

## Chapter 2001

### Rare Beast Island

After that fight, Sky Palace students frequently debated whether Han Sen or Lone Bamboo was stronger. The discussions never yielded any answers, though.

Lone Bamboo had become a Marquise, but Han Sen remained an Earl. If they were to have a rematch, it wouldn't be for a long time. However, Han Sen's performance in the fight had garnered him much respect from all of the students of Sky Palace.

The next few rounds of the exam offered no trouble. He won every match and achieved first place in the Earl class exams. He received permission to visit the holy house, and there, he found the Under the Sky knifeskill.

He was also the recipient of more Fenghou Pills and a Marquise treasure for a prize.

Han Sen's name was famous in Sky Palace, but he cared little for the recognition. He focused on practicing his knifeskills at home.

Yu Jing was super cocky when walking up to the rich men to collect his winnings. With a smug look, he said, "I brought you the contract. Did you guys bring the harvest?"

One of the men smiled and instructed his maid to give Yu Jing a box. He smiled and said, "We did lose. It was amazing to watch, and it was worth losing this. What you deserve is inside."

"Thank you." Yu Jing accepted the box and had a look at the contents. He smiled like a flower.

Yun Suyi didn't go looking for Han Sen for a few days. She knew there couldn't be a happy ending between them, but she couldn't stop thinking about him each day.

After Han Sen took the scroll, he quickly learned the knifeskill. And just as expected, with his Heavenly Go, Dongxuan Sutra, and Sky Palace as a base, it was easy to get comfortable with. He improved a lot in just a few days.

"This knifeskill has a significant flaw. It is not because Yun Suyi performed it incorrectly." After Han Sen practiced with it himself, he quickly discovered the problem.

Han Sen had a decent understanding of Sky Palace's text. With Heavenly Go and the Dongxuan Sutra, there was a way he could fix the problem without having to learn the Textless Book. That way, he would be able to make Under the Sky nearly perfect.

“If I’m known to hold this knifeskill, when I use the Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go, people will believe I’m using Under the Sky. If I’m careful, Yisha won’t think I am Dollar.” Han Sen wanted this skill badly, and that was one of the reasons why.

Otherwise, he couldn’t use Dongxuan Sutra and Heavenly Go. Without them, he was a good deal weaker, which sucked.

Han Sen did not see Yun Suyi, and he didn’t make plans to see her, either. But if he happened to run into her, he would show her the modified version of Under the Sky.

Han Sen went to the seventh floor of the White Jade Building. He did not see Yun Suyi, so he settled for absorbing the Jade Air and leveling up his Jadeskin.

“Brother Han, how have you been recently?” Han Sen was sitting near an old tree, reading. Yu Jing came flying over on his mount.

Now Yu Jing looked like a bona fide rich person. The Jade Night Crane he had used previously was gone, and he was now riding a green flying dragon.

His armor had been exchanged for a new set that looked incredibly valuable, and he was also decorated with an array of jewelry. He looked very powerful.

“Not bad. What do you want?” Han Sen asked Yu Jing, looking up from his reading.

“Brother Han, I gave you my Fenghou Pills, but you did not use them in the exam.” Yu Jing smiled.

“You said you gave them to me as a gift for free. Are you saying you want them back?” Han Sen asked lackadaisically.

“Of course not. The pills belong to you. Why would I want them back? I am saying there is someone who would like to buy them. When you reached first place, you received more of them. Would you like to sell the ones I gave you? The price is handsome,” Yu Jing explained, making an expansive gesture with his hands.

“I’m not selling,” Han Sen said, then went back to his reading.

Yu Jing took a peek, and seeing that Han Sen was trying to learn the regional populations of xenogeneics, he smiled and said, “Ah, Brother Han. You are hunting xenogeneics? I have a good place you can go. Are you interested?”

“Oh, tell me.” Han Sen looked at him.

He had been looking for a long time, and he hadn’t been able to find a location in which he could slay many Earls in a small amount of time.

Every place had some sort of drawback. Old Night Island’s monster population was spread too thin, and it was difficult to find big groups of Earl xenogeneics there. Xuanyuan Cave’s xenogeneics were hidden, and you usually had to wait for them to find you.

Every place had a flaw, and not one had large groups of Earls.

"I've seen this pamphlet before," Yu Jing said. "This is shared with other students, so of course it doesn't have the really good spots. I know of a private island with lots of rare xenogeneics. They are mostly Earls, too."

"If it's private, how do I gain access?" Han Sen asked.

Yu Jing laughed and said, "In the past, you wouldn't have been able to get in. But now, things are different. You are Han Sen. At this point, who doesn't know your name? Being the Knife and Sword Master is no joke."

"Wait, when was I given this title?" Han Sen thought the label sounded old fashioned.

"No, you're not the Knife and Sword Master by yourself," Yu Jing said.

Han Sen didn't understand that, so he waited.

Yu Jing, seeing Han Sen's confusion, coughed and said, "It only works when you and Lone Bamboo are together. You know of Lone Bamboo's reputation here. If the students of Sky Palace put you—an outsider—on par with Lone Bamboo, you should know how lofty your reputation has become."

"So, am I the knife master or the sword master?" Han Sen asked with a smile.

"Neither. You cannot be separated. You are both the Knife and Sword Master. There is no Knife Master, and neither is there a Sword Master." Yu Jing then changed his tone. "The island I have told you about is called Rare Beast Island. That island is owned by the second elder. He treasures it so much, not even his students can go there. Only those of his bloodline can enter and hunt there. The elder has a young son called Shi Beifeng, and he admires you a great deal. He would like to invite you to hunt there."

"Something that great exists?" Han Sen looked at Yu Jing in disbelief.

"Of course, but there is one condition. He wants you to help him capture a xenogeneic." Yu Jing finally explained the true purpose of all this.

Rare Beast Island was an amazing place. It looked like one island, but Nobles of any rank could enter. They'd be teleported to different places across the island, and it would seem as if they were actually on different islands.

Only those of the same level could appear at each spot, though.

Shi Beifeng wanted to capture an Earl xenogeneic for a mount, but that Earl xenogeneic was special. He had gathered a few teams to try their hand at capturing it, but none of their attempts were successful. So this time, he wanted Han Sen's help.

## 2002 Crystal Kirin

Outside of Rare Beast Island, a dozen students were standing at the entrance looking around. They seemed to have grown quite bored as they waited.

A Sky student spoke to Shi Beifeng in a disgusted tone. "Brother Shi, Han Sen is too arrogant. He has made us wait here for so long, and he obviously isn't taking your invitation seriously. Who does he think he is?"

Shi Beifeng looked at the man coldly. "If you can fight against Brother Lone Bamboo in the same fashion that he did, then I would gladly wait for you this long, as well. If you cannot, then just shut up."

After hearing Shi Beifeng's response, the student felt a chill. He looked away, lowered his head, and did not say anything.

They waited for another half an hour, and eventually, a legless Jade Night Crane arrived. When it landed, a man in white armor came floating down in front of Shi Beifeng.

"Brother Han, thank you for helping us." Shi Beifeng smiled and then bowed.

The students looked Han Sen over. He didn't look like a famous elite who had fought against Lone Bamboo, though.

"No problem. I took your money, so you are practically my employer. This is something I should do for you." Han Sen smiled.

Shi Beifeng nodded and said, "Let's go to Rare Beast Island. I'll give you the details on the way."

Shi Beifeng appreciated what Han Sen had said. He was not afraid of spending money, but he detested those who would take his money and not do the job they were commissioned to. Han Sen was expensive, but if he could get things done, it would be worth the price.

Han Sen followed Shi Beifeng to Rare Beast Island, and Shi Beifeng explained the job. What Shi Beifeng wished to capture was a mutant Earl xenogeneic. Its name was Crystal Kirin. It lived near Bibo Lake, and it was a water-aligned xenogeneic.

The Crystal Kirin could fly, run, and swim. It did all this at high speed. Its scales were very hardy, too. Shi Beifeng had to use a King class weapon to damage the scales. But even so, strikes went no deeper than the skin.

The Crystal Kirin moved incredibly fast, and it had a tendency to run off whenever it was in danger. When it was in the lake, it'd be harder to hunt, as well.

Shi Beifeng had led a few hunting parties here before, but they had been unable to capture a Crystal Kirin. Injuries were the only things they had taken off the island. So, ultimately, there was nothing they could do.

Han Sen heard what he was told, and he thought, “Mutant xenogeneic? It should be eaten! It is a waste to make it a mount.”

If the others knew what Han Sen was thinking, they’d declare him crazy. Mutant xenogeneics were incredibly rare, and for normal inhabitants of the geno universe, eating a mutant would be the waste.

“Brother Shi, let me make sure that I understand. I help you capture this Crystal Kirin, and in return, you provide me with a month to hunt xenogeneics across this island. Is that correct?” Han Sen asked Shi Beifeng.

Shi Beifeng passed a Beast Tablet to Han Sen, and he said, “This is a permit that grants you access to this place. You can come here with this card. Regardless of whether you fail or succeed, you may always return.”

Han Sen took the tablet and said, “That’s very nice. After I capture this Crystal Kirin, I will give it back to you in a month.”

Rare Beast Island was bigger than Old Night Island, and there were far more high class xenogeneics there. As they traveled, Han Sen had already detected many Earl xenogeneics.

But Shi Beifeng was in a big hurry to capture the Crystal Kirin, and so he didn’t bother with the other xenogeneics.

Bibo Lake was eight hundred miles wide, and there were many different beasts that occupied it. Water dragons could occasionally be seen playing on the shore.

“It is important to have a good dad. The xenogeneics here are of a high level, and they are of good quality, too. And compared to Xuanyuan Cave and Old Night Island, there really are a great many of them.” Han Sen sighed.

Shi Beifeng told his workers to establish camp in a nearby forest. There, they would wait for the Crystal Kirin to show up.

“The Crystal Kirin is almost always underwater, but there are too many xenogeneics beneath the surface of the lake. There are Marquises there, too. Fighting it underwater would be a bad idea for us, so we will need to wait for it to come out of the lake. Over the next few days, the Crystal Kirin is sure to show up. He will surface to eat the green flowers, but as for the exact timing, I don’t know. It’ll be sometime during the next few days.” Shi Beifeng pointed at the green flowers as he spoke.

“Then let us wait.” Han Sen nodded.

“Brother Han, how do you plan on capturing it? Do you need our help?” Shi Beifeng asked.

“You can ready the cage for the kirin, but I can take care of the rest,” Han Sen said, as he stood up and took a look around. “Before the Crystal Kirin appears, I will take a walk around the lake, so I can absorb its lovely views.”

After Han Sen left, one of the students next to Shi Beifeng said, “Brother Shi, is Han Sen being too reckless? The Crystal Kirin is so strong, and if we fail, we will have to wait another month.”

“He says what he says because he can do it. Wait and see if that is the truth,” Shi Beifeng said, after thinking for a moment.

Han Sen skirted the lake and walked for a dozen miles. He found a few Earl xenogeneics, and they were different from the ones on Old Night Island. All the xenogeneics he saw seemed to be of rare species.

Suddenly, Han Sen heard splashes from the lake. He turned around to take a look. There, he saw a white dragon that was halfway out of the water. It was spewing out a mist, as if it were absorbing the power of the earth.

“Another rare Marquise xenogeneic.” Han Sen watched it a while, before returning to camp.

Shi Beifeng was nice to talk to. He chatted with Han Sen, and it turned out that he knew a lot of things. He always had entertaining things to talk about, and he stopped the conversations from becoming boring.

Han Sen and the others had good luck. After waiting only a single day, they saw movement in the lake. Something emerged that was the size of an elephant: a kirin with jade-like scales. The kirin’s horns were shining like stars.

The Crystal Kirin came up the shore, and there, it started to eat the green flowers.

The people in the woods stopped breathing. They did not want to alert the kirin to their presence.

Han Sen knew the power of the Crystal Kirin, and its mutation made its speed greater and scales sturdier. Compared to others of the same level, it was remarkably powerful. But to Han Sen, this was the easiest sort to deal with.

The rabbit shoes appeared beneath Han Sen’s feet. He raced down to the Crystal Kirin, which startled the beast. It spat out globs of water at Han Sen, and it tried to retreat back into Bibo Lake.

Han Sen stretched out a hand that gleamed like jade. He slapped the Crystal Kirin on the back. A turtle symbol appeared there, and it brought the creature’s speed down to a crawl.

Han Sen then led the Crystal Kirin, which now walked as slow as a turtle, over to Shi Beifeng.

### **2003 Stone Cow**

Shi Beifeng’s people had not reacted yet. They were still holding the cage while they stared at the stumbling Crystal Kirin in shock.

The Crystal Kirin lifted itself up off the ground. It wished to fly off, but before long, it fell back down again.

Han Sen patted the Crystal Kirin's head, and very much like a turtle, it barely moved. He grabbed the Crystal Kirin and threw it into the cage. Then, he closed the cage door.

"Brother Shi, the mission has been accomplished. Okay, I have to go. I'll return the tablet to you in a month." After that, Han Sen mounted his legless crane and left.

"That's it?" The people snapped out of their daze. They looked at the caged Crystal Kirin in befuddlement.

Someone sighed and said, "When he fought Lone Bamboo, it was an acceptable bout. But when he fights against normal Earls, they don't stand a chance against him. Even mutant Earl xenogeneics can be captured so easily? He must be the strongest."

Shi Beifeng looked at them expressionlessly and said, "The strength of an elite that can fight Lone Bamboo isn't something you lot can ever guess."

Han Sen rode the legless crane to a flat mesa. It was difficult to fight in the water, and a mountainous landscape would be hard to navigate. Open plains were the easiest places to fight.

But before Han Sen made it over the mountains, he heard a bird in the sky. There was a big black bird that was ten meters long, coming down from the clouds.

Han Sen pulled out Ghost Teeth Knife and slashed with his knife air. The bird's body was quickly shattered.

"Xenogenic Earl hunted. Black-Feather Bird: xenogenic gene found."

Rare Beast Island was a great place for Han Sen. There were many Earl xenogeneics about, and in less than a week, Han Sen was able to obtain all the Earl genes he required. He reached a hundred.

The legless crane was able to dine on a lot of the xenogenic flesh, too. And Han Sen also gave Bubble a lot of energy. It evolved and became a Viscount.

