

## Chapter 2141

### Suppress Evil Punch

“Suppress Evil? This is both the best and worst geno art to consider teaching.” Sky Path Garden’s leader squinted his eyes and looked over the training ground.

“Leader, why do you say that?” White Real asked.

The leader smiled and said, “Suppress Evil is difficult. There are many meanings to glean from the thirty million words contained in its text. It could easily take an entire year to explain a single paragraph. Many people that have practiced it can teach it, but it’s hard because of the sheer breadth of the technique. Talking about one paragraph hardly helps anyone, so the students aren’t likely to learn much.”

After pausing, he went on to say, “The same is true with Four Season Duke from Rui Beast. He teaches Suppress Evil, and he has been learning it for centuries. And even with all that talent, he has only managed to reach its eighth tier. The Sky Palace leader has managed to fulfill all eleven tiers, but he is the only one that has.”

“Only he has been able to do that? There has never been another?” White Real asked.

“Others have done it, but they are few. Aside from the leader, there is one other who occupied the first elder seat. He has been gone for a long time, though. No one knows whether or not he still lives,” the leader said.

Thousand Feather Crane and the Yun sisters, upon hearing that Han Sen had been forced to teach Suppress Evil, looked worried.

They had just reminded Han Sen not to do this, since Four Season Duke usually taught it. He lectured on Suppress Evil every month, and according to his timetable, he would be there teaching again the next day.

If Han Sen’s speech on Suppress Evil was terrible, then the next day, when Four Season Duke taught it, people were going to openly proclaim the Duke to be superior. It wouldn’t do much damage to Han Sen’s reputation in the long run, but it’d still look bad.

But if Han Sen did well enough to embarrass Four Season Duke, that wouldn’t be great either. It was bad to offend a Duke.

So, it did not matter if he taught Suppress Evil with a high proficiency or a low proficiency. He was doomed, either way. That was why they had explicitly told Han Sen to avoid teaching Suppress Evil.

Now that Yu Jing and Lone Bamboo had come forward to request it in particular, Han Sen had no choice but to comply, though.

Han Sen didn't bother worrying about it. He didn't know what else he could teach, and he had at least prepared a little with Suppress Evil. So, lackadaisically, he was just going to go forward with that.

The Suppress Evil Han Sen had learned was different from the teachings the average student received with it, however. Ordinary students were required to reach King class before being given access to Hidden Path cave and observing the seventy-two gene kill spells. Before that, their teachings were relegated to the pages of books.

But Han Sen had already observed the seventy-two gene skill spells, and by following those, he learned it with a great deal of proficiency. So, Han Sen had already established the basics and continued on.

Because his audience had studied the skill in such a radically different way, their opinions on the teachings could be wildly different. Han Sen wasn't planning on teaching in a conventional method, however. He had another way to go about this.

"If everyone wishes to hear about Suppress Evil, I will discuss it and recount my own experiences. Today, I will talk to you all about the Gold Star Punch, one of the seventy-two Suppress Evil punches," Han Sen said.

"Brother Han, what is a Suppress Evil punch? We haven't encountered anything like that in our learnings of Suppress Evil," Yu Jing asked. Han Sen's first sentence made many people very curious.

Suppress Evil was a very complex geno art, and its power was very unique. The power that fueled it came from within, but it did not correlate with the physical capabilities of your actual body.

Basically, Suppress Evil was similar in some ways to the Purple Eye godlights. It was a special power that was used independently, rather than being combined with some sort of physical strike.

But because Han Sen had studied the original gene kill spells, he knew a lot about how the skill could actually be used. Rather than spending forever talking about the individual elements of the skill, Han Sen was going to start with the finished product; in this case, a punch. Then, the students could reverse-engineer their understanding of the skill from the feelings that the finished product gave them.

Other teachers could take the time to teach about the nitty-gritty details, Han Sen figured. He wasn't going to do that. He was going to talk about a basic punch that stemmed from the original gene kill spells. And through that punch, the students would learn about the technique at large.

Normal people wouldn't understand this, but if they practiced the skill and could get to grips with the sensation of the punch, they would understand the meaning of the original gene kill spells.

Practice makes perfect; do something over and over, and you're bound to get better. Han Sen was well-acquainted with this basic method.

But being basic didn't mean that it was a bad method. Ordinary students weren't like Four Season Duke, who had all the time in the world to learn about Suppress Evil. If they wanted to learn it properly, Four Season Duke's method might take their entire lifetime.

So, Han Sen's basic method was for the students that did not have as much time to learn Suppress Evil.

If the students wished to learn Suppress Evil, learning a Suppress Evil punch would be good. None of them had seen an original gene kill spell before, but if they practiced and researched it like this, then the entire process was sure to be faster.

The only bad thing about a Suppress Evil punch was the limit that Han Sen himself imposed. Even if the students learned the skills as well as Han Sen, they could only be as good as Han Sen. They couldn't go any further.

But for most ordinary people, that was enough. Han Sen's Suppress Evil was at tier eight. If they mastered the punch, they would be equal to the eighth tier of Suppress Evil, as well.

Four Season Duke had practiced Suppress Evil for centuries, and he hadn't gone any farther than eight tiers either.

"A Suppress Evil punch is a fist technique that I learned from Suppress Evil. Suppress Evil is too big to teach in its entirety, so I will teach you all about a specific technique. I hope this can help everyone further their practices with Suppress Evil," Han Sen said as an introduction.

Everyone was interested. They had never heard Suppress Evil being spoken of in such a way. It was like they were having a chemistry lesson, and the topic of the day was punches. The two things didn't really make much sense when combined. There didn't seem to be a relation between the two, but it still sparked much curiosity.

"If there are no questions, I will teach you all the first technique. It is named Gold Star Punch, and it stems from the seventy-two Suppress Evil punches." Han Sen taught them his fist skill.

This skill was not particularly difficult. It was just like any fist skill. It took the shape of the original gene kill spells and that was that. However, it had a great deal of depth. In order to master it, a student would have to understand the original gene kill spells inside and out.

Han Sen wanted to teach swordskills, but so many Sky Palace students used swords that there was already a flood of swordskills. He settled on punches instead.

## **2142 Four Season Duke**

Four Season Duke went to the training ground as he usually did. And there, he prepared to start teaching Suppress Evil. But after waiting a while to begin, he noticed there were only a few people in attendance. This made him frown.

Although the training ground wasn't usually packed, the seats in his lectures were usually around 90% filled.

After all, quite a few students had learned Suppress Evil in Sky Palace. And when they had trouble improving their proficiency with it, many would come to hear what Four Season Duke had to say. This was the first time the place had ever been so empty.

"Luan, why have only a few of you come? Where is Qu Hao?" Four Season Duke asked, as he looked over the handful of students.

Luan and Qu Hao focused on Suppress Evil more than any others. They always appeared in the lessons given by Four Season Duke.

“They’re... attending another teacher’s lesson...” Luan spoke with nervousness and guilty reluctance.

“I see. And which teacher are they studying under?” Four Season Duke focused on Suppress Evil. He didn’t care about anything else, so he didn’t pay much attention to the other instructors.

“They... have gone to listen to Han Sen,” Luan answered.

“Han Sen? What does he teach?” Four Season Duke asked with much curiosity. Even he had heard Han Sen’s name before.

“He... teaches...” Luan was struggling to spit out the words.

“What’s wrong with your mouth? Why do you keep stumbling? What does he teach?” Four Season Duke frowned.

“He is teaching Suppress Evil,” Luan finally stated.

