

Chapter 2211

Galactic Shrimp

The fight was worse than they had anticipated. The ships possessed tremendous power, and they could probably have obliterated entire planets with ease. Stopping the assault of those scary Galactic Shrimp was beyond their capabilities, though.

A giant lobster would occasionally appear amongst the hordes of smaller shrimp. The lobsters had a frightening enough presence to suggest that they were King class.

Han Sen spotted two of the King class lobsters coming toward them, but the weapons that could destroy planets didn't have enough power to punch through the shells of those lobster Kings.

The heavy guns spat round after round at the incoming Galactic Lobsters, but even so, they didn't even slow the monsters down. One of the creatures raised pincers that flashed blue cut off a huge chunk of the ship.

"Aside from the operator of the ship, every King and Duke knight follow me!" Ice Blue Knight King said, then jumped out of the ship through a portal.

Many of the Ice Blue Knights followed Ice Blue Knight King, and then an ice blue knife light cut a blinding mark right through the fabric of space. Countless Galactic Shrimp were killed.

The group of Ice Blue Knights, including Night River King, moved in front of the ship. They were going to cut a path for the ships to escape through.

Night River King hated Han Sen more than ever right then. If it wasn't for Han Sen, he would have been enjoying his life in Narrow Moon as a lofty King. He wouldn't have been doing any fighting.

Thinking of this hate, Night River King used his mind to project images of Han Sen onto all of the Galactic Shrimp near him. And as he lifted two teeth-like moon wheel knives, a black water wheel was sent spinning out to kill many of those Galactic Shrimp.

Boom!

The black water wheel hit a lobster's shell, sending a shower of blue sparks into the night sky. In response, the King Lobster moved its pincer and sliced the black water wheel in two. Then, it flew towards Night River King like a blue missile.

Kill! Kill! Kill!

Blood was everywhere. Bits and pieces of bodies were scattered all over the place. The ship was moving slowly under the cover provided by the Ice Blue Knights, but even still, the ship was hit more than a few times. Each whack caused many more explosions.

Huge bursts of energy exploded through space in all the colors of the rainbow. Each burst was like a sun, consuming many lives.

Han Sen felt a great level of excitement as he watched it all unfold from the comfort of the ship. He thought to himself, "This is what war is really like."

"Mister White, can I join the fight?" Han Sen asked Mister White.

Han Sen didn't kill for the fun of it, but he was watching the Galactic Shrimp die in droves. He didn't want to miss the spoils.

At the very least, the Galactic Shrimp were Marquise. And a great number of them were Dukes. And on top of that, there were King class Galactic Lobsters. If he could get the final hit on one, he might have the opportunity to claim its beast soul.

Crime hadn't yet grown accustomed to Han Sen's strange attitude towards things, and so he coldly said, "You are Mister White's personal guard. Your task is to protect him. You are just a Marquise, and if you go out there, you will only cause trouble."

Mister White smiled and said, "Han Sen might be here bearing that title, yes, but he isn't solely a guard. If he wants to go out there, he has my permission. But if you do go, please be careful and perform your best."

"Thank you, sir. You guys protect Mister White in the meantime." Han Sen directed the command at Zero and Little Angel.

Without saying another word, Han Sen exited the ship. In his heart, he shouted, "Beast soul baby, big brother is on his way!"

Han Sen summoned his dragon wings on his back and ears. His body was petrified through the Dongxuan Aura. He scanned the entire fight, then flew towards Ice Blue Knight King.

Han Sen didn't think he could fend off a swathe of Galactic Shrimp by himself, and so he knew he would have to stay next to Ice Blue Knight King to take advantage of the best opportunities. He was going to attack the injured Galactic Shrimp, and by finishing them off, he hoped that he'd receive a goodie or two.

Amidst that messy fight, Han Sen employed the Dongxuan Sutra, Heavenly Go, and Under the Sky knife skills liberally. They made for a useful trio in that scenario. They enabled him to see through the weave of the fight. They also allowed him to identify the safest spots to occupy in the middle of the battlefield. That way, he wouldn't be in too much danger.

Crime was very surprised when Mister White allowed Han Sen to exit the ship and join in the fight. Marquises were just backup for the Ice Blue Knights, usually. If nothing out of the ordinary was happening, they wouldn't be allowed to join any fights that came up.

A proper Ice Blue Knight was required to be a Duke.

But Han Sen was having good luck. After getting to Ice Blue Knight King safely, Han Sen killed a shrimp that had slipped behind them without getting attacked.

As he went, Han Sen kept trying to predict how the battle would unfold. He readied himself to rack up some kills.

“Xenogeneic Marquise Galactic Shrimp killed. Xenogeneic gene found.”

Han Sen slashed and killed a Galactic Shrimp. The blue, fluorescent blood sprayed all over him. In no time at all, he had managed to kill thirty of them. Not a single one had given him a beast soul, though. He didn't have the time to pick up the xenogeneic genes, either. He had to keep going, killing as he went.

There were too many Galactic Shrimp, and Han Sen had to keep teleporting to reorient himself and fix his location. He moved continually between safe spots to give himself some breathing room, but staying away from the bulk of the Galactic Shrimp required him to kill a fair number of them, too.

Ice Blue Knight King's fight was too dangerous to get very close to, from what Han Sen could see. He saw Ice Blue Knight King slay a King class Galactic Lobster in a flash. Han Sen was unable to get there in time, which made him feel depressed.

Han Sen kept fighting and looking around as he went. He found Night River King engaged with a King class Galactic Lobster. Their fight was a nasty one, for sure.

Night River King held two knives as he used the Night River Beast's special techniques against the lobster. They ground the lobster's shell open, revealing the blue meat on the inside. It looked as if the King class Galactic Lobster wasn't strong enough to repel him.

Han Sen kept fighting, and as he did, he approached Night River King.

“Night River King is evil! This old man is fighting the King class Galactic Lobster, but he stays someplace safe where he won't be attacked by shrimp. It looks like he's decided that fighting the lobsters, while dangerous, is a safer bet than tangling with all the shrimp. But because of that, he has given me a chance.” Han Sen slowly drew closer to Night River King.

This was no time to attack Night River King. If the Ice Blue Knights found out what he had done, it would be labeled a crime.

Han Sen's target was the Galactic Lobster that was engaged with Night River King. He wanted to take advantage of its distraction and injuries.

The guns fired their energy bolts, resulting in an array of explosions erupting all over the place. The capital ship looked like it was in the middle of a rainbow. And beneath those colors was the unchecked carnage of battle. Countless lives were being consumed. It really wasn't fair.

Chapter 2212 Mutant Galactic Shrimp

Night River King's power wasn't impressive when compared to other Kings. That skill he was using now was very powerful, though. As he fought, even the King class Galactic Lobsters were hurt by the attacks he hurled. Sections of their shells were shattered by the force, and the revealed flesh began to rot away immediately.

"Night River King sure has some skill," Han Sen thought to himself. He kept moving around the battlefield, waiting for his best chance to strike.

Due to Night River King not having explosive powers, Han Sen had every chance to secure a final hit if he got the timing right. If Han Sen had been following around another king, one that had explosive powers, he wouldn't have stood a chance. Explosive attacks of King level would tear the lobster apart too quickly for Han Sen to slip in a final blow.

"Xenogeneic Marquise Galactic Shrimp killed. Xenogeneic gene found. Obtained Galactic Shrimp beast soul."

Han Sen was relieved to have finally gotten a beast soul. "After killing so many Galactic Shrimps, at least one was willing to yield me something."

Han Sen didn't have the time to inspect the beast soul at that moment, though. He had to focus his attention on the fight. He didn't want to stumble into danger while he was distracted.

He didn't want to make use of his Demon Bug Bai Sema unless it was necessary. His Ghost Teeth Knife was glowing a dark shade of purple. Its knife airs, when unleashed, killed large numbers of Galactic Shrimp. There were hordes of xenogeneics occupying that parcel of space, though, so he wouldn't be able to kill them all.

