

## Chapter 2681

### Back to Deified

Everyone could see the strange expression on Shale's face. As time passed, the red ball of light that surrounded him dimmed, then darkened. Then the dark red color began to change to solid black.

"It must be the Demon Fruit... The Demon Fruit is working! Is Shale going to become deified right in front of us?" Li Xue Cheng merrily proclaimed.

Liyu Zhen was thrilled as well. "Now I understand. Shale knew that the silkworm fights were going to start, but he decided to eat the Demon Fruit anyway. He hoped to use the pressure of a challenging silkworm fight to accelerate his growth and activate the dormant Demon Fruit power that resided in his body. During his fight with Han Sen, the Demon Fruit inside him has slowly been refined. Now, it must have all been absorbed. It will make him deified in the middle of this very fight."

"Shale is really leveling up to deified? There will be no more debating which of the two will emerge victorious now. It will be impossible for Han Sen to defeat a deified Shale." Li Xue Cheng had been quivering with fear earlier, but now his quaking was due to unbridled glee.

This silkworm fight had been a non-stop rollercoaster of emotions for the two men. Li Xue Cheng's emotions had gone up and down so much that he had thought his heart was going to leap out of his chest.

The fires around Shale's body turned black. Black symbols were appearing across him, as if they were being carved into his exposed skin. A frightening presence was emanating from the symbols. Shale's power began to generate substance chains.

"Back to deified once more?" Han Sen frowned. He wasn't blind. He could see that Shale's power was changing.

Shale tipped his head back and roared to the sky, and the power of his substance chains exploded. His previously golden hair was suddenly dyed pitch black.

Shale used to look like a gold lion. Now his body had shrunk, but his muscles looked more solid and powerful than ever. It was like every cell in his body had filled up with an unimaginably grand power.

The new, black-haired Shale didn't look as wild. He looked mysterious and alien. The black symbols were visible all across his face, and black flames quivered across his body. He looked like some sort of demon lion from hell.

"He has returned to deified." Li Keer's face looked sickened.

It didn't matter how talented or strong Han Sen was; he couldn't defeat a deified Shale. After all, deifieds were completely different from all other ranks beneath them. They were as different as the sky and the ground.

"Shale must have planned from the beginning to use this fight to become deified again. He wanted to use Han Sen as his whetstone," Exquisite said glumly, then sighed. She understood the truth behind it all now.

"That was excellent planning on Shale's part," Li Keer said with a grunt. "He ate the Demon Fruit before the silkworm fight. If no one presented him with a serious challenge, he could secure first place. If he did find someone who could stand up to him, he could refine the Demon Fruit and return to being deified and still secure first place and all the spoils. He is a very smart man, I will confess."

Exquisite shook her head. "But again, it isn't that simple. A normal person would struggle to become deified again whether or not they refined the Demon Fruit. Shale was able to become deified because his talent was that exceptional. This may not have been his plan at all."

"No matter what his reasoning was, these are the results," Li Keer said in frustration.

Qiyu Elder and Open Sky Elder both looked very ill. And the Very High people who had placed big bets on Han Sen looked just as bad.

They thought they had seen a sound hope of victory, but it was all gone now. Since the moment Shale became deified, their hopes and dreams were squashed. Their hearts fell to the bottom of the blackest abyss, and they couldn't see the light of hope anymore.

"I apologize. I tried to control my power, but I was unable to suppress it. I have now returned to deified class." Shale ceased attacking. He felt guilty about what had happened.

What he said made everyone watching want to cough up blood. Many creatures wanted nothing more than to become deified, and Shale had been doing his best not to. That was quite upsetting.

If anyone else had said this, they might have sounded cocky. But Shale was renowned for his honesty, and he certainly wasn't putting on an act. He had genuinely tried to suppress his power, but he ended up becoming deified anyway. He had wanted to finish this fight as a half-deified.

But fighting Han Sen had required too much from him. He had no choice but to use his full power to fight, and so he was unable to hold back the energy of the refined Demon Fruit. Once that dam of power broke loose, he had become deified.

"There is no need to apologize. Your level is a part of your power." Han Sen didn't think it was shameful for someone to fight against an opponent of a lower level. If someone had a higher level, they must have earned it.

"Today's fight won't count. I will wait until you become deified, and then we will fight again," Shale said, looking at Han Sen.

"This fight isn't finished yet," Han Sen responded, his face unchanged.

Shale shook his head. "Although I don't want to win while you are at a lower level, I still need this first place. So, I'm sorry. We should abandon this battle for now."

"There is no need to apologize. Didn't I just say our fight hasn't ended yet? If you can win, then it was because you were better than me. But in order to decide that, we must first fight and see who the victor truly is." Han Sen gazed at Shale calmly. He didn't look very emotional.

When Liyu Zhen heard Han Sen say this, he coldly laughed and said, "This Han Sen really doesn't know his place. Shale has given him plenty of opportunities to bow out gracefully, and he even offered to leave this place together. That meant he would give Han Sen second place. But still, the brat insists on fighting. If he gets kicked out right now, he definitely won't end up in second place, either."

Li Keer, Exquisite, and all the other Very High thought Han Sen's response had been too cocky. He should have accepted second place instead of losing now.

But in contrast to their own thoughts, Li Keer and Exquisite didn't detect any fear within Han Sen. Instead, they felt an overwhelming sensation of calm and confidence in him.

There was no need to be angry. There was no need to hate. There was no need to blame fate or the people around him. This powerful, placid confidence was something only superior people could possess.

"But now Han Sen is in a ridiculously dire situation. Why is he still so confident?" Exquisite and Li Keer thought that Han Sen had no reason to be so self-assured, but his confidence was so strong that it affected them anyway. They began to feel like they should trust in Han Sen.

"Come on. Keep going. I will fight you. Whether I win or lose, I will walk out of here alone," Han Sen said calmly as he looked at Shale.

"Yes, this is how it should be." Shale's eyes flared with excitement. He looked at Han Sen as if he was looking at his favorite piece of art.

Perhaps Han Sen's power wasn't as strong as Shale's, but Shale wouldn't underestimate him. The substance chains around him exploded madly. He was like some leonine power of darkness that had crawled up from the depths.

"Because of the respect I have for you, I will fight with all my power." Shale's voice was like thunder as he swung his fist at Han Sen.

### **Chapter 2682 Demonic Power**

The fist leapt forward, and the shadow that trailed behind it looked like a raging lion. Han Sen didn't even have enough time to dodge. The scary lion shadow had already washed over him. Han Sen looked stable, though. Spell turned into armor to protect his body, and he used God's Wander to quickly flash away. He was attempting to evade the crazy shadow of Shale's punch. Bzzt!

Suddenly, Han Sen felt as if the physical space around him had been sealed. He couldn't rip space and teleport away as he wished to. He could only see the crazy lion shadow punch coming down on him.

Han Sen frowned. He gathered up power in his fist to throw a punch back at the lion shadow punch.

But Han Sen's punch went through the lion shadow punch. It was like the lion shadow punch really was just a shadow.

When the lion shadow punch actually landed on Han Sen, it wasn't as hard as he expected it to be. The punch went into Han Sen's body and vanished.

Boom!

Han Sen's presence turned black, and his image warped until he started to look like Shale. His entire body was consumed by a black fire, and he looked identical to his opponent.

Han Sen frowned. He realized that he hadn't been hurt, and his power had become the same element as Shale's. Aside from that, there had been no negative effect. No damage had been dealt to him, either.

But as the black fire finished spreading over Han Sen, Shale said, "My demon lion power isn't destructive, but it will transform your body's element. I guess it is a demonic power."

"If you cannot hurt your opponent, then what is the point of your demonic power?" Han Sen asked.

"Millions of different powers exist throughout creation. I cannot break down every single one, but no matter what power my opponent might have, I transform their element into my own. Since I am familiar with this sort of power, none will be able to beat me," Shale said.

When Han Sen considered the ramifications of that, he realized how scary Shale's power truly was. At his current rank, Han Sen's power simply wasn't as great as Shale's. If Han Sen was able to depend on his various elements and his special skills, he still had a chance to defeat Shale.

But now that his power had been converted into an element that Shale was already extremely proficient in wielding, Han Sen could no longer compete. Even if he was incredibly compatible with this new element, there was no way he would be as dexterous as Shale with its use. He wasn't going to be able to defeat Shale with the man's own power.

