

## Chapter 2221

### Lava Valley

After Edward returned to the Ice Blue Knights, he went to the information room. He perused the records of the various knight teams. After speeding through them, he frowned. He looked over to the information manager and said, "These are all the videos recorded over the past month?"

"Yes, inspector," the information manager politely answered.

After a brief pause, Edward asked, "Did any teams bring in damaged recorders and ask for new ones?"

"There were four teams over the past month, yes," the information manager answered, after glancing over his logs.

"Were any of those incidents reported in the last two weeks?" Edward asked before the manager had even finished speaking.

"In the past two weeks, two teams had their recorder replaced: the 79th and the 354th teams. Those teams are led by John and Han Sen, respectively. Their members are..." The manager quickly rattled off the member records that he had on file.

"The 354th team? Is that the new team the captain brought here?" Edward sounded like he was asking, but it was safe to say it was a rhetorical question. He stared at the information on the 354th team intently.

"Yes, Mister Inspector. This team is special. Although they are a back-up team, they aren't on the list of back-up knights. They are Mister White's private guards," the manager said.

"Mister White's guards?" Edward asked, while perusing the information. An odd expression crossed his face as he said, "He is Knife Queen's student. That is interesting."

Han Sen was still clearing Lava Valley, but there were far too many xenogeneics there, and there was no way that his team could take them all. Han Sen had been sent there to film, more than anything. If the xenogeneics didn't actively threaten his team, then they usually left the creatures alone.

Han Sen followed the Lava Valley's meandering path, searching for Duke xenogeneics. None of the others mattered.

Han Sen told Bao'er to focus on filming the creatures that occupied the lava river, and only turn the camera on them when they slew ordinary xenogeneics. He didn't want the camera watching when they were killing Dukes.

It was a shame Han Sen had yet to find the beast soul he was looking for. He had killed three Dukes over the past two days, and not one had yielded him a beast soul.

“Be careful! Fall back,” Han Sen said quickly, his eyes becoming alert. He was gazing into the lava river, where a large shadow had appeared. A ten-meter-long black spine rose out of the river, but Han Sen knew that what he could see was only a small portion of the actual creature.

Everyone looked at the lava river. The shadow was swimming deeper into the valley, and it showed no indication of actually leaving the lava stream. Even so, all the fire xenogeneics around carefully stayed away from its passing. Even the bird xenogeneics flew away and hid inside their little cave nests. The valley had suddenly become so quiet that only the frothing bubbles of lava could be heard.

When that shadow left the vicinity, all the xenogeneics came back out.

“A King class xenogeneic?” Ji Qing asked.

“Probably.” Han Sen nodded.

He and his people continued their advance. They eventually reached a dark spot on the lava river, where the stream of lava had darkened to a deep red. There were some birds there that looked like cranes. They had white feathers and red heads. Han Sen smiled at the sight of them.

But there were a great many of those red cranes present. There had to be at least one thousand of them, and the weakest of them were Earls. Some of them were Marquises, and others even Dukes.

“I wonder what beast souls these things give.” Han Sen instructed Bao'er to film elsewhere. He and the team started killing the red cranes.

They were a few thousand meters away from the red cranes when the red cranes finally noticed their approach. Flames burst to life on the birds' heads, then leapt over their entire bodies. They all squawked, and they raced towards Han Sen like a barrage of missiles.

Han Sen's bullets and Han Meng'er's arrows engaged the cranes as they came, but when they took down the first crane, it exploded in the air. Fire gushed out of the bird's corpse, scorching the land around it.

“Oh no! These cranes are kamikaze pilots! Summon the Bai Sema!” Han Sen shouted.

Han Meng'er summoned the blue Demon Bug King Bai Sema, and many burning red cranes rammed into it. They started exploding against its surface like suns.

A thousand red cranes came against the Bai Sema like grenades. The scene was incredible to witness. It was like an endless stream of fireballs were coming to strike the Bai Sema, as great walls of fire swept out and burned everything.

“These guys really don't want to live.” Han Sen watched as the cranes continued to divebomb the shield, hate in their beady eyes. The temperament of the cranes was obviously very bad.

Thankfully, Han Sen's group had the Demon Bug King Bai Sema there for protection. None of their current enemies, even the Dukes, would get through that shield.

There were a thousand red cranes there, and it took around ten minutes for all of them to kill themselves on the surface of the Bai Sema. None of them were left alive, and they were all swiftly turned to cinders. Han Sen wondered how they had managed to survive as long as they had.

The other xenogeneics in the area had all fled in fear of the crazed red cranes. One xenogenic flew out of the lava, though, without any fear of the red cranes. It glided slowly across the lava river, coming over to Han Sen without haste.

The xenogenic that had emerged from the lava looked like a gold peacock. Its body was composed of burning lava, and as it flew, the gold lava dripped off of it. Each drop hit the ground like a golden firework before turning into dust.

When it had drawn near the Demon Bug King Bai Sema, the peacock xenogenic opened its mouth to spew out lava. The golden liquid soon coated the entire Demon Bug King Bai Sema. The Bai Sema was inside its lava, but the liquid wasn't hot enough to get through the shield's protection.

"Is that a mutant Duke xenogenic?" Han Sen was surprised as he looked at that lava peacock. He looked upon it in delight.

"Open the Bai Sema and let me go kill it." Han Sen drew his Ghost Teeth Knife and ran out of the shield's safety. He slashed towards the lava peacock, and the dark purple knife air looked like it would be driven straight through the lava foe.

As the demonic knife came toward it, the lava peacock spewed lava even more recklessly, sending fountains of the molten rock up into the air. It did manage to melt Han Sen's knife airs, which surprised him.

Han Sen moved like a ghost, slashing with soft knife airs from his Ghost Teeth Knife, but his attacks didn't seem to be working on the peacock.

As he was trying to kill the lava peacock, the bird flapped its wings. Then it vanished. It moved too quickly for Han Sen to track and attack it with his knife silks.

"This thing is... unexpectedly fast." Han Sen frowned.

## **Chapter 2222 Gold Fire Peacock**

Han Sen flapped his dragon wings and flew behind the lava peacock. He slashed as quickly as he could, but the lava peacock was still able to avoid each strike.

"I do not believe I cannot kill you!" Han Sen dodged the lava peacock's squirting of lava and thrust his Ghost Teeth Knife forward, firing a knife silk at the lava peacock, but the peacock managed to dodge the knife silk net easily, and it did not even come into contact with its body.

Han Sen put his Ghost Teeth Knife away and drew his Spell pistols instead. He fired at the peacock like mad, but the gold peacock was able to dodge each bullet, leaving a trail of gold dust in its wake. No matter how Han Sen tried to attack the peacock, he couldn't hit it.

While the lava peacock fought Han Sen, Han Meng'er pulled the string of her bow and fired an arrow.

The peacock dodged Han Sen's pistol attacks, but as it did so, it put itself into a more difficult position. Han Meng'er's arrow was on a collision course with the peacock as a result, but all of a sudden, the peacock flapped its wings. It made a strange curvature in the fabric of space as if to twist the dimension. By doing so, it managed to evade Han Meng'er's arrow.

"So strong!" Han Sen was surprised, but Han Meng'er just frowned.

Bzzt!

Huangfu Jing teleported her body behind the lava peacock and readied herself to throw a punch into its back, but the peacock waved its feathers and dodged her attack, too.

Ji Qing was clutching her Duke class Galactic Shrimp sword. She swung a few swordlights at the peacock, but it was able to dodge them, too.

Han Sen and the others were all fighting the lava peacock together, but none of them were able to brush or ruffle a single hair of the creature. The peacock was like a flame that kept changing in the dance of its ripples. It kept flying around in a twisted way through the distortion of space. The lava lashed about all over the place, prompting Han Sen to fall back a touch.

