaves landed on this mountain and left a swordmind behind. Many sword elites have come to face this but left with nothing. I come here to try and learn from the mark, but not even I can learn a thing."

"If it was left behind by a sword emperor, you should have been able to learn something," Han Sen said, with confusion.

Standing at the door, Han Sen felt an insanely scary presence stemming from the swordmark. The swordmind was strong. Just being near it should have allowed for some sort of learning.

Just like people said, if you read three hundred poems and still cannot write your own, you will at least be able to read. You cannot walk away with absolutely nothing.

"Teacher, you don't understand. Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind is special. Many emperor-class elites visit here, and none of them learn anything. Many of them get seduced and almost lose themselves completely," Xu Mi explained as he brought Han Sen through the garden.

In the spirit hall, Furnace Emperor and a female spirit watched through an old mirror as Han Sen entered the garden.

"If that human does not get seduced by the swordmark, will you really let Xu Mi become his student?" The female spirit frowned while watching the video feed.

“If he does not get seduced by the swordmind, and with what Six Paths Emperor has said about him, I can only presume he is qualified,” Furnace Emperor said.

The female spirit shook her head. “My son’s teacher should be the strongest swordsman in the world. Being qualified is not enough for me.”

Chapter 1566: Holy Swordmind

Han Sen entered the garden and felt the swordmind’s influence emerge from the cleft.

The swordmind was strange. Most swordsmen would give people a sharp feeling or a strong sensation of intimidation. But this swordmind in particular was different. It toiled back and forth like waves, endlessly. It didn’t feel intimidating, per se, but it was hard and tough.

It felt as if the swordmind was not strong at first, and everyone had the chance to battle it through their own sheer will. It wasn’t a task only reserved for the capabilities of super beings, though. Those who were gemstones confront it just as well. There were no disadvantages to having a weaker body.

But the swordmind, despite not feeling very strong, would perplex most swordsmen, and leave them unsure of how to proceed. Not even super elites had managed to tame it, and they were often negatively affected by it.

“When people first see it, they aren’t sure if this really is Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmark. They have to spend a while getting a feel for it before they acknowledge how frightening it can be. This swordmind is like an endless river. The pressure it exudes builds up over time, and the more pressure that builds up, the stronger it becomes. Gemstones class creatures can watch it for a few days and without being affected. Super elites can hardly even make it ten. They are affected after some time, and they might even suffer injuries. In some cases, their faith can be broken and their own swordmind damaged,” Xu Mi said.

Han Sen nodded. He practiced had sword skills, and although it wasn’t the best, he had a swordmind of his own.

Especially after seeing Six Paths’ Heartsword. Ever since, his sword skills had developed to become something special. If he was affected by Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmind, it would be a great loss.

Xu Mi went on to say, “Don’t try to use your own swordmind against Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmind. His swordmind is like water. If you use your swordmind against it, it’ll be like trying to go against the stream. The more strength you use, the more pressure will be put against you. If you don’t go against it, you could at least last a few days. If you willingly go against it, I’m afraid you wouldn’t last a day. In only a few hours, your swordmind might be irreparably damaged.”

“It looks tame, but it is actually overbearing,” Han Sen said.

“Well, it did come from an emperor of the sword generation,” Xu Mi said.

Han Sen felt the swordmind’s rush and likened it to a lapsing tide. He thought to himself, “I have practiced Heartsword. My sword skills are tough. I can challenge the water, never giving up. Going against Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmind is a perfect opportunity to make my Heartsword stronger.”

Han Sen knew that Furnace Emperor had asked him to go there to see the mark as a form of test. Han Sen didn’t really want to teach Xu Mi, so it didn’t matter that he had to take this detour. He wasn’t in a particular rush to give Furnace Emperor an impressive demonstration.

Han Sen used his swordmind, and then the mark’s swordmind that was previously tame suddenly began to swell.

