

Chapter 1961

Sky Palace

Han Sen had to go to Sky Palace, so he told Xie Qing King and the others. They were to take care of Planet Eclipse for him in the meantime, and they discussed plans for the future.

Han Sen was not worried about how Planet Eclipse would fare, nor Xie Qing King. As long as Han Sen's identity was not exposed, Yisha would also be there to safeguard the planet. No harm should come to Xie Qing King and the others while he was gone.

Han Sen was scared of people recognizing him in Sky Palace. If he was found out, all sorts of trouble could come.

The next morning, Xie Qing King called for a ship and had Han Sen shuttled off to Sky Palace in secret.

Sky Palace had many requirements for entry, so only proper students were allowed to enter the place. Han Sen was allowed in only because of his association with Yisha. None of his companions were, however.

On the way there, Han Sen found himself stricken with boredom. He watched Bubble jump up and down for a while.

The creature was an optimistic thing, and it never appeared worried.

Aside from Bubble, Han Sen even had to leave behind Little Invisible. Without explicit permission, you were not allowed to bring anything else. If he was found out to have smuggled something in, he'd be a dead man.

With a deified elite there, Han Sen wouldn't make the smallest move out of line.

Sky Palace was far away from Narrow Moon. It took him an entire month to reach his destination, despite taking multiple hyperspace jumps.

Sky Palace was a massive xenogeneic space. The ship Yisha sent had no permission to land, so it came to a stop at a planet nearby. After they confirmed Han Sen's identity, they sent another ship for Han Sen to travel in on.

When Han Sen entered Sky Palace, he found many islands floating in the air. It was just sky everywhere he looked. The islands went on and on, both above and below him. How many there were in total, he could not guess.

Sky Palace must have been notified of his arrival. When Han Sen entered, a man rode towards him atop a big white bird.

“Are you Han Sen?” the man asked, bowing. He was very clean, and he looked like someone in their early twenties. The image, however, was marred by a wound on his forehead.

Or at least, Han Sen thought it was a small wound. Upon closer inspection, he realized it was a third eye.

“My name is Han Sen; what is your name?” Han Sen replied with a bow.

“My name is Thousand Feather Crane, and I am a student of one of the elders here. I have been sent here by my master to guide you along the Sky Road.”

“Sky Road? I thought we were going to Sky Palace,” Han Sen asked, confused.

Thousand Feather Crane did not appear to be in a rush, and so he said, “The first master made a rule. Any non-student that comes here must traverse the Sky Road alone. If you cannot travel through it, then that means you are not the heir of a deified. In that case, you will be shut out. Please forgive me.”

“I see. Please lead the way, then.” Han Sen was happy.

Han Sen did not want to enter Sky Palace. If there was a rule like this, in which he had to traverse the Sky Road, he could deliberately fail the test. Then he could go home.

“Please.” Thousand Feather Crane performed a gesture, and the white bird lowered its head.

Han Sen climbed on its back, and then Thousand Feather Crane commanded that it fly. It rose towards the closest floating isle they could see. As the bird took them there, Han Sen asked Thousand Feather Crane for more information concerning the Sky Road.

Sky Palace had many floating islands, and not even a student such as himself could guess the sheer number of them. The most famous one wasn't the one where the leaders resided, though. It was actually the one beginners visited. It was called Sky Door Island.

Sky Door Island was not very big. It was only a kilometer in length, and about a dozen meters wide. There were only a door and a stone path.

Anyone who came to this xenogeneic space—deified elites included—had to go to that island. They had to take the stone steps, unless they wished to be treated as an enemy.

Sky Door Island did not have anything special. The door and the stairs were ordinary. It was something that possessed a meaning under-the-hood, more than anything.

But when you walked past all the stairs, you would reach the Sky Road.

The Sky Door Island's steps were right across the main island. Between the two islands, there was a giant gourd vine which made up the road.

If you wanted to enter Sky Palace, you had to go past the vine and reach the island. If you fell, it meant you weren't qualified.

“Brother Thousand Feathers, what is so special about this gourd vine?” Han Sen asked with curiosity when he saw Sky Door Island.

Thousand Feather Crane smiled and said, "Don't worry. The Sky Road is not dependent on your strength. If it is your destiny to do so, an ordinary person or creature that has not yet generated a geno armor can reach that island. You are a student of Knife Queen, so you must have some sort of destiny. You must be able to reach the main island."

Han Sen wished to ask more, but the bird was directly in front of Sky Door Island now. It landed in front of a door that had been built from stone.

"Brother Han, please." Thousand Feather Crane gestured towards the door.

Han Sen got off the bird and went atop the stone platform. When he looked up, there were a thousand steps trailing off into the sky. At the end of the stairs was the green vines looked like a dragon perched amidst the clouds.

Many green gourds were hanging on the vine. Some were as big as buildings, whereas others were as small as a fingertip. They were all green.

After Han Sen said his thanks to Thousand Feather Crane, he went through the door and began his ascent of the steps. He was headed for the gourd vine.

And just as he was told, the stone stairs presented nothing special. It wasn't much later when Han Sen reached the end. The big gourd vine was in front of him. It was wide enough to allow a carriage to go along it.

"How can you fall off of this vine? There must be some other force at work here, but whatever it is, Thousand Feather Crane didn't think to tell me," Han Sen thought to himself.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to take a look. The gourd vine had the constancy of a machine. It somehow seemed more substantial than Clear Sea King, who was a King.

Han Sen was shocked. "Is this gourd, that's scarier than a real dragon, greater than a King class elite?"

"Who cares? I'm not making it all the way across, anyway. If something goes wrong, I'll just jump down." Han Sen went towards the gourd vine, planning to lose the contest.

1962 Strange Reaction

On an island in Sky Palace, a middle-aged man in gray clothing watched the gourd vine.

"Father, what are you looking at?" A young lady walked up the middle-aged man in gray clothing and looked in the same direction.

"Knife Queen's student is in Sky Palace. He is on the Sky Road now," the middle-aged man in gray clothing said.

The lady lifted her lips and said, "What's the big deal? Many heirs of Kings come to Sky Palace for practice. Having him here should have no bearing. Besides, he is just her student. It's not as if he is her son."

The middle-aged man smiled and said, "Knife Queen is the old man's favorite student. She asked the old man for permission to allow her own student to come here for practice. The old man agreed without a moment of hesitation. If he can cross the Sky Road, the old man is going to give him a placement in the White Jade Building, no matter what."

The lady's eyes opened wide. "The old man has shown too much favoritism. We are the true students of Sky Palace, and we have to be in the top ten to attain a spot in the White Jade Building. He hasn't done anything, and yet he earns a spot? That is not fair!"

The middle-aged man in gray clothing laughed. "There is no such thing as fair. The old man owns Sky Palace, so he is free to do that which makes him the happiest. Lady Su, keep in mind that everyone shares a different opinion on that which defines fairness. If you do not understand this, things may turn out poorly for you."

The lady nodded. She seemed to understand, but not completely.

The lady quickly looked away. She smiled and said, "It does not matter how much the old man likes him; if he cannot cross Sky Road, it is useless to debate. Not everyone can cross the Sky Road, after all. He will soon see how difficult that crossing can be."

The middle-aged man in gray clothing smiled. "Lady Su, you are too naive. If Knife Queen sent him here, he has the confidence to make it through. Now we have to find out if he can trigger the holy presence from the holy gourd."

Lady Su felt glum, and she said, "The gourd rarely releases a holy aura for our proper students. What makes him think he can trigger it?"

"Back in the day, Knife Queen triggered the holy gourd's holy aura. She was an outsider at the time, too. She got a holy gourd knife air; if she hadn't, she wouldn't have achieved King class at such an early age. And then proceed to become half-deified so soon after. That gourd helped a lot," the middle-aged man in gray clothing said.

"Knife Queen is a real genius. Even the old man has said she may well become a deified being. I don't know about her student, though. I have heard he is a crystallizer, mind you. Kong Fei gave him a deified feather, and still no one dared to accept him. You can see how talented he is from that," Lady Su said, with a blinking of her eyes.

The middle-aged man in gray clothing shook his head. "They didn't refuse him because of a lack of talent. They refused him because of the instability of his genes. It is difficult to predict the future of a man like that. Whatever the case, it would be risking a grand investment."

“Let’s see how talented he is, then,” Lady Su said.

Han Sen glanced over the giant gourd vine that looked like a dragon. He stepped onto it, to reach the main green vine. But when he stepped onto it, he was shocked.

The gourd vine was fine, but the gourds started to shake. Each and every one of them. They were like vibrating dolls as they hung across the vines. It was quite spooky.

But aside from shaking, they did nothing else.

“No way! It looks very powerful, but that is surely just a bluff. If I fall down now, Yisha will kill me.” Han Sen thought about that, and decided to keep walking.

Everywhere he went, the gourds vibrated. If they were not connected to the vine, they would surely have flown away.

When Han Sen saw that they were doing nothing but shaking, he relaxed and kept walking across the vine. He thought to himself, “The Sky Road cannot be this simple, surely. There must be some special trick to it. Let’s walk forward and have a looksie.”

Han Sen kept walking across the gourd vine, while the people across Sky Palace were in shock.

Thousand Feather Crane looked towards Han Sen’s feet and saw the gourds vibrating like mad. His eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

He had been in Sky Palace for twenty years, and he had watched many creatures make the trip across the Sky Road. Some had passed over the vine without incident, some had been knocked off by an angered vine, and a select few had received approval by a holy gourd and been given a holy aura.

When Thousand Feather Crane crossed the Sky Road, he received a holy aura from a holy gourd. That in itself was a rare thing.

But he had never seen something like this transpire before. The gourds all looked scared of Han Sen, and they were shaking as if they wished to escape from him.

“What is it with this guy?” Thousand Feather Crane watched Han Sen cross over the holy gourds.

Lady Su and the middle-aged man in gray clothing saw this as well. It prompted Lady Su to ask, with much shock, “Father, what are these gourds doing? It doesn’t look as if they’re giving out a holy aura. But I’ve never heard of the gourds reacting like this to the approach of someone.”

The middle-aged man in gray clothing looked at the vine and said, “This is strange. The gourds have not approved his talent, but...they are scared of him.”

“The gourds are scared of him? That is impossible! He is just a Viscount. The holy gourd is a deified plant. Even if a deified elite was making the crossing, it shouldn’t be scared. He is just a Viscount,” Lady Su said again, dripping with disbelief.

This shouldn’t happen, but the gourds do look scared.” The middle-aged man in gray clothing stroked his jaw and looked at Han Sen atop the gourd vine with interest.

In Sky Palace, many people were now focusing on Han Sen. Each and every person there had a strange expression.

Wherever he went, the gourds would shake with fear in a ten meter radius around him. When Han Sen went by, and they fell out of that radius, the gourds would revert to their still selves again.

While Han Sen was walking, nothing else happened aside from the shivering of the gourds. It actually made Han Sen depressed.

“D*mn it! Something please happen. I can’t just jump off. If I go back now, Yisha will kill me.” Han Sen’s mind was racing for a solution.

But his minutes of furious thinking were futile. Before he knew it, he had walked to the other end of the gourd vine. He reached the stone steps on the main island, and the gourd had yet to have a response.

1963 Road to the Sky

“Strange. All the gourds showed a reaction, but they didn’t give out a holy aura. This is really strange.” Inside a building, a man of the Sky race frowned as he looked upon Han Sen traversing the Sky Road. He was in deep thought.

Everyone in Sky Palace showed a similar expression. They had never seen a holy gourd react that way, and so no one knew what it meant.

If Han Sen was talented, the holy gourd would provide him with a holy aura. His potential was yet to be determined. Wherever he went, the gourds did have a reaction, but it was one that yielded nothing. It was very peculiar.

Han Sen felt depressed. He thought he could go home by failing under spectacular circumstances, but the Sky Road was nothing special. It was like an ordinary bridge, really, except longer. It also went upwards.

Han Sen stepped onto the main island, and then Thousand Feather Crane rode his bird over towards him. Han Sen said to him, “That gourd vine only shakes. Is it supposed to spook people into falling off?”

Thousand Feather Crane looked at him strangely, and said, “Brother Han is talented. You have nothing to be afraid of. It is getting late, and the leader awaits you. Let us be off!”

Han Sen followed him via the steps. They went between a vast array of clouds, many of which had buildings situated upon them. It was like he was in heaven.

The jade stone steps were going up high. When Han Sen finally saw the end, he found himself looking at a grand palace. Ahead was a large plaque that said, “Sky Palace.”

Han Sen walked up the stairs, one step at a time. Every step he took felt heavier than the last. It was not that the stairs had some trick to them, it was just that the Sky Palace looked so intimidating. People below it would feel pressure going up.

It wasn't just a feeling, either. There was an increased weight upon his shoulders. The closer he got, the stronger it grew.

Thousand Feather Crane kept watch over Han Sen.

The staircase to Sky Palace was called the Road to the Sky. Those of the Sky race felt no particular sensation when they climbed the stairs, but the outsiders that traversed those stairs would feel a massive amount of pressure from Sky Palace. The pressure came from the plaque that said Sky Palace.

The plaque was crafted by the first leader of Sky Palace. It had the powers of Sky Palace Outer Sky. It suppressed all people. People with a poor will would be greatly suppressed, and they would not be able to reach Sky Palace.

Even people with strong wills would feel as if they were marching through hell when they walked that road. Most of them would feel exhausted as they climbed.

Thousand Feather Crane kept watching Han Sen, just in case he fell. If he did, Thousand Feather Crane would carry Han Sen to Sky Palace. It was his job to guide him there.

Han Sen had been invited by the Sky Palace leader. He had crossed the Sky Road, and so Thousand Feather Crane could not allow him to be crushed by the Road to the Sky. And it would look poorly if he ended up crawling in.

Not much later, he saw Han Sen frown. He paid more attention to Han Sen, ready to help him if he collapsed. The first leader of Sky Palace was powerful. A mere two words were enough to buckle most people's knees.

Normally, only Dukes could withstand the pressure and enter. Han Sen was just a Viscount, so it would not be embarrassing for him to be unable to keep his feet.

But only people who went through it the first time would suffer this pressure. They wouldn't feel it once they were past it, and that was what was most amazing about the Road to the Sky.

Han Sen frowned and kept ascending the stairs. His pace was ordinary, and there was no sign of him struggling. He looked at the plaque that read Sky Palace.

