

Chapter 2021

Tough Will

Inside a storage shed in a kindergarten, Lu Zimei was in a strange position. She was sweating and her skin was red.

"I can do it..." Lu Zimei was lying on the floor, gasping.

She felt like her bones were going to fall apart. Her muscles were sore. If she moved, she'd feel like she was getting stung by needles.

After she signed that unfair contract, her sad life began. She had to do whatever Bao'er told her to do.

Bao'er told her that this was a strong geno art. Bao'er watched her practice, but she felt as if it was more like torture. It was a very painful process.

"It is okay if you do not wish to learn it, and the debt you have..." Bao'er was sitting atop a plank of wood. In her fat hand, she clasped many contractual papers.

Lu Zimei saw all those papers, and then she gritted her teeth and continued the horrible geno art that Bao'er was supposedly teaching her.

After all this time, she had incurred more and more debt. The debt she had now was something she could not pay back in multiple lifetimes.

Lu Zimei hated herself for not being able to resist the temptations presented by Bao'er. She had been drawn in by beautiful clothes and cosmetics, so she had signed a number of different contracts. That was unfair.

And of course, since she could not pay it all back, she thought that she might as well sign up for greater debts.

"Let's stop here. We can continue this tomorrow." Bao'er looked at the time and then jumped off of the wood plank. She walked out of the storage shed.

"D*mn kid." Lu Zimei lay down on the ground like a rug, unable to move.

Han Sen was as sad as Lu Zimei. He kept fighting against different types of xenogeneics in the dream he was placed in. He couldn't stop, for the xenogeneics kept coming. There was nowhere to hide, either. All he could do was kill.

Because he was inside a dream, he could only get tired mentally. His body was fine, so he could keep fighting without rest. Dream Beast did not want him to rest.

The worst thing, however, was that Sky Heart Lock worked in the dream. It made him depressed.

Han Sen did not know how long he had been fighting. He had pretty grown numb to it all now.

There were many xenogeneics in the dream, and they stretched out before Han Sen in endless lines. There were the likes of the Xuan Jade Spirits, but many others that Han Sen had never seen before, too.

All those xenogeneics wielded different powers, as well. They felt so real to Han Sen. Everything was so lucid that it was difficult to determine whether it was truly a dream or not. Han Sen had to use everything he could to fight, and he had come close to death on numerous occasions.

Dream Beast watched Han Sen with a strange expression. He told Han Sen that he would become a vegetable if he died in the dream, and that wasn't a lie. He could make Han Sen die a mental death if he wanted to.

But Dream Beast did not plan on killing him. He did it so Han Sen would fight non-stop and give it his all. He wanted to see how long he'd last.

But Han Sen's performance was beyond his wildest expectations. Han Sen only had to survive for a month, and he had already surpassed that requirement.

Han Sen had been in the dream, killing, for four months. He had yet to perish.

It was not strange that Han Sen could kill the xenogeneics because the creatures in the dream were set to Han Sen's level. Even the higher tier ones had the same power as Han Sen.

He did this to train Han Sen, so Han Sen could learn more about xenogeneics. Through all of this, he would gain knowledge.

But amidst all that constant, intense fighting, Han Sen did not slip up once. His willpower was still perfectly focused. It was hard to imagine an Earl could have such a hardy will.

"This guy must have experienced something before. How can his will compare to Lone Bamboo's? Is he the same as Lone Bamboo, in that he has a will that cannot break?" Dream Beast seemed befuddled.

Han Sen's willpower was getting weaker, however. Despite that, he wasn't going to get killed. Dream Beast knew how scary all of that must have been. He'd rather have his soul killed than give up. Not all beings had that kind of drive.

For Dream Beast, Han Sen's will was shining like jewelry.

Dream Beast sighed. His eyes took on a dreamy look, and then he removed the dream from Han Sen.

He didn't want to get Han Sen killed. If things kept going, Han Sen's soul might have been exhausted. Then, he really would have died—and not just in the dream. Crash!

Han Sen's body fell to the ground. His brain was buzzing, and it felt like it was ready to explode. That was the condition of one who was mentally exhausted.

Dream Beast called for someone to return Han Sen to his island. He took the next few days to rest, and he slowly got better.

When Han Sen recovered, his will was much clearer. His powers of sense were sharper. But the thing that made Han Sen the happiest was that he was now free.

He knew that Dream Beast was only training him, but he still vastly preferred the feeling of freedom.

While he was still sleeping, he let Bubble mimic him on the bed. Then, he slipped back to the Alliance. He held Ling'er and kissed her. Then, he held Ji Yanran. Han Sen thought it was the best thing ever.

No one bothered Han Sen, and he spent the next month relaxing. He almost forgot he still had the two Sky Heart Locks on him.

The happy days flew by, and two months after returning to Dream Island, Thousand Feather Crane came to visit him. He had news to deliver.

"The Ancient God xenogeneics space? What is that place?" Han Sen asked Thousand Feather Crane, stricken with confusion. He did not know why the leader of Sky Palace wanted to send him there.

Thousand Feather Crane looked worried, and he said, "Ancient God xenogenic space is a xenogenic space next to a Baron system. We don't own it, but every time it opens, there is a spot available for us. I did not expect the leader to select you."

"Is there a benefit to going?" Han Sen asked.

"Of course. While it is very big, it is also dangerous, I must note. Even the top Earls or Marquises might not make it out alive from such places," Thousand Feather Crane said.

"What are these benefits?" Han Sen filtered out the dangerous part. He was afraid of danger, but if the leader wanted him to go there, there was no use worrying about it.

"The xenogeneics in Ancient God space are dangerous, but I do not know the specifics. I haven't been there before, but my master said it isn't just the xenogeneics you should be wary of. There are also those of the other races who will enter when you do." Thousand Feather Crane explained what he knew.

2022 Ancient God Space

Han Sen was in a bad mood. He had been in Ancient God for half a day, and he had already walked thirty miles. He was sweating.

Under the protection of Yun Changkong, the tenth elder, Han Sen arrived in the Ancient God space. When he arrived, though, he realized that some power had entangled him. The power he felt was reminiscent of Sky Heart Lock. It was a little different, but the effects were similar. It hindered Han Sen's movement.

Now Han Sen knew why the leader made him suffer the Sky Heart Locks. It was because he wanted him to experience what it was like to be hampered. The Sky Palace leader had planned to send Han Sen here a long time ago, that was clear.

It was only a shame that the Sky Heart Locks had not been broken yet. If they had been, the Ancient God space's restrictions wouldn't have been so arduous.

The Ancient God space was not as dangerous as he thought it would be, however. Aside from rocks everywhere, Han Sen walked all day without encountering a single xenogeneic.

Yun Changkong told Han Sen that his job there would be to hunt xenogeneics. The xenogeneics there were special, and their genes were fairly unique. The more he managed to retrieve, the better.

But as of yet, he hadn't been able to find a single one. Without any to find, there weren't any to kill.

Suddenly, Han Sen saw something move over a little rocky mountain. It was a being of some type, but upon closer inspection, the sight made Han Sen frown.

"Han Sen!" The person saw Han Sen and screamed aloud. Then they approached Han Sen.

"Why do I see you everywhere?" Han Sen said to Hai'er the Pirate. He really hadn't wanted to see her again.

Hai'er was an Earl now. Her presence was much stronger than when he bumped into her with the Buddha.

"I should be the one asking you this. I thought Burning Lamp Alpha turned you into an ant. How did you recover?"

Hai'er looked at Han Sen curiously.

"It was just a small trick. He didn't really do anything." Han Sen smiled. He was not in the mood to explain things to her.

Hai'er smiled and said, "Well, since our fates repeatedly intertwine, why don't we cooperate once more? Together we can slay the Ancient God xenogeneics."

"No. I prefer being alone. I am meant to be alone. Whoever follows me is subject to awful luck." Han Sen did not want her and her trouble to join him.

Hai'er grinned and said, "But this is fate! A clairvoyant told me. I connect well with loners, so that means we are meant to be together. We are partners, you know?"

"It's okay if you want to follow, but I won't be sharing a single xenogeneic with you." Han Sen shrugged his shoulders.

“Ah, so you weren’t told. The Buddha sent someone to this place, too. What do you think might happen if he caught sight of you?” Hai’er was not angry, and she kept talking as she followed behind Han Sen.

“I’m not afraid of Burning Lamp Alpha, so why would I be afraid of a student? Even if I was scared, is cooperating with you supposed to make me less scared?” Han Sen said.

The Buddha sent a Marquis Buddha. He is not as strong as Seven Spirit, but he is an important person to them. However, that isn’t the thing you need to know. The most important thing is that the Buddha are cooperating with Demon. The Demons are enemies of Sky Palace, and they sent a person named Sharon. Do you have any idea how dangerous your situation is?” Hai’er said.

“Who is Sharon?” Han Sen kept on walking lackadaisically, as if he didn’t care at all.

You don’t know who Sharon is?” Hai’er asked Han Sen with shock.

Do I have to know who he is?” Han Sen lifted his lips.

Hai’er finally believed that Han Sen really didn’t know. “You are Knife Queen’s student, and you do is? Have you heard of Lone Bamboo in Sky Palace?”

“Yeah,” Han Sen said casually.

“Good. Sharon’s reputation with the Demon is similar to Lone Bamboo’s in Sky Palace. They are frequently mentioned together. He has already become a Marquis, so you are bound to know what will happen if you see him,” Hai’er said.

“People talk about me in the same capacity as Lone Bamboo, too. That means I don’t have to be afraid of that Sharon.” Han Sen laughed.

“What are you talking about? I know you. Seven Spirit almost killed you. Sharon is much better than Seven Spirit.” Hai’er looked at him with disdain.

Han Sen laughed and explained no more. Due to Sky Palace being quite private, news from the inside didn’t often spread outside. Not many outsiders knew about him and Lone Bamboo.

“Even if I was afraid of Sharon, what use would bringing you along prove? Don’t tell me you have battled him before,” Han Sen said casually.

“I cannot beat him, but I know that there is a secret place in the Ancient God space. I can take you there, where we can fight xenogeneics and avoid encountering Sharon. Do you want to co-op or not? We split the xenogeneics fifty-fifty. I can help kill them, too,” Hai’er said.

“That doesn’t sound too shabby. What kind of place is it, anyway?” Han Sen had walked for so long, and despite that, he hadn’t seen a single xenogeneic. He thought he wasn’t going to fare too well.

“That place is mysterious. When the Pirates of yore came here, they stumbled upon it by pure happenstance. No one else should be able to find it without me guiding them there.” Hai’er looked all cocky.

“If it is as good as you are leading me to believe, then I guess I can cooperate with you,” Han Sen said.

“Of course! We will go right now.” Hai’er said, and then kept on walking. After they met in Holy Heaven, she understood Han Sen a bit more. She knew Han Sen was the trustable sort, and as long as he would gain some sort of benefit, he wouldn’t betray and kill her.

Plus, Hai’er had a secret defense system. She wasn’t afraid of Han Sen betraying her.

Han Sen then followed Hai’er. There were many rocks around, but that was all. There was no place for the creatures to hide, so the chance of finding creatures there was virtually nil.

Han Sen’s body was restricted by the Ancient God space’s powers. Together, the pair walked dozens of miles. They ended up sweating so much, it looked as if they had just emerged from spring water.

“Here, this is it.” Hai’er looked at her map and came to a stop near a crevice.

Han Sen examined the crevice and noted how crooked it was. Only one person could go in at a time, slipping through sideways. There were many crevices such as this in the Ancient God space, too.

Hai’er went in first, and Han Sen followed her from behind. They both moved along the crevice for a few miles, until eventually, the space they occupied began to widen.

Inside the mountains, there was a giant cave. Han Sen saw a statue made of stone just sitting there, but it was at least one hundred meters tall. In front of the statue, Han Sen and Hai’er were as small as two ants.

2023 Ghost Face Spider

Han Sen could not tell which race this statue depicted. Its head was a sheep’s, and its body was human-like. It also had wings. It looked like some prehistoric sheep god.

Fortunately, there weren’t any of such sheep around. Otherwise, he was going to call them grandfather.

“Why does this place have a statue? Do xenogeneics build statues?” Han Sen asked with confusion.

Thousand Feather Crane had told Han Sen some things about the Ancient God space, but the young Sky hadn’t actually been here. He couldn’t have known what the xenogeneics were truly like.

Hai’er said, “It is not a statue. It is a home for Ancient God xenogeneics.”

“A home?” Han Sen was surprised, and so he looked at the statue again.

Yes. Otherwise, why would they be called an Ancient God xenogeneic? It is because these xenogeneics live in ancient statues. You came here and didn't know anything about this? Knife Queen didn't inform you?" Hai'er asked, looking confused.

Han Sen dropped his shoulders. He didn't know why the leader of Sky Palace would do this, either. Sending him here without giving him an ounce of information was weird. He couldn't discern what the man wanted.

Hai'er wanted to say something more, but a ding-dong noise sounded through the giant cave. She quickly shut up and went to hide in a crevice.

Han Sen looked towards the sound. The echo was reverberating around the room, but Han Sen's power could still tell him where it was coming from. It was coming from the nostrils of the statue.

Not long after, a three-meter-wide spider slid out of the nostril.

The spider was black with a few red patterns flaring across it. Its body looked metallic, and the pattern on its back looked like a humanoid face.

"This is Ancient God's Ghost Face Spider. It is an Earl xenogeneic. Do not strike yet, as they always work in groups. There must be far more of them inside the statue. A Marquise one might even reside within. We should discuss our plan of action before we end up getting ourselves surrounded," Hai'er said.

Han Sen looked at the Ghost Face Spider with a thoughtful expression. He had fought these spiders in the dream he was put under. In fact, he had fought quite a lot of them. He knew a lot about the spider and the power it possessed.

"The dream had to be training for this. Why didn't he just tell me? Why did he try to scare me like that?" Han Sen wondered.

But Han Sen knew that if the Sky Palace leader had given him files on all the xenogeneics, he'd only have given it a brief look. He wouldn't have researched the foes properly.

The dream, however, made Han Sen remember the creatures clearly. He knew everything about them, to a degree that would never lessen. The effectiveness of the two teaching methods was not even remotely comparable.

Han Sen summoned Spell as a gun in his hands. Then, he climbed into a gap and raised the gun. He took aim at the Ghost Spider emerging from the nostril.

