

Super Power

Chapter 1101: Humans and Spirits Are Happy

People who hadn't seen Han Sen fight before were in shock. The rainfall of coins was insane.

Su Xiaoqiao was excited when he saw the coins be unleashed. He had witnessed their might before, but he still harbored wariness. He wasn't entirely sure they'd be as effective against such a powerful spirit.

Fei Yu King noticed Han Sen's lack of speech, so he immediately drew his bow. The weapon was bathed in a white light.

Whoosh!

Countless white arrows were fired upwards, targeting the individual coins. A loud flurry of noises came from the air, as each and every arrow was shot down.

The humans were all in shock, not expecting such a quick and efficient retaliation. They quivered in the hope that Dollar would not lose.

"What is The King doing? Those coins are rubbish."

"His inability to inefficiently fight Fei Yu King is to be expected."

"The skill is useless."

...

The spirits did not think the coins were very good. They might have looked impressive, but that was about it. Their actual effectiveness in battle against such a foe was nil, they believed.

It appeared as if Fei Yu King wanted to shoot down all the coins, but what he wanted to do was blow them up. But strangely, the arrows fell with the coins attached.

"How?" His nine gene lock power should not have been rendered worthless like that.

It would have been ridiculous to believe The King had opened eight gene locks.

But the coins were not stopped, and they continued to fall like rain. Each drop went with the grace of a warming holy light.

It was too late for Han Sen's opponent to dodge, so he merely fired more arrows in a final bid to stop the coins.

The coins fell, but they were quickly replaced as Han Sen summoned more. It was now a storm of coins, and before it was over, the coins were no longer like rain. They were like a waterfall, and they quickly and brutally buried Fei Yu King.

Humans and spirits alike were in shock.

Fei Yu King wished to fly away, but the coins were incredibly heavy.

He was shocked. He had wholly underestimated The King and the coins he commanded.

He wanted to shake them off, but he couldn't. Each one was like a mountain that wished to trap him.

Fei Yu King was most efficient with speed and archery, so he didn't have to fight Han Sen face-to-face.

He underestimated The King, so he had gone into battle casually and without worry.

Roar!

Fei Yu King shouted like a beast, one that was stuck and unable to escape the trappings of a hunter. He wished to shake them off so he could fly away, but there was nothing he could do.

He managed to get airborne, but after a few meters of slow flight, he was grounded again. And then, he began to sink into the stage.

His body looked as if it was ready to burst under the frightening pressure of all those coins.

Pang!

Fei Yu King was on his knees.

Everyone was shocked by what was happening. A nine gene lock king spirit was unable to stand up and fight Han Sen, and was instead on his knees before him. His body was cracking like glass.

"Dollar is too f*cking strong!" Su Xiaoqiao shouted.

"I can't believe he beat a king spirit so easily."

"If he was joining Divinity's Bout, he must have come prepared. It would have been silly to doubt him."

"King spirits are nothing compared to our Dollar."

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A lot of spirits were sharing a similar glee and happiness, too. They knew how strong Fei Yu King was.

"The King completely owned Fei Yu King!"

"With a wag of his finger, he beat a nine gene lock king spirit. Can you believe it?"

"Hail to The King, baby."

Even the faces of the emperors had changed.

"What? He was like us, wasn't he? Supposedly, he had only three gene locks open. How can he beat Fei Yu King a mere few years after?" Thunder-Devil King exclaimed in confusion.

Flower Empress said, "How did he accomplish such a feat?"

"He is frightening. How many gene locks did he open in just a few short years?" Heavenly Empress said, with a surprisingly dour expression and tone of voice.

Boom!

Fei Yu King was completely crushed by the coins, and he exploded.

Blood and feathers danced in the air, as a jellified body remained like a heap of rubbish on the floor.

Sha!

The coins disappeared, leaving behind only the feathers and blood.

A nine gene lock king spirit had been destroyed, just like that.

