

Chapter 1841

Jadeskin Breakthrough

The women knew that if they wanted to live, they would have to work. So, they decided to listen to Han Sen and bring the kids who were old enough to work with them. They did things like housework and cooking.

The Barons weren't like that, of course. Many of them simply decided to observe, whereas others decided to leave the base. For what purposes, they weren't sure.

Gu Qingcheng took the opportunity to visit the warehouse. When there, she laughed and said, "Aren't you afraid of those guys not sharing their resources with you? With the flesh they hunt, they can survive out there for as long as they want."

Han Sen smiled and said, "Those guys are just people, at the end of the day. They need entertainment, don't they? If they merely eat flesh and hunt for food all day, they'll go mad in less than three months. By the way, do you know if any of the women can dance or sing? You should find some pretty ones and open up a club. There, we can sell cigarettes and food. Or perhaps, if there are enough people, we can even open up a casino, so they can all have fun when they come back. I don't believe they are all honorable."

"This is too cruel. You'll be pushing the women into this wicked fire." Gu Qingcheng looked upset.

"In this era, they are lucky to be alive. And it's not like I am forcing them to do anything, aside from sing and dance. If anyone touches them, mark my words: I will kill them. In this base, I make the calls. Unless the women are willing to do something more, of course. Then, things are different." Han Sen laughed.

"They might be willing to?" Little Angel asked.

"Little Angel, this world is a complicated place. You still have a lot to learn. We are all beings with emotions." Han Sen laughed.

Little Angel seemed as if she did understand, but she didn't say anything.

After the women and kids were done with their work, they could eat. None of the Barons and Viscounts came to join them, though. Even if they did come, it'd only be to ask if the women had earned their points. They had stormed off in anger, after all.

Over the next few days, not a single Viscount or Baron showed up. It seemed as if they were indeed going against Han Sen.

There were xenogeneics all about in the wild, so it wasn't as if they would go hungry.

Han Sen chose to ignore their behavior, and he allowed them to do whatever they wished to. They couldn't do anything in the base, anyway.

Han Sen was not worried about the prospect they could make use of the xenogeneic genes. They couldn't eat the mutated materials, and Han Sen didn't need the ordinary flesh anyway. The xenogeneic genes were what he needed.

But there were not enough people, so Han Sen let Little Angel and Zero stay with the women. And in the meantime, he got to practicing with Jadeskin.

Han Sen practiced quite a few geno arts. The Story of Genes was the most complete, and he could turn it into a deified mode.

The Dongxuan Sutra had come quite a long way, too. He wasn't sure if he could take it to a deified mode yet, though.

There was only one part to the Blood-Pulse Sutra. After generating the geno armor, there wasn't anything more to it. So, Han Sen did not have to concern himself with it right now. Once he reached Viscount, that would change.

Jadeskin didn't even have its geno armor yet. There hadn't been a breakthrough on the three previous geno arts. So, he wanted to practice with Jadeskin. It shouldn't have been too difficult to study the second part of Jadeskin, to generate the armor he wished to.

Aside from learning Jadeskin, he went to learn knife skills from Yisha. He wanted to learn more about Teeth Knife, so he could use it in combat.

The Barons broke down faster than Han Sen thought, as well. In half a month, someone snuck into the base and cashed in their points. And with the points, they decided to buy cigarettes, food, and water. Mirror Lake's water was drinkable, but it didn't taste good. So, more people were willing to purchase water than they were food.

When they first came to Planet Eclipse, they didn't dare walk too far. They hunted the creatures that were nearby and collected much xenogeneic food.

Even so, some people were injured. And they had to cash-in materials for medicine. Some of them had not even bothered killing anything, and they still ended up injured. For those instances, the wounded would have to pay with their own money.

The Barons usually stayed together in a large group, and yet, hunting Baron foes would see them injured. Hunting there was a difficult task.

Han Sen didn't care about that, however. All he wanted to do was practice with Jadeskin, right now.

Gu Qingcheng and Xie Qing King were out and about hunting.

Gu Qingcheng always went solo, and she never co-operated with anyone else. Xie Qing King, on the other hand, had gotten close with the Barons. Han Sen noticed this because Xie Qing King's armor was special. That made him popular with the others by default.

After a month, the Barons and Viscounts gave up fighting out in the wild. They collected the xenogeneic materials and cashed them all in for points. Although everything they had collected so far came from Baron xenogeneics, it was a good start.

Han Sen finally achieved the breakthrough he was looking for, too. Jadeskin made a movement, as his body generated a mystic substance. Han Sen generated a geno armor that looked like ice.

The ice melted and became a geno fluid that went into his body. Han Sen felt a chill when it melted and entered his body. But he felt a power welling in his bones, and changes began to occur.

His body became semi-transparent. You could see the flesh and muscles inside, even the organs. He was like an iceman.

After half an hour, his body returned to normal. With his body looking like a normal human being again, he felt much relief. If his body was crystallized, and he was stuck in that state, it'd be pretty scary.

Han Sen tried out the xenogeneic Jadeskin. It was different from the Blood-Pulse Sutra. Activating Blood-Pulse left him looking human, but using Jadeskin transformed his body into jade. His body would toughen up, and his speed and strength would be greater.

"It's time to take a look outside the base." Han Sen planned to test out his new abilities.

Han Sen had a bunch of maps to go out with. That was something else the Barons had cashed-in for. He had never been out before this, but he now had a firm understanding of the geography.

He picked a place to visit, and then set-out alongside Little Silver. Then, they disappeared along the west side of Mirror Lake.

Han Sen was going to a mountain in the west. Supposedly, a group of xenogeneics resided there. There were six of the creatures, but they were said to all have different powers. A dozen Barons had tried hunting the group of xenogeneics, but their attack had not killed a single creature. One Baron had even lost his life, and the others limped off with injuries.

Chapter 1842 – A Rare Opportunity

A Rare Opportunity

Eighty percent of Planet Eclipse was covered by clouds. The magnetic storms were constantly unstable, and they were always shining with volatile power. Tools were almost useless in those conditions, and satellites in orbit never wor^^ because they could not see what lay beneath those clouds.

That was one of the reasons Han Sen made the decision to come here. While it was hard for him to watch other Nobles and track their movements, it was also hard for others to watch him.

But Han Sen did not mind his inability to keep close watch over the Nobles, as he had never planned on keeping tabs on them anyway.

Not long before Han Sen left the base, one of the Viscounts decided to follow him. The Viscount's name was Lake, and he was of the fairly small Inkcloud race. That race did not even have its own planet, and they were just a faction of creatures scattered across a number of different planets. It was extremely rare for them to have a Viscount.

But there was more to Lake than it seemed. When he became a Viscount, he was treated very well, and he received a lot of special training.

Lake came to Planet Eclipse with the sole purpose of assassinating Han Sen. Assassination in Narrow Moon was difficult, but Planet Eclipse would be his best chance.

Han Sen was only just a Baron, but still, Lake patiently followed after him. When he attacked, he needed to kill Han Sen in a single strike. He didn't want to slip-up and give Han Sen the chance to resist or draw his King class weapon.

Han Sen could not use all the power of the weapon, but its presence in combat would still be annoying.

Han Sen brought Little Silver with him on his excursion into the mountains. The creatures around there were far too messed up, and he couldn't be sure that the maps the Barons had drawn for him were entirely accurate.

Far away, Han Sen caught a glimpse of a few creatures near the mountain. They were the xenogeneics the Barons had described.