But Bubble was still not very useful. It could make itself look like an ordinary creature, but it couldn't wield their actual powers.

"There's still most of the month left. It'd be a waste to leave it now. Why don't I use this opportunity to hunt some Marquises? That way, I won't have to look for them when I become one myself." Han Sen hunted Earls as he scoured the land, looking to pick up the trail of a Marquise.

After Han Sen leveled up his Dongxuan Sutra, his power had grown. Super Spank had become stronger, but more importantly, the Dongxuan Sutra could now be used to build up a sequence structure.

Han Sen could use the Dongxuan Aura to see sequence structures, and he could break the substance between. Doing this severed the substance's chain.

But Han Sen's power had to be strong enough to break them, of course. If he was unable to do that, then Super Spank was useless.

Now the Dongxuan Aura had a different substance that could link sequence chains, allowing him to combine two different powers. It was similar to how Han Sen could use sword and knife powers simultaneously. Doing that, he'd become much more powerful.

With Han Sen's power, using the Dongxuan Aura to fight Marquise creatures wouldn't be too difficult.

But not all substances were stronger when combined. Some had side-effects, so Han Sen had spent some time running tests. He wanted to find out more about the connections he could make.

But for now, the strongest combination was Teeth Knife and Lone Bamboo's sword skills. After Han Sen combined Double Fly and Teeth Knife power, the results were poor. The two powers were rendered weaker.

There weren't many Marquises in the area, perhaps because it was an Earl's territory. He looked around for half a day until he found one resting beneath a tree.

The xenogeneic was under the boughs of a tree, and it looked like a cow. It was three meters tall, and its back was laden with spikes. It was quite scary.

Han Sen approached the xenogeneic and drew out his Ghost Teeth Knife. He slashed towards the xenogeneic's head.

The rabbit shoes provided him a burst of speed, and Ghost Teeth Knife was imbued with the powers of knives and swords. He did not try to use Super Spank powers, though. If that power annihilated the sequence structure, the xenogeneic's entire body would dissolve, including the xenogeneic gene. That would just be wasteful.

Katcha!

Although Han Sen did not use Super Spank, and he only used knife and sword powers, he was still able to cut the Marquise xenogeneic's head off.

A big cow head rolled across the ground, and the headless body squirted blood like a fountain.

"Xenogeneic Marquise hunted. Stone Cow: xenogeneic gene found."

Han Sen felt depressed. Rare Beast Island was bad luck for him. He had killed many xenogeneics, but he hadn't earned a single beast soul.

Han Sen used Ghost Teeth Knife to cut open the Stone Cow's body. He found a heart that looked like stone, so it was safe to guess that was the xenogeneic gene.

Han Sen took the stone heart from its chest, and he suddenly sensed that something was wrong. He looked behind him, and on the field, there was a grey Stone Cow staring at him with red eyes.

This Stone Cow looked like the other one, but bigger. Its presence was far scarier, as well.



Moo! Before Han Sen could get a good look, the beast raised its legs and slammed them back down. A shockwave moved out like ripples on water. It spread in widening circles.

Han Sen drew Ghost Teeth Knife again and swung it at the shockwave.

Ghost Teeth Knife's knife air cut through the shockwave, but the shockwave itself was like magic. When the shockwave touched Han Sen's fingers, he noticed that the armor on his hands had been turned to grey stone.

The Stone Cow roared, lowered its head, and pointed its horns at Han Sen. It thundered forward like a train, and the earth shook beneath its hooves.

Han Sen used his powers, but he couldn't get rid of the petrification. He was shocked. He quickly summoned the Red Reaper beside the Stone Cow's head and had it slash the creature's neck.

#### **2004 Black Eating Black**

The Red Reaper's scythe slashed across the Stone Cow's neck, but all it dealt was a minor scratch. It couldn't even be considered an injury.

After all, there was a level difference between the two. Han Sen couldn't blame the Red Reaper for not being strong enough.

But after the attack, the Stone Cow was only enraged. It turned around and looked at the Red Reaper. It reared with its legs and stamped down on the ground to create another shockwave.

The Red Reaper was petrified in mid-air. It dropped down to the ground and cracked, like an ordinary statue.

"D\*mn! This guy's petrification is effective. It even took down the Red Reaper, which is practically smoke. Fortunately, it isn't really a creature, and it's only something shaped by a geno art," Han Sen thought, shocked.

Han Sen's body brimmed with energy, and from it, he generated another Red Reaper. Again, it moved to attack the Stone Cow. Han Sen wanted to buy some time.

He tried The Story of Genes, the Dongxuan Sutra, Jadeskin, and the Blood-Pulse Sutra, but none of them could free him from the petrification.

“Should I use super god spirit mode?” Han Sen frowned. But then, he suddenly remembered he had the Petrify skill. It was a little different than the Stone Cow’s petrification, in that he could only use it on himself. But perhaps it would work here.

Han Sen cast Petrify and petrified his own body. He deepened the power of the effect, petrifying himself far beyond what the Stone Cow had managed.

When Han Sen removed his petrification, the Stone Cow’s petrification disappeared as well.

“I did not expect Petrify to be this useful.” Han Sen grinned.

Meanwhile, the Stone Cow had just shattered the Red Reaper. It angrily turned back toward Han Sen, stomping the ground again to produce more shockwaves.

Han Sen pulled out his knife and slashed towards the Stone Cow. The knife and sword powers synergized into one and came out of Ghost Teeth Knife’s blade, headed right for the Stone Cow.

The knife and sword power struck the cow’s head. There was a boom, and the Stone Cow reeled backwards with a deep gash across its body. The knife and sword power had broken the creature’s horns.

The Stone Cow shook its head and got up. It wasn’t impaired by the attack. It roared and ran straight back at Han Sen.

Han Sen removed his petrification and slashed towards the Stone Cow again. The attack wasn’t very effective, though.

It could only move the Stone Cow back a little, and it left him petrified again.

The Stone Cow’s circular shockwave was an area-of-effect attack. It did not matter what direction Han Sen attacked from; he was petrified each time.

As the Stone Cow came for him again, Han Sen decided not to slash it this time. He used Turtle. And when Han Sen was petrified the next time, he cast it onto the beast’s head.

A turtle symbol glowed atop the cow’s head. Han Sen thought to himself, “It does not matter how strong you are, Turtle turns everyone into a slowpoke.”

Before Han Sen struck again, the Stone Cow stopped and created more shockwaves.

But this was stronger than the Stone Cow’s previous attacks. Han Sen removed the petrification, but he also noticed he had slowed down. He lowered his head and realized that the turtle symbol was now on him.

“Sh\*t! The Stone Cow can reverse a geno art?” Han Sen was shocked. The Stone Cow kept stomping and stamping.

Each step sent out another shockwave.

Han Sen kept getting petrified, and each time it happened, another turtle image appeared on his body.

“F\*ck this! This Stone Cow is too creepy.” Han Sen got rid of the petrification and Turtle effects. Then, he slashed towards the Stone Cow and ran.

Until he figured out what the thing could do, he would only be able to kill it with super god spirit.

The Stone Cow was directly behind Han Sen, mooing. It was extremely annoying, and Han Sen thought, “Wait until I become a Marquise, and I’ll be back to one-hit kill you. You won’t have nearly as much fun when you’re not bullying an Earl.”

Han Sen grew more and more frustrated as he ran. The Stone Cow’s shockwaves kept petrifying him. The Stone Cow would probably have already killed an average Marquise, especially since they wouldn’t be able to run away.

Fortunately, Han Sen had Petrify and the rabbit shoes.

Han Sen escaped the Stone Cow’s pursuit. He wiped the cold sweat from his brow and said, “That cannot be a Marquise mutant xenogeneic!”

Han Sen did not want to leave just yet. He allowed Spell to engage her sniper mode, and with it, he used her sniper scope to watch the Stone Cow.

Han Sen’s nose wrinkled in disgust. The Stone Cow was eating the other Stone Cow’s meat. It swallowed the xenogeneic gene heart before Han Sen could take it.

Han Sen thought the Stone Cow was angry because its relative had been murdered. But that thing seemed willing to eat the remains of its own people. It just wanted to eat the prey that someone else had gone to the work of killing.

“F\*ck you! Let’s see who can last longer.” Han Sen began to think of ways he might get rid of the Stone Cow.

Its body was hard, so it must have been of the top tier of the Marquises. It would take multiple attacks at close range to hurt the Stone Cow.

However, because of the petrifying shockwaves, Han Sen could not get close. While Han Sen could remove the petrification, it took time. While he was petrified, Han Sen could not move. It was a difficult problem.

The scariest thing was how the Stone Cow could flip the turtle skill back onto him. That was just over-powered.

“No. It is not just reflecting the effect back to me, since the turtle spell remains active on the Stone Cow. The turtle symbol only disappeared when the power faded. While under Turtle’s effects, the Stone Cow did move slower and its shockwave was less effective. This is not just a reversal of my own attacks,” Han Sen thought.

Han Sen wanted to prove his theory correct, so he used his sniper rifle to take aim at the Stone Cow. Then he pulled the trigger.

Han Sen pulled ammo from the Turtle spell. The bullet went flying towards the Stone Cow.

The thing was still munching on the dead cow's body when the bullet smacked into its butt. The image of a turtle appeared on its bum.

Moo! The Stone Cow spun around angrily, already stomping the ground to send out shockwaves.

But Han Sen was not petrified, and he did not have the Turtle skill reversed upon him. The turtle mark was still planted on the cow's bum.

"Success," Han Sen said with a smile.

## **Chapter 2005 Stone Cow Valley**

Pang! Pang!

The bullets struck the Stone Cow from afar. They made the Stone Cow angry, but after repeated hits, its speed was slower than that of a snail. It couldn't come after Han Sen.

Han Sen was shooting from as far away as possible. The Stone Cow couldn't even see him, and even if it had been able to, it wouldn't have been able to go after him.

Earl class Spell weaponry could damage many things, but the bullets couldn't pierce the Stone Cow's body. Han Sen hadn't expected that they would be able to kill the Stone Cow, though. He kept firing bullets, imbued with the Turtle spell, to leave turtle markings across the Stone Cow's body to slow it.

At first, the Stone Cow was able to stomp to create its shockwaves. But as the turtle symbols piled across it, the Stone Cow looked like it was in slow motion. Its signature shockwave started to appear less and less frequently.

Han Sen examined the shockwaves and found that they had a radius of five hundred meters. Beyond that, their strength dropped dramatically.

"Five hundred meters. I'll have to use very careful timing to strike in between the casting of the shockwaves."

Han Sen kept on sniping the Stone Cow to increase the amount of the Turtle spell that affected it. As he did, he moved closer to the Stone Cow, but not within the radius of the shockwave.

“Now!” Han Sen drew his knife and started running. He raced to the Stone Cow like a ghost. In a moment, he was right beside it.

Before the Stone Cow could raise its legs, the Ghost Teeth Knife sliced the cow’s ear with knife and sword powers. Dong!

The knife and sword power shattered. Ghost Teeth Knife’s blade came against the stone cow’s ears. One of the ears was cut in half.

Han Sen immediately retreated dozens of meters. A loud stomping noise came from behind him and the shockwave rolled over him, petrifying him. Han Sen was dealt a Turtle spell, too.

Han Sen quickly removed the petrification and the Turtle spell, then jumped out of the radius of the shockwave.

The Stone Cow wanted to chase after him, but its movement was laughably slow. All it could do was roar.

“Steal my prey, huh? You are dead!” Han Sen used his rifle to shoot the Stone Cow again.

The Turtle spell had a time limit. Over time, its effectiveness decreased. Han Sen fired a few more shots as he moved out of the Stone Cow’s attack range, just to be safe.

Since the Stone Cow was still bellowing and moving sluggishly, Han Sen felt safe pausing to look at it. The ear that had been cut open was shrouded in purple smoke, which was spreading slowly across its body.

But the Stone Cow’s body had no blood, so it wouldn’t bleed out. The Teeth power would have to chew apart its body a piece at a time. Han Sen kept firing at the Stone Cow to ensure that it wouldn’t be able to escape. He’d allow the Teeth power to kill it.

The Stone Cow was starting to realize something was frightfully wrong. Instead of bellowing at Han Sen, it was now trying to turn around and run away. Unfortunately for the cow, it was still as slow as a sloth. It couldn’t escape Han Sen’s watchful eye.

Han Sen was not in too much of a rush, either. He continued shooting the cow occasionally. The Teeth powers kept tearing at the cow’s wounds, spreading across its head.

The Stone Cow’s body was strong, and Han Sen’s Teeth power was still only Earl class, so the damage increased slowly. But even at that speed, the cow would die in a couple of days.

The Stone Cow kept trying to escape, but the effort was futile. Han Sen couldn’t stop the creature entirely, but he made sure that it never got out of shooting range.

The Stone Cow kept squealing furiously as it ran. It wasn’t very happy with Han Sen.

Han Sen did not want to provoke the cow too much, though. He preferred that the cow continue trying to run rather than attempt to fight off its inevitable death. The creature was strange, and it might possess more weird powers that Han Sen hadn't yet seen. Ultimately, Han Sen decided to watch it die slowly from afar. He wasn't going to take any unnecessary chances.

But things didn't go as smoothly as he believed they would. Under the Stone Cow's constant squealing, Han Sen heard a low rumbling. The earth trembled.

Not long after, a group of small Stone Cows approached. There were at least forty of them. The herd met the fleeing Stone Cow and surrounded it. A larger cow moo'd at the Stone Cow, to which the Stone Cow replied.

The Stone Cows all glared in Han Sen's direction, then shuffled forward to position the wounded Stone Cow behind them.

"Sh\*t! That guy ate the smaller Stone Cow. Why are they still protecting it? They should be enemies." Han Sen sighed, but the Stone Cows were already headed his way.

Han Sen had to leave. He wasn't powerful enough to tackle an entire group of Marquises. Han Sen grabbed the sniper rifle and took off running. He couldn't kill the Stone Cow while the smaller ones were around.

Luckily, he was still able to snipe from afar. As the Stone Cows approached, he found himself falling back into the mountains. He soon heard a moo'ing noise from within the cow group.