“Suppress Evil?” Four Season Duke’s frown was a deep one. But after a moment, his expression relaxed again.

Han Sen hadn’t been in Sky Palace for very long. Even if he had started learning Suppress Evil the day he arrived, there was no way he could have achieved much with it.

If the students were listening to Han Sen, Four Season Duke concluded that it was just because of Han Sen’s celebrity status. He was the freshest kid on the block. After the students heard a lecture or two from Han Sen, they would quickly recognize which of the two teachers were better at Suppress Evil, and they’d be eager to return.

“All right, let’s start. Today, we are going to talk about the theory of Suppress Evil...” Four Season Duke started his lesson.

Four Season Duke thought that, after a couple of days, that freshness would wear off and his old students would start flocking back to him. But a few more days after that, the students hadn’t come back. Even more had chosen to abandon him, as a matter of fact. Aside from a few students that he had personally trained, all the others were gone.

Now Four Season Duke started to feel upset. There were only a few students in front of the stage now, and so he couldn’t help but frown and say, “I am not teaching today. Let’s go listen to Han Sen and see what is attracting everyone to his lectures.”

Four Season Duke left the stage and headed toward Han Sen’s lecture. Luan and the others followed.

Not long after, Four Season Duke arrived at Han Sen's training ground. When he walked inside, Four Season Duke turned to ask Luan, "Luan, is he really talking about Suppress Evil?"

It was not surprising that Four Season Duke had to ask this. In the training grounds, everyone had their sleeves rolled up. They appeared to be practicing punches. To Four Season Duke, it looked like Han Sen was teaching a simple punching skill. He found it hard to believe what was being taught was actually Suppress Evil.

"Um... he is teaching Suppress Evil. Han Sen said that this is a Suppress Evil punch. You will learn the skill if you learn the punch," Luan explained.

"What a load of nonsense. What does a firm punch have to do with Suppress Evil?" Four Season Duke frowned. He wasn't a rash person, though, so he didn't do anything. He planned to listen to Han Sen and figure out a smarter way in which he could fight back.

Four Season Duke had researched and studied Suppress Evil for a number of centuries. He was a very patient man, so he wouldn't do anything impulsive or stupid. He found a place to sit down, and he waited there to listen to Han Sen.

The students that practiced Suppress Evil all knew who Four Season Duke was. Seeing him there, sitting and listening quietly, they all knew things were about to get interesting.

"Four Season Duke is here! Oh, Han Sen is in trouble now!"

"Will something happen?"

"Perhaps not. They might bicker, but that's about it."

"To be honest, Four Season Duke is a very high level person. But if I am going to learn, following Han Sen would be the easier route."

"Yeah. Han Sen's method of teaching is such a breath of fresh air. It is easy to learn and use."

"You are right. After learning Suppress Evil punch from him, I can see things clearly that I used to have no hope of understanding."

The students spoke quietly amongst themselves, but with the power Four Season Duke possessed, he could hear them as clear as a bell.

He frowned even harder than he had been, and he wondered to himself, "Can the practice of a punch really connect with Suppress Evil?"

A few minutes later, Han Sen arrived and started his lesson.

Han Sen was not aware that Four Season Duke was there. He had grown comfortable with the lessons and with the crowds that attended, so he didn't keep an eye on each and every person who came to listen. He did allow them to ask questions once the lesson was over, however.

"Today, we talk about the Xiong Star Punch from the seventy-two Suppress Evil punches." Han Sen started the lesson by talking rather than demonstrating. That wasn't because it was a secret, though; it was just pointless to demonstrate this early.

The students had to work out the execution for themselves. Han Sen would show them only if they ran into trouble. That was how it worked. Showing people a fist skill, when they had never learned it before, was pointless. It would be like they were watching a show.

Four Season Duke wanted to argue with Han Sen as soon as he began lecturing, but after the Duke listened for a while, his jaw went slack.

Han Sen's fist skill was simple, but it had the meaning of Suppress Evil within it. It all sounded as if it made perfect sense. Four Season Duke was not reckless. Before he figured out anything more, he decided to just listen.

Over the next few days, Four Season Duke attended each of Han Sen's lessons. When the lecture ended, Four Season Duke left without saying anything. That was, until the last day of Han Sen's lessons. All Han Sen did was walk on stage, and before he could do anything, Four Season Duke stood up.

All the students were surprised, knowing something was finally about to go down.

### **2143 Teacher Han**

Over the course of the past few days, in which Four Season Duke attended the lectures given by Han Sen, he had selected a seat closer and closer to the stage each time. And on this day, he had snagged himself a front row seat.

When he stood up, everyone turned to look at him.

Thousand Feather Crane and the Yun sisters were profusely worried, hoping nothing awful was going to happen.

Han Sen had noticed Four Season Duke's presence two days prior to this confrontation, but he hadn't paid the man a second's heed. Now that Four Season Duke was standing up, though, Han Sen gave the man his full attention.

Teacher Han, I have listened to your lessons on Suppress Evil punches over the past few days. And I must confess, I have learned a lot. That being said, I have questions concerning your techniques. Perhaps you can perform a punch for me, and then answer a few questions I have?" Four Season Duke spoke with a guise of complete sincerity.

After that, many students seemed to freeze in place. Thousand Feather Crane and the Yun sisters stared at Four Season Duke as if they had just seen a ghost.

Four Season Duke wasn't mocking him, though. Based on the way he referred to Han Sen as Teacher Han, he wasn't pretending to be in awe of Han Sen. He was speaking as a teacher to a peer.

Because of Four Season Duke's rank, the fact that he referred to Han Sen as a teacher was a seal of his approval. It was to show that he actually had some respect for Han Sen. Since he was a Duke while Han Sen was still a Marquise, he could have just referred to Han Sen by his full name and not by the title.

Many of the Sky Palace students, seeing Four Season Duke ask so sincerely, thought they were dreaming. With Four Season Duke's rank and fame, it was impressive for him to make a request of Han Sen.

After Four Season Duke left Han Sen's lectures every day, he had started practicing when he went home. He was a professional with Suppress Evil, and he knew more about the skill than ordinary people. Because of that, he could see deeper into the essence of the Suppress Evil punches.

After a few days of avid research, Four Season Duke learned many things he had not noticed before. And that had brought him to actually admire Han Sen.

Since this was the final day of Han Sen's lessons, he couldn't stop himself from requesting that Han Sen perform the punch himself. He wanted to know the feelings that could be elicited from Han Sen's performance of a Suppress Evil punch.

People couldn't blame him for wanting to know this, of course. He was a Duke. He could not go to the Hidden Path Cave himself to look at the seventy-two original gene kill spells. If he was able to understand the feelings of the kill spells from a Suppress Evil punch, it'd be great for his own practice and further advancement.

"Ah, you are too polite. If you are interested in my lame talents, then I will perform them for you. If I can improve, please advise me on what I could do to better myself." Han Sen had planned to show off the punch on the last day, anyway. This way, he could do Four Season Duke a favor as well.

Four Season Duke was happy to hear this, and so he said, "No. I only want to learn from you. I have no ulterior motive."

Han Sen said no more. He simply nodded. He went on stage and said, "In ten days, I have taught six punches. Today, I will demonstrate them for you. Please observe. Perhaps they can be of assistance to you."

After that, Han Sen began casting Ghost Star Punch. Then, he performed the skills one after another.