Upon closer inspection, Han Sen noticed that there were six of them. There were big ones and small ones. Some were as big as an elephant, whereas others were as small as a dog.

The bodies of the xenogeneics were all different as well. Some had four legs, whereas others stood up on two legs. Some were like creepy bugs with wings, while others had six arms.

Despite their variety, they all shared one physical attribute: there was a shell upon all their backs. The shells didn't look too sturdy.

Han Sen heard the Barons tell him that when their weapons hit the shells, they did not deal much damage. And that was why the Barons' attack on the creatures had completely failed.

Han Sen watched them for a while. He pulled his Ghost Teeth Knife from his backpack. The scabbard he had was broken, so he carried the knife drawn.

Ghost Teeth Knife possessed Ghost Teeth powers. Normal scabbards could not house it, and they'd usually break after a few days. Han Sen was fairly annoyed by that aspect of the blade.

He did have that spare scabbard he could use, but he didn't dare to. If Yisha saw it, the jig would be up. Han Sen had hidden that scabbard in the sanctuary instead.

When Lake saw the mountain Han Sen was heading for, he frowned. There was nowhere to hide there, and if he followed Han Sen up there in plain sight, his presence would surely be discovered.

Han Sen had brought a silver beast. Lake thought Han Sen was being very arrogant, thinking he could take on six xenogeneics under those bare conditions.

But Lake could also use this opportunity to gauge the true extent of Han Sen's power.

The strike Han Sen used to kill the Baron had drawn its strength from the weapon he used. It wasn't an effective measure of his true strength.

"It's fine with me if you want to get yourself killed by xenogeneics, so I don't have to do it. If you don't die, though, I'll help you along." Lake looked calm. He was taking his time, as there wasn't any particular rush.

Han Sen's presence was soon discovered by the xenogeneics up ahead. The six xenogeneics perked to a state of alertness and roared. They looked murderous, and they all ran straight for Han Sen like a pack of wolves.

Han Sen moved straight towards them with an unfaltering speed, knife raised and ready to strike. Little Silver was coming right behind him.

Quickly, Han Sen closed the distance to his first xenogeneic target. He swiped right past the beast, with his knife swinging as he went.

He did not stop moving. He swung Ghost Teeth Knife from all manners of different angles.

Within a second, Han Sen had made his way past all six of the xenogeneics. They had all attacked in a different manner, but none had managed to land a single hit on Han Sen.

Katcha!

Cracks formed in the six xenogeneic bodies, then widened as they began to seep blood. All of the beasts fell down, squealing and bleeding. Their lives would soon be over.

Lake, seeing what had just occurred, was shocked into horror. He thought to himself, "Powerful Teeth Knife! Powerful Ghost Teeth Knife! That power must stem entirely from his knife. Aside from the Rebate, I didn't think any other race could learn Teeth powers."

Lake was happy that he hadn't blindly tried to attack Han Sen without seeing this first. Han Sen was a far stronger foe than Lake had initially believed him to be. He had Ghost Teeth Knife, which meant a face-to-face battle would be very difficult.

Not long after, the six xenogeneics were all dead. Han Sen dug out the xenogeneic materials. Even if he didn't need them, the people back in the sanctuary could still use them.

"These xenogeneics are weaker than I thought. I should think about hunting down Viscount xenogeneics sometime. Otherwise, I won't be able to improve at all." Han Sen put away the xenogeneic genes and looked over his maps.

He looked for the locations where Viscount xenogeneics had been discovered. There were quite a few of them.

Han Sen selected a spot in which he could leave the mountain. He followed a path on the left because someone had spotted a Viscount xenogeneic that way. So, he was planning on going that way.

Lake, seeing Han Sen go that way, felt happy. Lake had made the report of a Viscount there.

There were actually Viscounts there, but there were two. He had only reported the presence of one. He was going to report it again to encourage Han Sen to go hunting, but Han Sen was arrogant enough to head there immediately with the hopes of fighting one.

“An opportunity. This is a rare opportunity.” Lake was so happy, and he quickly followed after Han Sen.

Lake had made his mind up now. He was going to kill Han Sen, even if the two Viscount xenogeneics couldn't kill him on Lake's behalf.

“I just need to hide in one of Han Sen's escape routes. When he tries to run from the xenogeneics, he won't escape my assassination. He is a dead man.” When they got close to the place the Viscount was said to reside, Lake hid himself on one of the paths.

Chapter 1843 – Killing a Viscount Xenogeneic

Killing a Viscount Xenogeneic

Han Sen saw the gully up ahead, which had been correctly marked on the map. With Little Silver by his side, the two snuck into it.

Han Sen saw a sleeping xenogeneic there. It looked like a tyrannosaurus rex with a ridge of exposed bones on its back. It looked like a mix between a tyrannosaurus rex and a hedgehog.

The sight of it was rather frightening; upon seeing it, Han Sen could immediately tell that it was not a Baron.

When Han Sen saw the xenogeneic, he didn't take action straight away. He looked around the gully and frowned.

Lake saw Han Sen not moving an inch, and with shock, he thought to himself, “Has he detected the presence of a second xenogeneic? He shouldn't have been able to. The second one is hidden. If I hadn't attacked the first creature, I would never have discovered the second one.”

As Lake remained in a state of shock, Han Sen walked further and further into the gully. It made Lake sigh. “It looks like I may have gotten ahead of myself. He hasn't been able to find the second one.”

Han Sen let Little Silver wait outside as he went in alone. He clenched his Ghost Teeth Knife tightly as he ghosted towards the xenogeneic. Little Silver had evolved a second time, but he was still just a Baron. A fight like this wouldn't really suit him.

The xenogeneic was sleeping like a log, and Han Sen was able to inch his way right next to it. Still, it showed no sign of waking up.

Han Sen held his knife tight and raised it up to the creature's neck. The xenogeneic was far too big to be killed with one hit.

Teeth power wouldn't be as effective against a creature that was a tier higher than Han Sen, but going for a weak spot was still better than striking anywhere else.

Han Sen slowly approached the beast's neck, moving lightly and slowly.

Behind Han Sen, a snake-looking creature appeared. It delicately rose out of the soil. It opened its mouth like a flower and approached Han Sen.

When the monster was a mere two feet away, the mouth widened and lashed forward. It was ready to lunge and swallow Han Sen up.

But Han Sen looked as if he had eyes in the back of his head. He moved both feet, and then the xenogeneic ended up biting the tyrannosaurus rex that was directly in front of Han Sen. The tyrannosaurus rex was roused out of its slumber by the teeth suddenly sinking into it.

And as this occurred, Han Sen leaped forward and unleashed a strike against the xenogeneic snake. Its metal-looking body was delivered a hefty cut that drew blood.

Han Sen was shocked. He had used a lot of strength with his Ghost Teeth Knife, but he had been unable to slice through its body. All he could deliver was a wound that was about half a foot deep. The bodies of these xenogeneics were tougher than he had expected.

Roar! The startled tyrannosaurus rex roared and shot a geyser of flame out of its mouth. The snake's face was incinerated, and its jaws relaxed and let go of the beast it had accidentally bitten.

While it squealed, Han Sen continued to slash and slash against the wound he had already dealt the creature. And after a few more sturdy hits, he was able to cut clean through and slice the beast in half.