Pang!

Han Sen and Huangfu Jing battered their Jade Drum, and it sent two strong sonic shockwaves out. It hit the lava peacock, but it just made the lava hotter. The shockwave only managed to knock back some of the lava splashes. After all, it was only a Duke class Jade Drum. Its sonic powers would not be enough to damage the mutant Duke beast.

"Let me do it!" Han Yan shouted. She was holding a Marquise Galactic Shrimp Sword. Her body gleamed with a white light, and her hair became long. She looked as if there were a god looking directly after her.

Han Yan slashed at the lava peacock, unleashing an invisible swordlight. At the same time as this, the peacock's body was hit. It made it spill more lava.

The Falsified-Sky Sutra worked to deliver an absolute hit as it ought to have. Han Sen and the others could not follow and keep up with the insane speed of the lava peacock, and while Han Yan couldn't either, she didn't have to. When the swordlight was unleashed, it would assuredly strike the peacock.

Han Yan kept swinging her sword, making many invisible swordlights come raging at the lava peacock for surefire hits. The lava it carried kept squirting around.

But while she was indeed delivering hits, her strikes were not very effective. After all, Han Yan was only an Earl. Even though she had a super god body and her Falsified-Sky Sutra equipped, going up against a Duke, it would still never be enough.

"Zero!" Han Sen, upon seeing the Falsified-Sky Sutra prove effective, thought about Zero. She was a Marquise, and she possessed the same power.

Zero heard Han Sen's command and used her purple eyes and drew out the Bone Knife. That lava peacock wished to melt the Bone Knife by firing a stream of lava at it, but then the Bone Knife disappeared. When it reappeared, it was pierced into the peacock's chest.

Blergh!

The peacock coughed up a bucket of blood that looked like lava. This time, their foe had been injured. Zero's body then took off flying into the sky in a nifty retrieval of her Bone Knife. She flew down past the peacock that wished to now leap into the lava and heal, and sliced open the creature's chest. A burning flame with gold blood began to spill out from the lesion. It made the peacock freeze in its spot in the air.

Han Sen kept firing at the heavily injured lava peacock. Every single bullet struck its body, and the powers of Break Six Skies were unloaded. It resulted in the peacock being blown to bits.

"Xenogeneic Duke hunted. Gold Fire Peacock: xenogeneic gene found. Obtained Gold Fire Peacock beast soul."

Han Sen was shocked. He did not expect to kill the Gold Fire Peacock as quickly as that. It was not a mutant xenogeneic, and while it was revealed to be just an ordinary Duke, it was certainly fast.

Han Sen, hearing that he had obtained a beast soul, was very happy. He quickly had a look at what sort of beast soul it was.

Duke class beast soul Gold Fire Peacock: Flying-type.

Han Sen's heart stopped. A gold lava-looking set of peacock wings appeared behind Han Sen. A slight touch could make Han Sen travel so far and so fast. Whenever he sped up, he could unleash a stream of fire that could twist the fabric of space in its vicinity.

"A flying beast soul is good, but I already have my dragon wings. I do not need this beast soul." Han Sen let out a sigh, and then he gave the Gold Fire Peacock beast soul to Han Yan. Because she was only an Earl, her safety could be more easily assured with the Gold Fire Peacock beast soul.

Han Sen kept looking for more creatures to hunt, and although he had managed to collect a few fire element bird beast souls, none were of the weapon type he so much desired.

“Are fire weapon beast souls that difficult to procure?” Han Sen felt depressed. Lava Valley had many fire bird xenogeneics. He knew what kind of beast soul they would offer, but none were his desired weapon.

It was almost time for him to go back, so Han Sen decided to retreat. He returned to the base, hoping to go further next time and see what he could get then.

“Han Sen, it is good that you have returned! Your team will be the recipient of a new addition.” After returning to base, Han Sen was called over by Ice Blue Knight King.

“Did we not have an agreement saying you can’t take anyone away?” Han Sen frowned.

“Of course I remember. We are not taking your people away. You didn’t say we could not add members to your team, though. I have good faith in you, and so I have found your team a powerful ally that will benefit you and the others.” Ice Blue Knight King smiled while he spoke.

“Can I reject the addition?” Han Sen had a wry smile.

“No, this is an order.” Ice Blue Knight King spoke with absolute certainty.

While Han Sen wished to say something more, a woman arrived. She walked in front of Ice Blue Knight King, bowed, and said, “Mister Knight, greetings from Bai Wei.”

Han Sen, upon seeing the woman, was given a shock. That was the Extreme King woman he had encountered in Narrow Moon. Han Sen had stolen the Destroyed Bible from her.

## **Chapter 2223 Queen Bai Wei**

“Knight King, the new member you are telling us about is her?” Han Sen looked at Bai Wei strangely.

“Yes, Bai Wei is the latest addition to your team. Please co-operate with her.” Ice Blue Knight King smiled.

“Knight King, if there is naught else to discuss, I will return and prepare,” Bai Wei coldly said.

“Go.” Ice Blue Knight King nodded.

Bai Wei coldly departed the room. Meanwhile, Han Sen feigned sadness as he spoke again to Ice Blue Knight King. “Knight King, did you see that? She does not even show you respect. How am I supposed to control someone like that? You should give her to another group.”

Ice Blue Knight King touched Han Sen’s shoulder before sitting down. He poured out some tea and told Han Sen to take a seat and join him. Han Sen knew Ice Blue Knight King had something to tell him, so he obliged and sat down.

Ice Blue Knight King had a sip of his tea and said, "I am not giving her to your team for the purpose of control. She will be with you because I wish for you to protect her."

"Who is she?" Han Sen asked with a frown.

"She is Queen Bai Wei. You might not have heard of her name before, but you must surely know what it implies," Ice Blue Knight King said.

"A daughter of one of the Extreme King's kings?" Han Sen immediately understood why she had been so cocky. If she was a daughter of an Extreme King king, then she had what it took to behave the way she did.

"She has made mistakes, so a king seeks to punish her by sending her here. But the king also wishes for her to practice more. While that must be done, I cannot afford anything ill to befall her, so you must ensure she remains protected. If something happens to her, you and I will both be killed." Ice Blue Knight King smiled.

"Why don't you find a high-level knight to look after her, then? I doubt there is much I can do to protect her." Han Sen had a wry smile, and he thought the task was a bad one to receive.

"If there was a King class fellow protecting her, she would not have the opportunity to practice. Plus, she is full of pride. She would not allow that." Ice Blue Knight King let out a sigh.

"The Ice Blue Knights have many backup teams. Surely you need not rely on outsiders like us. Don't you think it's dangerous to task outsiders with such an important responsibility?" Han Sen looked at Ice Blue Knight King as he spoke.

Ice Blue Knight King looked back at Han Sen, and then he spoke in a strange tone of voice. "Han Sen, do you know who I trust the most out of the Ice Blue Knights?"

"Of course I do. Your subordinates," Han Sen said.

Ice Blue Knight King shook his head and resumed his gaze on Han Sen. He told him, "It is you. I trust you the most."

"You have got to be kidding me. I have only just met you..." Before Han Sen could finish speaking, Ice Blue Knight King stopped him.

"Please don't think I'm actually joking about this. You have never been in my position. You would not understand the reasons for me only being able to trust you. And so, I am letting you look after Queen Bai Wei. If she lives, you live. If she dies, you die. You are a smart boy, so I believe you know what to do." Ice Blue Knight King patted Han Sen on the shoulder and then left the office.

