

Chapter 2291

Small Surprise

"I don't think I really understand. Please explain it to me again," Han Sen said, trying to keep his shock from showing on his face.

Truthfully, Han Sen understood the geno art perfectly. The geno art was quite familiar to him, and that familiarity shook him to his core. The geno art had an obvious connection to the Dongxuan Sutra. Both arts could benefit each other quite well, and using Mister White's technique could aid in the development of the Dongxuan Sutra.

Han Sen could use the Dongxuan Sutra to absorb power from the world around him. Doing so allowed him to conserve his own energy, stretching his strength out over a longer period of time.

But the Dongxuan Sutra had yet to reach Duke, so the effect wasn't particularly good. It only saved Han Sen a small amount of power.

"Has Mister White realized that I use the Dongxuan Sutra? Is that why he's telling about this geno art? What is he planning?" Han Sen thought fast, but he didn't have enough information to guess what Mister White was playing at.

It seemed likely that Mister White knew that Han Sen could use the Dongxuan Sutra. Explaining a geno art as simply as he had suggested that the man's mind was quite frightening. It put Han Sen on red alert.

"If you don't mind me repeating myself, I will recite the geno art again." Mister White smiled. Then, he resumed talking about the geno art.

It would have been better if he had stopped speaking there, for the more he talked, the more confused Crime became. Mister White's detailed explanation of the geno art was more difficult to understand than the geno art itself. He began speaking about the geno universe itself, which was something Crime had never heard about before.

Han Sen used the Dongxuan Aura to listen, and he was able to understand a bit. He pretended that he couldn't though, and he feigned confusion.

"Mister White, I'm afraid that the explanation isn't helping. I am just getting more and more confused." Han Sen presented Mister White with a wry smile.

"Mister White is so smart. Since you're just a Duke, well, it is only expected that you can't understand a word that he's saying. And don't worry, I don't understand, either. It isn't about you, okay?" Crime said.

Mister White shook his head and sighed. "The things I have learned are a bit different from your own geno art. It is okay that you don't understand, but try to learn as much as you can, for I can only explain it here like this."

"Thank you for your willingness to teach me. I'm just afraid I will never be able to learn such a geno art," Han Sen said. But he was secretly casting the geno art Mister White had just taught him.

He gave it a try, and it worked fine. When Han Sen didn't summon his Dongxuan Armor, the effect of absorbing external power seemed to increase. And this was Han Sen's very first time using the ability. If the ability was already useful, then it would surely become a greater and greater benefit to him as his proficiency increased.

Han Sen still didn't know why Mister White had given him the geno art, but he was okay with learning something new. Han Sen practiced it, and the strain of maintaining the Four Symbols Seal decreased.

The day went by pretty quickly. After the first twenty-four hours, the other deified xenogeneic clones shifted slightly toward Han Sen and the others like the very hungry monsters that they were.

The monsters stared at them for a whole day, and the beasts' eyes were different than they had been. There was a fresh, murderous gleam in their eyes.

The scary creatures looked over them, as if deciding which flavor of meat to dine on first. The slaving beasts made Han Sen and the others nervous. But even so, despite all the attention directed toward them, not a single one of the xenogeneics prepared to attack. They just stared at Han Sen's group like jewels.

Acknowledging their apparent safety, Han Sen and the others felt relieved. It was fortunate that the jade cat statue hadn't lied to them. The deified clones really were restraining themselves, as the cat statue had said.

Han Sen and the others didn't dare move, though. They continued using their strength to keep the bai sema going. They kept the deified xenogeneic clone sealed, hoping they could hold the creature there for the entire ten days.

But as time ticked by, the xenogeneic clone's struggling became worse and worse. After it had been thrashing around for a while, Han Sen started to feel a strain.

Five days later, even the half-deified blood kirin was beginning to fatigue.

Because each part of the Four Symbols Seal was connected, Han Sen didn't have to continually use his full power. It meant that the others had to pick up his weight, though, to keep the deified xenogeneic suppressed.

So, the blood kirin and Mister White were using up a lot more power than Han Sen was.

Sweat began to trickle down Crime's forehead. It was getting hard for him, too.

Things were not going as well as they had hoped. But by Han Sen's estimation, if they continued using power at the same rate, they would survive all ten days of the trial.

“Little guys, you seem to be working very hard. I have to say, you’re not doing a bad job.” Suddenly, the jade cat statue started talking again. It spoke lazily, though, as if it had just woken up from a deep slumber.

Han Sen and the others were concentrating all their strength on maintaining the Four Symbols Seal, however. They couldn’t spare the time or effort to bother looking in the direction of the jade cat statue.

The jade cat statue’s voice came from behind them again. “You guys are doing good, but don’t you think that this would be a boring way to pass the test?”

“You aren’t going to cheat, are you?” Han Sen’s heart jumped. If the jade cat statue let the rest of the xenogeneics attack them, they would be very dead.

The jade cat statue laughed and said, “Don’t worry! I cannot change the rules that Sacred Leader set in place. I just wanted to give you a small surprise.”

“I hate surprises,” Han Sen said with a tight, feral smile.

“But this really is a surprise. It might actually prove to be a great benefit to you guys. Of course, you will need to have what it takes to accept the surprise.” The jade cat statue looked as if it was smiling, but it wasn’t.

After the cat statue’s voice trailed off, Han Sen heard a noise coming from the ground. It sounded like something was dragging metal chains.

Han Sen scanned around them with his Dongxuan Aura, and then he noticed as all the deified clones began stepping away from them. Something new was approaching Han Sen’s group.

It was a skeleton. Or at least, it looked like a skeleton. The flesh of the creature had dried into a withered husk. Its long hair was like tufts of hay.

The being wasn’t dead, though. His limbs were bound by metal cuffs, and he walked very slowly. With every step the man took, chains grated across the ground behind him.

The chained man was approaching them with his head lowered. When he got closer, Han Sen could see that there were two dark holes where his eyes should have been. Dark blood wept from the holes, and the eyes were missing.

Han Sen and the others looked grim. They were using their powers to cast the Four Symbols Seal. If the creepy man attacked them, they wouldn’t be able to block the strike without releasing the Four Symbols Seal. And that would be enough to lead to their doom.

The prisoner came within ten meters of them, chains rasping across the ground with every step. He raised his head so that the two bloody holes could peer at Han Sen and the others. Those two holes gave them the willies.

He stopped for a moment, but then, the prisoner started to move again. His slow steps took him toward Han Sen.

“What the f*ck!” Han Sen thought frantically. There were four of them, but the prisoner had decided to go for Han Sen. It was getting closer, and after another minute, it stood right behind him.

Chapter 2292 The Prisoner at the Rear

The prisoner approached Han Sen. Although he walked slowly, he was already very close to them. A second later, he was directly behind Han Sen.

As the prisoner walked, his cuffs clinked and clanked. When he came to a stop behind Han Sen, he fell completely silent. Han Sen couldn't even hear the prisoner breathing or his heart beating. It was as if he no longer existed.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to scan the prisoner, but he was shocked to find that he could no longer detect the prisoner's presence. Goosebumps flared across Han Sen's body.

The prisoner was standing directly behind him, but he could not feel the strange, chained man. His inability to detect the creature deeply unsettled Han Sen. He wanted to just run away as fast as he could. But he was currently casting the red bird spell; if he left his position, then the Four Symbols Seal would break. If any of the four tried to run, they'd all end up dead.

The bird's nest still sat on Han Sen's head. He forced himself not to turn around, and he thought to himself, "So what if you are behind me? You can't break this bird's nest. I have nothing to be afraid of."

Han Sen stood where he was and did not move. He did not dare turn and look behind him. He continued to cast his powers through the red bird spell to keep the trapped xenogeneic suppressed.

But when Han Sen looked at Mister White and the others, he was given a shock.

Mister White's face looked strange, but Han Sen couldn't accurately read the man's expression. Crime's expression was easier to interpret, though. He was in massive shock. He stared behind Han Sen with wide eyes, as if he had seen a ghost.