The snake was not dead yet, but its face had been burned pretty badly. Its eyes had been seared out of their sockets, rendering the snake blind. It rolled around on the ground, bleeding profusely. It was only a matter of time before it died.

The spiky tyrannosaurus rex was extremely angry, in the meantime. It spat out fire towards Han Sen. So, Han Sen summoned his Taurus Shield and hit behind it, using it to block the stream of fire. The flames

were unable to penetrate the shield. It was a Viscount beast soul, after all. It was on equal footing with the tyrannosaurus rex's attack.

The spiky tyrannosaurus rex seemed angry, and it unleashed barrage after barrage of fire. The Taurus continued to block the flame, but after a while, the shield became too hot to hold onto. Han Sen had to let go of it.

Blisters rose all over Han Sen's hand from the heat.

Lake heard movement down in the gully, and it made him extremely happy. He stayed alert, so if Han Sen came running out trying to escape, he could lunge forward and kill him right there.

But Han Sen did not escape. He had dug his shield into the earth, so he was still managing to hide behind it.

The spiky tyrannosaurus rex continued to spit fire without rest, but no matter what it did, it could not destroy the Taurus shield. It roared to the sky and rolled its body into a ball. It looked like a giant sea urchin as it then came rolling forward towards the shield.

Han Sen quickly evaded its roll, but the shield was knocked into the air. It took a while for it to fall back down, and when it did, it came slamming down into a rock and became half-embedded in it.

The spiky tyrannosaurus rex came rolling towards Han Sen again. It was so big and fast, and it had spikes. Han Sen was slower than the creature was, and he couldn't take advantage of his strength. If he was hit, the creature's spikes would punch holes right through him.

Fortunately, Han Sen was prepared for a situation like this. If he hadn't come prepared, he wouldn't have risked the fight in the first place.

fight in the first place.

"Come out, my shoes!" Han Sen shouted, as fluffy rabbit-fur shoes appeared on his feet. Han Sen's feet acted as if they had been imbued with the power of the wind, and they gained a great boost of speed. With them on, he managed to evade the tyrannosaurus rex.

The shoes were the Teeth Rabbit beast soul Han Sen had earned from killing Rocks Fall Duke. They were a Duke class beast soul, and they gave Han Sen the speed of a Duke.

Speed was their only benefit, though.

But that was enough for Han Sen. Han Sen ran around the tyrannosaurus like the wind, and the tyrannosaurus rex was unable to catch up.

Katcha! Katcha! Katcha!

While Han Sen ran, he kept slashing the tyrannosaurus' back. And as the beast screamed in agony, it spat out more flames. But Han Sen was too fast, and whenever a flame was headed his way, he was on the beast's other side. The flames couldn't catch him.

Katcha!

Han Sen struck the creature on the other side, drawing out more blood from the creature's wounds.

The spiky tyrannosaurus rex was so angry, it kept rolling around, spewing fire. But there was nothing it could do to Han Sen, who was now like the wind. It couldn't even rustle Han Sen's clothes. All it could do was catch his dust.

"Xenogeneic Viscount hunted; xenogeneic gene found: King Earthworm"

An announcement played in Han Sen's head. It was the snake-like xenogeneic that had just died.

Han Sen ignored it. He kept spinning around the spiky tyrannosaurus rex, slashing it. He wanted to make the felon bleed more and more.

Although the Teeth power was not very effective on the Viscount, unhealable wounds could be deadly even if they were small.

Chapter 1844 – Dead Viscoun

Dead Viscoun

Lake had been waiting for Han Sen for a while, but he hadn't seen him emerge. He could only hear the roaring of a xenogeneic. It made him wonder what was transpiring inside the gully.

"Can Han Sen fight two xenogeneics at once? That should be impossible, because he is only a Baron. He has a King class weapon, but he can't use all of its strength. With his own strength and speed, how can he possibly last so long against two Viscounts?" Lake was confused over the scenario, but he couldn't poke his head out and take a look just yet.

Lake had seen the silver beast that Han Sen had brought with him. It was lying down near the gully. Lake was not sure what sort of power it possessed, but he didn't want to be discovered, and so he didn't get any closer to it to find out.

After a while, the gully grew quiet. It was as if everything across the land had gone still.

Lake felt relieved, thinking, "It looks like Han Sen was killed by the two xenogeneics. I guess that saved me some trouble."

As Lake was thinking of this, someone suddenly came out of the gully. When Lake saw it, his eyes opened wide with immense surprise.

"He didn't die!" Lake was floored.

Han Sen hadn't been killed in his fight with the two Viscounts, and on top of that, he looked clean. There was not a single speck of blood on him, and neither were there any visible wounds.

“What happened?” Lake thought of many different possibilities that could explain Han Sen’s miraculous survival, but he couldn’t settle on anything that really made sense given the circumstances.

“Little Silver, I’m hurt.” Han Sen moved out of the gully and spoke to the silver beast.

Lake, hearing that, felt relieved. That was a little more normal, at least.

But Lake saw Han Sen put his hand out to the beast and then say, “I have a few blisters, see? They hurt.”

Lake’s eyes were twitching. He wanted to murder someone.

The silver beast heard Han Sen and then walked over to him. He licked Han Sen’s blisters with his pink tongue. Swiftly after, the burned area was cleared up and the swollen skin smoothed out.

“Is that a xenogeneic with healing powers?” Lake was shocked, as that sort of power was extremely rare in that universe.

It was common to have talents that could heal oneself, but a talent that could enable the healing of others was very rare. If one was found, every faction would be fighting for ownership of it. Such power was highly valued and highly sought after.

Han Sen brought Little Silver into the gully. He cut off the Viscounts’ xenogeneic genes and wrapped them up. He used ropes to tie up the bodies and then started dragging them away.

Lake had been entertaining a few guesses about what had happened, but when he laid eyes on those two corpses, he was rocked.

Han Sen had obviously murdered the two Viscount xenogeneics. That mere fact was unacceptable.

And he only had a minor wound after it all.

“Scary. Too scary.” Lake now ranked Han Sen amongst persons who were on a very dangerous level to take on. He wasn’t quite willing to strike just yet.

When Han Sen walked past Lake, Lake didn’t move a muscle. He didn’t even risk breathing. He couldn’t allow himself to be found, as now was not the time to try to kill Han Sen.

After Han Sen walked past, Lake felt a great amount of relief. Hastily, he wiped the sweat away. He had never felt his much pressure before, in the task of taking on a Baron.

Han Sen was smiling all the way, as he dragged the bodies of the Viscounts back home.

Those bodies were rather hefty. The meat could feed many people, which would help out with the many resources that his people required.

Although they would not be consuming xenogeneic genes, it was still Viscount flesh. It could be very nutritious, which would be very beneficial for the women and children.

Selling it to the Barons and Viscounts would earn them a lot of points, as well.

The Nobles could hunt and eat, but they did not have spices. There was not even salt readily available. The meat would be tasteless, and the nobles were already sick of eating it plain. Many Nobles were spending points to buy cooking ingredients from the base. Han Sen's goal was to take all of their points. None of them had good hearts, so he didn't think he had to be nice to them.

Han Sen brought two Viscount xenogeneics back home, shocking the base when he came in.

The fact that Han Sen had killed two Viscounts gave the Nobles a grand shock. Some of them felt they were lucky that they hadn't tried to kill him, but it also raised the fear they held for him.

Han Sen was led away by the woman in charge of cuisine. There were kids there that could handle the meat. There were a number of kids that were only a few years old, and they were tasked with washing the meat. They put in a lot of effort and worked hard.

