

Chapter 2381

Kingese Protect Me Go Go Go

All the royal children made their ascent at a speed that was neither slow nor fast. The crown prince Bai Weijie was leading the way, but their formation began to change once they reached the halfway point.

At the middle point of the mountain's staircase, there was a stone tablet. Upon it was inscribed, "Travel half the mountain, thinking like a sword." Han Sen didn't know what it meant, but once they passed by the tablet, everyone started to speed up. Prince Four and Princess Two went past the crown prince Bai Weijie. Other royal children started to pull away, as well. The group began to spread out into ragged clumps of hikers, so it wasn't as tidy as it had been before the halfway point.

The King's Kingdom nobles that had been watching half-heartedly now looked wide awake. They paid attention to the two deified royal children, of course, but many of them were just as focused on Han Sen.

After all, Han Sen had sounded very cocky in the opening ceremony the day before. If he didn't perform well now, it would become an embarrassing joke.

"Brother Sixteen, let us see who can reach the top of the mountain faster." Bai Qing Xia moved his feet faster and ran up the mountain like a sharp sword.

Han Sen agreed to the competition, and he walked a bit faster, as well. Heavy resistance pushed against him.

Han Sen still didn't understand, though. Earlier, they had all been hiking easily up the mountain. Why were they now forcing themselves to exhaust so much energy to go faster? They hadn't reached the hardest section of the path, which meant they couldn't be performing at their best.

Regardless of how ridiculous it might seem, since everyone else was speeding up, Han Sen couldn't allow himself to be left behind. He had to take this chance. Otherwise, the boasting he had done during the opening ceremony would be for nothing.

Han Sen cast his water area power, trying to break the resistance coming against him and make it easier to move forward. But the further he went, the more resistance piled on. He had spent a lot of energy already, and he couldn't really accelerate beyond his current speed.

If this continued, he wouldn't be able to catch up with Prince Four and Princess Two up ahead. He might even be left behind by the other half-deified royal children.

Judging from the powers they used, those half-deified royal children were much stronger than second-tier Kings. Han Sen couldn't keep up with them using raw strength alone.

Han Sen thought for a moment and then released his King area. He let the waterfall-like resistance land atop him. When that power washed over him, the Kingese in his body flashed gold and surged through Han Sen's blood.

Under the buffs of the Kingese, Han Sen felt the resistance get lighter. Although it was still there, it was substantially decreased.

If that resistance had previously been like a large river, it was now like a small stream. It ran no higher than Han Sen's ankles, and it was only a trifling problem.

Han Sen didn't say anything, though. Calling on the power of the gold Kingese inside him, he rushed forward against the competition. All of a sudden, he was leaving Bai Qing Xia in the dust.

The princes and princesses ahead were working so hard, but they were suddenly distracted by a stampede of frantic footsteps coming up behind them. The sound was so startling that they looked over their shoulders for the source. There, they saw Han Sen glowing with gold light, rushing madly forward. He blew right past them. Comparing Han Sen to the rest of them was like comparing a sports car to a lawnmower.

The royal children in the back stared at that rapidly disappearing shadow in disbelief. They were frozen. They almost forgot that they themselves had to keep moving.

No one had seen anyone run up the Rot Bone path like that before. Even deified elites struggled against the resistance of that trail. No one should have been able to reach max speed and actually sprint up the mountain.

But Han Sen ran like he was uninhibited. His legs pounded like a wild horse breaking free from his reins.

"Here! Here! Prince Sixteen is going to explode."

"Holy sh*t! He's so strong."

"Is that the protection of all those Kingese? It looks like they work against the powers of Rot Bone Mountain. The Rot Bone powers can't restrict him."

"At that speed, if he can keep going... Maybe he really can overtake the two deifieds ahead and claim first place..."

"Huh. He only got lucky. That isn't his real power on display. Even if he manages to run all the way to the top, he will only be winning first place in this race. The exams have many more trials and tasks for them. He can't rely solely on luck. Plus, who knows if he can even keep up this speed. The section of the trail above the clouds is the most important part."

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Everyone could see Han Sen running forward. He skipped by many royal children, and they looked excited.

When Han Sen caught up to Bai Ling Shuang, she looked shocked, as well.

She knew the Kingese would reflect the power of Rot Bone Mountain. Usually, people with the Kingese symbols Ao and Gu had an easier time. For some reason, less resistance held them back.

But even the symbols Ao and Gu shouldn't have been able to obliterate the mountain's restrictive power like Han Sen's Kingese symbols were. The symbols were only supposed to cause a minor reduction in the resistance.

"It looks like more symbols than just Ao and Gu are useful in the hike up Rot Bone Mountain. Other Kingese symbols have also been activated, but I guess no one has had them before, so there was no way we could have known," Bai Ling Shuang thought to herself. She now had a bit more confidence that she could take advantage of Han Sen's power to reach Rot Bone Mountain's peak.

This might have been a favorable turn of events for Bai Ling Shuang, but as she watched Han Sen's sprinting shadow, she couldn't help but feel a bit jealous. "Why was he the one who received the protection of thousands of Kingese? If I had gotten the protection of a thousand Kingese, perhaps I would have ended up as our new ruler."

"He passed him... He passed him, too... He's caught up with the crown prince..." The audience was excited.

Han Sen's body was gleaming with a golden light. He sprinted so fast that he went right past the crown prince. He was quickly gaining on Prince Four and Princess Two.

Prince Four and Princess Two felt the pressure coming from behind them. They turned around to have a look, and there, they saw Han Sen coming towards them. He was carried forward by a graceful golden light. They frowned and accelerated as much as they could.

Han Sen wanted to close the distance between them, but running wasn't as easy as it had been previously. Although he didn't have as much resistance to compete with, the force pressing against him hadn't vanished entirely. He still had to suffer some resistance, and so he couldn't go at max speed.

The onlookers were frozen. Three royal children were running really fast towards the peak, and a big gap had appeared between them and the others.

"Deified elites are so strong." Han Sen couldn't catch up with Prince Four and Princess Two. The three of them entered the final part of the trail, vanishing behind the cloud cover. No one would be able to watch them anymore.

"Prince Four passed into the clouded trail first, so the deified elites still have a strength advantage. The protection of a thousand Kingese wasn't enough." Someone sighed.

"Who will be the winner?" King Bai, his queen, and the teacher stared at Rot Bone Mountain's peak with fervent interest.

Before, there was no excitement in waiting for someone to reach the top. The deified children always won. But this time, Han Sen was there, and that made the event interesting again

The rocky surface of the mountain trail had been replaced with a translucent substance as the trail passed into the clouds. Han Sen's body was shrouded in the thin layers of mist. He felt as if the dimensions of space were distorting around him.

The feeling was very gentle, though. And it was brief, disappearing in a second. Han Sen's Kingese shone. The climb to the peak was long and tiring, and the stairs wrapped back and forth up the mountain like a massive centipede.

Han Sen saw Prince Four and Princess Two trying to fight their way up the stairs. They kept running on the same few steps, not going any higher.

Han Sen ran toward the peak, and he ascended with no problem. He followed the stone steps that led up to the peak. Prince Four and Princess Two were still scrambling crazily against the stairs, like a hamster on its wheel.

"It looks like the Kingese have kept me from being trapped by this weird dimension." Han Sen wasn't in the mood to watch the deified royal children flail, so he focused his efforts on heading for the peak.

The mountaintop was very wide, and it had to be as large as a soccer pitch. Most of the area was flat, too. One spot stood out on the mountaintop, however. There was a small knoll atop the peak.

That knoll was no more than a hundred meters tall. It looked as sharp as a sword, and it pointed into the sky. Five words were carved deep into its side. They said, "Pride and bones are made."

Looking at those five words gave people goosebumps. It was like there were a thousand sword airs there, and they'd rip you to pieces in less than a second.

"A powerful sword mind!" Han Sen lurched in surprise when he read the five words.

Han Sen's sword skills weren't bad. Although he didn't focus much on practicing with a blade, his sword mind was almost as good as a deified elite's.

But before those five words, Han Sen's sword mind was crushed. He couldn't bring himself back to his senses. It was like he was shaking. Some suppressive force seemed to press down on him from above.