Han Sen had learned seventy-two Suppress Evil punches following the seventy-two original gene kill spells. Every punch carried the meaning of a kill spell. As Han Sen performed the six that he had promised, it felt as if the kill spell had come alive. The kill air gave people a frightful chill. That feeling disturbed their minds, even.

Whenever Han Sen launched a punch, he was like a beast breaking a river. One skill had one meaning. Han Sen showed six punching skills to them. It was like six scary beasts trying to suppress the earth itself. In people's eyes, Han Sen was no longer a human. He was six wild beasts.

The Sky Palace students were jittery with excitement by the time he finished. Four Season Duke looked as if he was drunk, for when Han Sen finished his performance, the Duke was totally frozen in place. It was like he had been drowned in the feelings of the fist techniques.

“So that was Teacher Han’s six-fist-technique. That must have saved me sixty years of practice. I am lucky!” Four Season Duke bowed before Han Sen.

“Four Season Duke, you are too kind!” Han Sen bowed back.

After that, the Suppress Evil punch became famous across all of Sky Palace. It was taken to the Sky Path Garden, and it was modified. It swiftly became one of the must-have skills of Sky Palace.

Han Sen’s reputation was glowing even brighter than before. And because he had created the Suppress Evil punch, he was handsomely rewarded.

After that, Four Season Duke regularly visited Jade Island to practice Suppress Evil alongside Han Sen. Han Sen taught him the seventy-two Suppress Evil punches, and Han Sen was able to learn much about Suppress Evil from Four Season Duke, as well.

Han Sen’s Suppress Evil punch was a very efficient method. It allowed students to learn Suppress Evil fast, but if someone wanted to master the skill, they would need the experience someone like Four Season Duke had.

Han Sen learned a great deal from Four Season Duke, and he grew to really admire the man. This was a teacher that did true research the hard way. He was genuinely worthy of all that respect.

Four Season Duke admired Han Sen’s Suppress Evil punch, too. Whenever he taught Suppress Evil, he began using Suppress Evil punches to allow his students to understand things easier.

“Does Han Sen ever do things that are boring or mundane? He is a wonder with everything he does.” When the Sky Palace leader said this, he smiled.

“Only Kings can go into Hidden Path Cave. When visiting the seventy-two original gene kill spells, they can become half-deified. No one is interested in it after this, and if they fail, they cannot perform the seventy-two punching skills as well as Han Sen, either. Only Han Sen can do what he does. He made Suppress Evil easier to learn, though. The students don’t need to spend as much time studying it. While it may be considered as corner-cutting, it’s undeniably a good method.” The black-masked woman went on to say, “And I heard that when Lone Bamboo saw Han Sen’s Suppress Evil punch, he requested his own visit to Hidden Path Cave? That is surprising.”

Sky Palace leader nodded, and he said, “Lone Bamboo has been there for half a month. He won’t be back for another year, I suspect. But there is trouble on Metal World.”

The masked woman had a wry smile. “If we knew that we were on the cusp of discovering Metal World, we wouldn’t have allowed Lone Bamboo to enter just yet. Now that he is focusing on the cave, it is not suitable to disrupt him and send him to Metal World.”

“I can’t think of a Marquis aside from Lone Bamboo that can do this task for us,” Sky Palace leader said.



The masked woman laughed and said, "If Han Sen is the reason Lone Bamboo went into the Hidden Path Cave, then Han Sen should be the one to do what Lone Bamboo was supposed to. We should have him go to Metal World."

"That's not a good idea. He isn't a Marquise yet," the Sky Palace leader said with a shake of his head.

"And yet he even killed Dragon Nine? You can use him as a Marquise. And he needs the resources. This is a perfectly viable opportunity." The masked woman laughed again.

## **Chapter 2144 Metal World**

Han Sen thought he would have a few days free to himself, but soon after he finished his lectures, he was summoned by the elders. There, he was tasked with leading a team to a newly discovered xenogeneic space. He was instructed to explore the space, and if possible, return with resources and materials.

Because the xenogeneic space only allowed Marquises to enter, Lone Bamboo had been intended to lead the task force there. But right now, he was training inside Hidden Path Cave. As a result, the elders saw fit to pass the job on to Han Sen. Han Sen was given a basic description of the xenogeneic space, which was called Metal World. This was, however, only a temporary name for the location. He did learn that more than one faction had already discovered it, though. Other teams were already there, researching the place. Sky Palace was a step behind.

Based on what he was told, there were groups from the Dragon, Demon, Destroyed, and even the Buddha there. They were all in the Metal World, and now that Sky Palace had joined the exploration, the situation was sure to become quite complex.

Han Sen did not have much time to prepare before being shipped off, as he was led by a Sky Palace elder. He was accompanied by one hundred Sky Palace Marquise students, as well.

The trip to Metal World had been organized by the elders. The Marquises had been instructed to follow Han Sen's commands after they entered Metal World, so their lives were pretty much in his hands.

Although Han Sen was just an Earl, Sky Palace's authority was well-respected among its members. And Han Sen's own reputation was mighty. No one objected to Han Sen's position as their leader.

Before entering Metal World, the elder provided Han Sen with a bounty of information about the Marquise students he was set to lead. A few of them had been marked, as they had unique powers that would be crucial for the trip ahead.

Han Sen led the one hundred Sky Palace Marquises to Metal World. That xenogeneic space was a planet, and a strange power radiated from it. That power forbade the entry of any creature or being that was above the Marquise level.

The scariest thing about all this was that the planet had a very special magnetic property. Metal objects would be sucked into the planet, so tools made of metal were unusable in the planet's vicinity. Due to this, airships could not come close to the planet.

When the planet was viewed from the exterior, it seemed to be entirely shrouded in wild magnetic storms. The whole planet was cloaked in a swirl of thunderclouds. When Han Sen and the others pierced through the clouds, a most colorful planet came into sight.

When they got close enough to see it all, however, they swiftly understood why the place had been given the title of Metal World. The mountains and plains there were all metal.

Seeing topographical features made of metal was a little odd, but the really strange thing was the metallic nature of all the animals and plants. Everything on the planet's surface was metal, and it was a very surreal thing to lay eyes on.

"Brother Yuya, where are we to begin our search?" Han Sen asked politely, looking at the Marquise student.

Yuya was a highly-regarded Marquise of Sky Palace. Second only to Lone Bamboo, he was certainly the strongest of Han Sen's companions. He was always at the forefront of exploring new xenogeneic spaces for Sky Palace, as well. He had a lot of experience with these sorts of endeavors.

Yuya looked over the planet's surface, then spoke to Han Sen. "We don't know where the other races have set up operations, but they are sure to have seen us as we came in. So, exploring the planet is not our primary objective. Finding those other races or finding a safe zone to establish a place of respite should be our first priority."

"Brother Yuya, you are correct! I was being reckless. Where should we camp? What do you think would be the safest place for us?" Han Sen asked.

Seeing that Han Sen was really interested in the opinions of others, Yuya pointed out a Marquise to Han Sen. "You might want to ask Brother Yunyi. He is good at this sort of thing."

"Brother Yunyi, please." Han Sen knew these matters should be handled by the professionals. Sky Palace might have sent him there to lead, but leading meant using his forces effectively, not doing everything himself like some kind of hero. It was his job to learn his team's strengths and put them to good use.

There were so many unknown factors about Metal World. He'd be able to escape if he ran into trouble, but he couldn't go back with one hundred Marquises dead. And the other factions would be dangerous. They could have certainly established traps and ambushes. The enemy had been there for a while, and they had been given the opportunity to learn about the xenogeneic space. They might use their headstart to trick Han Sen's party.