"Bring your enemy into the same harmony as your own, and then wipe your foe out with a symphony of destruction. Why does Shale's power suddenly seem to remind me of something?" Han Sen thought to himself.

But Shale wasn't going to give Han Sen much time to think things over. He swung another punch at him.

With a sinking feeling, Han Sen began to understand just how debilitating the conversion of his power had been. He wasn't physically damaged, and with time, he could have gained enough understanding of this new element to use it in combat. However, a high-level opponent like Shale wouldn't give him enough time to adapt.

Teleport. Keep teleporting.

Han Sen began to depend solely on God's Wander to keep himself out of Shale's reach. He was unable to rally his defenses and fight back. Turning the tide of this battle was going to be difficult.

Han Sen wasn't familiar with his new power, at all. He had no idea what the power inside him could even do. He didn't know what its features were. No matter which geno art Han Sen tried to use, he could only cast power in Shale's strange element.

"Han Sen is going to lose, it seems," Li Xue Cheng said. His eyebrows painted him as a very happy man.

Everyone now knew that Han Sen didn't have a chance. He was beneath Shale's level, and he was both weaker and slower than Shale. Now that his power element was the same as Shale's, under such extreme circumstances, how could anyone expect Han Sen to come out of this fight victorious?

This would have been true of any person of Han Sen's level who found themselves confronted by a monster like Shale. Even if another deified creature went up against Shale, they wouldn't be able to defeat him if they were forced to use his element.

Shale's demonic power was quite mysterious. Copying the powers of an opponent wasn't exactly rare, but his power was able to force his opponent to copy him. It was a little unfair, truth be told.

Open Sky Elder had a wry smile.

Qiyu Elder shook his head. "There is a reason for Shale's fame. This is why he is called 'the best against those of the same level.' Every power has an element it is weak to. No matter how unique an elite's power is, there is always some other power that will suppress it. But Shale's demonic lion power ignores that universal truth. His ability is scarier than anyone can imagine."

Han Sen focused his entire mental power on developing familiarity with the power Shale wielded. But time was too short. He could have used this new power in basic combat applications, but fighting someone like Shale was next to impossible.

Pang!

Han Sen was too late teleporting away this time. Shale's punch struck his arm, and Spell turned into armor to protect him. But even so, Shale's strike still almost shattered the bones in his arm.

Han Sen could use God's Wander, but so could Shale. And Shale was quite skilled with the technique. Han Sen kept teleporting away, but he couldn't shake the opponent on his tail. As the fight progressed, he was incurring more and more wounds.

Pang!

Han Sen took a punch straight to the chest. His body shot away like a cannonball and slammed into the seal. The power that bound the arena trembled for a moment.

Han Sen's body hit the ground, and he couldn't help but cough up a mouthful or two of blood. His chest felt like a cinderblock had fallen on it. Han Sen knew the heat was likely just the blood inside his lungs.

In fact, his lungs weren't the only part of him that was suffering. Han Sen's entire body was covered in injuries. Many parts of his Spell armor had been cracked. The worst place just so happened to be his chest. The right side of his chest had been dented inwards.

The Spell armor was practically broken, and Han Sen's body was not doing well. One of his arms was just hanging loosely beside his body. It felt as if all the bones inside him were broken. He couldn't even move.

One of his legs had been shattered, too. Han Sen could only kneel on the spot.

Han Sen couldn't remember the last time he had been in such poor condition. Even when he was sucked dry by the Shield of the Medusa's Gaze, he hadn't been so grievously injured.

But even so, Han Sen didn't feel like giving up. He was more excited than ever, actually.

That excitement came from the Spell armor. Although his armor appeared to be on the verge of falling to pieces, it suddenly seemed as if it was going to breakthrough.

The Story of Genes was the hardest geno art to develop, out of all the arts he was proficient with. Under Shale's powerful suppression, it seemed as if it was going to combine all nine tiers into one. He was going to become half-deified.

"Almost there... I only need a little bit more..." Han Sen reviewed the sensations running through him in detail. He seemed to be on the cusp of breaking through, but it still felt as if he was missing something. It was like he was trying to scratch his feet through his socks, but he couldn't quite satisfy the itch.

"Let us end it here." Shale wasn't interested in continuing this fight any further than he had to. Even though he had admitted that Han Sen was a worthy opponent, Han Sen was just a ninth-tier King. Han Sen didn't have what it took to fight him. He was hoping for another fight when Han Sen became deified.

Shale swung his fist again. The terrifying power of the blow was like a dark, roaring, demonic lion, which was headed straight for Han Sen. And Han Sen was still half-kneeling on the ground.

### **Chapter 2683 Leveling Up to Half-Deified**

Shale's punch roared down toward him, but Han Sen didn't plan on trying to evade it. He used the left hand that he could still move, summoned power into his fist, and threw a punch. "Why even bother? Losing is better than dying!" The fox woman sighed mournfully from the distance as she watched.

The seal was right behind Han Sen. He could teleport away before the punch came down on him, and it seemed like the only viable choice to ensure his own survival. But he didn't. Instead, he carried on fighting with his now-broken body.

But considering how injured and outmatched he was, it seemed unlikely that any strength he mustered would be enough to withstand a punch delivered by Shale.

"He doesn't know his place! Kill him!" Liyu Zhen clenched his fists into tight, white-knuckled balls. His eyes were red as he shouted spitefully at the video feed.

Li Xue Cheng was the same. This fight was about to end in exactly the way he had been hoping for all along. They were going to win the bet.

There was no way that Han Sen could avoid the punch that was coming down on him. And there were only two possible results of trying to block that blow: he could either die or be disabled. Whichever actually happened, Han Sen couldn't reasonably carry on fighting. No one was going to stop Shale from reaching first place in the silkworm bout.

Pang!

Han Sen's fist struck that scary punch. The armor that protected his fists and his arms exploded, and Han Sen's entire body flew forward. As he sailed through the air, his Spell armor shattered to pieces like a broken vase.

"Game over." Open Sky Elder was very sad to see this. He thought he had lost his Open Sky jewelry.

Exquisite and Li Keer's faces changed. Han Sen's heart never gave up hope. He kept sending them the message that he could keep on going, no matter the odds, but his self geno armor was broken, and his body was severely injured. Hopefully, he would survive, but he couldn't keep on fighting.

Now, they could only pray that Han Sen didn't succumb to the remaining force of the impact. Exquisite was tempted to leap onto the battlefield to save him from doom.

Many of the Very High people who had believed Han Sen was going to win were now all silent. Han Sen had tried his best, but there was too much of a gap between the powers of a King and a deified. Shale was too strong, and so they couldn't blame Han Sen for losing. However, their hearts bled when they thought about everything they had bet and were going to lose.

Only Li Xue Cheng and Liyu Zhen were excited enough to start jumping around with glee. They almost hugged each other.

After this fight, they'd reap a bounty of rewards. The resources they were about to receive might support them all the way up to the deified butterfly class. And on top of that, they'd also lay claim to priceless treasures of untold might.

Pang!

Han Sen's body slammed against the seal again. Liyu Zhen and Li Xue Cheng were ready to start clapping, but they suddenly froze in place.

They weren't the only members of the audience who were staring in shock. Everyone was. After Han Sen's body hit the seal, he didn't fall to the ground. He just remained where he was. He was floating.

That broken body of his was releasing a weird shockwave that they could barely detect. Then, his form became shrouded in bright light.

But when they looked closer, they could see that it wasn't a bright light. It was a cloud of white powder-like dust. And the white powder was gathering around Han Sen's body.

In the blink of an eye, a white set of armor had wrapped itself around Han Sen's body. The broken Spell armor was back, and it looked as good as new.

No. It was even more powerful than before it had been damaged. The symbol on the armor was shining brilliantly, releasing a scary presence. The holy light wrapped slowly around Han Sen's body. He was like some god spirit from a holy mountain.

"He is becoming half-deified!" Exquisite and Li Keer were the first to react to this. They could feel that Han Sen's power was exploding in the breadth of its magnitude.

"In the middle of all that, he became half-deified... This guy is too much." Many of the Very High who were watching the fight looked absolutely stunned.

It was possible to level up during a fight, but leveling up required a lot of power to support. In Shale's case, he had already taken in the Demon Fruit, and he was supremely powerful already. So, it made a certain amount of sense that he was able to break through during a fight and become deified.