While Han Sen watched things unfold, a Duke class Ice Blue Knight was fighting a Galactic Shrimp. That Galactic Shrimp looked a little stranger than the usual variety.

It definitely wasn't a King class Galactic Lobster, but it was bigger than a normal Galactic Shrimp, and it had a translucent blue body. That soft blue glowed with the light of stars.

"A mutant xenogeneic?" Han Sen immediately focused on that fight.

The Ice Blue Knight was strong. Every individual knight there was powerful, but the one that was engaged with the mutant Galactic Shrimp was one of the best Dukes there was. As he began fighting the mutant Galactic Shrimp, he was able to get in a few early hits.

But then the tables turned, and he was having a hard time fighting the mutant Galactic Shrimp. It was plain to see that he wasn't winning the engagement.

Han Sen took a closer look at what was going on, and he noticed that the Ice Blue Knight had abandoned the standard knight formation in order to block the passage of the mutant Galactic Shrimp. But he had done that specifically to draw the attention of the mutant Galactic Shrimp, so its arrival wouldn't ruin his entire team's formation.

The mutant Galactic Shrimp was strong, and its body carried a galactic light. It was incredibly fast, and each of its strikes was like a hammer blow. The Ice Blue Knight couldn't evade its strikes. He tried to use his shield to block the mutant Galactic Shrimp's attacks, but the shield was sundered by a single hit. The shrimp's spikes did not relent there, either, for after the cloven shield was bypassed, it pierced through the Duke's armor. Blood oozed out of the point of entry.

The Ice Blue Knight let out a roar. He ignored his wounds as his fists lit up with fires like a sun. They slammed down into the head of the mutant Galactic Shrimp.

Katcha!

The Galactic Shrimp's eye was punched inwards. The shell of the creature was dented all over, which sent more of that glowing blue blood squirting out of the punctures.

But it wasn't dead just yet. It gathered itself and summoned a green light, then flew at the Ice Blue Duke in a blur.

Blergh!

Ice Blue Duke coughed out blood. The armor on his chest was shattered. The shrimp's spike had rammed straight through his chest, leaving him impaled.

Suddenly, a dark purple knife air appeared near the mutant Galactic Shrimp. The knife air moved with the ferocity of a dragon, drilling into the Galactic Shrimp's already-wounded head. The creature squealed in pain.

Han Sen pushed the Ice Blue Knight off of the wretched spike and used his Ghost Teeth Knife to produce knife silks. He guided the silks to begin killing all the Marquise Galactic Shrimp that were closing in on them.

"I'm fine." The Ice Blue Knight struggled to straighten himself back up. His chest and back were bleeding, and more blood began to drip from the corner of his mouth. But even so, he was already back up and wading into the fight.

His body was on fire, and his fists were like suns. He threw more punches at the mutant Galactic Shrimp.

"Crap! You're badly injured, and you still want to fight it?" Han Sen didn't dare slow down as he mused, though. He kept swinging his Ghost Teeth Knife, determined to get the last hit no matter what.

That Ice Blue Knight looked like a red bear. He was three-meters-tall, and he possessed a disturbing amount of strength. The power he summoned looked like a raging fire, and each punch was like an entire sun exploding. His attacks really did leave Han Sen speechless.

If he hadn't punched open the mutant Galactic Shrimp's shell already, Han Sen wouldn't have been able to pierce through it like he had.

The fiery Ice Blue Knight was back to fighting the mutant Galactic Shrimp, though. Han Sen was fast, and he kept circling and attacking at the same time. He could slow their foe down and make the Ice Blue Knight's fight a bit easier for him.

Pang! Pang!

Han Sen hovered in the air, casting his petrification shockwave. It petrified all the lesser Galactic Shrimp in the area, but it didn't do very much to the mutant one. The attempted petrification only slowed it down a bit.

Han Sen was clutching his Ghost Teeth Knife, and he summoned his Spell rocket launcher. He fired a rocket that hit the mutant Galactic Shrimp, resulting in a mushroom cloud explosion. The Galactic Shrimp was marked with the symbol of a turtle, too. That definitely slowed the beast down.

But in that universe, Turtle didn't do much to a creature that was flying.

Even so, Han Sen's petrification and Turtle rocket attacks made the fight a lot easier for the Duke. The Ice Blue Knight was no longer struggling beneath the pressure as he had been earlier, and that was because the mutant Galactic Shrimp had become discernibly slower.

The fiery Ice Blue Knight roared and threw another punch, which hit the creature's largest wound like an atom bomb. It blew half of the mutant Galactic Shrimp's head clean off. The blue flesh below was scorched and smoldering with a red, ravaging flame.

"Please don't die! Save your last breath for me," Han Sen prayed. He was afraid that the Ice Blue Knight would finish the shrimp off. He flew forward, intentionally crossing the Ice Blue Knight's path to block him. Then he fired a rocket at the mutant Galactic Shrimp.

It carried the Break Six Skies powers, delivering them directly to the exposed brain of the severely-wounded head. The rocket exploded and dealt heavy damage to the foe.

But the next second, the mutant Galactic Shrimp glowed green. Its body began to swell, expanding like a supernova. Its green light covered everything within a radius of one mile and destroyed everything within that distance.

Fortunately, Han Sen and the Ice Blue Knight were far away from that self-exploding mutant Galactic Shrimp. They had fled as quickly as they could, and thereby avoided the harm dealt by that explosion.

Chapter 2213 One Shot to the Soul

"Mutant Xenogeneic Duke Galactic Shrimp killed."

An announcement played inside Han Sen's head, but he earned no beast soul. And after the mutant Galactic Shrimp exploded, no gene remained for the taking. That made Han Sen quite depressed.

“Thank you, brother!” the flaming Duke shouted at Han Sen. He then raced back towards the other knights to continue their battle against the hordes of Galactic Shrimp.

As Han Sen hovered in surprise, he realized what had happened. Han Sen had wanted to steal the kill, which was why he had swooped down in front of the Duke. The Ice Blue Knight misunderstood, however, and he thought Han Sen knew the Galactic Shrimp would explode. That was why the knight had thanked him for his courageous action, when Han Sen was really just attempting to kill-steal.

“That was just a misunderstanding.” Han Sen bore a wry smile, but no one there knew of the existence of beast souls. And as a result, no one could have guessed his motivation.

Han Sen didn’t plan on explaining it, though. He didn’t have the time to do so, even if he had wanted to. Endless hordes of Galactic Shrimp were still charging, and Han Sen was in the middle of that awful fight,

As Han Sen began attacking, he heard a shout from that same fiery Ice Blue Knight. “Brother, send a rocket at these ones!”

Han Sen saw many Duke Galactic Shrimp moving to attack the knights’ tight formation. The formation was already struggling, as many of the knights were injured.

Han Sen knew what the Duke meant by the call, though. Han Sen flapped his wings and cast a Break Space Flash to get closer to them, and then he fired a rocket at the Duke Galactic Shrimp.

Pang!

A mushroom cloud exploded in the midst of the seafood swarm. It wasn’t powerful enough to break the hard shells of the shrimp, but the Turtle spell did an excellent job of slowing them down to a crawl. The Ice Blue Knights felt a major sense of relief.

The shells of the shrimp were frustratingly hard, though. Han Sen had a difficult time dealing with the Duke Galactic Shrimp. Still, being able to cooperate with the Ice Blue Knights was a fine thing.

Han Sen continued firing rockets into the assaulting forces. The rockets soared into the most dangerous droves of shrimp, and they took a great deal of pressure off the knights in battle.

Crime was surprised by what he was witnessing, as well. Han Sen was just a Marquise, but he was proving very beneficial to their forces. It not only surprised Crime, but it made a lasting impression on him as well.

“I didn’t expect him to prove so useful,” Crime said.

Mister White smiled. “He and Lone Bamboo in Sky Palace are knife and sword masters. Although he is a Marquise, his abilities put him on the same pedestal as a Duke.”