Rocks began to fall from the sky like a meteor shower. The group of Marquise Stone Cows pooled their strength, and the land for ten square miles around them was pummelled by rocks. It looked like the end of the world.

Han Sen managed to lose his pursuers in the mountains, then circled back around. The Stone Cow was gone, but there were still a few of the smaller ones in the vicinity.

Han Sen used the Dongxuan Aura to scan for the trail of the Stone Cow. After a few minutes of searching, he found it. He followed it all the way to a valley. The group of Stone Cows were there, but the one he had fought was no longer around.

Han Sen frowned. "It should be in the valley. It is inflicted with Teeth power, but it shouldn't last long."

Han Sen waited there for two days. He wanted to wait until it died before going into the valley after its body.

But waiting for another night, Han Sen had yet to hear an announcement confirming its death. That meant the cow was still alive, someplace in the valley.

"How can the Teeth power just disappear? That should be impossible." Han Sen used the sniper scope to see if the cow's ear was healed. There was no sign of Teeth power around it.

Han Sen stared in disbelief.

## 2006 Little Stone

The Stone Cow strutted around the valley like it owned the place. The ordinary, small Stone Cows were avoiding it. They seemed afraid of it. One of the smaller cows was too slow to get out of its way, and the creature found itself rammed to the ground. Its body was cut by the large cow's horns.

The small Stone Cow did not fight back. It merely squealed and scrambled away.

The Stone Cow walked around the valley, going into its deeper recesses.

The walls of the valley blocked Han Sen's vision, so he decided to find a new spot to observe from. He climbed up a mountain that was near the valley, using vines as cover. When he found a good place to rest, he used his sniper scope to watch the Stone Cows.

A path wound across the center of the valley, through a small pass, and into a smaller valley. There weren't any small Stone Cows in the smaller valley. After the Stone Cow entered, it went to lay down beneath the boughs of a tree. It didn't look as if it was resting, though.

The cow settled itself and looked at the tree. It stared intently as if it was gazing at something in particular.

Han Sen looked at the tree, but he couldn't see anything noteworthy about it.

The tree was very thick, and it was thirteen meters tall. The top of the tree looked like an umbrella. Because he was too far away, Han Sen couldn't feel the tree's aura. He couldn't even see any fruit on the tree. It was just a green-leafed tree.

"Weird. The valley doesn't seem to have any special qualities, so how did the Stone Cow remove the wound I made with Teeth power? The Stone Cow can't possess an ability like that itself, or it wouldn't have allowed the Teeth power to do so much damage when I fought it yesterday." Han Sen continued watching the cow, hoping to find some answers to his questions.

The Stone Cow lay there for a while, but it eventually grew fidgety. It started walking around in circles, looking towards the top of the tree.

There has to be something special about this tree..." Han Sen kept observing it, but he couldn't figure it out.

After a while, a pleased look crossed the Stone Cow's face. It kept staring at the top of the tree.

Han Sen looked closer, and he finally noticed a hole in the tree that was about the same size as a basketball. Something was emerging from the hole.

Han Sen didn't know what it was. It looked like a mouse, but it stood on two feet. It was wearing clothes made of leaves, and it held a stick in its hands. It looked creepy, and the sight made Han Sen feel uneasy.

That thing looked evil. Its triangle eyes gleamed red. After it walked out of the hole, it struck a nearby leaf with its stick. It jumped onto the leaf and glided it down to the ground.

The Stone Cow approached. It looked at the mouse-like creature and bellowed at it.

The thing screamed back at the Stone Cow. It seemed like the two were arguing. After a while, the little thing pulled out a rock and threw it to the Stone Cow.

The Stone Cow opened its mouth and stuck its tongue out. The rock landed in its mouth and slid right down its throat. The Stone Cow didn't even chew.

After the cow swallowed the rock, its body started to glow. The Stone Cow looked as if it was having some difficulty, so it settled down onto the ground again and went to sleep.

The rat-like thing watched the Stone Cow for a while, then leaped back up the tree and disappeared inside the tree hole.

"I don't know what kind of species that rat thing belongs to, but it does look intelligent. And what was that little stone that the cow just ate? Is that how it removed the Teeth power?" Han Sen wondered.

After discovering this, Han Sen did not want to abandon this pursuit. He wanted to find out what was going on between the Stone Cow and the rat. So, he remained hidden and continued to watch.

After the Stone Cow woke up, it looked much better. It went out to signal the other cows and then returned to the valley. The smaller Stone Cows brought it xenogeneics, and it gobbled them up immediately.

The Stone Cow ventured out of the valley sometimes, but it returned to wait beneath the tree every day. If the ratlooking xenogeneic did not give it a little stone, it would ram the tree until branches started falling off. The cow would do so until the rat came out and gave it another little stone.

The rat was clearly afraid of the Stone Cow, and it seemed that the rat would never refuse its demands. It gave the cow a little stone every day.

"What are those little stones? And where does the rat get them?" Han Sen wanted to find out, but there were so many small Stone Cows, so he couldn't just waltz in.

After thinking for a while, he came up with a plan.

Han Sen waited until the Stone Cow was outside the valley, and when it went far enough, he found the chance. He shot the Stone Cow while it was at unawares.

The bullet hit the Stone Cow and placed a Turtle spell on it. The Stone Cow was furious, but Han Sen kept firing more and more bullets to make it slower and slower.



Just like last time, the Stone Cow ran back towards the valley, squealing as it went.

After a short time, an assembly of smaller Stone Cows came after Han Sen. He summoned the Red Reaper to draw their attention and lure them further away.

Han Sen slipped around them and ran towards the valley. He wanted to see what was inside the tree hole.

When Han Sen ran into the big valley, he used his scope to aim at the rat-like xenogeneic. It was standing on a tall branch, having a look around. Without a second thought, he used the sniper rifle to shoot it.

Han Sen had only wanted to find out what it was. He hadn't expected the single bullet to blow the rat's head off.

"Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Eating Rat: xenogeneic gene found."

"Huh? An Earl xenogeneic?" Han Sen was surprised. Since the Eating Rat seemed unusually intelligent, he thought that it'd be the same level as the Stone Cow. It was actually just an Earl.

## **2007 Stone Statue**

Han Sen didn't like doing it, but he still ran inside the valley. The speed of the rabbit shoes quickly brought him beneath the little valley's tree.

Han Sen leaped atop the tree, using the Dongxuan Aura to look inside the hole. He noticed that it was quite spacious within and that most of the tree was hollow.

However, there was no lifeforce or treasure to be seen.

Han Sen did not want to give up on this pursuit, though. If the Eating Rat could give the Stone Cow a pebble every day, there had to be more of them somewhere. Han Sen used his Ghost Teeth Knife to carve out the entrance of the hole.

He widened it enough for him to fit through, then stuck his head inside.

The tree was even more hollow than he thought. Its trunk was hollow all the way down to the ground, where a rocky cave appeared.

With no hesitation, Han Sen wormed his way into the tree through the hole and started climbing down. Quickly, he descended into the cave.

Han Sen lowered himself into the cave, which led off through a crooked tunnel. Not long after, the tunnel opened up and Han Sen discovered a big natural cave beyond it. It was the size of an air-raided shelter.

Han Sen moved in to get a better look. There were no signs of living creatures about, but he did detect the remnants of the Eating Rat's presence.

Darkness did not affect Han Sen. He used the Dongxuan Aura to scan the whole cave.

The cave seemed ordinary, with nothing unusual about it. The only way out was back up through the hole in the tree.

At the center of the cave was a little pool of water with a giant stalactite hanging above it. Liquid was slowly dripping off the end of the stalactite into the pond below.

Han Sen looked at the pool, and there he saw the little stones that the rat had given to the cow each and every day. They were as small as a finger each, and they were grey. They were sitting at the bottom of the pool.

Han Sen estimated there to be around a hundred of them. There didn't seem to be anything indicating they were something special.

Han Sen brought out Spell in her lady mode. She walked over to the pool to retrieve the stones for him. Nothing dangerous happened to her while she did so. Spell reached into the pond and grabbed one of the pebbles.

"Xenogenic Gene Discovered." A voice sounded in Han Sen's head.

"These stones are xenogenic genes?" Han Sen picked up one and noticed that it felt really cold, like a wet stone.

There was nothing specific about the announcement, though. He didn't know what sort of xenogenic gene it was. Han Sen collected every single stone he could find and put them in his pocket.

There were 128. He took each and every one.

Before he left, he searched the pond for anything else. He found another rock that seemed quite unusual.

Han Sen touched it and lifted the moss that had grown on it. When the moss fell away, he could see that it was a one-foot-tall human statue.

The statue was green and black, so he couldn't tell what its original color might have been. But it was of a man sitting.

Han Sen wasn't in the mood to examine it for long. He looked around the pond, but there was nothing else to see. He decided to go back the way he had come.

When Han Sen exited the tree hole, the Stone Cow was waiting outside. It looked at him angrily. Behind the Stone Cow, all the little Stone Cows had gathered, too.

Han Sen knew he had been down there for too long, which had given the cows time to return.

Pang!

The Stone Cow stomped the ground, and two shockwaves suddenly exploded outward. They raced towards Han Sen. Han Sen jumped out of the tree hole. It'd be dangerous if he got petrified within.

But even as he exited the hole, he knew he wouldn't have time to get out of the shockwave's radius. He was still petrified.

The group of smaller Stone Cows were not affected. They all turned into giant rocks, then launched themselves at Han Sen.

Han Sen removed his petrification, then spawned his Xuan Jade Wings behind his ears. They flapped, and all of a sudden, Han Sen was soaring away from the gourd-shaped valley.

The Stone Cow furiously tried to chase after Han Sen, but luckily, it couldn't fly. Although it looked strong, this was its greatest weakness; it was a Marquise xenogeneic that did not know how to fly.

But it couldn't have caught up with Han Sen regardless. It would have been far slower than the Xuan Jade Wings.

Han Sen had Spell summon her sniper rifle. He instructed her to shoot the smaller Stone Cows. She began to pick them off one by one with the Turtle spell, slowing them down.

Han Sen did not shoot the primary Stone Cow, though. He had the smaller ones targeted first. The horde was eventually all slowed, and Han Sen was able to shake off their pursuit.

Perhaps the Stone Cow could smell the little stones Han Sen was now carrying, and that was why it chased him doggedly without looking back. Regardless, Han Sen lured the Stone Cow a long ways away. He eventually drew it far from the smaller Stone Cows.

Han Sen could not kill it with the small Stone Cows to protect it. If it was on its own, he might have a chance. The Stone Cow was strong, but there was certainly a weakness to it.

The xenogeneics Han Sen passed all ran off when they noticed the Stone Cow coming their way. No one stopped its passage.

Han Sen must have run a hundred miles, and even so, the Stone Cow kept following him. It was like Han Sen had murdered the cow's wife or something.

Eventually, it seemed to realize that its herd was gone. It hesitated, wondering if it should continue chasing Han Sen, and it slowed down a touch.

Han Sen, seeing that, shook the little stones in his pocket. The Stone Cow bellowed and resumed the chase. Han Sen had planned to kill the cow then and there if he could not entice it to continue. Now there was no need.

“What creature created these xenogeneic genes? The Stone Cow really seems to want them badly.” Han Sen was surprised. The Stone Cow chased Han Sen for three hundred miles. When Han Sen decided that they were out of range of the smaller Stone Cows, Han Sen turned and shot the Stone Cow with a Turtle spell.

“Have you enjoyed chasing me for so long? Good. Now it is time you pay.” Han Sen stopped running, and he kept firing at the Stone Cow with the sniper rifle.

The Stone Cow was very strong, but now it was also very slow. The shockwaves couldn't block the bullets, either.

Soon, the Stone Cow fell to the same fate it had before. It could walk no faster than a turtle.

Han Sen immediately grabbed his blade, and with his knife and sword powers, he slashed the Stone Cow.

## **2008 Demon Stone Cow**

Dong!

After delivering a slash to the Stone Cow's body, Han Sen fell back and became petrified. Within a second, Han Sen had removed the petrification and moved forward to strike the Stone Cow again.

After a few repetitions of this, Han Sen's blade had left multiple marks on the Stone Cow's body. The purple Teeth powers were spreading.

There was no use in the Stone Cow crying aloud anymore, as the smaller Stone Cows were too far away. They wouldn't hear the squeals.

Han Sen and the Stone Cow kept fighting over the next thirty hours. Stone Cow's body was finally unable to withstand its wounds, and it was torn apart by the Teeth powers. It was reduced to nothing but shattered bits of rock.

“Mutant Xenogeneic Marquise killed. Petrified Demon Cow: mutant xenogeneic gene found. Obtained mutant xenogeneic beast soul: Demon Stone Cow.”

The announcement played in Han Sen's head, and he smiled.

He rushed over to the shattered rock and began picking through the rubble. Stone Cow's body was made of stone, and so it had no flesh. After a while, however, he found its special stone heart. There was a light inside it, and it reminded him of the Demon Stone Cow itself.

"After refining this mutant xenogeneic gene, will I learn how to petrify others?" Han Sen was really interested in the stone cow's ability. Learning the ability to petrify other xenogeneics with a stomp would be fairly great.

But the bad thing about all this was that the Demon Stone Cow was a Marquise mutant xenogeneic. To refine it, he'd have to be a Marquise himself, with a number of Marquise genes stockpiled.

Han Sen was interested in the Demon Stone Cow's beast soul, too, though. He took a look at it.

Mutant Demon Stone Cow beast soul: Shapeshift-type

A wide grin spread across Han Sen's face. He could now turn himself into the Demon Stone Cow. He wondered if it would give him all the physical capabilities of the Demon Stone Cow. That would be a great boost for his strength, if so.

Han Sen immediately used the shapeshift Demon Stone Cow beast soul. When he summoned it, he turned into the Demon Stone Cow. He felt as if his power and speed increased—the power in particular. There was a big increase in that.

But sadly, Han Sen's shapeshifting Demon Stone Cow beast soul only gave him the raw strength of the creature. He didn't earn the ability to petrify others or reverse negative effects onto others.

"It looks like I'll just have to hold out for the Demon Stone Cow's mutant gene." Han Sen put away the shapeshifting Demon Stone Cow and continued his search for xenogeneics.

Sky Palace was entertaining some beautiful guests.