The stronger Han Sen pushed his swordmind, the more pressure the other swordmind brought down on him. It was just as Xu Mi had explained. Xu Mi saw Han Sen use his swordmind against Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmind, and he became very excited as he watched them fight.

“His swordmind looks like Heartsword. There is definitely a bit of difference between his and Six Paths’ variants, however.” Furnace Emperor watched Han Sen use his swordmind. He could see it all.

Furnace Emperor had fought Six Paths once. He lost, but the experience made him very familiar with Six Paths’ sword skills.

Xu Mi’s mother, Fire Empress, frowned. “Xu Mi told him what he knows about Holy Sword Emperor’s swordmind, and still he uses his own swordmind to go against it. He is brave, but he is too arrogant. He is not suitable to be Xu Mi’s teacher.”

Furnace Emperor shook his head. “Don’t be so sure. Although Six Paths Emperor is not as good as Holy Sword Emperor, they are not too far apart. He self-destructed and became an emperor again, starting from scratch. Restarting like that means he might not be any worse than Holy Sword Emperor now. If Han Sen really practiced Heartsword, even if he only managed to nail 70% of it, he will definitely be able to resist the power of this swordmind without bringing damage to himself.”

“If he only knows 70%, then why not just ask Six Paths to become his teacher instead?” Fire Empress said.

“It’s not that easy to hire Six Paths. If he didn’t take Xu Mi seriously, then paying him would be pointless.” Furnace shook his head.

“Xu Mi has our great genes. The talents he has must surely be better than those of Six Paths. If Xu Mi is not good enough to be his student, I don’t think anyone in the Fourth God’s Sanctuary would be good enough for him.” Fire Empress opened her eyes wide. She was like any mother, though, thinking her son was the best.

The pressure building upon Han Sen was becoming a lot. When he used his swordmind, the swordmark that was previously calm suddenly started to rage.

Han Sen felt as if he had been thrust into a rapid river. The other swordmind was griding against his sword skills, and he felt as if he'd be flattened any second.

A swordmind wasn't all about pure power. The swordmind concerned itself with the sensation of the sword. It was something you could only feel, and not describe. You could not touch it, either, as it was not solid.

But if your swordmind was damaged, things could turn out worse than if you endured a physical injury.

When physical damage was inflicted upon you, you could consult a doctor and use their medicine to heal. But if it was your heart that was injured, nothing could remedy it. You would have to use your own will to fix it.

Han Sen felt as if his swordmind was like steel, but it was getting ground down. His will was being used up quickly. If he had been a person with a weak will, he'd have gone crazy already.

Even a swordsman with a strong will wouldn't have lasted this long under this sort of opposition. But Han Sen was different. His Heartsword gave him a strong swordmind, and his will was reinforced by the crystallizers. That scary swordmind could not break his will.

No matter how much the swordmind tried to break his will, Han Sen was unmoved. Instead, he allowed his will to get stronger.

Time passed, and so far, an hour had gone by.

"No wonder he is the teacher. He has battled with Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind for an hour, all without moving. He is better than those super swordsmen," Xu Mi complimented him.

"He is good," Furnace Emperor said.

Fire Empress coldly said, "It's only been one hour. If he can last twelve, and his swordmind is still fine, then he can be Xu Mi's teacher."

Chapter 1567: Swordmark

"Twelve hours? I doubt he'd be human if he managed that. Out of all the super swordsmen that have tried, only one has ever managed to last twelve hours. And that person isn't much weaker than Six Paths. Do you really think Han Sen stands a chance?" Furnace Emperor wore a wry smile.

"But we need someone that accomplished. Otherwise, how can we be happy with our selection of Xu Mi's teacher?" Fire Empress said with certainty.

Furnace Emperor merely shook his head and did not speak. Powerful elites such as that wouldn't teach others, he believed. He thought Han Sen was fine, as he had the strength and had learned Six Paths' Heartsword. He would be a fine choice for Xu Mi's teacher.

But Furnace Emperor wouldn't do anything Fire Empress did not approve of, so the decision was ultimately up to her.