"It is a shame this base wasn't built to house a real society. We have no one to teach the kids what they'd learn in school. It'll be pretty bad if they grow up without learning to read," Han Sen spoke to himself.

"In a world like this, learning how to survive beats learning how to read a few words. You have given them enough." A Viscount walked up to Han Sen, speaking to him.

"Deep Blue Viscount." Han Sen looked at the Viscount, recognizing who he was.

Out of the four Viscounts, he was the only Kate. And he was the only one who brought meat to swap for points. In that regard, he was one of the only ones not going against Han Sen.

"Master, if you have time, I would like to talk to you alone," Deep Blue Viscount said calmly.

Han Sen started to respond, but a sudden scream came from outside the gate. Han Sen's face changed, and they looked towards the gate together. A large group of people were milling around the gate, craning to see something outside.

"What's going on?" Han Sen asked.

The people, seeing Han Sen approach, formed a path. Han Sen, in the middle, saw a body. It was one of the Viscounts. His name was Wind Viscount.

Wind Viscount was lying on the ground facing the base. It looked as if he had been approaching the gate when his head was blown open.

"What is this?" Han Sen had a bad feeling, and he frowned.

"We don't know. We saw Wind Viscount return from an expedition outside. But before he made it all the way back, he fell on the ground. He crawled a little bit before his head exploded," a woman and a Baron explained.

Chapter 1845 – Strange Mark

Strange Mark

“Don’t look. Return to your homes. No one can leave their rooms; if you do, you will be killed,” Han Sen said. The Barons quickly returned to their shelters as instructed.

“Deep Blue Viscount, can you tell me what hurt him?” Han Sen looked at the gaping hole in Wind Viscount’s head, but he was unable to discern what might have caused it.

Deep Blue Viscount looked weirded out, and he said, “It doesn’t seem as if he was attacked. It looks to me as if he imploded, or rather, exploded from the inside-out.”

“Really? What power could cause something like that?” Han Sen asked.

Deep Blue Viscount fell silent, and he said, “Many people have the power to do this. Some have the ability to invade the bodies of others and destroy their opponents from the inside. It’ll be hard for us to guess who the culprit might be.”

Han Sen nodded and asked, “Do you know of any creatures like that around the base?”

Deep Blue Viscount shook his head. “We haven’t been here for long, so no one has been able to venture out too far. All of our hunting expeditions have taken place around the proximity of the base. I haven’t seen any like that.”

Han Sen did not ask any more questions. He grabbed a flamethrower and incinerated Wind Viscount’s body.

A body that died for no reason could not be brought into the base. Only the gods could tell what might happen.

The body soon became cinders, but there was something that couldn’t be melted down. Han Sen plucked it out and noticed it was a black steel feather. It was a foot long and very heavy.

Han Sen tried getting others to burn it, but no matter what they tried, it couldn’t be melted down. It wouldn’t even turn red with the heat. It was obviously not an ordinary metal.

Han Sen used a sealed container to store the black feather. Those who had come into contact with the body were forced to undergo a scan and a proper disinfectant cycle, to ensure there would be no further problems.

But on the second day, something happened inside the base.

The Barons that had touched the dead body had a weird, egg-shaped symbol on their foreheads. The symbols were black. Han Sen used a tool to scan them, but there was nothing overtly strange about them. They seemed to be ordinary markings.

The four Barons were terrified. Wind Viscount's manner of death had been far too strange, and now, this unexplainable happening gave them quite the scare.

Han Sen checked over their bodies thoroughly, but he couldn't discern anything out of the ordinary. So, Han Sen had them put into isolation. Han Sen also made sure to tell the people that delivered their resources about what was going on. He told them to bring doctors and tools so that they could try to discover what was happening to his people.

It would take two days for the ship to arrive, and Han Sen hoped nothing would happen in the meantime.

"Do any of you know where Wind Viscount had gone off to?" Han Sen was investigating his death. If he learned how he died, perhaps he could find out what was wrong with the Barons.

One Baron told Han Sen that he saw Wind Viscount venture into the northern mountains. Wind Viscount had intended to cross them, but the Barons with him did not dare follow. Whatever happened to him was still mostly a mystery.

Han Sen frowned when he heard this. The mountain they referred to was the one the Earl had gone into and never returned.

Han Sen said he would have to put a stop to people venturing off to the north. The Nobles themselves knew how dangerous the north seemed to be, so no one opposed his decision.

Wind Viscount had entered the mountains, but died in front of the gate. With the four egg symbols on the foreheads of the Barons, Han Sen didn't have a good feeling about what was going to happen.

The Earl had brought many other Earls to help him. And despite that, they had all disappeared. The people in the base would stand a much worse chance of surviving anything that might occur.

Han Sen couldn't wait much longer, so he contacted Yisha for advice. He wanted to tell her about what was happening, in case the worst happened.

But Yisha was currently practicing, and he did not know when she would finish. She couldn't be interrupted, and so Han Sen was unable to get a hold of her.

Han Sen contacted Icebird Duke. Yisha had told him that if she was not around, then he could look for Icebird instead.

Icebird Duke, seeing Han Sen's number, picked it up. She might not have liked the way Han Sen conducted his affairs, but Yisha had told her to take care of him in the event that he required assistance.

"Icebird Duke, I have a problem. I need to get in touch with the queen, but she is busy. Do you think you can help, instead?" Han Sen asked her.

“The rules of the Rebate dictate that only the master of the planet can contribute to the development of the assigned planet. If outsiders interfere, there is every chance that we will take it back from you.” Icebird Duke did not like Han Sen’s attitude, particularly in the way he kept asking for Queen.

“If this was a normal situation, I wouldn’t come looking for you. Something bad has happened here, and I can’t get to the bottom of it. I really do need your help.” Han Sen said.

“If you don’t think you can resolve the issue, then don’t. If you prefer to, you could always come on back. I can’t help you with anything.” She stopped Han Sen and went on to say, “Think about it. If you do decide to come back, I will send out some ships to come and pick you up.”

After hanging up, Icebird Duke spoke to herself. “Of course there will be trouble developing a planet. If you cannot do it, then don’t.”

Han Sen frowned. There was nothing he could do about her, and he did not know when Yisha would be able to return the call. Whenever it was, it would be too late.

Han Sen called up another number. He was contacting Black Steel.

Black Steel was a strange fellow, but Han Sen figured that he was a reliable sort.

On Planet Knifegrave, Han Sen had asked him why he blocked the kniferiver. He said he wanted Han Sen to escape. He wanted to provide Han Sen a chance. He figured that was something he owed Han Sen.

Han Sen did not know what Black Steel had been thinking, but it made him feel safe. Han Sen asked him to keep the knifemind thing a secret. No one knew he had a knifemind as wondrous as the one he did, and Black Steel really hadn’t said a word.

Han Sen, unable to find anyone else to help, got in touch with Black Steel. If Black Steel could not help, then he’d have no choice but to evacuate.

Han Sen was not creating drama. It was best to prepare for an event or problem one could not overcome. He didn’t want the women or children that were on the planet to die there.

“What is it?” said Black Steel’s voice, and it sounded exactly the same as the first time they met.

“I have a problem, and I need your help.” Han Sen went on to tell him the entire story.

Black Steel let Han Sen tell him everything. After a momentary pause, he said, “Don’t leave the base, and keep your eyes on those Barons. And do not touch them, no matter what. I will be there in four and a half hours.”