The men were strong, and the women were lovely. They had gorgeous white wings, and they were the Feather from Holy Heaven.

Soon, the news spread across the entire geno universe. The Feather had sided with Sky Palace, and they had become a subordinate race of the Sky.

The Kings of the Feather had allowed their heirs to come and practice in Sky Palace.

They were there to learn powerful geno arts to secure and protect future generations. The young Feathers also served as hostages in some ways, in that they would put themselves at the mercy of the Sky to prove the Feathers' overall loyalty to Sky Palace.

"Angia, will we live here from now on? We cannot return to Holy Heaven?" A beautiful Feather lady asked a Feather man who looked like Apollo.

The other children of the Feather Kings all looked towards that man, as well. It seemed as if he was their leader.

“No, we will return to Holy Heaven one day, and Holy Heaven will be the home of a high race once more. Until then, we have to earn the respect and the approval of the Sky race.” Angia smiled at the girl.

“How do we earn their respect and approval? Before we became a low race, we were so much inferior to the Sky already. Now we are actually a low race...” The lady was worried.

“No high race was born a high race. You only need to be strong to earn the respect and approval of others. It’s like that everywhere,” Angia pronounced.

A strong male Feather stood up and said, “Angia, tell us what to do.”

“Be patient. Learn and perform. Make us strong again. Let them see that we are worthy.” Angia paused, then went on to say, “The Sky are powerful. Amongst the higher races, they are the most accepting of outsiders. They are very unlike the Buddha, who treat outsiders like tools for their own purpose. That is why we refused the Buddha’s offer and came here instead. Here, we might become students of Sky Palace, as much as the Sky themselves are. Many outsiders have become members of this place. And we need strength.”

“Do not worry. We will keep practicing. One day, the Feathers will become a high race again,” the strong male Feather swore.

The other Feathers agreed, too. But few of them looked very hopeful.

Becoming a high race was difficult. If the Feather had no deified elites, then they couldn’t become one of the high races again.

Aside from the Feather Alpha, the strongest Feather was only half-deified. None of them were fully deified yet. And now that they were a lower race, achieving deified status for one of their members would be even more difficult.

“Just fighting is not enough,” Angia said grimly. “We are only commoners here. We do not have the benefits, and we cannot yet learn powerful geno arts. We need to impress the elders and the leader so that we can become official students. Only then will we stand a chance.”

“Then what do we do?” A lady Feather looked at Angia.

“The exams would be our best opportunity, but this year’s exams are already done.” Angia sighed.

“That means we will have to wait until next year,” a male Feather said, looking quite sad.

“Perhaps not. We’ll do well if we can beat one person. Do that, and we’ll instantly become famous in Sky Palace. We will garner the attention of the elders and the leader.” Angia’s eyes looked sharp.

“Who?” the young Feathers asked together.

“That crystallizer Kong Fei gifted a deified feather to. Knife Queen’s student,” Angia said calmly. “He earned first place in the exam for Earl class and fought Lone Bamboo to a draw. Lone Bamboo is legendary amongst the Sky. If we beat the crystallizer, we will earn the approval we need.”

“That guy! One of Kong Fei’s people? He should die!” the strong Feather man said.

“Shut up. No matter what he was before, now he is a student of Sky Palace. We should not talk like that,” Angia scolded him.

The Feather respected Angia, so he lowered his head and stopped talking.

“But he was chosen by that traitor Kong Fei. We do not need to go easy on him or anything,” Angia said icily.

## **2009 The Feather Comes**

One month passed. Han Sen left Rare Beast Island and returned the tablet to Shi Beifeng.

“Brother Han, if you’d like, you can stay for longer. It is okay.” Shi Beifeng had come to say goodbye to Han Sen, who was going to leave the island.

“It’s okay. This month of hunting benefitted me greatly, and if I was to stay any longer, I would only feel guilty.” Han Sen pointed at the legless crane while he spoke.

The legless crane was loaded with xenogeneic genes, and when Shi Beifeng had a look, he was shocked. Most of the xenogeneic genes atop it were Marquise genes.

Given Han Sen’s reputation, it wasn’t strange that he could slay Marquise xenogeneics as an Earl. The surprising thing was how many he had killed within the space of a month.

Shi Beifeng wanted to be friends with Han Sen even more now, and so he smiled and said, “Okay, but if you need anything, come and look for me. The Shi family will always be willing to help you.”

Thanks, Brother Shi.” Han Sen bowed and didn’t say anything more.

The legless crane was carrying so many materials that it struggled to get airborne. Shi Beifeng saw that there was no space for Han Sen to sit on it, so he lent Han Sen a four-winged lion mount. The loaned mount and the legless crane brought Han Sen and the xenogeneic genes back to Jade Island.

Han Sen had earned a lot this time. He got a dozen Marquise class xenogeneic genes and the Demon Stone Cow beast soul. He also earned those little stones, and the stone statue that was near them.

But Han Sen did not know what kind of xenogeneic gene those little rocks were. He guessed they were Marquise class; otherwise, he would have already absorbed them.

And in regards to the statue, Han Sen tried cleaning it, but it made little difference. It was just grey, like ordinary stone.

The style of it was quite simplistic, so there wasn't much finesse to the carving. There were no engravings or words upon it, either. It looked like a wildling statue, from some ancient time.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to examine the stone statue, and he thought there was more to it than met the eye. He couldn't determine exactly what was special about it, though. He only knew that it was a Sky statue.

"Brother Han, you are back. I have missed you." Han Sen had just arrived home on the Jade Island, but before he could dismount, Yu Jing rode over on his green dragon. They entered Han Sen's home, and Yu Jing grabbed Han Sen's hands with passion.

"What do you want? Don't touch me; I'm not gay." Han Sen pulled his hands away and wiped them down with a cloth.

He thought Yu Jing was looking at him queerly. It looked as if the man was seeing some beautiful naked woman instead of Han Sen.

"What? I would go for a Sky if I wanted to go gay. Why would I come over here for you?" Yu Jing didn't think that sounded right, so he spat on the floor and went on to say, "No, I'm not gay at all."

After that, Yu Jing's eyes kept wandering around Han Sen's house. He said, "Brother Han, I have heard you earned many things from Rare Beast Island. Do you plan to sell the wares? If you sell them to me, I can give you a good price."

After that, Yu Jing saw a bunch of xenogeneic genes in the corner of Han Sen's house. His eyes widened, and after rummaging through the genes for a minute, he said, "This is a Marquise class Wind Tiger's tail. This is a Bone Elephant's tusk. Are all these Marquise xenogeneic genes?"

"Almost," Han Sen said casually.

"Very strong. To be able to kill Marquises as an Earl, well... Very few of the Sky can accomplish something like that. Only you and Lone Bamboo, as far as I know." After that, Yu Jing came back to Han Sen. He sat dowai at the table and poured himself some water. He drank and said, "Have you heard that the Feather have allied with Sky Palace? They are our subordinate race now. They have sent many Nobles here to study."

"That's not strange. The Feather lost their position as a high race, and they're much weaker now. If they didn't make new alliances, they'd be brought to ruin. Holy Heaven is a large xenogeneic space, and many of the other higher races want it. It was just a matter of time," Han Sen responded.

Yu Jing nodded and said, "That's not the point. When the Kings came here, they were very generous. Although people don't respect them very much, no one is going to turn down money. So, they are living a good life here."



After that, Yu Jing smiled at Han Sen and said, "Are you familiar with a Feather named Angia?"

"No." Han Sen shook his head, as his knowledge of the Feather was truly limited.

"He is the son of one of the half-deified Kings. He is really talented, and he is a student of Sky Palace. He is the leader of the Feather students, and he is an Earl like you. He walked the Road to the Sky and received compliments. He has been practicing with the Earl students, and while he has not lost nor won, his geno arts have proven themselves to be quite special."

"What does that mean?" Han Sen asked, catching Yu Jing's tone.

"Before he fights, he presents a bottle of spring water from Holy Heaven. If someone of Earl class can beat him with knife skills, he will give them the spring water." Yu Jing coldly laughed and said, "Our Sky Palace students study knife skills, but we aren't renown for them. We mostly use swords. You are the only one amongst us that is good with them. He is obviously provoking you. How dare he, eh?"

After that, Yu Jing smiled and said, "But the heavenly spring water is some good stuff. As long as you're still living, cleaning your wounds with that stuff will fix you up quick. It can save you from even mortal injuries, as it is a treasure from Holy Heaven. This guy is unlucky. You can go over, beat him, and help yourself to the spring water. If you don't need it, I can sell it on your behalf."

"Maybe if I have time. I need to practice in the White Jade Building first." Han Sen wasn't really concerned about the implied challenge, as dealing with the Feathers was not on his priority list.

The next day, he practiced in the White Jade Building. There, he saw Yun Suyi on the fourth floor. He thought about Under the Sky, so he caught Yun Suyi's attention. "I did some research on Under the Sky. If you have the time, we can explore it further together."

## **2010 Under the Sky Knifeskill**

Han Sen's words startled Yun Suyi so much that she leaked some of the Jade Air.

"Does he want to date me? Should I go or not? He has a wife, and he is the father of two children. Maybe he has just identified the flaw with Under the Sky... Yun Suyi, what are you thinking? How could he possibly discover that?" Yun Suyi's head was a mess, and her thoughts kept going in circles.

After the second Jade Air ended, she left White Jade Building swiftly to escape. But when she returned home, her mind continued to chum over what Han Sen had told her.

"No, I can't do this! I have to face it. I need to tell him, and then end this. I need to be Yun Suyi once more." She rolled around in bed for a long time, but she couldn't sleep. She eventually got up and got changed, then rode her Jade Wing Tiger to Jade Island.

Yun Suyi was an emotional wreck. She wanted to end her association with Han Sen. But when she thought about doing it, she felt sick to her stomach.

Yun Suyi rode to Little Jade Island, and there, she saw Han Sen practicing a knifeskill. It was Under the Sky.

Yun Suyi's tiger landed on the island, prompting Han Sen to lower his knife. He smiled and said, "I've been practicing Under the Sky for a while, and I can confirm that the problem you were having isn't an issue with your execution of the skill. The problem lies within the knifeskill itself. After concluding my research, I was able to fix this issue. You can try it and see how it works."

As Yun Suyi flew to the island, she kept reminding herself to be honest with Han Sen. But when she was on the island, she couldn't bring herself to say anything she wished to.

After hearing Han Sen's claim that he had found a way to fix Under the Sky, however, she looked at him with disbelief. "You really found a solution?"

"I've altered how the skill is used. It's less like I fixed it and more like I used a replacement part. I haven't worked out all of the details yet, but it's not dangerous if you'd like to give it a shot," Han Sen said.

"What did you think of to fix Under the Sky's problem?" Yun Suyi did not believe Han Sen had fixed it, but she was still curious.

All the geniuses of Sky Palace had been unable to fix the issue, and Han Sen had only been practicing Under the Sky for about a month. For him to have fixed it in such a short time was quite unbelievable.

"Watch me perform it once." After that, Han Sen walked into the field, drew Ghost Teeth Knife, and performed the modified Under the Sky.

When it started, Yun Suyi was a little confused. But before long, she looked quite shocked.

Previously, she had planned to use the knifeskill to get close to Han Sen, and so she approached the skill quite seriously. Also, Under the Sky was originally created by the Yun family, so the family's scroll was different from the one in the Holy House.

The knifeskill was the same, but there were many comments and annotations in the Yun family's Under the Sky. Those tips and explanations were priceless, and Han Sen hadn't benefitted from being able to read them.

So, despite the fact that Yun Suyi hadn't practiced too much, the notes allowed her to understand a lot.

As Yun Suyi watched Han Sen's Under the Sky, her jaw dropped.

“The problem with Under the Sky is fixed. How was... how did he do it?” Yun Suyi looked completely stunned.

“Did he practice with the Textless Book? But that should be impossible. And what outsider can learn Truth spell? The Textless Book is a secret of the Sky, and only the Sky can practice with it.” Yun Suyi looked at Han Sen with a complex expression. Even long after Han Sen finished performing the knifeskill, she was trapped in deep thought.

“What do you think? Do you think that fixed it?” Han Sen asked Yun Suyi, putting the knife away.

Yun Suyi’s mind eventually returned to the present. She looked at Han Sen, and a while later, she said, “Han Sen, can you tell me how you did it?”

Han Sen had already devised an explanation that was a mixture of truths and falsehoods. “When I traversed the Sky Road, the words of Sky Palace came into my body. They came from the Textless Book, and Under the Sky came from the Textless Book, too. So, they share something in common. I cobbled this together during my research, but I wasn’t sure if it worked. What do you think?”

Yun Suyi’s eyes avoided him, but she quietly said, “I am not sure. Could you please teach me, so I can understand better what it is you are thinking?”

“Of course.” Han Sen nodded, and he went on to say, “But my method is a bit tricky. You need to understand the feelings of Sky Palace in order to use this fix.”

Yun Suyi looked disappointed, and she shook her head. “I grew up in Sky Palace, and I have read those words many times. With that being said, I have never picked up the feelings that you’re talking about. Maybe it is because I am too used to it, but I’ve never noticed anything while reading those words.”

“Don’t worry; I have another solution. I can allow you to experience the feelings of Under the Sky.” Han Sen smiled. “How?” Yun Suyi asked in surprise.

“I can use Under the Sky to fight with you. That way, you can feel my knifeskill. After a while, you should be able to learn it naturally,” Han Sen said.

“Does it work that way?” Yun Suyi’s eyes shone brightly.

“Try it, and we’ll find out.” Han Sen brought out two practice jade knives. He handed one to Yun Suyi and picked up one for himself.

He was just helping Yun Suyi practice, so there was no need to use Ghost Teeth Knife for such an exercise.

Yun Suyi practiced with Han Sen and tried to feel Han Sen’s knifeskill. She didn’t know if she was making a mistake, but she felt as if her body was tangled up by an invisible knife air. She couldn’t seem to escape it.

“I think too much. He really did fix the problem with Under the Sky. But it only took him a month, so how... And he practiced Under the Sky so well...” Yun Suyi kept turning it over in her head, but she couldn’t figure it out.