Crime didn't know Han Sen, but he had heard about Lone Bamboo. The fight between Dollar, Lone Bamboo, and Evil Eye was quite famous, and many of the Extreme Kings had watched it. Crime was one of them.

Crime was surprised. "He is on the same level as Lone Bamboo?"

Mister White laughed. "You've seen his performance. You tell me. Don't you think he could rival the likes of Lone Bamboo?"

"He is very strong." Crime nodded in agreement. He wasn't very fond of Han Sen's personality, though, and he would still give the edge to Lone Bamboo in a fight between the two.

Crime preferred someone who could engage their enemies in face-to-face combat. He couldn't appreciate someone like Han Sen, who kept changing positions to unleash sneaky attacks.

Han Sen didn't care how people viewed him, though. He moved as he saw fit, and as he went, he kept firing those rockets that were imbued with the Turtle spell.

Han Sen also tried to fire rockets with icy powers, but the Galactic Shrimp had a strong cold-resistance, so those rockets didn't work out. He gave up on those for the time being.

The Ice Blue Knights were still fighting, and as they did, Han Sen fired his rockets. He was having a fun time.

As he was enjoying himself, he noticed that Night River King's situation had changed. The Rebate had managed to cut off the Galactic Lobster's pincers. Many of his black water wheels were slicing up the lobster's form. It wouldn't be long before the creature was wholly dismembered.

Han Sen was far away from the Galactic Lobster at this point. He wouldn't get there in time.

Thinking quickly, he turned Spell into a sniper rifle and took aim at the Galactic Lobster's spine. Then, he pulled the trigger.

That bullet wasn't imbued with the effects of Turtle, and neither did it carry any ice powers. It was being fired with a firm dose of Break Six Skies power. The bullet traveled right past the hordes of Galactic Shrimp to reach the Galactic Lobster.

Night River King was on the precipice of killing the Galactic Lobster, but then, there was a flash. The flash punched deep into the shell he had worked hard to destroy, going right through the Galactic Lobster's head.

Boom!

The lobster looked like little more than rotten meat by this point, and it suddenly exploded. The spine broke, and the brain came splattering out.

Night River King was left in shock. He followed the light back along its path to its origin, and there he saw Han Sen with a sniper rifle. He was instantly furious, thinking that Han Sen was provoking him.

But in the middle of a battle like that, Night River King couldn't do anything to exact revenge on Han Sen. He went towards the Galactic Lobster's body, cut it open, and dug out the King xenogeneic gene.

"Xenogeneic King Galactic Lobster killed. Xenogeneic gene found. Obtained Galactic Lobster beast soul."

The announcement, when it echoed inside Han Sen's head, almost left him groaning in pleasure. He had managed to snag a King class beast soul. Han Sen couldn't kill King class xenogeneics himself, especially in the midst of a dangerous battle like the one he was currently engaged in.

"I am the Sniper Elite that can take aim and fire a bullet into the soul." Han Sen was feeling rather cocky about this.

The fight went on, and many more Galactic Shrimp were killed. Many knights were killed, too. Under the siege of the Galactic Shrimp, Ice Blue Knight King and the remaining Ice Blue Knights were eventually able to clear a path for the ships to get past and escape.

Han Sen had killed countless Galactic Shrimp, and the exhausting performance had cost him a lot of energy. By the time he was done, he was feeling very numb and very tired.

The ship that once looked like a planet was totally wrecked. There were fires everywhere, and smoke trailed off in its wake.

Suddenly, the blue lights all around went dim. The Galactic Shrimp began to withdraw, and the Ice Blue Knights could once more see the black, empty canvas of space.

Strangely, it looked as if the Galactic Shrimp had been stopped by something. They didn't follow. They all gathered up where Han Sen had been, like a mountain. Only a few went by, but they soon flew back to that mass.

"We are out of their territory now!" someone shouted, and all the knights cheered.

Pretty much all the Ice Blue Knights were injured, and the ship was practically destroyed. This situation wasn't good. They were in sad shape, and they had only just entered the systems of chaos. They had a while still to go before they reached the base of the Ice Blue Knights.

Chapter 2214 Galactic Lobster Beast Soul

"These are the systems of chaos, and anything can happen here. Ready yourselves for death," Mister White said when Han Sen returned to the ship.

No one had expected to encounter the Galactic Shrimp just as they were leaving that system, and the Ice Blue Knights had taken a lot of casualties. The majority of them had made it through, though. All in all, the battle had gone well.

The knights were also just happy that they had not woken up the Black Hole Spider. If they had, their entire army would have surely perished, not just the few they had lost to the shrimp.

The bodies of the dead knights couldn't be retrieved, since no one could return to the territory of the Galactic Shrimp and recover the deceased. Even if they could have gone back, the perished would have been eaten by the creatures by now.

They had lost much in that fight. They couldn't bring back the xenogeneic genes or the bodies of those they had slain; there hadn't been time to collect anything. And after leaving, they couldn't quite think about returning.

The ships had been extensively damaged. Fortunately, the ships were designed to repel the assault of xenogeneics. The armor of the hull was like the crust of the earth. Although the ships were badly battered, their cores weren't harmed. As a result, they could still fly.

As he rested, Han Sen looked over the Galactic Shrimp and Galactic Lobster beast souls he had retrieved.

Han Sen had earned many Galactic Shrimp beast souls, including sixteen of Marquise rank and one that was Duke. That was far more than he had expected. He had forgotten how many shrimp he had actually killed over the course of the battle.

Galactic Shrimp beast soul: sword

Han Sen summoned the Galactic Shrimp sword beast soul. Then, a two-meter-long greatsword appeared in Han Sen's hands. It wasn't as heavy as a normal greatsword, though.

The Galactic Shrimp greatsword was like the spike at the end of a Galactic Shrimp. It was a transparent blue color, and it looked like a saw, but with a sharp and pointy tip. It glowed blue. When Han Sen swung the blade, it unleashed an explosion of blue light.

Han Sen gave one of the Galactic Shrimp beast souls to each of his companions. A Marquise class weapon wasn't too shabby, after all. As for the Duke one, he gave that to Ji Qing.

Ji Qing's super god body was called Sword Soul. She was reasonably skilled with a sword, and so Han Sen gave it to her for Ji Yanran's sake.

The most important thing he had managed to get, though, was the Galactic Lobster beast soul. Han Sen turned his focus to that.

King class Galactic Lobster beast soul: armor

"King class armor?" Han Sen gave a little whoop. He needed an armor of such strength.

The Demon Bug King Bai Sema had a high level of defense, but Han Sen couldn't attack while the shield was up. A beast soul armor was different. It was a basic item that everyone needed.

"It is a shame I only have one. If I had managed to kill a few more, everyone would have this lobster armor. We'd be much safer in the systems of chaos, that's for sure," Han Sen thought to himself.

Han Sen summoned the Galactic Lobster armor, and a translucent blue crystal wrapped around him. Inside that blue crystal glowed a shiny green light. Han Sen moved, and when he did, it looked like the stars of an entire galaxy were moving with him.

“What a beautiful armor. Is that the Galactic Lobster’s beast soul?” Ji Qing looked at Han Sen’s armor enviously.

That armor really was beautiful. It shone like a blue diamond, and so it would definitely attract the gaze of any woman who walked by.

Han Sen wasn’t a fan of wearing something so flamboyant, however. If he could choose its look, he would have preferred something dull and grey. He did like to keep a low-profile, after all.

Wearing armor like that made Han Sen look like a firefly in the dark. It was so very shiny, and all kinds of enemies would be attracted to him.

Even so, it was better than nothing. Han Sen then gave Han Yan his gold Demon Bug King beast soul. Han Yan could now explore alone, without needing to keep Little Angel next to her.

Han Sen had a set of lobster armor now, so the Demon Bug Bai Sema wasn’t as important to him anymore. If he did require it, he could just find Little Angel and the others.

After seeing the Galactic Shrimp in action, Han Sen had a much better understanding of the breadth and danger of the systems of chaos a whole lot more. Even with his three Demon Bug King Bai Semas, his safety wasn’t certain.