"I'm afraid that anyone who could carve those five words must have been incredibly skilled with the sword. This would have required an unbelievable level of talent. Who left those five words? There have been many great swordsmen scattered across the Extreme King's history, and many of the Extreme King's rulers were swordsmen. Even many commoners of the Extreme King are deified swordsmen. It's impossible to guess who might have done something like this." Han Sen paused before going on to think, "But I'm afraid that in order to possess a sword mind like this, a swordsman must have surpassed the deified level. It has to be from one of the most famous swordsman kings. But I don't know them, so I don't know which king left behind this swordmind."

Han Sen looked away from the text and glanced around the mountaintop. Aside from the knoll, there was nothing else on the peak.

“Bai Ling Shuang’s mentioned that there was something to be gained by reaching this peak. Was she referring to this knoll and its carving? But if so, what could the benefit actually be? Is this entire knoll a treasure in itself? It doesn’t look like it. The reward Bai Ling Shuang mentioned must have been the swordmind itself.” Han Sen again read the five words, “pride and bones are made.”

The swordmind was very powerful. Just looking at it was frightening. The sight of it would make a normal person feel sick. Comparing a normal swordmind to this monstrosity was like comparing a stone and a moon. They were two completely different things.

Even with Han Sen’s tough will, he was having trouble keeping his emotions in check before that swordmind.

But his swordmind was very tough, and he wouldn’t be shaken easily. He stood there and watched the five words intently.

For some reason, though, Han Sen felt like he was trying to scratch an itch that he couldn’t quite reach. He couldn’t grasp the real meaning of the swordmind.

As Han Sen stared at the knoll, he heard a flurry of footsteps come up the staircase behind him. He glanced back and saw Prince Four running up the steps.

Prince Four, seeing that Han Sen was already at the peak, frowned and said nothing.

“Greetings, Prince Four.” Han Sen bowed.

Prince Four glared at him and remained silent. He headed toward the knoll. When he reached the five words, he focused on them and began to ignore Han Sen completely.

Han Sen scratched his nose. If someone wanted to ignore him, he wasn’t going to push himself on them.

Prince Four just stood there, perfectly still, until Princess Two arrived. When she saw Han Sen and Prince Four already there, she looked fairly upset.

She didn’t mind that Prince Four had been faster than her, but Han Sen had also reached the top much more quickly than she had. This made her sad.

But she was deified, after all. Her sadness quickly faded. Princess Two walked over to the knoll and turned her attention to the five words, just like Prince Four had. She also ignored Han Sen.

The two deified children reached out with their senses to feel the swordmind. When Han Sen detected their attempts, it confirmed that the benefit of the mountaintop had to lie in these five words. And ultimately, that disappointed him.

That swordmind was very powerful, but Han Sen did not focus on swords as his primary form of attack. If Six Paths Emperor had been there, perhaps he would have appreciated this boon far more. Han Sen stayed there, looking at the words for a while, but he did not learn anything.

Since he was there already, Han Sen wasn't going to give up an opportunity to gain more power. He decided to stay.

After a while, Han Sen thought about Bai Ling Shuang. The timing seemed about right, so he headed back down the mountain.

Prince Four and Princess Two saw Han Sen turn around and go back. They were confused when he left, but they ignored him. They turned their attention back to the words to learn whatever they could from the swordmind.

Han Sen walked back down the translucent road. Many royal princes and princesses were walking up and up without actually making any progress. Bai Ling Shuang was similarly frozen in place. The royal children ran like headless chickens, but none of them were moving an inch forward.

The twisted dimension affected them too much, and they couldn't find a way to proceed.

Bai Ling Shuang was furious. She had been struggling fruitlessly for so long. Her body was affected by the distorted dimension's power. She couldn't move, and she felt so very heavy. She had become enraged when Han Sen passed her by.

"Bai Yi, that a**hole! If he took my items and didn't hold up his end of the bargain, I am going to skin him alive." Bai Ling Shuang's body felt very heavy. She could barely move.

With every step she took, it felt like she was shouldering the weight of an entire mountain. She was sweating, and her clothes had long since become soaked.

The longer someone stayed on that translucent path, the more they would be affected by the twisted dimension.

"Bai Yi, you little sh*t! I am going to kill him." Bai Ling Shuang started to fall toward the ground. She hated him.

"Sister Ten, am I too late?" An arm appeared and caught Bai Ling Shuang, stopping her from hitting the ground.

Bai Ling Shuang raised her head and saw Han Sen smiling at her. She bit her lip and said, "Why are you back here?"

"This road was hard, and I got delayed. Let's go up now," Han Sen said as he helped her up.

2383 Mad Sword

When Bai Ling Shuang heard Han Sen claim that the road had been difficult for him, she rolled her eyes. She had seen Han Sen running casually up the mountain, making the ascent without breaking the smallest sweat. He wasn't gasping or red in the face. It looked as if the trek hadn't even been much of a bother.

Still, Bai Ling Shuang didn't say a word. Han Sen was carrying her up the mountain. From her perspective, it looked like Han Sen was actually leaving the staircase, walking away from the mountain and out into the open air.

In reality, they were still going up the staircase. Bai Ling Shuang only thought they were walking over open air because of the distortions within the dimension.

As he walked, Han Sen noticed Bai Wei. She was stumbling forward like the other royal children, making no progress.

Because she had gotten there quite late, the repressive power hadn't acted on her nearly as strongly as it had the others. The fact that she could walk faster than the other children wasn't helping, though, because she couldn't find the path. Continuing to walk forward would be pointless.

"This girl isn't bad, and she did try to save Bao'er. Her heart is in the right place." Han Sen sighed. He secretly cast his Dongxuan Aura and fired some power in her direction.

Bai Wei was struggling to walk forward, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't escape that seemingly-infinite staircase. She had gotten really flustered.

Suddenly, Bai Wei felt a wave of power roll across the stairs. It spread gently around her.

"This is..." A strange feeling passed through Bai Wei's heart.

The dimensional twists of the translucent trail hid the royal children from each other. Even if two people walked right beside each other, they wouldn't see one another. Even if they were touching each other, it wouldn't make a difference.

Now, a trickle of power was flowing tantalizingly down the stairs before Bai Wei.

Bai Wei's heart jumped, and she followed that strange power. The power was disappearing quickly as she chased after it. She pushed against the distortions in the dimension, trying to keep her eyes on that guiding trickle of energy.

As she walked, Bai Wei noticed that the stairs were about to vanish beneath her. The power led away from the staircase entirely and out into the sky.

She had to move quickly to keep up with her guide, so Bai Wei gritted her teeth and walked out without hesitation. Her body floated away from the mountain into open air. She didn't fall, though. Her feet met with something, and she kept walking forward.

Bai Wei grinned. There had been no other path to follow, so she had chased that power. If she stepped in the wrong place, she would fall all the way back down the mountain.

On Rot Bone Mountain, even deified elites couldn't fly well. Bai Wei was just a Duke.

Bai Wei had to keep up with the guiding power in order to stay on the correct path. She kept chasing that power, running as she went.

Han Sen carried Bai Ling Shuang all the way to the top. Once there, he found that a mixture of princes and princesses had also made it to the peak.

Bai Qing Xia was there, too. He was surprised to see Han Sen come up alongside Bai Ling Shuang.

Han Sen had already let go of Bai Ling Shuang, though. Aside from Prince Four and Princess Two, no one knew that Han Sen had carried Bai Ling Shuang up to the peak.

"It looks like I win," Bai Qing Xia said, as he stared at Han Sen. He thought Han Sen had just reached the top.

The other princes and princesses thought so, too. After all, the translucent trail couldn't be ascended through pure speed. It wasn't strange to think that Han Sen had only just arrived.

Bai Ling Shuang was sweating, but when she saw the five words inscribed in the knoll, she suddenly felt wide awake. A rush of joy poured through her.

She didn't possess the Kingese Ao or Gu, so making her way up the translucent trail would have been too difficult for her. Bai Qing Xia had the word Ao, though, so it was much easier for him to reach the top. Physical strength didn't matter much in this contest.