As Han Sen's team set to work, he quickly learned that there were many geniuses in Sky Palace. They were so good at everything, and they were quick to establish a camp on Metal World and start exploring

the surrounding area. They also built an alarm system and emergency contingencies for all sorts of situations.

But what surprised Han Sen the most was his team's dedication. They researched and cataloged everything within a hundred miles. Aside from a few metal animals and plants, however, there was no sign of xenogeneics. They didn't see any of the Marquises sent by the other races, either.

There was no day and night cycle on the planet, and the environment wasn't very friendly to life. But the Sky Palace team were all Marquises, so a poor environment would not bring them down.

The magnetic storms in the sky continued to rage. Blue lightning flashed through the sky continuously, lighting up the planet's surface better than a normal sun.

Han Sen, Yuya, and the other Marquises were talking about expanding their exploration when the magnetic storm suddenly changed color. The blue magnetic storm turned a beautiful shade of pink.

Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong!

Suddenly, a loud noise began to ring in their ears. The metal forest nearby began to shake like it was suffering an earthquake.

Not long after, a ten-meter-tall metal rhino appeared out of the metal forest, and it was not alone. Many more followed after, and before long, a thousand of them had come storming out of the trees. They were headed to a nearby river that looked like mercury.

Han Sen was happy he had listened to Yunyi and avoided setting up camp near the river. If they had, the rhinos could have stampeded right over them.

Those metal rhinos looked powerful. The team couldn't determine how strong the creatures were, but in that unknown land, fighting them did not seem like a bright idea.

Yunyi was looking at the metal rhinos when he said, "They are like living hunks of metal. Judging by their lifeforce, I can estimate that they are at least Marquise in strength. I don't know if they are xenogeneics, but they don't seem to be too smart."

"Weird. We didn't catch sight of them in any of our explorations. Where did they come from?" White Real, who had also come on the trip, frowned in confusion.

## **Chapter 2145 Strange Plane**

The host of metal rhinos moved down to the riverbank. They eventually walked into the stream and began playing in the water that looked a lot like mercury.

They had great, hulking metal bodies. They looked like they were made from rough, dull steel, and their bodies were a stark contrast to the glimmering silver river.

Han Sen didn't know what the silver liquid in the river was, but it was most certainly not water. The metal rhinos drank the silver liquid freely, though, so there was a small chance that the liquid was harmless.

While the rhinos drank and played, a rumbling noise began to come from the forest. Many more metal creatures came down from the mountains and emerged from the forests. They all went straight for the river, and when they reached it, they began to drink from it.

There were metal snakes that had to have been at least one hundred meters long. There were silver-colored lions and centipedes with a seemingly-infinite number of legs. There was a great variety of metallic creatures, all headed for the river with an insatiable thirst.

The metal creatures looked very scary. At first glance, they appeared to be Duke or even King class monsters. For some reason, though, there didn't seem to be any hostility between the various creatures. Many low-level metal creatures came forward to drink the silver liquid alongside the more powerful ones.

"The metal creatures sure seem very friendly," White Real said with curiosity.

"Perhaps not." Yuya summoned a pigeon-like xenogeneic. It came out of his sleeve and flew towards the river. The bird xenogeneic obviously wasn't a creature that was native to Metal World.

A bronze body suddenly soared through the sky. The creature was shaped something like a dragonfly, but it was made completely of bronze. Its body was at least five meters long, and its bulging eyes and mandibles made it look monstrous.

The bronze body flew past the river, and it snapped up the bird xenogeneic that Yuya had released. It gobbled up the bird with just a few seconds of chewing, feathers and all.

Everyone was frozen, and Yuya felt compelled to say, "It looks like they are only friendly to other creatures that are native to Metal World. Outsiders don't receive the same treatment."

Han Sen nodded. Now, he really admired Yunyi. The creatures had crossed over mountains and traversed forests to get there from all around, but the minor place Yunyi had selected for camp was absent of creatures.

Even if creatures did come close to their safe zone, they could fall back into their cave and remain hidden. No one would be able to find them there. It was a solid spot to establish camp.

Because there were too many powerful metal creatures nearby, Han Sen set up a rota of shifts for the men to keep an eye on those creatures. For now, no one was to travel.

Ten hours later, some of the metal creatures were still occupying the river. The beasts kept coming and going. It seemed as if it might have been the only river on the planet, and as a result, everyone would eventually swing by to drink from it.

"Captain Han, come and take a look at this." Han Sen was resting when Yuya suddenly called him.

Han Sen got up and followed Yuya to the mouth of the cave and peered cautiously outside. The metal creatures that were near the river were starting to look nervous. They began staying out of the liquid, visibly fearful of something.

Han Sen waited and watched a while, until eventually, a white metal beast approached the river. Whenever the other creatures saw it draw near, they avoided it. None were keen to step in its way.

Han Sen observed the white metal beast. It did not look very big, probably about two meters long. But it was white and looked like a mammoth.

That metal mammoth went right into the river and began sucking up the silvery liquid with its snout. The other metal creatures made sure to stay far away from the mammoth, all of them keeping a vigilant eye on the beast. It looked as if they didn't dare drink the liquid while the mammoth did.

They waited until the mammoth was satisfied and left the area. When it was gone, the average metal creatures returned to the river and resumed drinking.

Seeing that mammoth walk back into the metal forest, Han Sen and Yuya looked at each other and sighed. When the mammoth appeared, they did not dare to even breathe. The last thing they wanted was for that thing to find them.

The mammoth was very powerful. A Marquise wouldn't be able to deal with such a fiend.

"It looks like our situation is not very favorable. Only Marquises can enter this place, and yet some of the creatures here are King class? One mistake could leave all of us dead," Yuya said.

Yunyi nodded and said, "Those of the other races might be in hiding, as well. We can wait for now, but it does seem as if the metal creatures only emerge when the sky turns pink. Perhaps when the magnetic storm returns to blue, the creatures will all disappear again."

Han Sen and the others thought that made perfect sense. There was no need to rush their operation, either. They had to take their time and figure things out, first and foremost.

They set up a series of shifts for watching the river. Over the course of time, many different types of metal creatures came to drink from the river.

There were other scary things like the mammoth, as well, which was quite worrying for Han Sen's team.

After eighty hours, the stream of metal creatures visiting the river began to slow. And before long, the pink magnetic storm began to change. An hour later, the lightning flashing across the sky returned to blue. Things looked normal again.

Finally, the Marquises concluded that there were no more metal creatures coming to the river. Han Sen sent out a few trackers to explore the area.

The results were as expected, but it surprised them all the same. The metal creatures that had appeared near the river were now all gone. It was as if they had just vanished.

“Oh no! Have they turned invisible? Or are they just hiding away someplace underground?” White Real asked with a strange look.

Yuya did not speak. They were all deep in thought. The Metal World was strange, and they couldn't come to much of a conclusion until they learned a lot more.

While Han Sen and the others were thinking, someone approached them from the direction of the mountain. When he reached the perimeter they had established, he called out to them.

“I am Kahn of the Demon. Is your group from Sky Palace?”

Han Sen looked around carefully, but the only person he could see was Kahn. He went forward to speak to the felon, taking Yuya with him. “Kahn? What are you doing here?”

“You are the leader of this team, Han Sen? Great! Since we're already friends, we can co-operate.” Kahn laughed.

“I don't recall us ever having much in the way of co-operation,” Han Sen responded coldly.