But Han Sen's body was entirely broken. His self armor had been wrecked. In that injured state of his, it should have been impossible for him to level up.

But Han Sen had become half-deified in that situation. It was a difficult thing to grasp.

"So what if he is half-deified? Half-deifieds are just another form of King class. He can't fight Shale," Li Xue Cheng snarled, gnashing his teeth.

He wasn't happy to see this. He only hoped Shale still had what it took to kill his opponent quickly.

But Shale merely looked at Han Sen. He didn't attack him like Li Xue Cheng wanted him to.

"You are a perplexing man. You became half-deified, even in the middle of all this," Shale said while looking at Han Sen.

"It was just a stroke of good luck," Han Sen said with a smile.

Shale shook his head with a grave sense of gravitas. "There is no such thing as luck in this universe. Luck is a rigged lottery. Any winner might think that they are lucky, but no matter how lucky they are, they wouldn't have won if they never bought the ticket."

Han Sen didn't say anything. He really hadn't been depending on luck.

Just before Shale's last punch, Han Sen had finally come to understand the key that would allow the nine tiers of The Story of Genes to combine into one. He realized how to become half-deified. That was why he had taken that punch. That power was enough to make his Spell armor break completely and then rebuild itself.

"But what a shame. If you were deified, we could really see which of us is better," Shale said with a look of regret.



“We can still find out, I think. Like I told you once before, our fight has not yet ended,” Han Sen said expressionlessly.

Shale shook his head and said nothing. He was happy to admit that Han Sen was strong, but half-deified was still King class. Han Sen wasn't as strong as him. He still didn't think Han Sen had enough power to challenge him.

“Brother Han, let us end this here. The Apollo Set can be set aside for now. When you become deified, you can fight me for it. And if you win, you can take the Apollo Set,” Shale said after a brief moment of thought.

A good opponent was like a fine wine; it needed time to truly reach its potential. Shale wanted Han Sen to become deified before he fought him again.

But Han Sen didn't have the patience to wait that long. Seeing that Shale wasn't going to attack, Han Sen decided to stop talking. Instead, he lifted his hand like a knife, then used Fang to strike at Shale.

Shale frowned. He had already decided to end the fight. He gathered up demonic powers again, and his fist became a demonic lion that went straight for Han Sen's body.

Just like before, Shale's fist blurred forward, and Han Sen's power transformed into the demonic mirror of Shale's own abilities.

“It is the same. Does Han Sen not understand that if his power is forced to match Shale's, he can never beat him...?” Li Xue Cheng trailed off halfway through his statement.

The demonic power had definitely sunk into Han Sen's body, but the powers that Han Sen was using for his attacks were not demonic like before. The Teeth Knife he lashed out with was still a purple knife. It was not affected by the demonic power.

### **Chapter 2684 I Am the Path**

The power of Han Sen's Spell armor had been static for a long time. Earlier in the fight, it had been unable to block Shale's demonic attacks because the man had simply used too much force for it to repel. But now, the Spell's nine tiers had been combined and condensed into one. Its power solidified, and that new density allowed the armor to ignore the difference in power between the two fighters. Its energy could no longer be converted to the demonic element. Shale was a bit shocked by this twist. He used his demonic powers a few times more, but try as he might, he was unable to change Han Sen's element. He had realized that Han Sen had discovered a way to fight back against the demonic power he wielded.

“Han Sen is somehow holding off the demonic power. That is a bit unexpected,” Open Sky Elder said with raised eyebrows.

“Although the demonic powers no longer change him, he is still a half-deified going up against a deified. There is a large gulf in power. It will still be an incredibly difficult fight for Han Sen if he seeks victory,” Qiyu Elder said.

“Even so, as small as it may be, he stands a chance.” Open Sky Elder put all his hopes on Han Sen’s newfound opportunity.

Although Shale’s demonic power had lost much of its effectiveness, Han Sen was still suppressed by his opponent’s might. There was still a staggering difference in their power levels, and Han Sen’s geno arts had only been reinforced to a half-deified level. It still wasn’t going to be enough for Han Sen to fight a deified elite.

Under constant pressure from Shale, Han Sen had to keep changing his movements. He teleported and dodged, keeping Shale from landing a fatal blow.

Han Sen still didn’t have enough power to engage Shale directly. Every move Shale made carried dangerous strength, but Han Sen was managing to keep him from hitting his target.

Exquisite and Li Keer could feel the calmness in Han Sen’s heart. Every time they saw Han Sen on the brink of death, he would surprise them and turn out no worse for wear.

They were on the edge of their seats, and the rest of the audience was even more nervous.

Han Sen was walking a tightrope. If he wasn’t careful, he would fall into a bottomless abyss.

Although his situation looked perilous in the extreme, Han Sen was holding on. Beneath Shale’s oppression, he was able to avoid further injury.

“The cons of Shale being from a smaller race are finally coming to the surface.” Li Chun Qiu sighed in his heart.

Shale was very talented, and he could challenge all sorts of geno arts and perform miracles with his ordinary punching techniques. With his demonic powers, he could go against any deified elite at the same level.

But now, his demonic powers weren’t working. That meant the simplicity of his punching techniques might not cut it. No matter how good a driver someone might be, that skill would still only allow them to drive a car. Even the best driver in the world wouldn’t suddenly develop the ability to fly planes.

Shale’s punching skills were so simple. He could only use ordinary methods as he tried to win this fight. He didn’t have the power to simply end the fight in a moment. He definitely had an advantage, but he had been unable to take Han Sen down.

“If Shale could practice in Outer Sky for a few more years and learn many more top-class geno arts, with his power and talent, he could definitely defeat Han Sen,” Li Chun Qiu thought to himself. He went on to think, “This Han Sen is strong. Any ordinary half-deified would find themselves completely outmatched by Shale. They couldn’t fight him. Within a repetition or two, Shale would analyze their skills and break them. But Han Sen’s skills have been repeated many times, and yet Shale still cannot break them.”

Li Chun Qiu could sense everything that Shale was feeling. Although the fight had changed dramatically, Shale was still determined to do his best to crush Han Sen.

But Li Chun Qiu could see that there were many moments Shale was certain he would get Han Sen, but each time, he failed to lay a finger on his opponent.

Li Chun Qiu began analyzing Shale's mind. He finally discovered why Shale was unable to break Han Sen's skills.

Shale needed to see a geno art to see through his opponent's flaws. And Han Sen's use of geno arts was not flawless. There were too many flaws, to be exact.

When Shale tried to make use of these flaws, he soon learned that the flaws were traps deliberately laid by Han Sen. They didn't do much harm to Han Sen's use of a skill, but they were enough to trap his enemy and provide Han Sen with some breathing room.

Every technique had flaws. There was no such thing as an unbreakable geno art, but Han Sen hid the true flaws of his skills within artificial flaws. For every real flaw, there were nine ones to throw his enemy off course. He let Shale guess which flaw was the real one each time. But even after all this time, Shale had been unable to guess which flaw was the correct one.

"There are 50 paths to choose from, and there are 49 you can pick. Take away one, and it will become a fixed number and a variable. Imperfection is this world's true perfection. Han Sen has learned the meaning behind what it means to take away one. This guy is so scary. When he grows up, he might end up better than the kids of the Very High." Open Sky Elder stared at the battle with wide eyes.

"I have heard his self geno arts have required a lot of resources. Even with four years in the Very High, I don't know if he will make it to deified. Even if he does become a primitive deified, who in this universe could provide him with enough resources to keep him going beyond that?" Qiyu Elder shook his head. He wasn't very hopeful of Han Sen's future.

"What a shame. If he was born as a Very High, he might have been another Li Chun Qiu. We would give him all the resources he required. He could have entered the Geno Hall for sure," Open Sky Elder said.

"Don't even think about it. You know Old Stubborn won't let an outsider become a true child of ours," Qiyu Elder said with a wry smile.

Upon hearing that, Open Sky Elder sighed and said, "Sometimes, I envy Zhang Xuan Dao of the Sky. At least he can do whatever he wants. We cannot do anything."

Qiyu Elder's face changed. "You can only say that here. Don't let Old Stubborn hear you say something like that. You know there are harsh feelings still lingering about the Sky betraying our people."

Open Sky Elder shook his head and said nothing. He continued to watch the fight between Han Sen and Shale unfold.