The blood kirin's response was even more dramatic. It was growling at Han Sen, as if in an urgent warning.

"What is he doing behind me?" Han Sen's heart felt chilled. He still couldn't detect the presence behind him. It was as if the chained man wasn't actually a creature at all, but some specter of death itself.

Mister White gulped. He looked pale, but still, he didn't say a word.

His expression made Han Sen even more worried. Han Sen could no longer help it, so he moved his head to take a look. He couldn't turn his head very far, though, because if he moved his hands or body he could disrupt the casting. After twisting his head to the left, he saw nothing.

Then, he looked right. And still, he couldn't see anything. Han Sen wished he could just twist his body around so he could properly see what the prisoner was doing. But he really couldn't move his body.

Han Sen couldn't keep his eyes off the others' horrified expressions, though. Their vision lingered on the space behind Han Sen, which made his heart tremble in fear.

"F*ck you! I have a bird's nest to protect me, and I have nothing to be afraid of." Han Sen gritted his teeth and did not move.

But suddenly, Han Sen felt a chill run down his neck. It felt as if something was blowing a cold breath over his neck. Han Sen's skin prickled as his back turned sore and his legs went soft.

Han Sen had seen many scary things in his lifetime, so he didn't frighten easily. But not being able to see the prisoner was deeply disturbing. He felt a deep chill in his heart.

"Don't move!" Mister White called to Han Sen.

"What is he doing behind me?" Han Sen asked, his voice tense.

It was a shame that the blood kirin couldn't speak. If it had been able to talk, Han Sen would have asked it. Crime wasn't trustworthy enough for Han Sen to bother asking him, though.

"This is... hard to explain." Mister White frowned, and he looked poorly. It seemed as if he didn't know what to say.

Seeing Mister White's hesitation made Han Sen frown. He had no clue what was going on behind him.

If Han Sen was in danger, Crime and Mister White probably wouldn't want to tell him, because they wouldn't want to risk Han Sen moving and breaking the Four Symbols Seal. However, Han Sen didn't think that was the reason for their behavior.

If Han Sen was attacked and wounded, then the Four Symbols Seal would break, anyway. They wouldn't stay silent and tell him not to move.

"If there is no actual danger, then why can they not tell me what's wrong?" Han Sen wondered.

Han Sen's attempts to figure out what was happening were getting him nowhere, but his back felt colder and colder. His worry continued to deepen.

Mister White and Crime were still staring at the space behind him. The blood kirin kept growling at Han Sen, as if it wished to tell him something.

Han Sen could no longer resist the temptation. He summoned Bao'er and asked her to take a look at the prisoner behind him.

Bao'er appeared on Han Sen's shoulder. Han Sen spoke to her, "Bao'er, help your daddy take a look at what this thing is doing behind him."

Bao'er nodded. She leaned over his shoulder and took a look behind him. She jerked in surprise and said, "Dad... behind you..."

“What is behind me?” Han Sen quickly asked.

“There is a man drawing on your back,” Bao’er said, after thinking.

“Drawing?” Han Sen’s mind went blank for a minute. He was confused, and so he thought, “The prisoner is drawing something on my back? Is he an artist? Does he love drawing on humans? Is my body too good, and he could not help but use my fine figure for a canvas? No way! If he was fond of drawing on bodies, then he should have gone and found a pretty girl to paint upon. Why bother drawing on me?”

“Bao’er, what is he drawing?” Han Sen quickly asked. Something else had to be going on here. Bao’er leaned further over Han Sen’s shoulder, peering at Han Sen’s back, but she didn’t speak.

“Bao’er, what is he drawing?” Han Sen squeaked. He wasn’t scared, he told himself. He just didn’t like it.

Bao’er hesitated, but she eventually said, “It’s like... It’s like the creature is drawing a person... Yeah, a woman.”

“A woman? What kind of woman?” Han Sen was frozen. A skeletal prisoner had appeared out of nowhere, slinked up to his back, and started drawing a woman on him. This was too f*cking creepy, and it made Han Sen feel itchy and uncomfortable.

Bao’er didn’t seem to know how she might describe what she saw. With hesitation, she said, “An ugly, ugly woman.”

Han Sen felt his pulse pounding in his temples. An ugly prisoner was now drawing an ugly woman on his back. What the f*ck was happening?

Han Sen’s mouth was wide open. He tried to ask another question, but he had no idea what he should ask.

Bao’er observed his back some more, and then she said, “Dad, he cannot draw anymore.”

“Why?” Han Sen asked curiously.

Bao’er responded quickly this time. “The blood of the woman coming from his hands is running dry, and there is no more paint left.”

“What? He is using a woman’s blood to draw on my back?” Han Sen felt as if his head was going to explode. He could not imagine the scene behind him.

Chapter 2293 Passing the Tes

“Dad, the woman has no more blood. Dad... he cracked open the woman’s brain...” Bao’er kept reporting what was happening.

“Bao’er, stop looking!” Han Sen called Bao’er back into his arms. He didn’t want her to see such a bloody scene.

Bao'er was actually quite old at this point, but in Han Sen's eyes, she'd be a little girl forever.

Bao'er jumped off of Han Sen's shoulder to sit on his chest. She looked curiously at the Four Symbols Seal and the trapped xenogeneic that was still struggling inside.

Han Sen still couldn't feel anything behind him, but after hearing what Bao'er had said, he felt sick with worry. The images of what she had described kept repeating inside his mind, and nothing he tried to think about could scrub them away.

"Jade Cat, what are you doing!" Han Sen finally shouted at the statue of the jade cat.

The jade cat already seemed to be sleeping again, and it showed no reaction to Han Sen's call.

After a while, the prisoner's chains began to rattle again. As it left the space behind Han Sen's back, it slowly entered his field of vision. The prisoner left in pretty much the same manner that he arrived, slowly and seemingly vacant-minded.

There was one small difference, however. He was dragging the corpse of a woman behind him.

To be more accurate, that was not the body of a woman. It was a female creature's body.

Han Sen couldn't see what the female creature's facial features had been, because a large hole had been punched into the creature's head. There was a gaping cavity where the face had been. The upper part of her body was humanoid, though, and the lower body was like a snake. She looked like one of the Ghana, but unlike the Ghana, there was a spiraling horn on her head. It was silver and around one foot long, and it was reminiscent of a unicorn's horn.

The snake scales of her lower body were silver, as well. They were so bright that they made her form seem a little transparent. Holes had been torn through her head and chest, but there was no blood oozing out. It was just as Bao'er had originally said, in that the blood of the woman had run dry.

"What is that weirdo's presence here supposed to mean? Why would he draw a woman on my back?" Han Sen wondered, somewhat shaken.

But Han Sen didn't seem to be injured or impaired. His body was fine, his Galactic Lobster Armor was fine, and it looked like the creepy prisoner guy was leaving now that he had drawn his picture.

Although the whole experience had been rather disturbing, the creature hadn't actually hurt him. So, Han Sen knew he'd just have to stop thinking about it.

"Bao'er! Could you use some water to wash your dad's armor? Wash away the mess he made," Han Sen said to Bao'er. While the paint hadn't been harmful, he was still unhappy to have it on him.

Bao'er jumped off of Han Sen's chest and walked behind him to do as he asked. Then her surprised voice said, "She is gone!"

“What is gone?” Han Sen’s heart jumped into his throat.

“The picture he drew is now gone,” Bao’er said.

“How could it be gone?” Han Sen was very confused about this, and so he proceeded to ask, “Did the picture just get smeared?”

Bao’er shook her head. “Dad, there’s nothing on your back. It is very clean, and there is not even the smallest semblance of a bloodstain. The ugly woman drawing is all gone.”

Han Sen had no idea what to make of this, so he asked Mister White, “Mister White, what is going on?”

Mister White shook his head. “I don’t understand any of this, either. We couldn’t see your back, and we were only able to see that he was drawing something on you. I don’t know what it was that he actually drew.”