"What are you doing? You are not going to shoot the Ghost Face Spider from that distance, are you? The Ghost Face Spider is very strong for an Earl!" Hai'er gasped.

Hai'er knew that Han Sen would have no problem killing a Ghost Face Spider, but the range between them and the creature was over three kilometers. The Earl power would be weakened over a long distance, and the rest of the power wouldn't be enough to kill a Ghost Face Spider.

Pang!

A gunshot rang out, and a bullet tore through the distance. It hit the spider's back. The part of the face pattern that comprised its left eye was its weakspot. Han Sen had killed too many of them in the dream he suffered, so he knew them all too well.

Blood began to ooze from the gunshot wound in the creature's back. Then, it flipped and fell. It met the ground with a loud noise.

"Xenogeneic Earl killed. Ghost Face Spider: xenogeneic gene found."

The announcement sounded in Han Sen's head.

Hai'er was in shock. Han Sen's power was far stronger than the average Earl to one-hit-kill the spider over such a long distance.

After that shot, though, many more spiders began to emerge from the statue's nostrils and ears. There was a great host of them.

But their vision and senses were rather limited, so they couldn't figure out where Han Sen was.

Pang!

Another gunshot rang out, and a bullet broke through another spider's back. He still took aim at the left eye's location.

A hail of gunfire followed, as each spider was shot off of the statue. The spiders weren't very intelligent, and they only seemed to rely on basic instinct. They couldn't find Han Sen, at all.

Han Sen killed the spiders one at a time, taking down dozens in the space of a few seconds. Hai'er looked at Han Sen with shock, as her mind drifted out to space.

Hai'er felt a chill in her heart. That gun-looking geno armament of his had amazing range. She'd never know if Han Sen decided to use it to assassinate her. She was confident she could evade the attack if she was prepared. But she couldn't be on alert every hour of the day and night. Han Sen's power really was that scary.

And he was only an Earl. If he became a King or a deified being, he could probably kill a person by firing through the crust or core of a planet. The enemy would never even know how they died.

Ghost Face Spiders kept climbing all around, and they kept firing out spider webs. They had no idea where Han Sen was, and they blindly fired their silk everywhere. It was obviously not effective on Han Sen. And the spiders continued to get picked off, as if they were mere target practice for him.

After killing a hundred of the Earl Ghost Face Spiders, Han Sen finally heard the announcement to inform him that he had acquired a beast soul.

Han Sen killed a few more, and then a weird scream sounded. It came from the mouth of the statue. A spider that was twice as big emerged.

“That is the Marquise Ghost Face Spider!” Hai’er screamed.

Han Sen did not say a word. He stopped firing. He waited until the giant Ghost Face Spider revealed its back to them. And when it did, he pulled the trigger. Pang!

A bullet struck the Ghost Face Spider’s back, and it broke the pattern’s left eye. The Marquise class Ghost Face Spider fell down.

Hai’er looked at Han Sen in disbelief. He had one-hit killed a Marquise class Ghost Face Spider. She did not know what Han Sen’s strength was anymore.

“It hasn’t been that long, so how has he gotten this strong?” Hai’er thought back to meeting Han Sen in the heaven. He was a different person, and he was so much stronger now.

Hai’er thought she had leveled up quickly, but it was clear to her that Han Sen had been much faster.

2024 The Beginning of Ancient God

In total, 187 Earl and two Marquise Ghost Face Spiders had been one-hit killed by Han Sen. None had been left alive, and none required a double tap to finish off.

Han Sen’s power was scary. Having practiced inside that dream was one of the reasons for this. If he hadn’t endured that, he wouldn’t have known the precise weaknesses of the Ghost Face Spiders, and he wouldn’t have been able to kill the Marquise spiders in one hit.

But despite killing so many spiders, he had only earned a single beast soul for himself. It was a disappointment for Han Sen, overall.

Han Sen made sure there were no more spiders waiting to emerge from the statue, and then the pair crawled out of the crevice and started cutting up the bodies.

The Ancient God space’s xenogeneics were different from the ones found elsewhere. The xenogenic genes of the Ghost Face Spiders were little balls. They looked like pearls.

After Han Sen pulled one of the little orbs out, Hai’er looked hesitant. She hadn’t actually done anything, so she didn’t think she should take any of the spoils. She most certainly didn’t think she should be going fifty-fifty.

But Han Sen went ahead and split the orbs in half. He placed half of them in his pockets and then climbed up the statue.

Hai'er didn't hesitate to collect the rest of the orbs.

Without Hai'er leading, Han Sen wouldn't have been able to find this cavern. There were too many crevices and gulches to traverse, and despite walking for a very long time, stumbling on this statue would have been very unlikely.

So, Han Sen thought that the split of spoils was fair enough. Information was worth a lot. But there were many benefits yet to see, so their trip wasn't over yet. Inside the Ancient God xenogeneic cave, many goodies were waiting for them.

Hai'er put away the orbs she had gathered and followed after Han Sen. She climbed up to the statue's shoulder.

"Where should we go?" Han Sen asked, while observing the statue's head.

With his knowledge of Ghost Face Spiders, he knew that their creation was a strange process. If their origin wasn't destroyed, Ghost Face Spiders would spawn continually.

"Normally, the statue's mouth is the closest to a Beginning of Ancient God. But the items are always contained within the statue," Hai'er explained.

"What is a Beginning of Ancient God?" Han Sen asked.

"You don't know?" Hai'er was surprised, but she knew Han Sen had no reason to lie to her. So, she went ahead to explain. "A Beginning of Ancient God is what the xenogeneics are born from. Those are the most valuable things in the Ancient God space. If you are able to get a Beginning of Ancient God, you can keep spawning Ancient God xenogeneics forever. Those things are important to big factions. Surely you must know this."

Han Sen nodded, and then he climbed into the mouth of the statue.

Hai'er entered with him, and it was very large inside. There was a path that was only a few meters wide. It was very low, though, so they had to bend to traverse it.

"If you don't know anything about this place, why did you decide to come?" Hai'er asked curiously as she walked.

Han Sen did not answer. He hadn't known what a Beginning of Ancient God was. He had seen it in a dream, but he had never been told its name.

Rather than telling him, Dream Beast had used the dream to inform him of the things he needed to know. It was easier than Han Sen thought it would be, though. Perhaps they had killed all of the Ghost Face Spiders, because they didn't encounter any more along the way.

They walked for two or three hours inside the statue, on a road that took them down many different routes. Eventually, they found a Beginning of Ancient God.

It was a tablet about the size of a hand. It was grey, but it possessed a number of red lights. It also bore the pattern that adorned the Ghost Face Spiders.

Hai'er took it out from where it was embedded in a stone slot. And when she did, the pattern on the tablet went dim.

Its red glow disappeared.

"There is only one of them. If you would like, you can have it first." Hai'er gave the Beginning of Ancient God—the one that pertained to the Ghost Face Spiders—to Han Sen.

"I will take the next one." Han Sen did not accept the Beginning of Ancient God. In his dream, he recalled that the Ghost Face Spiders were one of the weaker varieties. There were other xenogeneics with a Beginning of Ancient God that were far stronger than the Ghost Face Spiders.

After that, Han Sen turned around and started walking towards the exit.

Their bodies were bound by the xenogenic space, so they could not walk very fast. And neither could they fly out. When they emerged, they climbed down the statue and entered a cave nearby.

You have given me this Beginning of Ancient God. Aren't you afraid that there might be no more to find later on?" Hai'er said as she fiddled with the Beginning of Ancient God, smiling Han Sen from behind.

"It's okay. Accept it as a reward for the information you have provided me with," Han Sen said casually.

"I have really come to like you a bit more. If the Rebate don't want you anymore, you can gladly come and live with us Pirates. If you follow me, I can treat you with everything you could ever desire," Hai'er said.

"We can talk about that when the time comes," Han Sen said lackadaisically. He wasn't too interested.

He had heard of the Pirates before. They were a bunch of thieves, but the things they stole were massive. They weren't the sort to steal from ordinary creatures. They had stolen from many high races and earned many enemies across the geno universe.

Due to the Pirates being so powerful, amongst other reasons, no one could do anything to stop them, either.

Han Sen didn't want to be a thief. Even if Hai'er invited him sincerely, he wouldn't accept the offer. And on top of that, Hai'er always seemed to have an evil streak. Who knew what her true plans might have been?

There was only one way to go after that statue, and after eight miles of following it, they had yet to find a single other branch leading elsewhere.

But they eventually heard the sound of water. It was similar to the noise of a big waterfall.

They looked at each other and slowed down. They walked another three miles, and that was when the path widened again. There was indeed a waterfall. It looked like a galaxy in the deepest recess of the cave. The water sounds were very loud.

Behind that waterfall was a silver statue. The waterfall came out from the statue's belly button.

The statue's lower body was like that of a horse. The upper body was that of a human. It had the head of a bird, and it also possessed wings. It looked so strange.

"Did your elder tell you what xenogeneics this statue might harbor?" Han Sen asked Hai'er.

Hai'er shook her head. "I don't know. When he came here, he was heavily injured. He didn't touch the statue from earlier, so he could not have come this far. I am just like you right now: clueless."

As they were talking, a silver monster emerged from the water beneath the statue. It climbed up the waterfall and entered the belly button of the silver statue.

2025 Silver Winged Beetle

The xenogeneic looked like it had been made entirely from silver. It sort of looked like a trilobite. It was, however, one meter long.

When Han Sen saw the trilobite-looking silver xenogeneic, he frowned. In his dream, he had not encountered this xenogeneic.

"Is it an Ancient God xenogeneic that Dream Beast was unaware of?" Han Sen remained in thought, not yet ready to take action.

He killed the Ghost Face Spiders so confidently because he knew what they were. But facing something unknown was dodgy, and he wasn't sure he wanted to take the risk.

"Do you know of this xenogeneic?" Han Sen looked at Hai'er.

Hai'er just shook her head. "You should fire a shot into the water. Perhaps there are other silver xenogeneics lurking within."

Han Sen frowned. Without knowing what he was getting into, he didn't want to fire a bullet. Ghost Face Spiders weren't intelligent, so they were unable to discern where the bullets were fired from. It did not mean that the other xenogeneics were the same, however. Attacking randomly, without caution, could put them in danger.

They were bound by the powers that governed Ancient God space. While that did not affect their strength, their speed was definitely lowered. Their reactions to danger would be much slower. They couldn't take unnecessary risks.

After letting silence settle in for a bit, Han Sen moved his fingers. A red gas drifted out of his fingertips. A reaper appeared, clutching a red crystal scythe. It took off flying around the cave before heading for the pool of water near the waterfall.

Hai'er looked at the red reaper with curiosity. She was used to Han Sen possessing all manners of tricks, but she was still interested in finding out what the reaper was capable of.

When the reaper reached the water, the water exploded. A trilobite-looking xenogeneic suddenly emerged, leaping up to consume the red reaper.

The red reaper's reaction was fast, however, and it struck the creature's silver shell. The reaper was a powerful little thing, but all it did was leave a minor mark across the shell. It certainly couldn't break through it.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

More silver xenogeneics leapt out of the water. They were like cannonballs, shooting up towards the red reaper.

The red reaper's scythe could not bear the brunt of such force, and one of the silver xenogeneics was able to strike its body. Fortunately, the red reaper was made of smoke. After the silver xenogeneic broke its misty form, it was able to quickly recompose itself.

But the silver xenogeneics weren't going to give up, and they repeatedly tried to attack the red reaper.

When a xenogeneic's jaws closed on the red reaper's scythe, the weapon was bitten off. Then, more and more silver xenogeneics leapt up to bite the red scythe itself. Not long after, it had all been chomped and broken to pieces.

The red crystal scythe was the strongest weapon that the red reaper had at its disposal. It was also its greatest weakness. Once it was broken, the red reaper would disappear.

After the red reaper was destroyed, the silver xenogeneics started swimming around in the water like a legion of crocodiles on the prowl for human flesh.

"They have some very strong bodies. And not to mention their physical power... These things must rank amongst the best of Earls out there. There are dozens of them, too. This will be tough to deal with," Han Sen said quietly.

If he only had to deal with the silver xenogeneics he had seen so far, he wouldn't be afraid. But if the Earl ones were that powerful, then the power of a potential Marquise one would be unimaginable.

Han Sen rested for a bit, then recomposed the red reaper. He sent it out to the water again.

The silver xenogeneics weren't deep in the water yet, so the red reaper swooped down on one. And then, the silver xenogeneic sunk.

The other silver xenogeneics started coming after the red reaper again. Han Sen turned his sniper rifle into a rocket launcher, then he mounted it on his shoulder and fired it at the red reaper.

A group comprised of a dozen silver xenogeneics latched onto the red reaper's scythe, breaking it immediately, just as the rocket came.

Boom!

A white mushroom light exploded from the midst of the silver xenogeneic crowd. The strength blew each and every one of the xenogeneics away.

But those silver xenogeneics' bodies glowed with a strange aura. They remained inside the fire, and the rocket's explosive power was unable to destroy their bodies.

"That is a powerful protection they possess. Not even Spell can break through it." Han Sen complimented them. "Why are you still standing there? Run!" Hai'er said, before starting to run.

The silver xenogeneics were traveling towards them really quickly, scrambling over the stones. Their speed was frightening.

Han Sen did not move, though. He stood firm with his rocket launcher, then fired another rocket at the silver xenogeneics.

This time, however, he had glazed the effects of Turtle atop the rocket.

Boom!

A rocket exploded in the middle of the waves of silver xenogeneics. They had an aura around them, shielding them from the explosion. It also protected them from Turtle, preventing the symbol from sticking on them. It had been blocked.

Buzz!

Before Han Sen could attack again, a silver xenogeneic flew out from that belly button. It looked like the first one they had seen in the water. This one had transparent silver wings, though. It was able to fly very fast.

There were four or five of them flying out towards Han Sen, in total. They soon reached the frontlines, soaring towards him.

Han Sen did not fall back. He pulled out the Blood Feather Knife and used his knife and sword power on the blade. Then, he slashed towards the silver winged xenogeneic nearest him.

The knife and sword power hit the silver winged xenogeneic and activated its armor, but that scary knife and sword power was sufficient to break the auras and hew the body of the silver winged xenogeneic in half.

"Mutant Xenogeneic Earl hunted. Silver Winged Beetle: xenogeneic gene found. Obtained mutant Silver Winged Beetle beast soul."