Chapter 1846 – 1846 Survivor

1846 Survivor

Upon hearing what Black Steel said, Han Sen knew that the man must know something about this. But now was not the time to ask, so he was going to wait until Black Steel arrived.

But soon, Han Sen's worries became reality. More people in the base began to develop strange egg markings on their foreheads. It seemed to be spreading.

People could be isolated easily enough, but that wasn't a proper solution to the issue.

As time went on, more and more people developed that same strange mark. In the beginning, it only spread amongst the people who were at the gate when the Viscount died. Then, it started to happen amongst the mothers and children who hadn't even been there.

Over the course of a few hours, half of the people in the base developed the same mark across their foreheads.

Luckily, Han Sen, Little Angel, Zero, Xie Qing King, Gu Qingcheng, and Little Silver had not yet been infected by the strange affliction. It was very fortunate.

Xie Qing King and Gu Qingcheng had examined the infected people and noted that there didn't actually seem to be anything wrong with them. But the whole base was so scared that those who were not yet infected wanted to abandon the place. If Han Sen hadn't just killed two Viscount creatures and enlisted the aid of Deep Blue Viscount, the base would have descended into chaos.

Out of the four Viscount Nobles, Wind Viscount was dead. Deep Blue Viscount was helpful, whereas Lake didn't do anything. The other Viscount had been missing for the past two days. Where he had disappeared to, no one knew.

Han Sen contacted Black Steel to update him on the situation that was currently unfolding. Han Sen didn't want him to end up getting infected as well.

"Wait for me," Black Steel said, before hanging up again. It sounded as if he was doing something in a rush.

Before Black Steel arrived, Deep Blue Viscount came over to see Han Sen.

When Deep Blue Viscount arrived at Han Sen's house, he immediately stripped off his armor. His forehead now had the egg-shaped marking, too.

"Do you feel anything?" Han Sen frowned.

Deep Blue Viscount was calm, and he merely shook his head. "I don't feel anything. If I hadn't looked in the mirror, I wouldn't even have known the mark had appeared."

"Then, what do you plan on doing?" Han Sen asked.

Deep Blue Viscount went quiet, and he said, "I told you I wanted to speak with you alone. Do you have the time to do so, right now?"

Yeah." Han Sen nodded.

Deep Blue Viscount sat down and dropped into thought for a minute before speaking. He said, "I know that most Nobles here have ulterior motives. I do, as well. But I am different in one way; I don't work for anyone."

"Then, why are you here?" Han Sen asked him.

Viscounts were of a high rank, and he'd be a wanted asset anywhere he went. There wasn't a reason for him to follow Han Sen.

Deep Blue Viscount gave a wry smile. He pointed to the mark on his forehead and said something that shocked Han Sen. "I am here for this."

Han Sen really was shocked, and he replied by saying, "You are here for that? Do you know what it is?"

He nodded, then shook his head and sighed. "This is not my first time on Planet Eclipse."

You have been here before? Were you with the Earl?" Han Sen immediately asked.

Deep Blue Viscount smiled and said, "Yes. I got this mark when I was here the last time."

Han Sen was shocked, but at the same time, he was delighted. It had been many years since the Earl's mission. And despite that, Deep Blue Viscount was still living. The infected would be safe, for now, at least.

Deep Blue Viscount suspected these were the thoughts running through Han Sen's mind, and he smiled wryly. "It is not like that. Ordinarily, when you get this, you die in a short time. It could be two days, or it could be two weeks. People will ultimately end up like Wind Viscount did. There is a reason why I survived, and that is the reason for my return."

Han Sen did not say anything, wanting him to continue explaining. Since Deep Blue was volunteering information, he might as well learn everything he could.

"When I was taken here by Chiron Earl, I was just a commoner. I was just like those kids, really; but a little bit bigger. I already had my geno armor and everything." When Deep Blue Viscount said that, he looked weird. Han Sen did not understand.

Deep Blue Viscount went on to say, "I followed Chiron Earl everywhere, including his final trip into the northern mountains. I was there."

"I thought that none of those who went returned," Han Sen said in shock.

"I was the only one who made it out. Back then, only normal people resided at the base. No one was aware of the fact that I had followed him. The Rebate investigator never considered that Chiron Earl would have bothered to bring an ordinary Kate." Deep Blue Viscount wore a complicated expression.

“What happened there? And what is up with the egg mark?” Han Sen asked.

Deep Blue Viscount shook his head. “I do not understand what happened. Back then I was a kid that possessed geno armor. My powers and my knowledge were very limited.”

After that, Deep Blue Viscount went on to say, “And in regards to the egg mark, you will only contract it after you touch something. Aside from me, everyone who got this mark died. And that included Chiron Earl. When I made it out, I did not infect anyone. I am not sure what Wind Viscount did, but it is clear that his affliction is contagious.”

“Where did the Earl’s group encounter it, exactly?” Han Sen asked.

Deep Blue Viscount said, “There is a palace up in those mountains, and it is very big. It was so strange inside there. I did not know much back then, so I only followed Chiron Earl. Many people died, and when we were in front of a certain hall, Chiron Earl seemed to become incredibly happy. We waited outside while he went in alone. We waited half a day, and eventually, he returned with something.”

Han Sen knew the most important part of his tale would be this, so he didn’t interrupt. He kept on listening.

“It was an egg. A black egg that was as tall as a person. It looked just like the markings do. He brought it out and allowed us to carry it. And when we were just about to leave the palace, something scary happened. Our foreheads began to develop that black mark.” Deep Blue Viscount looked scared, as if he was remembering something bad.

1847 Raven

Inside the base, people continued to become infected. Han Sen wanted to leave, taking Little Angel, Zero, and the others with him. But he was not sure if the strange contagion had already spread to his companions. If he left now, with an infection amongst them, things could turn pretty bleak.

If they stayed there and did get infected, at least Deep Blue Viscount might be able to deduce a way in which it could be stopped.

Deep Blue Viscount said that when he had originally been afflicted with the mark, he had eaten the root of a lotus that he found in the palace. He reckoned that was why the mark hadn’t affected him. All the other Nobles with him died, leaving him as the sole survivor. But now, the mark had returned, and it was getting darker and darker. That was why he wanted to return to the planet and revisit the hall in order to eat more of the lotus roots.

But there was a group of xenogeneics outside the entrance to the palace, and some of them were Earl rank. So, Deep Blue Viscount had been unable to find a way in which he could access the place.

Deep Blue Viscount was curious about how Wind Viscount had managed to penetrate the palace. He figured he would have to return there to find out how.

Han Sen then thought of an important question to ask. When Deep Blue Viscount entered the palace the first time, he was just a Kate with geno armor. Now he was a Viscount. Becoming a Noble of that rank was not an easy task.

Even a wealthy elite like Yisha only had a dozen of the geno fluids that could encourage a second evolution, so how could Deep Blue Viscount achieve such a rank? Han Sen asked this question, and Deep Blue said that he did not know how he had managed to evolve a second time, either. To his knowledge, he had not used any treasures. But it wasn't long before he left this planet that he evolved for a second time. Perhaps it had something to do with the lotus root.

Matters were proceeding to get worse, though. It wasn't long before Gu Qingcheng developed a mark on her forehead. Han Sen told her about the palace and the lotus root, and he told her not to worry. When the time came, they would head out and get one of the lotus roots.