Han Sen was unmoving while he battled Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind.

The swordmind was like a grinding wheel, but it couldn't diminish Han Sen's mind. Instead, it felt more like a smithy's grindstone. The hard edges swept by Han Sen, making him sharper as time went on.

If Han Sen's swordmind was comparable to steel, the grinding process was making it sparkle like a well-cut jewel. Time passed, and after six hours—seeing he was doing fine—Xu Mi looked ecstatically happy.

Furnace Emperor had to give another compliment, and he said, "This kid is not bad! Xu Mi's got taste. With such a strong will and sword skills, Xu Mi is bound to learn a thing or two by accepting this guy as his teacher."

Fire Empress, seeing Han Sen performing without trouble or anything, found herself half-convinced, actually. But she still showed refrain and said, "We've only reached the halfway point. It's still too early for us to say anything."

Another two hours passed. Furnace Emperor was very convinced by this point, and he said, "This kid still hasn't moved at all! His will is stern. Finding another person like this would be difficult."

Fire Empress was more convinced, as well, but she quietly said, "There are still four hours to go. Let's see if he can make it first."

Another two hours passed and Han Sen hadn't moved at all, just like he hadn't the past ten hours.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress were in shock. Even now, Han Sen wasn't showing signs of moving. It almost looked as if he wasn't affected by the swordmind. They now thought Han Sen could safely make it to the twelve-hour mark.

"My son has a good eye. Finding a teacher like this will be of a great boon and benefit for him." Every time Furnace Emperor spoke about Han Sen, his tone was different. He had passed from simple observation to agreement, and now he was full of admiration. He had changed his views a lot.

Fire Empress didn't look so arrogant now, either. She watched the stream in shock, and she said, "This human is indeed different. He is qualified to be Xu Mi's teacher."

The two emperors thought Han Sen could easily make it to twelve hours, and their opinions of him began to become the same.

More time elapsed, and after twelve hours passed, Xu Mi couldn't help but blurt out compliments. "Teacher, you are super special! Across all these years, only one person has ever made it twelve hours against the swordmind. You are the second one to achieve this."

Han Sen didn't hear what he said, though. His focus rested solely on the swordmind. The swordmind was grinding against his will, and all that time, Han Sen's own swordmind had been growing stronger.

But after a while, Han Sen started to believe there was something wrong with the swordmind. He couldn't grind his own swordmind anymore, and Han Sen walked towards the swordmark without realizing it. He wanted to get closer to it, so he could get a stronger feel for it.

"What is he doing?" Fire Empress watched Han Sen approach the mark.

Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind always appeared tame, but things were vastly different when Han Sen got nearer. Holy Sword Emperor had swung his sword and left the mountain with his swordmind. And it had lasted ever since his departure.

This swordmind was extreme.

The closer to the swordmark you got, the more intensely you could feel Holy Sword Emperor's will. It was the faith he had used to break the dimension. It was an everlasting swordmind.

Back then, many elites came to watch Holy Sword Emperor ascend. Many of them wished to claim the mountain for themselves afterwards, but in the end, it was Furnace Emperor who owned it. And that was because normal folk wouldn't dare touch the mountain, and they could not move it as he could.

Inside the swordmind, it did not matter whether or not you were an emperor that focused purely on sword skills; if you simply touched the swordmark, you would be attacked by the will required for Breaking Through the Vacuum. Your will would be heavily damaged.

The reason the elites weren't able to take the swordmarked mountain was because only Furnace Emperor met the teleportation requirement via Furnace Shelter. He teleported Furnace Shelter around the base of the mountain. Then, he was able to take it away with him.

Now Han Sen had been grinding against the swordmind for twelve hours, his own will had proven far too effective. It had not broken, and so he dared to venture closer to the swordmark. This was way too shocking for Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress.

"This young man's will is strong. It's like the best elite in existence." Furnace Emperor spoke with a look of seriousness.