“Now I understand how a woman like Yisha died out here.” Thinking of Yisha, Han Sen had to end his thought with an audible sigh.

Ice Blue Knight King had someone deliver some Galactic Shrimp xenogeneic genes and meat as a reward for Han Sen’s participation and performance.

The person who delivered the items was that same fiery Ice Blue Knight from before.

“Brother, my name is Exploding Bear. I am known for my appearance as a raging bear. I will look after you from now on. If you need anything from the Ice Blue Knights, all you must do is call my name.” Exploding Bear pounded his chest before Han Sen.

“Yes, I will be sure to do that, and I will make hearty use of your name,” Han Sen said with a smile. It was relieving to have an ally in the Ice Blue Knights.

“Cool. If you have time, come and visit me on the sixth team.” Exploding Bear laughed, and then patted Han Sen on the shoulder. He left with the other knights that had carried in Han Sen’s reward.

Han Sen used the Galactic Shrimp’s meat for a shrimp hotpot. He sliced up the translucent shrimp meat and dipped it in some sauce. When he put one in his mouth, the sweetness of the juices was exquisite. He felt as if he was going to melt with the shrimp itself.

The journey that followed wasn't as dangerous or as eventful as Han Sen thought it might be. They traveled for a whole week, and they didn't have to fight off a single xenogeneic in that time.

There were groups of xenogeneics that saw the ships, but they all fled without causing trouble.

There was nothing to do, and at one point, Han Sen joined Exploding Bear for a drink. Exploding Bear was captain of the sixth team. His subordinate knights were nice to Han Sen, even though he was just a Marquise.

The kindness was largely earned by Han Sen's performance on the day before. Powerful elites would receive a lot of respect regardless of their rank or race.

"Don't worry, Brother. The systems of chaos are not as scary as you might fear. We have traveled this route many times, and it has always remained clear. The Black Hole Spider and the Galactic Shrimp were wild flukes. Big Bro Bear knows this way well, and I can tell you, nothing will happen. Relax and enjoy the drink." Exploding Bear then proceeded to drain three entire kegs. He gripped Han Sen's shoulder and nudged another keg toward him.

"Brother Bear, it is not that I don't want to drink, it's that I cannot drink. My belly is too small." Han Sen looked at his bloated belly.

Exploding Bear loved to eat, and while Han Sen cast Consume to try to keep up, he still couldn't eat much. He couldn't fathom how big the bear's belly must have been.

Exploding Bear laughed and started to say something when an alarm sounded and cut him off. Everyone froze.

"Battle alarm!" Exploding Bear shouted, with his eyes wide open.

"It looks like Exploding Bear's words are unreliable." Han Sen got up and went to the control room. He knew Mister White would bring his companions there.

Chapter 2215 Under Overbearing

When Han Sen reached the control room, Mister White and Crime were already there.

Based on what their scanners were showing them, there was a giant beast somewhere in front of the ship. The creature looked something like a big sea turtle. It was, however, the size of a planet. It was almost as big as the Extreme King's ships.

Its giant body seemed to be made of white jade, and its legs moved and created swirls in space. It was flying through space, but it looked like it was swimming.

The strangest thing about it, though, was the turtle shell atop its back. The jade shell was as tall and imposing as a space fortress. But rather than being smooth and nearly featureless like a real sea turtle's, this shell had many castles and palaces atop it. It looked rather amazing.

All the ships entered battle mode, but since Ice Blue Knight King hadn't given the order, the ships held their fire. They were having a standoff with the giant turtle.

Various emotions warred across the faces of Ice Blue Knight King and the Ice Blue Knights. They were very serious, but very angry and scared at the same time.

“What is that?” Han Sen quietly asked Mister White.

Mister White answered just as quietly, “Under Overbearing; it is one of the scariest deified xenogeneics in the systems of chaos—of which there are many.”

Han Sen was shocked to hear this, and he remembered what he had been told about Yisha’s death. It was said that Yisha was killed by Under Overbearing.

“How many Under Overbearings are there in the systems of chaos?” Han Sen asked, looking at the giant turtle.

Mister White knew what Han Sen truly wished to ask, and so he said, “There is only one. Knife Queen was indeed killed by this creature.”

After hearing that, a complicated expression fell over Han Sen’s face. He watched the thing swim through space, and he could tell how scary it was even through a computer screen. He knew he wasn’t strong enough to fight it.

Even with his tri-color Demon Bug Bai Sema, he wouldn’t be able to block an attack unleashed by that enemy.

Han Sen knew that the Ice Blue Knights had accepted an order to clear a giant planet in the systems of chaos. But by doing so, they awoke Under Overbearing, who had been slumbering there at the time. It went mad and attacked Ice Blue Knight King.

Yisha was one of the strongest members of the Ice Blue Knights, and she had some of the highest damage output. She was able to stall Under Overbearing long enough for the Ice Blue Knights and the other two teams of knights to come and give support.

Yisha was swallowed by Under Overbearing, but the armies of knights were able to protect the ships and lead them away from the giant planet. They didn’t actually deal any damage to the beast.

Now that they had encountered Under Overbearing again, every person in the Ice Blue Knights looked conflicted. They quietly gripped their weapons. And while they looked angry for their prior losses, they didn’t look confident in the prospect of taking on the creature again. They knew their collective power wouldn’t be enough to beat Under Overbearing. It was deified, after all.

The monster was playing in space. It didn’t approach them. Overlooked the Ice Blue Knights like they were insects scurrying around its feet. After a while, it swam away from the ships.

After an interminable wait, Under Overbearing disappeared from everyone's vision. The Ice Blue Knights all sagged in relief, as if they had been carrying a mountainous weight and could now let out a lengthy sigh.

They restarted the ships and continued their travel as planned.

Han Sen and Mister White returned to their rooms. Mister White sighed and said, "This trip hasn't gone as planned. First, we ran into the Black Hole Spider and those Galactic Shrimp. Now we have just encountered Under Overbearing. I hope the rest of this trip will be uneventful, with nothing unexpected happening."

Han Sen asked, "Mister White, the castle-looking buildings atop Under Overbearing... Who created them?"

Mister White quirked a smile. "No one knows. The Extreme Kings have explored these systems of chaos for a few centuries, but even after all that time, we have only managed to claim 0.3% of it all. The systems of chaos are like one massive xenogeneic space, bigger than any others we know of. Only Sacred could compare to this place. It is a super xenogeneic space, in a sense."

After pausing, Mister White continued his explanation. "From what I know, over the past few centuries, there have only been eleven encounters with Under Overbearing. The very first sighting of the beast was two hundred years ago. Even back then it looked like it does now, with castles already built atop it. No one knows where the castles and palaces came from. While we have spotted it many times, no one has ever seen any evidence of creatures living in those constructs. It is truly a mystery."

The Ice Blue Knights were on edge for the rest of the trip. Too many incidents had occurred during their travel, and so everyone was feeling rather tense.

Luckily, no more terrible monsters crossed their path. The ship eventually made it to the Ice Blue Knights' base in the systems of chaos.

It wasn't a particularly big system, but the Extreme King had a firm foothold there.

There were ten teams of knights, and four of them were located in the systems of chaos. One team of knights had claimed two other systems, and the other three had taken one each.

The Ice Blue Knights owned this system in particular. They used the team's name when naming the locale, and so it had come to be known as Ice Blue System.

The Ice Blue System had six planets. The largest of the planets was massive. A giant ship like the Ice Blue Ship was just a mountain before it.

The base of the Ice Blue Knights was on that planet. While the knights had claimed the place, only 30% of it had actually been developed. There was still much of its surface that had yet to be explored.

They named it Planet Ice Blue. When they landed, Han Sen immediately noticed that the base had been constructed out of ocean stone. He was impressed by how much money the Extreme Kings must have spent on it.

Han Sen was Mister White's guard, but he was also under the command of the Ice Blue Knight King. When they reached the base of the Ice Blue Knights, Han Sen and his companions were tasked with a few missions.

The same applied to the other knights, and their missions were to clean up and begin exploring.