Han Sen was happy, but he didn't have time to stop and look at his new beast soul. He was running towards the nearest silver beetle that was coming his way.

He killed one of the silver beetles that could not fly. Those silver beetles weren't mutant. They were just ordinary Earl silver beetles.

While Han Sen was having fun killing the beetles, something screamed near the silver statue. There was a silver, glasslike monster coming out. Its body was over ten meters long. Its head possessed a silver beard, and there were four transparent wings on its back. It was already before Han Sen.

A silver light came out of its mouth, moving much faster than knife lights and sword airs.

2026 Strange Scary Bug

Han Sen's body was hampered by both the Sky Heart Locks and the Ancient God space itself. His speed was very slow, but fortunately, his rabbit shoes weren't affected. He could still move with the speed of a Duke.

The moment he dodged the silver light, a gold ant pattern appeared on Han Sen's body. It increased his power. He slashed towards the silver, glass-like bug.

Dong!

The knife and sword powers came against the silver glass bug. A transparent silver light appeared. Han Sen's attack did not break the light at all.

Han Sen was shocked. His body was like an ordinary Marquise, and he had the Ant King mark's buff. It shouldn't have been difficult for him to bring down a Marquise. But his full-strength strike was unable to break the silver glass bug's armor. It was a scary thing to comprehend.

Han Sen used the rabbit shoes and their speed to fight with the silver glass bug. He kept striking its shielding aura, but nothing seemed to work. The aura was far too tough, and not even his knife and sword powers could break through it.

Han Sen was at a very bad disadvantage.

Han Sen's speed was aided by the rabbit shoes, but Sky Heart Lock and Ancient God's hampering were still in play. Under the pressure of this tough of a fight, he was starting to feel tired. His body was sore, and he felt awful.

"This cannot continue." Han Sen wanted to leave, and as he made the decision, he noticed Hai'er was already long gone.

The silver glass bug was not slow at all. It kept chasing after Han Sen, spitting out silver light.

Han Sen clenched his jaw and ran towards the waterfall cave. That was the only way to go back, and there was no place he could hide. He would rather take his chances in a wider space.

The silver glass bug was flying. And so Han Sen flew like a phoenix to swoop around and strike its back while airborne. But the knife and sword power still couldn't break the silver armor.

This was the first time Han Sen had encountered a xenogeneic with extremely high defense. Han Sen believed it had to be a mutant Marquise xenogeneic that was simply aligned with defensive attributes.

Han Sen continued to fight, retreating all the while. He ran into the belly button of the silver statue. If he was going to run off, he was not going to run off empty-handed. He wanted to find the statue's Beginning of Ancient God. He could not kill the bug, but he still thought that the Beginning of Ancient God might be up for grabs.

Luckily, the statue had many different paths to take. So, Han Sen used the unique geography to kite the silver glass bug around. It made things better, but it also cost Han Sen a lot of power. He was getting slower and slower as time went by.

Since there were no other people around, Han Sen summoned his Dongxuan Armor. The Dongxuan Armor started absorbing the energy in the atmosphere to keep Han Sen fueled up. That way, he could keep on fighting and not wind up failing due to exhaustion.

It looked like the xenogeneic silver beetles he had encountered earlier were all there were. After he killed the ones on the outside, there were no more to be discovered on the inside of the cave.

Han Sen kept heading down the same tunnel, and two hours later, he found the Beginning of Ancient God embedded in a wall. It was a silver metal slab with an irregular, haphazard shape. There was a trilobite symbol on it, though, flashing with a silver light.

Han Sen was pleased to have found it, and he ran over to it and pried it free.

The silver glass bug was furious, and its desire to kill Han Sen was even greater now.

A bug and a human were fighting inside that cave. Han Sen could not break its armor, and he was hit by the silver light a few times. The Dongxuan Armor was also slashed open in a place or two.

Han Sen planned to wait until the silver glass bug had exhausted all its power. Perhaps by then, its aura would weaken too. But after fighting for ten hours, Han Sen felt ready to fall apart. The aura of the silver glass bug, however, was still the same.

It was too late for Han Sen's body to dodge the next strike. The silver glass bug's silver light pierced through him.

Han Sen's body exploded like a water balloon. It was just a clone he had generated with Moon, though.

And while the bug was distracted with the Moon, Han Sen took off running down a smaller passage. He used the Dongxuan Sutra to hide his presence, and then he stopped moving.

The silver glass bug was flying angrily around the cave, making horrible screeching sounds.

After a while, the silver glass bug flew away from the cave. When it did, Han Sen emerged and started making his way back out from the way he had come.

The silver glass bug was too strong; especially its silver armor. Unless he used Super Spank, he didn't think he could break it.

Super Spank's power might have broken the armor, but it also might destroy the body completely. That would rob him of potential gains. If he wouldn't receive any benefits, Han Sen wasn't going to bother.

Han Sen came out of the crevice, and he found Hai'er standing just outside. Han Sen switched to his Spell armor.

"You run fast." Han Sen looked at Hai'er and smiled.

Hai'er smiled and said, "I am just a Pirate. I am not good at anything else. I run fast to secure survival. I had faith in you, though. I knew you would come back alive."

Han Sen sat on the floor. He was really tired. The weight of the Sky Heart Locks and Ancient God space's force had hindered him quite a bit, and he was ten times more tired than he should have been. He had almost exhausted his entire reserve of energy, just to make it out.

"Where do we go next?" Hai'er asked Han Sen, sitting opposite him.

"I think our co-operation ends here. After this, we will go our separate ways and have no further engagement," Han Sen said.

"You are too cruel! We have defied death together."

"Hang on, you just left me to die. Don't try to butter it up," Han Sen exclaimed, stopping her.

Hai'er rolled her eyes and said, "How about I hire you to hunt xenogeneics, then?"

"I am not interested." Han Sen lay down on the floor and closed his eyes. Sweat was dripping from him and his muscles were all sore.

"Someone is here," Hai'er said suddenly.

Han Sen sat up, and he looked in the direction that Hai'er was indicating. A few people were coming, but their faces could not be seen clearly. A bald head in their midst did stand out, however.

"Buddha!" Han Sen was shocked.

"Run! I will see you again." Hai'er turned around and ran, forgetting all about her pleas for co-operation.

"She really is good at running." He felt poorly. He wanted to leave, as well, but he was far too tired. He would rather preserve his energy for a fight than run off.

2027 Trapped Fight

The group saw Han Sen and approached him. One of them was a Buddha, and one of them had purple horns. He was a Demon.

The others were comprised of different races. In total, there were six of them.

"Amitabha! Mister Han, I cannot believe we have met here once again." The Buddha, seeing Han Sen, looked murderous. "I didn't expect to see you guys here, either." Han Sen sat where he was, not moving. He wanted to rest some more.

You are Han Sen?" The man of the Demon looked at Han Sen with interest.

Han Sen looked back at the man, guessing he was the Sharon that Hai'er had told him so much about. Unlike Lone Bamboo, Sharon was a born genius. He was far better than those of the same level, and he had apparently never failed at anything.

He had learned all of his geno arts quickly, and he had also been known to improve techniques and skills. That was why he was so good.

Sharon was a rare person who possessed two geno arts. He had studied the Demon's Sky-Demon Sutra and another mysterious geno art. He had been buffed twice, so he really was quite strong.

According to Hai'er, he made a gamble with every opponent that was of the same level. He had never lost once. He was expected to become deified, one day.

"Not bad. I am Han Sen. Who are you?" Han Sen asked, looking at Sharon. He didn't care if it was Sharon or not, he just wanted to keep up the small talk so he could rest.

"I am Sharon of the Demon," Sharon answered.

The Buddha next to Han Sen then said, "Mister Han, it looks like you've just been through a big fight. Is there an Ancient God statue nearby?"

"So what if there is?" Han Sen answered.

"Did you get the Beginning of Ancient God?" The people's eyes went bright as they kept checking Han Sen out.

"If I got it, would I still be here?" Han Sen lifted his lips and gave the Buddha a disdainful look.

"I see. Then let's go for a walk," the Buddha said to Han Sen.

"Why would I lead you?" Han Sen asked icily.

"That is not up to you to decide!" shouted a member of their party. It had six legs, and its steel-like hands reached out to grab Han Sen.

Green smoke rose from its hand and formed into a big claw. It was going to sink the claw into Han Sen's body.

Han Sen did not move, though. He waited until the green claw had almost reached him, and then he pulled out Blood Feather Knife and swung it at the green claw.

The six-legged person shot the knife a dismissive glance. He was a Marquise, so he didn't take the Earl class Han Sen seriously. He was still going to press forward with his attack with the green claw.

Katcha!

The power put into the Blood Feather Knife was sufficient to lop the green claw off. And it didn't end there. The knife went forward to strike the six-legged creature directly.

The six-legged creature did not expect an Earl to be that powerful. It was too late for him to try to dodge the strike now. And then, his body was cut through at the waist. It went all the way, lopping him in two. It didn't immediately kill him, though, and he kept screaming from the ground until the Teeth powers finished him off.

Everyone was shocked. No one underestimated Han Sen now, and they all looked at him with caution.

But they didn't fall back. Instead, the rest spread out to encircle Han Sen.

"Teeth Knife is strong," Sharon complimented.

"Killing a yahoo like that is nothing," Han Sen said expressionlessly.

"Mister Sharon, there is no use in talking with him. Let's take him down," the Buddha said.

Sharon did not move, however. He smiled and said, "I have heard Han Sen killed Seven Spirit while in your heaven. Infinite Buddha, you should not get involved."

"He is such a horrible person. We should kill him without a second thought," Infinite Buddha said.

"It is still wrong to pawn off your work on others. Perhaps you should end this yourself. What do you guys think?" Han Sen looked at the other creatures.

"Yeah!" A few of them nodded.

Infinite Buddha's face changed, but only for a second. And then, he said the Buddha catchphrase.

"Amitabha! Then I will do it."

After that, Infinite Buddha threw a slap towards Han Sen. A bunch of stars came out of his hand, flying towards Han Sen like a renegade solar system.

Han Sen used his Blood Feather Knife still, and he used Tusk to fight the incoming stars. But when the knife air hit the stars, it was like it actually entered space and disappeared into the void. Nothing was able to hurt the stars.

Han Sen was shocked. Infinite Buddha was not as famous as Seven Spirit, but his skills were good. He shouldn't have underestimated the power of those stars that possessed space energy.

The stars landed on Han Sen, and he still hadn't moved. He used Blood Feather Knife to draw a circle. The star power was sucked into it.

And then, Han Sen flipped over his hands. The circle drawn by the knife expelled the stars, launching them back towards Infinite Buddha. That was his reversing technique.

Infinite Buddha's face changed. He shouted and summoned a lotus beneath his feet. He dodged the knife circle with stars, while throwing more stars back at Han Sen.

Han Sen sat on a rock and drew some knife circles with his knife. He used Infinite Buddha's attacks to fight back.

Infinite Buddha used a whole host of geno arts, but nothing he did seemed able to break Han Sen's knife circle. He could not even make Han Sen move from the spot.

"What a powerful Teeth Knife. No wonder it is a cherished technique of the Rebate. Fighting the Marquise Infinite Buddha as an Earl? That is scary," said one of the creatures that was preventing Han Sen from escaping. It couldn't help but compliment his finesse.

Sharon shook his head and said, Teeth Knife is not scary. It is Han Sen who is."

"Yeah. Teeth Knife is strong. Amongst the Rebate, only Knife Queen can practice Teeth Knife to the same level. Han Sen is an outsider to them, and yet he learned a Rebate exclusive skill to that proficiency. That makes him a scary guy," said a woman with dragon horns and black wings.

Infinite Buddha realized that he was unable to kill Han Sen, despite Han Sen's obvious exhaustion. He looked enraged. His body started to glow, then transform into gold.

It was not like Seven Spirit's four-faced eight-armed Buddha gold body. He was like an angry King Kong, with stars all around him.

2028 Infinite Galaxy

"This Infinite Buddha is a xenogeneic. It seems that there are many xenogeneics amongst the Buddha." Han Sen stared at Infinite Buddha, but he didn't move.

Infinite Buddha looked like an angry King Kong. He put his hands together, and then, lots of stars began to fly together and form one large cluster.

As the power built, the stars became brighter and brighter. Still, their sizes remained the same. And by the end, the stars looked like miniature suns. They looked very scary.

"The Buddha's Infinite Galaxy geno art is powerful, but it takes too long to generate. Using it to attack Han Sen, who is not being offensive, is a good idea," Sharon said, with a laugh.

The Dragon lady also laughed, and she said, "This time, Han Sen will have to move. No matter how powerful his Empty White Teeth is, there's still a limit. With Han Sen's power, he won't be able to return Infinite Galaxy's power."

"Yup. Infinite Buddha has not struck yet, and he is still generating power. Infinite Galaxy will only keep getting stronger. Han Sen definitely won't be able to return it, and trying to would only lead to his body being destroyed," said another person.

Infinite Buddha's face was dark with rage. His countenance was scary to see. The power in his hands continued getting stronger, as if there was no end to its power.

Han Sen did not strike, and the Buddha wasn't ready to unleash yet. He was going to generate enough of the Infinite Galaxy's power to secure a one-hit kill on Han Sen.

He didn't care about the ways that Han Sen could be useful to them. Killing Han Sen to maintain his pride was far more crucial to him than letting Han Sen lead them somewhere. If he missed this opportunity, he wouldn't have another.

Infinite Galaxy was getting stronger. Han Sen looked grim. He held his Blood Feather Knife and stared at the light in his opponent's hands. But still, he did not move.

"He is still not moving. He really wants to face the wrath of Infinite Buddha's Infinite Galaxy," the Dragon lady said with surprise.

"I am afraid he thinks he is able to," Sharon laughed.

Infinite Buddha's hands were too bright for him to close now. He was on the brink of losing control.

Infinite Buddha shouted and pushed his hands towards Han Sen. The light became a destructive wave that hurtled towards Han Sen.

Han Sen stared at the light, which looked like a compressed galaxy. It contained an unbelievable amount of power. Not even a top Marquise could face-off against it.

Han Sen waved his Blood Feather Knife and created another circle. It was Empty White Teeth.

You cannot return the power possessed by Infinite Galaxy!" Infinite Buddha roared. It looked like Han Sen's behavior thus far had humiliated him.

As Infinite Buddha roared, the light approached the knife circle. It looked like a solar system bearing down on an ant. It looked ready to explode. The knife circle was quivering, looking likely to break.