Han Sen could discern the feelings elicited by the words, and he understood how intimidating they were. It made him admire whoever had left the words there.

Han Sen did not fight back with his will. He had come there to practice, so he wasn't there to cause issues. And the leader was Yisha's teacher. He didn't want to embarrass himself, so he didn't fight it. He accepted the feelings the two words gave him.

Sky Palace feelings were strange. Han Sen felt as if he was getting crushed. It was getting harder and harder to walk, and his forehead eventually started to sweat.

Han Sen refused to fight against the feelings the words gave him, but it was still very difficult to bear with them. If Han Sen did not possess a great will of his own, he'd have been brought down to the ground and made immobile.

Thousand Feather Crane observed the beads of sweat on Han Sen, and noted how it looked as if the man had just stepped out of the water. He frowned.

They had only gone up one hundred steps, and yet, Han Sen sheened in sweat. It was pretty extreme.

He was a Viscount, so there was no way he'd last one thousand steps. But if Han Sen's situation continued like that, he might not even make it to the two hundredth step.

"Sky Palace is strong." Han Sen was shocked.

Han Sen did not use his own will to try to break Sky Palace's will, but it was obviously very powerful for it to suppress him like so. Han Sen did not know what to do.

Since Han Sen had decided not to fight back, he didn't plan on releasing the feeling. He accepted the pressure and just kept going. It was so heavy, it was like he was carrying a mountain. Every step he took left the stair behind him wet with sweat.

Han Sen kept feeling that pressure as he walked, and as he pushed on, he learned something.

It was a pure feeling, and it did not come from Han Sen. The intensity of the suppression began to give Han Sen some manner of inspiration.

The Dongxuan Aura's power could only mask his senses. It didn't affect his body.

If Dongxuan Aura could be suppressed like so, the power would reach another level.

As Han Sen kept walking, he loosened himself up. He allowed the pressure to fall on him fully. He hoped to learn something from those words.

It was getting harder and harder for Han Sen to walk. By the time he reached the two hundredth step, he had to spend a lot of power to take every step forward.

"Let me carry you." Thousand Feather Crane saw Han Sen on the verge of collapse, and so he resolved to help him.

Han Sen was suffering beneath the Sky Palace text. He could not focus on anything else, and he did not hear what Thousand Feather Crane had said to him.

Thousand Feather Crane could see Han Sen suffering, though. And without thinking, he moved to grab hold of him. "Relax, it is okay." Thousand Feather Crane smiled as he helped Han Sen.

The feelings around Sky Palace were strong, but Thousand Feather Crane possessed the blood of the Sky. He was born there, and he was immune to that power. He held Han Sen with ease, because he felt nothing. It'd be so light, even if Han Sen was getting crushed.

Thousand Feather Crane saw that Han Sen was continuing to walk forward, and so gave him his own arm to hold and support him. If he fell, Thousand Feather Crane would use his own strength.

Although Han Sen looked to be weary and in pain, he still managed to cross the five-hundred step milestone. But after that, his body could no longer endure the force. It bent his back.

Thousand Feather Crane pulled his arm upwards to help Han Sen stand straighten. But when he used strength to lift Han Sen, he felt as if the man's weight was like that of a large boulder. He had to use a great deal of force to get Han Sen to stand straight.

"Relax; don't use strength. This is an illusion, and there is no actual pressure coming down on you." Thousand Feather Crane thought Han Sen was using strength because he was holding him.

Han Sen did not hear what he said. The scary feelings continued to pound down into his body, making him feel as if he was carrying a mountain. He had to focus.

Thousand Feather Crane held onto Han Sen as he ascended. The weight on Thousand Feather Crane's arms felt heavier and heavier, and he thought, "This guy's will is so weak. He is getting crushed, and he is using too much strength."

After a while, Han Sen seemed too heavy for Thousand Feather Crane to keep him upright. He looked at Han Sen's body and noticed he wasn't running any energy, and he wasn't using up any of his own strength.

"Weird; he hasn't cast anything. Why is he so heavy? Sky Palace should just apply mental pressure, and nothing physical." Thousand Feather Crane thought about it, but he couldn't figure out what was going on. So, he continued helping Han Sen.

Han Sen's body was getting heavier and heavier. Thousand Feather Crane had only used one arm to begin with, but now he was forced to use two. On top of that, it was getting extremely difficult.

"Hey, are you okay?" Thousand Feather Crane looked at Han Sen and frowned. Han Sen was looking very red, and his clothes were drenched in sweat. His breathing had become very hoarse, as if he was beginning to suffocate.

Han Sen's eyeballs were bulging in their sockets, with blood vessels popping. It was like his entire body was really going to be crushed.

Han Sen hadn't expected that when he let the feelings imbued by the text enter his body, it would be this scary. Now, he could only use his will to prevent himself from being crushed. Walking on his own really was impossible, at this point. After one thousand steps, he was being carried by Thousand Feather Crane.

Thousand Feather Crane had no clue what was going on. The feelings of Sky Palace were powerful, but they should not have been that strong.

He didn't realize that Han Sen had asked for this. Instead of fighting the feelings, he practically invited them into his body. No one had ever done something that crazy before, so it was an entirely unexpected event. When Thousand Feather Crane realized what had happened, he didn't know how things would progress from there.

Han Sen had slowed to a stop, and he didn't seem to be awake. Thousand Feather Crane carried Han Sen. Lifting Han Sen put an enormous strain on his arms, requiring all of his strength. Quickly, his arms became completely exhausted. He couldn't hold Han Sen off the ground.

Thousand Feather Crane gritted his teeth and set Han Sen down. He moved in front of Han Sen, then used Han Sen's arm to pull the young man onto his back.

After Thousand Feather Crane lifted Han Sen onto his back, he continued walking towards Sky Palace.

"Knife Queen's student is strange. He had reached such a dire state just walking on the Road to the Sky." Thousand Feather Crane felt depressed, but he still carried Han Sen.

The old man in Sky Palace was waiting for Han Sen, so he couldn't just leave him behind and keep going by himself.

Thousand Feather Crane hurried up the pace at which he was carrying Han Sen, but after a while, he slowed down again. It was not like he wanted to be slow; it was just because Han Sen was as heavy as a small mountain. He couldn't walk fast.

The higher he went, the heavier Han Sen became. Thousand Feather Crane's forehead was beading with sweat.

"Is this his Road to the Sky? Or is it my Road to the Sky?" Thousand Feather Crane continued carrying Han Sen, and before long, he was sweating all over.

After nine thousand steps, Thousand Feather Crane was all red. The sweat had soaked his clothing, and the prettiness of his face had vanished. He was gasping roughly for air.

"I can't believe he is this heavy. No way he can unleash this sort of power, if he is indeed just a Viscount. He doesn't even have an energy flow. Where is this magic coming from? Is it because of the feelings issued by the Sky Palace text?"

Thousand Feather Crane pondered as he walked on.

Thousand Feather Crane was an Earl. He could have carried a dragon, and walked up each and every step without so much as getting out of breath.

But now, veins were bulging across his arms and legs. He was exhausting all his strength in this walk. He was breathing so heavily, it looked as if he was going to breathe fire. Boom!

A white cloud poured out of Thousand Feather Crane, like steam stemming from his pores. The white smoke then condensed, swirling closely around Thousand Feather Crane's body.

Thousand Feather Crane could no longer keep going with physical strength alone, so he was using his cloud powers.

Han Sen's situation was worse than Thousand Feather Crane's, though. Something inside his body had been crushed. His bones and flesh were collapsing, making him look like an anorexic patient. The parts of him that had meat were caved in, and his bones groaned amidst it. They were going to break.

One step, one stair. Ten steps brought blood and sweat. Thousand Feather Crane, seeing things were almost over, felt his legs shaking violently.

He tried his hardest, but the final few steps were taking up all his strength. He almost fell down right in front of the gate. He used all his strength to push through it and carry Han Sen through the gates.

After entering, Thousand Feather Crane felt light again. He almost moaned in pleasure. He felt relieved, and he said, "Finally, we are here!"

On the steps between the clouds, no one had seen what was going on. But when Thousand Feather Crane walked in, the people saw he had carried Han Sen. And they were all given a shock.

For as long as Sky Palace had existed, no one had been carried like that before.

1965 White Jade Jing

Han Sen had walked the sky jade steps, and everyone knew Thousand Feather Crane had to carry him into Sky Palace.

This was far too weird, though. Han Sen had almost passed out when he was brought inside. Thousand Feather Crane continued carrying him until they reached the leader of Sky Palace.

Han Sen was drifting in and out of consciousness. He couldn't see what the leader of Sky Palace looked like, but he was brought back out by Thousand Feather Crane.

Something this strange had never happened before, so there was much discussion surrounding the event.

“This must be the first time the old man has met with someone that was carried in. I heard his own beard bent in surprise.”

“How could he walk the Road to the Sky like that? That guy’s unique.”

“Or more like creepy. Haha!”

“No matter how creepy he is, the old man still accepted him. He still managed to obtain a placement in White Jade Building. He is lucky to be Knife Queen’s student.”

“Yeah. The old man respects Knife Queen, and she is really good. The old man really does treat her like a proper student. It does seem weird that she would take on a student as strange as the one she did.”

Han Sen slept for twenty-four hours straight. After that, he was fully recovered. The feelings of suppression had finally faded.

After waking, he found himself lying on a jade bed. The room had nothing, in terms of decor. It was a stone house with a jade bed, a stone table, and four stone stools.

Han Sen stretched and felt pretty good. Letting those harsh feelings into his body had been an excruciating thing to suffer, but it hadn’t been in vain. Han Sen hadn’t been able to figure out how to make his Dongxuan Aura into something solid, but he still learned something important from accepting that feeling.

When Han Sen was suppressed by the Jade Turtle Spell, the Dongxuan Aura had simulated the workings of the technique. That was how he was able to tear the spell off.

Since then, Han Sen had frequently played with the spell. He used Dongxuan Aura to study it, but the spell’s power was very complicated. It was difficult for him to learn its workings, and he made little progress.

But when Sky Palace entered his body while he was on the stairs, he felt there was something in common with Jade Turtle Spell.

Sky Palace only imbued a feeling without applying anything solid, and Jade Turtle Spell’s energy flow was too hard to understand completely. When they were both compared, however, the comparison opened Han Sen’s mind. He felt happy.

As he learned more, he noticed it had things in common with Coin, too. By continuing to examine the skills, he was able to learn a lot more.

While he could still feel the wisps of that suppression, Han Sen pulled out Jade Turtle Spell and used Dongxuan Aura to dive in. He tried to learn something from the spell, so he could confirm his theories.

Han Sen sat on the jade bed as he looked over the Jade Turtle Spell. But he quickly found that the Jade Turtle Spell behaved as if it had grown weaker. It used to be like jade, but now it was like rock.

Two days later, the Jade Turtle Spell suddenly cracked and became dust. It had become useless.

Han Sen was shocked, but he was happy about this. He had learned a lot.

Han Sen had disappeared for a few days, and rumors were floating around the palace. People believed Han Sen had been in a mini-coma for days, and that he had incurred serious injuries. He had only been there for a few days, and he hadn't met many people at all. Yet despite that, he had become quite famous.

Many of the students in Sky Palace were curious. They wanted to know what sort of person Han Sen was.

Han Sen exited his stone house and noticed that he was standing on a floating island. It was more like a large rock than an island, though. Outside of the house, the ground around him was only about half the size of a baseball field.

On that small island, there was a crooked tree. Han Sen did not know what type of tree it was, but it looked half-dead, and it was covered in scorch marks. Its leaves were all yellow, and it looked ready to fall down at any given moment.

Han Sen looked around. The island was small, but it was very close to the primary isle. It was one of the closest islands to the main island, actually.

Han Sen looked around, and then he heard a bird. An elegant man riding a big white bird flew down and landed on the island.

"Thank you for carrying me into Sky Palace," Han Sen said with genuine gratitude.

Han Sen was focused on the feelings of oppression, but he still remembered being carried into Sky Palace. If he hadn't received that aid, he would have been crushed on the stairs.

Thousand Feather Crane shook his head and said, "Bringing you to Sky Palace was my duty. There is no need to thank me."

After that, Thousand Feather Crane brought out a tablet for Han Sen and said, "This is a Sky Palace identity tablet. It will show others the level of authority and access you have within Sky Palace. Make sure you don't lose it! If you lose it, you will have to go to Clear Hall. If you don't, you will be punished."

"Sky Torture Peak has a tablet with rules inscribed upon it. You should go and take a look, just so you don't end up unknowingly breaking the rules," Thousand Feather Crane said.

"Thanks, Thousand Feather. Can I meet the palace leader now?" Han Sen put away the tablet.

"The leader has already seen you; there is no need for you to see him. He has given you permission to go to the White Jade Jing. Your identity tablet will allow you to practice there. It will help you."

"Where is White Jade Jing?" Han Sen asked.

Thousand Feather Crane pointed at Han Sen's identity tablet. "White Jade Jing has twelve floors and five cities. If the angels there touch my head, my hair will grow. White Jade Jing is a place for practicing. Simply being given permission to go there is a high honor. You will have to practice hard there, and not waste this glorious opportunity." Thousand Feather Crane hopped onto his white bird to leave.

"Thousand Feather, where are you going?" Han Sen quickly asked.

"I am going to practice in White Jade Jing!" Thousand Feather Crane answered.

"Great! I don't know the way there. Could you please take me?" Han Sen said, as he quickly hopped onto the bird.

Thousand Feather Crane looked depressed, but he did not say anything. He flew the big white bird to one of the floating islands.

"Sky Palace is great. If this was in the Alliance, this would make a grand place for tourists." Han Sen saw so many strange scenes and heavenly-looking buildings.

1966 Jade Air

Open air extended as far as Han Sen could see both above and below Sky Palace. The islands floated together in the midst of a seemingly endless sea of sky.

Han Sen sat on Thousand Feather Crane's bird and admired the view. After one hour of travel, the snow-white bird descended on one island in particular. The island was situated between the clouds, so their vision was a little hindered. What could be seen clearly, however, were the twelve jade towers rising amidst the clouds.

The snow-white bird landed on the island, and Thousand Feather Crane and Han Sen dismounted. He noticed the whole island was composed of jade, but it didn't look manmade.

Thousand Feather Crane headed towards the White Jade Building. When Han Sen looked over there, he saw it glisten. He had barely been able to see the twelve White Jade Buildings from the air. When he was standing on the island, all he could see was one of them in front of him. The other eleven were nowhere to be seen.