Inside the area that the Ice Blue Knights had claimed, Han Sen was given the task of locating xenogeneics and then drawing maps so they could be found again.

Han Sen was different from the ordinary knights. He wasn't in a backup team, and he had his own team comprised of his own people. That was the deal he had struck before he joined.

If he had joined the Ice Blue Knights the usual way, Han Meng'er and the others would likely have been scattered across the different teams, and Han Sen wouldn't have had any way to keep them close. Now that Han Sen worked for Mister White, Ice Blue Knight King couldn't split them up. If this hadn't been the case, Han Sen wouldn't have brought his companions there in the first place.

Chapter 2216 Cleaning Job

Right after Han Sen's team arrived with the Ice Blue Knights, they were given a priority task to exterminate the xenogeneics that could be found around the base.

The base had been established there for some time, but xenogeneics emerged constantly from the mountains. Those xenogenic hordes frequently caused trouble for the base.

Han Sen's mission was to venture into those mountains and clear the creatures out. There were many bird xenogeneics there, and they bred quickly. Han Sen had to wipe out their homes and destroy whatever eggs he could find. If he didn't, it'd only be a matter of time before they returned.

...

In the midst of those mountains, Han Sen was shelling a few boiled bird eggs. He ate them and frowned.

His group had been in those mountains for half a month, and they killed birds and destroyed or ate bird eggs each and every day. In the beginning, they thought the eggs were delicious, but after half a month with the eggs as their only food, they were growing tired of the taste.

The Ice Blue Knights had already killed the most powerful xenogeneics, so there were no Kings around. There weren't even any Dukes. They were mostly finding low-level xenogeneics whose only skill was reproducing quickly, so none of the kills helped Han Sen.

But the cleaning job did have some benefits. It would earn them points, and those points could be used to redeem items from the vendors in the base. There were geno arts and xenogenic genes available for redemption.

Of course, to Han Sen, the potential rewards weren't worth the trouble. The things that he wanted would require a hefty load of points, and it would take a long time doing menial cleaning tasks to amass the necessary amount.

Still, it wasn't entirely pointless. There were many bird xenogeneics of a variety of different elements on that mountain, and that factoid gave Han Sen an idea.

Han Sen couldn't use his Sun Raven Gem beast soul, and he needed a fire element bird beast soul as a base. There were many birds there, so if he was able to find a high-class fire bird beast soul, he could combine it with the gold bird beast soul. That might allow him to earn a deified beast soul.

King class beast souls could survive the merging process with a high success rate, but it would be difficult for Han Sen to kill a King class xenogeneic at his current level of strength. And since it would be hard to find one, too, he'd settle for locating a Duke.

After days of constant research, Han Sen found a fire bird xenogeneic that he deemed to be a suitable catch.

The Ice Blue Knights had a map that marked territories that were known to be particularly dangerous. Lava Valley was one of those locations.

The valley was one hundred thousand miles long. There was a lava river that flowed through its length, and the walls of the valley held many caves. Fire xenogeneics frequently inhabited such spots.

The most popular xenogeneics there were the Fire Crows. Fire Crows were pure fire element creatures. They could spit streams of fire at their enemies, and they dined on the fire bugs that lived within the lava river.

They were small, though. Their bodies were only the length of a man's finger, and no bigger than a bee. But there were many of them; a small murder of Fire Crows could contain ten thousand of the fiends.

Murders of Fire Crows like that were everywhere across the lava river. A large murder of Fire Crows could contain a whole million of them.

Normal Fire Crows were Barons and Viscounts. They would rarely become Earls, but a few Fire Crow kings could even become Marquises.

Because there were so many of them, only the kings of large murders could become Dukes.

The stories said that when the Ice Blue Knights first came, they cleared a large Fire Crow murder that contained over one billion of the feathery creatures. The Fire Crow king of that murder was a genuine King class xenogeneic.

Han Sen believed that combining a Fire Crow beast soul with his Sun Raven beast soul would be successful, but he had no idea what sort of beast soul a Fire Crow would generate.

It would be perfect if it was a weapon beast soul. He already had a half-deified Demon Bug Bai Sema and a King Galactic Lobster set of armor, so when it came to defense, he was well-equipped. What he needed now was an equal amount of destructive power, which would allow him to slay powerful xenogeneics easily.

If he had a deified beast soul weapon, that would be absolutely perfect.

But Lava Valley wasn't a location that was designated for Han Sen to clear. He didn't want to go to Lava Valley without clearance and risk crossing a line with the Ice Blue Knights. Disobeying orders and venturing into an area he wasn't supposed to would be very bad.

"How do I go to Lava Valley legitimately?" Han Sen wondered, annoyed by the wait.

The Shadow Queen Bee was drinking the yolk out of an egg. She had grown a lot thus far, and she was able to eat many xenogeneics. It wouldn't take long for her to reach battle mode.

Bao'er patted Han Sen on the side and lifted a small device. "Dad, smile!"

Han Sen assumed a victory pose. The device was used for recording. They were tasked with keeping records of every place they visited.

They also made sure to record the scene that showed them clearing out the xenogeneics. It was the proof they needed to submit to receive their reward points.

Every team had one member recording a video of their achievements. In Han Sen's team, Bao'er had gotten the job. She often loved recording things, and she had a lot of fun doing it.

"High class xenogeneics are too rare here. We need to find another location," Huangfu Jing told Han Sen. She also wasn't happy being cooped up, and she craved a good challenge.

"I'm trying to think of a way," Han Sen said, slumping his shoulders.

Han Yan didn't like it, either. She thought for a moment, then said, "There aren't even Marquise xenogeneics here. Quite frankly, this is pointless."

Han Sen started to say something, but all of a sudden, he closed his mouth and looked down into the valley.

The deepest wall in the deepest recess of the valley was covered in a web of rugged cracks. A purple substance had begun leaking out of those crevices. There was only a small amount at first, but more and more of it seeped out as the seconds ticked by.

When Han Sen's group saw it, they knew immediately that it wasn't spring water. When they looked closer, they saw that the purple liquid was actually streams of small purple bugs. They were each about the size of a fingernail, and they looked like sawyer beetles. They were purple, with purple horns and a purple antenna.

Soon, the bugs were coming out like a stream of gushing water, and they were flooding into the valley.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to scan them. He noticed that the bugs were not high level; judging from the life force they exuded, they were no greater than Barons. There was a multitude of them, but even so, they offered no genuine threat.

Han Sen and the others quickly established a plan to clear them. While they were not high-level foes, destroying them would be a good way to earn more points. If they wanted to come crawling out in search of death, Han Sen wouldn't go easy on them.

But instead of attacking Han Sen's group, the bugs streamed around them and left the valley as quickly as possible. They showed no interest in attacking anyone.

Seeing bugs behave like that, it was fair to assume they were running away from something.

Chapter 2217 Ruin

After watching so many insects flee the valley, Han Sen and the others were drawn by curiosity to look back at the crevice. As they watched, a hand emerged.

The crevice was very small, so it would be very difficult for any being to push a hand through it. But whoever or whatever it was seemed to be unable to get out. After failing to push its way out, the hand withdrew and an eye appeared in the crevice. When it saw Han Sen and his people, the eye retreated and vanished.

"Is that a xenogeneic or a member of the Ice Blue Knights?" Ji Qing asked. The presence of the being had struck them all as being very odd.

The bugs must have been afraid of whatever it was, and that was why they had all rushed out of the crevice. The bugs weren't aggressive, and it didn't even look as if they ate meat.

"Let's dig into the wall a little and see what's there." Han Sen was curious, so he moved over to the wall and pulled out his Ghost Teeth Knife. He slashed at the crack in the stone to make it wider.

The rock was fairly sturdy, but it was only an inch thick. Beyond it was a hollow of sorts. Han Sen dug out an entrance so that his people could walk into the place.