Over the next few days, Yun Suyi kept coming to practice with Han Sen. For some reason, Yun Suyi did not file any sort of report to say Han Sen had fixed Under the Sky. She was just hoping she could practice with Han Sen like this, each and every day.

With Han Sen's help, Yun Suyi quickly became a beginner of the modified Under the Sky.

### **2011 Jadeskin Level Up**

The Feathers wanted to use Han Sen to boost their reputation, but Han Sen ignored them. He stuck to practicing with his geno arts and his knifeskills.

Because his core talents were so good, Han Sen's progress with Under the Sky was coming along quickly. When he practiced with Yun Suyi, however, he suppressed it.

He continued to practice with her because she could be a witness for him. If anyone doubted his ability to learn and correct Under the Sky, she would be able to speak in support of him. He really did only learn it faster than others.

Having been at Sky Palace for three months now, Han Sen's Jadeskin was finally going to ascend. A strange power flowed inside his bones and flesh. Leveling up to Earl meant generating a spirit.

Jadeskin's power had a light element. As the power increased, a jade light would cast a shadow across Han Sen at all times. It was very weird.

The strangest part of the process was that beautiful light. It looked rather like a cold fairy, and her skin shone like jade. Han Sen successfully became an Earl with Jadeskin, and his fitness level increased.

Other people could only level up to Earl and gain strength in the process once. Han Sen, however, had leveled up Earl three times. That meant his body was three times stronger. His strength was practically like a Marquise.

After Jadeskin successfully reached Earl status, he put all his power and focus into the practice of the Blood-Pulse Sutra.

He used the Jade Air to practice with the Blood-Pulse Sutra, but its progress was only accelerated a little. It wasn't as compatible with the Jade Air as Jadeskin was.

Yun Suyi was becoming an Earl. Yun Changkong soon had her studying at home. With his extra free time, Han Sen returned to Xuanyuan Cave to hunt down xenogeneics.

When Yun Suyi leveled up to Earl, she began practicing Phenomenon. It was a skill that was only one level beneath the Textless Book.

It was a powerful skill. Yun Suyi gave up on using swords and furthered herself with kniveskills and Under the Sky. Using swords no longer felt comfortable to her.

“It looks like I should find myself a decent knife.” Yun Suyi was still not sure if she should totally abandon swords, as she had never owned a proper knife for herself.

If she decided to proceed with knives, she’d have to procure a knife that was suitable for her.

“Suyi, why are you using knives?” Yun Sushang asked, following her to the armory.

“I learned a new knife skill, so I thought I should give it a try.” Yun Suyi started looking through the knives available in the armory. She seemed rather carefree about it.

“You can try kniveskills, sure. But there is one thing you can’t try.” Yun Sushang looked very serious.

“What are you talking about, sis?” Yun Suyi’s heart panicked a little.

Yun Sushang sighed and said, “You know what I’m talking about. You know Han Sen isn’t an option, so why do you remain so close to him?”

“What are you thinking? He has a wife and kids! What can I do? I am just practicing with knives with him and nothing more,” Yun Suyi explained.

“Good.” Yun Sushang let the conversation end there. She didn’t want to push the subject with Yun Suyi any further and risk making her mad.

Yun Sushang smiled and said, “If you’re practicing kniveskills, you’ll want to attend a knife event on Cloud Island.”

“What knife event? Do we have an event like that?” Yun Suyi asked with surprise.

Yun Sushang smiled and said, “Yes, because of the Feathers. They really want to use Han Sen to boost their reputation, but Han Sen continues to ignore them.”

“They think too highly of themselves, if they really think they can fight Han Sen,” Yun Suyi scoffed.

Yun Sushang, seeing her confidence in Han Sen, felt worried. Even so, she knew she shouldn’t say anything about it.

After a moment of silence, Yun Sushang said, “Angia wants to challenge Han Sen, and he’s not a fool. You cannot underestimate him.”

“The Feathers became a low race, and they all dropped a level because of it. Angia was an Earl, and he was knocked down to a Viscount. Angia was very angry, so he went to the Pool of Rebirth. His body returned to zero, and now he has become an Earl again. Because of this, Angia is much stronger than the

average Earl. Furthermore, he has practiced with the most difficult skill of the Feathers: Heaven Feather. Not many people can learn it, like our Textless Book. It is not too powerful, but regardless, he is strong.”

“This Angia does sound strong. The Pool of Rebirth is dangerous. If ten people made use of it, there’s no guarantee one of them would succeed. He is very lucky,” Yun Suyi said.

Yun Sushang nodded and said, “He removed all of his skills with the pool, but his talent remained. Otherwise, he could not have learned Heaven Feather. The guy is complicated, but he is also ambitious. He makes for a difficult target.”

“Even so, he’s still weaker than Han Sen,” Yun Suyi said with a smile.

Yun Sushang did not say anything, and she just looked at her sister with something that resembled a smile.

Yun Suyi blushed and said, “Am I not correct? Han Sen was able to fight Lone Bamboo. That Angia is nothing! I don’t even think he could beat me.”

“So, you’ll be attending tomorrow’s knife event?” Yun Sushang smiled.

Yes! Why wouldn’t I?” Yun Suyi said.

The armory had all sorts of weapons, but it was mostly filled with swords. Yun Suyi selected a Marquise Ice Knife. There were also some Duke knives available, but despite being a higher class, they weren’t as good as Ice Knife.

After she returned, she used the Ice Knife to practice Under the Sky. It worked far better than it did with a practice knife.

“You really do need a real knife to practice knifeskills.” Yun Suyi touched the blade of the Ice Knife gleefully.

The next afternoon, Yun Sushang took Yun Suyi to participate in the knife event on Cloud Island. On their way, Yun Sushang remembered the question she had wanted to ask.

“By the way, which knifeskill are you practicing?”

“We are learning the Yun family’s skill Under the Sky. Han Sen chose that skill as his prize, so I have been learning from him,” Yun Suyi said.

Yun Sushang did not say anything, but she thought to herself, “What can he do with Under the Sky? That skill is useless. It has a flaw.”

## 2012 Blood Feather Knife

The Feather students that lived on Cloud Island were busy preparing the knife event.

“Angia, do you think Han Sen will come?” asked a Feather lady called An Lingxin.

Before Angia replied, a strong Feather named Andrew said, “I think he is afraid of Angia. That is why he hasn’t appeared. I bet you he won’t come. Hearing what he did in Sky Palace, I thought he was strong. I didn’t expect he’d be so much of a pussy that he wouldn’t even show up. Ha, and people call him the Knife and Sword Master!”

Angia stared at Andrew and said, “Shut up! When are you going to stop being an idiot and watch your words? The Knife and Sword Master includes Lone Bamboo. What if the Sky heard what you just said?”

“Sorry,” Andrew apologized.

Angia shook his head. Andrew had always been like that, so changing him was difficult.

After a brief moment of silence, Angia said, “It is fine if Han Sen does not come. People will just think he is afraid of us, and that still contributes to our cause.”

An Lingxin was worried, though. “We have been here for so long, and we have heard many stories about Han Sen. The people here respect him, and they say he is so strong.”

“So what? Angia will win.” Andrew was very confident in Angia’s abilities.

Angia touched An Lingxin’s head. “Don’t worry. I have experienced rebirth, and I have practiced Heaven Feather and Judgment Knife. With all this, I will not be weak. And even if I do lose, with Han Sen’s reputation, it would still count as a win just to fight with him. Just like him fighting Lone Bamboo. If he hadn’t fought Lone Bamboo, he wouldn’t have earned the reputation he currently possesses. We need a chance like this. If he comes and fights me, it will count as a win no matter what.”

After that, Angia smiled. “Go and prepare. The guests will soon arrive. Whether Han Sen comes or not, we need this to look good.”

Yun Sushang and Yun Suyi soon arrived at Cloud Island. There were a number of familiar faces there, like Thousand Feather Crane.

“Brother Crane!” Yun Sushang towed Yun Suyi over to sit next to him.

“Do you guys know where Han Sen is? Will he come to this knife event?” Thousand Feather Crane asked the two, but he was looking at Yun Suyi.

Yun Suyi answered, “Han Sen went to Xuanyuan Cave. He hasn’t come back yet. He cannot participate in the knife event.”

“It would be best if he didn’t come.” Thousand Feather Crane nodded.

“Why?” Yun Suyi did not understand.

Thousand Feather Crane lowered his head and said, “With Han Sen’s reputation, Angia is the only one who would benefit if they fought. It wouldn’t matter if he won or lost. There is no need to help their kind.”

Yun Suyi was not stupid. She understood what Thousand Feather Crane meant, and so she nodded.

There were many Sky Palace students arriving. The highest of them were Earl class. The Feathers hadn’t been here for very long, so they were lucky to have that many people attend.

Most people were there to see the Blood Feather Knife.

The Blood Feather Knife was something that a Feather Alpha used a deified feather to forge. It was a treasure of the Feathers, but even most of them never saw it. For outsiders, the chances were even less.

For Angia to bring the Blood Feather Knife here was surprising. Many elders wished to see it, so they sent their students to take a look on their behalf.

Angia had prepared a speech for the beginning of the knife event. The Feathers were very beautiful, and Angia was a good speaker. The atmosphere was pleasant.

Angia did not waste time talking about pointless things, and he presented the Blood Feather Knife quickly.

Everyone focused on the rectangle box.

Angia said quietly, “The Blood Feather Knife has existed for thousands of centuries. We have yet to find a scabbard worthy of it, so we have kept it stored inside this box. I must apologize for this.”

After this, Angia gently opened the case. Yun Suyi and the others stared at the box. In it, there was a three-foot-long white feather-shaped weapon.

There was a blood marking on the white feather blade. It made a startling contrast with the white body.

Angia explained, “This blade was created by our Alpha using a deified feather. When it was created, a deified xenogeneic wanted it. Our Alpha used the knife, which was not yet completed, to heavily damage the xenogeneic. That deified xenogeneic escaped, but the feather knife absorbed the xenogeneic’s blood. That is why there is a mark. It led to the Alpha naming it Blood Feather Knife.”

Excitement moved through the audience. They wished to hold the Blood Feather Knife to determine for themselves if the knife was real or fake.

Angia knew people wanted to see it, too. So, he took it out of the box and handed it to the nearest student, so they could pass it along.

Thousand Feather Crane, Yun Sushang, and Yun Suyi looked over the Blood Feather Knife and came to the conclusion that it was a good knife.

But there was a rumor that said the knife was a deified weapon, despite it not looking like one.



People passed along the Blood Feather Knife, all complimenting it. When it was handed back to Angia, an Earl class student asked, "If this is a deified weapon, why doesn't it reveal its power?"

Angia smiled and said, "You have remarkable eyesight. Others will tell you it is a deified weapon, and with the material it was created with, it should be one. But the story I have just told you, about striking the deified xenogeneic, kept that from happening. The xenogeneic blood that splashed across it was not too compatible with the knife, so it came to be a King class weapon instead. It is not a deified weapon; it is a King class weapon."

"So that is why." People felt it was a great shame.

King class weapons were strong, but they weren't deified weapons.

"Today, I have asked you to come here in the hopes of finding a master for this knife. If anyone can beat me with knifeskills, they may own it." After Angia said that, people became excited.

### **2013 Angia's Plan**

Angia and his companions had come to Sky Palace because they had to. The rest of the Feather race was depending on them to make friends with the Sky.

They wanted to quickly integrate with the population of Sky Palace so they could be considered natural members. When they came there, they brought a lot of treasures to hand out. Blood Feather Knife was one of them.

But it wasn't as simple as handing out gifts to the first Sky they met. They weren't entirely sure how the greedy elders of Sky Palace would react when they made their treasures available. And if the Feathers' goods were simply taken from them, it would do little to grow their relationship with the Sky.

Angia only made the offer to the crowd because Han Sen hadn't come to the knife event. When he put the Blood Feather Knife on display, he had no plan to receive it back.

Of the Sky students attending the knife event, one of them was the third elder's son. He was an Earl called Wind Nineteen. The third elder used knives, and so his son used knives, too.

The third elder was in charge of interacting with the Feathers, so the Feathers planned to give the Blood Feather Knife to him.

If they simply handed it to the third elder, though, it might not make much of an impression. He was an elder, and it was fair to say he had no lack of King class weapons already. But if Wind Nineteen could win

the knife in this knife event, it'd make everyone look good. When he received the knife as a prize, it would be far more memorable.

Angia couldn't just give the knife to Wind Nineteen, but if Wind Nineteen believed he used his own strength to win the knife, then the Feathers wouldn't curry any favor. It had taken a little while for the Feathers to devise a plan.

Angia had to win a few rounds before losing to him. That way, Wind Nineteen would know that he was receiving a gift meant for him.

"Angia, are you serious?" asked a strong man with a cow's head, his eyes wide.

Angia smiled and said, "Of course. If any of you can beat me, then you can claim the Blood Feather Knife for yourself. That includes you, Brother Cow."

"Good! Then what are we waiting for? I am the best when it comes to knives. How about we compare our knifeskills?" the cow-head man said, standing up.

"Yes, please." Angia smiled and gestured towards the arena.

The cow-head man was strong, and he was one of the outsider students. He was good with knives and fairly well-known amongst the other students. He was also known for being quite grumpy.

His name was Strong Cow. He was one of the students Angia hired to use knives against him. That way, before Angia fought Wind Nineteen, he could show-off his own powers.

Angia did not mind losing and giving out a gift, but he wanted to become very famous in the process.

Everyone watched Angia and Strong Cow move to the arena, and they observed the match.

Strong Cow was over three meters tall, and he was holding a giant horse knife. It was even taller than he was. It looked very scary.

"I am going to begin," Strong Cow said simply, then slashed towards Angia.

The giant horse knife was associated with the element of thunder. The knife light was like lighting. It became a cowshaped bolt when it came for Angia.

The thunder-cow roared as it approached, and this was a fine display of Strong Cow's greatest skill. It was very strong, and the elites of the same level would not dare try to block such an attack.

Everyone now looked at Angia, curious to see how he might react.

Angia's white wings were still folded on his back. He was obviously not planning to evade. He was holding a common, Earl class jade knife. It was made from Xuan Jade Spirits, so it was nothing particularly special.

As the thunder cow's knifelight flashed towards Angia, the power looked as if it could break a mountain.