“To be honest, I don't recall being chummy with you, either. But right now, the Dragon, Buddha, and Destroyed are all working together. If we don't form some sort of alliance, they might come after us in this dangerous place.” As he spoke, Kahn's shoulders slumped.

“Why should I believe you?” Han Sen did not move.

“We arrived here long before you did. I think you'll be interested in the information I possess.” Kahn smiled.

## **Chapter 2146 Trapped**

Han Sen let Kahn into the camp so they could continue their discussion. Kahn spoke without preamble. “You might not believe me when I tell you this, but we are all trapped on this world.”

“What do you mean?” Han Sen asked with a frown.

“Well, since you've entered Metal World, have you tried contacting anyone outside it?” Kahn said.

Han Sen and Yuya looked at each other. Then, they looked back at Kahn without responding.

Kahn sighed and said, “It is good that you haven't. I advise that you don't try it. Two Demon Marquises tried to leave, but they died doing so. The same thing happened to some of the Buddha, Dragon, and Destroyed. No one can leave this planet. If you do not believe me, you can go ahead and try to leave. But don't blame me for not warning you.”

“How are those that leave killed?” Yunyi asked.

“They fell to their deaths,” Kahn said, his voice clipped.

“Fell to their deaths?” Han Sen and the others frowned.

“Have you ever played with a rubber band? The further you pull, the harder it hits when released. When you enter this planet, your body becomes bound by the rules of it. If you fly above the surface, you will feel a power trying to drag you back down. The higher you fly, though, the stronger it gets. Eventually, even the strongest are thrown back to their doom,” Kahn said.

“Isn’t what you’re describing just gravity? Why must you make it sound so complicated?” White Real said.

Kahn shook his head. “It is not gravity. Gravity gets weaker the farther you get from a planet, but this force grows stronger with distance. And when the planet finally overcomes your resistance and drags you back, you end up hitting the ground at mind-blowing velocities. No Marquise body can withstand it.”

“How high can you fly before this power appears?” Han Sen asked.

“Ten thousand meters,” Kahn answered quickly.

“Ade.” Yuya looked over to a strong beast Marquise.

That lion-like Marquise answered by leaping with its powerful legs and taking off into the sky. He reached a height of ten thousand meters in a short amount of time.

When it passed ten thousand meters, the lion Marquise slowed to a crawl.

It continued flying higher, but its pace was excruciatingly slow. It struggled for some time, and when it reached a height of thirteen thousand meters, it stopped completely.

“Ade, come back!” Yuya shouted.

Ade started to follow the command, but before he could turn around, a scary power launched him back down to the ground.

Pang!

Ade’s body was like a meteor descending. He struck the metal surface at a frightening speed, and a massive crater was formed upon the crash. Han Sen and the others immediately ran over to him. Ade’s body was completely broken, like a mashed cake.

Ade roared. A holy light covered his body, and then he was back to normal.

“Now we can talk about this properly, right?” Kahn smiled.

They returned to camp and began discussing the terms of cooperation. They struck a deal.

In the meantime, Kahn explained more of how the planet had been found. The Demon and the Buddha were the first ones to discover Metal World. A battle had drawn them into that rarely-traveled region of space, and as they fought, they stumbled across the hidden planet.

The two races sent people to explore Metal World, but somehow, news of the planet was leaked to the airwaves. The Dragon, the Destroyed, and Sky Palace received word of their discovery.

It was only after the Marquises landed on the planet that they realized how dangerous the place was. And it was also then that they discovered they were unable to leave.

The Dragon, the Destroyed, and the Buddha quickly formed an alliance. They killed almost all of the Demons that Kahn had brought to the planet, so when Kahn caught sight of the Sky Palace people arriving, he came to them in the hope of receiving their help.

Yuya looked at Kahn and coldly said, "The news about this place was released because you found out something was wrong, right? You lured other races here. That is why the Dragon and the Destroyed grouped up with the Buddha to fight you, wasn't it?"

Kahn sighed and said, "I have been here this entire time, haven't I? I haven't been able to contact the outside world. I don't know if it was a Demon that leaked the news."

After that, Kahn laughed and said, "Even if we were the ones who leaked the news, it shouldn't have any impact on our cooperation."

"Why would we join you, anyway? The Dragon would be a much better choice," Han Sen asked calmly.

Kahn seemed ready for Han Sen to say this, and so he smiled. "When they formed their alliance, it gave them an advantage. But they won't share anything with you. They'll want to keep the benefits for themselves."

"What benefits?" Han Sen asked, zeroing in on the key point of what Kahn had said.

If the other races were trapped, their best choice should have been to coordinate their efforts to search for an exit. But instead, they had attacked the Demon. It seems as if there was something more going on that Kahn wasn't quite willing to reveal.

"The first two teams to arrive found some old ruins on the planet. The ruins might have been left by a deified elite.

Now, those three races are guarding it. If we work together, we might be able to beat them and nab the loot for ourselves. Sky Palace is strong, but you cannot fight all three by yourselves," Kahn said with certainty.

Kahn provided them with more intel on the location and disposition of the ruins, and Han Sen sent someone to verify Kahn's story.

Kahn wasn't willing to give out too much information, though. He smiled and said, "We Demon and the Buddha discovered the ruin at the same time. We know as much as they do. There is no harm in us forming an alliance with you, is there?"

Han Sen and Yuya held a brief discussion. They both agreed that an alliance was a good idea, so Han Sen left the details of the operation to Yunyi and Yuya. They were better than Han Sen at that sort of thing.



“We have to move while the blue storm is raging and the metal creatures are hidden. Once we are in the ruins, we will be safe. We won’t get attacked by the creatures,” Kahn explained, clearly wanting them to move quickly. And on the way, they’d meet up with the rest of the Demon.

Kahn had many secrets he could not reveal, but most of his information was legit and it saved Han Sen a whole bunch of time. And if the Dragon attacked them while they were in the ruins, teaming up with the Demon could save their lives.

They confirmed the blue storm’s duration and the ruin’s location, and then they set out. They met up with the other Demons and continued on.

The Demons were in terrible shape. They were wearier than Han Sen had imagined. Aside from Kahn, there were only twenty Marquises remaining, and all of them were injured.

## **Chapter 2147 Metal Giant God City**

A giant city was nestled into the slopes of a metal mountain. The city was made of the same black metal as the mountain, and it looked like it had been carved from the mountain rather than built.

When viewed from afar, the city and mountain blended together until it was impossible to tell where one ended and the other began.

Two metal peaks that were one thousand meters tall formed the gateposts of that massive city. The two enormous doors made those that passed between them feel like ants.

From far away, Han Sen could see that the title on the gate read, “Metal Giant God City.” It was written in a language Han Sen had seen in the geno universe before, but the words themselves looked so powerful that it was easy to imagine them leaping to life and sundering the skies of the world.

Seeing that giant city, crouching on the mountain like a beast, Han Sen frowned and said, “This city is so big. Not even the largest races I have seen would require the sort of space this place provides.”

Kahn spoke in a hushed tone. “Long ago, the Giants were one of the ten higher races. They were part of a group called the Breakskies. The Breakskies had difficulty breeding, and their population gradually decreased until they became extinct, aside from a few who interbred with other races. We believe that this city is a deified location that once belonged to the Breakskies.”

After a pause, Kahn resumed his dialogue. “After entering the city, we unearthed some text that made mention of the Breakskies. The carvings revealed that this place was a Breaksky city, but at some point, there was a battle that brought the city to ruin. Oddly, while we were in the city, we discovered no remains or corpses.”