“Let me give you some advice. Never use something you cannot control,” Han Sen said quietly. Then, the power in his body was unleashed. The power inside the knife circle was thrown back towards Infinite Buddha.

“...Impossible...” Infinite Buddha was shocked. Facing that power, he did not attempt to block it. Instead, he tried to run away.

Boom!

The power slammed into a boulder sitting on the ground. The shockwave was like a planet exploding. It destroyed everything within a few hundred-meter radius.

Infinite Buddha was unable to evade that explosion, and half of his body was hurt badly. He was brought down to the ground, bleeding profusely.

“Mister Sharon! Are you not going to attack?” Infinite Buddha wanted to stop his wounds from bleeding, but the purple knife air was spreading. It was ravaging his wounds.

Sharon looked at Infinite Buddha and said, “I would strike, but in a capacity that has nothing to do with your own petty grievance against Han Sen.”

“As long as you strike, the reason does not matter!” Infinite Buddha screamed, looking frightened.

“It is a shame you are so badly hurt. And with the addition of Teeth powers, I am afraid I cannot save your life,” Sharon said, looking calmly upon him.

“That is fine. Just kill Han Sen!” Infinite Buddha said, while coughing up blood.

His body could no longer keep the Teeth power down. In a few seconds, he was torn to shreds as if in the maw of a beast. Blood poured out of him as he died.

“Xenogeneic Marquise hunted. Star King Kong: xenogeneic gene found.”

An announcement played in Han Sen’s head, but he knew he couldn’t just go and take Infinite Buddha’s xenogeneic genes.

A creature that looked like a white tiger moved over and swiftly swallowed the corpse. The xenogeneic genes went with it. And then, the creature stared at Han Sen.

Sharon looked at Han Sen with curiosity. “I did not believe that you dueled and came to a draw with Lone Bamboo, but now I most certainly do.”

“He tied with Lone Bamboo?” one of the other xenogeneics asked in shock.

News in Sky Palace was buttoned down, but the Demons were not friendly with Sky Palace. So, they gleaned as much information as they could about things there. Sharon was the only one who knew about Han Sen and Lone Bamboo.

Sharon laughed and said, “During that exam, Lone Bamboo leveled up to being a Marquise. He was disqualified from the Earl exam, so there was no winner.”

“If this man can fight Lone Bamboo in such a way, then he is not someone so simple.” The Dragon lady looked at Han Sen, now showing a greater interest in him.

Sharon looked at Han Sen. “It is a shame you are not a Marquise. Otherwise, I would very much like to fight you. Even if I gave you time to heal, I’d still beat you. I don’t want to have to kill you right now, so you’d best lead the way.”

Han Sen smiled. “I don’t have a good temper. It might be easy for you to kill me, but even so, you won’t get me to lead.”

Sharon frowned. The Dragon lady laughed and said, “Then I shall make a bet with you. If you beat me, we will let you go. And if you lose, then you lead.”

“Who are you?” Han Sen asked, looking at the Dragon lady.

2029 Dragon Thirteen

“Dragon Thirteen of the Dragon,” the Dragon lady said in a friendly manner.

“Dragon Thirteen? Nice name, but this test is not fair,” Han Sen said, trying to buy himself some time.

Dragon Thirteen knew what Han Sen was doing, but she didn’t call him out on it. She simply smiled and asked, “What is unfair?”

“If I lose, I have to lead you guys somewhere that I might die. And if I win, I only get to live. That is what’s not fair,” Han Sen said with an innocent expression.

Dragon Thirteen was not mad, and so she asked him kindly, “That is not fair? Then what would you suggest is fair?”

“If I win, for my remaining time in Ancient God’s space, how about you be my bodyguard?” Han Sen suggested, raising an eyebrow at Dragon Thirteen.

Dragon Thirteen laughed and said, “That’s a good idea! I will be at a disadvantage, but that is okay. I agree to these terms of yours.”

“Then that is the deal,” Han Sen said seriously.

Yes.” Dragon Thirteen brought out a black, screw-shaped lance in her hands.

The moment she grabbed the lance, Han Sen felt spooked. She gave him a strange feeling. And Han Sen could not feel her inside his Dongxuan Aura, so he was unable to determine her true strength.

Dragon Thirteen held the screw lance, but she did not strike. She sounded confident when she said, "I am not Infinite Buddha. If you wish to use Empty White Teeth to return my attacks, think again."

"Then what am I supposed to do?" Han Sen laughed.

Han Sen just wanted to buy himself some time so he could rest a little bit more. He did not actually expect Dragon Thirteen to reply.

"The Evilbreaker Lance of the Dragon can break any skill thrown against it. Your returning skill might work on other races, but it won't work on me. If you seek victory, use your own strength. I hope you do," Dragon Thirteen said calmly.

"Breaking all skills, you say? That is a bold claim to make," Han Sen said.

Dragon Thirteen simply shrugged. "If you do not believe me, use your Empty White Teeth and see if you are able to return my attack."

After that, Dragon Thirteen attacked Han Sen. The lance became a line that was sharper than a needle.

Han Sen did not make an attempt. Power that had been concentrated like that was not something he could've returned, even if she had not used a skill.

Han Sen's rabbit shoes unleashed a burst of speed as he dodged Dragon Thirteen's lance. His Blood Feather Knife was aimed for her neck.

Dragon Thirteen squinted. Han Sen was just an Earl that was under the Ancient God space's hampering, and yet, he could be that quick. She was surprised.

She was only a little surprised, though. Dragon Thirteen spun her lance, and the lance temporarily disappeared. When it showed up again, the tip was going to come into contact with Han Sen's throat.

Han Sen frowned and jumped to the sky. He dodged Dragon Thirteen's lance and used his Blood Feather Knife.

They kept swooping and flashing between the rocks. No one could accurately trace their movements. They fought for a whole minute, going by each other many times. The knife and lance did not touch each other.

"What is this kniveskill? Teeth Knife should not look like this." The White Tiger Marquise was in shock.

"That is not Teeth Knife. That is Sky Palace's Under the Sky." Sharon's eyes looked sharp.

"Under the Sky? I have never heard of that before," the White Tiger Marquise said doubtfully.

Sharon looked at Han Sen and said, "Under the Sky was created a long time ago by a Sky Palace elder. Due to there being many flaws with it, they forbid the students from ever learning it. It seems to me as if that flaw has been fixed, but who might have done that, I do not know."

"What is so special about this knifeskill?" White Tiger Marquise asked.

"I do not know. I only know this knifeskill is modified and derived from the Textless Book. Due to no one using this skill before, no one really knows how strong it might be. But, people who haven't learned the Textless Book should not be able to learn it. It is surprising Han Sen has learned Under the Sky, especially as he is an outsider." Sharon said.

Han Sen used the speed of the rabbit shoes to fight Dragon Thirteen. Han Sen did not know if Evilbreaker Lance had the power to break skills, but he knew that he didn't have that kind of strength himself. If he became a Marquise, he wagered he could give it a try.

Dragon Thirteen was not as complex as Lone Bamboo. She maintained simple lance techniques and a simple focus on power. There wasn't much variety. But even so, the simplicity of the strikes was still very violent. She could use her power to drive them to the max.

If Han Sen did not have the aid of the rabbit shoes' speed, and Dragon Thirteen was not mellowed by the force of the Ancient God space's power, then Han Sen would have already been hit.

Dragon Thirteen is powerful! She is a shining example of pure bravery. Her lance conquers everything! Those of the same level must avoid her carefully. I am not a Marquise, and I am weaker," Han Sen thought to himself.

Frighteningly, Dragon Thirteen was becoming bolder for some reason. Her speed and power were increasing, too.

The rabbit shoes started to fail in keeping up with her speed.

"Han Sen was naive to think he could fight Dragon Thirteen. She is the bravest of the Dragons for sure. No one at the same level can fight her. And furthermore, Dragons get stronger the longer they fight. The longer the fight lasts, the worse-off Han Sen will end up," the White Tiger Marquise said.

Sharon frowned and did not speak. He thought something was wrong, but he couldn't quite tell what it was.

Han Sen suddenly retreated to gain some distance. Dragon Thirteen, clutching her lance, tried to catch up with him.

But her armor started cracking as if it was being hit by something. It kept getting cut.

Dragon Thirteen stopped. She looked around and coldly said, "When did you leave this knife air around us?"

"My first strike came while I was airborne. All this time, I have generated countless knife airs. You can't see them, but if you keep hitting them, you know what will eventually happen, yes?" Han Sen smiled.

Combining Under the Sky's strikes with Moon's gentility, Han Sen had set up lots of knives in the air. They were like a mesh of puppet wires all around Dragon Thirteen. They hung in the air, strands of invisible knife silk.

2030 The Braves

"A powerful skill. A very powerful skill," Dragon Thirteen complimented. She looked around, unable to determine where those knife airs were hiding.

"That is too much of a compliment." Han Sen smiled.

Dragon Thirteen continued on to say, "Don't be so happy too soon. Do you know why the Dragon are called the bravest?"

"I don't know." Han Sen had never heard this before.

"You will find out soon enough," Dragon Thirteen said, and then she spun her black lance. The lance became even sharper, until it turned into a light that fired towards Han Sen.

Countless strands of knife silk cut into her armor. Cracks appeared all over her armor, but no blood seeped out.

Han Sen could see that after the knife silk cut through the armor, her skin still looked crystal-white. There was no evidence of a single wound. Han Sen was shocked by this.

He gathered up more knife silks. They could break a Marquise class armor, but they could not break Dragon Thirteen's skin. She had a very strong body.

Dragon Thirteen was like a warrior that was walking boldly over landmines. The landmines kept exploding, but they didn't hurt her body. She approached, completely unstoppable.

Her lancemind was sharp. Dragon Thirteen came right before Han Sen, with a speed and power that had increased even more. Han Sen was quite exhausted by this point, and he couldn't evade her attack.

Pang!

Han Sen's forehead was pierced through, and his body exploded. Dragon Thirteen only realized then that she had destroyed a simple clone generated by Moon. Han Sen was already distancing himself.

Her face did not change, though. Her lance became a line that attacked Han Sen again.

That attack looked unstoppable, and it was born of bravery. Not even Han Sen knew what to do against that. So, Han Sen used his movement to dodge.

But Dragon Thirteen's lance was getting faster. And due to Han Sen being bound to the forces of the space, it was even more difficult to dodge.

If they had both been Marquises, Han Sen would not have been so afraid of her. But there was a whole tier separating them. There was a grand gulf of strength between them, as she was undoubtedly one of the top Marquises.

Pang!

Han Sen got hit, and he was sent shooting through the sky like a star. He thudded into a stone wall and broke it.

"Han Sen, concede now. If I hit you three inches higher, you'd have been a dead man," Dragon Thirteen said grimly, coming over to the broken wall.

But no answer was received. She frowned. Her face changed. "Oh, no! The mountain has a crevice. He accepted my hit so he could escape through it."

"What an annoying man. Even in a situation such as this, he had an ulterior scheme." Sharon shook his head.

"Why are you still talking? Go catch him, and do not let him run off!" The Marquise white tiger roared, shattering the rocks around them. The crevice was revealed more clearly, and the white tiger sprinted went inside.

Dragon Thirteen and Sharon went in, too. They were going to catch up with Han Sen, somewhere in the gully.

Han Sen traveled through the tunnel quickly. His chest had a hole in it, but he was not bleeding. However, some evil power had entered his wound, and it was permeating his entire body.

"Dragon power is too strong. It is not like Teeth power that could go on forever, but it is far too concentrated. It is difficult to push it out of my body. And I can't stop and take the time to get rid of it." Han Sen, clutching his wound, continued fleeing through the cave.

The cave had many alternate routes. Han Sen had to find a place in which he could hide and get rid of the powers inflicted by the lance.

Fortunately, his blood and bones were different than those of an ordinary being. If they hadn't been, the lance's power would have destroyed him.

He ran through the caverns for a long time. He felt Dragon Thirteen coming, though, and this confused him.

With the Dongxuan Aura hiding him, she shouldn't have been able to find him.

“Is it the lance power inside me?” Han Sen thought, realizing the problem.

If that power was still inside him, Dragon Thirteen would be able to track him down. But he currently did not have the time to get rid of it.

If it was just Dragon Thirteen alone, Han Sen would have been willing to give it a shot. But, Sharon and the others were Marquises. It’d be difficult for Han Sen to take them all.

Han Sen gritted his teeth, and he ran to the silver Ancient God statue. If he couldn’t shake his pursuers, he thought he might have better luck by employing the silver glass bug.

Han Sen knew how to get there, and he eventually found his way to the Ghost Face Spider statue. Then, he went behind it and down and through another cave.

Not long after, Dragon Thirteen, with Sharon and the others, arrived at the Ghost Face Spider cave. They saw the sheep-headed Ancient God statue.

“There is an Ancient God statue, but it looks like someone has already claimed it,” Sharon said, while looking at the Ancient God statue.

“Han Sen ran into the Ancient God statue? The Beginning of Ancient God should be on him. If we had known this sooner, we could have just gone and killed him. There’d have been no need for all this trouble.” The White Tiger Marquise wanted to try. He headed toward the statue.

Dragon Thirteen looked at the cave behind the statue and coldly said, “Han Sen is not inside the statue. He went behind.”

“Then keep up the chase. The Beginning of Ancient God is on him,” Sharon said.

“It is lucky that you left the lance power on him. Otherwise, we’d have been thoroughly fooled. And if we had taken the time to search the statue, he’d have been long gone,” the White Tiger Marquise said happily.

Dragon Thirteen brought them to the cave behind the statue and continued chasing Han Sen.

Han Sen kept running, but he was unable to find the strange silver bug. He came to that same waterfall as before, but still, he could not find it.

Before he could think of what to do next, he felt Dragon Thirteen drawing near. He gritted his teeth and fled into the statue. The entrance was in the statue’s belly button.

Han Sen had only been in there for a minute when Dragon Thirteen reached the statue.

“Hey, there is another Ancient God statue! But this one looks different. Is Han Sen here?” The White Tiger Marquise was looking at the silver Ancient God statue.

“He is inside the statue,” Dragon Thirteen said confidently.

“How about this? Thirteen and I chase him down, while you guys wait out here in case he runs back out?” Sharon spoke to White Tiger Marquise and the others.