Black Steel was accurate, and four and a half hours later, he did indeed land outside the front gate. But aside from Black Steel, a few other of the Rebate had come as well. Judging from the strength of their auras, Han Sen could immediately tell they were not ordinary folk.

"Han Sen! What's going on now?" Black Steel looked at Han Sen's forehead.

"It's bad! Half of my people have been infected with the mark of an egg." It was starting to depress Han Sen.

"You go and confirm it," one of the superior-looking Rebate said.

The other Rebate went to check the foreheads of the women and children, while Black Steel went into Han Sen's office. With a serious look, he said, "You are in trouble. If I am not mistaken, Wind Viscount touched something which belonged to the Raven."

"Raven?" Han Sen looked confused.

Black Steel explained to him, "Before the Rebate took over Narrow Moon, it was the Raven who owned this place. They were a strong xenogeneic group that had a grip on the entirety of Narrow Moon. History says that they had the ability to mark other xenogeneics and control them."

Black Steel went on to say, "When we took down Narrow Moon, it came at a great cost. If it wasn't for our deified elder, it was highly unlikely that we'd have won the fight. We thought the Raven were entirely destroyed, following the battle.

I did not expect a relic of theirs to remain, especially one that is still so deadly."

"Is there a way to erase the mark of the Raven?" Han Sen thought that if the Rebate took down Narrow Moon, there had to be a way. If there wasn't, they'd all have ended up infected, and they'd all be dead.

“Not yet.” Black Steel shook his head.

“What do you mean by not yet?” Han Sen was confused.

“Many of my race suffered this mark. We discovered that killing the Raven and drinking their blood was the only way to make the mark disappear. If you want to get rid of it, the only way to achieve that is to find the item Wind Viscount found. And then, maybe you can.” Black Steel looked straight at Han Sen and went on to say, “I am not sure if you are infected. We need to make sure that the infection does not leave this place. And we must locate the source of the infection, wherever it may be.”

Han Sen relayed to him what Deep Blue Viscount had told him. Black Steel nodded and said, “If someone has info like this, that is great. I brought one of my father’s guards with us. Captain Wood is a Duke. The rest are Marquise. We are all prepared to go to the Raven palace.”

Black Steel went to find Captain Wood and Deep Blue Viscount, letting Deep Blue Viscount explain the situation again to him.

Captain Wood looked at Deep Blue Viscount and asked, “Why didn’t you say this sooner?”

Deep Blue Viscount gave a wry smile. They were all dead, and only I survived. I was worried I might get in trouble for telling people what happened. Especially with the mark gone.”

Han Sen understood the man’s reasoning. If he admitted what had happened, it was likely that the Rebate would have grown suspicious. The only reason he was telling the story now was because he had to go back to the palace. If the mark hadn’t returned, he would not have wanted to come back to such a wretched place.

After Captain Wood had finished asking Deep Blue Viscount about various details, he decided to go to the Raven palace, as well.

Last time, Chiron Earl had taken some Viscounts and Earls, and even some creatures with him. This time, they had Captain Wood and four Marquise. It shouldn’t have been too hard to reach the same point as Chiron.

Wood allowed Han Sen to select a few people to come along. Deep Blue Viscount said there was a pool with the lotus fruit, and there were many of them. It would be best if he brought some people to collect as many roots as they could, in order to suppress the mark.

Gu Qingcheng had the mark, so she elected to go there herself. Xie Qing King wanted to go, too. Han Sen stopped Little Angel and Zero, though. If no one was watching the base, it was impossible to tell what the Barons might do after they became infected. There was a high chance the women and children would be in danger.

“This doesn’t seem too bad. We can eat the roots as soon as we get them,” Han Sen thought to himself.

Aside from them, Han Sen picked ten Barons to go with him. They could help gather the roots, at the very least. There were so many of them, and their time was almost up. If they couldn’t get to the bottom of the issue, they’d have to bring a lot of the roots back.

Han Sen brought Lake Viscount with him, as well. With Wood there, he wouldn’t dare to say no.

1848 Lotus Pool

On their way to the palace, egg marks appeared on the foreheads of both Little Silver and Xie Qing King. It was very worrying.

Lake Viscount gained it, as well.

Xie Qing King held up a mirror to examine himself. He kept looking at it, and with a dire expression, he said, "So d*mn ugly! The mark could at least be a flower or something. Having an egg on my head makes me look stupid."

Han Sen couldn't believe that was precisely what Xie Qing King was worrying about.

Little Silver was lying on Han Sen's shoulder, not having any particular sort of reaction.

With Captain Wood leading them, they had no trouble on their journey. The power of four Marquise had already scared off most of the xenogeneics nearby.

They didn't bother killing any lower class xenogeneics they saw along the way, as they were focused on reaching the Raven palace as soon as they could.

They came to a valley, and Captain Wood cleared out the xenogeneics that were hanging around. Deep Blue Viscount followed closely, and spoke while pointing at a mountain.

"The entrance is here."

"This is the peak! This is not an illusion. But there is no door. Are you sure this is the place?" Captain Wood asked with a frown.

Yes, I am sure of it," Deep Blue Viscount said, as he trotted up to one of the mountain's cliffsides. He searched the wall for a while, and eventually, pushed his hands firmly against a rock.

After Deep Blue Viscount pressed it, he returned to Han Sen. And then, a boom noise sounded swiftly after. A few hundred meters of mountain began to sink, as a higher peak began to rise behind it. There was a door on its stone surface, one that was massive.

Han Sen and everyone else were in shock. The place had a grand, powerful atmosphere, which spoke volumes about how scary the Ravens might have been, once upon a time.

"How do we open the door?" Captain Wood asked Deep Blue Viscount.

Deep Blue Viscount said, "You just have to push it open. That's how I slipped in and slipped out."

Captain Wood signaled for a Marquise to push open the stone door. It was dozens of meters high, but the Marquise was able to open it with a light push. There was no need for much strength.

What resided beyond the stone door was equally impressive in size. Many palaces were visible inside, and the buildings extended until they vanished into the distance.

“Master! You must follow behind me, with a gap of about three meters.” Captain Wood stared at Black Steel with a serious look. And after Black Steel agreed, the team was allowed to enter.

The palaces were all connected. They were all built from stone, but they were so old, they looked very rustic and primitive. Even with the protection of the mountain, they looked poorly kept.

Han Sen saw a multitude of carvings on the walls, depicting bird-like creatures. Large bird statues stood on both sides of the plaza.

“Deep Blue Viscount, will there be danger up ahead? Captain Wood asked.

Deep Blue Viscount gave a wry smile. “Many warriors died before I entered, but by the time I made it in, all was fine.”

“Maybe when Chiron Earl went in, they destroyed any traps left behind by the Raven,” a Marquise suggested.

“That could be true, but even so, it is best to remain vigilant. We cannot drop our guard for a single second.” Captain Wood was speaking with a deep, authoritative voice.

The group of them followed behind Deep Blue Viscount as they moved forward. It wasn’t long before they stumbled across a pile of boney remains. They definitely belonged to Rebate.

“They must have been part of the previous group.” Captain Wood checked out the bones, and noticed the skulls each had a large hole in them. They were so big, you could squeeze a clenched fist clean through.

The team kept traveling. Their path had proven to be surprisingly uneventful. Aside from seeing the odd pile of bones here and there, there was nothing that posed an actual threat.