"Is this the Proud Bone Swordmind from Mad Sword?" Bai Ling Shuang looked at the five words, "Pride and bones are made." She looked so happy as she mumbled to herself.

Han Sen was confused. He had never heard of a king called Mad Sword. There were some God Swords and even Holy Swords, but a title like Mad Sword didn't seem worthy of a king.

Bai Qing Xia picked up where Bai Ling Shuang had left off. "Mad Sword was born crippled. He didn't have a king body, and so he was bullied severely. But in the end, he used his sword to become deified. He might not have had a king body, but he prevailed over many in the Extreme King. Even deified elites with powerful king bodies lost to his sword. He wasn't a ruler of our people, but he could be considered a king without a crown amongst the Extreme King. Our race has had many swordsmen in its time, but none are as worthy of respect as Mad Sword."

Han Sen receded into thought. "I didn't know the Extreme King had someone that strong amongst them. How come I have never heard of it until now?"

Bai Qing Xia had only just finished when a princess, who wasn't too far away, looked over at him with disdain. "Mad Sword's power matters little. No glorification can rinse away the dirt. He is not worthy of admiration."

Bai Qing Xia and Bai Ling Shuang frowned at the princess. After seeing their faces, she turned away. They avoided all contact with her.

Han Sen wasn't interested in that princess, either. He wanted to know Mad Sword's story. Clearly, Mad Sword must have been very different from the majority of the Extreme King. Even his title sounded rather taboo amongst them.

If Han Sen had actually been Bai Yi, he would have known about Mad Sword. He wasn't Bai Yi, though, and so he couldn't simply ask.

While they were talking, someone else approached. It was Bai Wei. She was dripping with sweat after finally reaching the top. Her body was shivering, and she could barely stand. She was obviously fighting to hold herself together.

Although Han Sen had sent power to guide her, she was too weak. Even if she knew the way, reaching the peak as a Duke was monumentally difficult.

Many of the royal children looked stunned when they saw Bai Wei at the top. In the long history of the Extreme King, only a few Dukes had ever made it this far.

Bai Wei looked at the princes and princesses. She wanted to know who left behind the power that guided her up, but she was unable to learn anything. No one there was using that power.

When she looked at Han Sen, though, her mood turned to foul anger. She snarled slightly as she stared at him.

She was still bitter about Bai Yi's consumption of Han Sen. She didn't think that power belonged to him.

Bai Wei looked around, but she still couldn't tell which of them had left the power for her. She was really grateful, though. And she went to the knoll to have a look at the five words inscribed there.

Bai Ling Shuang and the others were all in similar shape. Hiking was a test. Mad Sword's Proud Bone Swordmind was very beneficial. Even if they weren't fans of the man himself, they still slavered over his swordmind.

Han Sen found a seat. He wanted to watch the swordmind from the most comfortable position, but there was little for him to do other than that.

It wasn't that Han Sen lacked talent or hadn't practiced enough; the swordmind simply conflicted with Han Sen's own swordmind. The two were polar opposites. There was nothing similar or compatible between them. The stronger Han Sen's will was, the harder it would be for him to understand the Proud Bone Swordmind.

2384 Copy Sword Mind

Everyone had a unique personality. Even if two people practiced the same sword skills, their swordminds would develop based on their individualities. Despite starting from the same base, the resulting swordminds might be very different.

Han Sen had a very different personality from the man who had created the Proud Bone Swordmind. Because they were so completely different, there was an extreme gap between their swordminds. Han Sen was having a very hard time trying to understand the Proud Bone swordmind.

Both the name “Mad Sword” and “Proud Bone” were very representative of the man’s character. He had been a very proud and very wild person. He approached problems and came up with solutions in a very different manner than Han Sen.

Han Sen’s swordmind was based on tenacity. No matter what endeavor Han Sen undertook, whether it was gravely important or exceedingly trivial, he finished what he started. His determination carried him continually forward, but sometimes he was so focused on his goals that he could miss out on the views along the way.

As long as Han Sen could reach his goal, he was willing to follow whichever path would get him there in the end. This aspect of his character sometimes made him seem lackadaisical and uncaring. He seemed to change plans easily, as if he was okay with everything and nothing really mattered to him. But in reality, Han Sen never shifted from his true purpose; he was just willing to adapt his plans as many times as necessary in order to achieve that purpose.

Han Sen, who seemed like such a casual individual, was actually more stubborn than most. But the things he stubbornly pursued were so far in the future that other people couldn’t see them. That was why others thought he showed little concern over the things around him.

Mad Sword was different. Mad Sword wasn’t obsessed with an end goal; he cared more about the experience of the journey itself. Ironically, though, he was the most unique and noticeable thing on most of the roads he traveled.

Born pretty to die pretty. That was what Mad Sword was looking for.

Two different personalities and two different lives. Neither of them was right or wrong. They were just the decisions made by separate people. If Han Sen wanted to learn Mad Sword’s Proud Bone Swordmind, he would have to give up his own faith and purpose to properly understand the faith that Mad Sword placed in his own beliefs. Han Sen could do that, but he didn’t want to.

Despite this massive disconnect between them, Han Sen still wanted to gain something from the swordmind. It would be much harder for him than for others, who could simply accept Mad Sword’s swordmind for what it was.

Half the day had passed by this point, and the swordminds of some of the royal children were starting to reflect the five words, “Pride and bones are made.” They had been able to achieve a lot.

The most obvious was Bai Ling Shuang. Her swordmind was connecting with the carved script. The swordmind was melding into her body, and with its power, it also brought a certain arrogance.

Han Sen was surprised. Bai Ling Shuang was talented, but she definitely wasn't the best of the royal children who had made it to the top of the mountain. But since she had achieved so much already, her personality was a fine match for the Proud Bone Swordmind.

"It looks like I have wasted my time here." Han Sen sighed. He had been unable to tap into the Proud Bone Swordmind.

It was like when a lazy person failed to understand a workaholic. Their thoughts didn't operate on the same wavelength. They were so different that they could never be the same.

In the end, Han Sen gave up trying to learn the Proud Bone Swordmind. No matter how strong it was, it didn't match his own personality.

Han Sen had to take Bai Ling Shuang back down, though. Waiting around for her was boring, and he quickly grew uncomfortable as he sat around doing nothing. So, he started playing with his jade gourd. He also summoned his water fairy.

Han Sen intended to have the water fairy give him a massage, so he could wait for Bai Ling Shuang in a more comfortable fashion until it was time to leave. Once they reached the bottom, he could lay claim to the other fifty King class genes he had been promised. But when the water fairy emerged from the gourd, she looked straight at the carved words. She stood on the spot, completely unmoving.

Just as Han Sen noticed her strange behavior, the water fairy's body began to change. The liquid within his translucent form swirled slowly, shifting in almost imperceptible ways.

Most of the changes that took place in the water fairy's appearance were minute, but when he looked at her again, she seemed like a completely different person. Even her powers had altered radically.

The water fairy had originally been as soft as water. She could listen to someone's complaints without becoming perturbed, just like a maid.

But after these small changes, the water fairy looked as cold as ice. Her whole body was like a sharp and powerful sword.

Han Sen looked at the water fairy, and he thought her power actually seemed rather familiar.

"Pride and bones are made," Han Sen murmured to himself. He had realized why she now looked so familiar; it was because the water fairy's new power reminded him of the five words carved into the knoll. The Proud Bone Swordmind seemed to radiate from her form.

"What is going on?" Han Sen asked in pleased astonishment.

In all the time that had passed since he first discovered the water fairy, Han Sen hadn't figured out what the water fairy could do. He usually used her as a maid, but now, she seemed to possess a power that was beyond his imagination.

The water fairy's changes continued. The less-obvious the changes became, the more her powers altered. And not long after, when Han Sen looked at the water fairy, she had become a personification

of the words, "Pride and bones are made." She looked exactly like the real Proud Bone Swordmind. It was remarkable.

Fortunately, Han Sen was sitting behind most of the royal children, and they were too focused on learning the swordmind to pay attention to him, anyway. If any of them had seen the water fairy undergoing those changes, they would have been astounded.