Each White Jade Building consisted of seven floors. From where he was standing, he could see that the crystal constructs were protected by light. Just like the island, the jade did not look man-made. It was as if it had been born like that.

"Thousand Feather, who created the White Jade Building?" Han Sen asked as he walked.

Thousand Feather Crane answered, "White Jade Jing has twelve buildings and five cities. It existed long before the xenogeneic space was first discovered. They grew here naturally, instead of being built by people like you and me."

"This is amazing." Han Sen was interested in White Jade Jing.

They both came before the building. There were no guards around. Thousand Feather Crane pushed the door open and walked inside.

Han Sen was disappointed, and he said, "I thought that White Jade Jing is a place not many are allowed access to. Why are there no guards? Anyone could walk right in."

Thousand Feather Crane coldly said, "Didn't you see the two jade beasts outside the door? You can come in because you have a tablet. If you didn't have it, you'd have already been eaten alive by now. If you don't have the tablet, you cannot access this place."

"I see." Now Han Sen remembered the pair of three-meter-tall jade beasts. They looked like kirin, with one standing at each side of the building. He thought they were dead, but they were actually alive.

Thousand Feather Crane did not say anything more, and just kept on walking.

Han Sen was checking out the building, but there was nothing to see on the inside. There were just a few steps leading up to the second floor.

Han Sen, seeing Thousand Feather Crane ascend the flight of stairs, followed.

The second floor was the same as the last; it was empty. There was only another staircase that led up to the third floor. Han Sen thought this was strange, and so he asked, "Why is there nothing inside this building? What are the benefits to practicing here?"

Thousand Feather Crane approached the next flight of stairs and said, "It is not time for White Jade Jing to open yet. That is why there is nothing here. White Jade Tower has seven floors. The higher you go, there more Jade Air you can receive. You are a Viscount, so practicing on the third floor should be good. If you can take the Jade Air here, you can go up higher."

After that, Thousand Feather Crane went up to the third floor. Han Sen followed.

On the third floor, there was finally something to see. A few young Sky people were sitting. No one spoke and no one talked.

The few young ones, when seeing Thousand Feather Crane, stood up and said, "Greetings, Uncle Crane."

Thousand Feather Crane nodded and proceeded up to the fourth floor.

The young ones looked at Han Sen curiously, as if he was a stranger. They did not know if he was the student of Knife Queen that had just entered.

One of them did know Han Sen, however. It was Lady Su with the middle-aged man in gray clothing. Her full name was Yun Suyi. Lady Su was what her family called her.

Yun Suyi's eyes smiled like a moon. She sat in the corner, looked at Han Sen, and thought, "How dare he come here? He must be the first person who had to be carried into Sky Palace."

The other Skys were interested in Han Sen, as not many outsiders were allowed to enter White Jade Jing. And they hadn't heard of any that had received permission after being carried in.

A young man walked in front of Han Sen and said, "My name is Yun Fei; I am a student of one of the nine seats. Which are you from?"

"I am not a student of Sky Palace. My teacher is Knife Queen," Han Sen said.

"You are Han Sen? The one who got dragged here?" Yun Fei shouted in shock.

The other people stared at Han Sen as if he was an animal from the zoo.

Yes, I am that same Han Sen." Han Sen shrugged. He didn't really care what they thought of him.

"Bro, you are awesome. Ever since the Sky claimed this place, you are the first person to get carried in. How did you do that?" Yun Fei laughed as he patted Han Sen on the shoulder.

"That was an accident, I'm afraid. There is no need to be jealous." Han Sen laughed.

Yun Fei and the other Sky could see Han Sen had a mild temper and was willing to joke around, so they chatted for a while.

Only the elites of the Sky were permitted access to White Jade Jing. There was no conflict amongst them, so they chatted happily with each other.

Yun Suyi merely watched, however. She did not participate. Seeing Han Sen talk with them, she thought to herself, "He seems nice, but his will is weak. Why would Knife Queen be willing to accept a student such as this? He is not even one of the Rebate."

After talking for a while, Yun Fei suddenly said, "Time's up. Talk later."

After that, everyone found themselves a place to sit down.

Han Sen knew White Jade Jing was going to open, so he found a place to sit down as well.

The jade tower had no dust. The floor that was made from jade was smooth and cool. Han Sen felt a cool air enter his body as he sat.

As the cold air curled around Han Sen, the jade stone in the center of the floor began to emit white smoke. That white smoke expanded through the room, glittering as it went. It filled every inch of the air. Everyone cast their powers to absorb the smoke from the jade, creating small vortexes around them.

Han Sen had asked them about White Jade Tower while they were chatting, so he knew that he was supposed to use his geno art to absorb the Jade Air.

Suddenly, Han Sen felt a chill energy penetrate his body.

1967 Absorbing Jade Air

The feeling was amazing. It was like many small ice cubes were melting around him. They melted when they touched his skin, and were then absorbed.

As the Jade Air was absorbed into his cells, Han Sen noticed some changes that were happening across his body. His skin was developing a jade-like color. Under the influence of the Jade Air, Yun Fei and the others were all shining like crystals. They were like statues built from jade.

“This powerful Jade Air can change the genes of the body? This Jade Air must come from a xenogeneic gene, yes?” Han Sen thought to himself.

“Left Crazy did say that rocks possessed sentience, but their lives are different from ours. White Jade Jing must be a creature, and the Jade Air must be a xenogeneic gene. That being said, I can’t determine the level of White Jade Jing.” Han Sen made a number of guesses while he absorbed the Jade Air.

But guessing was all he could do since his theories stemmed from what Left Crazy had once told him. No one could prove if what he was thinking was the truth.

Han Sen used The Story of Genes to absorb the Jade Air, transforming the Jade Air’s energy.

The Story of Genes was very compatible when it came to other elements. After absorbing Jade Air, there was a noticeable improvement. But it still wasn’t enough to break through, and there was obviously something missing.

“Didn’t Thousand Feather Crane say that the higher you get, the stronger the Jade Air is? Maybe I can use a stronger Jade Air to breakthrough,” Han Sen thought, standing up. He walked towards the fourth floor, with the Jade Air all around.

The third floor, with its Jade Air, offered too little for him. Everyone there was a Viscount, but Han Sen had used many xenogeneic genes to improve his body. He was much stronger than the average Viscount.

Han Sen could compete with Earls if he maxed out his genes as a Viscount.

When he stepped onto the fourth floor, he felt very cold. The third floor felt cool, but the fourth felt cold. After getting in, he felt as if he had stumbled into an ice cave.

But that cold could not affect Han Sen's body. He looked around the fourth floor and saw some people sitting amidst swirls of Jade Air. Aside from the Sky, there were two outsider races. Thousand Feather Crane was not on this floor, however.

Han Sen absorbed the Jade Air to help breakthrough with The Story of Genes, but it wasn't working. So, he decided to walk to the fifth floor.

When he reached the fifth floor, he felt as if he had been frozen. He stopped at the entrance and became like a real statue.

The Jadeskin melted from ice to water, and with Han Sen's strength, he could not refine that Jade Air. The Jade Air started to fill his body. Han Sen felt his body go cold. It was not his temperature decreasing, either; it was his life that was weakening.

Han Sen could feel his body turning into jade, growing weaker. He cast The Story of Genes, but he could not withstand the jade.

The Jade Air's gene power was far stronger than Han Sen's gene power. So, the genes in his body were being changed by the Jade Air.

Han Sen was surprised. In the space of one floor, there had been a massive difference. His power was sufficient to counter the Jade Air, but that would nullify the point of practicing there.

Han Sen cast Petrify and turned himself to stone. When the Jade Air tried to invade the stone, it could not invade the genes of Han Sen's body. It moisturized Han Sen's petrified body, making itself much easier for him to absorb.

When using Petrify, the only other skill Han Sen could activate was The Story of Genes. So, without hesitating, he activated The Story of Genes to absorb the Jade Air around him.

The Jade Air was absorbed by his petrified body. He continued running The Story of Genes, and as he did so, his petrified body turned to jade.

The powerful Jade Air kept trying to break through and send him up to Earl class. But again and again, something held him back and made the process fail. The air was very powerful, but for some reason, it couldn't carry him through to the last stage.

After two hours, the Jade Air disappeared. And when it was gone, Han Sen stopped using Petrify. He felt awful.

"Such powerful Jade Air, and it still isn't enough to break through with The Story of Genes? What do I have to do to become an Earl?" Han Sen felt depressed.

The people on the fifth floor saw a stranger—they were looking at Han Sen. They noticed he was not of the Sky, and that was even weirder.

Those people did not know who Han Sen was, and they did not expect a Viscount could accompany them on the fifth floor when the Jade Air erupted. So, they guessed Han Sen was an Earl.

Han Sen did not stay and talk to them, and he went straight up to the sixth floor. He had Petrify, so the Jade Air could not damage him.

"If the fifth floor's Jade Air cannot help me break through, I will have to keep going." Han Sen walked to the sixth floor.

More people were practicing there.

It was not the time for Jade Air to erupt there, but no one noticed Han Sen. Han Sen looked around the sixth floor, and again he could not see Thousand Feather Crane. So, he went ahead to the seventh floor.

Han Sen found him there on the seventh floor. And on the seventh floor, aside from Han Sen himself, there were three people in total.

Two of them were of the Sky, and one of them was bald. He had nine moles on his head, so he was from the Buddha. He looked young, like Speechless. So, it must have been hard to reach this point at the age he was. He was the best of the Earls, as most Earls could go no further than the fifth floor.

Of the two Sky, one of them was Thousand Feather Crane. The other Sky was a young woman that Han Sen did not know.

Han Sen looked at them, and they looked at Han Sen.

"Brother Han, why are you not practicing down there? Why have you come here?" Thousand Feather Crane asked. Before Han Sen could answer, the young Sky woman looked at Han Sen and said, "You are Knife Queen's student Han

Han Sen saw how scared she looked, and he knew what she would soon say. He smiled and told her, "Yes. I am Han Sen, who was brought in by Thousand Feather Crane."

Chapter 1968 The Seventh Floor

The woman heard him and smiled. "You are very funny. My name is Yun Sushang. I am a student of the Tenth Elder. You can call me Senior."

"Greetings, Senior Yun," Han Sen said, suddenly feeling like he was back in school. It was actually a nice feeling.

Yun Sushang pointed at the Buddha man and said, "His name is First Day. The Buddha sent him here to study in Sky Palace, just like you."

"Amitabha! Greetings, Mister Han." First Day bowed before Han Sen.

Han Sen did not like the Buddha, but he didn't think that every single one of them was a bad person. He didn't know First Day, though, so he had no immediate reason to hate the man. That being said, he still

wanted to avoid being First Day's friend. After the introductions, Han Sen turned to Thousand Feather Crane.

"Thousand Feather, I thought you said there were twelve White Jade Buildings. But I have only seen this one." If Han Sen couldn't achieve a breakthrough on the seventh floor, he thought that he might need a place with an even stronger Jade Air.

"There are twelve buildings and five cities in White Jade Jing. Most people only see the twelve White Jade Buildings, not the five cities. Consequently, they can only enter this one place. If you wish to enter the others, you must first understand the other towers," Thousand Feather Crane said.

"What is there to learn?" Han Sen asked.

"I don't know. It's just something you have to learn. It's hard for me to explain. But I think you should practice on the third or fourth floor. You can start thinking about moving on when you reach the fifth or sixth floor," Thousand Feather Crane said.

Han Sen wished to say something, but someone suddenly entered the seventh floor. It was Yun Suyi. They had met on the third floor.

Yun Suyi, upon seeing Han Sen, was shocked. When the Jade Air passed, Han Sen had vanished. She had believed that he had been unable to withstand it, and so he decided to leave. She didn't expect that Han Sen had already gone to the top, looking for Thousand Feather Crane.

"Suyi, let me introduce you. This is Knife Queen's student Han Sen." Yun Sushang pulled Yun Suyi near and smiled.

"I met him already, down below," Yun Suyi answered.

Yun Suyi and Yun Sushang were sisters. They were the heirs of the Tenth Elder. Yun Suyi had blood, while Yun Sushang was a step-daughter. Yun Sushang was the Seventh Elder's daughter, but he had died. Yun Sushang was taken in by Yun Suyi's father while she was still young.

Thousand Feather Crane was also a student of the Tenth Elder, so he was close with the Yun sisters.

The sisters had a good relationship, as fine as any real siblings. Since they had a little while before White Jade Jing opened again, Yun Suyi had come to talk to Yun Sushang and kill some time.

Han Sen asked Thousand Feather Crane, "Thousand Feather, I'm curious about the Jade Air of the other twelve buildings. Are they stronger?"

Before he could answer, Yun Suyi said, "They're not just stronger. They have spirit. If you're not an Earl at least, you'll die there. Don't even think about going elsewhere. Just stay here and practice."

“So if I become an Earl, I can go to the other twelve buildings?” Han Sen asked.

“You have to understand the knowledge of the White Jade Buildings. Only then can you see the other buildings behind this one,” Yun Suyi said.

“Thousand Feather Crane, Yun Sushang, and First Day are the best of the Earls. Can they not understand this knowledge?” Han Sen thought to himself. He knew it was something he shouldn’t say out loud.

Yun Suyi knew what Han Sen was thinking, however. She smiled. “Brother Crane and my sister already understand. Many people on the sixth floor already understand, too. But of the twelve buildings, this first one is the most tamed. The Jade Air here is the easiest to refine, so it is best to stay here until you are a Marquise.”

Upon hearing this, Han Sen frowned in thought. “If the Jade Air here is considered mild, how scary must the Jade Air be in the other buildings? If I can’t break through here, maybe I can go to the other White Jade Buildings. I just don’t know what I need to understand about these constructs.”

After talking for a while, Yun Sushang suddenly noticed the time. Then, she spoke to Yun Suyi. “The Jade Air is going to erupt. Go back now. We will speak later when this is done.”

Yun Suyi nodded and headed for the stairs. Han Sen was still talking to Thousand Feather Crane, so she said, “You should come. When the Jade Air arrives, you will become a jade statue before you have a chance to return to the third floor.”

“Brother Han, head on down. We will talk later,” Thousand Feather Crane said.

“I’m not going back. I want to practice here,” Han Sen said.