Han Sen didn’t like not knowing, but there was little that he could do about it. He checked his body and noted how nothing seemed to have happened, so for now, he shelved all thoughts about it.

Nothing strange happened after that. The four of them kept sending power into the Four Symbols Seal. It maintained a firm hold on the snared xenogeneic clone. Days passed, and after what felt like forever, they reached the ten-day deadline.

Although the four of them were quite exhausted by this point, they had at least managed to survive the ten days.

When the xenogeneics returned to their palace lairs and the doors of their palaces closed, the four of them almost collapsed.

The jade cat statue smiled and began speaking again. “Congratulations! You have passed the Sacred Leader’s test. You can now receive the relic left behind by the Sacred Leader.”

“Where is the treasure?” Han Sen asked, forcing himself to ignore his exhaustion.

“Right here,” the jade cat statue said. The jade pillar below its feet then suddenly opened up, revealing a small jade box. It was impossible to guess what might lay inside.

Han Sen started forward to pick up the box, but then, his heart jumped up. He saw that Crime was holding a broken sword, slashing towards Han Sen.

The blood kirin was angered by this, and so it roared and leaped towards Crime.

But Crime’s darkness covered everything, and Han Sen’s eyes were unable to pierce it.

Han Sen didn’t move his eyes, though. The bird’s nest was still on his head, and he leaped towards where the box had been before everything went black.

In Crime’s area-of-effect, all seven of Han Sen’s senses were blocked. But because he had the protection of the bird’s nest, he wasn’t concerned about any attacks that Crime might launch.

But the next second, Han Sen's face changed. A weird power came down to strike the bird's nest. The power locked onto the bird's nest and pulled it away from Han Sen's head.

Then, he and Bao'er were tied up by something like a rope. The rope jerked them roughly to the side.

The darkness faded. Han Sen noticed that he and Bao'er were now bound by loop upon loop of white rope. Next to them, there was a net with Han Sen's bird's nest inside it. The net must have been quite special if it was able to bind a deified bird's nest.

Crime held the net in one hand and the jade box in the other.

"Thank you for helping me obtain the Sacred Leader's treasure," Crime said coldly to Han Sen, holding the box casually under one arm.

"Who are you?" Mister White frowned at Crime.

Crime smiled and said, "Mister White, I am your faithful guard Crime."

"You look like Crime, but Crime is just a King-class guard. You most certainly aren't. Crime wouldn't possess Prince Fourteen's Sky Net," Mister White stated flatly, his frown deepening.

Crime slid the box into his chest pocket. Then, he lifted his broken knife and spoke to Mister White. "You think too much. Although I am half-deified, I am still your guard. But aside from you, I have a duty to Prince Fourteen, as well. Prince Fourteen wants this item, so I will have to take this back with me."

"Mister White, we both work for Prince Fourteen. You have helped me a great deal, and I will tell Prince Fourteen of your involvement. But this is not where this should be discussed... We need to get rid of him first," Crime said. Then his broken knife came swinging towards Han Sen.

Chapter 2294 Getting the Treasure

Crime swung his weapon, and the substance chain on his knife became a black snake king that looked as if it could swallow the sky. It suddenly lashed towards Han Sen.

Han Sen's body surged with power, but the white rope tightened around him. The mysterious substance chain tangled him up, and it made it difficult for Han Sen to gather up any semblance of defense. That knife was going to slice him to ribbons.

Han Sen gritted his teeth. He was preparing to activate his super god spirit mode when the roaring knifelight was broken.

Han Sen was shocked. He looked at Crime. A hand that looked like jade had wrapped around Crime's wrist. The fingers were very long and pretty.

"Mister White!" Han Sen could not believe what his own eyes were seeing. Mister White was standing behind Crime, pulling his hand back through Crime's chest.

But Mister White's hand emerged perfectly clean, without a speck of blood dirtying it.

Crime's broken knife fell to the ground. He looked at the bloody hole in his chest and then looked at Mister White with disbelief. He said, "Your power was said to be useless in a fight... How... How were you able to destroy my black lion body?"

"Life is full of surprises. You should have gotten used to that by now." A beautiful white shell appeared in Mister White's hand. He opened it and held it out toward Crime. The injured Crime was sucked into the shell.

When the shell closed up, Mister White pocketed it. He grabbed the Sky Net and the little box. He looked as if he was smiling, but he wasn't. And to Han Sen, he said, "Han Sen, it looks like you have lost completely."

Han Sen was still bound by the Sky Net. He gave Mister White a wry smile. "You won. So, what are you going to do with me?"

"Kill you, of course. Do you really think I'd let a scary enemy like you continue to live and grow in this world?" Mister White looked at Han Sen emotionlessly.

"Mister White, you overestimate me. I am just a nameless soldier." Han Sen didn't move. He summoned all his power as he continued to stare at Mister White. He was going to take a risk.

Mister White turned to the cat statue as he gripped the Sky Net, ignoring Han Sen and Bao'er. "Nine-Life Cat, can we go now?"

Han Sen was shocked. Mister White knew the jade cat statue was a Nine-Life Cat.

The Nine-Life Cat statue stared at Mister White. It remained unmoving as it coldly said, "If you guys passed the test, so it is entirely up to you whether you come or go. There is no need to ask for my permission."

"Goodbye." Mister White tugged the Sky Net and dragged Han Sen and Bao'er out of Holy Town.

This time, the power of the town didn't prevent them from leaving. Mister White pulled Han Sen and Bao'er out of the town with ease and returned to that area of dark water.

Mister White's other hand glowed with holy light as it held the jade stone box. The light was able to keep the darkness at bay, at a distance of around three meters from them. He eventually pulled Bao'er and Han Sen safely out of the trench.

Han Sen had thought Mister White would kill them in Holy Town, but he didn't. And after he left that place, he didn't try to make a quick getaway. He took Han Sen and Bao'er into the big white whale, instead.

Fox Queen and Yisha's fight seemed to have ended, since there was no more movement in the sea. It was unclear which of the two might have emerged victorious, though. There was no sign of either of them.

Mister White brought Han Sen and Bao'er into the big white whale. He smiled and looked at Han Sen. "Now I can kill you without any worries. Have you thought up any escape ideas?"

"Why didn't you kill me in Holy Town?" Han Sen asked with confusion.

"You really think that town hid the real treasure?" Mister White asked in an amused tone.

"It didn't?" Han Sen asked.

"It could have, but only if the Sacred Leader went mad. It would have taken utter insanity to spend so much power and effort constructing a place to hide his own treasure." Mister White smiled. "This place must have a secret that you haven't even imagined yet. Aside from that, the picture on your back looks pretty special."

"I thought the drawing was gone." Han Sen was shocked.

Mister White laughed and said, "You are too naive. Just because something disappears, that doesn't mean it is gone. I didn't recognize the person who drew on you, but I do know that he was drawing a creature known as Ancient Blood Dragon Lady. It is a mutant, deified xenogeneic. Her blood is her mutant xenogeneic gene. I don't think such powerful blood could disappear so easily."

Han Sen heard this and was shocked. He had never thought that thing might have been a mutant deified creature.

"Why? Why did he draw on me?" Han Sen asked in confusion.

"I do not know. Perhaps ever since the beginning, you were the chosen one." Mister White's expression hardened. "But it doesn't matter anymore. I am going to kill you, so everything will end."

After that, Mister White looked angry. He yanked the Sky Net, and Han Sen and Bao'er were pulled in front of him. His hand reached out to grab Han Sen.

Han Sen remembered how Crime's body was easily perforated by Mister White's hand. He was shocked, and he was about to activate his super god body.

But when Mister White waved his hand, the Sky Net loosened enough to release the bird's nest. The bird's nest returned to Han Sen.

"Mister White, this is..." Han Sen caught the bird's nest, and he looked at Mister White with confusion.

Mister White put away the Sky Net, and he tossed the jade box towards Han Sen.

Han Sen caught the little jade box, his confusion growing. He had no idea what was going on.