The White Tiger Marquise nodded. Sharon and Dragon Thirteen entered the waterfall and chased after Han Sen.

Han Sen was starting to feel pain radiating throughout his body. The lance power was like a snake, slithering inside him. If he didn't flush it out soon, his organs would start to break.

2031 Sky Heart Lock Opened

Not long after entering the silver statue, Han Sen heard buzzing sounds coming from close to the statue's entrance.

Han Sen was familiar with this sound. It was the sound of the silver glass bug flapping its wings. He summoned Spell in the form of a rocket launcher and fired it at the cave wall.

After firing it, he didn't stick around to see the result. He just took the time to tuck himself into a narrower passage and hide his presence.

The rocket exploded against the wall, and a loud noise echoed throughout the caverns of the statue's interior. Han Sen heard the buzzing get stronger, and not long after, the silver glass bug came to patrol the area.

"Dragon Thirteen must have heard that," Han Sen thought, as he kept himself hidden.

Dragon Thirteen and Sharon did hear the noise. They did not know what had happened, but whatever it was would not make them give up the chase. Dragon Thirteen led Sharon in Han Sen's direction.

As Dragon Thirteen drew nearer, the silver glass bug searched fruitlessly for Han Sen. When Dragon Thirteen and Sharon reached Han Sen's proximity, however, what they saw was the silver glass bug.

The silver glass bug caught sight of them, too. With a squeal, it came charging towards them. Its mouth opened to spew silver light.

Dragon Thirteen, who was in the front, was quick to react. She raised her lance and thrust it towards the incoming silver glass bug.

Pang!

The lance and the silver light collided. The silver light was broken, but the lance that was sharper than a needle came against the silver glass bug's shield. The shield flashed in response to the strike, but it was unbroken. Dragon Thirteen was sent spiraling back ten meters by what remained of the silver light.

"A mutant Marquise xenogeneic." Dragon Thirteen's face paled.

"Kill it," Sharon said. Then, he drew a scimitar. With his Sky-Demon powers, he used it to strike the silver glass bug.

There was a dull noise as the Sky-Demon power came against the silver glass bug's shield. The creature was unhurt, and the impact only knocked it back a small distance.

Sharon and Dragon Thirteen attacked the silver glass bug together. The silver glass bug's silver shield kept flashing under the combined strikes, though, and it looked as if it might break.

Dragon Thirteen's lance was very effective when it came to piercing things. Her strength was focused on the tip of the weapon, where it could deal the most damage. The silver glass bug's silver shield might not withstand the repeated blows for long.

"I can't let them kill the bug! If they kill it, I am done for," Han Sen thought to himself. He emerged from the small passage he had been hiding in, and with Tusk, he attacked Dragon Thirteen from behind.

But Dragon Thirteen was quick to react to this sneak attack. Her screw-shaped lance quickly came against Han Sen's knife air. They collided, and the knife air was almost penetrated by the power of the lance.

Han Sen expected this, however. He dodged the lance and attacked again. Then, he used Under the Sky.

"You deal with Han Sen while I deal with the xenogeneic," Sharon told Dragon Thirteen.

"Okay." Dragon Thirteen did not hesitate. With her lance, she continued to attack Han Sen.

Han Sen used the complex geography of the cave to evade Dragon Thirteen's lance. He drew her deeper into the tunnels so he could separate her from Sharon.

Dragon Thirteen was very confident. The Dragon were known to be fearless, and she above all was worthy of the title bravest. She would never find herself scared by an Earl. She knew full well that Han Sen sought to separate her and Sharon, but she was more than fine with following him.

The lance was like a needle, and she turned a few-meter-thick wall into a pincushion. There was no point in Han Sen's hiding behind any stone.

The Evilbreaker Lance was of the Yang element. It was the opposite of something like Moon. If Han Sen had been a Marquise, then the power of Moon would have been able to break Dragon Thirteen's body.

But Moon's knife silks were unable to damage Dragon Thirteen. He was at a disadvantage, and Dragon Thirteen was making him fall back further and further.

Han Sen eventually failed a dodge, and it led to the lance piercing his shoulder. The lance left a hole in Han Sen so small that it would have been difficult to find with the naked eye. But when the lance was inside Han Sen, it drilled into his bones. It wracked Han Sen with pain, and he shuddered under its force.

Han Sen had failed to dodge because the effects of the first lance strike were still in his body. The strike had hurt his organs badly, and for a brief second, it made him freeze.

“Han Sen, you have no chance. There is still time to concede. You will be permitted to retain your life,” Dragon Thirteen said gravely.

“You took the words from right out of my mouth,” Han Sen countered.

“Why must you continue to be so stubborn? Give me the two Beginning of Ancient Gods, and I will let you go. Otherwise, the two hits delivered by my Evilbreaker Lance will only continue to break down your body. You have to get rid of the damage.”

“Really? I don’t think that is going to happen,” Han Sen said, but in reality, he was thinking about how he might be able to escape from the situation he had found himself in.

With his powers, he could kill a Marquise. But Dragon Thirteen was amongst the greatest Marquises alive. He would probably require super god spirit mode to finish off Dragon Thirteen.

But there was the issue of super god spirit mode being a limited thing. He could kill Dragon Thirteen, yes, but then he’d be left even weaker. And there were three more Marquises, including Sharon, waiting for him. That’d have him in an even sorrier state.

Han Sen was too tired already, and the effects of the lance were doing a number on his body. He could not keep going on like that.

“Whatever. I’ll kill one of you first.” Han Sen decided to use super god spirit.

But before he could, his body suddenly shook. Something inside him broke. And then, he suddenly felt as light as a feather. It was as if he had been carrying a mountain on his shoulders, and now, he was able to relieve himself of that load.

Han Sen’s speed increased. He easily dodged Dragon Thirteen’s lance.

“The Sky Heart Lock has been unlocked!” Han Sen was exuberantly happy. He had been carrying the weight of the Sky Heart Lock through his entire fight with Dragon Thirteen. Now that it was gone, the true extent of his power could be unleashed.

Dong!

Han Sen cast many more knife silks upon Dragon Thirteen, and this time, the bravest Dragon body was riddled with wounds.

Han Sen was so happy. The Sky Heart Lock was open. The speed and power he possessed increased.

Dragon Thirteen frowned. Holding her spear, she said incredulously, “A Sky Heart Lock? I did not know you were carrying them as you fought. But even so, you cannot beat me.”

After that, Dragon Thirteen's lance came towards Han Sen in a mad flurry of attacks. Han Sen kept swinging his Blood Feather Knife, too. When they came against each other, Han Sen's body was sent flying. He came to a stop against a sturdy wall.

"I told you. You cannot beat me." Dragon Thirteen kept moving, and she used her lance to attack Han Sen.

Katcha!

The sound of something else breaking inside Han Sen's body sounded. The second Sky Heart Lock was broken.

2032 Knife Air Like Silk

Han Sen dodged. He was like a shadow as he slipped around Dragon Thirteen's lance. He was even faster than before. "Two Sky Heart Locks?" Dragon Thirteen's face went slack.

Han Sen was a powerful Earl. It was shocking to learn he was carrying even just one Sky Heart Lock. No one would have ever expected he might be carrying two of them.

If she hadn't seen this for herself, she wouldn't have believed it. The idea that an Earl could still fight her adequately while shouldering the burden of two Sky Heart Locks... It was unfathomable.

Now Han Sen felt very light. His body felt great. With every step he took, it seemed like he could shoot into the air like a prancing fairy.

The lance that had once seemed difficult to dodge was now easy to evade. He didn't feel any of the pressure he had felt earlier.

He didn't feel as easily tired as earlier, either. He was now active again.

Dragon Thirteen frowned. Han Sen had unlocked two Sky Heart Locks. She felt as if she was not suppressing him anymore.

The two of them moved fast, as knife airs came against the lance in rapid collisions. Han Sen's power was a little weaker than hers, but unlike earlier, he could now hold her off.

While Han Sen was fighting Dragon Thirteen, Sharon was still engaged in battle with the silver glass bug. The silver glass bug's silver shield was powerful. Sharon had delivered a few hundred strikes against it, but it had yet to buckle and break.

Sharon frowned. He wanted to get this fight over with quickly. Dragon Thirteen had been gone for some time, and he couldn't help but feel as if something was wrong.

His power changed, and a black light began to shine. It gathered up across his scimitar as he slashed the silver glass bug again. The scimitar had done nothing to the silver armor earlier, but under this new attack, a crack was left across the silver surface.

"What powerful armor! It did not shatter, even with my Demon-Dragon Air. This guy's defense must be the greatest of all Marquises." Sharon frowned, but his scimitar did not relent. He kept on attacking.

Sharon was part of Demon, but his blood had ties to the Dragon. Aside from the Sky-Demon Sutra, he had also practiced with their Evilbreaker Secret. The Evilbreaker power he possessed was actually stronger than what Dragon Thirteen had.

Even amongst the Demon, it was a secret that Sharon harbored Dragon blood. Sharon wouldn't use Evilbreaker powers on a whim. Now he was worried enough to use them without a second thought. He just wanted to kill the silver xenogeneic as quickly as he could.

Sharon kept striking the silver glass bug's shield and making it flash. The armor was wreathed with more and more cracks, and it looked as if it'd break very soon.

The silver glass bug lost its will to fight before long, and it sought to escape. It was unable to, as Sharon pursued it like a ghost. He kept attacking it with his scimitar.

Dragon Thirteen continued chasing Han Sen, but she felt nervous.

Even though she had the title of bravest, that did not mean the Dragon were the strongest. And she felt as if she could no longer suppress the man who had just broken two Sky Heart Locks.

A cold light glowed within her, and her lance was like a dragon itself. Dragon Thirteen, with the Evilbreaker Lance, was firing on all cylinders. But when the lance pierced through Han Sen's body, she knew she had failed.

Pang!

Han Sen's body exploded like a balloon. It was just a clone. The real Han Sen was twenty meters away, smiling at her.

Dragon Thirteen lifted her screw-shaped lance to attack Han Sen again, but Han Sen quietly told her, "If I were you, I would not move."

Dragon Thirteen coldly hmp'h'd and ignored Han Sen's warning. She moved forward.

Katcha!

The sound of armor cracking played in Dragon Thirteen's ears. Her armor was annihilated by the knife silks. But this time, the knife silks were able to cut her skin. Like strands of steel wire, the silks were unbroken.

Han Sen waved his Blood Feather Knife. It looked as if no power was being mustered, but the many invisible strands of silk twisted together to bind Dragon Thirteen's body. As Han Sen waved the knife, he pulled them in closer.

Countless silk strands tightened around her arms, legs, waist, and head. Dragon Thirteen's body was tied up, suspending her in the air. Her armor eventually shattered into nothing but pieces.

The knife silks were starting to dig into her skin. Her pale white body was covered in marks of blood, but the blood that came out was in stark contrast to the beauty of her pale white skin.

"D*mn you!" Dragon Thirteen shouted angrily. Evilbreaker powers surged out of her body to destroy the knife silks binding her.

But the moment she got rid of them, more knife silks arose to take their place. They bound her again, and she could no longer draw closer to Han Sen. She hung in place.

"It looks like you have run out of chances. It's still not too late to beg for your life, as I am willing to spare you." Han Sen was clutching his Blood Feather Knife, staring at Dragon Thirteen who had been tied up. He said the same thing she did.

Katcha! Katcha!

Dragon Thirteen's Evilbreaker power exploded. It snapped the knife silks, but using her body to break the ties that bound her caused her even greater wounds. She was bleeding profusely from everywhere.

"The body of a Dragon is strong," Han Sen complimented her.

After Dragon Thirteen escaped from the knife silks, her eyes were burning. With her lance, she again tried to attack Han Sen. But just as she raised it to strike, the knife silks were back to tie her up like a doll again.

Han Sen stood in front of her, but she could not attack. Every time she cut the knife silks, more arose to entangle her. She could not move at all.

"It is time to end this." Han Sen's Blood Feather Knife was shrouded in a purple mist. The knife silks had a purple air, too.

Endless numbers of knife silks cut Dragon Thirteen's flesh. Purple mist seeped into her wounds.

"Teeth power." Dragon Thirteen looked pale.

Teeth powers dealt more damage than her Evilbreaker powers did. There was no chance for any person to survive, once they were struck by it. And with the countless wounds already across her body, there was no hope of her escaping now.

2033 Xenogeneic Demon Dragon

Her blood spread like flower petals. Her powerful Dragon body could not hold strong against the countless wounds that were being ravaged by the Teeth power. Her body was ultimately torn apart.

Han Sen moved into a hidden passage nearby. There, he started to use his own strength to purge his body of the Evilbreaker Lance's power.

That power was strange. When it gathered up, it was like refined steel. If you were not strong enough, then you couldn't break it. But if you used too much strength, then it was possible for you to harm your own body. Han Sen couldn't get it out of himself.

Han Sen did not have much time to think, though. He used his Dongxuan Aura to analyze the Evilbreaker power infection, and then, the Evilbreaker powers appeared in Han Sen's brain like a sequence.

The moment Dragon Thirteen died, Sharon had been able to feel it. His eyes darkened, and his scimitar raged with even greater strength. He struck the silver bug's shield and broke its armor.

The silver glass bug squealed and started to fly away. Sharon was no longer paying attention to it, though. Immediately, he turned and went for Dragon Thirteen.

Seeing Dragon Thirteen's exploded body, Sharon looked murderous. He clutched his scimitar and ran towards Han Sen.

Han Sen frowned. He had thought that without Dragon Thirteen, Sharon would be unable to find him. It looked as if he had been wrong, though. Sharon was coming right for him.

Han Sen did not know that Sharon had Evilbreaker powers, too. And Sharon could sense the force of the Evilbreaker Lance inside Han Sen.

Han Sen couldn't spend much time worrying about this, though. He used Super Spank to attack the Evilbreaker Lance's power. He tried to break the sequence structure of the affliction, and he damaged himself a little in the attempt.

Those two Evilbreaker powers crumbled into dust, though.

Sharon was already in front of the passage. He turned a murderous glare on Han Sen and said, "The pain that Thirteen suffered will be returned to you, a thousand times over."

Then his black-light flashing scimitar came striking at Han Sen, who was still sitting.

Han Sen shouted, moved like a crane, and jumped out of the little passage. His Blood Feather Knife blocked Sharon's black light.

Dong!

As his body was sent flying, Han Sen felt ripples of scary power from where the knife air and the light collided. He went crashing into a wall, and quite a bit of it fell down around him.