Yun Suyi and the others all looked at Han Sen. Yun Suyi found herself both angry and amused. “Even most Earls do not dare come to the seventh floor. Only my sister and Brother Crane, who are both so talented and stronger than the average Earl, dare to practice here. Did you not see the swathe of Earls down on the sixth floor? They don’t dare come up. What do you think a Viscount can do here? Do you want to become a statue?”

“Brother Han, you should go downstairs. You have to do this floor-by-floor,” Thousand Feather Crane said.

Han Sen laughed and said, “My skills have maxed out! I need the seventh floor’s Jade Air to break through. Don’t worry;

I can fight against the Jade Air here. I’ll be fine.”

Yun Suyi started to say something else, but Yun Sushang cut her off. “Suyi, go now. The Jade Air will soon erupt, and it’ll be too late for you to leave when it does.”

Yun Suyi left the seventh floor and paced quickly down the stairs. She kept looking back, but she did not see Han Sen following after her.

“This guy isn’t strong, but he is ambitious. Brother Crane will have to carry him down, again,” Yun Suyi thought to herself.

Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang tried to convince Han Sen, but they were not really friends. If Han Sen wanted to stay that much, they weren't going to plead against the idea.

Thousand Feather Crane smiled wryly and shook his head. If Han Sen could not withstand the force, then he would carry him down. He could not allow the Jade Air to turn Han Sen into a statue and kill him.

Han Sen found a spot that was closer to Thousand Feather Crane. First Day looked at Han Sen curiously, and Han Sen shot him a smile. First Day looked shy, and then turned away.

"This First Day Buddha is interesting. He is so young and so strong. He might be as good as Seven Spirit. His mind is still like a kid's, though," Han Sen thought. Then, the jade walls began to emit a Jade Air.

Chapter 1969 Becoming an Earl

The seventh floor's Jade Air flowed out like a liquid. It hung visibly in the air.

Han Sen used Petrify to turn his flesh into stone, so he didn't feel it very much when the Jade Air connected with his body. He used The Story of Genes to absorb the Jade Air.

Thousand Feather Crane, Yun Sushang, and First Day all turned to look at Han Sen. The average Earl couldn't withstand the seventh floor's Jade Air, and Han Sen was just a Viscount. It was likely he would turn into a jade statue. Thousand Feather Crane prepared to carry Han Sen out the moment he looked like he was in trouble.

But the three of them were shocked when Han Sen petrified himself. The Jade Air didn't affect Han Sen's body much, and as they watched, Han Sen began to absorb it. That was surprising.

"What is that geno art? It can allow a Viscount to withstand the Jade Air on the seventh floor?" Yun Sushang was in shock.

Thousand Feather Crane stumbled slightly as he answered. "It looks like some sort of petrifying geno art, but no matter how strong it is, it shouldn't be this effective on a Viscount. That geno art cannot be a simple petrification. It must be a geno art Knife Queen gave him."

The three did not observe Han Sen for long. They were still curious, but they needed to focus on their own practice.

The seventh floor's Jade Air could not harm Han Sen while he was petrified. After he used Petrify, his body had great compatibility with Jade Air, so it was easy to absorb.

The Jade Air rushed into Han Sen's body like water. He cast The Story of Genes in the hopes he would break through with it.

Spell Armor automatically appeared around Han Sen's body and wrapped him up. The armor shone with a weird light, and mysterious symbols appeared across it. It was scary.

The other three saw the movement around Han Sen, and when they looked at him, their shock deepened. "He's going to become an Earl here?"

Han Sen had eaten a lot of grains of Galaxy Sand. He had already been on the precipice of becoming an Earl, but he had lacked a trigger.

The Jade Air would finish what the Galaxy Sand had started. Galaxy Sand was a concentrated xenogeneic gene essence, and it could be absorbed right away.

Jade Air was like ore, though. It had to be worked and refined before absorption.

When ordinary Nobles absorbed Jade Air, most of it would be wasted and released back into the room. Only small amounts of the Jade Air would actually be absorbed and processed by their bodies.

The Galaxy Sand could be used by low-tier Nobles without side-effects, so it was okay for him to have used as much as he had. But receiving too much Jade Air at once could damage a person's body.

Luckily, Han Sen did not want to absorb the Jade Air. He just wanted to use the power of the Jade Air to break through. It did not matter if it was refined or not; he just needed the strength of it.

The Jade Air on the seventh floor was strong enough. Waves battered across the threshold of his body, activating the power Spell possessed. It had managed to kickstart the evolution process of him becoming an Earl.

The mysterious Spell armor began to shift and change constantly. Thousand Feather Crane observed the armor's behavior, but he was unsure what it signified.

When the symbols of Spell became brighter, it was as if the light was coming to life. It came out of the armor, surrounding Han Sen like a group of fairies.

"This is a text spirit. It is like the spirit of our Textless Book. It is a very rare spirit!" Yun Sushang exclaimed, looking at Spell.

"It's rare, but the Rebate don't have a geno art like that. What geno art has he been practicing?" Thousand Feather Crane said with a frown.

"No matter what it is, this guy is not as simple as what meets the eye. It is very interesting." Yun Sushang looked at Han Sen with interest.

First Day looked at Han Sen with curiosity. "Brother Crane, the geno art Han Sen is practicing... How is it when compared to that of the Textless Book?"

Thousand Feather Crane shook his head. "I have not practiced with the Textless Book, and I do not know what Han Sen's geno art is. It is difficult to tell, but the Textless Book is a skill belonging to Sky Palace. It would not be weaker than any other geno art. You have practiced Truth Spell, and that comes from the Textless Book. And it is a spirit that creates text, so you should know more about it than I do."

Yes, First Day. Do you think your spirit is weaker or stronger than his?" Yun Sushang asked First Day.

First Day looked very shy, and he said the Buddha catchphrase. "I don't understand his text, but it feels like it is deeper than my own spirit."

Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane were shocked to hear this. The Textless Book was a skill not every one of the Sky could use. It had many requirements for its practice. So, while Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane were smart, they were still unable to practice with it.

Although only a few could use the Textless Book in its original form, there was a senior inside Sky Palace that had extracted a part out of it that everyone could practice. It was called Truth Spell, and even the ordinary Sky could use it.

While Truth Spell was just a small part of the Textless Book, it was strong enough to be on par with other famous geno arts. First Day was very good with it, and his talent was plain to see. If he felt this way, then it meant Han Sen's geno art had to be very strong.

When Han Sen evolved, Spell's spirit became stronger. While the symbols spun around, a vortex was created. It absorbed the Jade Air ravenously, draining the power into Han Sen's body.

Pang!

A symbol shattered, and the others that were flying around him blew up like a load of firecrackers. They were all broken.

Thousand Feather Crane and the others were shocked. They thought Han Sen had failed, but then, a giant Spell body appeared behind him. It was protecting him.

Pang!

That Spell broke, too. The fragments became a number of smaller Spells, which landed on the armor. Then they disappeared.

Thousand Feather Crane was shocked, and Han Sen didn't know whether he had succeeded or failed. But quickly, an impressive power started to radiate from Han Sen. When the others saw it, they knew for certain that Han Sen had succeeded in becoming an Earl.

"Spell Battle Body has become an Earl."

The voice echoed through Han Sen's mind, filling him with joy. After much hard work, The Story of Genes had been brought up to Earl.

1970 The Fourth Stage

Yun Suyi stopped practicing and opened her eyes. The Jade Air was no longer coming from the walls, so she looked around to see if Han Sen was around. He wasn't.

"Why hasn't Brother Crane brought Han Sen down? Are they on the fourth floor, maybe?" Yun Suyi wondered as she made her way up to the fourth floor.

There was no sign of Han Sen on the fourth floor. Yun Suyi frowned and turned back toward the stairs, intending to search the fifth floor next. But Han Sen, Thousand Feather Crane, Yun Sushang, and First Day were coming down from there.

Yun Suyi quickly moved towards them, glaring at Han Sen, "I told you to come down when I left, but you were too stubborn. Great. Now, Brother Crane and First Day have had to waste their time bringing you down. The Jade Air is only released once a week. You'll have to wait another seven days now."

Yun Sushang tugged at Yun Suyi and said, "Suyi, it's not like that."

"What is not like that?" Yun Suyi asked with obvious confusion.

First Day said, "Mister Han leveled up to Earl on the seventh floor. We have come down together, now that the Jade Air has come to an end."

When Yun Suyi heard that, her eyes widened. She looked at Han Sen with utter disbelief. "You really stayed on the seventh floor and became an Earl?"

Han Sen nodded. He wasn't going to hide his power.

Yun Suyi sensed Han Sen's energy. She was at a loss, and while she opened her mouth, she didn't say anything.

It was unheard of for a Viscount to withstand the Jade Air of the seventh floor and become an Earl. It beggared belief.

"Let's go. We can talk more later." Thousand Feather Crane led the way out of the White Jade Building.

White Jade Building would erupt twice in a day, and then it would go dormant for another six days. Han Sen broke through with The Story of Genes on the first day, so he didn't care about anything else. He

hadn't discovered the secret of the White Jade Building, but he would fine to wait until the following week.

Han Sen was just happy that he had gotten Spell to Earl class.

When they said goodbye, Yun Sushang stopped Han Sen and said, "Han Sen, Brother Crane and I are going to Xuanyuan Cave in two days. If you have the time, you can come along."

"If you don't oppose my participation, I would like to come," Han Sen said.

They set up a time to meet, and then Thousand Feather Crane gave Han Sen a ride back to his floating island.

"In Sky Palace, it would be ideal to obtain a flying mount. It would be much more convenient for you, even if you cannot fly yourself," Thousand Feather Crane said as he took Han Sen back.

"Where do I find a flying mount? Can I buy one outside Sky Palace?" Han Sen thought that if they would let him bring in a xenogeneic, he could summon Little Star.

Thousand Feather Crane shook his head. "No creature from the outside can enter here, but we have a xenogeneic island to grow them. You can buy a flying mount from there. If it is merely for traveling, even a Baron class will do. It won't cost much, but it would be better if you invested in one that was Viscount."

Han Sen asked for the location of that xenogeneic island, and then Thousand Feather Crane left.

Han Sen returned to his room and summoned Spell, who had just leveled up. He wanted to see how she had changed.

Spell appeared in her womanly form. She flew into Han Sen's hand and became a white sniper rifle.

When Han Sen used his mind, the white sniper changed. It became a white-metal weapon that looked like a rocket launcher.

"D*mn! It has a fourth stage. Each one is better than the last." Han Sen was so happy.

But Han Sen could not test out its power in the stone house, so he put it away. He cast a spirit light and created a spell that had power in it.

"I'll find a place to try the rocket launcher later. What does this spell power do?" Han Sen thought.

After resting for some time, Han Sen planned on going to review the rules of Sky Palace. He didn't want to unwittingly break a rule.

He had no flying mount, so he used his own power to soar. Fortunately, he was Earl class. Spell's power was very strong as a result, and it was enough to carry Han Sen to the floating island that possessed the tablet.

Han Sen read the rules and tried to memorize them.

Wherever he went, knowing the rules was always important to him. Knowing the rules meant he could behave. And when he met new people, he wouldn't be seen as an enemy. Knowing the rules sometimes meant he could receive unexpected help.

There were many rules in Sky Palace. Although Han Sen could remember them all, he still took his time to memorize each one.

He looked around a little, and then, a xenogeneic that looked like a tiger landed in front of Han Sen. Yun Suyi was on its back, and she jumped down before him.

"Suyi, are you here to read the rules?" Han Sen asked her.

Yun Suyi smiled and said, "I was born in Sky Palace, and I have read the rules many times. Still, I get punished. I could recite each one with my eyes closed, so there's no need for me to read this thing."

"That means you have come looking for me?" Han Sen looked around. There was no one else there except for him.

Yun Suyi nodded and said, "My sister knows you do not have a flying mount, so I am taking you to buy one. The Yun family is good at growing xenogeneics, and so we have a shop on the xenogeneic island. I can give you a discount."

"Thanks," Han Sen answered.

"Let's go." Yun Suyi seemed to be rather excited.

"Please wait a little while; I haven't finished the rules yet." Han Sen went back to reading the rules scrawled upon the tablet.

Yun Suyi waited, noticing how carefully Han Sen was reading them.

"Is he for real? I am waiting right here, and he's still concentrating entirely on reading the tablet?" Yun Suyi waited for a while, and Han Sen continued to read. She felt depressed.

She was the daughter of the Tenth Elder. Many men wished to get close to her, but Han Sen was ignoring her, and paying attention to stupid rules instead. He was so focused, it was like he was reading through a powerful geno art.

If Yun Sushang hadn't asked her to be nice, Yun Suyi would have left already.

A while later, Han Sen finished reading. Then, Yun Suyi jumped atop the flying tiger. She smiled at Han Sen. "I am taking you to the xenogeneic island now. You should follow!"

After that, Yun Suyi patted the tiger. Then, the tiger spread its wings and flew into the clouds. It was very fast.

"I waited so long for you, so now you can suffer a little," Yun Suyi thought with a grin. She'd purposefully left before Han Sen could get on the mount.

1971 Jade Crane

Yun Suyi let the flying tiger soar at full speed. It raced into the clouds in less than a second. When she turned around, no one was behind her.

“Hmph! You made me wait so long; you deserve it!” Yun Suyi did not allow her tiger to slow down. She flew straight to the xenogeneic island.

Yun Suyi planned to reach the xenogeneic island and wait for Han Sen there; she was curious to see how long it would take for him to get there.

Her jade wing tiger was a Marquise class xenogeneic. It was one of the fastest Marquise rank creatures, so it wasn't surprising that she had lost Han Sen so easily.

Yun Suyi felt cocky, but when the other students of Sky Palace flew past, they all looked at Yun Suyi strangely.

“I know I'm pretty, but you don't have to stare like that,” Yun Suyi thought.

After a while, though, she felt that something must be amiss. She knew many of the people she was passing, and although she rarely went to the xenogeneic island, she never attracted this much attention on her way there.

“Did something happen to my appearance?” Yun Suyi touched her cheek and looked at her clothes. There was nothing wrong with her.

She flew for a while longer, and people were still looking at her. She frowned and pulled out a mirror to look at herself.

“Strange. There's nothing wrong with me; everything is as it should be. I'm just as pretty—ARGH!” As Yun Suyi moved the mirror to check her face from different angles, a mysterious shadow suddenly appeared in the mirror. A smiling person was sitting behind. It was Han Sen.