Mister White smiled at Han Sen. His muscles and bones began to shift and writhe, and so too did his face.

Not long after, Mister White became someone else. His presence was greatly changed.

Mister White now looked younger. He looked no more than twenty years old, but his body carried a special sort of presence. It gave Han Sen the feeling that this man had seen and lived through everything. He was like a person that oversaw a match of chess. Han Sen's mouth opened wide.

"You! How is it you!" Han Sen screamed, pointing at him.

"Why would it not be me?" Mister White looked at Han Sen with interest.

"Aren't you in the sanctuaries? How... how did you get out..." Han Sen spoke only half of what he wished to. He then suddenly thought of Blood Legion and the shura, who both had a way to leave. It now didn't seem so strange that this person had been able to leave the sanctuaries.

"It is a long story. To summarize, I thought I'd be able to break the vacuum and become a god in this world. But who knew that this was the place I would actually come to. It was quite a disappointment, all-in-all." Mister White shrugged, looking regretful.

"You... I cannot believe it..." Han Sen mumbled, still frozen.

Han Sen knew this man. They hadn't spent much time together, but Han Sen remembered him. That was because this man was the real heir of the Xuan Men. But Han Sen had only learned the Dongxuan Sutra from Dongxuan Zi. That counted for half of the Xuan Men students.

Chapter 2295 The Extreme King's Secre

Han Sen looked at that man, who was similar to his age. He coughed awkwardly and hesitantly asked, "Um, so, what should I call you?"

In the past, Han Sen had received a secret Xuan Men skill from the man. But the man said he wasn't going to take any students. And Han Sen was also able to obtain Dongxuan Zi's legacy. He didn't know which of the two was a more important figure.

The man laughed and said, "Names are merely symbols. When someone practices as much as I have, they've already given such titles up. You should just keep on calling me Mister White, to make sure that my identity within the Extreme King doesn't get exposed."

"You are going back to the Extreme King?" Han Sen asked with surprise.

Mister White smiled and said, "The Extreme King isn't some scary hole for beasts to fester in. There are many resources to obtain. To be fair, it is a fine place to continue with one's practice. Why wouldn't I go back?"

“Then how are you going to explain what happened here?” Han Sen asked, holding up the little box.

Crime was dead, and Mister White had given the box to Han Sen. Han Sen was afraid that if he returned, he would be unable to report to Prince Fourteen.

“Everything will work itself out, if given the time. Use your heart. Think, hear, and see. Hold onto everything you can in this world. There is a solution to each and every woe.” After that, Mister White gave Han Sen a card. “This is what I have been thinking about over all these years. You can take a look, but remember: do not put the stock of your belief too deeply into anything. You still need to form your own opinions on things in this life. A portion of the real Xuan Men requires one to practice with the faith of their own heart. I have no time to take care of it. My Xuan Men legacy has probably come to an end on this day. You count as half of the Xuan Men members. I hope that in the future, you will find a way to continue the teachings of the Xuan Men and pass on my techniques. You don’t need to ask anyone to join the Xuan Men formally, but the Xuan Men will be lucky enough just to have one or two out there that have really devoted themselves to the learnings.”

Han Sen did not reject the plea. He gladly accepted the card he was given. He knew Mister White wasn’t too personally invested in all of this; otherwise, he wouldn’t have given Han Sen Xuantian’s secret skill before.

There were many religions and parties working in the world, but most religions only taught a person what to do and what to believe in. Only Xuan Men taught a person how to explore and find their own understanding of the world, their own connection within the workings of the universe.

So, it would be very difficult for the Xuan Men to become famous. It wasn’t explicitly defined, so it couldn’t compete on the same wavelength as other teachings and religions. That was because this teaching confused people. Most people wanted to be comforted. They wanted something to guide them through the hardships of life.

But Xuan Men was about having to think about things yourself. You had to take charge of your own fate and explore the unknown. The future was full of unknowns and variables. It was tough. People that didn’t have the required intelligence or endurance could never make it through. So, it wasn’t beyond belief that Xuan Men fell into oblivion. The road of Xuan Men was not one that many would willingly choose.

After Mister White spoke, he looked at the little box in Han Sen’s hand. He said, “If my assumptions about the box are correct, then it doesn’t actually contain the Sacred Leader’s treasure. It is just a red herring. The real treasure still resides someplace in Holy Town. But our combined strength still isn’t enough to explore all of that town’s secrets. When we have both become deified, we can return and resume exploration of the town.”

“Mister White, what is the picture upon my back?” Han Sen still felt nervous when he thought about that painting. It was way too weird.

Mister White thought for a moment, then said, "Ancient Blood Dragon Lady's blood was used as ink. A picture was drawn upon your back. I couldn't see the picture, and so I can't make a sound assertion. But do not worry, as I have made some calculations of the future on your behalf. Following a terrible incident, there were still some good fortunes to be had. Whatever that picture was, it wasn't a bad thing."

"Good fortune following something terrible? That means something terrible is going to happen!" Han Sen was shocked.

Mister White laughed and said, "You're in for a rough ride."

"It would be nice if you didn't tell me these things so bluntly." Han Sen gave a wry smile.

Mister White quietly said, "When you follow Yisha back to Narrow Moon, you should be prepared. I believe that the Extreme King will eventually summon you to their ruler's kingdom."

Han Sen was curious, so he had to ask, "Mister White, how did you end up becoming part of the Extreme King?"

Mister White quietly said, "I disguised myself as a hybrid of the Extreme King so I could stay among them. I was drawn to their resources, but I also learned something very interesting there. I stayed so I could find out more about it."

"What was it?" Han Sen asked again.

"We humans have the Extreme King's blood pulse gene. Although it is only a small smidgen of the stuff, it does exist. And that is how I was able to successfully pass myself off as one of the Extreme King without being discovered," Mister White said.

"I guessed as much." Han Sen nodded. He had considered this possibility before, and if Mister White had followed the same line of thought, there was no reason to believe he was incorrect.

Mister White continued to say, "When the Extreme King become King class, they can awaken their king body. The king bodies are very similar to the super god bodies we have in the sanctuaries. There's one primary difference, however. Our super god bodies are independent, while their king bodies are not independent."

"What do you mean?" Han Sen didn't understand.

Mister White groaned and went on to explain, "What I mean to say is that our super god bodies are a part of us. Their king bodies seem to have a connection with the outside world and some mysterious power. I am still investigating it. There are so many questions I have been unable to find answers for. I cannot explain everything."

After chatting with Han Sen, Mister White said, "I should go. If you head left when you leave, you should soon come across Yisha."

Mister White left, but Han Sen didn't go after Yisha just yet. He walked over to the skeleton sitting in the command chair of the white whale. He took off the clothes that were on the skeleton, and then, he put the skeleton in a box. He planned on finding a good place to bury the man when he returned.

It was a crystallizer. It was like someone of the same race.

After thoroughly cleaning the pieces of clothing, Han Sen put them on. He put the transparent eyepatch on his head, and he felt as if his thoughts were spreading. His body and his vision expanded.

That feeling could not be explained. It was like the whale was becoming a part of his body. Waves of information rolled through eyepatch and were downloaded into his mind.

To put it simply, Han Sen could now use his mind to control the white whale. Piloting the machine was as simple as using his own body.

Han Sen guided the big white whale to the left. And there he found Yisha.

Yisha was swimming through the sea. She saw the big whale and surged towards it. Han Sen quickly jumped out of it to prevent any misunderstandings.

"My Queen, where is Fox Queen?" Han Sen asked.

Yisha shook her head. "She escaped."

"Then we should get out of here, too. I got the item from Holy Town. Let's leave now." Han Sen then piloted the white whale out of the holy spirit sea with Yisha.

When they reached the maze, Han Sen put away the whale.

The enormous whale really was just like the beetle. It could shrink with its space technology. It shrank until it disappeared into the eyepatch. It was like a little whale placed inside a bottle, and it looked magical.