Shale's punches were like demonic lions. Every punch looked as if it could swallow the sky and eat the sun. Han Sen was like a small boat surfing the crazy waves of the sky and the ground. But no matter how scary Shale's fists were, he was still unable to defeat Han Sen.

A single kernel of corn on a big sea. Han Sen was that kernel, but he could float. It didn't matter how much the sky and earth raged; they couldn't take him down into the abyss.

Now, Han Sen's mind was very clear. He used Under the Sky and God's Wander. He kept casting from his hands, one after the other. Every knife seemed as if it flipped the sky and the earth.

He had practiced knives for so long. He had learned from the minds of many others, but now, it was Han Sen's own will and mind that Shale was putting under pressure.

"The sky and the ground are the chessboard. I am one of the chess pieces, but as they move across the sky and the earth, the meaning of the chess pieces is increased. There are a thousand ways for them to be used, and you need a chess piece to follow a path. Without a chess piece, there is no path..." Han Sen's heart suddenly opened up within him, and he spoke as if he was in a trance, "Under the Sky, I am the path. If I live, the path lives. If I die, then the path dies."

## **Chapter 2685**

### **Learning Knife Mind**

Han Sen's voice wasn't very loud, but the Very High and a few of the silkworms were focusing very carefully on this fight. They heard everything Han Sen said.

"You are crazy. That word suits you very well," Liyu Zhen coldly grunted.

He had to be insane. And Liyu Zhen wasn't the only person thinking that. Even Open Sky Elder and the people who wanted Han Sen to win believed everything he had said was way too crazy.

The path was the universe. The universe was the path. When they considered Han Sen's words, he seemed to be saying that his life was the sole reason for the universe to exist. If Han Sen died, the universe would die along with him.

Across history, even the true god elites wouldn't have dared to say something like that. There were not many true god elites, but there were a few in every era. How many were currently alive was unknown, though. And even when they died, the universe never died along with them. And right now, Han Sen was someone who had just become half-deified.

In truth, his words didn't even qualify as crazy. They were simply ignorant.

But people misunderstood what Han Sen meant. The "I" he was referring to did not mean himself. He was referring to everything.

Everyone was like a chess piece. They were controlled by the strings of fate, but without those chess pieces, the chessboard was meaningless. It didn't matter how good a chessboard was, it was a dead object. The chess pieces could lead to many events and combinations of moves, which was what led to a path. A chess piece led to a path and a road to traverse. Without a chess piece, there was no path.

When Han Sen understood the meaning of this, happiness rolled through him. He was too happy. And it was that glee that prompted him to speak it out.

People thought Han Sen was crazy and ignorant. Only Li Keer and Exquisite could understand the way Han Sen truly felt. Their pretty eyes fluttered strangely.

Han Sen had gained understanding, which meant they understood as well. They were drowned in the will of Under the Sky. That will was so strong that they would only see something like this in a select few of the strongest Very High currently living.

But on this day, under the influence of that powerful will, they had learned something new. How could they not be surprised and happy?

“This understanding is already beyond what a normal deified could manage...” Li Keer had a very complex look on her face. She was happy, but she also couldn’t believe what she was witnessing. Han Sen was only a half-deified, and yet, he could understand the entirety of that will.

Han Sen had self-learned all of this. And his Under the Sky knife skills were supremely strong now. Before, he only used knives. But now, the knives were infused with his own understanding and knowledge. It was like he had given life to a concept.

Before, although Han Sen hadn’t been injured by Shale, he had seemed to be on the brink of disaster. Han Sen had only been hanging on by a thread, and he could have been killed at any moment.

But now, all of a sudden, things seemed different. Han Sen was still suppressed by Shale, but the audience sensed that he was more relaxed than ever. Even within this danger, he seemed to be oh so relaxed. He didn’t feel nervous or crushed.

Han Sen used his hands like they were knives. The knife skills he deployed had a solid feeling to them. And it made people feel as if he had set things up like this deliberately. But now, Han Sen could use his skills at will, with almost casual ease. It was like every attack was unleashed randomly, yet he continued to fight with the exact same precision, and sometimes even more.

“The sky and the ground are a chessboard, and I am the chess piece. Every breath and every sense are a path.” Han Sen was totally drowned in the will of Under the Sky. As his knowledge of it deepened, his attacks seemed to become even more random. But at the same time, it seemed like the universe itself was guiding his movements. As attacks rained down on him, there was a sinking feeling in Shale’s gut.

Yes, he was feeling terrible. Although Han Sen wasn’t putting him in any serious danger, Shale felt as if everything had gone horribly wrong.

He couldn’t tell what precisely had gone wrong, but everything about the fight now seemed... off.

The mountains were wrong. The rocks were wrong. Everything was wrong. It felt as if the world around him was now working against him, while Han Sen was moving smoothly between sky and earth. It was like everything was working to assist Han Sen. Shale didn't know what to do.

"This... isn't this Sky and Men Combined Together, a technique from the Very High Sense?" Li Chun Qiu and the others who studied the Very High Sense looked at Han Sen as if they were seeing a ghost, with their eyes wide open.

By practicing the Very High Sense, one could practice Sky and Men Combined Together. By connecting the skill with the universe, the sky, and the ground, a practitioner could use it to borrow the power of the universe.

But that power was only available to those who practiced the Very High Sense. Only they should have been able to do what Han Sen was doing. Exquisite could only barely scratch the surface of learning it. She wasn't fully proficient with Sky and Men Combined Together.

Han Sen had never studied the Very High Sense, but the knife skills he got from the Textless Book had achieved the same effect as Sky and Men Combined Together. How could Li Chun Qiu and the others not be shocked?

Even those who practiced the Very High Sense found themselves shuddering. Despite his emotional detachment, Li Chun Qiu was stunned.

"This kid is so weird..." Open Sky Elder mumbled.

He and Qiyu Elder hadn't practiced the Very High Sense, but they were behaving as if they had never eaten pork and were now seeing a pig run. They had experienced a lot over their lives, and even if they hadn't practiced the Very High Sense personally, they knew a lot about it.

Right now, Han Sen's knife skills resembled the Very High Sense and Sky and Men Combined Together. They were shocked.

But Han Sen didn't think that much about it. He was submerged in the aura of his knife mind.

In this universe, every blade of grass, block of wood, mountain, drop of water, and even specks of dust and bacteria, they all seemed to harness a meaning in his eyes. It was like it all had some kind of connection with his knife skills.

"Everything in this world is a chess piece. Every chess piece can be used in a certain way. And you combine all these pieces to compose a game of chess. The chess piece that isn't connected is actually connected. Every chess piece can affect the entirety of the game. And what I need to do is become a chess piece that can change the course of this game of chess." Han Sen kept trying to understand. "I don't need a special power. I only need to use my power in a place that requires me the most. If I go swimming, I would be a fish. If I went into the sky, I would be a bird. I would go along with the universe, the sky, and the earth. And I will help the sky, the earth, and the universe."

Han Sen's knife skills were becoming more and more unpredictable, and those random attacks were causing Shale a lot of trouble.

The Very High that had previously mocked Han Sen for being crazy and ignorant had now fallen silent. Han Sen should have been at an incredible disadvantage, but right now, he didn't seem to be struggling at all.

Instead, Shale's attacks were the ones that seemed stiff. They didn't seem so smooth anymore.

"How very interesting. He's used Under the Sky to create Sky and Men Combined Together... Those Very High elders are going to go crazy with jealousy..." As Yu Shanxin watched Han Sen's remarkable knife skill, the corners of his mouth rose. His smile was strange and unreadable.

## **Chapter 2686**

### **Under the Sky Knife**

Li Xue Cheng and Liyu Zhen's faces were turning green. They felt like they were going crazy. Their eyes were full of red, bloodshot lines, and they clenched their fists tightly, unaware that their nails were digging into the palms of their hands. They were like two madmen as they watched Han Sen make battle.

"Impossible... This is impossible..." They felt as if they were going to suffocate.

A half-deified was fighting a deified and was no worse for wear. It made them feel more and more nervous about how things were going to turn out. They were afraid that the unthinkable might actually happen, and they might lose their bet.

"No way... There is absolutely no way that a half-deified can defeat a deified in combat like this... Plus, this deified is the one and only Shale... Our fears cannot come to pass. I am positive Shale will win..." Liyu Zhen hissed slowly, gnashing his teeth. It was like he was speaking to himself as much as to Li Xue Cheng. His eyes remained glued to the screen in front of him.