Angia smiled. He moved his jade knife and slashed towards Strong Cow's thunder cow knifelight. The jade knife was shining gold. It was like a light from heaven.

Katcha!

The thunder cow knifelight was cut in half by Angia's golden light. The gold light did not stop, and it hit the horse knife and broke it in half.

Strong Cow retreated. The gold light was a mere three inches in front of him when it disappeared.

Everyone was shocked by the display. They could immediately tell that Angia had held back some of his power, too. If he had wanted to, the gold light would have cut right through the cow's face.

Strong Cow was not a very talented elite, but he was still considered one of the strongest Earls. Thunder Cow Roar was powerful, but Angia had just beaten it without issue. Clearly, Angia was a top rank Earl.

The Feather's Judgment Knife is special. It is a very strong geno art, and it is said that it can cut through anything. I have never seen it before today, though." Thousand Feather Crane explained what they had just seen to Yun Sushang.

"Brother Crane, do you think you can win?" Yun Sushang frowned.

"I don't know. But I'm not good with knives, and that is what they are comparing. So, it is pointless for me to participate." Thousand Feather Crane shook his head.

Strong Cow lost. The other students hesitated to try. Angia had fought a few bouts before today, but he had never proven himself to be that strong before.

A student who was good at Yin kniveskills wanted to try. He didn't lose in such a dramatic fashion as Strong Cow, but everyone could tell he had been suppressed by Angia.

No one was able to beat him over the next few rounds of battle. People started to look at Angia differently.

Not many people in Sky Palace used knives or practiced kniveskills. The few fighters Angia had just defeated weren't really the best Earls. But even so, the fact that Angia kept winning was more than enough to prove his power.

No one dared challenge him, and that included Wind Nineteen.

Angia knew that Wind Nineteen did not think he could win, so he didn't do anything about it. He simply went back to the stage and said, "Sky Palace has been home to a high race since ancient times. The genes and geno arts here greatly surpass those of the Feathers. I have come here in the hopes of learning, and now I have. I am so happy."

"I have heard Han Sen and Wind Nineteen are the best Earls when it comes to kniveskills. That being said, it seems that Brother Han is either busy or is choosing to avoid me. That is very disappointing. Fortunately, Brother Wind is here. Do you think you could teach me?" Angia spoke quite politely, but

everyone knew he was just taking digs at Han Sen. He was suggesting Han Sen was too scared to fight him.

Angia didn't say it directly, but Yun Suyi thought this reflected poorly on Han Sen. She felt angry, hearing him speak that way.

"Han Sen didn't come, but I have learned kniveskills from him! I will fight on his behalf, and I will satisfy your desire by proxy." Yun Suyi, dressed in her white garb, marched straight down to the arena.

### **Chapter 2014 Under Sky Road's Puppe**

Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang were shocked, and they were too late to stop what was in motion.

Angia was a top Earl. Even they didn't think they could beat him. Yun Suyi had only just become an Earl, so it was highly unlikely she'd win.

Fortunately, this was Sky Palace. Even if she lost, her life wouldn't be in danger.

Yun Sushang still felt sick, though. She knew Yun Suyi could not stand ill words being said about Han Sen, and that was why she was stepping forward.

Angia watched the elegantly dressed lady walk towards him. He looked surprised. He smiled and said, "Sister Yun must have only just become an Earl. If I remember correctly, the Yun family specializes in swords. I would feel terrible if I defeated you."

"The Yun family's swordskills are strong, so it would not be all that impressive if I used swordskills to win. I have, however, learned a few kniveskills from Han Sen. I wager that will be enough," Yun Suyi said coldly. Then she drew Ice Knife.

Angia frowned. He knew Yun Suyi was Yun Changkong's daughter, and it would be bad for him to offend her. But the Feathers had prepared the Blood Feather Knife for the third elder, so he couldn't hand it over to Yun Suyi instead. Yun Suyi had just become an Earl, too. If he lost to her, it would actually damage his own reputation. People would think he had deliberately thrown a match just to please a woman. It'd look terrible.

Angia raced to think of a way out, but Yun Suyi had already drawn her knife. He couldn't tell her he wasn't going to fight. So, after a moment of thought, Angia concocted a new scheme.

“If Sister Yun is this interested, then I will agree to the contest. Please...” Angia pulled out a jade knife as he smiled to her.

He planned to only block her attacks in order to make her feel her inferiority. If she refused to quit, he would concede. That way, people would simply think he was a gentleman who wouldn’t fight a woman.

Yun Suyi bowed with her Ice Knife, and then she slashed. She used the knifeskill Under the Sky.

Yun Suyi could not withstand Angia’s mocking of Han Sen, but she knew that she hadn’t mastered Under the Sky yet.

After all, not many people would use Under the Sky to fight. All her experience with it had come from Han Sen himself. Han Sen told her she had finished learning it, though, and all she had to do was keep practicing with it. She had no idea how powerfully she might be able to use it in a real contest.

And when Yun Suyi attacked, Angia’s face changed. His plan vanished in a puff of smoke as he saw a woman that looked like a ravenous wolf coming for him. He immediately became tense.

It was just one slash, but Angia could feel wisps of a most dangerous presence rising from that skill.

Angia was careful, and so he responded seriously. He started to cast Judgment Knife to retaliate, and he looked more serious now than he had when beating down Strong Cow.

After Yun Suyi slashed once, she was on the move. Before the knife air completed its attack, she slashed another two times.

Angia lifted his knife and retreated. He used his knifeskills to fight back.

Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang were frozen. They had seen Under the Sky before, as the Yun family had created and developed it. But they knew not many people made use of it, due to how fatal its flaws could be. If an opponent caught wind of the technique’s flaw during a fight, it could lead to an opening and the subsequent death of the user.

But Yun Suyi’s Under the Sky seemed very different to Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang. They could not tell what had changed, but it was obvious that the biggest problems of the skill had vanished under Yun Suyi’s casting.

How strong was Under the Sky? This question had an answer in Yun Suyi.

In the beginning, Yun Suyi was nervous and her movements were unnatural. She soon noticed that, after using the skill, Angia was following her lead. It was just like how she practiced, and now she felt safe.

Yun Suyi remembered Han Sen told her that unless the opponent was much stronger than her, as long as she pulled off the first strike, none could beat her. The first strike was not random; it would home in on the opponent’s weakness. That was how Under the Sky began.

Once the opponent blocked the first strike, Under the Sky would keep on coming. It was like a target-lock on the opposing fighter that would trap them in the skill.

Unless the opponent's mind could see through destiny, they could not escape the trap that was Under the Sky. They would end up like a puppet, locked into following Under the Sky until they were completely trapped.

Yun Suyi usually fought Han Sen, and she knew Han Sen's knifemind was only one step away from being deified.

The pressure Han Sen put upon Yun Suyi was nothing like fighting Angia. She was used to Han Sen's strength, and dealing with Angia was easy, by comparison. The pressure was nowhere near on the same level.

Thousand Feather Crane and the other students looked upon Yun Suyi in shock as she kept swinging her Ice Knife. Her attacks seemed almost carefree. And in front of her was Angia, who now looked awfully grim. His forehead was dripping with sweat as he tried to escape her onslaught.

Angia was like a puppet now. He couldn't cast any kniveskills anymore. Every time he tried to, Yun Suyi interrupted him halfway through with a perfectly placed attack. So, he would end up falling back again.

Angia prepared to use a skill that would injure them both, but then, he noticed he couldn't even do that. Yun Suyi was striking before he could cast a single thing. He began to feel like there was some invisible wire tangling him up, and it was getting tighter and tighter. So much so that he couldn't use his talents. He wanted to start coughing up blood.

If Angia had been someone like Lone Bamboo, who could put his knife away before destiny, then he might have been able to escape Under the Sky. But he wasn't that strong.

The entire arena was frozen. No one expected Yun Suyi to be this strong. Even Thousand Feather Crane and Yun Sushang were frozen in disbelief.

"How is that possible? Her Under the Sky has no flaw!" Thousand Feather Crane mumbled to himself.

It was very shocking to see a fixed version of Under the Sky being used perfectly. This was something that was going to shock everyone from the elders to the leader himself.

### ***2015 Getting the Blood Feather Knife***

"Han Sen!" Yun Sushang said suddenly.

“Han Sen? What do you mean? Is this connected to Han Sen?” Thousand Feather Crane looked at Yun Sushang with confusion.

“Did you forget? Han Sen was the first in the exam, and through it, he received Under the Sky.” Yun Sushang looked strange as she spoke.

“How am I supposed to know what he selected? Only he made the decision, and I didn’t ask him.” Thousand Feather Crane looked at Yun Sushang. “How do you know that he selected Under the Sky?”

Yun Sushang gave a wry smile and told him the situation between Han Sen and Yun Suyi.

When she finished the story, Thousand Feather Crane’s eyes were wide. “You mean, Han Sen chose Under the Sky because of Yun Suyi? And he fixed Under the Sky’s flaw in such a short amount of time? And on top of that, he taught her the corrected version of Under the Sky? Is such a thing even possible?”

“I wouldn’t believe it, either. But you can see what she’s doing, plain as day. There are no flaws in her execution. I can’t think of another likelihood.” Yun Sushang’s expression looked disturbed.

“If this is true, then that means Han Sen has performed a great service for Sky Palace. He has fixed an ancient problem. This guy is a genius, no doubt. He will be an incredibly important person in the future.” Thousand Feather Crane complimented him.

“It is hard to say that now. Yun Suyi’s opponent is just Angia, remember. When she faces a stronger opponent, we will have to see if there are still flaws in Han Sen’s modifications.” Yun Sushang retreated into thought for a moment, before going on to say, “When this ends, we will take Yun Suyi with us to report to father. He should be able to find out the truth of this.”

As they had their discussion, Angia was in the midst of a difficult situation.

Angia was far stronger than Yun Suyi. If Yun Suyi’s power was equivalent to an average human, then Angia was a big and scary shark. His power could kill Yun Suyi with ease.

But currently, Angia was a shark that had been caught on a hook. Yun Suyi would add some slack to the cord whenever he struggled, so he couldn’t use strength to get away.

However, whenever he relaxed a little, the wire would tighten. Angia could not exercise any of his strengths. The hook continued to sink deeper into him, and he was getting tangled up even further by Under the Sky.

“I have lost. Sister Yun is very strong. This must be the Yun family’s technique that is called Under the Sky. It is fairly amazing. It is one of the best knifeskills in the world, for sure.” Angia was smart. He knew he was going to lose, so if he kept fighting for the sake of it, it’d only be a matter of time before things took an ugly turn for him. As a result, he chose to concede and save face.

But he carefully pointed out where Under the Sky came from, and he only admitted that he lost to Under the Sky. He did not make a single mention of the fact that it was a skill she had learned from Han Sen.

Many of the students had never before seen Under the Sky in action. They only noticed that's what it was now, after Angia spoke.

Yun Suyi returned her Ice Knife to its scabbard and said darkly, "Under the Sky has always had a big flaw that rendered it unusable in combat. The Under the Sky I used was a variant that was modified by Han Sen. It corrects the problems of the original. I have not learned it well, and if I was to estimate, I am at around ten percent of Han Sen's proficiency with it."

After hearing that, all the students of Sky Palace were in shock. So many people had wished to modify Under the Sky, but no one had been able to solve the issues plaguing it. It was difficult to believe Han Sen had sorted it out.

Angia's face, in the meantime, was turning green and white. Even a smart guy like him couldn't think of anything else to

"Can I take the Blood Feather Knife now?" Yun Suyi said, looking right at Angia.

She was angry that Angia had mocked Han Sen, so she wasn't going to be polite.

"Of course. Sister Yun's knifeskill is strong, and so the knife is yours." Angia forced a smile and passed the box to Yun Suyi.

"Thanks." Yun Suyi put away the Blood Feather Knife and left the arena.

Yun Sushang and Thousand Feather Crane got up to meet her, and Yun Sushang asked, "Suyi, is what you said true? Under the Sky's flaws have been fixed?"

"Of course it is true." Yun Suyi nodded.

"Let's go. We are going to have to see our father." Yun Sushang pulled Yun Suyi away, and they left Cloud Island. The news that Under the Sky had been fixed was far too important. She couldn't wait around for the event to end before going back.

And furthermore, Yun Suyi had received the Blood Feather Knife, so the event would soon be over anyway.

The other students started to leave, too. They also wished to know if Under the Sky had truly been fixed. If that was true, then Sky Palace had another exclusive knifeskill.

Angia and the other Feathers all looked depressed. No one wished to say a word.

They wanted to use Han Sen to get famous, but instead, Angia had been beaten by Han Sen's student. They were all so upset. It was far worse than losing to Han Sen directly.



They wouldn't gain any fame from this, and they couldn't give the knife to the third elder as planned. And the biggest problem was that Yun Suyi had taken the knife without being the slightest bit impressed. This failure had certainly led to a loss of reputation.

Despite being unable to beat Yun Suyi, who had learned directly from Han Sen, Angia had provoked Han Sen multiple times. It'd sound fairly ridiculous.

He had completely lost, and it filled the Feathers with frustration. There was nothing they could do to discharge their anger, either. All they could do was swallow it.

"I can't believe Han Sen concocted a plan like that. I underestimated him. It looks like that man is not just a fighter," Angia said through gritted teeth.

He thought Han Sen had planned to use Yun Suyi to fight him all along, but he was thinking too much, of course. Han Sen had never spared a thought about how he might deal with Angia.

It was still not over yet, though. Yun Sushang brought Yun Suyi to meet with Yun Changkong. They told him about Han Sen and Under the Sky.

"Really? Suyi, show me Han Sen's modified version." Yun Changkong did not believe Han Sen had what it took to fix the skill. He believed there had to be some sort of problem remaining.

After all, so many elites had tried and failed to fix it. Han Sen couldn't just fix it within a month, even if he was a genius. But when Yun Changkong witnessed Yun Suyi's performance, his mouth dropped wide open.

### **2016 Rewarded by the Palace Leader**

Yun Changkong was the leader of the Yun family and the tenth elder of Sky Palace. He was no stranger to Under the Sky.

Yun Suyi showed him her Under the Sky, and he immediately recognized that it was different from the original version. But the difference fixed the inherent problem it had once possessed. There were no more flaws. It had become a skill that was perfectly usable in battle.