Fire Empress didn't say anything, but the way she looked at Han Sen said it all. There was no more disdain, just surprise.

Han Sen approached the swordmark and felt the swordmind become stronger. His swordmind got even sharper, and his will became stronger. He was one hundred meters away from the swordmark when he slowed down. But every step was so sure, there was no hesitation accompanying a single one.

Han Sen's entire body looked as if it had become a sharp sword. It was as if he was breaking the water as he advanced towards the cleft.

Finally, Han Sen stepped onto the mountain and touched the mark.

Boom!

The endless swordmind came at Han Sen like the ceaseless discharge of an infinite river. It was like putting Han Sen's swordmind into a river of time to remain washed forevermore.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress' faces changed. They did not expect Han Sen to approach the mountain and use his hand to physically touch the swordmark.

That mark had been left behind by an elite that was halfway through the process of becoming a god. He was ascending to the Fifth Sanctuary when this happened, and even an emperor's will would be damaged if they touched it.

Han Sen's will was strong, but there was a chance even he would be damaged by touching it. If he did it poorly, his will would be broken and never return.

"Oh no!" Furnace Emperor's stomach fell. He was very satisfied with Han Sen's skill, and it'd be a shame if the human was destroyed right there. It wasn't easy for Xu Mi to find such an accomplished teacher.

Fire Empress sighed. She agreed Han Sen had enough power, but she never thought he'd be reckless enough to go and touch the mark. That was sure to hurt.

Fire Empress merely hoped he wouldn't be damaged too badly to teach Xu Mi.

Chapter 1568: Broken Swordmind

The endless swordmind kept rushing against Han Sen's will, and even Han Sen found it difficult to withstand. He felt as if he was falling into an abyss, where hope and lifeforces were gone forever.

If others were in his shoes, their wills would have broken. They would have given up. But Han Sen did not know what giving up meant. Beneath that pressure, his mind was still as hard as brushed steel, and he clung to the small amount of faith he had.

At a time like this, success was not achieved through strength. It wasn't about talent, either. It was all determined by a person's personality and the prior experiences that had shaped them.

If their personalities were weak, it did not matter how refined their skills were; their will would crumble. This was even true for super elites.

Even with a mind that was really strong, it was difficult to survive this sort of force.

Han Sen was a person with a mighty will, and he had adopted the stubborn personality that defined his parents. But even so, beneath the pressure of the swordmind, his grip and will were starting to lessen.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress saw Han Sen's expression change, and they broke out in a cold sweat. They knew this was bad news. Han Sen might not be able to withstand the constant force much longer, and his swordmind and will could soon buckle and break.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress teleported to the garden. They planned to pull Han Sen out of the swordmark. But before they could try, Han Sen's swordmind surged like an erupting volcano.

The force charged out from Han Sen's swordmind to suppress the swordmind of the very mountain itself.

"How is this possible?" Fire Empress and Furnace Emperor were frozen in shock. They could not believe what their eyes were witnessing.

A human that did not even look super-class had a swordmind capable of suppressing Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind. They felt as if the world was changing right below their feet. They froze in place, unsure of exactly what they were doing.

Xu Mi was very excited at this point, and he said, "Teacher's swordmind is so powerful! I don't think I could find anyone with a stronger swordmind than his. Not even Six Paths Emperor could keep up with this performance."

Han Sen felt terrible, though. When his swordmind almost broke, the sleeping Black Crystal Armor suddenly unleashed an additional portion of will directly into his swordmind to bolster it.

It was then that Han Sen's swordmind erupted like mad, without any control. It allowed him to brush away Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind. He was even able to suppress the swordmind of the entire mountain.

But the will that came from the Black Crystal Armor was too strong, and when it entered Han Sen's swordmind, he was almost unable to accept it all.

Fortunately, Han Sen had a strong personality and will. He made the best decision he could in the short amount of time he had to decide. He used his swordmind to reinforce that will.