Han Sen did not want to be burdened with the troubles of other people like that, but Ice Blue Knight King had made it quite clear that his problems did not solely rely on renegade xenogeneics. There were troubles stemming from the internal affairs of the Ice Blue Knights.

But Ice Blue Knight King, after stressing the need for Han Sen to do that which was bidden of him, had Han Sen forfeit reluctance and accept the task.

Han Sen kept thinking all the while he walked back to his room. His heart jumped, and his pupils shrunk when he neared there. All the hairs on his body stood on end.

No scary power attacked him, and neither did a foreign presence, but Han Sen felt as if he was being watched by a snake. He felt as if he were in danger all of a sudden.

Han Sen looked forward, and there he saw a slender body approaching from up ahead.

That should have been a pure Extreme King man, but his presence was hidden. Being unable to determine his level, the man looked like the average person.

The delicate face of the man was like a jade sculpture that had been meticulously crafted by the hands of a genuine master. His blonde hair was smart, and the face carried eyes as deep as lakes that could reflect the world and people they looked upon. It looked nice.

He was a shockingly perfect looking man. While he seemed very pleasant, Han Sen couldn't help but internally scream at the potential for danger in his proximity.

Han Sen walked close to the man, and the man stared at Han Sen. Just as they were about to pass each other, the man stopped and said coldly, "Have you seen the secret held by the stone plate?"

"What did you say?" Han Sen was shocked. He stopped and looked at him.

The man smiled at Han Sen, and to a man like Han Sen, that smile was as warm as the sun. It could melt the coldest blocks of ice, and if he was speaking to a woman, that woman would do anything he commanded her to do.

Han Sen did not say anything. The man merely smiled and walked past Han Sen.

"Edward." Han Sen did not look at the man. He just kept going. He walked straight to his room. He had never seen that man before, but he was quick to understand that it was Inspector Edward.

"It seems as if he knows I am the one that took the stone plate. What an annoying and dangerous guy. If he is an inspector, though, then that means he should be a King," Han Sen thought to himself.

Edward walked into a room. There was an Ice Blue Knight there that was looking at a camera recording. The video was playing the encounter between Han Sen and Edward.

"His reactions are natural. It doesn't look as if he is pretending. Perhaps we are wrong," the Ice Blue Knight said.

Edward looked at the video and laughed like spring sunshine. "We are right, actually. He is the one that took the stone plate."

"Why?" The Ice Blue Knight gazed at Edward with suspicion.



“He behaved too naturally when he saw me. Not many Marquises can remain that natural upon seeing me. The more natural they are, the more suspicious they are.” Edward stared at Han Sen’s face on the screen. I did not know Knife Queen had selected such an interesting student.

“Should we move?” The Ice Blue Knight did not proclaim his thoughts on Edward’s assessment, so he posed the question.

“No. Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White are still here. We cannot fight while they are here.” Edward laughed. “But these are the systems of chaos, and so it is not as if he could run. He is interesting, but he is just a Marquise. Therefore, he is weak.

“Mister Inspector, do you think he is one of Mister White’s people?” The Ice Blue Knight asked.

“No. If he was, then Mister White would be the one with the item right now. Do you think Mister White would still stay with the knights and provide us the opportunity to get it back?” Edward looked at Han Sen’s face with interest. “This guy is funny. If he took the relic, we must get the relic back before the other knights find out. Otherwise, it’ll be annoying.”

## **Chapter 2224 Educating a Noob**

After returning to his room, Han Sen called out to Little Angel. He told her and the rest of his companions to be careful and to not venture out alone anymore.

“Is Edward really that scary? If he does not dare come here and steal the item, what do we have to be afraid of?” Ji Qing looked rather confused.

“It’s the fact that he does not come and steal the item that is most scary. But regardless, before this matter is sorted out, no one should be going off on their own.” Han Sen spoke with gravitas.

The next morning, Han Sen brought his team back to Lava Valley to continue their search. But this time, he had no choice but to bring Bai Wei with him. It meant the task at hand would be more unpredictable with a factor of unknowns.

Fortunately, Bai Wei was not one to talk much. All she did was follow them, behaving as if she hadn’t the slightest concern for what was going on.

They had only just arrived in the region of Lava Valley when Bai Wei stepped forward and ahead of Han Sen. “From now on, I will be the leader of this team,” Bai Wei said in a very commanding tone to Han Sen.

“Why?” Han Sen looked as if he wanted to burst out laughing at her.

“You should familiarize yourself with my identity,” Bai Wei said coldly.

“What identity? I only know you are the biggest noob of this team, and you are the least qualified to be a leader amongst us.” Han Sen laughed at her and didn’t say anything that suggested he knew anything about her.

While pretending to be unaware of her identity and title, Han Sen was free to treat her like a noob. If he made it clear that he knew who she was, then that would make it look like he was just bullying her. There was a difference.

Bai Wei was stunned by the rebuttal. She looked at Han Sen and nodded. “Okay. In that case, I—as a noob—will challenge you. If you lose, I will become the leader of this team. You and them will then have no choice but to obey me.”

“No.” Han Sen rejected her proposal.

“Are you scared?” Bai Wei looked at Han Sen coldly.

“You are the weakest in the team, whereas I am the captain. I am the strongest that exists here. If you want to challenge me, I would have to see you beat my companions first.” Han Sen pointed to Han Meng’er and the others.

“Sure. Bring them all on,” Bai Wei said coldly. She was not very fond of what Han Sen had said, though.

“A noob is a noob. A noob doesn’t know who the boss is.” Han Sen sighed, and then he turned to Han Meng’er. “Meng’er, teach this noob how to respect her superior. Don’t hit her too hard, though. We don’t want to kill her.”

Bai Wei, upon hearing what Han Sen had said, felt mad, but she remained the same on her exterior and just coldly laughed. “You won’t dare fight me yourself, so instead you get a woman to help you?”

“Your imagination is far too wild. This is my daughter. If you can beat her, then you are free to challenge me.” Han Sen laughed.

Han Meng’er, after hearing Han Sen, stepped forward and out of the group. She walked in front of Bai Wei.

Bai Wei did not care about Han Meng’er, and neither did she care much for Han Sen. She thought Han Sen barely had the power to put up any kind of a fight against her. She believed her opponent was a meager subordinate of Han Sen, and with her looking as young as she did, she did not think there was anything to worry about.

When Han Meng’er pulled the string of her bow, Bai Wei looked dim. Her whole body took on the image of a fighting leopard. She stared right at Han Meng’er, no longer with a look of disdain and underestimation.

Bai Wei was cocky, but she wasn't dumb. In fact, she was a very smart individual, and as soon as Han Meng'er pulled the string of her bow, she felt threatened, so she gathered up might in her fists.

Han Meng'er cared nothing for Bai Wei's reactions. She merely pulled back her string the farthest it could go, and when she let her finger go, the arrow flew quickly before Bai Wei's face.

Bai Wei looked cold and threw a punch toward the black arrow. It was the Extreme King's Final Punch. It was in the top five strongest fist skills in the universe. The punch exploded from her hands, and she could have easily sundered an entire mountain if she were to hit one.

Seeing that it was going to collide with Bai Wei's fist, the arrow suddenly disappeared from Bai Wei's vision, and when it reappeared, it was piercing her belly. Bai Wei's face remained unchanged. When her body staggered back, her fist became incredibly hard to hit the arrow. The whole action was performed very smoothly, and there wasn't a moment of hesitation or nervousness.

Boom!

A black sun rose where she stood, and Bai Wei actually ended up getting blasted away. Her armor was broken, and some of her hair was singed. Only the hair underneath her helmet was saved from burning. She would have been made bald otherwise.