Shale's eyebrows were furrowed slightly. Although he was still in charge of the situation, he did feel as if there was something wrong. Every move Han Sen made seemed to be guided by the hand of God. Shale had difficulty repelling even the most casual slash that Han Sen directed toward him. Ordinary strikes were more effective than should have been possible. Regardless of how much he analyzed Han Sen's techniques, Shale didn't understand what was happening.

Shale wasn't someone who was willing to just lay down and let himself lose. So, when he felt that something was wrong, he made the best decision he could. The hellish flames around his body roared high, and he ignored Han Sen's attacks and rushed toward his opponent.

"No matter how dexterous you are with your skills, your power is no match for mine. My power will crush you and your skills alike. I can summon enough force to break your techniques." Shale was like a demon god. He carried scary substance chains with him as he thundered forward to suppress his foe.

Han Sen's knife air slashed at him, but the substance chains crushed it. Han Sen was unable to break through the substance chains to damage Shale's body.

Han Sen didn't panic, though. His body floated from side to side like a cloud. Shale had gathered an immense amount of raging power, but he was unable to hurt Han Sen. It was like watching a little boat go up against a big wave.

The big waves were going wild, but they couldn't flip the boat that effortlessly surfed from crest to crest.

Han Sen was like a holy man that could ride the wind. His body was brimming with the energy of his knifemind. Shale continued to bump Han Sen around, but he couldn't ruffle Han Sen's clothing.

Bixi watched Han Sen and Shale's fight with a gaping mouth. "Will Shale..."

He was wondering if Shale was going to lose, but he realized he shouldn't make such a suggestion in front of Li Chung Qiu. So, he swallowed the words.

"I'm afraid he is going to lose. Shale is strong, but he comes from a bad place. His practice time was too short. If there had been another three years to train him, perhaps he wouldn't be in this situation," Li Chung Qiu said coldly.

Bixi nodded. "That kid Han Sen is lucky, eh? But by the way, his knifemind really is something quite special. It exudes the presence of Sky and Men Combined Together."

"That isn't Sky and Men Combined Together. He is just following the will of the sky," Li Chung Qiu said.

"Compared to you, Big Brother, he is nothing. But compared to ordinary people and creatures, his will is disturbingly impressive," Bixi said after a moment.

Li Chung Qiu nodded and said, "Exquisite and Li Keer both use Han Sen as their silkworm. Outside of the Very High, a genius like this is very rare."

Open Sky Elder looked very relaxed right now. He smiled and said, "Deified... So what, even if you are deified? You are still going to lose. My eyesight isn't too bad."

Qiyu Elder looked at him with disdain. When Shale became deified, Open Sky Elder looked like he was watching his own parents die. But of course, Qiyu Elder didn't say that out loud.

As the fight went on, more and more of the Very High noticed that Han Sen's grim situation had taken a turn for the better. Shale fought with bestial strength, but he still couldn't bring damage to Han Sen.

"Han Sen's knife skills are very good."

"They are more than good. They are top class. They really are knife skills that come from the Sky."

"Of course. The Sky were kicked out by our race. We should expect this from one of their knife skills."

"Hey! Hey! How about this? If Han Sen really does achieve first place, I wonder what that \*sshole Li Xue Cheng's face will look like."



"I still don't think he will win. Han Sen's knife skills are strong, but his power isn't any better than Shale's. Shale cannot hurt him, but he cannot hurt Shale. This fight will end without a winner, but neither will there be a loser. If they fight long enough, maybe the stamina of the half-deified will deplete. With the deified having greater stamina, he will be able to outlast and win that way."

"Who knows? You're making a lot of guesses, there."

"Haha! If Han Sen takes first place, Li Xue Cheng's face will look brilliant."

"Li Xue Cheng won't be the only person devastated. Liyu Zhen will be in the same boat. Without Liyu Zhen, Li Xue Cheng would never have known treasures weren't allowed to be used in this silkworm bout."

"I really hope Han Sen wins. And then, I want to see the faces of those two \*sshholes. How dare they try to trick us."

...

Li Xue Cheng and Liyu Zhen's faces already looked fairly amazing. Their eyes had almost popped out of their sockets as they watched the battle video.

"He won't lose... Shale will not lose this... He will win. He will win..." The two of them were going insane. Their mouths kept repeating those sentences. The unease within them was growing with every passing second.

"The sky and the ground are like a game of chess that keeps changing. Everything is like a knife, and they all have a path. Shale, try to taste my Under the Sky knife." Han Sen's knifemind was like a volcano that could no longer keep its magma inside. It erupted in a large fountain at Shale. Han Sen used his hand like a knife and slashed towards him.

"Good job." Shale had power, but there had been nowhere for him to use it. Now that Han Sen wanted to fight directly, this was perfect for him. Scary substance chains gathered on his fist, and he threw his fist forward to meet Han Sen's attack.

Buzz!

Space rippled and shattered under the force of Shale's punch. Substance chains that looked like demon lions ripped through reality around him. Lion mouths became giant black holes in space, and they tried to swallow Han Sen.

But Han Sen remained unmoving. His hand kept swinging downward, but no knife air appeared around his hand. His hand fell in a simple cutting motion.

The sight filled the audience with confusion. As they watched, they saw all of the mountains and rivers of the valley, the grass, the flowers, and the woods, become consumed by a knife light. All different kinds of knife lights all across the valley lit up. Knight lights suddenly seemed to make up the entire landscape around the two fighters. And all of those attacks were coming for Shale.

Countless knife lights crossed each other. There were so many, it was like a flood. All of them surged toward Shale and his demonic lions.

Shale summoned the power of his substance chains. He wasn't afraid of those King class knife lights, but he realized belatedly that there were too many of them. Scary demon lion punch powers and substance chains were breaking in the middle of that knife light.

### **Chapter 2687 Apollo Se**

At that moment, all anyone could see was the image of Han Sen thrusting a blade forward. Every object in the universe seemed to be releasing a knife light. They all followed the will of Han Sen's blade, pulling together into a barrage of knife lights that covered the sky and the ground. They were all coming together around Shale, who looked like a demonic lion.

Not even an elite like Shale could block knife lights that appeared to have been generated by everything in the universe. The demonic lion surged toward Han Sen, determined to push through the tide of knife lights. He was breaking through the rush of attacks like a dam against a flood.

"Impossible... Shale cannot lose a fight like this... No, no, no!" Liyu Zhen and Li Xue Cheng's jaws were clenched and their nostrils flared. And then, their mouths fell open. They were too stunned by the sight before them to even make a noise. In their hearts, however, torrential tears of sadness were coming down.

But their inner cries wouldn't be able to save Shale. As the knife lights flooded into Shale, appearing relentlessly from the sky and ground, the demonic lion began to break. Shale's body couldn't take it anymore. The moment the demonic lion broke, the substance chains across Shale's body were shattered by the flood. The knife lights began to slash directly across his body, and his deified form was dealt a river of wounds.

The knife lights were only half-deified in level. One slash, ten slashes, even a hundred slashes, wouldn't have been enough to damage the deified Shale.

But these knife lights were beyond counting. Their numbers appeared infinite, and as they attacked in ceaseless succession, not even Shale's deified form was able to withstand the stream.

Of course, this was all because of Shale's deified body wasn't strong enough. If he had achieved true invincibility, it wouldn't have mattered how many knife lights were thrown at him. Regrettably, his body wasn't that strong yet.

Seeing Shale's body inside that flood of attacks, with blood flying everywhere, Liyu Zhen and Li Xue Cheng almost collapsed to the floor. Open Sky Elder and the others, however, were in sheer euphoria.

Exquisite and Li Keer were immeasurably happy, too. They could feel Han Sen's knifemind with Under the Sky in operation. By watching this fight, they had been able to learn Under the Sky knife skills.

Ultimately, that scary flood of knife lights hadn't come directly from the sky or the ground. Not even a little. It was all a knife light Han Sen had already cast. After it broke, it melted into the sky, the earth, everything there was. He used the powers of the sky and the earth to reconstitute that energy into knife lights.

This was similar to knife silks but even better. The sky and the ground themselves had become carriers for the knife lights. After the knife lights were generated, they appeared in every element imaginable. They had become far scarier than the pure knife silks that Han Sen had used for so long.