The swordmind was something that could only be felt, not embodied. It wasn't like a geno art or some piece of scientific knowledge that could be written down as words.

It couldn't even be drawn or photographed. It was a sensation that had to be felt inside oneself. It couldn't be copied with any form of tool.

But the water fairy somehow did the impossible; she copied the words to embody the Proud Bone Swordmind. If a deified elite had seen what she did, they would have reacted the same way that Han Sen was.

A while later, the changes within the water fairy finished. Her power and swordmind had completely transformed into the Proud Bone Swordmind.

"It is perfect! Perfect!" Han Sen complimented. The water fairy had copied that power like a cheater. Han Sen had never heard of any other treasure being able to do something like this.

As Han Sen thought about how lucky he was to have the jade gourd and water fairy, the water fairy suddenly moved over to Han Sen. She placed her hands on Han Sen's chest and made her water body suddenly blend into his own.

"What is this?" Han Sen wondered. Then, a foreign swordmind suddenly flowed into his body. He recognized it instantly; it was the Proud Bone Swordmind.

Han Sen realized what had just happened. The water fairy wasn't just copying the mind. She could take that mind and gift it to the master of the jade gourd. Then, the jade gourd master could feel the swordmind in his own body.

The swordmind might have been incompatible with him, but now it was deep within his mind, under his control. Rather than simply seeing the foreign swordmind, now he could experience every facet of it. There was no better way to learn than experience.

It was better to travel than it was to study. The water fairy could take an abstract idea and make it real and tangible.

"I never would have guessed that the alpha's treasure would be this strong. It's almost too powerful," Han Sen thought as a wide grin spread over his mouth.

2385 Swordmind Battle

A swordmind was oozing from Han Sen's body, but that wasn't strange. Everyone on top of the mountain was studying the Proud Bone Swordmind, so all the royal children were leaking the power of their swordminds to some degree.

But Han Sen's swordmind was different. He wasn't learning a swordmind; instead, he had copied the Proud Bone Swordmind directly and unleashed it on himself.

That swordmind swept out of him, brushing across everything on the top of the mountain. It settled over the other royal children like a blanket, suppressing their swordminds. Even the swordminds of the deified Prince Four and Princess Two began to buckle under the incredible pressure exerted by Han Sen's swordmind.

Out of all the swordminds currently active on the top of Rot Bone Mountain, only Han Sen's was connected with the five words, "Pride and bones are made." Han Sen's mind and the power of the words clashed against each other like two ancient swords engaged in a battle, and the other swordminds on the mountaintop faded into the background by comparison.

"How..." The faces of the royal children grew pale. Even Prince Four and Princess Two seemed stunned by what they were witnessing. They turned to look behind them at Han Sen in utter disbelief.

Bai Ling Shuang opened her eyes wide as if she had just seen a ghost.

Bai Wei nibbled her lips and did not say a word. Emotions flickered rapidly across her features.

The swordmind coming out of Han Sen's body could go up against the powerful words engraved in the knoll. Not even deified elites could pull off a feat like this.

Because Han Sen's swordmind had exploded with power, the swordmind of the five words rose pridefully against it. It whirled with power like a hurricane, storming through everything there was.

Han Sen's swordmind had been copied from the words, "Pride and bones are made." Because the two powers were the same, they activated fully in one another's presence, like two magnets of the same polarity pushing against one another.

It was like Han Sen was fighting his own mirror image. Luckily, in this case, the fight was mostly contained within the swordminds that were present. It wasn't really destructive, but even so, the group of royal children was involved. Their swordminds were severely suppressed by those two raging swordminds. The weaker ones had to shield their swordminds to keep them from being wholly destroyed.

Blood began to trickle from the mouths and noses of the weaker royal children. Eventually, they had no choice but to abandon the mountain. They didn't want to get involved with that scary swordmind battle.

The swordmind wouldn't really harm their bodies, but it could destroy their wills. If their wills were broken, then it would cause a great deal of harm to their future practices.

Two swordminds dominated the whole peak of Rot Bone Mountain. Han Sen was in the thick of the chaos, and he had earned some rewards.

No matter how incompatible this swordmind was with his own, his body was making use of the Proud Bone Swordmind. As he continued to fight the Proud Bone Swordmind, he learned.

"I wonder if the water fairy can copy a living creature's mind. If she can, I can learn any geno art I want. All I need to do is learn the basic skill and find an elite that has mastered the geno art. Then I can ask the water fairy to copy their minds, then send their teachings into my body so I can practice. If that works, it should be exactly what I've wanted. No... it should be a dozen times more than what I've wanted!" Happiness spread through Han Sen as he considered the prospect.

But as Han Sen was thinking about the possibilities for the future, he suddenly heard a katcha noise. Perhaps the fight between swordminds had grown too intense, because the small knoll had suddenly cracked.

The crack slowly spread down the sides of the knoll, and it looked as if the little knoll had been struck by lightning. The crack grew until the whole structure was split in half. It cut through the five words, "Pride and bones are made."

The knoll split open, and both the five words and the swordmind they provided vanished. After all, the swordmind had been there since the words were first carved into the knoll. When the words disappeared, so too would the swordmind.

Boom!

When the knoll cracked open, a sword light emerged. It broke through the distorted dimensions of Rot Bone Mountain and ascended into the sky like a blade splitting through paper.

"A Proud Bone sword air!" The royal children atop the peak stared into the sky, their jaws hanging slack.

All of the Extreme King were looking at Rot Bone Mountain. They were waiting for the royal children to descend the mountain again, but before the royal children could return, a sword light shot up from the peak and headed into the sky. They were stunned by the sight, and they weren't too sure what was happening.

"The Proud Bone sword air!" King Bai's face changed. He waved his hand, and an overwhelming power poured out of him and shaped itself into an unimaginably large hand. It was almost big enough to shield the entire system, and it swooped toward that sword light.

Because the sword light had broken through Rot Bone Mountain's distorted dimension, those inside could now see out and vice versa. Han Sen saw a big hand coming down toward them. The planets were no more than specks of dust when compared to that hand. It was like that hand could grab and crush the stars themselves.

The sword light was still rising, heading for that enormous hand. It didn't deviate from its course, and it showed no sign of backing down.

When the sword light struck the hand, and the hand curled its fingers around the attack, grasping it firmly. The hand's power was terrifying, awe-inspiring to behold. The sword light tried to force its way forward, but it could no longer move.

Pang!

The big hand tightened, and the sword light exploded in a shower of fireworks. The shattered light became a meteor shower that swept across the skies of King's Kingdom.

It rained across all the planets of King's Kingdom. The rain wasn't water, though. Each drop was made of glowing sword light.

Han Sen watched the sword light rain come down, and he noticed that it was everywhere. When those sword lights hit the ground, they weren't destructive. The sword lights shattered whenever anything touched them. It was such a dreamy spectacle.

The sword lights broke apart when they touched peoples' bodies, too. Han Sen reached out a hand to try to grab a sword light, but it shattered like dust when he touched it, leaving nothing behind.

King Bai lowered his hand, retrieved his power, and frowned. He looked at the sword light rain, his emotions hidden beneath a calm mask.

The sword light rain continued across King's Kingdom for a whole seven days. Han Sen and the others, after they returned to the bottom of the mountain, were asked what happened.

The royal princes and princesses explained what had happened, and Han Sen did, too. But he said he only understood some of the Proud Bone Swordmind. He didn't want to explain that he had gotten into a fight with the five words on the knoll. He said that the knoll suddenly exploded, and that was it. He didn't mention anything about the jade gourd or the water fairy, either.

Despite what had happened, some people didn't believe Han Sen could practice a swordmind to the level they had witnessed.

When asked, Han Sen activated the Proud Bone Swordmind. Even King Bai was shocked to see it.

Han Sen didn't understand what the sword light was, but King Bai didn't explain it to him. He just told Han Sen that he could return home.

Bai Yi was now very famous. He had managed to learn the Proud Bone Swordmind to such an extreme level in a very short amount of time. Everyone in King's Kingdom knew the name Bai Yi, and they knew that he was a genius.