Han Sen thought things over as he walked. “Weird. It looks like this place has not been visited by anyone in quite a while. And there are some creatures outside that could most certainly not have been dealt with by a Viscount. How did Wind Viscount get into this palace and get himself infected with the Raven’s mark?”

Although there was no danger, Captain Wood was being careful, nonetheless. He didn’t speed up on his way; he remained at a slow and steady pace.

After they walked a dozen miles, they went past a temple that had also been constructed from stone. Their eyes turned bright when they soon saw a pool of lotuses right next to it.

The lotus pool had no water, though. Most of the lotus's stalks, leaves, and flowers had all withered into death. There were only a few living ones left in the middle. The flowers that were alive were as white as snow. The leaves were like jade' and with their soft glow, they looked terrific.

"Is this the lotus pool you've been talking about?" Captain Wood looked at Deep Blue Viscount. "This is it. I accidentally fell in there and swallowed a lotus root. I was so hungry that I dug some up and ate more of them. That was how my mark disappeared." Deep Blue Viscount looked surprised, and he desperately wanted to run to it.

Hearing that, Lake Viscount and the other Barons all rushed towards the pool.

"Stop!" Han Sen shouted, with a frown.

No one listened to Han Sen, though. They all wished to cleanse themselves of the egg mark plaguing their foreheads by ripping out the lotus roots and consuming them.

Even though it would be a temporary pause Han Sen was calling for, it was better than getting ahead of themselves and snatching the plants right now.

"Anyone who steps closer to the pool dies." Captain Wood made a hum. And then, the two Viscounts and the Barons stopped moving.

Captain Wood looked at Han Sen and said, "It looks like your family members require some discipline."

Yes, and I will give it." Han Sen rubbed his nose. The Nobles in his employ were mostly spies of one sort or another. They didn't want to listen to his orders, particularly so if claiming the flowers meant the difference between life and death.

They hadn't followed Han Sen for very long, either. So, it was not as if Han Sen could control them.

"Mister Wood, I beg of you to provide me some of this lotus root. I only need a little!" Deep Blue Viscount quickly turned to begging.

After Deep Blue Viscount said this, the other Barons started to beg, too. They all had a ticking timebomb planted on their heads, after all.

But Captain Wood ignored them. He walked over to the lotus pool and looked at the flowers. A while later he asked, "Do you know what species of flower these are?"

Everyone shook their heads, not knowing what species of plant they were.

"Alright... Go ahead and dig up a lotus root." Captain Wood frowned while he spoke to the Barons.

"Thank you," the Barons responded happily.

You can dig it up, but if you dare steal a bite, I will cut your heads off," Captain Wood continued coldly. "Dig them up and I won't mistreat you. I won't give you any less, leastways."

The Barons looked bitter as they went forward to dig up the lotus roots. Captain Wood and the four Marquise kept their eyes peeled on them. No one dared to eat one of the roots against the Captain's orders.

“Why aren’t you guys moving?” Captain Wood asked coldly, seeing Xie Qing King and Gu Qingcheng.

1849 The Real Purpose

“They are my personal guards,” Han Sen said.

So far, they only had Deep Blue Viscount’s word that the lotus roots could suppress the mark. Until it was confirmed, Han Sen wasn’t willing to let Xie Qing King and Gu Qingcheng take any risks.

Captain Wood frowned and said, “This is dangerous. It is best to get this done as soon as possible. You should get over there and start digging.”

Han Sen looked at Captain Wood and said, “In that case, why don’t you guys go and dig, as well? You are guards, too, isn’t that right?”

“How dare you! You cannot compare us to them!” exclaimed an infuriated Marquise.

Captain Wood looked at Han Sen darkly and said, “They are guards, but they have a different master.”

Han Sen understood Captain Wood, but he didn’t change his mind about anything. He said, “It is different, but I think mine are more important than you are. Dig it up if you want, but I will distribute the work of my people how I choose to.”

Captain Wood looked glum, but Black Steel chimed in to say, “Captain Wood, this is Han Sen’s place. And they are indeed his people to command. Please watch your tone.”

“Little Master, we are responsible for this. This is about the safety of the Rebate and Narrow Moon as a whole. I have to take charge of this situation,” Captain Wood coldly said. He didn’t care too much for Black Steel, either.

But Black Steel then frowned, and he said, “Captain Wood, this entire operation is my responsibility.”

“Master says that you still too young. When this is a matter that concerns the entire Rebate, I am to be the one who takes care of it. Please understand this.” Captain Wood bowed down in respect to Black Steel, but he obviously wasn’t willing to relinquish his authority in this scenario.

“If things are indeed like that, then we will go our separate ways.” Han Sen then took off, going in a different direction.

“We’re going to do things however I say we’re going to do them. Without my explicit order, no one here works alone. If they do, I will kill them.” Captain Wood spoke, as the Marquise swooped forward to block Han Sen’s passage.

“Wood Duke!” Black Steel looked extremely grim.

“Please forgive me, Little Master. This is an important time.” Captain Wood and a few of the Marquise bowed to Black Steel. But even so, they still held their knives to Han Sen.

You guys stay here and do not run off. Otherwds, don’t blame me for what happens next.” Because of Black Steel, Captain Wood did not force Xie Qing King and Gu Qingcheng to dig.

The flowers were soft, and the excavation work was not difficult. The Barons were able to dig up a lot of lotus roots. They were as white as jade and as thick as a baby’s arm. The dusting of dirt that remained on them made them look strong and nutritious.

When the lotuses were handed up, Captain Wood pointed at them and asked Deep Blue Viscount, “Were these the lotus roots that you ate?”

“Yep, these are the ones.” Deep Blue Viscount nodded.

“You! Come here and eat this,” Deep Blue Viscount told one of the Barons. He cut off a small slice of the root for him to eat.

The Baron was shocked and scared at the same time. He was the only one who had been given permission to eat it, and yet he hesitated.

“Eat!” Captain Wood coldly looked at the Baron. The Baron stopped hesitating and did as requested; he started to eat the piece of root.

The lotus root was very crunchy, and a pleasant scent wafted from it.

The Baron took a small bite at first. No one knew if it was working, but it didn’t seem to be hurting the Baron, either.

He finished it off with a big bite.

The other Nobles looked at him. Nothing happened after he ate it, and the egg mark was still present.

Captain Wood kept his eyes fixed on the Baron, and after a while, the Baron’s face turned green. It looked like the Baron was freezing. He held himself, shaking and shivering. “Cold! I am so cold!”

“Deep Blue Viscount, what is going on?” Captain Wood looked at Deep Blue Viscount.

Deep Blue Viscount looked happy, though. And he explained, “Yes, this is it. When I first ate it, I felt cold, too. He’ll be fine in a second, you’ll see.”

“How long precisely?” Captain Wood asked.

“I didn’t have any way of recording time when I first ate it. Maybe ten minutes?” Deep Blue Viscount said, after a minute of thought.

Captain Wood did not say anything more, and he just waited for the results.

Ten minutes later, the Baron's chill began to subside, and he started to look better. The egg shape on his forehead became lighter. It had become just a mere shading on his forehead now.

Hurry and dig the rest of them up!" Captain Wood chided them.

A group of Barons dug the roots out for two hours, and when they were done, they managed to collect a thousand kilograms of the stuff. Captain Wood took some, and gave the rest to the Barons. He didn't let them eat it just yet, though.

"Mister Wood, can I have some of the lotus now, please?" Deep Blue Viscount carefully asked.