Since the main gate was shut and no one had been able to open it, Kahn led them to the left side of the city where there was a broken wall. Without that broken wall, it seemed unlikely that anyone would have made it inside.

Entering from above would doubtlessly have its own challenges. The creatures that had built this city would have safeguarded against that.

When they crossed over the wall, Han Sen noticed a few camps on the other side. The camps looked as if they belonged to other races, and indeed they did. Quite obviously, they belonged to the Buddha, Dragon, and Destroyed.

It was odd that the other races hadn't placed any guards at the city's broken wall. There was no sign of anyone being around, actually.

"That's weird. It looks like they're not here anymore. Or is this some kind of trap?" White Real looked at the camp with concern.

Odds and ends were strewn about the camp. It didn't seem like there had been a fight, but it looked as if people had made a quick getaway.

"This is not a trap. There really is no one here," Yuya said.

Han Sen took his team into the camp to have a look around. When they determined that the other teams really were gone, they began gathering up the numerous supplies and resources that the others had left behind. The unhappy campers had left quite the store of geno fluid in their camp.

"It looks like they really did leave in a rush. They did not take the geno fluid with them." Han Sen looked at Kahn.

Kahn understood Han Sen, and he quietly said, "When the Demon first came here under the blue storm, we saw the Dragon. They had vanished by the time the red storm ended, though. Perhaps they found something big, and they were too excited to pack up and head for the deeper recesses of the ruins. I wonder what could have made them break camp so quickly?"

"Perhaps it wasn't that they discovered something. Perhaps something went awry, and whatever happened forced them to flee," Yuya said.

"It is possible. But we haven't seen signs of fighting," Kahn mumbled, deep in thought. Then, he suddenly stopped.

It wasn't just Kahn, either. Everyone in the group grew pale as they looked back outside the city.

A multitude of red eyes hovered in the skies outside the city. The eyes grew closer as they watched, revealing the bronze, dragonfly-like bodies of the creatures soaring through the air. They were five meters long, and a buzzing sound accompanied their flight that set Han Sen's teeth on edge.

There were so many of them that the swarm seemed endless. And they were now headed for the broken wall.

“What is going on? This is the time of the blue storms! Why would metal xenogeneic creatures appear at a time like this?” Yuya looked at Kahn.

“I don’t know. We have never seen metal xenogeneics under a blue storm before. And even during a red storm, they never approached the city. This isn’t good... Let’s run!” Kahn cried. Then, he led the Demon further into the ruins.

Han Sen and Yuya looked at each other. They took the Sky Palace people into the ruins, as well.

Those dragonflies were as strong as Marquises, and their numbers were legion. They could be fought off, possibly, but not without a price being paid. It’d get dirty.

Sky Palace and the Demon Marquises headed for the shelter of the ruins together. Kahn was leading, and he shouted as he ran, “There is a palace up ahead. We can hide there!”

Han Sen had already seen the building he was referring to. The palace was like a mountain itself. It was so large that Han Sen figured even the blind could probably see it. But the palace’s gates were shut, and he didn’t know if they could open them.

“I have been here before. There is a gap in the palace wall. We can slide through, get inside, and barricade the entrance. A bottleneck like that will be much easier to defend,” Kahn said, and then ran for the other side of the palace.

Han Sen was emotionless throughout all this, but he led the Sky Palace students after Kahn. Up ahead, he saw a giant cave. It was shaped like a fist, and it seemed that it had been punched into the metal wall.

The metal xenogeneics were coming fast, though. The teams had no time to hesitate as they slid through the wall. Han Sen and Yuya jerked the last of their people into the palace just as the dragonfly metal xenogeneics buzzed toward them.

The Marquises that guarded the cave entrance released their godlights, killing the two nearest metal xenogeneics.

Then a Demon Marquise summoned a giant shield to barricade the entrance.

The metal xenogeneics slammed into the shield repeatedly, but try as they might, it wasn’t going to let them through.

Han Sen quickly looked around the palace they had stumbled into. It appeared to be some sort of side room, but before he could examine it further, his attention was drawn to the bodies lying on the floor. The corpses were both Dragons and Buddhas, and it looked as if they had died gruesome deaths.

Their scales and skin had been stripped from their bodies, but strangely, their flesh was left whole. There was blood everywhere, though. The sight washed over the teams in a horrible chill. Even Han Sen, who saw blood often, felt sick.

## 2148 Guardian Spider

Do you recognize these people of the Buddha and Dragon?" Han Sen asked Kahn. The two had instructed their teams to stay away from the bodies.

Kahn examined the corpses, and after a while, he said, "I think this Buddha is Marquise Grass. He's always had a pronounced limp, because his left leg is a little shorter than his right leg. Look, that has to be him. As for this Dragon fellow, I believe he must be Dragon 123. His wings aren't as broad as the wings of the average Dragon. These two were fine the last time I saw them, so whatever happened to them must have been rather recent."

Han Sen looked at Yuya. Yuya was also looking at the bodies, and he said, "Aside from their skin and their scales being stripped, there doesn't appear to be any other forms of injuries. Their muscles and skeletons are all intact, so it doesn't appear as if they were hit. At the same time..." Yuya tapped his chin in thought. "These guys were too strong to have been killed by being skinned. They must have taken internal injuries or something."

"Are you saying this was caused by some sort of power that can bypass the body's protection and deal damage within? I know Yinyang Punch and Pierce Body can do what you have described, but from the way these bodies look... I don't think they were slain by either of those powers. Their bones would have incurred much damage and their muscles would have torn and bled, if they were victims of those techniques," White Real said, stepping carefully around the bodies.

Yuya considered that. "If it was not a geno art such as Pierce Body, it had to be something else that is just as invasive. Perhaps a small bug of some kind."

"That could very well be it, yes." White Real nodded.

"In that case, we'll have to take a look inside their bodies and see." Kahn signaled for one of his Demon Marquises to approach. His subordinate drew a knife and approached a Buddha corpse.

Yuya stopped the Demon Marquise firmly, though. "I think it would be unwise for us to meddle with their bodies."

"What if there is something in there? We might fall into the same predicament that these two did!" Kahn said.

"If something is inside them, then it doesn't seem to be dangerous as long as it remains inside the corpses. If we cut a body open and let it loose, things could go badly for us. I think we should just seal the bodies and ignore them," Yuya said.

“That’s a bad idea.” Kahn shook his head. “What do you think, Han Sen?”

“Do as Yuya has instructed,” Han Sen said.

“Fine. If that is your decision, then we will do things your way. But my people are not good at using sealing powers,”

Kahn said, while opening his arms.

Han Sen nodded. Yuya found a Marquise that was good with sealing powers and had him create a Bai Sema to encircle it. They very carefully avoided moving the body as the sphere of protection went up around it.

Han Sen kept eyeing the plain room that they had entered. There was a door on one wall that opened into a hallway, but no one knew where it led.

“Yunyi, can you determine anything about the layout of the palace?” Han Sen looked at Yunyi.

“I can try, but all I have is a hall to go on. It isn’t very much. I need to get a better look at the place before I map it out,” Yunyi said.

“Yuya, you and some of the others should guard this place. I will go have a look around with Yunyi,” Han Sen told Yuya. “That is far too dangerous. I should be the one to go, with a few others,” Yuya said.

Han Sen refused to let Yuya come, but he did allow a few Marquises that were decent at scouting to accompany them and map the trail.

Han Sen was confident in his Demon Bug Bai Sema. Even if they encountered a King class foe, they’d be fine.

“I will come along with you guys,” Kahn said.