But Han Sen was annoyed by the fact that he had only borrowed the power of the jade gourd. He could only use a swordmind like that when the water fairy possessed him. If the water fairy wasn't there, his swordmind would return to its ordinary level.

Still, it wasn't that bad. Drowning in that powerful swordmind could further Han Sen's personal development.

The sword light rain continued, so the exams were paused for a bit. Because of this, Han Sen took the opportunity to gather Bao'er and the others so that they could all return to Planet Water Zone.

2386 Sword Light Rain

Han Sen was very curious about that sword light rain. Although people said King Bai had destroyed the sword light, Han Sen didn't think the reality of what had happened was quite that simple.

Han Sen summoned the Siren Virgin so that she could take a look at the sword light rain. He also told her about the sword light that had appeared atop Rot Bone Mountain's peak. He didn't reveal that he was the one who had destroyed the knoll atop that mountain, however.

When the Siren Virgin heard what he had to say, she looked startled. She silently turned to observe the sword light rain.

"Do you know what this sword light is?" Han Sen asked with a frown. The Siren Virgin had been silent for a long, thoughtful minute.

Then she looked back at him and said, "Mad Sword. For a long time, even talking about him was considered taboo among the Extreme King. He wasn't one of the Extreme King's nobility, and he didn't even have a king body. But his sword skills were beyond talented. He was just a normal swordsman, and yet, he became deified. He beat countless elites of the Extreme King."

"I know that," Han Sen said.

"Have you wondered about why a scary elite like this was never really made famous outside of the Extreme King?" the Siren Virgin asked.

"I have given that some thought, and I think it is pretty weird. It doesn't really make any sense. My best guess is that the Extreme King trapped him here. He was never allowed to go beyond the borders of the Extreme King's domain," Han Sen said.

The Siren Virgin shook her head. "You have guessed half of it correctly. Mad Sword never left the Extreme King. He actually was famous among outside races, but they knew him by a different name."

"You mean, Mad Sword used an alias in his exploits across the universe? Why would he do such a thing?" Han Sen asked with curiosity.

The Siren Virgin shook her head. "I don't know. I investigated Mad Sword, but I only learned that he did something that made the Extreme King despise him. Many people in the Extreme King severely dislike him."

After that, the Siren Virgin looked at the sword light rain like she was looking out to sea. She said, "If I am correct, it's possible that Mad Sword isn't completely dead. This sword light rain might suggest that he may be reborn."

“You mean, Mad Sword was trapped in the “Pride and bones are made” stone? That sword light was Mad Sword himself?” Han Sen asked, raising an eyebrow.

“It was probably just his will. I bet King Bai has a pretty nasty headache right about now. If that guy is reborn, the Extreme King will descend into chaos. That’s good. The more chaos, the more benefits you and I can reap,” the Siren Virgin said. She ended with a laugh.

“If Mad Sword only left his will behind, then he might have decided to escape the region entirely once he was freed. That wouldn’t shake up the Extreme King society very much at all,” Han Sen said, disagreeing with the Siren Virgin.

The Siren Virgin shook her head. “Why would he run? Right now, here in the realm of the Extreme King, the sword light is everywhere. All he needs to do is attach to some creature here and possess it. Any effort the Extreme King make to find him will probably turn out to be impossible. There is no need for him to run.”

Upon hearing the Siren Virgin say this, Han Sen felt his heart jump. After a long moment, he asked, “Might Mad Sword seek to choose me?”

“There are so many people in the Extreme King. Mad Sword doesn’t require someone talented, so there’s no reason for him to go after a prince. You think too much,” the Siren Virgin said.

Despite her reassurance, Han Sen did not feel safe. It made him worry quite a bit.

Luckily, when the sword light rain stopped, nothing weird had occurred in Planet Water Zone. However, Han Sen was paranoid for the duration of the rain.

Due to the sword light rain, the next part of the exam was delayed seven days. The passion for the event had slowly withered away. Perhaps it was due to the sword light rain incident, but the Extreme King’s supervisors weren’t very focused on the exams. And although the sword light rain had stopped, the exams remained on pause.

The whole atmosphere of King’s Kingdom was tense. The realm was placed on lockdown, and even Han Sen’s Planet Water Zone was investigated by a number of different departments.

The workers might not have known what they were looking for, but Han Sen figured that the Extreme King’s supervisor was still searching for Mad Sword’s will.

“What a scary guy. He only had his will left, but even so, its reappearance has caused this much of a ruckus. I could die a happy man if I was that influential.” Han Sen sighed after sending away a few more officers.

Han Sen didn’t travel anywhere. He focused on leveling up his Dongxuan Sutra. He wanted to get that to King class as soon as possible.

Although Jadeskin and the Blood-Pulse Sutra were easier for him to level up, Han Sen still wanted the Dongxuan Sutra to be leveled up first. Han Sen sensed that a crisis was near, and the Dongxuan Sutra was the skill he was most familiar with. It was something he could rely on.

The Dongxuan Sutra's power was irreplaceable. No other geno art could match its offensive capabilities. In a proper fight, Han Sen could fight without Jadeskin and the Blood-Pulse Sutra, and even The Story of Genes. Doing so never really affected Han Sen's fighting power.

But without the Dongxuan Sutra, Han Sen's fighting power was noticeably decreased.

The other three geno arts were plenty strong, but the Dongxuan Sutra was the most compatible with who Han Sen was as a person. It matched his personality. That was the primary reason that Han Sen always fell back on the Dongxuan Sutra. It was simply comfortable.

A crisis was brewing, and he had promised aid to Ning Yue, as well. He needed to gain more power, and he needed to do so quickly. The most straightforward way to achieve this was to take the Dongxuan Sutra to King class.

Han Sen practiced in the training room for an entire month, using the Dongxuan Sutra the entire time. His whole body felt like part of a machine.

Yes, it was a machine.

From Han Sen's point of view, the Dongxuan body made the entire universe seem like one giant machine. Grass, forests, stone, water, bugs, fish; they were all gears inside this machine.

Each cogwheel was a different size and shape, but they all fit together. They all connected to each other. When one cog spun, it spun the cog next to it. And that new one that spun would spin the next cog, and so on.

Han Sen was just a single piece amidst an unfathomably vast machine. With the power of the Dongxuan Sutra, however, Han Sen had a wider view of the cogs and how each one related to the others.

Using the geno art felt amazing. Two objects in the real world might have no visible connection, but Han Sen could see the power that was transferred between them. The only thing Han Sen didn't know was exactly how he could affect those relationships.

Han Sen understood that if he was to alter the power-exchange of the cogs, he would require King area powers.

Every King area affected the way the cogs were spun. A King area could make them go faster or slower, or even spin in reverse. All the rules of nearby cogwheels were affected, creating special area pockets.

Han Sen had been trying to push his own cogwheel and alter the way it spun, but he couldn't get it to work. He couldn't affect the mechanism that controlled the entire universe, and thereby create a new King area.

2387 The Self-Universe Cogwheel That Is Difficult to Move

"I failed again?" Han Sen looked pale. His power buzzed feebly, and his life force was at a very low level.

Han Sen had cast all the Dongxuan Sutra power that he was able to. He used all his energy trying to push the cogwheel and get it moving, so he could open its area and ascend to King class. Getting the cog moving should not have been this difficult.

Many Dukes that were weaker than Han Sen reached King class with no trouble. Han Sen's fitness and power let him fight most King class elites, but when Han Sen cast his Dongxuan Sutra, his own self-universe cogwheel would not move.

Han Sen thought about the potential reasons for why that might be. The King area required its own universe cogwheel to spin within the universal machine.

According to the theory, if he was powerful enough, he could move his own cogwheel to shift all the cogwheels that were connected.

Han Sen was powerful. He was likely the only one of his kind as a Duke. So, his self-universe cogwheel was bigger than that of any other Duke.

The other Dukes had self-universe cogwheels that might only connect with one or two other cogwheels, but Han Sen's self-universe cogwheel might connect with hundreds or even thousands of universal cogwheels. The more he was connected to, the harder it was to get it moving.

Clearly, Han Sen's power wasn't enough to push all those cogs at the same time. That was why it was so difficult for him to move up to King class.