"You have combined Sky-Demon powers with Evilbreaker powers?" Han Sen gripped his chest in pain as he came staggering out of the rubble.

"You blocked my Sky-Demon power that can never miss. You are very strong." Sharon looked even more murderous. The black light he wielded shone brighter at Han Sen.

Han Sen used a few skills, but he still couldn't dodge Sharon's scimitar. He could only fight back, but his power was not as great as Sharon's. He was knocked away, and he uncontrollably heaved up blood in the air.

Sharon's power was leagues greater than Dragon Thirteen's. That was why he was the same as Lone Bamboo.

He possessed both Sky-Demon and Evilbreaker powers. Han Sen knew all about the Sky-Demon powers, but even so, it was very difficult to dodge.

Seeing Sharon attack, Han Sen did not hesitate to use his Dongxuan Aura. The knife and sword powers gathered across his blade. He saw the world as nothing more than a realm of sequence structures.

The scimitar came against Han Sen's Blood Feather Knife. The powers of Super Spank could break sequence structures. And with it, he was able to shatter the black light coming for him. The scimitar Han Sen's opponent wielded was reduced to dust.

Sharon's face went pale, and he looked even more enraged than he had earlier. He stared at Han Sen's knife.

Han Sen had broken the knifelight and the knife's sequence structure, but he had still been blasted back ten meters. He hit another wall. There was still a large gulf of power separating the two.

"Good... good... It is no wonder you were able to fight Lone Bamboo. Of the Marquises, I doubt any have the ability to adequately fight you. You're the best Earl there is, but today you meet me: Sharon." Sharon looked right at Han Sen as he spoke.

Every word was pronounced with utter contempt, with a bubbling desire to rip Han Sen apart.

The next second, Sharon's black light shone again. His purple horns turned black, and his body became three feet taller. His armor broke in his transformation, as his muscles bulged and became clad in scales.

The bones in his back broke and spread apart, becoming black dragon wings. The nails grew to become sharp, bladelike talons.

The strange glowing black was now covering his entire body. It was like he had been painted in a black light.

Buzz!

Sharon's strong body disappeared from Han Sen's vision. Han Sen did not have the time to react, and the enemy appeared in his face again. The blade-like talons pierced through his armor and flesh.

The crystal-looking blood began to come out of his body in a stream as he was sent flying. Before Han Sen landed, Sharon appeared next to him. The talons came to strike his arm.

Han Sen used his prediction abilities, combined it with Super Spank and his knife, and attacked back at Sharon's hand.

But his vision was blurred, and Sharon disappeared once more. When he reappeared, his knee was striking Han Sen in his back. It sent Han Sen to the sky, up until he crashed into a stony ceiling. Pang!

Sharon waved his talons, and his black light continued to shatter that ceiling. It punched a hole completely through.

Sharon was in xenogenic mode. He had the blood of the Demon and Dragon. His power was scary, and even a Duke would die under this onslaught.

Han Sen fell down across the rocks, his body soaked in blood. His armor was on the precipice of destruction. Han Sen knew there was a power gap between the two, and it wasn't anywhere close.

The different between Han Sen and Sharon was like an ordinary Earl versus an ordinary Marquise. They were better than their levels defined them as, but the gap was still exceptionally wide.

Even with the powers of Super Spank, Han Sen couldn't touch Sharon. He couldn't break his sequence structure.

"I won't have you die so easily. I will skin the flesh from your bones, and I guarantee that you will die in a far cruder and more painful manner than Thirteen did." Sharon's every word sounded like he was spitting a curse. He moved his body again and appeared in front of Han Sen. He was going to grab his opponent's body.

Han Sen wasn't even able to dodge, let alone draw his knife.

As Sharon's sharp talons swooped down to perforate his body, a white light suddenly appeared in Han Sen's eye.

At that moment, Han Sen's body wrapped itself up in a white flame. He turned into a being of light and became a transparent force of energy.

Sharon squinted against the sudden light. His hands and nails pierced through Han Sen, but he felt nothing. He couldn't feel Han Sen's flesh in the slightest.

Han Sen looked like a god. His Blood Feather Knife blazed down towards Sharon's head like a beam of light. Sharon's wings curled, and he disappeared as if he was teleporting. Han Sen's slash missed his body.

But there was some movement in the air, and Sharon's body appeared again. He roared, and his hands turned into talons to strike Han Sen.

The roaring Demon-Dragon was operating at maximum power, and he attacked Han Sen with a technique that never missed.

Han Sen did not plan on evading it, though. The Demon-Dragon pierced through Han Sen's body, but it was as if he was just a hologram. The strike went through Han Sen without damaging him at all.

"Impossible! What is this power?" Sharon was shocked. It seemed like Sharon had hit Han Sen's real body, but it hadn't worked. His strongest strike had done nothing.

"This is the power that will kill you." Han Sen moved in front of Sharon like a beam of light and slashed with his Blood Feather Knife.

He did not have much time. Super god spirit mode would only run for a short while, and if he could not kill Sharon in that window, he'd be very dead.

Boom!

Sharon's dragon wings flapped, and again, he disappeared.

Han Sen's knife had been unable to hit him. It seemed like Sharon was using a genuine teleportation ability, so there was no hidden movement to trace. But he could be followed if Han Sen's Dongxuan Aura could track and predict the energy he was using.

"You cannot kill me," Sharon said haughtily. "I have Demon and Dragon blood, and I have Breakspace powers. I can teleport freely as I choose, and your power does not belong to an Earl. You cannot last long in such a form. Once your power has been exhausted, you will be dead."

"I am afraid you won't have that chance." Han Sen, looking like a god, waved his Blood Feather Knife. Then, a white knife light was in front of Sharon.

Sharon dodged Han Sen's knifelight and appeared down another tunnel. He looked over to Han Sen with disdain. "I told you. You cannot kill me."

But the next second, Sharon's face fell. As soon as he reappeared, his body had been cut by an invisible knifelight.

There was a katcha noise. His arm was detached from his body, sending out a cascade of Demon and Dragon blood. Throughout the entire cave, knifelights shone like a spiderweb. Wherever Sharon teleported, he was hurt by the lights. They savaged him, ripping off his limbs.

"You are strong, but you selected the wrong opponent," Han Sen said to Sharon, swooping over to slash his body.

Sharon, who had lost all his limbs, tried to teleport away. But when he finished teleporting, countless knifelights tore through his body. They sliced his body into bits, sending blood and viscera spilling everywhere.

"Mutant Xenogeneic Marquise hunted. Demon Dragon: mutant xenogeneic gene found."

Blergh! Han Sen fell to the ground. He looked like a human again, albeit one that was coughing up blood. Sharon had been as good as a Marquise could get. Without super god spirit, Han Sen would have needed to be a Marquise to fight him.

Han Sen's super god spirit had allowed him to fight Sharon, but his body had still been pushed to the limits. And with the injuries he had sustained, there was no hope of him fighting again for some time.

Fortunately, there weren't any other threats in the area. Any Earl could bring an end to Han Sen right now.

Han Sen forced himself to stand up. He walked over to Sharon's shattered body and picked up a black Dragon-Demon scale. Then, he left.

There should have been two more Marquises about, as they had been following Sharon. But Han Sen did not know where they had gone. He tried to hide his presence to avoid meeting them, since he couldn't risk having to fight them. Encountering them would likely mean death.

Han Sen tried to return to the Sanctuary, but the Ancient God space seemed to stop him from opening a portal that he could jump back through.

And of course, Han Sen's body was too weak to teleport back.

He walked away from the battlefield, but he wasn't able to get very far. He found a hidden cave, and in it, he settled down and focused on recovering. He ran a number of skills to try to speed up the healing process.

Luckily, Han Sen's body was stronger than the average creature's. Jadeskin and the Blood-Pulse Sutra made his body stronger than a Dragon's.

If Han Sen became a Marquise, he'd be stronger than Dragon Thirteen.

"I hope those two Marquises don't find me before I can fight them." Han Sen knew it was useless to think about this now, though. He initiated a countdown, then cast a geno art to heal himself.

The White Tiger Marquise and the other Marquise waited outside the statue, but they saw no sign of Sharon or Dragon Thirteen. Eventually, they found the continued absence of their companions to be strange.

They knew the power of Dragon Thirteen and Sharon's combined might. Those two could kill a Duke, if they chose to. But they had been inside the silver statue for the longest time, and there was no sign of either of them. It made the pair remaining start to worry.

The White Tiger Marquise used a sonic power to boom his voice down through the cave. No response was heard. Silence was all that followed.

"Has something happened to them?" Bloodbird Marquise sounded worried.

"I don't think so. Han Sen is an Earl. He cannot beat both Sharon and Dragon Thirteen." The Marquise White Tiger was worried, but he didn't want to believe it.

"Should we go and take a look?" Bloodbird Marquise asked, with obvious hesitation.

"We should wait," White Tiger Marquise said firmly.

If Sharon and Dragon Thirteen were safe, they would bring Han Sen out with them. If something happened to them, then it would be suicide for Bloodbird and White Tiger to go after them.

The White Tiger and Bloodbird waited outside, and the longer they waited, the more worried they became. All they wanted to do was escape.

Han Sen was still recovering his powers. He had been badly hurt, and he was very exhausted. It'd take a while for him to recover.

Suddenly, Han Sen heard something crawling across the rocks. His heart jumped. He opened his eyes and saw the silver glass bug coming towards him. It stared at Han Sen with its silver eyes.

2035 Danger

The silver glass bug's wings had been broken. There were knife marks adorning its body, and its shell had been battered to the point where its flesh was mostly exposed. It was gushing silver blood everywhere.

This guy's life must have been a tough one for it to be so determined. Even in a state like that, it had come looking for Han Sen.

Seeing the silver glass bug coming toward him, Han Sen couldn't help but raise a wry smile. His situation was even more dire than the silver glass bug's. He didn't have half the power he would need to fight a scary xenogeneic such as that.

Blergh!

The silver glass bug came over to Han Sen and coughed up silver blood. It looked like it was doing just as badly as he was.

"I say, Brother... Since we are both looking like this, why don't we try to get along? We could just not step on each other's toes for a time." Han Sen was heavily injured, and he scooted backwards across the ground as he spoke to the silver glass bug.

Han Sen did not know if the insect would understand him, but he didn't have many options. He did not have the time to fight, as his body was aching and his fingers were soft.

The silver glass bug did not understand Han Sen. The jaws filled with saw-like teeth opened wide, and it came snapping at him.

Han Sen could not do anything. He summoned a beast soul armor and put it on. He didn't have the strength to dodge the bug's attacks.

The armor provided Han Sen a small boon of power, but it also took that same power to use it. He was so soft right now that he had absolutely no strength.

There was no point in thinking about using the Demon Stone Cow beast soul, as shapeshifting beast souls were quite taxing on the body. In Han Sen's condition, he could not afford to spend any more energy.

The silver glass bug jumped on Han Sen. The monster's claws scabbled around as it kept trying to bite Han Sen.

But the beast was heavily injured, too. Its strength was low, and it could no longer use silver light. Its jaws weren't as strong as Han Sen expected, and when it latched onto Han Sen, its teeth could not penetrate his armor. All that was left were some light marks.

Han Sen let out a sigh of relief. If the bug couldn't kill him while he was wearing that armor, he might stand a chance.

The silver glass bug soon grasped the situation, as well. It gave up trying to gnaw through Han Sen's armor, and it grabbed Han Sen by the leg instead. Then, it dragged Han Sen away and into another cave.

Han Sen did not know where the silver glass bug was taking him, but he had no strength to fight back. So, he decided to play dead and allow the bug to drag him deep into the recesses of the caves. He focused on trying to recover his body, hoping that he could at least regain enough strength to fight if the need arose.

Earlier, Han Sen had hung around in the cave beneath the silver statue that held the Beginning of Ancient God. He had not traversed the entire cave system, however.

Now that the silver glass bug was tugging him along, he soon found himself passing down tunnels he had never seen before. The silver glass bug marched forward relentlessly.

The silver glass bug was heavily injured. It dragged Han Sen very slowly, and after half an hour, they both found themselves inside a giant cave. Han Sen heard the sound of running water, and he looked up to see a pool that had flowers in it.

Han Sen glanced around. He thought he might have been dragged to the very bottom of the cavern system. The pool before him must have connected to the waterfall outside. He could still hear water sounds from there.

The walls of the cavern were laced with vines. They were covered in leaves, but there did not seem to be any fruit. It was difficult to tell what type they might have been.

The silver glass bug continued to drag Han Sen. Judging from the way it was going, the silver glass bug was dragging Han Sen towards the pool.

It wasn't long before Han Sen realized something was wrong, though. The silver glass bug was heavily injured. It had opted to drag Han Sen all the way there instead of prioritizing its own grievous wounds. It had obviously brought Han Sen there for more than just a simple bath.

"What does it want? Why did it drag me to this pool? Does it want to drown me?" Han Sen thought to himself as he eyed the pool.

Han Sen was too weak to use his Dongxuan Aura, so all he had to rely on was his basic eyesight and hearing. But for the time being, he couldn't hear anything unusual. All he heard was the sound of water.

But when he looked carefully at the pool, his face turned glum.

Inside the pool, Han Sen spotted a giant black shadow. It looked like something had been hidden deep within the pool.

Han Sen didn't know what that patch of darkness was. Perhaps it really was just a shadow, but when Han Sen took the silver bug's behavior into consideration, he determined that the pool was nothing nice.

Han Sen tried to resist, but his body was weak. He could not pull his legs free from the bug's mouth, and he could not stop the bug from entering the water.

The silver glass bug kept bleeding, but it insisted on dragging Han Sen to the pool. When it reached the pool's edge, it gathered itself and then lobbed Han Sen into the water.

Han Sen struggled, but it was no use. He plunged into the water.

When the icy water touched him, it jolted him awake. He felt a bit of strength return to him, and he tried to swim back to the shore.

But the silver glass bug was standing guard at the edge of the water. When Han Sen got too close, the bug's claws flashed forward to whack him on the head. It sent Han Sen tumbling back into the pool.

Han Sen tried swimming to another shore, but the silver glass bug was not willing to let him go. As soon as he grew close to land, the creature used its claws to knock him back into the water again.