Chapter 2296 Can't Stop You

Yisha and Han Sen returned to the base of the Ice Blue Knights, where they ran into Ice Blue Knight King. It was fairly obvious that he had been unable to navigate the palace maze, and had thus decided to return.

When he saw Yisha and Han Sen come back together, Ice Blue Knight King's eyes widened.

"Knife! I am so glad to learn that you are still alive..." Ice Blue Knight King said, coming up to her.

"I'm afraid that my survival might not be a good thing for you," Yisha growled.

Ice Blue Knight King frowned. "Yisha, what makes you say that?"

"I am alive. That means no one is allowed to bully my student. Do you understand now why that might not be a good thing? It would have been better for you if I had remained dead," Yisha said, her voice as hard as stone.

Ice Blue Knight King fidgeted awkwardly, but he said, "I was just doing my job! I had no choice in the matter. There were some things I just had to do."

"I don't care about your job. Let me ask you something: did you drag my student into the Ice Blue Knights by force? Against his will?"

Yisha stared at Ice Blue Knight King as she spoke.

Ice Blue Knight King looked glum, and he admitted, "Yes."

"Were you the one who captured him?" Yisha asked.

"Yes," Ice Blue Knight King said.

"If you were unable to look after him, why would you drag my student all the way out here? Is that how you manage the Ice Blue Knights?" Yisha hissed.

Ice Blue Knight King could not speak. His face turned red.

Another Ice Blue Knight who was accompanying Ice Blue Knight King stepped forward to angrily tell her off. "Knife, don't be so rude. You are a member of the Ice Blue Knights yourself! How can you speak like that to your captain?"

"From now on, I have no affiliation with the Ice Blue Knights. It's over." Yisha looked at them all with disdain.

Ice Blue Knight King frowned and said, "Knife, I understand the reasons for this mood of yours, but there are some things you can't just say. I will pretend I did not hear what you just said. If you want to talk, we can do so later and in private."

"There is nothing more for us to talk about. Let's go, Han Sen." Yisha turned around to leave.

"Knife! Don't be ridiculous. The Ice Blue Knights have rules. You are a member of the Ice Blue Knights, and you were born to be an Ice Blue Knight. Furthermore, you will one day die on behalf of the Ice Blue Knights. The Ice Blue Knights would never permit one of their members to turn traitor, and furthermore, the Extreme King would not allow..." Ice Blue Knight King trailed off, a shocked look crossing his face.

Yisha's body had filled with purple air. Like a demon, she covered the entirety of the Ice Blue Knight base with her power. Suddenly, everyone in the base looked very pale. The weight of her suppression lay on them so heavily that they could barely stand.

"Deified... You became deified." Ice Blue Knight King and all the other Ice Blue Knights were stunned.

"I'm sorry. Do you mind repeating what you were telling me again?" Yisha turned an unyielding gaze on Ice Blue Knight King and the others. The King class Ice Blue Knights had all turned pale. No one dared look Yisha in the eyes now.

Ice Blue Knight King had also paled, and a series of emotions crossed his face, too quickly to recognize. He ultimately sighed, and said, "I have my own reasons to want you to stay, but since you are already deified, I suppose the Ice Blue Knights don't stand a chance in keeping you here. In that case, I give you permission to leave."

Yisha did not look at Ice Blue Knight King. She took Han Sen with her and departed the Ice Blue Knight base.

"My Queen, that was awesome. Those Ice Blue Knights all looked so cocky, but they were ready to pee themselves before your glory," Han Sen told her as he piloted the white whale away from the base.

After Yisha and Han Sen departed the Ice Blue Knights, they used the big white whale to travel through space. They were headed back to Narrow Moon.

Yisha was holding Bao'er. She fed Bao'er pieces of fruit as she spoke. "The ten sets of knights of the Extreme King. They all sound so powerful. They inspire fear across the geno universe, spreading the belief that every knight has the power to destroy a race. But inside the Extreme King, the knights are still just pawns. They do the dirty work and little more. They aren't given important missions. If any of the members of the knights manage to become deified, they are permitted to leave. They are no longer bound to the knights. This is a rule of the Extreme Kings. Ice Blue Knight King could not have fought against that."

"A powerful regiment of knights like the Ice Blue Knights are still only considered pawns?" Han Sen was shocked to hear this.

"They don't have any deified members. If you think that is the primary army of the Extreme King, you are profoundly underestimating their might." Yisha smiled, then went on to say, "The primary army of the Extreme King is composed of the Royal Knights. They only recruit pure members of the Extreme King, however. And all entrants have to be at least King class. They have very high requirements when it comes to having the right blood and background."

"Aside from the Royal Knights, the Extreme King have many other organizations as well. Most of those are simply less famous. The Extreme King are so strong that very few races are able to compete with them. Even higher races like Sky Palace wouldn't stand a chance against the Extreme King in a fight. They rely on the power of the Very High to make the Extreme King avoid them. That's the only reason that the Extreme King have never touched Sky Palace."

"I see." Han Sen did not understand how the Extreme King worked. He thought for a minute, then asked, "Then what is Narrow Moon to the Extreme King?"

“We do not belong to anyone.” Yisha sighed, and then said, “I told you before. Our elder was a servant of Hell King at one point, but Hell King’s time has long since past. Now, the ruler of the Extreme King is known as White King. Narrow Moon has never had a deified member before. But becoming deified would change little for Rebate politics; a Rebate would never be considered pure of race, and so they could never choose a side. They would be puppets.”

“As long as my queen is here, the Rebate will become one of the most famous high races in the entire universe.” Han Sen was quick to lick her boots. Yisha was his biggest supporter. The safety and security of Han Sen and his friends and family all depended on Yisha.

Yisha rolled her eyes. “Tell me what happened in Narrow Moon.”

Han Sen told her about everything that had transpired in Narrow Moon. He did not exaggerate anything, but even so, Yisha’s face darkened after hearing it all.

“They divided up all of my possessions? They were cruel to my one and only student? They are all such rotten bullies.”

Han Sen’s heart felt touched. If she was saying things like that, then that meant he really was quite important to her.

“It is okay that they bullied my student, but they stole my palace and dirtied up all my things. I cannot allow this,” Yisha said angrily.

Han Sen was touched before, but now he was speechless. He rubbed his nose and said, “Yeah! You cannot allow that. You are going to have to teach them all a lesson.”

Chapter 2297 The Only Queen

As the white whale left the Ice Blue system, Han Sen guided it towards where Night River King had been stationed. He was unable to find anything out of the ordinary there, however, and he couldn’t find a single trace of that weird purple stuff that Night River King had mentioned repeatedly.

Han Sen even went to see the Ice Blue Knight who had taken over Night River King’s position, but the knight hadn’t seen anything strange during his time stationed there.

“Weird. What was that purple thing Night River King was talking about? What about the journal entries he made in code?” Han Sen didn’t understand, but he didn’t plan on lingering in the system to figure it out, either.

Han Sen turned the white whale out of the system, plotting a course back to Narrow Moon. He didn’t see Under Overbearing again, and neither did he see the Black Hole Spider. They did encounter many more of those Galactic Shrimp. The attacks of the shrimp were unable to penetrate the defenses of the white whale, though. And added to that, none of the creatures were as fast as the white whale. Having a powerful ship like the white whale ensured their safety as they traveled, assuming that they only ran

into ordinary xenogeneics like the Galactic Shrimp. If they got into trouble, it would be because they bumped into a creature like Under Overbearing or the Black Hole Spider. Of course, even if that happened, they had the deified elite Yisha on board.

They had good luck in their travels. Yisha and Han Sen were able to depart the systems of chaos with absolute safety. They would soon be back in Narrow Moon.

...

“Dude, what happened? Why has every noble across every planet been ordered to go to Full Moon Hall?”

“Haven’t you heard? Knife Queen is back!”

“Knife Queen is back? How is that possible? I thought she died in the systems of chaos.”

“That’s what all the nobles thought, too. That’s why they plundered her legacy inventory without fear. But she has really come back, and not just that; she’s come back deified.”