Han Sen decided to give up on his Dongxuan Sutra and bring his Jadeskin up to King class instead, but he soon noticed that this self-universe cogwheel was too strong, as well. It connected to too many universal cogwheels. So, leveling up Jadeskin to King class would be just as hard as ascending with the Dongxuan Sutra. The scariest thing, however, was that the Dongxuan Sutra could see the universal cogwheels. When Han Sen used Jadeskin instead, the cogwheels seemed blurry and indistinct. He couldn't really see them, which actually made things harder.

"The Dongxuan Sutra. The Dongxuan Sutra has the highest chance of letting me get my cogwheel spinning. Once I've ascended with the Dongxuan Sutra, it will be easier with Jadeskin. But how do I push the Dongxuan Sutra to get the cogwheels moving?" Han Sen thought about it for a long time, but no ideas were coming to him. It seemed impossible.

Being too strong had actually become a serious problem. Because his body was tied to four geno arts, getting just one of the geno arts to King class wasn't enough to push his self-universe cogwheel.

Han Sen only had one body, so it was impossible for him to use all four geno arts to level up at the same time. It was a scary thought, but even the conflict of his power and blood-pulse would be enough to annihilate his body.

"It is fortunate that I only have four geno arts. If I had more, I could never make it to King class. Not even the holy pills could make my self-universe cogwheel move." Han Sen tried to comfort himself.

“Using my own power will never work. I have to use some sort of external power. But if I level up to King class using an external power, a single accident or loss of control could cause something far worse than failure to happen. My whole body would be destroyed.” All the time he had spent thinking hadn’t brought Han Sen to a conclusion.

“I must find a reliable resource of power that is both stable and destructive. In that case, I may have to ask someone deified to help me. But what kind of deified elite would sacrifice something to help me? And who could I even trust?” Han Sen wondered. He couldn’t think of any reliable deified elites.

Of all the deifieds he knew, Han Sen trusted the little red bird the most. But the little red bird’s power was a little too volatile, and its ability to control its power wasn’t very refined. It couldn’t perform such delicate work.

Out of the deifieds who had the necessary level of control over their power, Han Sen thought Yisha would be the most reliable. It was the first name that popped into his head when he thought about who he trusted the most.

Yisha was actually his enemy, though. Even Han Sen was shocked to recall that little fact.

But despite that regrettable fact, he couldn’t think of any other deified that was as reliable as her.

“It is a shame Yisha is still in Narrow-Moon. She cannot be the one to help me. I cannot leave King’s Kingdom,” Han Sen thought with a wry smile.

“If I cannot ask for someone’s help, then I will have to borrow someone’s power. That will be the only way.” Han Sen’s eyes wavered with uncertainty.

Han Sen was good with Yin Yang Blast and similar techniques. If he could borrow some stable and strong powers, perhaps he would be able to push the self-universe cogwheel.

But doing this was like dancing on the edge of a knife. Han Sen would be destroyed if things went south.

Han Sen needed to use a power that was stronger than his own to push the self-universe cogwheel. He needed to maintain absolute, perfect control over a power that didn’t even belong to him. A minor mistake would be enough to cause a grand tragedy.

“What a headache!” Han Sen thought, rubbing his temples. He still couldn’t come up with a solution to his woes, though.

“My Prince, Princess Ten Bai Ling Shuang wishes to see you,” said Lilly’s voice from outside the door.

“Why is she here?” Han Sen frowned. Because the Extreme King had been searching multiple planets for traces of Mad Sword, Han Sen hadn’t collected the fifty King class xenogeneic genes he was owed by Bai Ling Shuang. There was no sense in drawing attention to their little deal. He hadn’t expected her to come and visit him, though.

When Han Sen entered the living room, he found Bai Ling Shuang there drinking tea. She looked very relaxed.

“Princess Ten, why have you taken the time to come and visit me?” Han Sen asked casually, sitting down on the chair next to Bai Ling Shuang.

“Because of the deal we struck. I have brought you the items we discussed.” Bai Ling Shuang raised her hand, and the two maids behind her presented Han Sen with a very large box.

“Brother Sixteen, you may count them if you wish, but there are fifty King class xenogeneic genes. No more and no less,” Bai Ling Shuang said with a smile.

“Sister Ten, you should have just told me. I would have gone and picked them up. You didn’t have to come all the way here to personally deliver them.” Han Sen laughed and opened the box. He counted fifty King class xenogeneic genes.

“I am here because I have another big proposition for you, brother.” Bai Ling Shuang waved her hand, and all the maids dispersed.

When he saw Bai Ling Shuang’s gesture, Han Sen turned and indicated that Lilly should depart, too. The hall emptied out, and only the two of them were left sitting in the room.

“I have a reliable source who has confirmed that the exams will not be continuing this year. They will use the Rot Bone Mountain ranking. Brother Sixteen, you might be number one. In addition to the deified xenogeneic treasure, you will be given permission to enter Destiny’s Tower once. Do you plan to sell your admission ticket?” Bai Ling Shuang asked, her beautiful eyes staring directly at Han Sen.

“Really?” Han Sen asked happily. Receiving permission to enter Destiny’s Tower would be great.

2388 The Chance to Go to Destiny’s Tower

Han Sen wasn’t interested in selling his ticket of admission to Destiny’s Tower, which greatly disappointed Bai Ling Shuang. Luckily, she didn’t push the subject any further.

Two days later, someone from the palace arrived to give Han Sen his exam rewards. The reward was a little different than Bai Ling Shuang had predicted, though.

Han Sen received the pass that would grant him admission to Destiny’s Tower, but he wasn’t given the deified treasure Bai Ling Shuang had mentioned.

After Han Sen considered the issue for a moment, he thought that he understood. Perhaps King Bai was still suspicious, so he withheld the deified treasure typically given to whoever came in first.

“Being given permission to enter Destiny’s Tower is still a great reward. I’m excited to see if that Destiny’s Tower is the same or different from mine.” Han Sen had been curious about the Destiny’s Tower of the Extreme King since he first learned that it existed.

After he sent the officers away, Han Sen slid the pass into his pocket and went to visit Destiny’s Tower. He wasn’t personally in a rush, but he was afraid Fox Queen might learn that he had been given the

pass. She would find him quickly, and she would ask him to steal something from the tower, no doubt. That would be way too risky.

After going to Destiny's Tower, Han Sen understood why it was so difficult to gain permission to go there. The Extreme King didn't want many people to learn the secrets within Destiny's Tower, for one. But there was another reason. Opening Destiny's Tower required the strength of four deified elites. All four had to combine their strength in order to open the door enough for one person to pass through.

Every time Destiny's Tower was opened, the four deifieds would end up exhausted. It would take them two to three months to recover, and it cost them a very rare and special material.

Although Han Sen had received the permit allowing him to enter Destiny's Tower, he would have to register before he could use it.

After Han Sen sorted out all the registration forms, he was told he would be allowed access in seventeen days. He had to be there on time. If he was one second late, he would lose his permission to enter Destiny's Tower.

Han Sen was depressed, but he knew the seventeen days would go by quickly. It was a statement of the Extreme King government's power that they had four deified elites standing by to open the door. In most races, who knew how long it would take to gather up four deified elites.

But because of the delay, Han Sen lost all hope of avoiding Fox Queen.

As soon as he came home, he found the flirty Fox Queen lying in his bed. Her eyes were like moons as she smiled at Han Sen. "My good brother, did you register to enter Destiny's Tower?"

"It is done." Han Sen slumped his shoulders and moved to sit on a chair.

Fox Queen stood up and walked over to Han Sen. She wrapped her arms around Han Sen from behind and let her fingers draw circles across Han Sen's chest.

Han Sen felt something soft press against his back. Her beautiful face brushed against his, and her red lips came next to his ear and whispered, "Help me smuggle the Fox treasure out of Destiny's Tower, and I will treat you very well."

"It's not as if I don't want to help... I'm just afraid that if I do, I'll never again have the chance to talk with you again," Han Sen said.

Fox Queen laughed. She pulled Han Sen's cheek down onto her chest and said, "Why would I let you die? I have a way in which you can steal the item, and no one else will ever know. No suspicions will be flung your way. After that, I can help you leave the Extreme King. Then, the Fox race will be greatly indebted to you. If you want, you can come back to the Foxes with me. After all, we have many pretty women for you to spend your time with."