“Sure.” Han Sen gave him a nod.

But before they could enter the hallway, the Demon Marquises that were barricading the room’s entrance started to shout. “There are xenogeneics higher than Marquises attacking our shields! I cannot hold them off.”

“Head for the hallway and block off the door of this room instead,” Kahn ordered quickly.

They now had no choice but to move forward. Han Sen, Yunyi, and Yuya were up front. They moved towards the hallway alongside the rest of their Sky Palace teammates.

Once everyone had entered the hallway, they slammed the door shut. It wasn’t very well fortified, so they used sealing powers to reinforce the door and bolster its strength. As they did, a strange hissing sound came from within the room. It was fortunate that they had reinforced the door in time.

The hallway led outside, where several paths wandered deeper into the city. Each path led to a palace. They took the right path, which seemed to head to the closest palace. The giant palace was very clean,

and there was a giant metal statue standing in front of it. It seemed to depict an actual Giant, but it somehow looked a bit different.

When they reached the interior of the construct, they found the corpses of a vast number of Dragons and Buddhas.

“This is weird. I thought there was an alliance between the three races here. Why have we only seen the corpses of the Dragon and the Buddha? Where might the bodies of the Destroyed be? Surely, they could not have all escaped successfully,” Yunyi said with visible confusion.

“It is strange.” Kahn nodded in agreement. He walked around the building before coming to a stop near a statue. Han Sen looked at the statue and felt a sense of foreboding.

Katcha!

As Han Sen observed the statue, he heard a crunching noise. The mouth of the statue suddenly opened, and when it did, red lantern eyes shone from deep within it.

“Formation!” Han Sen commanded. Yuya released his powers, and light swords flew out of his body. Each blade flew to hover over a Sky Palace member’s head.

Everyone stood motionlessly, allowing the light swords to touch their heads. Markings appeared on their foreheads, allowing Yuya’s thoughts to be channeled into everyone through the sword marks.

When they had just established their formation at Yuya’s direction, the thing inside the statue decided to emerge. It was a metal spider. Its colors were black and white, and its eyes were like chunks of copper.

The metal spider did not wait around; it immediately charged at the assembly. Behind it, an endless stream of spiders continued to skitter out of the statue.

The whole hall was thrown into disarray. Kahn commanded his Demons to fight, but without Yuya’s flawless coordination, they had no hope of being as effective as the Sky Palace team. Both sides were intently focused on protecting their own, as well.

Han Sen and the others listened to Yuya’s commands. They maintained a tight formation as they fought the spiders, and before long, they were killing the spiders in droves.

When Han Sen saw Yuya’s power in action, he thought about Ning Yue. Ning Yue was an exceptional commander, and his will had always been strong. With someone like that among Han Sen’s forces, the entire team would be far more powerful.

“Xenogeneic Marquise Guardian Spider hunted. Xenogeneic gene found.”

After Han Sen killed one of the metal spiders, a scream erupted from inside the statue. A red spider began scrambling out of the statue’s mouth.

The Guardian Spiders did not look as if they could spin silk, but the claws on the ends of their legs were sharper than any knife. Not even the armor of a Marquise fighter could withstand blows from those.

When the red spider emerged from the statue's mouth, it flew towards the battlers in an instant. Six of its blade-like appendages came swiping down towards the intruders.

Yuya commanded the fighters to split up and scatter a little, and once clear of the spider's attack, they closed back in to surround the arachnid. They lifted their swords and struck the spider in perfect sync. But it was to no avail, as their swords simply bounced off with a loud clanging noise. They couldn't even scratch its body.

"That big guy has to be a Duke!" Yunyi shouted.

Yuya nodded in agreement, then drew his own sword. Yunyi then ordered all of the Sky Palace students to strike a single spot on the spider. All their powers came against the creature like a rapid river. The target they had selected was its mouth. They managed to break its jaw, and when that occurred, the spider fell to the ground.

After a few more attacks, Han Sen and the others managed to bring an end to the wicked fiend. Because of their formation, however, Han Sen was unable to get in the last hit.

After the red spider died, no more Guardian Spiders emerged to attack them. They quickly mopped up the last of the Guardian Spiders on the field.

No one from Sky Palace was injured, but a few more of the Demon had gotten torn up. Furthermore, it was Sky Palace that took care of the red spider.

"It looks like I need to hurry up and bring Ning Yue here. I hope that he can develop here," Han Sen thought to himself.

"Weird. With the power of the three races working together to kill the spiders, this should not have been that hard. Why are there loads of dead Buddhas and Dragons here, and why wasn't there a single dead spider amongst them upon our entry?" Yunyi looked over one of the spider bodies and frowned.

"It's because we didn't touch the spiders." A voice resonated across the path from someplace at the back of the palace. Dragon Eight appeared with a few of the Dragon and Buddha in tow. There was no sign of the Destroyed, however.

Things suddenly became very tense. The Sky Palace students readied themselves for a fight, but the Buddha and the Dragons all seemed injured. There had been some serious fighting, from the looks of things.

"Do not worry. We are not your enemies now," Dragon Nine said from behind Dragon Eight.

"Dragon Eight, what do you mean?" Kahn couldn't see Dragon Nine, and so he asked Dragon Eight.

Dragon Eight calmly said, "The Destroyed tricked us. They were familiar with this place already, and they knew some of its secrets. They lured us to dangerous parts of the city and got many of us killed. The Destroyed then went deeper into the palace, and we have no idea what they are trying to accomplish."

"Amitabha! And whatever it is they are planning, it doesn't look good to us. The Destroyed don't seem to want us to get out of here alive and let others know what transpired here," a Buddha Marquise said.

"Are you saying the giant city is in some way related to the Destroyed? I thought the Breakskies were the original inhabitants," Kahn said skeptically.

"When we reached the back of the palace, we came across a statue with three heads and six arms. It was the exact depiction of the Destroyed. If our assumptions are correct, the Destroyed might once have been part of the Breakskies," Dragon Eight said.

"If that's true, then we're in serious trouble. We cannot leave the planet, and the Destroyed will try to kill us all in order to keep their secrets. They aren't going to let us leave," Yunyi said.

Suddenly, a strange voice boomed through the hall. "You guys are right! Don't even think about getting out alive. Since you're here, why not die here?"

The voice startled everyone. They looked around for a minute before they realized that it was actually the statue that was talking.

As the metal statue spoke, its body began to move. The statue was previously in a sitting position, but when it stood up, its head broke through the ceiling. It swung a fist and cleared away half of the roof.

Seeing the giant fist continuing down towards them, everyone moved to evade it. But the fist wasn't the real threat; when the roof above them was broken open, the dragonfly-looking xenogeneics swarmed down through the opening.

The entire place fell into chaos. The metal statue punched a few more times, and the palace was almost entirely demolished.

Han Sen and the others tried slashing the metal statue, but the attacks barely scratched it. They decided to fall back from the palace through the cracks that had formed. But there were many dragonfly xenogeneics buzzing through the air now, and that made their escape more difficult.

While they were sprinting away, more explosions came from the ruins. Many giant metal statues rose out of the destruction and turned in their direction. Han Sen noticed that one of the metal statues was at least a thousand meters tall. It had three heads and six arms, and it looked exactly like a Destroyed.

The four races were all in extreme danger. The metal xenogeneics hounded them relentlessly. The metal statues were scary, too, as their strength was equivalent to a King.

The metal statue that chased Han Sen opened its mouth wide and spat out fire like a geyser of hell's flames.