Although it was hard, primarily due to the fact that Han Sen's swordmind was weak and the boosting will was strong, Han Sen's own will was strong, too. The boosting will was going to accept him, so it was able to assimilate with Han Sen's swordmind and allow a seamless increase in strength.

When that additional will refined itself inside Han Sen's swordmind, it became stronger.

Boom!

Beneath the powerful impact of the swordmind, the mountain was sundered. It was cut in half and flung wide open. Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind was fading, and all that remained was Han Sen's.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress felt their mouths drop. But they didn't say anything, they just froze as if they had become petrified.

Holy Sword Emperor's swordmind had been broken by Han Sen. It was difficult to believe.

Luo Yu, Luo Hui, Luo Li, and Jia Shidao had been waiting in the plaza for two days. But Han Sen had yet to return.

Luo Hui complained, "Han Sen is too arrogant! We are his elders, so why would he just leave us here?"

"This is not Godslayer Shelter, and it's not his territory either. He can't control anything here. Just wait a little longer," Luo Li said.

"Yeah, we're lucky we're still breathing. Just wait a while," Jia Shidao said.

Luo Yu started to say something, but before he could, the gates swung open. The two White Beasts stepped to either side as someone came out.

"Is he finally coming out?" The group of them had a look. It was indeed Han Sen who came striding out.

Luo Li wanted to shout Han Sen's name, but she closed her mouth when she saw the people around him. Luo Yu and Luo Hui's faces changed.

The people who walked out alongside Han Sen were Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress. They stood beside him, with Xu Mi trailing them from behind.

"Teacher Han, please teach Xu Mi well. Hit him if you need to. Treat and think of him as you would your own child," Fire Empress said.

"Yes, Teacher Han. Let us know if there is anything you need. We will try to accommodate your needs in whatever way we can." Furnace Emperor spoke with earnest passion.

Luo Li, Luo Yu, and Luo Hui were frozen in shock. They couldn't believe what their eyes were telling them.

Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress were top-tier spirits of the Fourth God's Sanctuary, and yet, they were being friendly and very respectful to Han Sen.

It was hard to imagine how a human could get the likes of Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress to treat them that way. Not even Luo Haitang could accomplish that.

"Don't worry; I will teach him. But how much he learns depends on his talent and his effort," Han Sen said.

"You are right, Teacher Han. If Xu Mi can only learn a small bit from you, you can consider us satisfied," Furnace Emperor said.

Fire Empress said, "It is up to Xu Mi how much he can learn from you. Even if he only learns a small amount from you, it is good enough for him."

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Jia Shidao and the others were all frozen. The two powerful spirits didn't sound like emperors at all. Not as the humans had imagined. They looked like proper parents that were simply trying to snipe a good teacher for their kid.

"Is he really that strong?" Luo Li was confused.

She knew Han Sen was strong, but she found it hard to believe he was that strong. Even emperors were talking to him nicely. She hoped her own child might one day be able to study underneath his wing.

Luo Hui and Luo Yu's brains were just empty. They could muster no reaction.

When they walked out of Furnace Shelter with Han Sen, they still felt as if they were in a dream and none of it was real.

Chapter 1569: Luo Family's Gift

Xu Mi followed Han Sen out of Furnace Shelter. He was going to travel with him as a student. Han Sen wasn't very good at teaching, but even if he only took the time to teach Xu Mi some skills of the Alliance, it would be enough.

Compared to human education, what spirits received was pretty much rubbish.

Spirits could live forever, so they could learn what they wanted whenever they wanted. There was no need for efficiency and proper timetabling.

Humans weren't like that, of course. In ancient times, it was said that it was rare for humans to see the age of seventy. That was considered a very old age, but a human's learning capabilities declined after the age of thirty, anyway. Therefore, a core principle for humanity was the need for studying effectively and in a timely manner.

Humans always tried to find the best ways to learn and absorb knowledge in the shortest amount of time. There were many different ways to study, but all of them were highly organized. This had been very important in ancient times.