“Don’t. I am so unlucky, there’s no way I could be fortunate enough to end up in that situation. Why don’t you tell me about this Fox item in Destiny’s Tower? What is the plan for stealing it?” Han Sen said.

Fox Queen looked very sad. She moved around the chair and sat on Han Sen’s lap. Leaning against Han Sen’s neck, she sighed. “I was trapped inside Ghost Bone Palace for too long. After I got out, I realized that the universe of today is vastly different from the universe I used to know. The Extreme King used to be the Sacred Leader’s slaves, but now they’ve become one of the highest races. While the Foxes didn’t fall, our treasure was claimed by the Extreme King. Because of that, my people have been unable to break through and become deified. We have had to use our beauty just to survive.”

After pausing, Fox Queen went on to say, “I have been gathering intel since I left Ghost Bone Palace, and I’ve learned that King Bao was the one who took our treasure. He placed it inside Destiny’s Tower. I cannot go in there, so I have had to come and ask you to fetch it for me.”

Fox Queen looked very pitiable, and her sad expression would have been enough to make most people want to help her. Han Sen knew Fox Queen was much stronger than he was, but he still felt guilty. “What is this treasure of the Foxes? Why would King Bao keep it inside Destiny’s Tower?”

Fox Queen hesitated, but ultimately said, “The treasure is called Nine Spin Destiny Mirror. It is a Fox-exclusive deified treasure. When a Fox becomes King class, they need the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror to be reborn nine times. Then they can become deified. After losing the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror, not a single one of the Fox has been able to become deified. For a higher race, this is so sad. I hope you can understand our plight.”

“And in regards to why King Bao put the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror into Destiny’s Tower, I have no idea. Normally, aside from the Fox, none can make use of the mirror.”

Han Sen frowned. He asked Fox Queen, who was in his arms, “How am I supposed to get the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror out of the tower?”

Fox Queen blinked and said, “I can use a Fox technique on you. Then, you will temporarily have the powers of a Fox. When you see the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror, if it is not bound, you will not even have to move. It will just fly to you. Then, you can hide it on your person and carry it out unseen. It will not be difficult.”

Han Sen nodded and said, “If that is true, then I can give this a shot. But I can only promise you that I will try. I cannot promise you that I will succeed.”

Fox Queen immediately smiled. She lifted Han Sen’s chin and kissed his cheek. She said, “Good Little Brother. You’re doing me a grand service, even if all you do is try. The whole Fox race will hold you in high regard. If you ever need anything, the Foxes and I will give you all the help you require.”

“It’s fine, Sister. If I can really do this, I will help you because of the bond we share.” Han Sen sounded as if he was in agreement, but inside, he was thinking something quite different.

“Okay, I’m not going to say any more of those cheesy phrases. Let’s hurry. I will now place the Fox technique inside you. It will grant you Fox powers for a while.” After that, Fox Queen sat up straight, wrapping her legs around Han Sen’s waist. Then, she kissed him.

2389 Nine Spin Fox Perfume

Han Sen started to pull back to say something, but he saw Fox Queen's tail begin to wave back and forth. Afterimages of the tail became substance chains, and it suddenly looked as if there were nine tails swinging in the air. The tails swept up and around Fox Queen and Han Sen, trapping them inside it like a cage.

Fox Queen's eyes flashed silver, and strange silver symbols flared to life across her snow-white skin. They looked like tattoos, not on her skin but inside it.

At the same time, power that gushed like spring water rushed between Fox Queen's lips and straight into Han Sen's mouth.

A cool air surged through Han Sen's body. His cells felt as if they had been thoroughly cleansed by a mountain spring.

Once that cool power blended into Han Sen's cells, his body underwent some peculiar changes. A perfume that he could barely smell wafted from his body, its fragrance tickling the tip of his nose.

"I have given you the secret Fox technique. Your body now possesses the Nine Spin Fox power. If you follow my will and use the Nine Spin Fox Perfume skill, you can temporarily wield the powers of a Fox." Fox Queen's lips remained locked with Han Sen's, but her voice sounded in Han Sen's head.

Han Sen nodded slightly. Following Fox Queen's will, he let the power course through him.

Fox Queen sent more and more of that power into Han Sen's body. Han Sen got the power running, and it began to build. The perfume grew stronger and stronger. It felt as if Han Sen was swimming in a sea of flowers.

Shortly after, the perfume in Han Sen's body became lighter until it disappeared, and he could no longer smell it at all. A minute later, the perfume was coming back.

The scent kept cycling between strong and light, and it did this nine times. Fox Queen's power inside Han Sen had become very strong, and it combined with Han Sen's body.

A very light silver symbol appeared on Han Sen's skin. It looked similar to the symbols on Fox Queen, but it wasn't as lustrous as those. Han Sen's symbol was quite dull, by comparison.

Upon seeing the silver flower symbol appear on Han Sen, Fox Queen felt incredibly happy.

She had thought that Han Sen didn't have any Fox blood, so she only expected him to absorb around twenty percent of the power she poured into the Nine Spin Fox Perfume.

But for some reason, Han Sen had been able to absorb every ounce of the Nine Spin Fox Perfume energy she had sent to him. Because of this, the Fox marking had appeared on his skin. Fox Queen was surprised, to say the least.

“Weird. Does his body contain some sort of Fox blood or something? How is he capable of supporting a Fox symbol?” Fox Queen was confused.

But after a second or so, Fox Queen made a decision. She had originally planned to stop the skill here, but instead, she kept it running.

The silver markings on Fox Queen’s skin continued to expand. The symbols slowly connected with each other, forming a nine-tailed silver fox upon her back.

That symbol was so strange. It was like a living fox lying across Fox Queen’s pale skin. It had small silver eyes, and they peered right at Han Sen.

The more power Fox Queen gave Han Sen, the brighter his silver pattern became. The silver symbols flashed continually, and just like Fox Queen’s, they started to connect. They soon started to resemble a nine-tailed fox that shone like burnished silver.

Han Sen felt as if all the energy inside him was rushing crazily around his body. He felt like a wild horse without its reins. Things were slipping out of his control.

“Fox Queen, stop! I cannot take it anymore.” Han Sen spoke to Fox Queen through his will.

Fox Queen ignored him. Her arms were wrapped around Han Sen’s neck, and her legs tightened around his waist. They were still kissing as silver substance chains thrust deep into Han Sen’s body.

“Fox Queen! What are you doing?” Han Sen demanded with his will. His face hardened as he began to struggle against her, but Fox Queen’s power was able to keep him suppressed.

Fox Queen finally responded. She smiled. She didn’t move her lips, but her voice played inside Han Sen’s ears all the same. “I never thought this body of yours possessed such extraordinary talent. You can generate the Fox markings. I have used all my Nine Spin Fox Perfume to help you, so that your body can naturally become a Nine Spin Fox Body. It will be great for you, and it will allow you to control the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror far more easily.”

“Fox Queen, do you really think I am three years old?” Han Sen growled through his will.

Fox Queen’s smile widened. “My good brother, why don’t you just do as you are told? I will not treat you poorly.”

As Fox Queen’s words echoed through Han Sen’s head, a silver substance chain drifted into Han Sen’s mouth. Han Sen’s Nine Spin Fox power was becoming stronger and stronger.

The power was almost out of Han Sen’s control. It followed Fox Queen’s will, running amok inside his body. The nine-tailed silver fox symbol on Han Sen’s skin brightened, and it looked as if it was going to come alive.

Now Han Sen was certain that Fox Queen wasn't trying to give him a technique; she was attempting to gain control of his body.

Fox Queen wouldn't admit to that, of course. She ignored Han Sen's attempts to reason with her as she continued pouring her power inside him.

Just as Han Sen believed, Fox Queen was trying to refine Han Sen's body into a Nine Spin Fox clone. If she did that, she would be able to control Han Sen completely. There would be no need for the precariousness of cooperation. She could save herself the trouble by controlling him directly.