“What? Queen has become deified? This is awesome! We Rebate finally have a deified elite in our ranks. Who would dare underestimate us now? Queen is way too powerful.”

“Teehee! It might be good for us, but what about the nobles who divided up her things? They stole her legacy and crushed her student Han Sen under their feet. Now that she has come back deified, they must be shivering in their boots.”

“They had it coming. They think they’re so high and mighty, bullying a student.”

“I’m happy that those nobles are going to get told off. They always bully us, don’t they? And we can never fight back! Now that they are in trouble... Well, it’s what they deserve.”

As Narrow Moon’s people were discussing Knife Queen’s return, a serious discussion was being held in Full Moon Hall.

“No, absolutely not! Miss Knife... Han Sen is just an outsider! He does not have what it takes to be our Holy Child,” an elder said, shaking his head forcefully.

Flower King said, “Knife... Miss... Don’t you think that this is a little inappropriate? The Holy Child has always been the best and most promising of the Rebate. Han Sen isn’t even one of our kind. Even if we force him to become our Holy Child, the rest of our citizens will vehemently object to the selection.”

“Miss Knife, please think about this!” Black Moon King liked Han Sen, but even he did not think that this was right. They risked angering their entire race.

All the nobles were arguing against Yisha's decision to elect Han Sen as the Holy Child. Full Moon Hall was filled with so many shouting voices that it was louder than a supermarket.

Moon Wheel King raised his hand to tell everyone to quiet down. Then, he looked at Yisha and said, "Knife, we were not considerate to you and Han Sen in your absence. We can give him whatever he deserves, but the position of Holy Child is something of gross importance. It affects the very legacy and glory of our race. Allowing an outsider to take this position is in no way appropriate. You must think about this decision some more."

"Are you guys done?" Yisha sat at the head of the conference table. She coldly looked upon all of the nobles that had gathered there.

All of those nobles felt a massive chill as her eyes came to stare at each of them in turn. They fell utterly silent under the weight of her gaze. The same was true for Flower King, as it was all the others.

After everyone stopped talking, Yisha spoke in a slow, deliberate voice. "What if I insist that Han Sen becomes our Holy Child?"

"Knife Queen, if you... if you insist, then you'll have to forgive us for being unreasonable. The elders will never agree to this notion, and I am sure none of the kings here in Full Moon Hall agree to it, either." The members of the Council of Elders kept trying to convince her. "Knife Queen! We are objecting to your plan in order to preserve the legacy and glory of the Rebate. We cannot allow everything we have built for the Rebate to be destroyed."

"Are you saying I am destroying the Rebate as a whole?" Yisha asked coldly.

"Knife Queen, that is not what we meant..." The elder wanted to say more, but Yisha cut him off.

Yisha swept her gaze across the nobles and stopped at Moon Wheel King. "I called you all here to tell you of the decision I have made. I did not call you here for you to voice your opinions on the matter. Starting from today, Han Sen is the Holy Child of the Rebate. If you have a problem with the decision, let me hear it now."

Many of the nobles were frozen. Although they objected, no one wished to square-off against Yisha. They all looked at Moon Wheel King.

Moon Wheel King frowned and looked at Yisha. "What if we all object at once?"

Yisha laughed. She stood up, ignoring Moon Wheel King. She looked down upon all of the nobles and slowly said, "Listen up, people! From now on, Narrow Moon is my Narrow Moon. The Rebate have only one queen. Whoever follows me will live, but anyone who seeks to betray me will die. You can object, but if you directly disobey one of my commands, I will consider you an enemy. I do not mind an injection of fresh blood to fill up the ranks of Narrow Moon."

...

Over the next few months, political instability swept through the Rebate. The people in power kept changing, and families rose and fell on a daily basis.

Han Sen really admired Yisha's decisiveness. Once she made her mind up, she took sole control of Rebate society without looking back.

She'd lacked the strength to make such a bold power-grab before, but now that she was deified, she could suppress anyone who rose against her. She ruled single-handedly, which allowed complicated issues to get resolved much faster.

But other problems began to appear. There were many different factions within Rebate society, and no one could say for certain if Yisha would be able to unite the fragmented society while maintaining her dictatorship.

Some issues could not be solved through power alone. Claiming the throne had been Yisha's first step, but there was a long road ahead of her.

Han Sen was confident in Yisha, but he honestly didn't pay much attention to the political turmoil of the Rebate. He was busy investigating the information given to him by Mister White.

The techniques of the Xuan Men were very deep. There was a great deal of information to sift through, which included more than just a few geno arts. Some of what Han Sen read would take a few hundred years to truly comprehend.

Chapter 2298 Deified Speed

There were many things that couldn't be truly understood by merely reading a book; instead, they had to be figured out by each individual. The teachings of the Xuan Men were this sort of knowledge.

Han Sen planned to find a few people that could research the Xuan Men information on his behalf and determine what content might be suitable for humans to learn. He also wanted to establish a special school in the Alliance that would teach the Xuan Men techniques to other humans. He wanted to pass on the knowledge and expand the lineage of the Xuan Men.

It was just as Mister White had said: if one or two people in every ten million were able to follow the righteous path of Xuan Men, then that would be enough.

Surprisingly, Ji Yanran expressed an interest in the subject. Han Sen quickly turned the project over to her.

But Ji Yanran didn't do as Han Sen hoped. Instead of building a school for the purpose of teaching the Xuan Men philosophy, she opened up a Martial Hall. In it, she would start by teaching the Xuan Men martial arts, whereas the philosophies of the Xuan Men way would be taught at a later time.

"No one will treasure something that is earned very easily. And the Xuan Men way of thinking is not suitable for everyone. It requires too much heart. By teaching them this way, the philosophies are likely to be accepted by more people," Ji Yanran explained.

Ji Yanran's line of thinking made sense to Han Sen. He had only learned the secret techniques of the Xuan Men, anyway. He didn't actually understand the core concepts of the Xuan Men way himself. Potential students would have absolutely no experience with the Xuan Men techniques going in, so it would likely be a waste of time for them to learn. Not many people would ever be able to understand this stuff.

"If we can't even start a school, do you really think your Martial Hall will work?" Han Sen asked, purely to be contrary.

Ji Yanran laughed. "This will be easy. We only need your big face for an , and our doors will be swarmed with upper-class socialites begging to sign up. They only need to hear that these techniques were practiced by the great Han Sen. I wager they'd fight to the death and use any trick in the book to get their kids accepted into our Martial Hall."

"Mister White's intention was to see the Xuan Men expanded. If you approach things like this, you are only serving the needs of the upper-class." Han Sen frowned.

Ji Yanran laughed and said, "Don't worry. Over the years, most ideas start with high society. Once an idea has been accepted by the wealthy and powerful, it is more easily disseminated to the lower class. This is especially true when it comes to the ideals of the Xuan Men. In ancient times, famous philosophers and scholars would embark on lengthy journeys to convince people of all different societal levels of their ideals. Now, we just need time and s."

"Honey, don't work yourself to the bone. You should bring on some added help." Han Sen could not be bothered to help her himself, of course. If she was willing to shoulder the responsibility, then that was fine with him.

The box Han Sen had taken from Holy Town was locked, so he couldn't open it. He had tried to pry it open in many different ways, but nothing worked.

Even Yisha's power had been insufficient to break the jade stone box. Because Han Sen hadn't been able to find out what was inside, he put the box away for the moment.

Instead, he turned his attention to the bone needle. It was the one Han Sen took from the palace maze. There were twelve drops of deified blood still inside it. They represented twelve different deified blood pulses.

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Han Sen did not use them. First, he wanted to research them.

Because Han Sen's body still contained more Ghost Bone power than he could use, he currently had no need for the energy that the deified blood pulses offered.

He pondered the blood pulses for a while, and he eventually decided to have a drop anyway.

Han Sen chose to consume the drop he had retrieved from the Blood Demon. It was of the blood element. He wanted to see if it might help his Blood-Pulse Sutra.