"Don't worry, there are many of them. Once this is done, you are free to have them. Now, take me to where Chiron Earl found the egg," Captain Wood said emotionlessly.

Deep Blue Viscount's face changed. He didn't want to go, but he had to lead.

"This guy is here for an ulterior purpose. He is not just here to remove the threat of the Ravens on our heads." Gu Qingcheng moved her lips to speak quietly. Only Han Sen heard her say it.

Han Sen sucked at whispering, so he just nodded in response. He could tell Captain Wood had not come here for the lotuses. He was taking the operation far too seriously, and it was obvious that the object of their pursuit was something bigger.

"They take their orders from Black-Moon King. If this item is that precious, why didn't he come here himself? Or is it really just because it isn't that important, after all?" Xie Qing King said.

Xie Qing King was the master of whispering. Only Han Sen and Gu Qingcheng could hear what he had said.

"It looks like little tricks like that are useful," Han Sen felt depressed. He hadn't learned anything about the powers of sound. If he had, he might not have had to be a mute in that situation.

Gu Qingcheng said, "No, it's the opposite. Black-Moon King not coming means the item is worth even more than we can imagine. If he came, other kings would notice and pay attention to what is happening here. This is Narrow Moon, and it would be suspicious for him to come to Planet Eclipse. Why would he go to Han Sen's planet? If other kings found out about his venture here, he might not be able to claim the item he desires."

"I see." Xie Qing King nodded, thinking what she said had made perfect sense. Then he said, "What is the item?"

"We need to ask Captain Wood. He is the only one who knows something about what we're doing. Black Steel doesn't know what's going on, and neither do the four Marquise," Gu Qingcheng said quietly.

1850 Purple Copper Palace

A group of people followed Deep Blue Viscount as he led the way to the palace. Suddenly, Han Sen felt as if something on his back was moving.

Han Sen pretended to fetch some water, so he could reach around and feel his back. It was the box with the steel feather inside. It was moving.

Han Sen hadn't told Captain Wood he had found a steel feather on Wind Viscount's body. He had put it in his backpack, worried that it might cause trouble back in the base if he left it unattended. Since it was now moving around for no reason, it appeared that his worry had been valid.

The further they walked, the shakier the box became. Luckily, there was a bag covering it, so no one had noticed it yet.

Walking through a number of stone halls, they soon arrived at a plaza. Scattered around it were a number of crumpled skeletons with their skulls blown wide open. There was also a big black egg there, too.

Deep Blue Viscount was scared of the big black egg. His legs went soft as he stood right outside the plaza.

Captain Wood, on the other hand, looked delighted. He commanded the Nobles to go forward. Even Deep Blue Viscount, whose resolve had dissolved, was pulled forward by the Marquise.

One of the Marquise threatened Han Sen, trying to get him to move across the plaza. Together, they all approached the big black egg.

Han Sen did not think that the egg was the reason for the feather's shaking. When he got closer to the big black egg, the steel feather did not have a stronger reaction. It only grew stronger when he moved forward.

"What is this steel feather? Is it a feather of a Raven, perhaps? Or is it one of their crafted treasures?" Han Sen guessed to himself.

"If you've found the source, then go ahead and break it," Han Sen said.

Captain Wood coldly looked at Han Sen and said, "Break it? How about you go ahead and give it a try?"

Han Sen pulled out Ghost Teeth Knife and gave the egg a firm whack. A metallic noise rang out, amidst a flurry of sparks dashed across the shell of the egg. Even so, no mark was left.

Han Sen was shocked, and he said, "This egg is that hard?"

He could not use Ghost Teeth Knife's full power. But with the sharpness, he should still have been able to leave a mark on Earl geno armaments.

It was just an egg. There was no mark at all, though. It was a testament to the shell's sturdiness.

"Captain Wood, can you destroy it?" Black Steel asked.

"Little Master, while I am a Duke, I cannot destroy it. The only way to do this is to move the item back to the palace," Captain Wood said politely.

"You think your lie will fool the kid?" Xie Qing King smiled.

Captain Wood's expression hardened as Black Steel immediately asked, "Captain Wood, why did my father send you here? For what purpose?" Black Steel was not stupid. He knew Black-Moon King wouldn't have sent a Duke all this way just to save Han Sen.

Captain Wood quietly said, "Little Master, I am only here to carry out my orders. I don't know anything more."

Black Steel stopped asking because he knew he would not learn anything from Captain Wood. He walked up to Han Sen and said, "I apologize. I cannot believe my presence here has brought you harm instead of aid."

"That's not entirely true. Without you being here, we wouldn't be standing where we are." Han Sen smiled, looking as if he did not mind.

Black Steel looked at Han Sen solemnly. "Do not worry. For as long as I am alive, I will not allow any harm to come to you. The only way you'll suffer is over my dead body."

Black Steel spoke to Han Sen, but he also said this as an indirect warning for Captain Wood.

Captain Wood heard what was said, and so he smiled and said, "Little Master, you worry too much! Han Sen is Knife Queen's student. I wouldn't dare hurt him. We are here to finish the mission, not bring harm to anyone."

Captain Wood's voice then turned cold, and he went on to say, "But if someone does try to stop us from fulfilling our task, we will not show mercy."

Captain Wood then told a few of the Barons to help carry the egg towards the palace. Deep Blue Viscount's legs were shaking, and he was almost too scared to point out the next few directions.

"Black Steel, what do you know about the Raven?" Han Sen talked to Black Steel as they continued walking. He earnestly believed Black Steel had nothing to do with Captain Wood's plans.

A man like Black Steel wouldn't do such a thing.

Black Steel briefly dropped into thought before saying, "The Rebate have ruled Narrow Moon for a billion years. I don't think anyone knows exactly what happened when we conquered it. All that I know is the general stuff you learn in history books. They glorify our race, however, so it's easy to see that some of it is fabricated."

"What about the Raven? Are there any legends surrounding them?" Han Sen asked.

“No. The history books don’t really share much about the shape of the Ravens. All we know is that they were similar to birds. I scoured the information we have about the Ravens, and I learned where the mark of an egg came from. As for the Ravens themselves, there is next to nothing in our records. Or at least, out of what we know concerning their presence in the Rebate system.” Black Steel shook his head.

“That’s weird. Such a powerful xenogeneic race was wiped out by the Rebate. Why is there such scant information? The writers of your history books could have at least made them out as villains. The truth seems to be the opposite, though. You guys don’t even know what they look like,” Han Sen said with a frown.

“It is weird.” Black Steel nodded.

Captain Wood heard every word they said, but he didn’t stop them from discussing the matter. He merely hastened everyone along.

Perhaps it was because Chiron Earl had activated all the traps before their coming, but there was no danger inhibiting their way as they moved forward. It was a surprisingly smooth trip.

The steel feather started to shake faster and faster, and Han Sen was unsure if that was a good thing. He also had a question.

“We still haven’t found any sign of Wind Viscount’s passage. Where did he actually get infected?”

After walking for half a day, they eventually found themselves standing before a palace. This palace looked different from the other palaces. The others were made of stone, but this one was built from purple copper. It looked very mysterious.

Outside the palace, glazed across the walls, were paintings. They mostly depicted a number of creatures with human bodies and bunny ears. They were obviously the Rebate.

In those paintings, the Rebate were not standing in positions of honor. Rather, they were pulling a strange cart that looked like a carriage. They were doing manual labor, like beasts of burden.