This idea had come to her suddenly. She hadn't expected Han Sen's body to be capable of generating a fox symbol. What she said, in the beginning, wasn't all a lie.

Han Sen understood Fox Queen, and he had never really trusted her anyway. It didn't matter if she was telling the truth or not, though; he had a plan of his own.

If Fox Queen had just been honest and given Han Sen a new ability as she promised, he would have been disappointed. If she had done that, she wouldn't have given Han Sen enough power to fulfill his plan.

Han Sen wanted to use Fox Queen's power to push his self-universe cogwheel. That way, he could reach King class.

This was a big risk. But compared to attempting to subjugate someone else's power in the midst of a fight, this was far easier.

Power that had been summoned for combat would be far more destructive. Guiding it into his body without destroying himself wouldn't be easy. Controlling it with enough precision to move the self-universe cogwheel would be even harder.

But now, Fox Queen was sending her power directly into Han Sen's body, and the power wasn't intended to harm him. That saved him so much trouble. Han Sen knew this was the best chance he would get to borrow deified power.

When Han Sen felt that the necessary amount of energy had built up within him, he didn't hesitate. He engaged his Dongxuan Sutra. He wanted to use that power to push his self-universe cogwheel.

Fox Queen felt something suddenly shift within Han Sen's body. She realized what Han Sen was trying to do, and she chuckled deep in her throat.

"How ridiculous! Your weak powers cannot divert powers like mine."

2390 Sacred Blood Statue

Han Sen didn't speak. He focused on his Dongxuan Sutra, using its strength to guide the torrent of power that was surging through him. He tried to direct it toward his self-universe cogwheel.

Although Han Sen was proficient with the techniques of Yin Yang Blast and Yin Yang Change, Fox Queen was putting so much power into him that it was difficult for him to guide the vast quantity.

The nine-tailed silver fox marking covered Han Sen's body like the shadow of a demon. That weird perfume-like smell was growing stronger, and it almost felt as if it was becoming solid and tangible.

"It is futile! Your power as a Duke has a ceiling. No other Duke can match your strength, and not even first or second-tier Kings could hope to equal you. But compared to me, you are far too weak. Do you honestly believe you can use my power for your own gain? You must be joking." Fox Queen's voice whispered through Han Sen's head.

Fox Queen's body was hugged Han Sen's tightly, and her lips were pressed against his as she poured the Nine Spin Fox powers into him. She controlled the power that came gushing into him, directing it little by little to transform Han Sen into a Nine Spin Fox Clone.

Han Sen tried his hardest to guide the Nine Spin Fox power, but it was staggeringly different from anything he was used to. He attempted to wrestle it from Fox Queen's control and twist its purpose, but she maintained an iron grip on her energy. He was about to make use of a new trick, but his back suddenly felt hot. A scary power started to spread across his back.

Han Sen jerked in surprise. He wasn't ready to use the trick he had planned, but a foreign power was being unleashed from his back. That power didn't belong to Han Sen, but he could tell that it didn't belong to Fox Queen, either.

Something red appeared out of Han Sen's back. Han Sen activated his Dongxuan Aura to get a better look. The skin of his back, which was originally covered by the Fox markings, had turned scarlet. The blood-like color deepened until it revealed a crimson image.

"That is... Ancient Blood Dragon Lady." Han Sen was shocked.

The red symbol on Han Sen's back looked like a woman with the upper body of a human and the lower body of a slithering snake. A horn sprouted from her head. It was an ugly image, and the figure looked quite like a phantom. He was certain that it was the Ancient Blood Dragon Lady, though.

"Is this the picture that the prisoner dude drew upon my back when I was in Holy Town?" Han Sen knew where that painting had come from.

Back then, he had been unable to view what had been drawn on his back. Right before it disappeared, Bao'er told him it was an ugly woman. This was the first time Han Sen had gotten the chance to see it. He hadn't realized that the painting was still hidden on his back, or that it would be activated by Fox Queen in this manner.

Han Sen didn't know what the painting did, but the power that came out of the drawing was just as strong as what Fox Queen was forcing inside him. It pushed away the Nine Spin Fox markings and asserted dominance over his whole back.

Han Sen's back was in agony, though. It felt like he had been branded with hot steel. The Nine Spin Fox power had most certainly been pushed back.

As the Ancient Blood Dragon Lady's painting grew more detailed, a shadow of the Ancient Blood Dragon Lady manifested. It stood across from the shadow of the Nine-Tail Fox. It covered Han Sen's back, while the fox covered Han Sen's chest. The two powers fought for supremacy inside him.

"The Sacred Blood Statue! Why do you have the Sacred Blood Statue?" Fox Queen screamed.

She looked terrified. She struggled to free herself from Han Sen's body, but now, something was pulling her in. She couldn't move, and her power was surging into Han Sen's body uncontrollably.

"What's the Sacred Blood Statue?" Han Sen frowned. The situation was spiraling wildly out of control. The blood-colored painting was still there, and his heart was beginning to ache.

Fox Queen was chattering in fear. "Impossible! Sacred is destroyed... The Sacred Leader is dead! There's no one living who could draw the Sacred Blood Statue... How is this possible?"

"What is the Sacred Blood Statue?" Han Sen repeated when Fox Queen continued to make no sense.

Fox Queen tried to calm down a little. But she was still in shock, and she said, "It was a way for the Sacred Leader to control subordinates. If the image of the Sacred Blood Statue was drawn on someone's body, that body could be consumed at any time. As long as the Sacred Blood Statue wasn't activated, nothing would be amiss. The drawing might even be beneficial. It could silently make your body stronger. But the Sacred Blood Statue has now been activated, and so it will start to consume the power and flesh of its host until they have been eaten entirely."

"Why do you have the Sacred Blood Statue? And is it a blood drawing of the Ancient Blood Dragon Lady? Why didn't you tell me any sooner? You almost got me killed!" Fox Queen gnashed her teeth and summoned her own power. She wanted to use her power to pull herself out of Han Sen's body, but under the influence of the Sacred Blood Statue, her powers appeared to have been magnetized. Fox Queen couldn't away, and so her energy continued pumping into Han Sen's body.

Han Sen could clearly feel the Sacred Blood Statue on his back. It was tearing viciously into his power and flesh like some voracious ghoul. If this kept going, his body might soon be eaten by the Sacred Blood Statue.

But the Sacred Blood Statue's power had already blended into Han Sen's body, and its power was already inside him. If Han Sen tried to destroy the Sacred Blood Statue, then that meant he'd be destroying his own body. If that happened, he'd die.

"F*ck! That motherf*cker Sacred Leader was messed up. What kind of sicko creates a geno art like this?" Han Sen swore.

When Fox Queen realized that she was completely unable to pull away, she severed her connection to the power outright. She instantly started coughing up blood, and her face turned as white as a sheet. But she had at least managed to disconnect herself from Han Sen. She stumbled away from his body.

She had expended a lot of power, and she felt like she had hacked off a large portion of her own body. Severing her power had left her gravely wounded.

Without the support of Fox Queen's power, Han Sen's Nine Tail Fox marking started to dim. He now had far less energy to combat the Ancient Blood Dragon Lady of the Sacred Blood Statue. He was getting consumed.

"Game over... game over..." Fox Queen looked haunted. Her attempt to gain access to Destiny's Tower had backfired spectacularly.

Han Sen was getting consumed by the Sacred Blood Statue, and God only knew when she might find another chance to enter Destiny's Tower.

Fox Queen looked at Han Sen with a complicated set of emotions. Then she stomped her feet and left.

The Sacred Blood Statue had been activated, and Han Sen was on his way to his death. If she stayed around and was discovered, it would become known that she had murdered Prince Sixteen. That would not turn out well.

As she left, Fox Queen felt depressed. She thought she could reclaim the Nine Spin Destiny Mirror, but her opportunity had disappeared because of her own greediness.

In addition, she was now severely wounded. Without the help of the deified item she had planned to steal, it would take at least a year for her to recover.

"Dear Han Sen, I didn't want to kill you. Your luck really is just that bad." Fox Queen quickly departed Planet Water Zone. She did not dare to stay in case someone saw her there when Han Sen died.