It didn't matter whether someone went to a public school or went to a private martial hall; the education they received had been refined for millennia. It was far better than anything spirits ever received.

Han Sen did not think it would be difficult to teach Xu Mi. He asked the AI to formulate a plan and course of education for Xu Mi, too.

There were humans in Furnace Shelter, but no one really ever listened to them. Xu Mi certainly wouldn't, especially since he was emperor-class. He had never taken the time to learn how humans studied. What Han Sen presented him with was all new. It fascinated him, and he put a lot of effort into studying as hard as he could.

Luo Li, Luo Yu, and Luo Hui looked weirded out. They thought Han Sen's teaching method was so dull and average. They expected him to teach Xu Mi something grand and powerful. After seeing this, they wondered why Xu Mi would have such great respect for him.

They could not understand why Furnace Emperor and Fire Empress had treated Han Sen so well, either.

But still, they kept their thoughts to themselves. They were a bit scared of Han Sen, and they did not want to criticize him.

"Han Sen, why don't you come to Godslayer Shelter with us?" After they left the Valley of Sand, Luo Li invited Han Sen to come back with them.

"I'm going back to my own shelter. Take care." Han Sen was not a fan of the Luo family, and so he didn't want to stick with them very long. He brought the silver fox, Xu Mi, and the rest to leave with him.

Jia Shidao knew the Luo family's relationship with Han Sen was strained. He didn't say anything regarding that, but he did think to himself, "It's difficult to discern the intricacies of genes. I am afraid the Luo family will fall, and when it does, the Han family will rise to supersede them. Maybe Han Sen will one day become better than Luo Haitang himself. It looks like the Iron Fist Martial Hall will need to morph to accommodate the coming change."

Han Sen brought Xu Mi with him to his shelter. His new guest was a second-gen super spirit, so no creatures or spirits gave them any trouble on the return trip.

Han Sen did not go back to God's Ruin, and Xu Mi told them the place was shut down now, anyway. It would be many decades before it reopened.

Little Lion King had gone back to Lion Mountain, so there was no point going back there, either.

"What are those crystal cacti in the Valley of Sand?" Han Sen asked Xu Mi.

Xu Mi smiled and said, "It is a super creature. It isn't a normal one, though, and it is actually called Cactus Needle. My parents spent a lot of time trying to claim it, so it could stand guard and protect the shelter. The crystal cactus branch you broke in the beginning was just an illusion. It didn't affect the real creature. Unless you find its real body and kill it, it can just keep on summoning illusions like that. The illusions are all strong, just like super creatures, too. It makes for a powerful ally."

"That is a very powerful super creature, indeed. It doesn't sound any weaker than a berserk super creature, actually," Han Sen complimented it.

“Yeah. If it wasn’t, I don’t think my parents would have exerted as much effort as they did when they claimed it.” Xu Mi spoke of this proudly.

They returned to Shadow Shelter before long, and Han Sen settled Xu Mi down there. Han Sen then called on Cheap Sheep and Green Cow to give him a sitrep on the shelter, so he could learn how things had been and if any important events had unfolded in his absence.

“Bossman, with us here, the shelter has been doing fine.” Cheap Sheep continued to compliment himself and tell Han Sen how well he had performed. And he really had done well. He had done a great job while Han Sen was gone and kept everything operational. Han Sen was satisfied.

Red Pony was still in the garden, but Nine-Life Cat was gone. Where it went, Han Sen had no clue, but it never returned.

Gu Qingcheng and Elysian Moon remained comfortably in the shelter, and it seemed as if they weren’t keen on the concept of leaving.

Gu Qingcheng rarely left the shelter, but Elysian Moon frequently did. She came back from time to time, but she never communicated with Han Sen. She would always come back and return to Gu Qingcheng’s side.

Han Sen wanted to ask Gu Qingcheng a few questions and see if she was the Number 4 mentioned in the diary, but after thinking it over for a while, he decided to go back to the Alliance first. He wanted to see his family and his son. Han Sen had been gone for a long time, and he had missed them quite a bit.