The interior of the cave was fairly large. An entire wagon would be able to fit inside comfortably. The cave wasn't man-made, though; it seemed to be a natural formation. There were many stalactites, and there were many of those purple bugs scrambling across the walls and floor of the cave. Something must have bumbled through the cave and alerted the bugs.

"You guys wait here. I am going to go take a look," Han Sen said, directing his speech at Huangfu Jing.

"Let's take a look together," Ji Qing said with a blink.

“Big Brother, let us go in together. The Demon Bug Bai Semas are with us, so we ought to be just fine.” Han Yan was looking into the cave excitedly.

Han Sen didn't object because when the hand had revealed itself earlier, he'd quickly scanned it with his Dongxuan Aura. Whatever it was, it wasn't strong. The being the hand belonged to couldn't be any greater than a Duke.

Han Sen and his people entered the cave, and Han Yan gleefully moved up front to lead the expedition into the subterranean dwelling.

There were vast numbers of the bugs all around, and they looked to have scattered when they were approached by that thing earlier. It was easy to see from the movement of the bugs where the creature they were following had gone.

They traveled fast through the cave, and they saw many more of the bugs running everywhere as they moved. There were many paths to take, and the structure and complexity of the labyrinth were by no means easy to navigate.

They followed the trail into an even bigger cave, where there was a complete absence of those purple bugs. Strangely, there was no other road to take, and that cave only seemed to be home to black vines and mushrooms. With firm walls composing the rest of the chamber, there didn't appear to be any other way they could go, other than the tunnel by which they had entered.

“Weird. It should be here. Where has it gone? Did we somehow take the wrong path?” Ji Qing asked, looking up and down the cave.

“We came the correct way,” Han Sen said with certainty. He used his Dongxuan Aura to check the place out, and he looked for the aura and trace molecules of the creature they were searching for. It was still hanging in the air.

Han Sen looked around, and then his eyes locked on a rock that was near a wall. He waved his hand and pushed the rock away. Its removal revealed another small cave that had been hidden behind the stone. An Extreme King man was hiding in there. He had curled up into a ball to squeeze himself in.

After he was discovered, the Extreme King man screamed. He then scrambled out on his knees, pleading to Han Sen in a voice that was almost unintelligible.

“Don't... don't kill me...”

Han Sen and his companions were quite surprised. They had no idea what had gotten into the man.

The Extreme Kings they had met in the Ice Blue Knights were noble people. Their rank in society put them above almost everyone else, and they always looked so powerful and stoic, too. This was the first time they had seen a person of the Extreme King in such a mess.

“Who are you?” Ji Qing asked the Extreme King man.

“I... I am a back-up knight belonging to the Ice Blue Knights. Please let me go,” the Extreme King man said. All the while, he repeatedly kowtowed before Han Sen.

“Explain your situation, or we will take you back to the knights.” Han Sen frowned.

The Extreme King man looked very frightened at that, and he quickly explained everything.

They heard his story, but they found it hard to believe what he was telling them.

He was just like Han Sen. He had been brought on as a back-up knight to the Ice Blue Knights. He was an Extreme King, however, and on top of that, he was a captain. His task was very similar to Han Sen’s, in that he was supposed to clear out the xenogeneics that resided around the base. His area wasn’t where they were now, though. He was supposed to clear out a desert elsewhere.

Their team came across a ruin in the heart of that desert. After calling their supervisor, they were told to wait for the arrival of higher-level Ice Blue Knights, who would then explore the ruin with them.

But much to their surprise, when the higher-level Ice Blue Knights arrived at the ruins, they didn’t go in and explore. Instead, they slaughtered the entire team that had discovered it.

One of the weaker knights was a man called Bai Wenxuan. After getting stabbed, he fell into a well. The Ice Blue Knights believed him to be dead, but his body wasn’t entirely done for, despite the injury he had sustained. And so, he remained in the water.

The well was connected with an underwater system, and Bai Wenxuan stayed there for a long time.

He didn’t dare exit, for he was afraid of being killed.

But since the caves weren’t entirely safe, he frequently moved from place to place. He had been chased by a xenogenic for the past two days, and that was why he had come to this part of the caverns. He saw a light and wanted to get out of the cave to avoid being killed by the xenogenic, but Han Sen was there, and Han Sen had been able to break his way inside.

After Han Sen heard the story, he asked Bai Wenxuan, “What kind of civilization might that ruin have belonged to?”

Bai Wenxuan quickly said, “I don’t know. I’ve never seen architecture like that, and I was unable to read the text that we saw.”

Han Sen’s face darkened, and he coldly said, “In that case, we cannot help you. You know that what our teams record is impossible to delete. You have been filmed, and so if I do not take you back, I will be punished.”

“No, you cannot take me back! If they know you saw me, and they see that I’ve been telling you about the ruin, they will kill you, too!” Bai Wenxuan screamed.

“I will be interested to see if they do.” Han Sen signaled for his companions to draw their weapons. It looked as if they were going to kill Bai Wenxuan.

“Sacred!” Bai Wenxuan shouted. “The ruin was a Sacred ruin!”

Chapter 2218 Ghost Bone Town

Sacred had been the strongest faction in the entire universe, at one point in time. It had maintained that lofty position for a while, too.

Now there were the Very High, the Ancient God, and the Extreme King. That trio composed the best of the best. But back then, only Sacred had enough power to govern the entire universe.

The Sacred leader was the strongest of all, and his ten generals were the strongest elites in existence.

The ruins that Bai Wenxuan and his teammates found had text that read “Ghost Bone Town,” and there was a statue there of the general himself. They assumed, reasonably enough, that the town had belonged to General Ghost Bone.

“Did General Ghost Bone leave this ruin behind? Even if he did, there was no reason for the Ice Blue Knights to kill you. Who led the Ice Blue Knights back then?” Han Sen asked, while Bao’er stopped filming Bai Wenxuan.

Han Sen had spent some time investigating Sacred after the incident with the Purple-Eye Butterfly, but the events had taken place too long ago, and much of what happened was erased or lost to the annals of time. There wasn’t much about them left to learn. The pieces of information Han Sen had discovered were either unhelpful generalizations or seemingly unbelievable legends, the credibility of which he couldn’t entirely rely on.

General Ghost Bone was one of the ten generals of Sacred. Han Sen knew that he had been very fond of killing. He was the captain of Sacred’s Sacred Blood army. He led his Sacred Blood army to kill everything and everyone, and over the course of time, he racked up a kill count of many billions. Merely mentioning his name was enough to strike fear into the hearts of the residents of the geno universe back then.

Just like the other generals, though, General Ghost Bone disappeared after the fall of Sacred. It was unknown whether he died or became something similar to Purple-Eye Butterfly.

But Han Sen didn’t believe the Ice Blue Knights would kill the back-up knights just because they had stumbled across an old relic that was associated with General Ghost Bone.

If they had already explored the ruins and perhaps found something, it might make sense to kill them then. But they had just arrived before the complex of ruins. They hadn’t explored the place yet, so killing them made little sense.

Han Sen settled on two possible explanations for this. The first possibility was that Bai Wenxuan was lying. The other possibility was that the man's team didn't need to explore any further, as they had actually already found something they shouldn't have.

"I hadn't been with the Ice Blue Knights for long. I only know Inspector Edward; I didn't know anyone else. But I think they all listened to him," Bai Wenxuan said.

Han Sen frowned. Inspectors were men who watched the knights. They couldn't control the knights, but they could observe them and make reports directly to the Extreme King higher-ups. The inspectors were like eyes for the leaders of the Extreme King.

Ordinarily, inspectors didn't need to fight. And if they were participating in a mission, they were not designated leaders. They wouldn't give orders. They could only observe and inspect. They had no authority.

Judging from what Bai Wenxuan said, this inspector didn't behave like one should have. If Bai Wenxuan wasn't lying, then something must have happened that he had missed.

"Take me to the ruins," Han Sen said to Bai Wenxuan.

"But..." Bai Wenxuan hesitated.

"Either you take us to the ruins, or we take you to the Ice Blue Knights. Prove to me that you're telling the truth. The choice, however, is entirely up to you," Han Sen said calmly.