Bai Wei's face changed. A fire of golden light suddenly wrapped her entire body, so the explosion did not destroy her armor completely. But even so, blood dripped from the corner of her lips, and that meant she was injured.

Bai Wei never would have thought that an arrow fired by someone from a backup team could be as strong as that. Not even the Extreme King's Final Punch was as strong as that arrow. She really couldn't believe what had just occurred, but it really was the truth, and Bai Wei had lost her advantage. Han Meng'er then plucked the string of her bow over and over. Arrows flashed forward like thunderbolts.

Bai Wei was suppressed by the next few arrows, and there was no chance of her closing the gap with Han Meng'er. The geno arts of an Extreme King were incredibly strong, and yet Bai Wei's Extreme King Final Punch was a little weaker than Han Meng'er's Break Six Skies and Destroyed Bible fueled arrows.

She was not weak enough to get wrecked, though. Han Meng'er's arrow kept Bai Wei on the disadvantage, but she was not losing. She was strong, and very few Marquises would be able to defeat her.

"Enough." Han Sen signaled for Han Meng'er to fall back.

"There is no winner yet!" Bai Wei looked at Han Sen.

Han Sen laughed and said, "You lost! You forced yourself to use a geno art and spend ten times the amount of power Han Meng'er used. Even so, you were unable to resist the firing of those arrows. It might be a tie right now, but sooner or later you're going to lose. This is a competition, remember? It is not a deathmatch, so there is no need for us to continue."

Bai Wei could not say anything. What Han Sen had told her was correct, so she couldn't deny it.

"If you cannot beat my daughter, then practice over the next few years. Do that, and maybe I'll give you opportunity to challenge me." Han Sen spoke clearly without hiding anything.

Han Sen deliberately crushed Bai Wei so he could maintain his leadership of the group. If Bai Wei was to lead, Han Sen would have been unable to hunt the beast souls the way he wished to.

“Just wait! I will beat both you and her,” Bai Wei said coldly. She did not continue her insistence on being leader.

Bai Wei was obviously not as calm as she looked, though. She looked at Han Meng'er with a complicated look. Then she looked at Han Sen. She could not believe that cold looking lady that was equipped with a bow was Han Sen's daughter.

## **Chapter 2225 Extortion**

Outside of the Ice Blue system, Night River King was in the middle of slaying a bunch of xenogeneics that were planning to invade. His face turned pale before long, and he was left gasping.

After he was forced into the Ice Blue Knights, Night River King had been forced into the frontline ranks to be the first vanguard against any xenogenic enclaves that wished to invade the system. This engagement, however, had a few too many xenogeneics to deal with. Even Kings like him were left exhausted after the fight, and with how it had been each and every day, he couldn't stand how things were working out for him.

“Han Sen is an asshole! If I ever get the opportunity to, I'm going to kill him.” Night River King quietly cursed his nemesis.

“Who is here!” Night River King looked down a hallway due to being alerted.

“You want to kill Han Sen? I will give you the chance you seek.” A man approached him with a smile.

“Mister Inspector, what do you mean?” Night River King, upon seeing Edward, was surprised. It made him produce a large frown.

Edward came before Night River King and said, “Han Sen took something that belongs to me, but Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White is around. As a result, I cannot go and kill him by myself. If you are of the mind to kill Han Sen, too, then we can co-operate. I will give you the exact opportunity you need to kill him.”

Night River King lifted his lips and said, “You must be joking. These are the Ice Blue Knights. If you have someone you don't dare kill, why would I take that risk? And on top of that, I am just a conscripted knight.”

Edward smiled and said, “Over the next two days, I will be exploring a new system alongside Mister White and Ice Blue Knight King. I can have you sent to Planet Ice Blue, and if your kill is clean enough, I can ensure no one ever finds out you were in the area. You have to retrieve one item for me, however.

After that, I can also have you work by my side. You know, Ice Blue Knight King put you out here on behalf of Han Sen. It was to please him, but you don't deserve such treatment at all."

Night River King's face cycled through a variety of different expressions. He looked at Edward, not sure whether or not he would be used and discarded once Edward had gained what he was looking for.

Edward sighed. He looked at Night River King. "You don't have to do it, but you are already in Mister White and Ice Blue Knight King's bad books. And now you're rejecting me and my fix? Oh, your fate worries me so much."

Night River King's heart kept jumping. The Ice Blue Knights had three key figures. There was Ice Blue Knight King, Edward, and Mister White.

Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White stood on Han Sen's side. If Night River King offended Edward, it would be difficult for him to foresee how he would survive the duration of his service in the Ice Blue Knights. He would be treated as little more than cannon fodder. He'd be expendable.

"Mister Inspector, it is not that I don't want to kill Han Sen. In fact, I would like to skin him alive. The thing is, it's that I actually cannot kill him. He has a very powerful shield treasure that not even my power can break," Night River King said while lowering his head.

"Yes, I have heard about that. But don't you worry; I have a little something prepared for you." Edward, after saying that, gave Night River King something. "Take this with you. I assure you that it will enable you to break Han Sen's shield treasure. Without his shield, you will surely be able to kill him with ease. But make sure your kill is clean. If it isn't, then there is no way I can assure your survival."

Night River King was holding a metal figure that was around the size of a hand. He kept wondering whether or not Edward was seeking to use him and then silence him when all was said and done.

Edward seemed to know what Night River King was thinking, though, so he coldly said, "If it wasn't for Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White keeping an eye on my people, I wouldn't be asking this of you. But by drawing them away with me, I am giving you the only window of opportunity you are likely to get. You just have to remember to get that item for me. If you don't, I will kill you."

Night River King gritted his teeth and bowed. "Do not worry, Inspector. If Han Sen has the item with him, then I will surely bring it back to you."

"Be prepared. In a few days, people will come to pick you up. Remember, you will only have one chance at this. Make it swift and clean, and for the love of all, do not leave a trace! If you leave incriminating evidence, no one will be there to back you up." Edward patted Night River King on the shoulder, and he prepared his defense work.

"Mister Edward, why are you asking an outsider to do this for you? What if he takes this item for himself?" The pilot of the vessel asked after Edward returned to his ship.

Edward laughed and answered, "Night River King is smart. He will keep that item for himself as a trump card that will enable him to live. He will probably take it to Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White in the hopes of living."

"Then you're still using him?" The Ice Blue Knight asked in obvious confusion.

"It does not matter. He has no choice." Edward squinted with his eyes as he spoke. "With Night River King's suspicious personality, he will do the kill prettily. Including Han Sen, everyone in his team will die. Even Queen Bai Wei."

"Queen Bai Wei is in Han Sen's team?" The Ice Blue Knight's face changed, and then he immediately understood Edward. "Night River King knows he is going to be killing a queen? He knows going to Ice Blue Knight King won't work? It will be death for him to admit the crime, so he will have to come running to you? And Ice Blue Knight King and Mister White will suffer because of Queen Bai Wei's death? They won't be able to take care of anything."

Han Sen's team followed the way through Lava Valley. They had cleaned the early regions once already, so their going was quick and unhindered.

Bai Wei was following Han Sen, but she remained very quiet. She slowly watched Han Sen and Han Meng'er, eager to learn of their powers.

But on that trail, there was no opportunity for them to fight, and that disappointed her expectant desires.

Seeing Han Sen continue to move, Bai Wei looked hesitant to speak, but after a while, she had to say, "Captain, I am leaving the group for a while."

"No, you are in my team. Listen to me: you are not allowed to go off on your own." Han Sen did not beat around the bush.

If Bai Wei went off on her own and something bad happened to her, Han Sen and Ice Blue Knight King would be doomed. There was no chance he'd let her wander off alone.

"In that case, why don't you guys come with me?" Bai Wei said coldly.