“It is a shame Littleflower is too young and cannot go to the shelter. And I don’t have enough power to ensure Ji Yanran could become a demi-god safely. The whole family could hunt creatures together if we were all here, and we’d see each other a lot more.” Han Sen sighed.

When he went home, though, Han Sen thought something in the atmosphere had soured. Luolan and Ji Yanran were already there waiting for him, and when they saw him, they looked at him as if he was a criminal.

“Has something happened?” Han Sen asked quickly.

“Nothing has happened, but you have a big problem.” Luolan looked at Han Sen as if she was a judge, and she spoke with alarming seriousness.

“What problem do I have?” Han Sen did not understand.

“You went to Godslayer Shelter?” Luolan asked.

Han Sen nodded. “I was on my way through. Due to a business arrangement, I had to go. But don’t you worry, I haven’t established any ties to them. It’s done.”

Looking very angry, Luolan pointed to the gift box on the table. She said, “If nothing happened, then why did Old Stubbornness send these things here?”

“Old Stubbornness? You mean Luo Haitang? What did he send here? Does he want to teach Han Yan some horrible skill again? I’m telling you, she shouldn’t learn that stuff. It’ll harm her lifespan,” Han Sen said quickly.

Luolan shook her head and said, "These were my favorite snacks. After all these years, he still remembers. You better tell me what you did with him. There's no way that Old Stubbornness would concede to me and ask Luo Li to deliver these things. Luo Li brought it, but there were some items in there she didn't know about. It must have been his idea."

Luolan said she'd never go back to see the Luo family again, but when Luo Haitang sent her those things, it made her feel weird. She was both touched and confused. After so many years, Luo Haitang finally understood. He didn't come, but the items he had included obviously meant a lot. Luolan didn't believe someone with Luo Haitang's personality would do this.

But Luolan was worried Han Sen had sacrificed something, which prompted the gesture.

Chapter 1570: Number 4

Han Sen himself was surprised. Although he had seen Luo Haitang in Godslayer Shelter, he hadn't agreed to any of the man's requests or given him anything. So, why would the old man send a gift? It seemed as if he really wanted to re-establish a connection with Luolan.

But given Luolan's personality, Han Sen knew what Luo Haitang might have been like. It had been many years since he saw her, and there had been no texting or form of communication in the meantime. If he'd really wanted to send her something, he'd had plenty of time to do it. It wouldn't have had to be that day, of all days.

Now that he had sent something, it obviously had something to do with him having just met Han Sen.

"Mom, I didn't do anything for him. I didn't agree to anything." Han Sen went on to relay the story of how he encountered Luo Haitang.

"You dodged his palm?" Luolan looked at Han Sen with wide open eyes. She looked as if she was in shock.

"I didn't learn the Falsified-Sky Sutra, either. But you know that I knew about it and what to expect. Is there something wrong with the fact that I managed to dodge it?" Han Sen didn't think there was a problem.

"No, there's nothing wrong. You did a great job." Luolan was very happy to hear this. She put her fingers on Han Sen's cheek and rubbed it. "My good son, you really did a great job."

"What does that mean?" Han Sen looked confused, not entirely sure what had just happened. He had very rarely seen her this happy.

“Nothing. It’s just good, that’s all.” Luolan smiled and left, not really answering Han Sen’s question.

Han Sen rested at home for another two days before returning to the sanctuary. When he got back, he went directly to Gu Qingcheng’s room.

Just as he was about to knock on the door to her chamber, he heard Gu Qingcheng’s voice say, “Come in, the door isn’t locked.”

Han Sen lightly pushed the door open. Gu Qingcheng was in front of a table, drawing with an old pen.

Han Sen learned about what she was doing in a history lesson; it was calligraphy. She was using a brush pen, a tool devised by ancient humans to write. They weren’t really used anymore.