“When did you get here?” Yun Suyi turned back to take a look. Han Sen was sitting casually behind her on the tiger, and it was now no wonder why people had been looking at her.

Those people were not really watching her, though. They were looking at Han Sen.

“When you took the tiger into the sky, I was already sitting atop it. Aren't you supposed to be taking me to the xenogeneic island? Is there something wrong with me being here? Have I misunderstood your intent?” Han Sen looked at her with a smile.

“Nothing’s wrong.” Yun Suyi blushed, refusing to look at Han Sen.

It weirded her out that Han Sen had managed to catch up.

Not even Thousand Feather Crane or Yun Sushang could match the Jade Wing Tiger’s speed. Han Sen had just become an Earl, so there was no way he could move that fast.

In truth, Han Sen did not have that speed, but he did have his rabbit shoes. They were faster than the Jade Wing Tiger, even if they lacked the ability of flight. When Jade Wing Tiger took off, Han Sen used the rabbit shoes to leap onto the tiger’s back. He then hid his presence, so Yun Suyi wouldn’t notice him.

Yun Suyi was confused, not understanding what had happened.

Jade Wing Tiger was quite fast, and they arrived at the xenogeneic island shortly after.

The xenogeneic island was comprised of many gardens, with each one containing a multitude of xenogeneic creatures. They didn’t look bloodthirsty, so it was like they were all tamed. Fitting with the theme of Sky Palace, most of them were of the flying variety.

Yun Suyi took Han Sen to her garden, and someone there welcomed them. Yun Suyi told them to get back to work, then brought Han Sen into the garden alone.

“What class of xenogeneic mount do you want? Available mounts run from Baron class all the way up to Marquise. They are already tamed, so they listen to people.” She was actually asking Han Sen how much he was willing to cough up for a xenogeneic.

Han Sen thought and said, “The cheaper the better. Anything to substitute for walking.”

Han Sen was still new in the geno universe. There were many creatures in the sanctuary that had yet to evolve. Han Sen did not need to waste his resources.

Han Sen was going to kill xenogeneics himself soon, anyway, and there was always the chance he could nab a beast soul mount. Those mounts would be far better than a tamed xenogeneic.

Yun Suyi smiled and said, “Don’t worry, my sister said I can give you the lowest possible price. You won’t get prices like this anywhere else.”

Han Sen shook his head. “I just want one that can help me fly. I don’t need one that is strong.”

When Yun Suyi saw that Han Sen wasn’t kidding, she thought for a minute. “The cheapest flying mount is a xenogeneic called a Jade Night Crane. They are in every shop, but ours are different. You saw Brother Crane’s Jade Night Crane, yes? Normally, they are Baron and hard to level up. But that one was Earl, and it came from us.”

“Sure. Give me one of those, then.” Han Sen was not picky. It was just a riding mount, so it wouldn’t be anything too special regardless of how much he paid.

You should go and pick one yourself. We have thousands of them. They are all the same price, and they are all just as good.” Yun Suyi took Han Sen to the area for the Jade Night Cranes.

Han Sen was remarkably surprised when he saw the birds swarming in flocks that looked like clouds. Sky Palace was a big faction; there weren't many places where you could see this many tamed xenogeneics in one place.

Taming a xenogeneic was far harder than killing one. It would be easier to kill an Earl or Marquise xenogeneic than to tame a Baron xenogeneic. It was amazing that the Sky had successfully done so this many times.

"Where did these xenogeneics come from?" Han Sen asked, looking at all the Jade Night Cranes.

"Some were caught, some were raised. We will take you to Xuanyuan Cave. There is an Earl there that you can tame. If you can catch it alive, it will fetch a far loftier price than selling the xenogeneic gene material," Yun Suyi said.

Han Sen nodded. He used his Dongxuan Aura to scan the Jade Night Cranes. If she was going to let him choose, then he might as well make the best choice that he could. He was going to pick the one with the brightest life force.

Han Sen scanned them, and he found one among them that appeared to be extra strong. When he saw it, the creature was just lying down in the grass. It didn't appear to be as active as the others.

Yun Suyi, seeing Han Sen look at that Jade Night Crane, said, "That one is a Viscount. It was a Baron xenogeneic that was bought by a Viscount. It was later raised to become a Viscount itself, but after a grueling fight, its legs were cut off and its wings were damaged. It recovered from its wounds, but it is still disabled. Now, its flying speed is only Baron class. Also, it still doesn't have legs..."

Yun Suyi stopped talking, but it was obvious what had happened.

1972 Xuanyuan Cave

"Can it fly while carrying heavy items?" Han Sen asked, examining the bird.

"Yes; it is much stronger than Baron class Jade Night Cranes, but it has no legs and its wings are damaged," Yun Suyi repeated. "It can't fly any faster than an average Baron. And its fighting abilities cannot compare with a Viscount mount."

"I'll take him." Han Sen did not plan on letting the mount do any fighting, so it'd be suitable for simple travel.

A damaged Jade Night Crane was not expensive, and it was just a little more pricey than basic xenogeneic gene material. Yun Suyi gave Han Sen a very good deal.

The Jade Night Crane was very tame, and Han Sen was quickly able to learn how to command it. He could control it in flight easily.

Because it had no legs, it always landed on its belly. And because the wings were partially disabled, it never could fly completely straight. Its speed left much to be desired, as well.

Fortunately, Han Sen did not have high expectations. So, after he made the purchase, he rode the crane back to his island.

Jade Night Crane was flying again, and it looked excited to be doing so. It kept squawking, and with amusing dedication, it diligently took Han Sen to his desired destination.

“Poor thing. It got hurt because of its master, and then it was abandoned. And now he is okay and can obey commands. Many creatures with high intelligence can’t do that.” Han Sen sighed.

Back on his island, Han Sen let the crane land. But before it touched down, Han Sen jumped off.

The crane’s belly hit the ground as it frantically flapped its wings. The creature had tried to keep itself level when it landed, but the attempt didn’t go very well.

Han Sen gave it some food and let it stay on the stone. Then, Han Sen returned to the house. Before he went to Xuanyuan Cave, he wanted to come to grips with his powers. He took stock of his possessions.

Earl class Spell geno armament. Duke beast soul rabbit shoes. Earl beast soul Red Mist Mink Glove, and King weapon Ghost Teeth Knife.

With Ghost Teeth Knife there, his Teeth Knife skills would still be the best to use. Teeth Knife wouldn’t have any breakthroughs, though, so he planned to focus on a different geno art.

Using the energy flow from the Jade Turtle Spell, the feelings of Sky Palace, and some parts of Coin, he planned to make up a brand new geno art.

“My Coin focuses on powers that suppress. Why don’t I just modify Coin and make it better? But I can only use Coin, or a geno art that looks like Coin, when I’m in my Dollar identity. Otherwise, people might take notice. So, if I can’t make something too similar to Coin, what kind of geno art should I make?” Han Sen thought about it, and he soon came up with an idea.

Jade Turtle Spell focused on suppressing one’s speed. Once you got hit with it, you could not fly. Han Sen wanted to use that aspect as a focus for his new geno art creation. He wanted to merge elements of Sky Palace and Coin. As for modifying Coin, that was something he could do later.

Han Sen kept testing his ideas in the room and learned a lot. Combining them wasn’t proving too difficult. He created his new geno art through repeated testing.

After pulling an all-nighter, he formulated a prototype of his new geno art. It was something he had no difficulty casting. All he had to do was improve the minor details of its design.

“Let’s call this geno art Turtle,” Han Sen decided.

Because he could not find a target to use it on, Han Sen didn’t know exactly how effective Turtle would be.

Han Sen took a break to rest, and when it was daytime, he walked out the door. The legless crane was resting beneath a tree. Han Sen fed it again, then rode it to where he was supposed to meet with Thousand Feather Crane.

Outside of Xuanyuan Cave, Han Sen saw Thousand Feather Crane, First Day, and the Yun sisters.

Yun Sushang immediately apologized for her sister’s presence. “Suyi wants to follow us in our exploration. I will be in charge of her safety, so if something happens, do not worry. Do whatever you need to.”

Since she had said that, no one objected. They left their mounts outside and headed into Xuanyuan Cave.

Xuanyuan Island looked like a small volcano. The volcano’s entrance led them into a gigantic volcano cave world. The cave led off in a number of different directions, and there were swathes of xenogeneics inside.

Xuanyuan Cave xenogeneics were very special. The most special ones among them were called Xuan Jade Spirits. Xuan Jade Spirits could travel through walls and appear in any corner they chose. They were difficult to avoid.

So, once people entered the cave system, they had to be careful. They could be attacked by Xuan Jade Spirits at any time.

At any moment, a mouth or claw could come shooting out of the rock.

“Brother Han, this is your first time in Xuanyuan Cave. Be careful. Xuan Jade Spirits can appear without any warning.

We might not be able to help you in time, if they get you,” Yun Sushang said.

Han Sen nodded, and he opened his Dongxuan Aura. He kept everything envisioned in his head. Any movement within a radius of ten meters would not escape his notice.

They walked a mile into the caves without spotting a single xenogeneic, but Han Sen did not let his guard down. He kept the Dongxuan Aura running the entire time.

Suddenly, though, Han Sen saw a black jade hand come out from the ground. It tried to grab Yun Suyi by her legs. The Xuan Jade Spirit’s nails were black like daggers. If it got hold of Yun Suyi, it could rip her legs off without much trouble.

Because they hadn’t met Xuan Jade Spirits for a long time, Yun Suyi had dropped her guard. She was only a Viscount, as well. She was not strong enough to react with the immediacy required.

Han Sen summoned Spell in front of him and fired her guns. After the popping noise of gunfire, two of the Xuan Jade's claws were broken by the bullets.

Where the bullets hit, symbols were left behind.

The Xuan Jade jerked its injured hands away and retreated into the stone. It left no sign of its passing. The surface of the stone was perfect, as if the creature had never been there in the first place.

Han Sen noticed he was able to feel where the Xuan Jade hands would come from. There was thick stone and rock all about, but he felt as if he received a signal from beyond it. Han Sen could feel exactly where they were.

"Is this a power that Spell possesses?" Han Sen was shocked. When Spell hit something, it was like she was placing a tracker. The tracker didn't deal damage, but it was very useful.

1973 Killing Ghost Claw Beas

"Suyi, say thank you to Han Sen." Yun Sushang nudged Yun Suyi with a hand.

Yun Suyi was still a bit rattled, but she stepped forward and said to Han Sen, "Thank you for saving me."

"It's okay. Even if I hadn't struck, it couldn't have hurt you. I just wanted to find out the power of the Xuan Jade Spirit." Han Sen smiled. He wasn't suggesting that Suyi was strong, but acknowledging that Sushang was right beside her.

There was no way the creature would have been permitted to hurt her.

But Sushang was surprised that Han Sen had reacted before she had. Han Sen had just become an Earl, and if his reaction speeds were superior to theirs already, that was most certainly not normal.

Yun Suyi looked at Spell with curiosity. "Han Sen, is that your geno armament? It is special. I have never seen one like that before."

Thousand Feather Crane was just as curious. Prior to this, they had only seen Spell's armor mode. Her second mode looked like a person, and this was something they hadn't seen before.

Han Sen smiled, but he did not answer the question. He asked, "That Xuan Jade Spirit was not strong. Aside from being able to travel through stone, what else can they do?"

Thousand Feather Crane said, "That one was an Earl class Ghost Claw Beast. They aren't the strongest of Earls, but they are very fast. They can appear through the rock, so they are very dangerous if you are

careless. Even cutting off the creature's claws won't kill it. They can regenerate. It's very annoying. If you want to kill it for good, you need to damage the stone it resides in, once it has revealed itself with the claws."

Yun Sushang said, "Ghost Claw Beasts are too fast. Most of the time, we can't detect their presence until it is too late. And if they miss or break their claws, they'll run away. Second chances are rare. So, when you want to kill one, you need two Earls. One can cut the claws while the other pummels the body inside the stone."

After that, Yun Sushang struck a rock with her knuckles and said, "The Xuanyuan rock is very hard. With our powers, we can only cut through an inch of the stone at a time. The Ghost Claw Beasts raise their claws around one foot out of the rock. Then, they attack."

Thank you for teaching me," Han Sen said gratefully.

They kept walking, and Han Sen felt as if the Ghost Claw Beasts were right next to them. One was getting ready to attack again.

It was the same Ghost Claw Beast, and it wanted revenge. It kept following them, ready to perform a Ghost Claw Slash upon them. But it had been hurt by Spell once already, so it was exercising great caution. It didn't come too close yet, and it watched and waited for an opportunity from beneath the stone.

"Be careful; there are xenogeneics up ahead," Thousand Feather Crane told them. He was up front.

Han Sen looked forward, and he saw a blurry shadow. Without Thousand Feather Crane's warning, he would not have known that it was a xenogeneic.

The group soon got close enough to see it clearly, however. It was a bug that was native to the cave, and it looked like a centipede. Its shell was of a bluish hue, and there was a face emblazoned upon its back. It looked creepy.

"Earl class Face Centipede. Be careful. Face Centipedes appear in a group, mostly. They don't travel alone." Yun Suyi explained this for Han Sen's benefit, as the others there were no strangers to the cave. Face Centipedes were quite common, and the Sky were familiar with how they behaved.

The Face Centipede soon saw Han Sen, and it came scurrying over. It let out a wretched sound that drew the attention and ire of more in the vicinity.

"Get ready to fight!" Thousand Feather Crane shouted and drew his sword.

Yun Sushang and Yun Suyi wielded swords, as well. First Day didn't draw a weapon, though; his hands gleamed with white light. He slapped the ground, leaving white marks on the dirt. His spirit covered an area that was three meters wide and brightened up the entire place.

First Day slapped the ground another five times, and then he said something. Then, six spirits rose toward the feet of Han Sen and the others. Power entered their bodies.

“What a strong spirit! It increases power and speed by a lot.” Han Sen was in shock. He looked at First Day, and he was really surprised that the shy Buddha could pull something like this off.

Seeing Han Sen look at him, the Buddha man awkwardly glanced away. He said, “I was sent here to study when I was young. I practiced the Truth Spell of Sky Palace.”

Very nice,” Han Sen said. Ever since Han Sen had been forced to leave Disloyal Knight behind, he hadn’t seen much in the way of buffs and boons.

Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane stood inside the radius of the spell to fight with the Face Centipedes.

Their sword airs looked like clouds, and they moved like silk in the sky. It was very light and strange.