Not too far away, there was an extra-evil looking blue giant. A godlight shone from its chest, casting a fifty-meter-long beam that destroyed everything that it touched.



The other giants released their own powers. Their eyes were shining red, and they were all headed for Han Sen and the others.

The teams all started to feel their hope dwindle. Although there were many strong Marquises around them, at the end of the day, they were just Marquises. They could not fight the giant metal statues.

Plus, there were metal dragonfly xenogeneics all about. They wouldn't even have a chance to escape.

"Come over here!" Han Sen realized that fighting would be useless, so he quickly gathered all the Sky Palace people to him. Yuya echoed Han Sen's command to all the members through the swordmark, in case they did not hear Han Sen's voice amidst the chaos.

Many of the Sky Palace students came to Han Sen. When Kahn saw this, he brought his few remaining Demons over as well.

Dragon Eight and the Buddha followed, too. They tightened their formation and annihilated the nearby dragonfly xenogeneics, but that hellfire-like power was on its way, and many other powers were coming for them, too. Escaping seemed impossible.

Boom!

The metal statue's fire engulfed them, but it did not incinerate them. Instead, a blue Bai Sema suddenly appeared. Han Sen and his people were inside it, shielded from the scary fires.

When the fire touched the blue Bai Sema, the fire shattered. And then, the power of the other statues hit the Bai Sema. They exerted all their strength, but it was for naught. They could not break the Bai Sema.

A dozen scary metal statues surrounded them. They loomed over the Bai Sema like hungry demons, staring at Han Sen and the other Marquises inside.

## **2150 The Power That Comes from the Plane**

"Han Sen, I have heard your name before, but I certainly did not expect to see you here." The three-headed, six-armed statue stepped in front of the Bai Sema. The bird head in its center peered directly at Han Sen. It looked how a demon might, when staring at a defenseless baby in an abandoned stroller.

To Han Sen and the others, the strength of the metal statues was awe-inspiring. They were completely surrounded. And of course, the dragonfly-like xenogeneics were still flying about. There were too many of the insects to count, which made the situation of Han Sen's team completely depressing.

"Who are you?" Han Sen asked, looking up at the giant three-headed, six-armed statue.

"My name is Klinsmann of the Destroyed," the statue replied. As it spoke, the other statues stopped trying to attack. They merely stood where they were.

"I did not expect the Destroyed to be part of the Breakskies," Han Sen said coldly.

Klinsmann laughed and said, "You are incorrect. The Destroyed are not a part of the Breakspies, as you suggest; we are the royalty of the Breakskies. Those stupid giants were just slaves with a few drops of our blood in their systems. We are the real Breakskies."

"So, this is the home of a deified Breaksky?" Han Sen asked curiously.

Klinsmann laughed. "I know you are merely stalling for time, but that is fine. The Destroyed control everything here. You cannot hope to run."

After a brief pause, Klinsmann continued on to say, "This is the house of a deified Breaksky, and yes, it has been abandoned. The deified elite it once belonged to has long been missing. But the Breaksky dolls he left behind are enough for us to claim the entire Metal World for ourselves. Those who are above the rank of Marquise are not permitted entry, so our grip as rulers of this place is not challenged. This place will become the primary xenogeneic space of the Destroyed. And as for your place here..."

Klinsmann turned his metal bird head to stare at each of them. "If you people are willing to concede, the Destroyed will welcome you as members of Metal World's society."

"Klinsmann, I'm afraid I don't quite share your optimism," Han Sen said thoughtfully.

"What do you mean?" The woman's face, the face to the right of the bird head, turned toward him.

Han Sen looked around and said, "I have heard that before you came to this city, this place was already the site of a battle."

"So what? Of course there was once a fight. Otherwise, why would it be a ruin?" the woman said.

Han Sen laughed and said, "Metal World's power is strong enough that outsiders cannot break through, and only Marquises can be sent in to do research. That means the powers from the outside are unable to affect this place. But if that is so, why was there a fight dangerous enough to force a deified elite to abandon this place?"

Klinsmann frowned. The man's face of the statue then spoke instead. "Perhaps the attacker broke through the power of Metal World and forced himself in?"

"The same power that prohibited five of our elites from breaking through? If that deified elite did force his way through, do you really think the Breakskies could have escaped a being like that? And even if they ran, why would that elite take over Metal World and not lay a lasting claim on the place?" Han Sen went on to say.

"What do you mean?" the woman asked again.

"If my assumptions are correct, the Breakskies didn't abandon this place because of enemies from beyond. Their greatest threat must have come from the planet itself."

“What are you trying to say?” The statue next to Klinsmann looked annoyed.

Han Sen laughed and said, “The power that threatened the Breakskies, if it came from the planet, focused only on you. I doubt that it threatened anyone other than the Breakskies. If I were you, I wouldn’t be so cocky. I might be thinking about running as far away as possible, actually. There is a high chance that you’ll be killed well before us.”

“Nonsense! If there was a power like that, it would be long gone. If it exists, then why hasn’t it shown up? Han Sen, I admire your intelligence. I do not want to kill you. I am throwing you one last lifeline here. Concede, and I will stay my cruelty.” The bird head smiled grimly.

Han Sen did not speak again. He merely focused on how he might get out of the situation they were in. The things he was telling Klinsmann weren’t all a bluff. If the power that wiped out of the Breakskies truly did come from the planet, it wouldn’t be extinguished so easily. After all the years that had passed, that power might still exist somewhere.

“If you truly seek death, then I will grant your wish.” Klinsmann commanded a dozen Breaksky statues to attack the Bai Serna.

The Breaksky dolls launched a variety of terrifying powers which converged on the demon bug Bai Sema. The blue Bai Sema trembled, and it looked ready to buckle and break.

Han Sen thought things were pretty dire. Each Breaksky doll had King class power. If Han Sen shrank the demon bug Bai Sema to shield just himself, its strength would be concentrated enough to withstand the force of his aggressors. Even if ten Kings attacked him, they’d be unable to penetrate its defense. But now, Han Sen had his demon bug Bai Sema stretched to shield one hundred Sky Palace students, and the Demon, Buddha, and Dragon as well. The defense was stretched thin, and thus, it was weakened. It couldn’t protect them from a constant stream of attacks from a dozen dolls.

Seeing the Bai Sema quiver, they all knew it was going to break soon. And Han Sen also knew they’d have to run. They couldn’t stay where they were. Even if he kicked out the Demon, Buddha, and Dragon, the demon bug Bai Sema likely wouldn’t be enough to keep the hundred Marquises safe, either.

“Han Sen, let us out! Perhaps some can survive that way,” Dragon Eight shouted, knowing that the Bai Sema was about to break.

“Amitabha! We have to fight,” a Buddha Marquise said.

Kahn frowned. His face kept flickering through a cycle of different emotions. He knew their situation was dire.

Han Sen wished to say something, but just as he was about to speak, the earth began to shake like a huge earthquake was underway. And then, an enormous sinkhole opened in the city. The metal surface caved in, falling into the seemingly bottomless hole. The sound of explosions echoed up out of the hole, signaling that something big was coming.

All of the Breaksky dolls stopped attacking Han Sen and turned their attention to the bottomless pit.

The dragonfly xenogeneics all buzzed away. They flew straight out of the city, jostling each other in their panic. If there was a power that was able to force the deified Breaksky to abandon the planet, it would probably kill anything in its path.

“No way! I was right?” Han Sen smiled wryly.

The Breaksky dolls that were commanded by Klinsmann all took a step back. They peered at the giant hole.