"I told you; I am the captain. We go where I say we go." Han Sen frowned.

"Go together, or I go alone. The choice is yours to make." Bai Wei looked indifferent and just as boorish as before.

"Where are you looking to go?" Seeing Bai Wei was insistent on going someplace, Han Sen at least had to ask her this.

"The nest of an Undying Bird," Bai Wei said coldly.

## **Chapter 2226 Undying Bird Nes**

“What is the level of this Undying Bird?” Han Sen asked with a frown. The name of the beast didn’t sound like one that would bode well.

“Deified.” Bai Wei did not hesitate to give him an answer.

Han Sen licked his lips, looked at her, and said, “Do you have any idea what you’re talking about? You’re on the hunt for a deified xenogeneic? Doing something like that will get you killed. Even a guy like me will get killed going up against a foe like that.”

“If you are afraid, you do not have to go.” Bai Wei changed her course and started flying toward a river that went beneath a cliff.

“Is this woman stupid?” Han Sen had to bring his team and follow her. But Han Sen did not think she was flat-out stupid. He was certain she wouldn’t be so willing to throw her life away in a pursuit like this.

It was Bai Wei’s first time in Lava Valley, but she knew about the Undying Bird. That at least meant she had come prepared. Her punishment of being sent to Planet Ice Blue probably had something to do with the Undying Bird.

So Han Sen quickly followed. Han Sen wanted to know what Bai Wei was up to. Otherwise, he’d just tie her up and drag her along with him.

Bai Wei looked as if she were familiar with the location, and after she got close to the lava river, she flew in a following of its way. She went toward a cave that had lava flowing out of it and flew right into it.

Han Sen and his companions entered the cave, too. The entire cave was filled up with lava, so they had to fly over it.

“Even if you are this intent on going, you should at least explain what this endeavor is all about.” Han Sen, as he followed Bai Wei, resumed conversation.

Bai Wei just ignored him. She continued flying the way she wished to. The cave didn’t have any other fire xenogeneics occupying it. Strangely, it was entirely clear. Aside from the burning hot lava, there was nothing else there.

Bai Wei was quiet, and she flew in a course that took them over half a day. All of a sudden, however, an explosion sounded. Han Sen looked in the direction of the chaotic acoustics, and he saw a cave open up. It was like a giant underworld had presented itself. The lava moved to drop down a cliff that was ahead of them. It became a lava waterfall, and it looked very strange.

After they flew out of the cave, they saw that the underworld was gold and red. Lava was everywhere. It was like a sea of lava. Across the large sea of lava was a black mountain. There were lots of green plants growing across it, and it looked rather amazing to behold.

Bai Wei flew toward the island across the lava sea without hesitation, but now she was flying at a much slower pace. It was evident that she was worried about something.

Han Sen let Ji Qing, Han Yan, and Huangfu Jing sit atop Little Star's back. Little Star was able to lead. If there were danger, and the Bai Sema was unable to be used, Little Star's power would be sufficient in saving their lives.

Wahlaa!

Somewhere on that lava sea, an explosion occurred. The lava was tossed about like a spring bursting out of the ground. Something black and red emerged, and it was headed straight for Bai Wei.

Bai Wei's face did not change, and she threw a punch at the black and red shadow. There was another explosion as the lava on its body spread out. She punched it and had the creature falling back ten meters down into the lava.

Han Sen, upon a clearer look, noticed how the monster resembled a crocodile. Its body was black like charcoal, but some parts of it were red like the lava.

Han Sen looked around, and he saw many more of the charcoal-like shadows. They were like burnt wood, and many of them were coming forward to amass there.

Wahlaa! Wahlaa!

Many three-meter long crocodiles emerged from the lava. They were all headed for Bai Wei and Han Sen.

Han Sen summoned his Spell pistols. He fired bullets at the lava crocodiles while Han Meng'er fired her black arrows at the same fiends.

Pang! Pang! Pang! Pang!

Many of the lava crocodiles were killed by the bullets and black arrows. Their lava-looking bodies shattered into bits and scattered all around. They were like clumps of lava disintegrating back into the sea of lava. But Han Sen did not hear a hunting accomplished announcement. The broken crocodiles fell into the lava and became perfect again, and then they resumed their assault.

Bai Wei kept killing the lava crocodiles as she made her way to the island. She did not plan on stopping, and it was clear that she knew the crocodiles were unable to be killed.

Han Sen saw what she was doing, so he stopped killing the lava crocodiles. He allowed Han Meng'er to summon her blue Demon Bug King Bai Sema. It was able to protect everyone, so they all headed for the island in haste.

Bai Wei was sprinting forward when she suddenly saw the shield of Han Sen's people appear right next to her. The lava crocodiles were launching themselves against the shield, and as that happened, they simply hit the surface and fell away.



Han Sen was not planning on protecting her with the shield, though. He followed Bai Wei and watched her kill lava crocodiles alone.

Bai Wei was a little bit mad about this, but she did not say anything. She kept moving toward the island and punched the lava crocodiles that got in her way. The lava crocodiles were difficult to kill, but they were not strong. They were just ordinary Marquises, and so they couldn't prohibit Bai Wei from advancing.

Not long later, Bai Wei found herself on the shore of the island. When she arrived, she started sinking. Han Sen felt the same thing happening to him, too. He felt so heavy, and it was like he was back on Earth after a flight through space and the reintroduction of gravity. They all started falling down onto the stone of the island.

"This island forbids air powers?" Ji Qing looked at the island in surprise as she spoke.

Bai Wei said coldly, "It does not only stop the air. It is easy to come, but getting out is far harder."

"What does that mean?" Han Sen looked at Bai Wei and asked.

Bai Wei did not answer. She pointed to the lava sea that was offshore of the island.

Han Sen turned around. Across the sea in the burning lava were some gold bugs. They looked like high-temperature lava, but they were in fact bugs. God only knew how many of them there were.

"These are lava bugs, and they cannot leave the lava. They are extremely aggressive, and not even Dukes can withstand their temperatures. They can fly here, but because you cannot do the same, you have to run across the lava if you ever seek to leave. You need to be a mile away from the place to fly, and going out there can kill you. I hope your shield is enough to break the lava bugs' attacks, otherwise you are all going to die," Bai Wei said coldly. She was not happy that Han Sen hadn't protected her in the shield.

## **Chapter 2227 Undying Bird Challenge**

Han Sen smiled. He did not mind the threat. The Demon Bug King Bai Sema wouldn't even buckle to the attacks of a King class creature. Therefore, he did not think he had to worry about the tiny little lava bugs.

"Undying Bird really resides on this island?" Ji Qing asked curiously.

Bao'er was lying down on Han Sen's shoulder. Her eyes curiously observed the small island they had landed on.

The island was not big, and with Han Sen's speed, it would not take long to walk across it. The island did have a spectacular amount of flora, though. It was practically a rainforest. Insects and beasts roamed all about it.

Standing on the island, you would not feel the heat of the lava that was nearby. It felt like a summertime place where you would want to sleep away the hours.

Bai Wei did not answer, and she kept marching toward the jungle. Han Sen expected to encounter danger, but he soon realized that the creatures around were just ordinary animals. They weren't even xenogeneics, and they most certainly weren't threatening.

In the center of the island was a white mountain. It was only a few hundred meters tall, but it looked like a big steamed bun. The peak of the mountain cradled a broken tower of sorts. It looked very old, and it had decayed over the years. It was no longer straight, and it looked ready to fall apart.

They walked before the foot of the mountain, then Bai Wei looked toward the broken tower atop the peak and shouted, "King Bai's heir has come. Is the Undying Bird at home?" Her voice echoed across the expanse of the island, but no response came from the tower, so she shouted again.