The Face Centipedes were getting killed by the silk sword air. Their shells cracked under the force, and a few died immediately on contact.

The path was very narrow, and since Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane had a handle on the situation, Han Sen didn’t bother helping.

Yun Suyi wanted to fight, but she couldn’t. She started to say something to Han Sen, and so she turned around. But she looked at Spell, who was standing next to Han Sen, Spell was transforming her pistols into a sniper rifle. The long weapon dropped into Spell’s hands, and she pointed it toward Yun Suyi and pulled the trigger.

Yun Suyi was frozen. Spell had moved too quickly for her to react. She saw a shining bullet fly out of Spell’s rifle and whiz right past her face.

Pang!

The bullet hit the stone wall behind her, and the cracking sound hurt her ears.

Yun Suyi turned around to take a look. A hand bearing jade claws hovered behind her, inches from her neck. It was frozen in place.

There was a bullet hole in the stone wall, and black blood seeped out of it.

“Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Jade Ghost Claw Beast: xenogeneic gene found.”

An announcement played in Han Sen’s head, but it was a shame he did not receive a beast soul.

“Thank you.” Yun Suyi looked at Han Sen with a complex expression.

This was the second time Han Sen had saved her, and this time, he had managed to one-hit-kill a Ghost Claw Beast by himself. Such reaction speed and powers were difficult to find amongst Earls.

1974 Spell Becomes Strong

Han Sen was surprised. He was not surprised that Spell could kill the Ghost Claw Beast, but that her pistols could turn into a sniper rifle. He knew that Spell herself could transform, but he hadn't known she could change her weapons.

"So, that means Spell can use any type of weapon? It might not have to be a weapon all the time, either," Han Sen thought.

He had simply commanded Spell to slay the Ghost Claw Beast, and Spell had used her own judgment to select the sniper. It had greater power and bullet penetration.

She now had three different weapons. There were the pistols, for short-range quickfire. The power was mild, but she could take a lot of shots in little time.

The sniper had the longest range of attack, and its damage was quite devastating. It could penetrate through materials, but bullets took a long time to regenerate.

The rocket launcher did not have the range of the sniper rifle, but it dealt AOE damage across a wide area. This took even longer to regenerate a round, though.

The three of them had different functions and benefits. It was difficult to determine if one was outright better than the another. Depending on the situation, any of the weapons might prove more beneficial than the others. That was Spell's greatest strength. She could adapt to almost any scenario.

Not long after Han Sen killed the Ghost Claw Beast, Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane finished off the five Face Centipedes.

Han Sen went ahead and started digging into the stone. There was a monkey-looking jade monster inside, with its head blown wide open. It was the Ghost Claw Beast.

When Yun Suyi saw that Spell had targeted the creature's forehead, the sight shocked her. She hadn't expected Spell to possess that level of accuracy, allowing her to take aim at the felon's head while it was still inside a wall.

They dug up the xenogenic genes and kept going. The Ghost Claw Beast's xenogenic gene was a black skull. A piece of shell was the xenogenic gene of the Face Centipedes.

"We have only just entered Xuanyuan Cave, and already we have received rewards like this. We are quite lucky. We could go back now if we wanted to." Yun Sushang smiled.

Finding a xenogeneic during the next part of their trip wasn't so easy. They walked for another two hours and found nothing.

"Han Sen, your geno armament is amazing. It looks like a person, and it can change weapons. What is her name?" Yun Suyi asked Han Sen.

"Spell," Han Sen said.

"Good name." Maybe it was because Han Sen had saved her twice, but she was being much nicer to him now. She seemed quite keen on chatting with him.

"Ssshhh," Thousand Feather Crane hushed them. Everyone went quiet. Thousand Feather Crane put his ear next to the wall, which made the others catch their breath. If there was a Xuan Jade Spirit residing right there, Thousand Feather Crane was a dead man.

Fortunately, that did not happen. He had been confident that no creatures lurked within the wall, and he was correct. After a while, he raised his head again and said with a look of importance, "I heard a Xuanyuan Dragon."

Hearing that name, everyone's faces changed. Yun Sushang frowned. "How far? Is it coming for us?"

"I think it is headed our way." Thousand Feather Crane looked serious.

"If it is us five versus a Xuanyuan Dragon, we won't win. Let's go back," First Day said.

"Yeah." Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang agreed.

Han Sen did not know what this new threat was, but he was fine with the idea of leaving, if that was the general consensus.

When they started to retreat, First Day said, "Xuanyuan Dragons are the strongest xenogeneics to be found in Xuanyuan Cave. Those things are born Marquise. We cannot fight them."

Han Sen nodded, then he glanced down. Spell fired her pistols at Han Sen's feet.

A Ghost Claw had just come out of there, grabbing toward Han Sen's feet. The bullets pierced through the enemy, prompting it to return to the rock.

But there were more and more of the things emerging all around them. They were all thrust into danger.

Yun Sushang wielded her sword quickly to protect Yun Suyi. Thousand Feather Crane and First Day used their powers to stop the claws that kept coming out.

But the creatures seemed to be countless. Han Sen and the others were Earls, but Yun Suyi was a mere Viscount. She wouldn't be able to protect herself. Yun Sushang, Thousand Feather Crane, and First Day diligently did their best to protect her.

"This isn't right! Why are there so many Ghost Claws, all of a sudden?" Yun Sushang said as she fought back the Ghost Claw Beasts.

The Ghost Claw Beasts must know that the Xuanyuan Dragon is coming. They want to stop us from leaving,” Thousand Feather Crane said.

First Day said, “Not bad. These guys are just here to hinder and annoy us. We cannot get close enough to the walls to attack them, though. Slashing their claws off won’t work, as they can quickly generate replacements.”

Pang! Spell used her sniper rifle to attack. The bullet penetrated the rock, and the hole sent blood squirting out everywhere.

“You guys protect Suyi. Draw them out, and I will have Spell kill them,” Han Sen said as he ran.

Spell had used her pistol to fire at many claws earlier, leaving spells attached to them. Now, that made them easier to detect. When they rose to the surface of the rock, Spell would shoot them before they could extend their claws fully.

The sniper rifle’s piercing power was wickedly strong, but it still took some time to generate each new bullet. One second passed between each shot, which made it difficult to keep up with the onslaught of creatures.

Even so, watching her work was pretty awesome.

Thousand Feather Crane protected Suyi as they ran. Spell fired a shot every second. With each squeeze of the trigger, a Ghost Claw Beast died.

“Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Jade Ghost Claw Beast: xenogeneic gene found. Obtained Jade Ghost Claw Beast beast soul.”

When Spell killed her eighth Ghost Claw Beast, Han Sen finally heard the announcement he’d been hoping for. He didn’t have time to check out the beast soul right now, though. And neither could he dig up the bodies residing in the stone. They were all busy trying to run outside.

Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane looked behind them, and they saw Spell shooting the Ghost Claw Beasts.

She dropped each one with a single shot before their claws were even revealed. They had no clue how such a thing was possible.

But they did not have time to ponder that. Spell killed many Ghost Claw Beasts along the way, but there were still too many of them. The group was not escaping quickly.

“The Xuanyuan Dragon is here!” Thousand Feather Crane screamed, his face going pale.

As his scream echoed off the walls, a strange noise came from deeper in the cave. A black shadow stretched toward them, filling the air with the smell of blood.

1975 Xuanyuan Dragon

The creature's scales were as black as ink. Its head had no horns, but the ears were fixed with black wings. Its belly had talons, like those of an eagle. It was coming his way, and black smoke billowed around it. It looked very creepy.

The Xuanyuan Dragon was too fast, and there were still the Ghost Claw Beasts to fend off. Even if the Ghost Claw Beasts hadn't been there, Han Sen's group still wouldn't have been able to outrun the dragon.

In a second, the Xuanyuan Dragon was a mere twenty meters away from them. It opened its maw and fired a plume of black smoke in their direction. The smoke blackened the passage as it came toward them.

"The Xuanyuan Dragon's breath is toxic. Do not breathe it in!" Thousand Feather Crane shouted, and then a cloud exploded from his body. The eye on his forehead opened up and shone. The shining light made him stronger.

"The sky and the clouds are invincible! The sword can kill the sky!" Thousand Feather Crane shouted. A white sword air surrounded his ancient sword, and he swung it forward.

The white sword air sliced open the black toxic smoke. The sword air continued on until it struck the dragon's head. Then, it was gone.

"You guys leave now." Thousand Feather Crane clutched his sword tight and ran for the dragon. His body was emitting clouds, and he flew forward like a fairy.

"Take Suyi." Yun Sushang pushed Yun Suyi to First Day, then the eye on her forehead opened. A new sword air surrounded her ancient sword as well, and she went to fight beside Thousand Feather Crane.

They lifted their swords and attacked together, breaking the Xuanyuan Dragon's breath. They stopped the advance of the Xuanyuan Dragon and fought it hard. The dragon could not do anything.

"So this is the power of the Sky! When their third eyes are opened, they are far stronger." Han Sen watched in awe.

Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang's power could go up against a Marquise creature, and it seemed likely that they could actually kill one.

But the Xuanyuan Dragon was no ordinary Marquise. Its scales were incredibly strong, and its power was just as impressive. Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang broke through the breath, but they could not break the scales.

The snow white sword air swung down across the black scales, but it could only leave behind a white scratch mark.

Han Sen let Spell fire a few bullets at the Xuanyuan Dragon, but when the bullets hit the target, they shattered into dust.

“So strong!” Han Sen shouted in his heart.

“Mister Han, please take Suyi and leave this place,” First Day said, as he proceeded to cast Truth Spell. The spells landed on the ground of the area, then surged forward to land on Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane. It helped buff their power and speed.

Some of his spells hit the Xuanyuan Dragon, but those appeared to be futile.

Three elites were now in battle against the Xuanyuan Dragon, but that only seemed to make it angrier. A black light grew in the center of its black. The black light became dragon wings, and they gave it speed.

The Xuanyuan Dragon flapped its wings, and its ten-meter-long body performed a loop in the air.

Katcha!

Yun Sushang could not dodge it. The dragon bit down on her sword, and then, the sword broke.

At the same time, the tail of the dragon was swinging towards First Day. First Day’s body was glowing with white light. Truth Spell gave him a bubble shield, but the tail obliterated it with a single strike. It sent his body flying against the cavern walls like a meteor. He screamed as it body slammed into the wall and cracked it, then he coughed up blood.

“Oh no! It is a mutant xenogeneic. It has reinforced scales and a faster flying speed.” Thousand Feather Crane moved like a cloud. He picked up Yun Sushang, waved a sword air, and broke the black smoke the dragon was exhaling.

“Spell, protect her!” Han Sen told Spell, then pulled out Ghost Teeth Knife. The rabbit shoes appeared on his feet, and he gripped his knife with the Red Mink Gloves.

Han Sen moved like a shadow, moving right behind the Xuanyuan Dragon. Using Tusk, he swung at the back of the Xuanyuan Dragon’s neck.

His attack only produced a dong noise. Not even the Ghost Teeth Knife’s Teeth power could break through the Xuanyuan Dragon’s scales. It could only leave a scratch mark on the scales. And although his knife possessed Teeth power and emitted a dangerous purple smoke, it still seemed useless.

That hard?” Han Sen was shocked.

“Don’t fight it. Run! It is a mutant xenogeneic, and its body far exceeds its actual level.” Thousand Feather Crane slashed to draw the Xuanyuan Dragon’s attention while he shouted.

But the Xuanyuan Dragon was too fast. It flapped its wings and became a black horse directly in front of Thousand Feather Crane. Thousand Feather Crane’s sword air collided with the horse, and the sword air shattered. Still, he could not hurt it.

Seeing that the black horse was about to grab Thousand Feather Crane, he shouted. He held Yun Sushang tighter and took off in flight. He moved so fast that it looked like he teleported away from the attack.

But Thousand Feather Crane's face turned pale. His hands trembled as he gave Yun Sushang to Yun Suyi. "Sushang and Suyi, you guys leave with First Day. Han Sen and I have got this."

Roar! The Xuanyuan Dragon's attack had missed. It turned around and went after First Day, who had just stood up from the rubble.

First Day gritted his teeth. His legs shone, like he was stepping on a lotus. And he cast a spell, which left a glowing symbol behind with every step he took. Every symbol caused him to accelerate.

But he still could not dodge the Xuanyuan Dragon's attacks, and the talons were in front of him.

First Day held out his palm, and a True Light came out of it to counter the talon. The gold light and the black light collided against each other. First Day was sent flying, though, all the way back into the stone. The True Light was broken.

The dragon was cruel, and it went for First Day once again. Thousand Feather Crane's Sky eye shone. He was bleeding, but he summoned a cloud air. The sword air became a white dragon, and it roared. It went for Xuanyuan Dragon.

A black dragon and a white dragon surged toward each other. Then the Xuanyuan Dragon flapped its wings to become a black horse and avoid the engagement. It was going for Yun Sushang and Yun Suyi.

"Careful, sister!" Thousand Feather Crane's face went grey. This strike had cost all his power, and there was nothing he could do to save them.

Yun Sushang knew that they weren't fast enough to dodge the attack. She summoned an ancient sword and her Sky eye shone. She slashed a sword air up at the dragon.

Han Sen was currently sprinting, and the rabbit shoes gave him the speed of a dragon. He went behind the dragon and slashed it on the side.

Dong!

Two noises sounded at the same time. Yun Sushang heaved blood as she was sent careening away. Han Sen slashed the dragon's stomach again. He left a mark, but he didn't see flesh.

1976 Slap Your Turtle, Son

The Xuanyuan Dragon turned to Han Sen and breathed out smoke. Han Sen fell back and swung the Ghost Teeth Knife, breaking the black smoke.

Xuanyuan Dragon spun around and put its attention back on Yun Sushang. Thousand Feather Crane was coming, but he was not as fast as the dragon.

First Day cast True Light, but his attack didn't reach the dragon. He screamed, "He's too fast!"

What First Day said gave Han Sen inspiration. He had just created Turtle, and he had almost forgotten that it specialized in bringing down a creature's speed.

Xuanyuan Dragon was almost in front of Yun Sushang, and Han Sen's legs sent him leaping forward at incredible speed. He gathered up power in his hand and brought a slap towards the black horse.

The rabbit shoes' speed was equal to that of the dragon. And in no time at all, a jade white palm came pressing against the dragon's head.