According to Bai Wenxuan, when his team discovered the ruins, the Ice Blue Knight Kings had been outside of the systems of chaos. If what he was saying was the truth, perhaps Inspector Edward was looking to take something from the ruins for himself.

Han Sen was curious about what might have been there, if Inspector Edward wanted it badly enough to kill everyone for it.

Han Sen was very interested in any matters pertaining to Sacred.

Bai Wenxuan was just a Marquise. He was an Extreme King, but he was no greater than the average citizen. If he had been someone special, he wouldn't have been a back-up knight.

For a Marquise of a higher race, his power was rather good. But compared to Han Sen, he was far inferior.

So, Han Sen demonstrated his power to the man. And then, the man obeyed. He agreed to take Han Sen's group to the ruins.

But Bai Wenxuan had gotten lost while he was escaping through the subterranean labyrinth. In that tangled knot of underground tunnels, it took him a long time to find his way.

Han Sen couldn't travel across the surface, because his team wasn't in charge of clearing other regions. If the knights found out they were going to the desert, it'd be considered a failure of their duty. And there was every chance that the knights would believe that they were spies belonging to another race.

Although their path wandered a little, their direction was ultimately correct, and after a day of travel, Han Sen and his crew came to an underground water system.

Before they went into the river, there was a splash. A giant snake that was as thick as a barrel came slithering out. It huffed a haze of green smoke right at them.

“Duke class Yin River Snake!” Bai Wenxuan shouted. He turned around with the intent to flee.

Huangfu Jing grabbed him by his shirt and pulled him back, though. As she did, Han Meng’er fired her arrow. A black light appeared, and it tore through the green smoke and took the creature’s entire head off. The Yin River Snake’s giant body collapsed on the bank of the underground river.

Bai Wenxuan stared. He turned to Han Meng’er with a blank expression. “Who... who are you people?”

A Marquise back-up had just killed a Duke Yin River Snake in one blow. People like that were supposed to be fully-fledged members of the knights. Plus, Han Sen was saying he wanted to go to the ruins. Surely they couldn’t have been back-up knights.

“Do you know Mister White?” Han Sen asked with a squint of his eyes.

“You mean Advisor White? You are acquainted with Advisor White?” Bai Wenxuan looked surprisingly happy.

“Look, you might have a chance to live here. Taking you back to the Extreme Kings won’t be difficult.” Han Sen pretended to be mysterious. He patted the man’s shoulders, and then stopped talking.

Bai Wenxuan knew now that Han Sen and his people belonged to Mister White, in some capacity. And that helped boost his confidence and desire to help.

There were many underwater xenogeneics they encountered, but none of them were King class. They were mostly either Marquises or Dukes. Han Meng’er was able to kill every one before anyone else had a chance to.

“I remember this place... Turn at this stone, and we will be close to the pool. Swim down that pool, and there will be a path that leads us to the well.” Bai Wenxuan pointed at a strange rock as he spoke.

Not long after, Han Sen came across the pool that the man had mentioned. Han Sen led the way, and then, everyone dove in to reach the underwater passage.

Shortly after, Han Sen’s head broke the water’s surface inside a well. He hid there, but sneakily had a look around. He looked quite surprised by what he saw.

“A Nine-Life Cat?” Han Sen was very surprised. He hadn’t expected to find a statue of the Nine-Life Cat there, as well.

Chapter 2219 Strange Stone Hall

The small city was shaped into a simple square. The well was at the center of the city's plaza, and at the end of every long street radiating out from the city center, the city's walls were visible at the far ends.

Behind the plaza was a stone palace, and on both sides of the gates stood stone statues. On the left side was a Nine-Life Cat statue. Aside from it being bigger than an actual Nine-Life Cat, it looked exactly the same in all its features. It even gave off an identical feeling. It was creepily similar.

And on the right side of the gate was a statue of a warrior that was plated in armor. In addition to the armor, it wielded a bone knife. The warrior's face and hands, which weren't plated, were skeletal.

"This statue must be General Ghost Bone, but if this is his city, then he is the owner of this place. Why would his statue be near the gate like a guard, then?" Han Sen then had an idea, and his breath caught in his chest. "The statues for the Nine-Life Cat and General Ghost Bone are before the gates like guards. Does that mean the owner of the palace was actually the Sacred leader?"

Han Sen tried to think of other options, but he couldn't come up with any other figure in Sacred who might have used those two as guards.

Han Sen didn't know the exact nature of the Nine-Life Cat's association with Sacred, but General Ghost Bone was one of the ten generals. Surely only Sacred's leader could command a man like that to guard the gates.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to scan their surroundings. He couldn't detect any other creatures in the vicinity. Perhaps Inspector Edward had already managed to find what he had come for and then left.

Han Sen didn't want to take the risk of leaving the well just yet, however. The gate ahead was open. With it being ajar, it was hard not to suspect someone might be there. He had to be careful.

"You guys wait here; I will go and take a look." Han Sen looked at Huangfu Jing, who was beside him in the water, then he touched Little Invisible. After that, Han Sen disappeared. He climbed out of the well in secret.

Han Sen approached the palace, using his Dongxuan Aura to hide his presence completely.

Han Sen walked in front of the palace with great care. When he looked inside the palace, he was stunned.

Because the city wasn't that big, the palace was mostly comprised of one hall. From his vantage point, Han Sen could see everything in the hall. And curiously, there were many holes in the floor of the hall. They were like graves.

There were two people inside, and they wore badges that identified them as belonging to the Ice Blue Knights. They were resting atop a statue. After Han Sen saw what that upside-down statue depicted, he was even more surprised.

That statue looked exactly like the one he had been in the Human Emperor shelter. Han Sen thought the statue inside that palace would depict the Sacred leader, but oddly, it was actually a statue of the Human Emperor.

“No way. The Human Emperor came from Sacred? These timelines don’t align. The Human Emperor was in the sanctuaries, and he had been there for many years. Sacred was already destroyed before he left the sanctuaries. So, how can his statue be here?” Han Sen walked over to the door and looked inside the hall. Aside from the Human Emperor statue, there was nothing else. There were only some stone tables and stone chairs.

Including the Human Emperor statue, though, everything stone had been heavily damaged. At first, Han Sen could only see one half of the broken statue, as the other half was nearby.

Clearly, someone was looking for something in this hall. But whatever it was, they hadn’t found it yet. If they had, two of them wouldn’t have been guarding the area as they were.

Han Sen looked at those two Ice Blue Knights, and he noted that they were neither weak nor strong. They might have been Dukes, but they didn’t belong to the Extreme King. One of them looked like Exploding Bear, while the other looked like a Dragon hybrid. He had the horns, but he didn’t have the dragon wings.

“I say that Inspector Edward must be mistaken. If this was the holy place belonging to the Sacred leader, then how come we haven’t found the relic that we’re looking for?” asked the Fire Bear Duke with a sigh.

“If Inspector Edward says it is here, then here it is. Now, shut up and go back to work,” the hybrid Dragon Duke said.

“I want to work, but I would like to know how to work,” the Fire Bear Duke chuckled.

The hybrid Dragon Duke frowned and said, “Ice Blue Knight King didn’t come back in time, so it was up to Inspector Edward to deal with them. Otherwise, the knight king would have spotted something fishy going on. Just wait a little while longer. Inspector Edward will soon contact us and tell us what to do.”

At least Han Sen had learned that Inspector Edward hadn’t yet found what he had come there for. Han Sen kept eavesdropping, but he didn’t hear anything else about the holy place or the Sacred relic they were searching for.

He’d been able to confirm the presence of treasure, though.

Han Sen didn’t enter the hall. He walked around the city first. Many of the places had been rummaged through, and many of the buildings had been toppled. The Inspector’s knights must have been searching there for a long time, but they hadn’t yet found what they had come for.

Han Sen wasn’t good at finding things, so he wouldn’t be able to find where it was hidden, either. If Inspector Edward couldn’t find whatever it was, then Han Sen surely couldn’t.