After she shouted three times, a door in the broken tower atop the peak opened. It did so with a long, drawn-out squeak.

Han Sen and Bao'er's eyes opened wide as they looked at the tower's door. They were curious about what the appearance of the deified Undying Bird would be. The tower was not very large, so if the Undying Bird did indeed live there, it couldn't be too big itself.

Everyone looked at the tower curiously, then they heard some footsteps emerge. Not long later, they saw a shadow open the door and walk out of the tower.

"She is the Undying Bird?" Han Sen's eyes opened wide as he watched the person walk out of the door. He thought it was strange.

It was not an actual bird that was emerging; it was an old woman with a cane. Her back was crooked. Her appearance was haggard, and her skin was all wrinkled like the bark of an old tree. Due to the fact she was crooked and old, her size only put her up to Han Sen's waist. She was wearing a pair of circular glasses and a red robe. She certainly looked rather weird.

"Who is making a racket down there?" The old woman did not look tall. She stood in front of the tower and looked down the mountain. She couldn't see very well, so she had to raise her glasses. Her tired-looking eyes eventually settled on Bai Wei and the others.

Bai Wei never expected someone like that would be the one to emerge. She was a queen, and though she was surprised, she still said, "I am Bai Wei, and I am King Bai's daughter. I am here at the request of my father. Are you the Undying Bird?"

The old woman pushed up her glasses. She stared at Bai Wei and said slowly, "You are King Bai's heir? I am not the Undying Bird. I am merely an old woman that is tasked with cleaning the tower."

"Then can you inform the Dying Bird that King Bai's heir is here?" Bai Wei said.

“You are too late, I am afraid. The Undying Bird is deceased,” the old woman said slowly.

“Undying Bird died?” Han Sen’s eyes opened wide, and his eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets.

Bai Wei was frozen, as she had not expected this to happen. If the deified Undying Bird was dead, then there was no point in her being there.

The old woman sighed and went on to say, “But Mister Undying Bird told me that if King Bai’s heir does come, that person can take whatever they please. That is, assuming they can triumph over the test.”

Bai Wei’s face looked a little bit better, and so she went on to ask, “I would like to try it. What is this test you are referring to?”

The old woman did not answer. Her old eyes, which peered through a pair of glasses, lingered on Han Sen. “Who are these people? They do not look as if they belong to the Extreme King. If they do not belong to the Extreme King, then just kill them. This is the Undying Bird’s house, and not just anyone can make themselves present.”

Han Sen felt a chill. That old woman looked very, very old, but when she looked at them, Han Sen felt a great chill. He knew she was actually a very dangerous being.

Bai Wei looked at Han Sen and answered the old woman. “They are indeed knights of the Extreme King. They have helped escort me here.”

“I see.” The old woman nodded and did not say anything. She held her cane and slowly approached the edge of the mountaintop. She looked so shaky as she went, and it made the onlookers worry about whether or not she might misplace her step, slip, and fall off the peak to her death.

Standing atop the peak and its stone steps, the old woman seemed to be recalling something. She eventually said, “Back then, the Undying Bird clashed with your father King Bai. Many people died, but there was no winner. One thousand years later, they agreed to have matters of battle put to their Marquise heirs. Their fights would determine the ultimate victor. But Undying Bird could not give birth to her heir. When she conceived a child, she died while giving birth, so the fighting was unable to continue.”

After the woman said this, she looked very sad. She pointed to the stone steps and said, “But the Undying Bird made these stairs before she died. If you can walk past the stairs and come up to the top, then you win, and then you can take the items that the Undying Bird and King Bai fought for. If you cannot accomplish this, then you can go home.”

“And there are no other conditions?” Bai Wei looked at the old woman atop the peak.

“No. No matter how you do it, cross these steps and reach the top. You’d still win even if you were to crawl up.” The old woman coughed after speaking.

“If there are no other conditions, I’m going to start.” Bai Wei said that, and then she walked up the stairs of the steam bun mountain.

Han Sen looked at the stairs. They were only a few hundred meters tall, and from the bottom to the top, it'd only be a few thousand steps. Han Sen did not find anything strange about them, but he wondered what sort of test the stairs would conduct. Han Sen was even more interested in the item that the Undying Bird and King Bai had fought for, but he also thought that the old woman was extremely dangerous and that he would do well not to provoke her, so he watched Bai Wei accept the test.

## **Chapter 2228 Way of Life and Death**

Bai Wei took her first step along the stone stairs, and she did so with ease. There was no special power working against her on those stairs, and she proceeded easily, so it seemed.

Bai Wei frowned. She did not feel anything from the stairs. The stone staircase really did seem to be exactly what it looked like. If Bai Wei went quickly, she could do a few laps of the simple stone staircase in the space of an hour.

"This is a test established by the Undying Bird; surely it cannot be as easy as this." Bai Wei still did not dare underestimate the supposed trial, and she watched every single step as she walked forward.

But the steps really did seem like nothing special. After Bai Wei walked a few steps of the stone slabs, nothing transpired. Nothing seemed to inhibit or work against her ascension of the stairs.

"Bai Wei! Your body!" Ji Qing, from way down below, suddenly bellowed.

Bai Wei, upon hearing the shout, looked back at them. She noticed they were all looking at her in absolute shock. It seemed as if something terribly surprising had been happening to her body.

Bai Wei quickly looked down on herself, and after she did so, her own facial expressions morphed, too.

Over the past couple dozen of steps, Bai Wei had not noticed anything. Her body, however, had significantly aged. Bai Wei had previously been a girl that had looked like an average eighteen-year-old, but now she looked like a woman that was well into her mid-twenties. Her height and her body shape had changed, and on top of that, the size of her breasts had increased. They had grown from a measly B-cup to a D-cup.

Bai Wei frowned. She walked a few more of the steps. Again, her body underwent a change, and she looked even older. Bai Wei, after thinking on the circumstances, decided to retreat a few steps. Quite shockingly, her body's age began to reduce again.

"You finally noticed!" The old woman up top laughed. With a coarse and raspy voice, she told her, "Undying Bird is the one that created this Way of Life and Death, and not everyone is able to scale it. It is a process stemming from your life and death, and it is a path that reveals the course of your life. By the time you reach the end of this staircase, you will have arrived at the end of your life."

“If you die upon finishing it, what is the whole point of climbing these steps? Undying Bird is evil if he won’t allow people to win.” Ji Qing looked disdainful.

The old woman did not sound mad about what she had said but coldly replied, “Undying Bird used a geno art to set up this Way of Life and Death. If you have what it takes, and you are indeed able to break it, then who can say it is inherently evil?”

Meanwhile, Bai Wei hadn’t said anything more. She focused on her ascension in a bid to reach the peak. As she walked further and further, the older she began to look. From a girl to a woman, from a woman to a middle-aged woman. By the time she had almost reached the peak, she looked like an old woman that was ready to keel over and take to a death bed.

When she was only a few more steps away from the peak, it looked as if she were unable to breathe. It looked as if she were ready to die.

Bai Wei believed it was all some sort of illusion, but despite that, it all felt so very real. Her body was so old now, she was afraid that if she were to take the next few steps, she would indeed die just as the old woman had explained.

While Bai Wei walked up the steps, she had done her best to prevent the aging process, but nothing she tried seemed to work. Those steps really were like a timeline of one’s life and death, and nothing could inhibit the magic that worked it.

Bai Wei came to a standstill before the final few steps, and she peered at them. She did not know whether or not she should proceed.

Han Sen and the others were all in shock that a staircase possessed a power such as that. It was difficult to imagine just how strong Undying Bird was when she was alive.