"Suyi, did you really learn this from Han Sen?" Yun Changkong hastily asked Yun Suyi after she finished her performance.

Yes. He's been teaching me since I leveled up to become an Earl." Yun Suyi nodded.

"Father, does the modified Under the Sky really work?" Yun Sushang asked.

“Yes, it looks like it really can. There’s one thing I don’t understand, however; how can your kniveskill express the feelings of the Textless Book?” Yun Changkong asked.

Yun Suyi quickly explained how Han Sen used his kniveskill in a way that allowed her to get a feel for it.

Yun Changkong heard this and gave a wry smile. “This Han Sen is a genius. He has modified the kniveskill itself and used feelings as its guidance. He did fix Under the Sky’s problem, and he has made it usable in proper combat. He learned Under the Sky as a beginner, then he expanded his understanding in order to abandon the strict rules of the text and start infusing it with his own emotions. He made something complicated far simpler.”

Yun Changkong thought for a minute, then continued. “An elder once thought about doing this, but there were too many problems for it to be effective. But it seems that is what Han Sen has done, and somehow, he has finished it. This required a keen observation and a profound understanding of the skill’s core. That which he has done with his knife is something only a grandmaster could do. Assuming, of course, that he is the one who has done all this.”

Yun Changkong stopped talking. He took Yun Suyi with him to meet with the leader of Sky Palace.

The news of Under the Sky being fixed spread like wildfire, and the position of Under the Sky changed. It became a geno art of the palace, good and proper. It had a big impact on things, too.

Han Sen’s name was heard far and wide again, with Angia being someplace on the sidelines. Whenever he was mentioned, it would be just as the small character who it was showcased upon.

Han Sen did not know about this, though. He kept practicing and doing his thing in Xuanyuan Cave until the White Jade Building was ready to open. Han Sen went back to his Jade Island first, though. And before he went on to White Jade Building, Thousand Feather Crane came to see him.

“Brother Han, the leader has requested an audience with you. Let’s pack you up, so we can go.” Thousand Feather Crane smiled to Han Sen.

“The leader wants me for something?” Han Sen was surprised as he looked on Thousand Feather Crane.

The leader was a very busy man, so he wouldn’t summon Han Sen for nothing.

You don’t know? The Under the Sky modifications of yours, they were verified and accepted by the leader. It has been accepted into the library of Sky Palace’s legendary techniques. As the modifier, you are to be given a reward. That’s why the leader has summoned you.” Thousand Feather Crane smiled.

Han Sen, hearing this, was surprised. He hadn’t realized so many things would happen while he was gone.

He followed Thousand Feather Crane to Sky Palace. When he walked the Road to the Sky, he didn’t feel anything unusual. Only your first time ascending would give you that sense of suppression.

Inside Sky Palace, many students looked at Han Sen strangely. Their eyes were filled with admiration.

This was the first time Han Sen would get to see the Sky Palace leader. Han Sen had met him once, but he hadn't been fully conscious at the time. He wasn't sure what the leader really looked like.

It turned out that the Sky Palace leader seemed fairly ordinary. He looked like a common, middle-aged man. He did not look intimidating, and he did not look holy. He just looked like a normal guy.

Han Sen walked up to him and bowed. The leader of Sky Palace looked at him with interest and smiled. "Stand up. You look better than the last time I saw you."

Yeah, that was terrible. Sorry about being so useless." Han Sen felt embarrassed. It was terrible that Thousand Feather Crane had to carry him in.

The leader of Sky Palace squinted his eyes at Han Sen. "You are not useless. You finished modifying Under the Sky with success. That is something many people have longed to fix. If you were useless, then what are my elders?"

"I didn't mean it that way." Han Sen lowered his head.

The leader of Sky Palace laughed and said, "Don't be so polite. Your master, Yisha, wasn't like you. She never really was polite, but I liked her how she was."

Han Sen had no idea Yisha was held with such high regard in Sky Palace. It looked like the leader of Sky Palace still missed her somewhat.

"Did this old man fall in love with his student? Is that why he misses her so much?" Han Sen wondered.

The leader's face turned stony. He flicked his finger, and suddenly, Han Sen felt incredibly heavy. He almost collapsed on the floor.

"Hmm, you little brat! You look respectable enough, but you were thinking something sordid in your mind." The leader of Sky Palace looked at Han Sen and grunted.

Han Sen was suddenly covered in cold sweat. The leader could see through Han Sen's mind. That was a scary power for someone to have.

"I apologize!" Han Sen said, as quickly and sincerely as he could.

The leader of Sky Palace laughed and said, "Yisha always yelled at me, but she did so directly. Unlike you, who keeps your real opinions in the privacy of your mind."

"This guy is a creep! He loves to be yelled at, so he must be a masochist." Han Sen couldn't help but think.

As soon as the thought crossed his mind, he knew he had done something bad.

The leader of Sky Palace smiled at Han Sen, and even more pressure dropped onto him. It was a struggle not to fall to his knees.

"I really know I did wrong this time!" Han Sen shouted, his face looking bitter.

The leader of Sky Palace smiled and said, "It's okay. You are Yisha's student, and you have been a great help to Sky Palace. Under the Sky's modifications are good. Tell me what you would like."

"It was my pleasure to help you. I wouldn't dare be bold enough to ask for a reward," Han Sen said quickly.

"It is fine. You are not that humble, so there is no use pretending that you are." The Sky Palace leader grinned. "How about this? Yisha used to feed horses, and you can feed horses, too. That will be your reward for the modifications."

"Thanks." Han Sen forced his mind not to think of anything else.

### **2017 Sky Heart Lock**

"Okay, you can go." The leader of Sky Palace waved his hand, indicating Han Sen could leave.

Cough cough. "Mister Leader, you are so powerful. With a flick of your fingers, you can inhibit all my movements. That is impressive." Han Sen's feet did not move.

It felt as if his body was carrying a mountain. He could barely stand.

Sky Palace leader squinted his eyes, looked at Han Sen, and said, "This is my reward for you. If you do not leave, I will reward you more."

Han Sen turned around and departed, swearing to God he would never come and see that man again.

"F\*ck! What is this reward? I did a great service to these people. It'd be fine if they didn't want to reward me, but making me feed horses? I don't want to feed your f\*cking horses." After Han Sen left Sky Palace, he repeatedly swore in his heart.

Walking out of Sky Palace made Han Sen all sweaty. He did not know what geno art was being used on him, but it felt like he was bearing a great weight on his back. He could withstand it, but he was not able to run. All he could do was walk.

"What is it? What did the leader give you?" Thousand Feather Crane asked, coming forward eagerly.

"Let's not talk about it. When my master was in Sky Palace, did she offend the leader in some way?" Han Sen thought that it must be Yisha's fault that he was being treated so poorly.

“Why do you ask that? The leader loved her the most. He took her as a student, so everyone knows that,” Thousand Feather Crane said.

That is strange. If my master was that loved, then why did he not reward me? He used a weird geno art to suppress my body, and he’s now making me feed his horses.” Han Sen frowned, and then went on to say, “Is he really mad that he could not take me on as a student, perhaps?”

“What happened?” Thousand Feather Crane asked.

Han Sen told him his story. Thousand Feather Crane heard it all, and when the story was finished, his mouth had fallen wide open. He looked at Han Sen as if he had just seen a ghost.

“Don’t you think that this is a little much?” Han Sen also thought to himself, “I only complained in my mind, so why is he going this far?”

Thousand Feather Crane gave Han Sen a strange look. “You are lucky. The geno art you were put under is Sky Heart Lock. It is a part of the Textless Book. King classes can barely make use of it, and they often end up damaged. If they did not have the right blood, they wouldn’t even try to use it. It is difficult to find someone that knows about Textless Book and sacrifices. The leader has used it twice on you, and not even Lone Bamboo was subjected to that.”

Han Sen felt his eyebrows rise. “Really?”

“Of course. Sky Heart Lock is no secret here. It locks down your body, and you have to use your own power to break free. Do it, and your fitness and air can increase. You know how important the basics are. You can do this to become stronger, and it won’t affect your leveling up progress. Many people would actually enjoy that. You’ve received it twice, and here you are complaining. It makes me want to hit you.” Thousand Feather Crane looked jealous.

Han Sen looked at him strangely and said, “What about feeding the horses? That can’t be good.”

“If I am correct, the horse you’ll be feeding is the Dream Beast. I cannot tell you if that is good or bad, though,” Thousand Feather Crane said, after a moment of thought.

While they were talking, a butler-like man approached. He bowed to Han Sen and said, “Brother Han, the leader has requested that I take you to Dream Island. You will have to work for Dream Beast for three months. Can you go now or must you pack?”

“Brother, can I go tomorrow?” Han Sen asked.

“Sure, I’ll pick you up tomorrow.” The man smiled.

“Thanks a lot.” Han Sen turned back to Thousand Feather Crane and said, “Old Crane, find me a way to get back to Jade Island. With my weight, the legless crane cannot carry me.”

Thousand Feather Crane laughed and said, “Don’t worry, the lock is only clamping down on your body. It hasn’t increased your weight. Your mount won’t suffer because of it.”

Han Sen had no choice but to believe him. He climbed atop the crane with his heavy body. The crane felt nothing, and it took off into flight as it usually did.

The bird had eaten many pieces of high class xenogeneic meat. It was really strong, and it was flying a little faster than it had in the beginning.

Its speed had only increased a little, though. Its wings were still injured, and so it couldn't fly entirely straight. It couldn't go too fast.

When Han Sen was back at little Jade Island, he used all kinds of powers to try to remove the lock that had been placed upon him. Aside from using super god spirit mode, he tried everything at his disposal and failed to unlock it.

Han Sen had no choice now but to pack. The next day, the butler took him to Dream Island.

Han Sen did not know much about Dream Beast. He knew it was a deified xenogeneic, though, and Lone Bamboo had endured the nightmares given to him by this creature.

"Is that old man going to make the Dream Beast give me ten thousand nightmares? I don't want to experience those things. My life is a happy story. There is no need for tragedy," Han Sen thought with fright.

It took Lone Bamboo ten years to wake up. Even if Han Sen was stronger, it'd still take a few years. And by then, Ling'er wouldn't even know who her father was. That would be sad.

"No, no! I cannot have a nightmare. I need to talk to that old man again." Han Sen turned around, wanting to leave.

But then, all of a sudden, a gravelly, monstrous voice said from behind him, "Who said you could leave?"

Han Sen's body froze stiff. He slowly turned back around, and at the center of a mirror-like lake, a white unicorn-like creature was emerging.

It might have been the greatest xenogeneic Han Sen had ever seen, but when he looked into its eyes, Han Sen felt chills roll through him. Looking at the creature did not make him feel good.

The dreamy blue eyes, however, were smiling. Even so, they gave him goosebumps.

"Ahaha. Mister Dream... The leader sent me here to check on whether or not you need anything. If there is something you require, I will report it to the leader and bring it here," Han Sen said quickly. He thought he should get out now.

"I see. There is something I need. Come here." The Dream Beast stepped onto the grass, smiling at Han Sen.

2018 Touching a Gemstone

“Mister Dream, what do you require?” Han Sen didn’t think that the creature’s smile was very nice.

Dream Beast did not say anything, but his eyes flashed. Han Sen felt a power come upon him, and his heavy body started to fly.

Splash!

Han Sen flew over the lake and dropped into it.

Normally, falling into a lake was no big deal. But now, his body was so heavy that he could not get away from the water. He couldn’t even float.

Dream Beast approached Han Sen’s struggling form and laughed. “Stop pretending. I know you can survive in the water. There is a type of gemstone beneath the sand. It is my food. You can go down there and get me some. I require ten of them a day. If you don’t fill the quota, I will give you a nightmare.”

“And by the way, I am fond of cleanliness. Some would say too much. So, do not make the water dirty. If you do that, I will give you one hundred nightmares,” Dream Beast said.

Han Sen, upon hearing all that, stopped pretending to struggle. He immediately dove down into the water.

He could breathe underwater, but he just wanted to earn some sympathy points first. Unfortunately, the act didn’t work on Dream Beast.

The Dream Lake was clean, and you could see down to the bottom. Han Sen guessed it must have been ten meters deep.

Strangely, though, Han Sen did not see any other creatures in the water. There weren’t even any plants like seaweed. The whole lake was clean like a well-polished gemstone. There was not a single speck of dust, which was quite scary.

Han Sen’s body reached the bottom, and his feet touched the sand. The sand followed the waves, rising like mist.

“This is your first day, so I’m only giving you a warning. If you kick up any sand again, straight into the dreamscape you go.” Dream Beast’s voice boomed into Han Sen’s ears.

“If you don’t let me stand on the sand, how am I supposed to find your gemstones?” Han Sen asked quickly.

“That is your problem, not mine. I am merely following the rules,” Dream Beast said as if it was ordinary.

Han Sen knew there was no point resisting, so he pulled his legs off the bottom of the lake. He remained afloat, afraid of moving the sand with his body. But the sand was very light. The slightest wave would make the sand rise like mist, and the water would become dirty-looking.

Han Sen tried his best to keep any more body parts from touching the sand, and that was how he avoided making the sand rise again.

Normally, it would not have been difficult to maintain this position, but Han Sen still had Sky Heart Lock clamping down on him. Beneath that pressure, holding his position was difficult. It brought his body pain.

Han Sen was using all kinds of strength to support his body; otherwise, he'd have already been down against the bottom of the lake.

But keeping that position was a challenge. Han Sen looked around the lake, and the sand was very flat. There was no mark or disturbance, and neither were there any convenient rocks.

Han Sen looked around for a while, but there did not seem to be any gemstones.

According to what Dream Beast said, the gemstones were supposed to reside beneath the sand. So, he'd have to collect the gemstones out of the sand.

But Han Sen did not know where exactly beneath the sand a gemstone might lie. He used his Dongxuan Aura to scan the lakebed, but there was nothing to be seen.

"At least today I can break the rules." Han Sen used his strength to dig through the sand, and after digging for a while, he found a clean, orb-sized gemstone that looked like a diamond.

"Mister Dream, is this what you are looking for?" Han Sen asked, holding up the gemstone.