The knife lights that broke and entered water, after they regenerated to become knife lights again, would carry the water element with them. When the knife lights melted into the soil of the mountains, after they generated again, they would carry the elements of the mountains.

But Under the Sky still relied on Han Sen's own powers. It had taken a long time for Han Sen to accumulate enough power in his surroundings to pull off this attack. The more Han Sen used knife lights during a fight, the stronger the knife light flood would be when he finally activated it.

That meant this skill required a lot of time to prepare. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to unleash such a vast amount of power.

"Under the Sky is decent. With this skill, Han Sen can fight others of the same level or a higher level. If he can repeat this whenever he wishes, he will be an unbreakable combatant. If he can last a long time, then when Under the Sky explodes, others of the same level would never be able to block this knife light torrent that is absolutely everywhere. It was unfortunate Shale ended up going against Han Sen," Li Keer concluded with a sigh, looking at Shale. His body was out of his control. The endless flood of knife lights were tossing his body away like flotsam on the ocean.

"To beat Han Sen, he would have had to defeat him quickly. Han Sen's enemies will have to defeat or suppress him in a short amount of time, lest they end up losing," Exquisite said.

"His use of Under the Sky is excellent. It allowed him to completely dominate Shale, right at the end. It looks like I will have to focus on training Shale against this power. When they fight again, Han Sen will not be able to use Under the Sky knife anymore," Li Chun Qiu coldly said. He didn't get emotional about Shale's failure. Instead, he analyzed precisely why Shale was losing, and how he could further perfect Shale as a warrior.

Han Sen slashed and then stopped. He didn't allow the flood of knife lights to rip Shale entirely to shreds. He raised his hands, and the knife lights everywhere shattered. They rose and disappeared. The valley was returned to the sound of silence.

"You win." Shale stood up. He could still fight, but he was now willing to concede to Han Sen. After standing up, he teleported to someplace beyond the seal.

He knew Han Sen had dismissed the attack halfway instead of using its full power. If Shale had taken the full force of those knife lights, he would have been torn to pieces. So, continuing to struggle was pointless.

Li Xue Cheng and Liyu Zhen were kneeling on the ground. Their eyes were frozen, and they could scarcely believe the result. They couldn't accept it.

“What do we do? We have to pay back a huge debt, and the Open Sky jewelry...” The minds of the pair were struggling to work.

“Just one knife skill was enough to mimic Sky and Men Combined Together. This Han Sen is fantastic material. It is a shame he is just a silkworm and not a genuine heir of the Very High.” Open Sky Elder was delighted that he had won the bet, but he couldn’t help but feel that Han Sen’s low status was a terrible shame.

After the fight with Shale, no other silkworm dared challenge Han Sen. They fought each other and eventually departed the valley. In the end, only Han Sen remained inside the seal. When all the others had left, the seal was lifted.

At the same time, a square, bronze chest appeared. It descended from the sky, carried by warm light, to land beside Han Sen.

Han Sen grabbed the bronze chest and opened it. Inside were the seven pieces that comprised the Apollo Set.

Han Sen didn’t bother pretending to be humble about all this. He put on the Apollo Set immediately. There was a helmet, an upper chest piece, a lower torso piece, a pair of gauntlets, and a pair of battle boots. Seven deified treasures now clad his body. The chrome of the armor made Han Sen look like a mirror man.

When Han Sen put on the last piece of the armor, a giant, silver pair of wings appeared on Han Sen’s back. They really did make him look like Apollo, shining in the sky.

Many of the silkworms looked at Han Sen with great envy, but Han Sen actually had the audacity to complain. “What kind of crap is this Apollo Set? It’s like I’m wearing a light bulb. This makes me stick out like a sore thumb. I’ll be brighter than the sun itself. The enemy will see me coming from tens of thousands of miles away. It’s not like I’ll be able to hide in the bushes when I’m wearing this thing. It’s like a giant, bright, neon target.”

Although Han Sen was complaining, the Apollo Set did exude a powerful aura. That made Han Sen very happy.

His half-deified power wasn’t enough to activate the full might of the Apollo Set just yet, but it would still complement his current standing. It could already generate a few minor substance chains. And that was especially true of the Apollo Wings that had appeared behind him. They gave Han Sen a speed that could rival a primitive deified. He might have even been a bit faster than Shale.

Han Sen spread the Apollo Wings, then teleported next to Li Keer and Exquisite. His speed was far greater than it had been before.

“This is similar to the power I gain when I use the peacock soul robe. The Apollo Wings don’t give me as much speed as the peacock soul robe, but the power of the Apollo Set isn’t fully activated yet. Once it is used to its full potential, I might be able to fight larva deifieds like Meng Lie.” Han Sen admired his Apollo Set. He really loved it.

## **Chapter 2688 Broken Underworld Silk**

The smoke and the fog were as heavy as rain. There was a garden that housed a lake, and Li Keer and Exquisite were sitting at a stone table nearby. They appeared to be in a state of confusion.

“Have you thought about Under the Sky’s flaws?” Exquisite asked, glancing at Li Keer.

Li Keer shook her head. “What about you?”

Exquisite shook her head as well. She frowned and said, “For us, silkworms are a way of gaining new understanding. However, they aren’t merely tools for learning. Our situation now is both good and bad. On the positive side, we’re learning a lot from Han Sen, and he’s allowed us to feel what having a truly powerful will is like. He will help us accelerate our growth. But if we keep learning and following him, we will simply be copying his progress. We will be aping him, so to speak. And no matter how closely we try to replicate what he has done, we will never achieve what the true Han Sen can accomplish. The path we tread must be one that leads to glory greater than our silkworm’s. We need to trailblaze a path of our own. But with the way things are now, that might be a very difficult prospect.”

Li Keer cut in quickly. “Perhaps, but Han Sen’s will is too strong. At our level, we won’t be able to pinpoint his flaws for our own betterment.”

“The fact that we can confess something like that is terrible, without a doubt. He is supposed to be our silkworm. We are not supposed to be his. If Han Sen leaves the impression that we cannot exceed his talents, then we are already limited by him,” Exquisite said with a look of seriousness.

“In that case, what do you propose we do about it?” Li Keer couldn’t think of a way around this problem.

If Han Sen left an indelible impression of invincibility on their peers, then their achievements would be forever overshadowed by his own. That wasn’t the sort of silkworm they were looking for.

“Han Sen needs to lose once. A loss is the only way that impression of him can be erased from our hearts,” Exquisite said.

“Even Shale lost to him. I highly doubt that any other silkworm will come close to rivaling him in the near future.” Li Keer looked at Exquisite with confusion. She wasn’t entirely sure what her Third Sister was implying.

“Why do you suggest it has to be a silkworm? Now that Han Sen has achieved first place, he should be able to go to Jail Demon Hall. He can start practicing there. First, it will be a great help for his own abilities. Secondly, he will probably get crushed. Once that happens, he will lose his confidence and cockiness. Thirdly, it will break the image we have of him. We’ll have a hard time viewing him as being so incredible if he gets defeated. That sounds like three birds with one stone, if you ask me,” Exquisite said coldly.

“This is a brilliant idea. Now, let us go and register his application to enter Jail Demon Hall. Open Sky Elder earned a lot from Han Sen, so I doubt he will refuse his request to go there,” Li Keer replied merrily.

Han Sen and Bao'er were still fishing at Underworld Lake. Li Keer gave an Underworld Silk to Bao'er, so Han Sen no longer had to share his own. But Han Sen was still feeling quite depressed. After he fished up the Xuan Yellow Sutra, the only things he had pulled from the lake were utter trash. Rusted armor and broken weapons were a frequent sight. He had even collected bits of broken statues and the like.

One time had been particularly bad. While he was fishing, he latched onto something super heavy. He had instantly assumed, based on the weight, that he had snagged something amazing. He spent half the day reeling it in. When he finally pulled it free of the lake, it was just a three-meter-tall statue with shoulders and legs missing. Han Sen's lungs almost exploded.

Bao'er was sometimes able to fish up pieces of jewelry. Han Sen didn't know what they were for.

And also, the entire time, the 16 pigs continued to follow Bao'er around. They frequently munched on Bao'er's snacks, but they didn't grow at all. They each remained the size of a fist. They looked small and cute, but as far as Han Sen could tell, they were completely useless. If they were not spending their days eating and sleeping, they were sleeping and eating. It was either that or following Bao'er's \*ss and running around everywhere.