“If you can walk back down the steps, perhaps it is just a test. You might not die after walking, so just come back when you are done,” Ji Qing said.

Bai Wei wanted to think this way as well, but there was no guarantee she wouldn’t die once she had completed the entire passage. If she did die after scaling the staircase, then it all would have been for naught.

The old woman, upon hearing Ji Qing speak, laughed. “Maybe. The chance of life and the chance of death is fifty-fifty. If you have the courage, you can give it a try.”

Bai Wei looked at the old woman waiting at the end of the staircase. She looked hesitant to proceed. This was not a game, and if she was incorrect, then only death would await her.

“If I walk back down the stairs, can I come back up?” Bai Wei asked as she gazed at the old woman. Her voice croaked like an extremely old person. She sounded so weak and unsettlingly close to death.

“You wish to grab a creature to attempt this? If that is so, then what is the purpose of this being dubbed a test?” The old woman looked at her with disdain. “You are an heir of King Bai. Bring out the power of King Bai. Use your life and your judgment to win this. If you leave, then the gambit will have lost.”

“Little Silver, go and find a little creature.” Han Sen spoke to Little Silver, who was next to him.

When Little Silver heard the command, it took off running into a nearby thicket of bushes. It came back out dragging a rabbit along with it.

Han Sen then told Little Silver to throw it onto the staircase and then kick it on its butt. It complied and did just that, and following the shock and scare, the rabbit took off racing up the stairs.

When the old woman said they should have been killed earlier, Bai Wei hadn't agreed with the notion. This was now Han Sen returning the favor.

The creature transformed like Bai Wei. It got older the higher it went. At the final few steps, it made a great struggle to move. Every step required all its strength to proceed.

Bai Wei looked at Han Sen with surprise, as she had been unsure whether or not he would be willing to help her.

The little creature reached the final step. It looked as if it were spending the last ounce of its life force to move forward as its trembling body reached the top. But as soon as it reached it, it died.

Everyone gasped at the sight. It seemed as if the Way of Life and Death really did end with death.

“This is very obscene! You lose no matter what you do,” Ji Qing couldn't help but say.

“If you have what it takes to break how the Way of Life and Death operates, then death is not what awaits you at the end.” The old woman looked as if she did not care at all.

Bai Wei looked confused, and she wanted to return. Undying Bird had established a test that would claim the lives of many. It was not worth gambling one's life, no matter the potential reward.

Just as Bai Wei sought to go back, she heard Han Sen say, “If I were you, I'd take and finish the last step.”

Bai Wei was shocked. She looked at Han Sen, unsure of what he meant.

“Young man, you are not the one who is standing before the end of the Way of Life and Death. If you have the confidence to, then by all means try and ascend,” the old woman said as she looked at Han Sen.

## **Chapter 2229 Cause and Effect**

“If you hadn't talked, I would have thought that we might die, but now I am pretty sure I won't die by walking along this Way of Life and Death,” Han Sen spoke with certainty.

“Young man, talk is cheap. If you are as certain as you say you are, then come and tread the path for yourself.” The old woman looked at him with disdain.

“Sure.” Han Sen, after saying it, immediately took his first steps along the Way of Life and Death.

Han Sen was not there to prove the old woman wrong, and neither was he there to provide comfort and aid to Bai Wei. All he wanted to do was feel the powers that permeated the Way of Life and Death. A power like that was rare to witness, even for those that were deified. So, there would not be many opportunities for him to experience the feelings of such a power. Han Sen wanted to feel what it was like to feel that which plagued the Way of Life and Death.

If the spell that had been put upon the Way of Life and Death was genuine, then it would not be something so simple as manipulated time. If it was just the power of time, then the speed would be one-way and fixed. Every creature had a different lifespan, so there was no way each step added a certain amount of time that would only bring them to their death upon reaching the end. Only the cause of life and death could have that effect. Going forward took you to your demise, whereas going backwards assured life. If Han Sen could have the taste of that power, it would be a remarkable thing for him to have.

“Brother, this is way too risky.” Han Yan tugged at Han Sen’s arm and made her concern known. Although Han Yan knew Han Sen’s judgment was likely correct, this was a matter that concerned her family. It was only natural for her to be as afraid as she was.

“It’s okay. I’m only going to take a look.” Han Sen touched Han Yan on her head, blinked, and then he approached the staircase.

Bao’er wished to follow Han Sen, but he passed her to Han Yan. He proceeded alone.

When he committed to his first step on the stone staircase, he ran Dongxuan Aura and used his Purple-Eye Butterfly. With them, he watched his body change.

“I was correct; it is similar to Falsified-Sky Sutra, but somehow it’s different. There is another cause of power.” While Han Sen kept his Dongxuan Aura and his Purple-Eye Butterfly running, Han Sen was able to see many almost transparent substances get chained within him.

Every step Han Sen took saw more and more of those substance chains chain him up. Han Sen knew that the path he walked along was not just a simple illusion. It was a scary power that had been left behind by a wondrous deified being.

Han Sen kept walking up, and as he went, his body kept changing. From his young self, he became middle-aged. And from his middle-aged self, he soon became old. The scariest thing was how he felt his own lifespan and time remaining decrease.

The creatures outside the sanctuaries could not see what remained of their lifespan, but those that lived in the sanctuaries could always see it.

Han Sen had a lifespan of a thousand years, and according to the rate of aging right now, the last step would bring him down to the figure of zero years remaining. Han Sen retreated just a little, and when he did that, he felt his lifespan increase again. It really was a path that was true to its name of the Way of Life and Death. Han Sen really admired Undying Bird now. A strong power like this was something that deserved admiration.

Han Sen used all the Purple-Eye Butterfly's power to try and get a read, but try as he might, everything was still a mystery. He could not analyze the enigmatic cause power. He was disappointed, but he still continued to ascend.

The more he walked, the stronger the cause power felt. Han Sen saw it clearer and clearer. Han Sen did not stop, and he thought to himself. He eventually reached Bai Wei's position. He was very old right now, just like Bai Wei. The mere act of talking was enough to make him gasp.

"This is none of your business. Why have you walked up here?" Bai Wei looked at Han Sen with a complicated expression. She did not know if he was trying to be a hero or not.

"I just wanted to prove a little theory I have. It has nothing to do with you, either." Han Sen said that, and then he continued walking up the stairs.

Han Sen felt as if he were tremendously old right now. He felt as if he were losing his power, too. Every single step he now took was incredibly tiring.

Bai Wei looked at Han Sen's back as he went, and her feelings were wrought with complication.

Han Sen walked another step. There were only two more remaining. Han Sen did not hesitate, though. He took a deep breath and walked one more step. Then he stopped.

He looked at his lifespan, which had ticked down to only one remaining. Normally, a person would die after taking the last step.

"Undying Bird has a very strong cause power," Han Sen said coldly. He really did admire Undying Bird right now.

The old woman squinted her eyes. "I did not expect you would have knowledge regarding this to know that this is cause power and not a simple time power."

"It is a shame I was not able to see Undying Bird while she was alive... I really wish I had been able to... cough cough..." Han Sen was serious about what he said. An elite like that was not someone who would be easy to meet.

If he was able to see the Undying Bird use that mysterious cause power, perhaps he would be able to learn something from it, so Han Sen thought it was a grand shame that he couldn't see Undying Bird use it. The substance chains he saw now were too blurry, and he couldn't learn anything from them.

"If you know how strong it is, does that mean you are going to walk the final step?" the old woman smiled at Han Sen. It was difficult to imagine what she might be thinking.



“Of course I want to come,” Han Sen surely said, but due to the fact that he was so old, he did not sound very confident. If anything, he sounded like he was going to die.