Back in the plaza, Han Sen looked again at the stone palace. He noticed there were no signs or plaques adorning it. The building was very roughly constructed, and there were no carvings or paintings upon its surface.

But judging from the statues around it, the palace shouldn't have been built too long ago. If Han Sen had to make a guess, he'd wager it was only around 10,000 years old.

Han Sen looked at the statues of General Ghost Bone and the Nine-Life Cat again. He confirmed that they were nothing special, and that they were indeed just statues. The materials for their construction had most likely come from the nearby mountains.

Han Sen was annoyed by his lack of progress, so he summoned his Purple-Eye Butterfly beast soul. His right eye turned purple as his pupil split into four sections. He looked at everything around the palace, and he even examined the two statues.

"Nothing... nothing." His eye analyzed everything, including the statue of the Human Emperor. They were all made of ordinary rocks, a material that was everywhere across Planet Ice Blue.

Han Sen kept looking around until something caught his attention.

Near the Human Emperor statue was a cracked stone tile. It looked like it was supposed to belong to a canopy that had once sat above the head of the Human Emperor statue. The stone tile was a chunk of that canopy.

The Human Emperor statue had been cut in half, and the canopy had broken as well. It collapsed near the statue, and some of it broke into pieces, whereas other sections remained intact.

When Han Sen scanned over the rubble, he saw that most of the stone fragments were ordinary chunks of rock. They were nothing special.

But Han Sen's eye couldn't analyze one of the stones.

Han Sen's eye was using a deified beast soul. If that deified power couldn't analyze a piece of rock, then that was an anomaly that Han Sen found very, very interesting.

Chapter 2220 Stealing the Stone Slab

That stone tile was lying amidst the rubble, and in order to pull it out, Han Sen would have to remove the cluster of rocks that buried it. Unfortunately, the two Dukes were still present. It'd be impossible to retrieve the stone without disturbing them.

Han Sen tried to think of a way that he could grab the stone tile without drawing their attention.

Killing the two Dukes wouldn't be difficult for Han Sen, but if he wasted them, it'd alert Edward that someone had found the ruins. It would prompt the Inspector to investigate, at the very least.

After all, the only non-xenogeneic residents of that planet were the Ice Blue Knights. Edward's target would be someone from the base.

Han Sen's best bet was to steal the stone tile while avoiding drawing the guards' notice. It would save him a lot of trouble.

But that Fire Bear and hybrid Dragon maintained their position atop the statue. They were facing the direction of the tile, and so taking it would be impossible for now.

After thinking for a while, Han Sen abandoned the stone hall. He looked around the city and realized that he was currently in a desert with no creatures. There were no xenogeneics for Han Sen to lure their way.

After a while, Han Sen returned to the well and summoned Little Star. He put Little Invisible on Little Star's back, then asked the hidden Little Star to steal the tile.

Little Star could fetch things and move them through solid materials. He could just grab the stone tile through the rubble without attracting any attention.

Han Sen only had to distract the two Dukes long enough for Little Star to make the tile disappear. That way, there would be no trace left behind, as the rest of the stones wouldn't have been moved.

After Little Star entered, he phased into the pile of stone rubble, and while the two Dukes were looking away, he swallowed the stone tile and slipped away with it.

"Nice job!" Little Star and Little Invisible brought the stone tile back to him, and their success made Han Sen very happy. He tucked the stone tile into his pocket and took his companions with him to exit the city via the underwater channels beneath the well.

Han Sen returned to the area he was supposed to be patrolling, and then he placed Bai Wenxuan inside Destiny's Tower. He took Ji Qing with him to slay more xenogeneics, but while they were fighting, their recorder broke.

The content inside the recorder couldn't be deleted. They had filmed Bai Wenxuan, and so the device had to be destroyed.

Han Sen returned to the base to pick up another recorder, and things went well. No one was suspicious. The xenogeneics apparently had a habit of breaking recorders.

When everything was settled, Han Sen went to his room in the base to rest. He also took the time to research the stone tile he had retrieved.

The stone tile looked very ordinary. The slab itself was only around the size of a man's hand. There were no words or symbols on it. It had a slight curvature, sort of like a stone plate.

Han Sen used the Purple-Eye Butterfly lens to examine it, but he couldn't analyze its composition. He was unable to find out how it had been created.

Since he couldn't find out anything more that way, he put the stone plate away.

Han Sen gathered his team and readied himself to kill xenogeneics again, and in a stroke of luck, the knights ordered them to clear out Lava Valley.

The team that was previously in charge of clearing Lava Valley had the misfortune to encounter a fiery Duke monster in the Lava Sea. Due to the injuries they had sustained, they were no longer able to work that area, hence the need for another team to be sent in their stead.

Few teams wished to go there, due to the inherent dangers of the locale. But the other groups quickly began recommending Han Sen and his team.

Han Sen happily accepted the task, as he wanted to go there anyway. He hadn't expected things to work out this well, though. He didn't even have to think of an excuse for going there. Without saying much, Han Sen rallied his comrades and took them to Lava Valley. His enthusiasm made the officer who had given him the task quite confused.

The valley was as long and winding as a dragon, and it stretched into the distance beyond what their eyes could see. Lava bubbled and spurted all around them, flecks of molten material rising like steam. Fire-attuned xenogeneics were everywhere. Many bird xenogeneics flitted back and forth near the walls of the valley, trying to capture the fiery xenogeneics—such as the fire bugs—that came from the banks of the river.

Han Sen saw the Fire Crows. They were only a few centimeters long, but their red bodies flew so fast that it was hard to see that they actually had wings. They swirled around each other in a mass, like red clouds hovering over the valley floor.

The murders of Fire Crows swarmed and swirled over the lava river. They often swooped down to the surface of the lava stream and ate any fire bugs they could catch.

After the Fire Crows caught the fire bugs, they would return to their nests perched in the higher walls. There, they'd feed their baby Fire Crows.

The Fire Crows had advanced reproductive abilities. They could make babies every few months. If they didn't require such an extreme environment, their numbers would surely overtake the entire planet.

Ji Qing wished to show off. Upon seeing a swarm of Fire Crows, she drew her weapon and rushed towards them.

Han Sen didn't hold back, either, as he immediately sent a rocket toward the Fire Crows.

"Xenogeneic Viscount Finger Fire Crow killed. Xenogeneic gene found. Obtained Finger Fire Crow beast soul."

Han Sen never got tired of hearing that announcement. He quickly went to check what sort of beast soul he had gotten.

Viscount beast soul Finger Fire Crow: Halo-type

Han Sen froze. Halo beast souls were rare, but what he really wanted was a weapon.

Han Sen summoned the Finger Fire Crow beast soul, and a flaming halo appeared around his feet. It was like there was a fiery bird circling around his legs. His body looked red.

When Han Sen attacked, his attacks would deal fire damage.

“A ring that deals fire damage. Hmm, it’s a shame there’s only one of them.” Han Sen felt depressed. Combining the Sun Raven beast soul with that would be a waste.

Luckily, there were many types of fiery birds occupying Lava Valley. Han Sen had to look for a more suitable target. If he was unable to find one that was suitable, he would have to think about settling for the Fire Crow.

While Han Sen began to work his way across Lava Valley, slaying xenogeneics as he went, a naked man with blonde hair was headed for Ghost Bone Town. He was smiling, and his body looked like Apollo’s. He was one of the Extreme Kings.

“Mister Edward.” The Fire Bear Duke and the hybrid Dragon saw the Extreme King man approaching. They bowed very respectfully to him.

Edward nodded. He looked around the hall, then stopped near the stone rubble and frowned. “Have you moved anything in the hall?”

The two looked very frightened, and so they said, “We have been following your orders exactly. We haven’t moved from that statue since you ordered us there, nor have we moved anything in the hall.”

Edward nodded and asked, “Have you seen anything strange around?”

“Nothing has been strange,” the two said after a moment of thought.

Edward looked at the rubble. He thought for a while, then told the two guards to remain on the statue. He turned and left Ghost Bone Town.