“Dad, come here! There is something coming. It is so heavy...” Bao'er suddenly exclaimed.

Han Sen quickly approached her, and he started tugging the string. It really did feel like something absurdly heavy. It was like the other end of the string was attached to a small mountain.

Han Sen and Bao'er used all their strength as they tried to reel in the Underworld Silk from the lake. After pulling it for a while, they finally saw something coming up from below the swirling clouds. They could see its corner as it rose from the mist.

“What is this thing?” Han Sen looked shocked when he saw the item.

Based on what he could see, Han Sen could tell that the item was built from bronze. It had an opening that was one meter wide at the top and narrowed as it went farther down.

As the bronze item was slowly pulled up, more and more of it appeared above the fog. Han Sen could soon see that this bronze item's opening was one meter in size. It was a statue of a sheep's head.

No, not a single sheep's head. Each of the object's four corners held a sheep's head.

“This thing... It looks like a Four Sheep Cube,” Han Sen thought to himself when the bronze item finally slid into full view.

Pang!

It sounded as if something had broken. Although the bronze item had almost completely been removed from the lake, its ascension came to a halt. The Underworld Silk holding the statue had snapped.

Han Sen watched the Four Sheep Cube sink back into the mist of the lake. He didn't know if it was an illusion or not, but Han Sen could see the four sheep heads seemed to smile strangely at him as the object disappeared.

Han Sen stared at the lake in confusion. The Underworld Silk had broken with ease, which was a first. Han Sen and Bao'er had spent a long time fishing with Underworld Silks, and never before had this happened. Now, the Underworld Silk had simply snapped without them understanding why.

He wanted to ask Li Keer and Exquisite, but they weren't present. Han Sen had nothing else to do except continue his mellow fishing experience.

"It has been a few days. Mister White should have some news for me. I should ask Li Keer to take me to the desert again," Han Sen said to himself as he continued fishing. He had a simmering sense of excitement regarding the Xuan Yellow Sutra.

Han Sen wouldn't even have to practice the strange geno art. He only had to reverse his Blood-Pulse Sutra to make use of it. How lucky was he to stumble on such an easy new geno art?

"I hope the Xuan Yellow Sutra is useful," Han Sen thought to himself. But then he suddenly heard Bao'er shouting, "Dad, something is coming. Come and help me!"

Han Sen saw Bao'er's small hand clutching the Underworld Silk. She seemed to be struggling. The Underworld Silk had latched onto something heavy that kept the line taut, just like earlier.

Han Sen raced over to her and grabbed hold of Bao'er's Underworld Silk to pull the next item up. Whatever he was bringing up now was heavier than the Four Sheep Cube.

Han Sen and Bao'er fought against that immense weight. There was a power that was pulling downward, struggling against them. They were on the verge of losing the Underworld Silk or getting pulled into the lake themselves.

The sixteen little piggies came over, too. They all stood in a line to bite the Underworld Silk. Then they leaned back, pulling it like a big game of tug o' war.

"Put your back into it, comrades... One, two, one, two..." Two people and sixteen small piglets were pulling the silk. They all shouted. After half a day, they finally saw something emerge from the lake.

When they finally saw it, Han Sen couldn't help but shout, "It is the Four Sheep Cube again!"

### **2689 Jail Demon Hall**

"We managed to fish it up again!" Han Sen was shocked. He thought about the Four Sheep Cube that plummeted back down with the four eerie faces smiling at him. He looked closely at the heads of the sheep.

He jerked back in surprise. The bronze sheep had their eyebrows lowered, and their eyes were half-closed. They looked like monks that were meditating. They were no longer smiling as they were earlier.

“Are the expressions on the four sheep heads different?” Han Sen wondered to himself. Then, he heard a pang. The Underworld Silk snapped again.

Han Sen watched the Four Sheep Cube quickly sink again. This time, he could see the bronze sheep heads clearly. Their meditative expression was gone now. The sheep smiled creepily. It looked as if they were squinting their eyes to look at them.

“Is that thing alive?” Han Sen wondered curiously. But before he could examine it any further, the Four Sheep Cube was lost in the lake once more.

“Now this is weird. Why have we fished up the same thing twice in a row? And why does that thing seem as if it is alive? Do living creatures actually exist in the anti-material world?” Han Sen pondered. He didn’t know much about Underworld Lake, and he would have to wait for Li Keer and Exquisite to return so he could ask them.

Many more occurrences followed that one, though. Bao’er managed to fish up that Four Sheep Cube a number of times. She could never pull it all the way up, though. The object would always detach and fall back into the lake.

As for Han Sen, he only ever managed to fish up useless garbage.

The triangular symbol on the small jade figure lit up. Han Sen knew Li Keer and Exquisite were on their way back. Not long later, he saw them appear via teleport on the shores of the lake.

“Han Sen, I understand you are always keen to hunt xenogeneics, yes? We have found a suitable location for you. There are primitive deified xenogeneics to kill, and it is safe. You will have the chance to take down a primitive deified xenogenic solo,” Li Keer said with a smile.

“There’s such a good hunting ground out here? Why didn’t you tell me sooner?” Han Sen asked, looking at Li Keer with suspicion.

“Before the silkworm bouts, there were places that you weren’t qualified to enter. Now that you’ve earned first place among the silkworms, though, things are different,” Li Keer explained.

“I see.” Han Sen’s mind wandered back to the Four Sheep Cube, so he told them about his experience trying to fish it out of the lake a few times.

When they heard the story, Li Keer and Exquisite’s faces both went grey. Exquisite looked at Han Sen and asked, “The Four Sheep Cube you fished up... Would you say it was three or four meters tall?”

Exquisite described the Four Sheep Cube she was thinking of, and it turned out to be the exact same one Han Sen had seen.

“Yes, that is the one. Is there a problem with it?” Han Sen asked, glancing at the two women’s expressions. He knew there was something dodgy about this.



Li Keer and Exquisite looked at each other. Exquisite said, "This Four Sheep Cube is something the Very High have fished up before."

After saying that, Exquisite stopped.

"And then?" Han Sen asked.

"Let me explain." Li Keer looked at Han Sen with a strange face and said, "Our people have fished up the Four Sheep Cube before. But that thing is not an omen of good luck. All the Very High who fished up the Four Sheep Cube ended up having misfortune fall upon them."

Han Sen heart jumped. He frowned and asked, "What happened to them? Were they injured, or did they just end up dead?"

Li Keer shook her head. "They were neither hurt nor killed. According to the histories of the Very High, there were three Very High that fished up the Four Sheep Cube. One of them was the one who made the Sky and Sky Palace."

"Isn't that a good thing? Why would you consider that unlucky?" Han Sen didn't understand what she was trying to say. Building a race and becoming supremely powerful was something glorious. Why would they consider that a misfortune?

"Well..." With a wry smile, Li Keer went on to say, "The second Very High that fished up the Four Sheep Cube had something happen to him. It made him kill his parents. And then, he betrayed the Very High."

After pausing, Li Keer said, "The third one that fished up the Four Sheep Cube ended up stealing an important treasure from the Very High. Then, he disappeared. Where he went, no one knows."

"So whoever fishes up the Four Sheep Cube is from the Very High... and they have all betrayed the Very High..." Now Han Sen understood why the Four Sheep Cube might have been deemed unlucky.

"Although there is no proof, there are records that confirm that the Four Sheep Cube was connected to all three." Exquisite had a wry smile.

Han Sen coughed awkwardly. "I'm not from the Very High. I will leave one day. That doesn't mean I will betray you one day, does it?"

Exquisite went very quiet, then said, "The three Very High that I talked about only fished the Four Sheep Cube once. They never saw it before or after that one time. But you seem to have fished it up six times. Although the whole betrayal thing is just a guess, this item is considered taboo for our race. You and Bao'er should never again mention the fact that you fished up the Four Sheep Cube. It is best not to stir up any trouble."

Han Sen nodded. He had originally thought it might be a useful item, but he'd had no clue it was actually so profoundly unlucky. He wasn't going to mention what he fished up to anyone else.

That being said, he didn't know many people in the Very High. Even if he wanted to tell someone else, there was no one he could tell.

“Let’s go. You two shouldn’t visit Underworld Lake for a while,” Exquisite said to them. Then, she teleported Han Sen and Bao’er away from the lake.