Han Sen had been on Dream Island for a long time, digging for gemstones underwater. He was good in the water, but he did not have any strength right now. Merely keeping himself from sinking was all that he could manage. If he fought the silver glass bug, he'd collapse after only a couple rounds. He was already struggling to breathe in the water, so he did not dare go too close to the shore again.

The silver bug was afraid of something, though. That seemed to be why it was avoiding the water itself. It was still injured badly enough to remove its ability to fly.

Han Sen did not go to the shore again, so it stayed where it was. It kept squealing at Han Sen, sounding very angry as it did.

Han Sen tried his best to stay afloat, but when he looked down, he could not see much in the water beneath himself. The depths of the pool looked like a black hole beneath him. He could not see the shadow that he had noticed beneath the surface.

He could not see anything, but he sensed something moving in the darkness beneath him. It seemed like it was rising, too, which made his stomach sink.

"Am I going to die today?" Han Sen had a very strong will, but his circumstances filled him with hopelessness. He felt the shadow grow larger.

2036 Return Ruin Sea

The silver bug clearly hated Han Sen, perhaps because Han Sen had stolen the Beginning of Ancient God. No matter how hard he tried to climb onto the shore, the bug would thrust him back into the water.

The shadow was growing larger. Han Sen did not think it was just his imagination, and he earnestly believed that something was rising toward him from the depths.

Han Sen wanted to live, so he scrambled toward the shore again. But he was too weak, and he was physically unable to climb up.

Boom!

The water exploded into a fountain as a giant monster's head appeared. When it opened its mouth, Han Sen was as small as an ant in comparison. Water rushed toward the gaping maw, and Han Sen was pulled in with it. He found himself falling into a strange place that was as big as a house.

“Am I in the monster’s stomach?” Han Sen fell into a strange liquid, and to his shock, he saw that it was corroding his armor.

His Marquise class Soul Armor had strong defenses, but after being coated with that substance, the armor was already fizzing. The corrosive was very strong, and it wouldn’t be long before the armor was completely destroyed. He thought that, at best, his armor would buy him ten minutes.

The walls were black. Han Sen swam to them and tried hitting them, but it felt as if he was striking rubber. His fists bounced off without leaving a single dent.

Han Sen did not know if it was because he was too weak or if the creature was too high of a level. Either way, it had a strength that he just couldn’t overcome

Regardless, he couldn’t bring down the walls, and the way back up had been sealed. Han Sen was soaked in a highly- corrosive liquid. Things were getting dire.

The Soul Armor was plumes of bubbles as it fizzed. It was being corroded at an alarming rate, and it’d soon break.

Han Sen knew that there was no way out. His only hope was to regain some energy while he was in the substance. The Soul Armor was breaking down too quickly, though. It was on the precipice of breaking.

So, Han Sen took a deep breath and returned his Soul Armor. He used the dregs of his strength to cast Petrify, turning his body into stone.

Now, he had nothing left to do. Life or death was now at the whim of destiny.

Petrify could turn Han Sen to stone, but it wasn’t very strong. There was a difference between it and the defensive petrification geno arts.

The liquid was strong enough to melt the Soul Armor of a Marquise. He did not have much hope of Petrify seeing him through the ordeal. He only made the attempt because he couldn’t think of anything else.

The liquid surrounded his stone body, but surprisingly, his petrified body was not corroded. He slowly began to sink to the bottom.

Han Sen could only cast The Story of Genes. It was the sole geno art he could make use of while using Petrify.

Time went by, and the liquid churned around Han Sen continuously. He did not know what the monster was doing, and he did not know where he was. But to him, right then, it did not matter.

On an island in Return Ruin Sea, there was a collection of the Dragon assembled. They looked like humans, but they had dragon horns. They were in the process of conducting a strange ritual.

They threw the xenogeneics they had killed into a pool on the island. They mumbled something to the pool, but it wasn't clear what they were saying.

"Father, we've gathered such a small amount of food. Will it be enough to satiate the Dragon God?" A little boy, with red dragon horns, asked his father.

"Maybe." The father had to force a smile.

Return Ruin Sea was one of the xenogenic spaces that belonged to the Dragon, but it was not a primary one. The Dragon there was only one part of the greater Dragon host. Their blood was not that pure.

Return Ruin Sea was like a training ground for the Dragon. The impure Dragons were often sent there, and only the strongest of them were taken seriously by the Dragon. Those who proved their power were taken away to become proper Dragons.

The Dragon on that island had mixed blood. The pure Dragon had dragon horns and wings, but the people of that island only had horns.

They were making sacrifices to something they called the Dragon God. They gave it food because whenever the Dragon God came there to eat, it would leave behind dragon scales. They were items of great importance to the Dragon.

But the Dragon God ate a lot, and these Dragons were not strong. They could not hunt many xenogeneics, and so they could not offer much of a bounty. They were worried about whether or not the Dragon God would even like the food.

If the Dragon God was not fully satisfied, he would not leave them scales. That was assuming that he'd even eat at all, if the stuff was not to his liking.

The Dragon were all very worried. The corpses inside the pool had dyed it red, but soon enough, the pool began to produce bubbles. Everyone stared at the water nervously.

Boom!

The red pool exploded, as a giant beast opened its maw and swallowed up the meat.

The Dragon kept throwing food into the pool, and the Dragon God xenogenic consumed everything it was given. Its maw was like a bottomless pit. The food that fell into it just disappeared, and the beast had a stomach that seemed infinite.

Quickly, they threw the last of the xenogenic meat they had into the pool. Everyone looked at the Dragon God, wondering if they had satisfied it. They did not know if it would leave them dragon scales.

The Dragon God ate all the food, and when it was done, it roared to the sky. It made the entire island vibrate. The water for dozens of miles around was thrown into wavy turmoil.

After it roared, it returned to the water and disappeared.

Everyone was shocked, but after a while, their expressions turned to depression. They hadn't given the beast enough food. Thankfully, the Dragon God hadn't eaten the assembly, but it also hadn't left them scales.

But as the Dragon lowered their heads in exhaustion, the sound of thrashing water was heard once more. It sounded as if something was splashing its way out of the water.

They quickly raised their heads again, and what they saw made their eyes widen. There was a silky-smooth man coming out of the water, clutching a white feather knife.

They all stood motionless, unsure what was happening. Something alive had come out of the Dragon God. It was like a fairytale to them.

2037 Spiky Turtle

Han Sen did not want to remember how he got out of the monster's stomach.

After sloshing his way out of the water, he flopped onto the shore, gasping for breath. Then he raised his head and looked around.

A dozen people were standing in a huddled group, simply staring. They looked like humans, but they all had dragon horns. There were men and women, young and old.

It took Han Sen three seconds to realize he was naked. So, he quickly summoned his Spell armor and pretended nothing had happened.

"The weather is good today. Are you guys here for a bath, as well?" he asked casually.

The first thing Han Sen learned was that two days had passed.

Han Sen was curious about the Dragon God. It was a xenogeneic creature that could travel from the Ancient God space to the Return Ruin Sea as it pleased. That was a powerful ability for it to possess.

Han Sen was glad that he had been able to survive getting swallowed by a creature such as that. He was quite lucky,

The Dragon were talkative enough, and Han Sen soon came to understand their situation.

Return Ruin Sea was similar to Planet Eclipse. It was a place inhabited mainly by xenogeneics. It was larger than Planet Eclipse, though, and there were many of the Dragon there.

The Dragon weren't able to breed between themselves all that much, and pure Dragons were quite rare. So, many of the Dragon sought to reproduce with members of other races.

It was difficult to determine if any particular set of mixed genes would be a good thing, so the mixes were usually sent to places such as Return Ruin Sea, where they could grow. When they grew strong, they would be taken back to the other places occupied by the Dragon. There, they could officially be considered part of the Dragon society.

There was a family on that island whose blood was neither pure nor strong. The strongest member of the family was the granddad, who had managed to become a Marquise.

Because Han Sen was not a xenogeneic, they had no reason to be hostile to him. Killing him would be pointless.

Plus, Han Sen had come from the Dragon God pool. They did not know who he was, and they did not know if he was strong. When they asked Han Sen for his name, he did not give his real one.

Han Sen didn't know how much time had passed while he was in the creature's stomach, and he didn't know if they had heard about Dragon Thirteen's death. The last thing he wanted to do was risk exposing himself, so he gave them the name San Mu. He was a crystallizer, and the Dragon God had delivered him there, somehow.

Han Sen left out the part about being swallowed, of course. He said his fate was tied to the Dragon God, and that he was, for all intents and purposes, a chosen one.

He had been getting chased by xenogeneics in a distant place, and the Dragon God had chosen to save him. The Dragon God allowed him to ride on its back until it brought him to Return Ruin Sea.

Since he was lying so much already, he went a few miles further. He claimed that the Dragon God obeyed him. When the family heard this, they were frozen. They did not know whether or not they should believe him. After all, Han Sen appeared right when the Dragon God had emerged from the pool.

He must have had some connection to the Dragon God, since the creature had not eaten him.

The family treated Han Sen well, and he was able to learn a good deal of information from them.

What disappointed Han Sen the most, though, was the fact that there were no high-tech items. And the Dragon had established a rule there, saying that they had to reach the level of Duke before leaving Return Ruin Sea.

There was one other way to leave, however. If they had enough talent, they could go to the planet's Dragon headquarters. If they were given approval, they could be allowed to leave, even at a low level. Then they would be transported to one of the Dragon homeworlds.

"The Dragon are strange, and so very cruel to their own." Han Sen was deep in thought. Since he had no way of contacting Sky Palace or the Rebate, he didn't want to go through the right channels and risk exposing himself. He couldn't figure out a way in which he could leave there.

Still, Han Sen was not very worried. He could still go back to the sanctuaries, and the xenogeneics in Return Ruin Sea were better than those that could be found on Planet Eclipse. It was a good place for him to be.

"I need to find a way to leave. If the Dragon find out that I'm here, that could turn out poorly." Han Sen sat on the shore, trying to think of a way in which he could leave Return Ruin Sea.

He was there for half a month, but still, he could not figure out a way off the planet.

"San Mu... San Mu..." As Han Sen was thinking, a little red Dragon boy came running towards him.

"Little Rock, what's wrong?" Han Sen asked the little boy.

The little boy was called Long Yan. He was the youngest of the Dragon there.

"Spiky Turtles... so many Spiky Turtles..." Long Yan was gasping.

"What's a Spiky Turtle?" Han Sen asked.

"You will know if you follow." Long Yan tugged at Han Sen, directing him to the other side of the island.

Long Yan's family was standing next to the shore. They looked out to sea in worry.

Han Sen followed the direction of their gazes and saw something dark approaching the island. With Han Sen's vision being what it was, he could tell that it was a swarm of black sea turtles. They were each the size of a stone mortar, and their numbers were countless.

"Old Mountain, what are these sea turtles?" Han Sen asked the oldest person there, whose name was Long Shan.

Long Shan's face looked grim. "They are the xenogeneics known as Spiky Turtles. Ordinary turtles of their variety are Viscount, but in a group like, there is bound to be Earls, Marquises, or perhaps even some Dukes. They live in the sea, and during mating season, they come to the shorelines. The Spiky Turtles usually head to the north to mate, so we don't encounter them. This time, however, they did not go to that Turtle Island. They came here."

"Will they attack us?" Han Sen asked.

"Of course they will! They are so cruel. Especially when they want to breed. Our island is too small. If this many Spiky Turtles come, we will have nowhere to hide," a Dragon lady named Long Shenzhu said worriedly.

"Old Mountain, what are you going to do?" Han Sen asked Long Shan.

"If these were just ordinary Spiky Turtles, we could likely deal with them. In fact, such a thing would be good for us. But I fear there are many higher level Spiky Turtles in their midst. If we are to escape, the nearest place to get to would be Turtle Island. Perhaps there are more Spiky Turtles there, though," Long Shan murmured.

While they were talking, many Spiky Turtles were arriving on the shore. They crawled up the sand with their spiky black shells. They looked scary, like a number of moving castles.

2038 Dragon Pool Island

In the middle of the sea, a green leaf was afloat on the water. It bobbed gently as the ocean swells moved beneath it.

A Dragon man and woman were riding the leaf like a boat. The man sat comfortably, appreciating the sea. The woman stood on the front of the leaf, holding a paddle. Every time she pulled the paddle through the water, the leaf would move about a hundred meters forward. It was going against the tide.

"Fifteen, I do not know why you are spending more time in Return Ruin Sea. This is a small matter of business that your subordinates can deal with," the female Dragon said as she paddled.

Dragon Fifteen casually responded, "Something strange has happened in Return Ruin Sea. Since we're already here, this might be a worthwhile diversion for us."

After that, Dragon Fifteen looked over to the large host of Spiky Turtles and said, "With its abundance of western gold air, Turtle Island is an ideal breeding spot for the Spiky Turtles. But this season, none of the turtles are headed there. They are traveling south instead. Something must have occurred."

"But we could not find anything amiss on Turtle Island," the Dragon lady said.

"Maybe it is not the Turtle Island that has a problem. Perhaps there is something else that is more enticing for them than Turtle Island," Dragon Fifteen said.

"Fifteen? What could draw them away?" the Dragon lady asked.

"Just go and take a look." Dragon Fifteen smiled.

The Dragon lady kept paddling, bringing them towards the turtle swarm. "The Spiky Turtles are headed for an island called Dragon Pool."

"It is just an island that uses a dragon pool? What's so special about it?" Dragon Fifteen sounded surprised.

"The island has a deep pool in which a King class Dragon creature resides. Every few years, it emerges to feed. In doing so, it kills many nearby xenogeneics. Some Dragon Kings came here to look for the creature, but they never found it," the Dragon lady said.

Dragon Fifteen saw the island, and with a look of surprise, he said, "Our people are on Dragon Pool Island."

The Dragon lady followed his gaze, noticing Long Shan and his family. "Fifteen, these are just a small subset of those in Return Ruin Sea. They seem weak. There is no way they can survive the coming of the Spiky Turtles. Should we help them?"

“There is no rush. Let us observe for now. After all these years, we aren’t getting many useful Dragons from this planet anymore. Now we have a chance to see how strong they are,” Dragon Fifteen said, his voice unconcerned.

“Yes,” the Dragon lady answered. She put down her paddle and let the giant leaf drift. The sea was rough, but it wasn’t bad enough to drag them too far off course.

Because Long Shan’s family wasn’t prepared for the arrival of the Spiky Turtles, fleeing wasn’t an option. Long Shan could escape by himself, but his family would never make it.