The few that still existed were typically used by artists for a few odd tasks. He hadn’t expected Gu Qingcheng to be the sort to love them like so.

Han Sen wasn’t very good with art, but he could tell that she must have had a lot of practice to draw with the level of talent she had.

Gu Qingcheng lowered her pen. She took a moment to admire her own artwork before asking, “Why were you looking for me?”

Han Sen smiled and then said, “I met someone who told me some wild things about you. I don’t know if he was a liar, so I’d like to ask you for the truth about these things he said about you.”

“Oh? What did he say about me?” Gu Qingcheng looked at Han Sen as if her curiosity had been piqued.

Han Sen had already established how he’d approach this conversation in his mind. Now, he smiled and said, “He said you killed Cruel Chi. Is that true or false?”

Gu Qingcheng frowned and said, “Maybe. I don’t remember. I have killed many creatures in my lifetime.”

“Cruel Chi was a famous demi-god super creature. If you killed one such as that, you wouldn’t have forgotten, would you?” Han Sen didn’t believe her.

“I really did just forget. Why would I lie about this?” Gu Qingcheng said, with lifted lips.

Han Sen thought that if Gu Qingcheng wanted to lie, she would have just said a simple yes or no. He couldn’t quite tell from the answer he was given.

“It’s okay if you don’t remember that. He said a lot of other things. He said you drank the pee of a Jade Beast to avoid dying of thirst out in the desert and…” Han Sen was going to say a few similar statements, but before he could finish speaking the first, Gu Qingcheng’s face changed.

“Impossible! No one knew about that. How would you know?” Gu Qingcheng stared at Han Sen as if she had seen a ghost.

“You really did this? Then did you hide inside the Hunting Sky Beast’s egg and end up getting sat on by the Hunting Sky Beast for an entire month?” Han Sen asked.

“Impossible! No one should know about this. Who did you hear it from?” Gu Qingcheng’s face changed. She ran in front of him and grabbed him by the sleeves.

“I said I met someone, didn’t I? He told me these things, saying that he saw you commit these acts. I thought he was lying. I had no idea he was telling me the truth.” Han Sen was both surprised and happy. He was now sure Gu Qingcheng was the Number 4 in the diary.

“Impossible! When I did these things, humans did not even know what a steamer was. Who could have seen me?” Gu Qingcheng looked annoyed.

Han Sen froze. His eyes opened wide as he looked at her, and he said, “Steamer? That is something from ancient times. Were you in the sanctuary all the way back then?”

Han Sen couldn’t believe what he was hearing, but Gu Qingcheng had unwittingly proved what he wished to know.

Gu Qingcheng frowned as she stared at him. She said, “You are right. I am from that era. I was in the sanctuary even during ancient times. Tell me who told you this stuff. When I did these things, humans could not appear in the sanctuaries. They shouldn’t have been able to see me.”

“No way. Back then, there were no teleporters. There weren’t even generators. How were you able to enter the sanctuary? You’re joking, right?” Han Sen heard every word, but he found it hard to believe.

“Does it look like I am joking?” Gu Qingcheng said coldly.

“But that is not right. Even if you entered the shelter, that would have been at least ten thousand years ago. Even as a demi-god, your few-hundred-year lifespan should have long been over. How have you lived for so long?”

Gu Qingcheng had admitted to something quite strange. He didn’t believe it.

“I don’t care if you believe it or not. I only want you to tell me who told you this stuff.” Gu Qingcheng’s face looked dim.

A chill had run down her spine. The things she had done were something no other human could have seen. The things Han Sen spoke of were events she believed no one else would know about. Spirits and creatures couldn’t have known, either.

Now that Han Sen had said this, it spooked her quite a bit. If someone knew about these things, then it meant someone had been watching her in ancient times and even up until now. This was a pretty scary thing to learn.

“Is there a way for you to prove to me you hail from ancient times?” Han Sen saw that she wasn’t actually joking. He had a number of different questions he wished to ask her.