“Oh, you are saying Undying Bird’s power cannot kill you?” The old woman looked at Han Sen with a complete lack of emotion.

“She can kill me, but not through these stairs,” Han Sen said.

“If that is what you think, then take the last step.” The old woman smiled at Han Sen.

Han Yan and the others looked at Han Sen nervously. If he walked the next step and it worked like all the rest did, then Han Sen was going to die.

Han Sen said so himself, too, that the steps were not displaying an illusion. This was a real cause power he was contending with. Han Yan knew cause powers were scary, too. Cause powers could kill, and they did not have to make people bleed to kill them.

Bai Wei looked at Han Sen’s back and displayed a very complicated emotion. Bai Wei knew Han Sen knew who she was. She thought Han Sen was doing this to get her attention or at least make a good impression of himself. She had seen many people do this on her behalf before, but Han Sen had gone all the way to the final step, and he was ready to make the next move. She had greatly misjudged Han Sen’s character.

In a moment that separates life and death, who can remain fearless? To even know that completing this path might not lead to death, who would be so willing to risk their life?

Not even Bai Wei herself made the dare. She looked at Han Sen with a complicated expression and thought, “Is he going to take the final step? Is he confident? Or is this all a guess?”

As everyone watched, Han Sen raised his legs and readied himself to bring them down on the final step.

The old woman looked strange, and Han Yan forgot to breathe.

Huangfu Jing looked calm, but she frowned. She thought to herself, “What makes him so certain that he won’t die by ascending the stairs?”

She knew Han Sen was not the sort of person who was willing to risk his life on a whim. If he dared to go all the way up, then he must have somehow known he wouldn’t die.

As everyone watched, one of Han Sen’s legs took the final step. He used the last ounce of his power to bring the second leg up to meet the first. He stood up there right next to the dead animal from before.

Boom!

The whole stair lit up. A transparent fire blazed across the step. It was like a very large bonfire.

## **Chapter 2230 Undying Bird Legacy**

The beast that had died on the ground after it had reached the top step suddenly moved. Although it still looked old, it moved very quickly. It spryly ran up toward the old woman's feet. The transparent fire ravaged the step, but heat could not be felt from it, and it began to rise high into the air.

Han Sen, Bai Wei, and the animal were shrouded in the transparent fire. It eventually all started to drift up high into the air. As the fire burned them, their bodies started to recover. It took away the added years and returned their original form from before they started to ascend the stairs.

The transparent fire then took on the shape of a transparent bird in the air. The bird looked something like a phoenix. It screamed and nodded to Han Sen. It then flew away from the steam bun mountain, flew to another mountain, and disappeared.

"Young man, you win." The old woman looked at Han Sen with a look of seriousness. "But I must say I am curious; why were you so certain you would not die?"

Han Sen pointed at the animal next to the old woman. "You did not allow Bai Wei to leave the Way of Life and Death, but you did not stop us from using an animal to test this. That proved that it would not be bad for you. Plus, its acting was quite terrible. I only kicked it, and it ran straight up the stairs like mad. It didn't even think to look back. That was so very strange, and so it made me think that you owned the creature."

"Just because of that you dared to come all the way up?" The old woman looked at Han Sen strangely.

The prediction had been correct, but that was a moment that could have decided life and death. Even if Han Sen judged it that way, he should have been wary. Very few would dare to go all the way up.

Han Sen shook his head. "That guessing doesn't matter in the end. What was most important was that I could see that it was not dead. Its acting was good, and it knew how to hide its life force. It could not hide from my vision, of course."

Bai Wei, who now looked like a young girl, came the rest of the way up. She looked at the old woman's animal and thought of something.

"I see. I should not have done that." The old woman reached her hand out, and then the creature leapt into her chest. After giving it a stroke, she said, "Since you two have walked the Way of Life and Death, you can consider yourself approved in the eyes of Undying Bird's will. You guys win. Therefore, you can now proceed and claim the item." The old woman said that, but she did not move. She just smiled at them.

"Where is the item?" Bai Wei asked with a frown.

The old woman continued to smile. "The item is right there in front of you. You two have been seeing it for a while."

“This mountain?” Bai Wei was shocked. She realized that now, and then she looked around at the mountain.

The old woman nodded and said, “This mountain is called Extreme Dead. It is a deified treasure of the universe. Undying Bird and King Bai discovered this mountain, and they both fought for its ownership. Neither won, and so they kept the mountain where it lay. Undying Bird was the one who managed it, but she eventually died, and she was buried here on the mountain. The mountain is useless to creatures. Perhaps King Bai knew this, and so he didn’t come here himself. On his behalf, perhaps he sent you.”

“If things were like that, why would father want me to come here?” Bai Wei asked.

The old woman said coldly, “Undying Bird died early. She took over Extreme Dead mountain, but she would not claim everything. She still has a few items leftover for you, but it is down to you whether or not you can take them away.”

After that, the old woman pointed at the old tower behind her with her cane. A fireball came out of her cane and landed against it. The tower was set on fire, and it was quickly incinerated. After a short while, the construction was reduced to dust. The wind scattered it all around, but where it had once been now remained an item.

They all looked at the item, and they felt weird when seeing it. The item was built from dry grass. In many ways, it looked like a bird nest. It did not look particularly pretty, and it actually looked quite rough. But it was big and a few meters wide. A few people could definitely sleep in there.

“Undying Bird left this item behind?” Han Sen asked with curiosity.

The old woman looked at the bird nest and with much fascination said, “Do not underestimate it. This was where Undying Bird was born. The dry grass is very special, and it is called Evergrass. If you can take it away, then you will swiftly learn what boon and benefit it can provide you.”

Bai Wei did not say anything. She simply walked in front of it. She reached out her hand with a desire to pick up the nest, but the bird nest, which appeared to have been made from dry grass, had the weight of a mountain. Bai Wei tried to lift it a few times, but it would not budge. She could not pull out any of the dry grass, either.

The old woman smiled. “Undying Bird was born there, and that is where it lived for a million years. Undying’s power is all over that Undying Bird bird nest. Even deified weaponry cannot compare to this, so it will be very difficult to move.”

Bai Wei frowned. She glowed with the color of gold. A gold shadow overtook her and made her appear far stronger than she usually did.

Han Sen was shocked. He did not know she had this in her. Even if Bai Wei did have that big power boost, it mattered not, though. She was still unable to move the Undying Bird bird nest an inch. Nothing seemed to work. Deified items weren’t something a Marquise could just come into ownership of. It did not seem possible that Bai Wei would be able to take it away.

“Undying Bird left behind the most precious thing to you. If you cannot take it away, then you cannot blame anyone else for your inability to do this.” The old woman smiled.

Bai Wei frowned and did not speak. She looked at the nest, but she still had no clue about how to take the bird nest away with her.

Han Sen looked at the old woman and asked, “Does the person need to finish the Way of Life and Death to get approved by the Undying Bird? Is it only then that the person can take the Undying Bird bird nest away with them?”

Bai Wei, upon hearing that, turned to look at the old woman. Her face changed. She did not need her to answer, though. They knew the answer deep inside already.

Han Sen walked in front of the Undying Bird bird nest and touched its edge. As soon as he touched it, the bird nest started to fly, and then it became smaller. It became something as small as a hand, and it flew to land and sit upon Han Sen’s hand.

“I see.” Han Sen handed the bird nest over to Bai Wei.

Bai Wei grabbed the bird nest, but as soon as Han Sen let go, the bird nest dropped to the ground like a giant rock. Bai Wei could not stop it from falling, and she fell down with it.

The bird nest was on the floor. No matter how hard she tried, she could not pick it up.