Sadly, because they had no pure blood, they did not possess dragon wings. If Long Yan could fly, they could all easily avoid the Spiky Turtles.

“Get ready to fight. Long Lan, protect Little Rock and the others,” Long Shan commanded.

The Spiky Turtles found Long Shan, and they made strange squeals as their eyes turned red. Their black spikes glistened, and their legs moved rapidly as they sprinted toward him.

An adult Dragon roared. He released a draconic presence as he moved to strike one of the Spiky Turtles.

The draconic presence struck the turtle across its back. The blow hadn’t killed the turtle, but it had sent a web of cracks across the turtle’s shell.

Han Sen was surprised to see that an Earl Dragon’s attack could not kill a Viscount Spiky Turtle outright.

Dragon Thirteen had been the same race as these people, but Long Shan and his family were all considerably weaker than she was. Also, they did not seem to possess Evilbreaker powers. Their powers were those of an average Earl.

Furthermore, the Spiky Turtles had surprisingly sturdy shells. The Dragon Earl had to punch the shell three times to kill the Viscount Spiky Turtle.

More Spiky Turtles came towards Dragon Pool Island. Long Shan and the others fought hard. Han Sen used his Jadeskin to fight alongside them and slay the turtles.

Han Sen used a strip of leather to wrap up his Blood Feather Knife. The weapon was too famous, and it’d be easily recognized. The sight of it could expose Han Sen’s true identity.

There were too many Spiky Turtles, though, and killing them proved impossible. In the time it took them to kill a single turtle, four more would arrive on the shore. At first, there were only Viscounts spear-heading the beach assault^ ^ the Earls soon appeared. That increased the pressure on the defenders, and they soon had to fall back to the mountains.

When the first Marquise Spiky Turtle appeared, everyone looked utterly terrified. Long Shan had to step forward to fight it.

Other than Long Shan, their strongest fighters were all Earls. Given the strength of their attackers, the battle was becoming increasingly dire. Long Yan and the other young Dragons were being protected by their mother Long Lan as they retreated back into the mountains.

Han Sen punched any turtle that came within range; the light of Jadeskin could break their bodies fairly easily. In his head, announcements played over and over.

He was keeping a low profile, though, so he made sure not to kill too many. He only stepped forward to help the Dragons when one of them was in danger, and so far, none of them had been seriously injured.

Those mixed Dragons were far too weak. They could not kill a Marquise Spiky Turtle—not even in a one-on-one.

The Dragon lady stood atop the leaf and watched.

Dragon Fifteen was watching the fight, too, but he did not focus on Long Shan. He was observing Han Sen.

“How many outsiders are there in Return Ruin Sea?” Dragon Fifteen asked unexpectedly.

“I do not know. There can be a lot of outsiders, and they often interbreed with the Dragon. Hence their heavily mixed blood,” the Dragon lady answered.

“Are there any higher races?” Dragon Fifteen asked.

“There are some of the higher races, such as the Gana and Feather,” the Dragon lady said after a moment of thought. “Any powerful crystallizers?” Dragon Fifteen asked.

“The crystallizers have been wiped from history. There aren’t many of them left. I have never heard of a powerful one residing here, at least.” The Dragon lady shook her head.

“That is interesting. Why has a crystallizer appeared here, of all places?” Dragon Fifteen watched as Han Sen continued to fight.

2039 Xius

Han Sen had noticed Dragon Fifteen and his maid, so he kept his power in check. He didn’t behave in a way that would draw particular attention, but Dragon Fifteen could still see he was worth watching.

Han Sen’s wounds had almost healed by this point, and so he could fight almost like usual. But this place belonged to the Dragon, and he couldn’t leave it freely. If his identity was exposed, then he could be trapped there.

Suddenly, a roar came from the sea. A Spiky Turtle the size of a tank came lumbering up the shore. The defenders’ faces went pale.

Long Shan could deal with one Marquise class turtle, but the family didn't have anyone strong enough to handle a second one.

When the Marquise class turtle came onto the island, it immediately headed for the battle on the mountain. Long Lan looked pale. No one could stop that shiny, Marquise Spiky Turtle.

Han Sen frowned. The two Dragons were still not going to help. It looked as if they did not care about Long Shan's family at all.

Han Sen knew that he had already exposed himself, anyway. The Dragon man had been staring at Han Sen the whole time, so there was no point in attempting to hide any longer.

Han Sen had been staying with Long Shan's family for two weeks, eating their food. He didn't want to just watch them die now. He did not hesitate; he went straight for the Marquise Spiky Turtle and punched it.

Long Lan was currently protecting the kids, and she looked desperate. The adult men were preparing to block the attacker, but a jade light suddenly shone on the Spiky Turtle. The Spiky Turtle slowed down. A shadow appeared in front of the turtle, punching it continuously with fists that slammed into the turtle like meteors.

That cruel Marquise turtle looked like it was in slow-motion. It was even slower than an ordinary turtle.

"San Mu!" Long Lan and the others were delighted. Long Yan shouted in joy.

Han Sen could not kill the Marquise class turtle, but he attacked it steadily. He went to the Earl turtles and slowed them down as well.

Even the other Marquise turtle, the one that Long Shan was fighting, was slowed by Han Sen's punches. For the first time in the fight, Long Shan had the advantage.

Long Shan's family was very happy, but they had no time to celebrate. They still needed to focus on the turtles, especially those with the turtle symbol upon them.

The Dragon lady on the leaf noticed how powerful Han Sen was and raised her eyebrows. "That crystallizer's xenogeneic genes are strange. That is such a powerful speed reduction."

"It is not just a speed reduction technique," Dragon Fifteen said quietly.

The Dragon lady started to respond, but then she saw another green leaf come floating by. On that green leaf stood a person with a human upper body and a snake lower body. It was one of the Gana.

The leaf was moving by itself, and it drifted over in front of Dragon Fifteen.

"Xius, why are you in Return Ruin Sea?" Dragon Fifteen looked at the Gana woman strangely.

Xius smiled and said, "Don't you want to see me?"

Dragon Fifteen laughed and said, "I was just joking. Seeing you is an absolute pleasure, but don't you have business to attend to in Dragon Palace?"

Xius looked at the fight on Dragon Pool Island, her eyes alighting on Han Sen. She smiled. "Dragon Palace is boring, and you are here, Fifteen. I wanted to come and see you, but I did not expect to find something else so interesting."

"What do you mean?" Dragon Fifteen pretended to be surprised.

"This island possesses a strange life force. I can't tell what it is exactly, but it has certainly attracted many of the Spiky Turtles to it. Something fascinating must reside there." Xius paused. She then looked at Han Sen and said, "And for an elite like him to appear here? That is not a coincidence."

Dragon Fifteen looked shocked, and he said, "Really?"

You don't have to pretend you didn't know," Xius said gently.

Dragon Fifteen's expression turned serious. "If you hadn't told me, I really wouldn't have guessed that. I'm here to investigate a strange incident in Return Ruin Sea. I didn't come for this island."

"Then what are you planning to do?" Xius asked, her smile widening.

In a hard voice, Dragon Fifteen said, "This is a region owned by the Dragon, and I cannot allow things outside of our laws to continue."

Xius smiled. It sounded as if he was referring to Han Sen, but it was also a warning for her.

On Dragon Pool Island, Han Sen killed two Marquise Spiky Turtles. Long Shan and the others killed some turtles, too.

But the Spiky Turtles were still coming to Dragon Pool Island. Then, another two arrived. Luckily, Han Sen was there. If he hadn't been, the entire family would have been eaten by the turtles.

Han Sen killed another Spiky Turtle, and then he started to frown.

Something was wrong with how the turtles were moving. The turtles did not seem to be going after them specifically. Once they arrived at Dragon Pool Island, it looked like they were going straight for the Dragon Pool itself.

Han Sen did not know much about the Dragon Pool. When he arrived, he was already in the pool. Once he had gotten out of it, he had never bothered returning to it. The turtles seemed quite interested in the Dragon Pool, however. Many of them were ignoring the fight entirely.

Seeing how many Spiky Turtles were headed for the Dragon Pool, Han Sen thought, "Even though the Dragon God is gone, its presence still remains. Why do these low level turtles want to go there?"

As Han Sen was thinking about this, a giant wave rose from the sea. A large black body was coming out of the water. It was a huge Spiky Turtle. Its body was like a castle, and the spikes on its back were like ancient cannons. The mere sight of it was terrifying.

“Is that... a Duke class Spiky Turtle?” Long Shan’s family froze. This was far worse than they had expected.

“We will go to the western beach!” Han Sen shouted at Long Shan and the others. Then, he used his Turtle spell to slow down the other Earl turtles.

Long Shan and the others followed and Han Sen to the western beach.

Chapter 2040 Entering the Dragon Pool Again

With Han Sen leading, Long Shan’s family arrived safely upon the western beach. Many Spiky Turtles covered the beach, but there were no giant ones among them.

Han Sen’s assumption was correct; when they put

some distance between themselves and the giant

Spiky Turtle, the creature no longer targeted them. It was now headed straight for the Dragon Pool.

As the goliath crawled forward, the entire island shook with every step it took.

However, much to the horror of Long Shan’s family,

more and more giant Spiky Turtles were on their way.

About a dozen Spiky Turtles were headed towards the island from various directions. Wave upon wave of Marquise and Earl class turtles also swarmed up the

beaches, and they swiftly overran the island.

Han Sen guided Long Shan’s family to avoid every Duke class turtle they could see, but there were too many. In the end, they came face-to-face with one.

The cannon-like spikes on the turtle were gleaming, and they spewed black smoke into the air.

The turtle gave a rumbling grunt, and the spikes shot

out a strange black light. It was like a cannon firing at

Han Sen.

Han Sen jumped up and punched the giant turtle's back. It was too big to avoid the blow. Han Sen's attack drew its attention, and the giant turtle's spikes continued to fire at him.

Han Sen continued to harass the turtle, but his power was insufficient to strike back and break its shell. Instead, he drew the monster away in order to save Long Shan's family.

But judging from how the situation was unfolding, if more giant turtles showed up, there would be little Han Sen could do to help them.

More and more waves were crossing the sea as more giant Spiky Turtles revealed themselves. But the next giant turtle they saw was different. Sitting on its head was another turtle the size of a dinner plate.

That Spiky Turtle was the smallest of all, but it also looked different. Normally, the spikes of a Spiky Turtle looked like the spikes of a hedgehog. But that plate-sized turtle's spikes were diamond-shaped. The entire shell looked like it was made out of a shining black diamond. Wherever it went, all the lesser turtles avoided its path; even the Duke Spiky Turtles moved away.

"There is a King class Spiky Turtle in Return Ruin Sea?" Dragon Fifteen's lady shouted.

Dragon Fifteen and Xius were in shock. They knew there were king class xenogeneics about, but they did not expect this. It was extremely rare for low-tier xenogeneics to have a King class in their ranks, as it was usually too difficult for them to nurture one.

It was like a cat evolving into a tiger. Such an evolution was so difficult that it was practically impossible.

The Spiky Turtles kept heading for the Dragon

Pool. The Dragon Pool itself was not too big, and it would only take one giant turtle to fill up the entire thing. Even so, many of the giant turtles were now entering, and the water in the pool was not rising. It

seemed as if the pool was bottomless.

The black diamond turtle screamed, spurring the other turtles to hurry into the pool at an even faster pace. The giant turtle fighting Han Sen abandoned the fight and went for the pool.

Long Shan lost his opponent, too. The black diamond turtle's scream drove them all into a frenzied rush for the pool. Even if Long Shan crossed the turtle's path again, the beast would ignore him.

"Are those turtles feeding themselves to the Dragon God?" Long Yan asked curiously as he watched the turtles.

Long Shan did not speak because he could not answer.

They knew the Dragon God sometimes appeared in the Dragon Pool, but they did not know where the creature actually came from. Neither did they know what was at the bottom of the pool.

"Little Boy, can you tell big sis about the Dragon God you mentioned?" asked a woman with a soft voice.

Long Shan looked over, and he saw a pretty woman with an attractive human upper body. The lower body was a snake's tail. The Gana woman stood next to Long Yan, and she smiled as she stroked his head.

Long Shan was a Marquise, and yet he hadn't noticed when she arrived.

Long Shan started to say something, but he noticed another man and woman who were also standing there. They had horns and dragon wings, meaning they were pure Dragons.

Long Shan and the others had never met Dragon Fifteen before, but they recognized pure members of their race. They all bowed quickly.

Dragon Fifteen signaled them to rise. "What was the Dragon God he just mentioned?"

Long Shan told them the story of the Dragon God. Dragon Fifteen frowned, then he asked, "Did the Dragon

God drop any dragon scales?"

"Sir, we did not offer it enough of a sacrifice this time, so it did not provide us with any. And furthermore,

we refined the last ones it gave us.” Long Shan spoke

with fear in his voice. He was worried that Dragon Fifteen might pin the blame on him.

Dragon Fifteen frowned. He looked at Long Shan, but he did not say anything. He then looked at Han Sen

and asked, “Who are you? And why are you here?”

“I was brought here by the Dragon God.” Han Sen told him the story he had fabricated for Long Shan already.

Dragon Fifteen did not believe him, though. He looked at Long Shan, and Long Shan quickly said, “San Mu did emerge from the Dragon Pool as soon as the Dragon God appeared.”

“If you came from the Dragon Pool, then you must know about it. Please, take us there.” Dragon Fifteen looked at the Dragon Pool. Almost all of the turtles were inside it by now.

The pool was not too large, but it had consumed all those Spiky Turtles easily. As the last of them passed through, the pool became very quiet.

The Dragon God brought me here. When I came out, I was up on the surface. I don’t actually know anything about the Dragon Pool itself,” Han Sen said.

“Since you are now in Return Ruin Sea, you will have to do as I bid if you wish to leave.” Dragon Fifteen sounded calm, but his words were foreboding.

“If I take you guys down, will you let me leave this place?” Han Sen asked Dragon Fifteen.

“That depends on your performance,” Dragon Fifteen said unhelpfully.

Han Sen thought about it for a bit before agreeing. “Okay.”

“Xius, are you entering the pool?” Dragon Fifteen asked Xius.

“This is a rare occurrence. If you do not object to my coming, I would indeed like to see more of the pool.” Xius looked happy.

Dragon Fifteen did not say anything. He allowed Han Sen to lead them down into the pool.