Han Sen lifted the bone needle above his chest. And then, he thrust it into his heart.

(This was not an intravenous injection like one would receive from an ordinary doctor. If a normal person tried this as Han Sen did, they would most definitely die. Do not try this at home.)

The bone needle pierced right through his heart, and a drop of deified blood spilled into him.

Han Sen was about to begin refining the deified blood when he suddenly heard an announcement play in his head.

“Successful infusion of deified gene. Deified gene +1. Deified progress is 1/100.”

After that announcement, Han Sen felt a scary power explode in his heart and sweep into every corner of his body. His cells shuddered as the new power surged through him, and he began to change.

His body felt like he was shedding, sloughing off layer upon layer of old cells. This entire process lasted a whole day before coming to an end. Trails of a black substance littered the floor, like the flaky remains of a dead snake. It looked quite scary.

Han Sen: super god spirit body

Gene Battle Body: Mutant Blood (Duke), Spell (Marquise), Dongxuan (Marquise), Jadeskin (Duke)

Level: Duke

Duke Genes: 17

Deified Progress: 1/100

Lifespan: 1100

Han Sen was shocked. He did not know what “deified progress” meant.

“Are deified genes different from the genes that come before? What does ‘deified progress’ mean? Does this mean I will be deified once the number reaches a hundred? I can achieve deified status without maxing out any other genes?” Han Sen could not figure out what was going on.

Han Sen studied himself after receiving his one deified gene. His body had changed. It was like his genes had all improved. What hadn’t improved, though, was his fitness. It was still at the level of a Duke.

Han Sen tried to refine another deified drop of blood. The process was exactly the same. Han Sen’s body changed again, and he received an additional deified gene point. His deified progress became 2/100. His fitness did not increase much.

But if he was able to earn deified genes, that meant it was a power that humans could accept. That relaxed many of Han Sen’s worries, and he absorbed the rest of the deified blood.

Over the next two weeks, Han Sen refined his deified blood. His deified progress became 12/100, and after the refining process, his fitness increased by quite a bit.

But strangely, Han Sen didn't gain any special blood pulse powers after receiving the deified blood pulses.

"Where can I get more deified genes? Once I reach one hundred, I guess I'll be able to find out what it does," Han Sen thought to himself. It would be too difficult to kill deified beings by himself, though. At his current strength, it was an impossible task.

"It's a shame that the little red bird ate my Sun Raven. If it hadn't, I could have given it a try. Perhaps I could eat the flesh of deified creatures," Han Sen thought to himself.

Thinking about the little red bird, Han Sen checked on the egg inside the bird's nest again. Han Sen was shocked. A number of weird substance chains had appeared from the nest and were drilling into the red egg. The red color of the egg was shining brightly, as if it was being consumed by a red fire.

Chapter 2299 The Little Red Bird Hatches

"Is the little red bird about to hatch?" Han Sen thought in surprise.

But as he watched, the color gradually drained from Han Sen's face. The substance chains connected to the bird's nest started to pull back into the egg, and the nest began to fall apart piece by piece.

Pieces of dry grass fell away from the nest, turning to dust in midair. Before they reached the ground, they had dissolved into nothing.

"Oh no... Is this little guy going to drain all the power out of the nest?" Han Sen reached out to save the nest, but when his hand touched the red flame, his body aged and withered. Within a second, he was so old that he looked to be on the verge of death.

Han Sen jerked his hand back. When his hand was no longer close to the red flame, his body returned to normal. He didn't look old anymore.

The sight of the disintegrating bird's nest made Han Sen's heart bleed.

And there was another reason that this was a very serious problem; Queen Bai Wei had told him to hold on to the bird's nest. What if Queen Bai Wei returned for the missing nest? What would he do then?

That line of thinking was pointless, however; the egg had already absorbed most of the nest's power. The dry grass had turned into dust, and there was nothing he could do to reverse the process.

The egg's red flame burned hotter and hotter, and the egg itself became thinner and more transparent. As the egg became translucent, he could see what was inside it.

The little red bird was still curled inside the egg, sleeping peacefully. Its body was full of fire, and it looked as if it was awaking from its slumber.

When eggshell became paper-thin, it finally cracked. The shell crumbled into nothing, burning away in the fire. The little red bird fell out. It opened its wings, and flames roared out of its body. It became a red phoenix.

It immediately flew around in the air. It circled Han Sen three times, nodded at him repeatedly, then flew down to settle on his shoulder.

That movement shocked Han Sen. The fire on its body was not an ordinary fire. Han Sen had only just touched it, and he had almost died of old age. He worried that if the bird landed on him now, he'd grow so old that he'd crumble into dust himself.

Han Sen tensed as the little red bird landed. Its fire was gone, at least. It now really did look just like a little red bird. It landed on Han Sen's shoulder in exactly the same way that it used to.

Han Sen sighed. Fortunately, the little red bird had some modicum of intelligence. If it hadn't restrained its power, things might have turned out poorly for him.

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"Little Red!" Bao'er came waddling in from the outside. She sounded so happy when she saw the little red bird.

The little red bird was sitting quietly on Han Sen's shoulder, but when it heard Bao'er, it perked up immediately. It flew towards Bao'er's hand and allowed Bao'er to stroke its feathers. The bird looked as if it enjoyed the attention, and it kept its head there for Bao'er to stroke.

"What is this? I am your master, you know!" Han Sen lifted his lip. He looked at the little red bird with an unfriendly smile.

The little red bird seemed to acknowledge Han Sen's expression, so it flapped its wings and flew quickly behind Bao'er. It peeked at Han Sen by poking its head over Bao'er's shoulder.

"This guy ate the flesh of the Sun Raven. It should be deified, no matter what. Why is the guy still so small?" Han Sen was confused.

But the power within the little red bird was proof of its rank. Not even Han Sen could withstand its fire for a single second. It was definitely a deified creature.

Those days, Han Sen felt good. After Yisha made him the Rebate's Holy Child, he received a lot of resources. Planet Eclipse remained under his control, and he was given another eight planets and a slew of different treasures as well.

Even more resources would come Han Sen's way in the future, but he had too much of that Ghost Bone power still within him. He didn't need any more resources right now. So, for the moment, he planned to put everything he received in storage.

Han Sen had brought many spirits to Planet Eclipse, and they left the planet to explore the geno universe when they became Marquises. Six Paths King, Ming Yue, and Moment Queen had already begun their journeys.

Han Sen didn't worry about the safety of Six Paths King, and Ming Yue left with Gu Qingcheng. Han Sen wanted Moment Queen to stay by his side, but she refused. She wanted to level up alone.

Han Sen didn't force her to stay. Moment Queen had been with him for quite some time. In their early days together, Han Sen came to her as a threat. But eventually, after much time, he won her over. They had enough trust in each other that he was comfortable bringing her to the geno universe.

Things had been going well for Han Sen lately, but it couldn't last. Life soon proved that there was always something for Han Sen to worry about. He received word that an envoy of the Extreme King would be coming to visit Narrow Moon.

This time, the leader of the envoy would be the fourteenth prince Bai Canglang. When he heard the name, Han Sen's worry deepened.

Crime had served Prince Fourteen. The Extreme King delegation claimed that they were visiting to congratulate Yisha on her ascension to becoming deified. But such a simple courtesy wouldn't usually require Prince Fourteen's personal attendance.

Amongst a smaller race like the Rebate, a deified warrior was practically a god. For the Extreme King, though, achieving deified status just made someone exceptional. They wouldn't send a delegation all this way just to congratulate Yisha on an achievement that many of their own members had made.

When Han Sen learned that Bai Wei was a part of the envoy, he knew that Mister White had been correct. He would be forced to go with the Extreme King.

"If Mister White's guess is correct, going with the Extreme King will be very dangerous for me. Zero and Meng'er shouldn't go, because I might not be able to protect them from the Extreme King. They should stay in Narrow Moon under Yisha's protection. They will be treated well, and now that I have resources, they should become Dukes without too much difficulty. It might even be possible for them to make it to King rank."