Thousand Feather Crane and the others did not think Han Sen's palm would achieve much. They knew Han Sen was wielding a King class knife, and they knew he had practiced Teeth Knife; if those skills could not damage the dragon, what could a palm do?

Thousand Feather Crane and First Day were out of range, and Spell kept firing her pistols ineffectually at the dragon. Yun Sushang obviously thought that she was about to die, so she pushed Yun Suyi away. Then, her body exploded with a cloud. She was going to fight the dragon with everything she had remaining.

Pang!

Han Sen slapped the Xuanyuan Dragon's head. Then, the horse-looking dragon fell out of the air. It was like Han Sen had knocked him down to the floor.

Thousand Feather Crane and the others were all in shock. They looked at the Xuanyuan Dragon, that was now lying on the ground. And there, where Han Sen had delivered his strike, was the image of Turtle Spell.

The Xuanyuan Dragon slammed into the ground and roared in rage. It flapped its wings as it tried to get back into the air, and that was what surprised Yun Sushang the most.

No matter how much it flapped its wings, the Xuanyuan Dragon could not get airborne again. It was like a duck, attempting to take off. Ultimately, despite all its frantic flapping, it couldn't get off the ground.

Yun Sushang's mouth dropped wide open as she stared at the dragon. This was too powerful, and they were all gobsmacked.

"What are you gawking at? Run!" Han Sen yelled at them, snapping them out of their daze.

Yun Sushang pulled Yun Suyi away. First Day followed from behind, casting True Spell on the dragon. Thousand Feather Crane was attacking, too.

But they were all drained by now, and their attacks lacked the vigor they'd possessed earlier.

The dragon was really angry at Han Sen. It completely ignored First Day and Thousand Feather Crane's attacks. It tried coming for Han Sen. It did not fly to him, and instead it wriggled and crawled. It moved forward steadily, if much more slowly.

Han Sen, seeing the Xuanyuan Dragon's speed, became very happy. With how slowly the dragon was now moving, and there was no need for Han Sen to feel threatened.

There was another pang noise as the Xuanyuan Dragon broke Thousand Feather Crane's sword air and First Day's True Spell. It continued coming for Han Sen, venting smoke from its mouth.

Han Sen moved. He dodged the thickest section of the smoke. He slashed with his knife and cut through the smoke. Then, he moved to the dragon's side and slapped the dragon's face.

Another Turtle Spell manifested on the dragon's face, dropping its speed yet again.

Han Sen moved like a shadow. He put away his Ghost Teeth Knife, opened his hands, and repeatedly slapped the dragon in the face.

The Xuanyuan Dragon was so slow. It couldn't catch up with Han Sen and his rabbit shoes, so there was nothing to keep Han Sen from continuing to b*tchslap it in the face. Images of the Turtle Spell covered its face.

Thousand Feather Crane and First Day watched Han Sen beating on the creature. The fleeing sisters stopped running. Their mouths opened wide, unable to quite fathom what they were seeing.

The Xuanyuan Dragon was acting as if it was stupid. It stood where it was, allowing Han Sen to slap it non-stop. It was getting slower and slower, and the scene played out as if it was in slow-motion.

Han Sen felt very good hitting it, and as he did so, he thought to himself, "Slap your turtle, son! Fly! Slap your turtle, son! Run!"

First Day and the others could guess that Han Sen's slapping was some sort of geno art that slowed down the speed of an opponent. First Day had a geno art like that, but it hadn't worked on the Xuanyuan Dragon when he tried it.

They were both Earls, yet Han Sen's geno art was far more effective on the Xuanyuan Dragon. It confused First Day.

Han Sen did not think his Turtle would be that great. It could stop a foe from flying, and it could slow an enemy down. Surprisingly, it worked on a dragon that was a Marquise and a mutant.

But the strangeness soon wore off. Turtle came from the Jade Turtle Spell. The Jade Turtle was created from the remains of an old deified turtle shell. The power was deified. Han Sen also included his experience under the suppression of the deified Sky Palace leader, then threw in Coin for good measure.

With Han Sen's current power, Turtle might not have been able to subdue a King class enemy, but it worked just fine on Marquises or Dukes.

And Turtle could stack. Han Sen continued to slap the Xuanyuan Dragon, and in the end, the dragon was as slow as a snail. It was like a slow-motion scene on TV.

The Xuanyuan Dragon was so angry that its eyes almost popped from their sockets. Its gaze was burning with hatred. If stares could kill, it would have murdered Han Sen a long time ago.

The dragon might only have the speed of a turtle now, but its power had not been affected. It could still exhale toxic air, but it could not move and it could not hit the nimble Han Sen with the smoke.

Han Sen kept using Teeth Knife to slash at the dragon's neck. He struck the beast hundreds of times, and knifelights were everywhere. Not long after, the dragon's neck started to bleed. The blood gleamed visibly in the knifelight.

Thousand Feather Crane and the others could tell the dragon was going to perish, so they didn't help out. They didn't want to steal the kill. They did, however, commit to clearing the Ghost Claw Beasts that were still nearby.

Yun Suyi saw the knifelight reflecting off the blood and stared, deep in thought.

Patong!

The screams of the Xuanyuan Dragon suddenly cut off as Ghost Teeth Knife severed the dragon's head.

"Xenogenic Marquise mutant hunted. Xuanyuan Dragon: xenogenic gene found. Obtained mutant Xuanyuan Dragon beast soul."

1977 Mutant Gene

After killing the Xuanyuan Dragon, the crew left Xuanyuan Cave.

Han Sen didn't feel very well, and First Day and Yun Sushang were injured. They couldn't keep going. They also had to carry out the dead bodies of the Xuanyuan Dragon and Ghost Claw Beasts.

The Xuanyuan Dragon's body was very useful, and it also had xenogenic genes. They didn't want to waste it.

Han Sen cut open the Xuanyuan Dragon's head under Thousand Feather Crane's supervision. He took out a brain orb, which was the xenogenic gene of this creature.

The brain orb was around the size of a fist. It looked like a black crystal. The strangest thing was that there was a Xuanyuan Dragon with wings inside it.

When Han Sen obtained the brain orb, an announcement played.

“Obtained Marquise Mutant xenogeneic gene. Insufficient Marquise genes. Cannot refine.”

Han Sen was surprised, and he thought, “What does that mean? Will absorbing that mutant gene require other genes as some sort of base?”

Han Sen put away the brain orb for the moment. He gathered up the other spoils and left the cave alongside the others.

“Han Sen, which geno art did you use on the Xuanyuan Dragon? You made it unable to move. That is something extremely powerful,” Yun Suyi said to Han Sen as they walked.

“It is a geno art that is used to reduce the speed of enemies. It is called Turtle,” Han Sen answered.

Hearing that name, Yun Suyi and the others looked surprised. Yun Suyi smiled and said, “This name is good. And you really did turn the Xuanyuan Dragon into a turtle.”

Thousand Feather Crane and the others were shocked. They didn’t expect a skill used to reduce speed could be that effective. It wasn’t an ordinary geno art, that was for sure.

After a short discussion, Han Sen sold the Xuanyuan Dragon to Yun Sushang. Yun Sushang called her people over from the shop to come and claim it.

Han Sen was only going to take the xenogeneic genes of the dragon and a few of the Ghost Claw Beasts with him. Then, he rode his legless bird back to his island.

On his way home, Han Sen looked at his new beast soul.

Ghost Claw Beast: Weapon

Han Sen summoned the Ghost Claw beast soul. It was indeed a weapon, and it looked very similar to the Ghost Claws.

Ghost Claw had a three-foot-long handle with a clawlike blade on the end. He wasn’t quite sure what kind of weapon it was.

He put away the Ghost Claw blade and summoned the mutant Xuanyuan beast soul.

Mutant Xuanyuan Dragon: Flying type

After Han Sen summoned it, he felt rather depressed. He had thought he would grow awesome wings behind him, but that wasn’t the case. When he summoned it, it wasn’t as intimidating as the black wings

that had grown from the dragon's back. Instead, a small pair of Xuanyuan wings spawned near Han Sen's ears.

They weren't broad wings; they were just a pair of small ear wings. They looked beautiful, but Han Sen did not think they would be very useful at all.

Han Sen tried flying with the wings, and it worked. They were very fast. They were almost as good as the rabbit shoes.

The rabbit shoes only increased his movement speed on the ground. They did not improve his flying speed. The dragon wings would improve his speed in the air, so they were very suitable for Sky Palace. This beast soul could turn out to be very useful.

There might be times he would have to fight while in the air. He couldn't just use rabbit shoes to fight then, and so having the dragon wings would make things easier.

But when he used the dragon wings, he did look rather funny.

Han Sen melted the Ghost Claw Beast genes, and then he drank the broth. He felt the power spread through his body. He felt cold, as if he was being washed in a rush of cold water.

"Earl Xenogeneic Genes +1"

Han Sen had nine xenogeneic materials in total, from the Ghost Claw Beasts. After he ate them, he ended up with nine xenogeneic gene points.

Mutant Xuanyuan Dragon's xenogeneic gene, however, could not be melted. Thus, Han Sen couldn't eat it. It was just as the announcement had said; Han Sen did not have enough Marquise genes, so he couldn't refine the mutant xenogeneic gene.

Han Sen rested for the night, and then there was nothing to do the next day, either. White Jade Jing had not opened yet, so there was no need to go there. As a result, he had nothing to do. So, he planned to go and kill xenogeneics inside Xuanyuan Cave again—this time, alone. He wanted to fill up his Earl gene tallies so that his geno arts would have an easier time breaking through.

Han Sen rode the legless crane to Xuanyuan Cave. He left it outside and entered the cave alone.

Thousand Feather Crane and the others hadn't come, so Han Sen only had to worry about himself. He used his rabbit shoes to run deep into the cave at a speedy pace.

Perhaps it was because the rabbit shoes were too fast, but the Xuan Jade Spirits did not make an appearance. He ran for three hours. He ran past where they killed the Xuanyuan Dragon, and there was still no sign of any xenogeneics.

Han Sen didn't dare slow down, as he wanted to draw out whatever creatures he could. He met some people hunting xenogeneics; people from Sky Palace. They were in a group, and only Han Sen had entered alone.

When the Sky Palace students saw Han Sen running around by himself, they were shocked.

Xuan Jade Spirits could appear at random, so it was dangerous to venture inside alone. When students came there to hunt, they would always bring a partner. It was rare to see something like Han Sen venturing inside all alone.

As Han Sen walked forward, he didn't see any Xuan Jade Spirits, but he heard a voice calling for help from deeper inside the cave.

Han Sen looked in that direction and saw a Sky man running toward him. There was an ant behind him with a head as big as a cat.

Han Sen summoned Spell. She lifted her sniper rifle and fired a bullet, blowing the xenogeneic's head off from a few hundred meters away.

"Xenogeneic Viscount hunted. Jade Ant: xenogeneic gene found."

"Run!" The Sky man came running, shouting at Han Sen as he came.

"Why run? It's dead," Han Sen said.

The Sky man continued running, and he cried out, "It's not just one. There are many!"

"How many?" Han Sen asked.

"Many! Many! Run!" The Sky man ran past Han Sen.

Han Sen did not ask anything further, as he saw Jade Ants pouring out of the cavern behind the Sky man. There were too many to count.

"That is a lot!" Han Sen was not scared. Instead, he was happy. His eyes turned bright.

Without Han Sen even needing to issue a command, Spell swapped her sniper rifle for an RPG. She placed the rocket launcher on her shoulder, put herself into position, and pulled the trigger.

A rocket shot out and slammed into the center of the horde of ants.

1978 Ant Nes

Boom!

A white light exploded amidst the horde of ants. A mushroom cloud was generated, and it rocked the entire cavern.

Announcements played in Han Sen's head, over and over, countless times. Han Sen heard himself receive two Jade Ant beast souls. They slid into his Sea of Soul.

“Awesome!” Han Sen felt great. He hadn’t felt like this in a long time.

The Sky fellow stopped and stared in shock. He was frozen by what he had just witnessed.

Spell fired another rocket, and it landed amidst the Jade Ants. Countless more died, and roasted corpses were scattered all about.

“D*mn! Your gear is powerful.” The man came running back. He looked at Spell as he spoke.

“It’s all right. It’s strong, but I’m also just lucky,” Han Sen said smarmily.

Spell required three seconds to generate a rocket after each use, but after firing three or four of them consecutively, the Jade Ants that were still alive retreated back into the tunnel and did not return.

The guy didn’t object to what Han Sen said. He thought it made fine sense. But he still looked at Spell with hefty interest, and said, “My name is Yu Jing. What is yours?”

“Han Sen,” Han Sen said.

You are the Han Sen that was carried into Sky Palace by Uncle Crane?” Yu Jing asked in surprise.

Han Sen shrugged his shoulders. What could he say?

You look different from the stories I’ve heard, and your geno armament is strong,” Yu Jing said.

“I see you are an Earl, so why are you calling Thousand Feather Crane an uncle?” Han Sen asked.

Yu Jing smiled. “Uncle Crane is a student of the tenth leader. I am the sixth elder’s student’s student. I’m more like a grandson, to be honest. At the very least, I should call him uncle.”

After that, Yu Jing went on to say, “Han Sen, are you interested in co-operating with me?”

“No,” Han Sen said immediately.

Yu Jing was disappointed. After a while, he said, “Don’t you at least want to hear my proposal?”

“No thanks,” Han Sen said. Then he walked towards the Jade Ants that were killed. He was going to collect their xenogeneic genes.

Yu Jing understood, but his face turned red. He couldn’t keep himself from explaining, so he said, “Brother Han, it isn’t like that! I can deal with Viscount Jade Ants. The reason I ran was because there is an Earl inside there, and it is a mutant ant queen. So, I had to run!”

“A mutant ant queen?” When Han Sen heard this, his eyes opened wide.

Han Sen had received Xuanyuan Dragon's xenogeneic gene, but he had been unable to absorb it. He wanted to understand what the difference between ordinary genes and mutated genes were. If he could get his hands on an Earl mutant gene, he might just be able to figure it out.

Yeah, I was unlucky! I found a jade fruit tree, and just as I was about to claim some jade fruit for myself, I was started to see a Jade Ant nest right next to it. I was unable to collect the fruit, and I almost died. I used everything I had—every item I owned—to keep myself alive. I lost everything on this excursion.” Yu Jing sighed.