Han Sen asked Li Keer about the place they were headed – a location known as Jail Demon Hall – and what sort of xenogeneics he would be able to kill. He learned that the place used to be a mere cave, but the Very High built a palace atop it.

Calling the structure a “palace” was a bit misleading, though. In actuality, it was more like a prison. A xenogenic had lived in the cave beneath Jail Demon Hall for a long time. The creature lacked the power to escape its prison, but after a while, it learned how to create a doppelganger that could enter the palace above the cave. The doppelganger was a primitive deified. Now, every so often, the Very High had to go to Jail Demon Hall and kill the doppelganger to make sure that the xenogenic stayed contained.

Li Keer and Exquisite had already filled out the paperwork that would allow them to hunt in Jail Demon Hall. Now that his request had been granted, Han Sen would be given the chance to solo a deified xenogenic.

“A primitive class deified xenogenic, huh? I can test the strength of my Apollo Set this way, and earn a deified xenogenic gene as well. That is two birds with one stone,” Han Sen thought happily.

The peacock king beast robe and the Six Core Snake Bow were items Han Sen didn’t dare use while Li Keer or Exquisite were around. He didn’t want them to realize that beast souls and treasures were different.

His new Apollo Set would do a great deal to help Han Sen keep his secrets.

The four of them went to Jail Demon Hall. There, Li Keer pulled Bao’er to the side so that Han Sen could enter Jail Demon Hall alone. The rest of them would wait outside.

Han Sen wasn’t suspicious. He thought they just wanted to get more of his battle experience and knowledge, and that was why they had asked him to go and kill the doppelganger xenogenic. He pushed the door open and entered Jail Demon Hall.

### **Chapter 2690 Scary Primitive Deified Xenogenic**

Jail Demon Hall had been built for that xenogenic. When Han Sen entered it, he couldn’t feel the restrictive effects. The hall’s architecture was incredibly strange. The floors of an ordinary hall were usually flat or subtly sloped as they led up toward a stage. Inside this hall, however, all four sides of the hall led down a series of broad steps to a ten-meter-long stone platform at the bottom.

The stone platform was covered in symbols that Han Sen had never seen before. Although he had no clue what they meant, he could sense a strange power coming from the runes.

An ink-black stone pillar sat in the center of the stone platform, and it ran all the way up to connect with the hall’s ceiling. The upper portion of the pillar was covered in engravings and markings, but Han Sen’s attention was instantly drawn to the pillar’s base, and to the creature that had been bound there.

That creature looked vaguely humanoid, but the body was insectile. Its shell was blood-red, and a red horn rose from its head, making it look something like a unicorn. Its eyes also flashed with a bloody, crimson color. It was full of rage and murderous desires.

While Han Sen observed that trapped creature, the creature stared up at Han Sen, too. It suddenly opened its mouth and revealed the jagged, saw-like teeth that adorned its maw. It let out a high-pitched scream at Han Sen.

It began to thrash around violently, and when it moved, the markings across the stone pillar lit up. The chains attached to the pillar also began to glow. They tightened their grip on the creature, making it harder for the furious being to escape from the stone pillar.

“It really is a primitive deified.” Upon seeing the red substance chains appearing around the creature, a delighted expression crossed Han Sen’s face.

Outer Sky had many xenogeneics, but most of them were very frightening. It would have been too risky for Han Sen to go out and pick a fight with some random xenogeneic. Now, a primitive deified xenogeneic had been handed to Han Sen on a platter. Han Sen was extremely pleased with the way this was turning out.

Han Sen donned his Apollo Set, and then, the Apollo Wings fluttered slightly. They sent him zipping toward the stone platform in an instant. He turned his hand into a knife and slashed at the xenogeneic bound to the stone pillar.

Han Sen was still using Under the Sky, but with the extra strength that the Apollo Set was giving him, a frightening substance chain knife air was unleashed as he activated the skill. His attack was like a sunlight blade as it came down against the xenogeneic’s neck.

The xenogeneic hissed like a viper, and its red substance chains exploded like a volcano. It broke free of the restraints of the stone pillar, and its talons flashed toward Han Sen like red blades.

Katcha!

Han Sen’s knife air was as strong as the strike of an ordinary primitive deified, but against that xenogeneic’s claws, Han Sen’s attack didn’t stand a chance. Before Han Sen could even attack, the creature had brushed aside his attack and rushed within striking distance.

The hand knife and the claws collided. The claws left deep cuts across Han Sen’s gauntlet. Three bloody scratches across his hand before to ooze blood. Fortunately, Han Sen was able to react quickly. He abandoned his attack and then teleported away. If he hadn’t reacted instantly, the creature’s blow would have amputated his hands.

“Why is it so strong?” Han Sen wondered in shock.

He had just finished teleporting away when the xenogeneic was in front of him again. Its claws came down on his chest, cutting straight through the Apollo armor like it was made of butter.

The wings of the Apollo Set flapped. Han Sen quickly retreated, putting more distance between himself and the xenogeneic. But there was a glow of bloody light around the creature's body, and it came for him again like a rocket. Its speed was unfathomable, and again, its claws were digging into Han Sen's chest. The red substance chains became claw-like lights, and they carved five grooves deep into Han Sen's chest. His ribs were almost visible through the wounds.

"Is this guy really just primitive?" Han Sen muttered in consternation. He used Under the Sky and teleported rapidly as he attempted to get ahead of the xenogeneic.

But it was a futile endeavor. The xenogeneic seemed to predict every movement Han Sen sought to make. Han Sen had only just moved away when the xenogeneic was in front of him again.

Han Sen screamed, his voice strained. A talon had perforated his stomach. If Han Sen hadn't teleported away fast enough, his guts would have been strung across the floor.

He was fortunate that the Apollo Set was a deified treasure. But even so, beneath the sharp claws of that malevolent xenogeneic, it seemed no stronger than wet tissue. It didn't have the defensive properties that a deified set of armor should have given him.

Han Sen no idea what to do. Although he was fighting a primitive deified, it was only a doppelganger. His true opponent, the real body controlling the creature before him, was a scary true god deified.

This body was just a doppelganger, but it was undoubtedly the best that a deified could be at primitive class. It was in a whole different league than Shale, who had just become a deified.

Even more frightening, its will and its movements were true god class. Han Sen was very proud of his will and power, but before a true god, his capabilities were measly. He was borrowing power from the Apollo Set so he could fight at a deified level, but he still couldn't endure the xenogeneic's attacks.

Every Very High that came to defeat this doppelganger would usually encounter a larva deified for them to kill. Transmutation class deifieds would still take a long time to kill.

Exquisite and Li Keer had told Han Sen this was only a primitive deified. They hadn't told him how scary the creature was, though. Once Han Sen realized how powerful it was, he knew he shouldn't push his luck and continue trying to fight it. He used his teleportation abilities to escape Jail Demon Hall. The attacks he had already survived had left him bloody and injured. If he kept going, there was no doubting the fact he would end up dead.

"Is that xenogeneic really a primitive deified?" Han Sen asked, still clutching the wound in his belly. He looked at Li Keer and Exquisite with suspicion.

"It is true. It really is a primitive class deified, but he is the greatest primitive deified alive. We thought that with your power and will, you could fight it. That is why we signed you up to take it on. I can only suppose we were too hasty," Exquisite said, making sure that her voice sounded quite serious. Her facial

expression was a carefully-crafted mask of disappointment. In her heart, she was actually thinking, "It is good for you to suffer failure every now and again. We don't want you getting too cocky in the future."

Li Keer provided her own sort of comfort. She smiled and said, "Losing here is perfectly understandable. After all, you aren't yet deified. Not being able to beat that fiend means nothing. How about this? We will find weaker deified xenogeneics that are easier for you to defeat."

Han Sen knew Li Keer and Exquisite wouldn't be lying to him about this stuff. If they said that the xenogeneic was a primitive deified, then it probably was.

"That xenogeneic really was strong." Han Sen paused, observing Exquisite and Li Keer. Then, he said, "Is there a time limit to kill this xenogeneic?"

"It will take six months for the Jail Demon Hall's xenogeneic to build up enough power to escape its prison. Usually, our people try to kill it within three months, just to be on the safe side. If it escapes and gets in contact with the other xenogeneics in Outer Sky, it might be able to save its true self," Li Keer said.

"If there is still time, then I will try to defeat it again." Han Sen didn't want to just give up.