"I have to take the blood kirin, though. Its power can surely help. But should I bring the little red bird?" Han Sen was hesitating.

Han Sen was deep in thought, but he looked up suddenly, turning his face toward the entrance of the garden.

There, he saw a blue-clothed man leading a lady in white into his garden. The woman in white was Queen Bai Wei. Han Sen didn't know who the blue-clothed man was, but judging from the way he walked, Han Sen could guess that the man was Prince Fourteen Bai Canglang.

Han Sen wasn't surprised that they had come looking for him, but he was surprised that no one had warned him before the two showed up in his garden.

Normally, someone should have reported their arrival. Even if they forced their way in, someone should still have gotten a message to Han Sen.

But Han Sen had received no warnings. Business in the base continued as usual. Bai Canglang brought Bai Wei right into the deepest part of the garden.

Han Sen frowned and examined Bai Canglang. He looked like a man in his thirties. He was not pretty, but he had a noticeable air of casual strength about him. He walked as if he had no cares in the world. He looked so free.

Although he was walking through Han Sen's garden, Bai Canglang behaved as if he was at home. He walked up to Han Sen and sat down next to him. He picked up the teapot and teacup upon the stone table and poured himself a cup of tea. He said, "This tea is fine, and the people here are great."

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"This cup of tea for a part of a Duke's xenogeneic gene. I appreciate the exchange," Han Sen said politely.

Bai Canglang looked surprised. Then he smiled and said, "Good! Good! Good! I like greedy people."

After that, Bai Canglang's smile disappeared. He looked at Han Sen seriously and said, "I want you. How much are you worth?"

"One hundred King class xenogeneic genes," Han Sen said.

"Good! That is far cheaper than I expected. You are certainly worth the price," Bai Canglang answered without hesitation. He nodded vigorously.

"For one year," Han Sen finished.

Bai Canglang looked at Han Sen with shock. One hundred King class xenogeneic genes was not a high price for Prince Fourteen of the Extreme King.

But one hundred King class xenogeneic genes for a measly year of service from a Duke? That was something that had never happened before. For that price, Prince Fourteen could have bought a lifetime of service from twelve Dukes.

"How much will it cost to buy you permanently?" Bai Canglang asked. His voice was curious, but not angry.

"One hundred King class xenogeneic genes for a year is a fixed price. I offer no sales or bulk rates here. You buy each year, for as long as you want me," Han Sen said with sincerity.

Bai Canglang laughed. He pulled out a tablet and set it down on the table. He said, "I will use this to purchase your services for a hundred years. I am leaving tomorrow. It is your decision whether or not you will choose to accompany us."

After that, Bai Canglang stood up and left. He did not look back.

Han Sen looked at the tablet on the table. It was a green jade tablet that was around the size of a man's hand. Both sides bore depictions of dragons, and they each looked as if they were clutching a ball between their claws. On both sides of the tablet, the name Canglang was written.

"This is Brother Fourteen's Royal Guard tablet. You need to be at least King class to be considered one of his Royal Guard," Bai Wei explained. Although Prince Fourteen had left, she was still standing there, staring at Han Sen.

"I am just a minor Duke. I'm not worth Prince Fourteen bending the rules for, I assure you," Han Sen said, while playing with the tablet.

"Brother Fourteen came here to recruit your teacher Knife Queen, but she refused. He is now going for the second-best option, which is you. He wants you because you are her student." Bai Wei paused and then went on to say, "It seems like you have made him angry."

"There is nothing I can do about that. I won't agree to a deal just because someone is having a hissy fit." Han Sen shrugged.

Bai Wei suddenly reached her hand out to Han Sen. "Give it to me."

"What?" Han Sen asked, pretending to be surprised.

"Don't give me that. Hand over the Undying Bird Nest," Bai Wei grunted.

"You can't take it away. Why should I give it back?" Han Sen felt sick. The bird's nest had been destroyed by the little red bird, so there was nothing to return.

"Whether I take it or leave it is my decision. And I'm telling you to give it back." Bai Wei's voice was cold.

"I would like to return it, but the item broke the last time I used it." Han Sen opened his hands with the confession, looking apologetic.

Han Sen didn't think he could hide the fact that the bird's nest was gone, so he had no choice but to admit the truth.

When Bai Wei heard his apology, she laughed. She smiled at him and said, "I'd expect a better excuse from a thief. You know, the Bai family is not one you can so easily shrug off and ignore."

Bai Wei didn't believe for a second that the Undying Bird Nest, which was a deified item, had been broken. Not even a deified elite could break it.

"It is true! I'm not lying." Han Sen looked at her very earnestly, forcing an innocent expression onto his face.

Bai Wei sneered and rolled her eyes. She wasn't happy to hear about this.

"Fine! If you do not want to return it, pay back your debt by being my Royal Guard." Bai Wei poured herself a cup of tea, as if she was some sort of repo woman.

“Ten years.” Han Sen gritted his teeth as if he had just made a big decision.

Bai Wei smiled clearly. She had a sip of tea before saying flatly, “Serving me is just a way of paying interest on the loan. When you return the Undying Bird Nest, then you can go. I will do nothing to stop you.”

“How does that work?” Han Sen blinked.

Bai Wei smiled. “Give me the Undying Bird Nest or be my Royal Guard. The choice is yours to make. I do not like forcing people into doing something they do not wish to do.”

He couldn’t refuse both options. The nest was gone, but if he refused to go with them, he’d be forced to fight them. That was also beyond his abilities.

Bai Wei sighed and said, “Actually, you have no choice. Brother Fourteen won’t give up easily. I bet that if you don’t become my Royal Guard, he will do everything he can to bring you in close to him. His purpose, ultimately, is your teacher Knife Queen, mind. You will be used as a pawn or a tool to get to her.”

After pausing, Bai Wei went on to say, “At least my desire for your service is genuine. I really just want you and not your teacher.”

“It looks like I have no alternatives here.” Han Sen gave Bai Wei the tablet. “Help me return this to Prince Fourteen, then.”

Bai Wei wanted him, and Bai Canglang was incredibly annoying. Han Sen would opt for Bai Wei if it meant he didn’t have to deal with the irritating prince.

Bai Wei took the tablet, then glanced around the garden. “Where are your sister and daughter? They can come, too. I do not mind bringing on more people. Although they cannot be Royal Guards, I can promise you that they will be treated well.”

“They say thank you, but no thank you,” Han Sen answered immediately, turning down Bai Wei’s offer. The Extreme King trip would be a dangerous voyage. It was a good opportunity, but Han Sen didn’t want to expose Han Meng’er and the others to unnecessary risks. He was only going to bring Bao’er, the blood kirin, and the little red bird.

Bai Wei did not say anything. She pulled a tablet out of her pocket and gave it to Han Sen.

It was a white tablet adorned with flowers the color of blood. The name Wei was written across it in a simple script. The tablet was a little plain, but strikingly delicate, too.

Han Sen knew that it was Bai Wei’s Royal Guard tablet. He took it and twirled it through his fingers. “What does the Royal Guard of a queen need to do, exactly? I won’t be entertaining you everywhere we go or taking care of your day-to-day needs, will I?”

Bai Wei rubbed her nose and said, “You think that members of the royal family spend their days lazing around? There are many members of the Extreme King royal family. If we want resources, we have to fight for them ourselves. Otherwise, even a royal could end up worse than an Extreme King noble.”

“Are things really that competitive?” Han Sen asked skeptically.

Bai Wei said, "Father believes in survival of the fittest. That is what he taught us when we were young. We receive basically the same treatment as the other Extreme King nobles. We might have a few extra resources, but not much. If we want more, we need to prove ourselves worthy of it. If you do not work hard, you will end up worse than a commoner. It's challenging, but we are fairly rewarded for our efforts. You will get a share of everything that you earn under my employ. How much you gain just depends on how much you are willing to help."