And then, Yu Jing suddenly smiled at Han Sen. “Brother, I think you are so strong. You must be a hero! Why don't you and I go collect the jade fruit and split the haul between us?”

“No offense, but why can't I just go there by myself right now?” Han Sen smiled at Yu Jing.

Yu Jing smiled, but it quivered with a touch of nervousness. He responded, “Brother Han, you have only been in Sky Palace for a few days! You don't know much about Xuanyuan Cave, do you? Although Xuanyuan Island does not look big from the outside, it is very large on the inside. Even if you were down here for a whole year, you wouldn't be able to explore every nook and cranny of this realm. The cave system is complex, too, so you'd likely find yourself lost. Without me, it is highly unlikely that you'll find the fruit within the next few months of searching. Do you really want to waste your time in such a fashion?”

“That makes sense. Okay, we'll split the haul of fruit in half,” Han Sen said as he dug through the corpses of the Jade Ants.

The rocket had been too powerful, and the Jade Ants were only Viscounts. Most had been blown to smithereens, to such an extent that the xenogeneic genes were utterly annihilated. When he was done, Han Sen had only been able to collect a dozen xenogeneic genes.

Yu Jing was so happy to hear this, and he said, “Brother Han, you won't regret co-operating with me! Can your geno armament destroy an Earl Jade Ant?”

Han Sen searched around for a few more Jade Ants that had not been destroyed, and then went in search for the jade fruit tree with Yu Jing.

Truthfully, Han Sen's goal in this venture was not anything that rested on the boughs of the tree. Any fruit he collected would be a decent bonus. What he wanted to do the most was kill that Jade Ant Queen.

Yu Jing was not lying. The jade fruit tree's location was well-hidden. They traversed a number of complex tunnels for over an hour before finding it. The tree was behind a hidden alcove and cave.

“Brother Han, do you see the rock beside the tree? That is the exit of the ant nest. If we get too close, the ants will come pouring out. I examined it earlier, and there were at least eight Earl Jade Ants. There was also an ant queen. What are you going to do?” Yu Jing looked worried. He was afraid Han Sen would back out.

“We have a deal, don't we? We split the haul of fruit in half, and the Jade Ant xenogeneic genes are for me,” Han Sen said.

Yu Jing immediately said, "Yes. It does not matter who kills it; you can have the xenogeneic genes."

Yu Jing said that, but inside he thought, "The Mutant Jade Ant Queen? That thing is as strong as a Marquise. With seven or eight Earls alongside it, and the other ants too, I think you'll end up running off without laying claim to a single xenogeneic gene."

"Okay, that's the deal then. You go over there," Han Sen said coldly.

"I go? How?" Yu Jing asked with shock.

"Walk there. You can fly or crawl, if you so prefer. Just go over and draw those ants out." Han Sen smiled.

"Draw them out? Your plan is to draw them out, kill them, and collect the fruit?" Yu Jing looked at Han Sen queerly.

"Do you have a better idea?" Han Sen smiled at Yu Jing.

It was easy for Han Sen to collect jade fruit. With Han Sen's rabbit shoes, he could pick the tree clean before the ants even emerged.

But Han Sen wasn't there for just the fruit. Picking it and then leaving was not on the agenda.

1979 Crazy Killing

"Brother Han, are you really confident in this?" Yu Jing asked, staring at Han Sen.

"Yes," Han Sen answered with certainty.

Yu Jing hesitated. He gritted his teeth, grabbed Han Sen's hands, and said, "Brother Han, I place my life in these hands of yours. You have to be careful and see my safety is secured."

"Go. I will have Spell fire when the time is right." Han Sen patted Yu Jing on the shoulder and smiled.

Yu Jing ran towards the jade fruit tree. Before he could get close, ants began to pour out from under the rock. It was like a black river headed for him.

Yu Jing quickly came running back as Han Sen commanded Spell to ready a rocket. Then, she fired behind the man. Boom!

The white light exploded behind Yu Jing. It killed a lot of Jade Ants. Announcements kept running in Han Sen's head, declaring he had killed a Viscount Jade Ant. He also heard himself receive a bunch of beast souls.

Han Sen had battled ants before, and he had always received armor beast souls. But these Jade Ants only gave him pet-type beast souls. That disappointed him quite a bit.

That was because pet-type beast souls were annoying. If you wanted to use them effectively, you'd have to get them to combat mode. He had found himself in possession of many low-tier pets in the past.

Jade Ants could spit corrosive gas, but the range was short and the gas was slow. Before the ants could get to Han Sen, Spell had fired two rockets and laid waste to them.

Suddenly, a few gold shadows emerged from the stone nest. These ants were twice as big as the ordinary ones. They had wings, and they glimmered with a golden light.

They flew straight at Yu Jing like shadows.

"Brother Han, help me!" Yu Jing shouted at Han Sen as he ran.

Seeing that seven or eight Earl class Jade Ants were about to catch up with Yu Jing, Han Sen realized that Spell's rockets were going to be too slow. She had killed many Viscount ants, but more and more of them were approaching.

"Spell!" Han Sen took control of her, ditching the rocket launcher and pulling out the sniper rifle.

Spell lifted the sniper, aimed it above Yu Jing's head, and pulled the trigger. A bullet of light was fired, and it struck one of the Earl ants.

That power tore through the ant's wing and perforated its shell. It fell from the air.

"Xenogenic Earl hunted. Jade Ant: xenogenic gene found."

The announcement played in Han Sen's head. Yu Jing was approaching excitedly, saying, "Sh*t, Brother Han! Your geno armament is strong. Hurry! Fire a few more shots and finish them all off."

One second later, Spell raised the rifle again and fired. Unfortunately, she missed this time. She failed to hit the Earl Jade Ant that was flying quickly towards her.

Yu Jing's excited voice turned to one of crying. "Brother, can you aim better?"

Seeing Yu Jing draw even closer, Spell swapped her sniper for a pair of pistols. Then, she fired them into the sky.

A series of shots were heard. She missed a few times, but she still managed to hit two Earl Jade Ants. The pistols were not as powerful as the sniper, though, and the bullets only punched holes in the shells of the creatures. They didn't kill the ants.

“Spell!” Han Sen shouted. Spell ran towards Han Sen and turned into a pair of pistols that flew into Han Sen’s own hands.

Han Sen’s left and right hands clutched the Spell pistols. He fired them into the sky simultaneously. Each bullet came launching out with a stunning muzzle flash.

And again, there was a pang pang noise. Han Sen fired seven bullets, and all seven hit their desired target. Seven Earl ants were hit.

Han Sen’s bullets were as strong as Spell’s. The only difference was that Spell’s bullets were fueled by the raw power of The Story of Genes, while Han Sen could create bullets from any geno art he possessed.

After the seventh shot, the seven Earl Jade Ants each had a bullet hole inside them. The wounds were not deadly, though, and the ants could still fight.

But they spiraled like planes losing control. They crashed into the ground and could not get airborne again. Small turtle symbols were glazed across each of them.

Han Sen’s bullets were now powered by Turtle. It stopped the ants from flying, and it reduced their speed.

Han Sen kept firing his guns at the Earl ants on the floor. Their shells splintered and broke as their bodies oozed blood. Han Sen killed one ant immediately.

“Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Jade Ant: xenogeneic gene found.”

“Shoot them! Shoot them!” Yu Jing shouted with excitement.

The Earl Jade Ants had been robbed of their ability to fly, and they were slowed dramatically. They were no longer a threat to Yu Jing.

Han Sen fell back, repeatedly squeezing the triggers. The joy of firing a gun was incomparable to the wielding of a knife.

Han Sen killed another Earl Jade Ant, and then there was a noise. A pure black ant flew out from under the stone, with a shell that was wreathed in golden symbols.

This ant was smaller than the Earls, but its presence was far scarier. It flapped its wings and flew towards Han Sen. Its claws were like blades, and they came swinging towards him.

The gold light came past Han Sen like a knifelight.

Han Sen moved and evaded the gold lights. Han Sen then fired his guns, but the Jade Ant Queen was too fast. It was able to dodge every bullet.

The ant queen rose into the air, shrieking. The gold symbols on the shell and wings glowed. Its speed and power were increasing, and it was going to attack Han Sen again.

“Run! This mutant ant queen is as strong as a Marquise. We cannot fight it!” Before Yu Jing could finish his warning,

Han Sen had drawn another weapon and gone running towards the ant queen.

The bullets could not catch up with the ant queen, but the rabbit shoes could. Han Sen rushed by the gold lights and used the Ghost Teeth Knife on the ant queen, breaking its shell and leaving a big mark on it. Blood came out, as did a plume of purple smoke.

1980 Killing Ant Queen

There was no need for Han Sen to fight anymore. The purple smoke was spreading quickly across the ant queen, ripping its wounds apart and sending blood spewing out of it like a burst dam.

Han Sen was too lazy to wait, though. He slashed again and cut the heavily-injured ant queen's head clean off.

"Mutant Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Jade Ant Queen: xenogeneic gene found."

There was an announcement, and it made Han Sen very happy. "It really is a mutant xenogeneic!"

The Jade Ants did not back off just because the ant queen was killed. They all came rushing at Han Sen like kamikazes.

Han Sen gave Spell back her body, and she quickly got to firing rockets at the droves. Meanwhile, Han Sen went on to finish off the rest of the Earls himself.

After many more ants were killed, the rest decided to return to their abode below the stone.

Han Sen did not seek to pursue the fight. He harvested the bodies of the ant queen and the eight Earls. He also collected many Viscount xenogeneic genes.

Yu Jing saw Han Sen picking up all those xenogeneic genes and felt depressed. He had to comfort himself by saying, "It is lucky I can at least get half of those jade fruits. This guy is scary, and he is nothing like the stories people tell about him. He doesn't seem like the sort of fellow who would need to be carried into Sky Palace. I should have totally fought for a greater share of this haul."

There were fourteen jade fruits on the tree. Han Sen and Yu Jing each took half. Han Sen received seven, and then he asked Yu Jing what benefit they could provide.

“Brother Han, how about we co-operate in Xuanyuan Cave and kill more xenogeneics together. We can split the gatherings in your favor, sixty-forty. I guess I could settle for seventy-thirty. Eighty-twenty is a possibility, too. You should think about it!”

Han Sen did not continue his hunt in Xuanyuan Cave. He took his spoils and left. He flew the legless crane back to his island.

Right then, he wanted to find out the purpose of mutant xenogenic genes. He did not need to do any more hunting at this point.

He gave a few Viscount Jade Ant bodies to the legless crane. He didn't collect the xenogenic genes inside the bodies, either. The crane was able to gobble them all up.

The legless crane happily swallowed the first, and it made a grateful noise to Han Sen as it ate.

Han Sen went to the stone house and pulled the bodies out. He cut open the ant queen's body and picked up a piece of flesh that looked like jade.

That meat was transparent, and not unlike shrimp. Something gold shone from it, and looking into the gold light, you could see it was the face of the ant queen.

“Earl Genes insufficient. Cannot refine mutant xenogenic genes.”

As Han Sen held the ant queen's xenogenic gene, he received the same announcement.

“I have nine Earl genes. And here there are eight Earl class Jade Ants. I don't know if that'll be enough.” Han Sen cut open the eight Earl ants and picked up the xenogenic genes within.

Han Sen gave the ant queen's body, and the bodies of the others, to the legless crane for food. Bubble was Han Sen's only other companion right now, so there was nothing else he could feed.

Han Sen had an Earl pet beast soul and seven Viscount beast souls, but he did not fancy feeding them at all. Having a pet in Sky Palace would not be something you could easily hide. If others discovered that he possessed one, explaining that might be difficult.

Jade Ant xenogenic genes were like a fist-sized cut of meat. After Han Sen melted them down, it was like a barbecue. The oil sizzled, and he sprinkled it with salt and pepper. It tasted better than barbecued lamb.

“Earl Genes +1”

After eating a piece of the ant meat, Han Sen felt very alive. He was energized, and he felt as if he could have s*x ten times in one night.

After eating four pieces of that meat, his belly was bloated. The meal was very filling.

Han Sen did not want to wait before eating the rest, though, so he switched on Consume and quickly digested the ants that were in his stomach. By the time he was done, he had finished all eight slabs of ant meat.

In total, Han Sen now had seventeen Earl genes. But when he picked up the ant queen's mutant genes, it still said he did not have enough Earl genes.

"How many Earl genes do I need? I can't figure out the number." Han Sen felt depressed, but it was almost time for White Jade Jing to open again. He did not have time to venture into the cave just yet, so he'd think about what to do once he returned from White Jade Jing.

Practicing in White Jade Jing was the most important thing he could do right now. He had three geno arts that needed to play catch-up and reach Earl status, so White Jade Jing was very important. It was why Yisha had sent him here, after all.

Of course, Yisha had sent him there only intending for him to level up The Story of Genes to Earl status. And that was something he had already accomplished.

"Han Sen, are you here?" The day White Jade Jing opened, someone was calling for Han Sen before he had woken up.

The voice was Yun Suyi's. Han Sen went to brush his teeth, then opened the door. Yun Suyi was wearing a white dress, and she was standing just outside the door. The cut of the dress showed off her attractive legs.

"White Jade Jing is opening today. Let's go." Yun Suyi blinked at Han Sen.

Yeah," Han Sen answered. He turned to wake up the legless crane that was snoozing beneath the tree.

"Let's take my Jade Wing Tiger. It is faster," Yun Suyi said.

"Sure." Han Sen nodded, letting the legless crane continue to sleep.

Han Sen sat behind her, and the Jade Wing Tiger flew towards White Jade Jing.

"Han Sen, you are a student of Knife Queen. You must surely know many knife skills. I've learned a few, but I fear there is something amiss. If you ever have the time, could you teach me a thing or two?" Yun Suyi turned around and smiled at Han Sen.

"I can't teach you, but we can practice together," Han Sen said.

"Okay, then. After White Jade Jing closes, I will take you over to my place." Yun Suyi smiled in a flirty way.

Han Sen and Yun Suyi went to the White Jade Building, and they split up when they reached the fourth floor. Yun Suyi said she'd wait for Han Sen.

This time, Han Sen stopped on the sixth floor. He had decided to practice there this time. He had to practice his other geno arts, and he did not know if his body could withstand the Jade Air of the seventh floor without using Petrify.

But the sixth floor was full of students. It filled up soon after, and people were everywhere.

"Brother Han, you are here!" Yu Jing walked in and saw Han Sen, then went over to sit down beside him.