"Yes. I eat ten a day. If you miss one, you'll have nightmares forever. Plus, you deliberately destroyed the bed of sand. I will punish you now by making you work for me for another month." Dream Beast's voice came out of nowhere.

Han Sen felt depressed, but it was his own fault for not abiding by the rules in someone else's abode.

The sand did indeed harbor gemstones, but they were a rare find. Detecting the gemstones without touching the sand was very hard.

But that couldn't stop Han Sen. Han Sen had learned a gentle skill from Moon Wheel King and the Narrow Moon Knife. He could cast power into water without causing a ripple. It would not be too difficult to keep the sand still, then.

Han Sen cast his gentle Moon skill and looked through the sand carefully, searching for a gemstone.

His body was suppressed by Sky Heart Lock. He had to keep his head down and his feet up, and he had to use the gentlest power he could to retrieve the gemstones. He was in the lake for a whole ten hours straight, fetching the gemstones.

When he came back out of the lake, he did not want to move.



You are better than I thought. It looks like if I want to eat more, it should be fine.” Dream Beast was resting beneath a tree. He smiled at Han Sen casually.

Han Sen did not even have the strength to complain. He just lay in the grass near the lake, his body too sore to move.

He felt so soft, as if his body was devoid of bones.

The sad life of Han Sen started on that day. Every day, he spent most of his time under the surface of the lake in pursuit of gemstones. Whenever he had time remaining to himself, he rested. He did not have time to practice.

Han Sen did not know why the leader wanted him to be here, but it was related to Yisha. Therefore, it shouldn't have been too harmful.

And the leader had used his own energy to give Han Sen two Sky Heart Locks. If he wanted to harm Han Sen, he wouldn't have had to make such an effort.

Han Sen worked hard in the lake. Dream Beast still never grew to like him, though. If he got up late, Dream Beast would go and kick him into the water.

And the sick Dream Beast would always say how great fresh gemstones were. Han Sen couldn't get any more than ten to save for the next day.

“When I become deified and stronger than you, I will make you search for the gemstones. I will tie your legs up and make you scour the sand with your own tongue,” Han Sen thought angrily to himself.

“Good thinking. From today on, you will use your own tongue to search for the gemstones. But if your tongue touches a gemstone, I will cut it off,” Dream Beast's toneless voice said right beside Han Sen.

Han Sen was struck with another chill. He felt hopeless, and he thought, “Sh\*t! He can read minds?”

## 2019 Refining Mutant Blood

Han Sen was going crazy, having to dig through the sand with his tongue for the job. Han Sen could withstand a lot, but Dream Beast's ability to read his mind was particularly annoying.

Han Sen thought of many different ways in which he might be able to protect his thoughts from the mind-reading ability, but nothing seemed to work.

Han Sen gave those methods a few tries each, risking punishment. Before long, though, he noticed that the whole mind-reading thing wasn't based on hearing his precise thoughts. The creature would get an idea of what Han Sen was thinking about, then guess the rest.

That made Han Sen feel a bit better. If Dream Beast could read the details of everything in Han Sen's brain, many secrets would be revealed.

Because of all this testing, however, Han Sen was punished many times. The length of time he was supposed to work with Dream Beast was extended from three months to thirteen months.

After half a month of hard work, Han Sen was given the opportunity to meet someone.

When he saw Yun Suyi, Han Sen felt as if he had been in jail for decades. With someone coming to visit him, he almost cried.

"Han Sen? What happened to you?" Yun Suyi looked at Han Sen in confusion.

"I am fine. Sand has gotten into my eyes, that's all." Han Sen acted like a man, trying to play things cool.

At times, Han Sen would go to ridiculous lengths to save face.

"Right, well, why have you come to see me?" Han Sen asked Yun Suyi after he gained control of himself.

Yun Suyi unstrapped a box she had attached to her waist. She opened it and passed it to Han Sen. "I used the knifeskills you taught me to win this King class weapon called Blood Feather Knife. I got it for beating Angia. Half of it is yours, so I have brought it here for you to take a look at."

You won the knife. It's yours. Besides, I have Ghost Teeth Knife. I don't require any more," Han Sen said, but he still took a look at the blade, anyway.

You are right. You own half of the knife, but I use it," Yun Suyi said with a chuckle.

"This is quite good." Han Sen stroked the body of Blood Feather Knife, and then went on to say, "It is a good knife. It doesn't seem as strong as my Ghost Teeth Knife, but the abilities aren't compatible with my Teeth Knife stuff anyway. It seems to be very good for something like Under the Sky."

Han Sen stroked the blade, and then something burned the tips of his fingers. He jumped, then looked at the blade more closely.

His fingers had been burned by the bloodmark on the blade. The blood-red stain was fairly obvious against the white of the blade.

Yun Suyi explained, "Blood Feather Knife was made from a deified feather of a Feather Alpha. Before it was complete, however, a deified xenogeneic came to take it. The xenogeneic was injured, and the Blood Feather Knife was stained with its blood. The blood couldn't be rinsed off the blade, and because of this, the knife was unable to be deified. It had to settle for being King class."

"The Feather Alpha couldn't wipe the blood off?" Han Sen reached out his finger and touched the blood markings.

“If it could be wiped off, it wouldn’t be there. And I doubt the knife would ever have been offered as a gift,” Yun Suyi said.

Han Sen nodded. His finger touched the blood mark, and there was that burning feeling again. The crystallized blood in his body started to melt in response to the heat.

Han Sen pressed his finger to the mark more firmly and cast the Blood-Pulse Sutra. He felt a trace of blood-tinged air follow his finger and enter his body.

The blood in Han Sen’s finger touched the bloody air. It was like fire meeting gasoline. It was going to burn with a flash.

Han Sen was shocked and happy. All it took was a tiny bit of blood air to make his blood boil. If Han Sen could absorb all the blood on the blade, his Blood-Pulse Sutra might be able to reach Earl status.

“What is it?” Yun Suyi saw Han Sen freeze on the spot, and she got a little worried. “Han Sen? What’s going on?”

Han Sen hesitated, unsure of what he would need to tell her.

Women were very caring. Seeing Han Sen’s face, Yun Suyi gently said, “If you need anything, you can tell me. I will help you, if I am able to.”

Han Sen hesitated, and he said, “Suyi, can I play with this knife for a bit?”

“I thought it was something big. You own this knife, too, so just take it,” Yun Suyi told him firmly.

Han Sen was so happy. He took out his Ghost Teeth Knife and passed it over to Yun Suyi. “I am taking your Blood Feather Knife for a bit, so in the meantime, use this Ghost Teeth Knife.”

Yun Suyi blushed. She seemed to fall into deep thought, but she still accepted the knife. She held it uncomfortably and said, “Okay. I will use this for now.”

Han Sen hadn’t had anyone to talk to on the island, and he wanted to continue speaking with Yun Suyi, but Dream Beast reminded him of his need to collect ten gemstones. If he didn’t, he’d suffer nightmares forever.

Han Sen had to send Yun Suyi away so that he could return to the water and collect gemstones with his tongue.

Han Sen didn’t learn much, but he did craft a skill called Sword Tongue. It wasn’t powerful, and it was actually really gentle. If it wasn’t, he wouldn’t have been able to use his tongue to dig through the sand.

Finding ten gemstones was hard that day, and after he handed them over, he was tired. Still, he did not let himself rest.

Han Sen took out the Blood Feather Knife from the box he was given. Then, he placed it on his knees. He touched the mark and cast the Blood-Pulse Sutra. He felt a blood air rise from the blade.

But it was very slow. Han Sen cast it for a while, and he only took the blood air that was on the surface.

Han Sen thought for a bit, then dripped a drop of his crystal blood onto the mark on the blade. The crystal blood melted into the mark and merged with it. You couldn't see the blood anymore.

Han Sen cast the Blood-Pulse Sutra. He felt the blood air burst out of the mark. It went into his body, and when it did, his crystal blood boiled.

Han Sen felt as if his body was going to be evaporated like steam. It took seven hours for a portion of the blood air to be refined.

"This is scary, for just a little blood air to be so strong. Perhaps a few of these will take my Blood-Pulse Sutra up to Earl status." Han Sen was delighted.

After that, before Han Sen went back to work, he used a drop of his crystal blood on the bloodmark again. After he worked, he'd come and collect that blood. The blood had the energy of the xenogeneic, and Han Sen could refine it for hours.

## 2020 Dream

Habits could be very scary things. Han Sen had been on Dream Island for three months now, and he had grown used to having two Sky Heart Locks on his body.

Aside from moving slower, he was living like a normal person.

His efficiency in digging up the gemstones was higher now, too. He could find ten of them in two or three hours.

What made Han Sen the happiest, however, was that his Blood-Pulse Sutra reached Earl status. The Blood Feather Knife's mark was much lighter, too.

Han Sen planned to keep on absorbing the blood that plagued it. The blood was damaging the Blood Feather Knife, so if Han Sen could absorb all of it, perhaps there was a chance to make the blade deified again. He was positive that Yun Suyi wouldn't mind that.

Dream Beast did not enjoy seeing Han Sen relaxing, so he had started to demand more gemstones. He made sure that Han Sen worked ten hours underwater every day.

Because that was too boring, Han Sen practiced his tongue skills. It wasn't an amazing power, but his tongue could generate a sword air that would kill someone with no problem.

But as of yet, Han Sen hadn't broken a single Sky Heart Lock. Perhaps he hadn't approached it correctly or there was some other problem. He wasn't sure.

Han Sen asked Thousand Feather Crane whenever he came to visit, but Sky Heart Locks were very rare. Thousand Feather Crane hadn't experienced one himself, so he didn't know too much about it.

Thousand Feather Crane did pledge to seek out information regarding it, though, so he could help Han Sen figure out what to do. There was a student of the Sky that once suffered the Sky Heart Lock, and it took him three years to remove it. And that person only had one to endure.

But Han Sen had two locks to deal with. Thousand Feather Crane couldn't be sure when he could unlock them.

As more and more time passed, Han Sen grew used to the Sky Heart Locks. They didn't affect him as much, but he still couldn't break them.

After half a year passed, Han Sen started to miss his family. He missed Ji Yanran, Ling'er, and even Littleflower who had been taken by Old Cat.

"How is Han Sen doing?" In Sky Palace, the leader asked the elegant Dream Beast.

"Not bad. The Sky Heart Lock doesn't seem to affect him as much," Dream Beast answered.

"Not bad, huh? From you, that's a mighty compliment!" The Sky Palace leader laughed.

Dream Beast smiled but did not answer. He did go on to say, "Are you sure you want Han Sen to go to the Ancient God xenogeneic space? Not Lone Bamboo?"

The leader of Sky Palace quietly said, "You know of Lone Bamboo's situation. He is already a Marquise. It would be meaningless for him to go, and it would be too dangerous for the average student. Any sent would not be coming back."

After a while, the leader went on to say, "I promised Yisha I would make Han Sen a Marquise. If Lone Bamboo does not need to go there, then he is the next best candidate."

Dream Beast nodded and said, "He is almost done. He cannot get any better in Dream Island, so I suppose I can let him go."

"It was supposed to be a one year term, and only half of that has passed. You cannot waste the rest of the year, can you?" The Sky Palace leader smiled.

"You know he received the Blood Feather Knife, yes?" Dream Beast asked.

Sky Palace leader nodded. He looked at Dream Beast, wondering why he was mentioning it.

"He is absorbing the xenogeneic blood on the knife. It is working. In perhaps a few months, the xenogeneic blood will be completely absorbed," Dream Beast said.

"Really?" The leader of Sky Palace looked very surprised.

“The Feathers tried many methods to remove the blood, but none worked. Now, Han Sen is absorbing it? If they learn this was actually possible, they will be very angry.” Dream Beast laughed as he spoke.

“If he can really absorb the xenogeneic blood, the Blood Feather Knife might possibly become a deified weapon again. But it will also need to be refined once more. We will have to set this up, so we can get another deified weapon for Sky Palace. That is all I can do.” The leader of Sky Palace laughed.

“When will that guy come back?” Dream Beast asked suddenly.

“He hasn’t come back from the barrens yet.” The leader of Sky Palace looked troubled.

In a hard voice, Dream Beast said, “There cannot be an empty elder throne for too long. If he is truly not coming back, we need to make plans. It would be bad if the elders keep fighting.”

The leader of Sky Palace thought for a moment. “There is no need to rush this. That guy wouldn’t be killed with any ease. Perhaps there was some kind of incident, but he will be back.”

“I hope so.” Dream Beast said, then walked out of the Sky Palace.

There is still half a year to go. If you have the time, teach him something so he has a higher chance of surviving in Ancient God space,” the leader of Sky Palace said to Dream Beast’s back.

“He is not a student of Sky Palace. Why would I do such a thing?” After Dream Beast said that, he disappeared.

Han Sen finished digging up gemstones for the day. He washed the gemstones and placed them on the leaves next to Dream Beast. When he was going back to absorb the xenogeneic blood on the blade, Dream Beast suddenly said, “From now on, there is no need for you to dig up gemstones.”

Han Sen was so happy to hear this, and he said, “You are letting me go?”

“Letting you go? That would be impossible.” Dream Beast smiled and looked at Han Sen. His eyes looked very dreamy. Han Sen started to say something, but his eyes froze and went out of focus.

The scene before Han Sen had changed. He was suddenly inside an abandoned city. He realized what was going on, and he yelled, “Dream, you said that if I completed my tasks, I wouldn’t be put into a dream!”

“I only promised I wouldn’t put you inside a tragedy dream.” Dream Beast’s voice resonated in the air.

“What is this dream then?” Han Sen asked with a frown.

“It is a nightmare. Enjoy,” Dream Beast said, and his voice vanished.

Han Sen wanted to ask something, but he suddenly heard a beast roar from someplace amidst the ruins around him. Many xenogeneics began to climb out of the rubble, and they ran towards Han Sen as soon as they saw him.

Han Sen was standing on a ruin that looked like a landfill. There were all sorts of xenogeneics, in different shapes, coming for him. Even the sky was filled with them.

“D\*mn it! It is just a dream. I will wake up when I die,” Han Sen thought to himself.

“If you died in this dream, your body would be fine. But your will would perish. For example, you might go into a vegetative state.” Dream Beast’s voice was cold in the air again.