Seeing Fei Yu King respawn, everyone suddenly became silent.

When Han Sen left the stage, the humans and spirits woke up from a daze.

"Dollar beat a king spirit! Is it time for humanity to grow strong in this place?"

"Hail to The King, baby!"

Humans and spirits alike were happy for Han Sen's victory. They both believed him to be on their side.

Chapter 1102: God

Back in the Martial Hall, exiting super king spirit mode, Han Sen felt a little nauseated and weak. It wasn't as bad as he believed he'd end up, though, and he thought he still had what it took to fight again.

He thought it'd take longer to kill Fei Yu King. By fighting face-to-face, Fei Yu King lost as soon as he allowed the first coin to touch him.

"I didn't think I'd knock him down so quickly. I clearly underestimated myself. With such a decent result, I might as well have another fight."

Han Sen initially predicted he'd be unable to continue fighting after the first battle, but he was wrong. He didn't know who he'd be going up against next, though.

Han Sen found out his next opponent was merely a royal spirit.

"A royal spirit? Oh, please. I can kill that thing in one hit. It shouldn't take too long." Han Sen was overjoyed.

If things continued that way, and he could finish the next four fights with similar results, he could retire for the day and rest.

He could possibly be fully refreshed and rejuvenated the next day, and thus able to fight again.

Han Sen found out his next three opponents were royal spirits. He killed them easily.

The last opponent disappointed Han Sen, though. It was another king spirit.

If it had opened nine gene locks and wasn't as dumb as Fei Yu King, it might prove a difficult battle.

"I'll see what condition I'm in after the next three fights." Han Sen was in the Martial Hall, searching for the final opponent. He wanted to get an idea for how strong he might be.

Han Sen found him engaged in his second fight. He could immediately tell an opponent such as that would be difficult to compete with.

He had indeed opened nine gene locks, and furthermore, he was attuned with the earth element. He could summon stone walls and the like, perfect for blocking the rain of coins.

Han Sen thought, after fighting the next three royal spirits, he'd only have half an hour left of his super king spirit juice.

Even with his brightest estimations, he didn't think he could defeat that king spirit in half an hour.

The second round for Han Sen began shortly after. His opponent was on the stage already. Not wanting to waste a single precious second, Han Sen activated his super king spirit mode and ran towards the stage in haste.

Han Sen was going to kill the royal spirit as fast as he could.

Before he engaged the royal spirit, though, it knelt before him and said, "Greetings. I am Prince Yunsha. It is an honor to share the stage with you."

Before Han Sen could clock his opponent, Prince Yunsha conceded the fight. Han Sen won again, all without lifting a finger. Then he returned to the Martial Hall.

"Did you see that? A spirit knelt before Dollar!"

"He is a god! Since when do spirits behave like that, before a human they do not even know?"

"Am I dreaming? This cannot be!"

"It must be staged. Why don't you go out there and see if they'll kneel before you."

"Even if it was only a royal spirit, it's still pretty nuts to comprehend how willing it was to concede and kneel before the guy."

"I can't believe this."

Humans were driven into a frenzy. They had never seen a spirit so willing to kneel before a human before.

This was something they could only see in their dreams. For such a possibility to be a reality, they weren't sure what to think.

Upon seeing it happen, many people believed they were merely lucid dreaming.

But what happened next made everyone even more insane: the following two royal spirits did the same thing. They introduced themselves and threw in the towel immediately after.

"Am I dreaming? Have those spirits gone nuts?"

Today was a day none would soon forget. It was one for the history books.

If Dollar was previously a name synonymous with power, today it became synonymous with God.

For spirits to obey and worship him like so, they all figured he had to be a god.

Spirits and humans were different. Spirits could respawn, and thus, they could not be afraid of death.

Death was something they could get used to, even. Self-destructing was no big deal in such a place, and if humans ever got their spirit stones, they could do it almost happily.

Spirits would sooner accept death than bow before humans, which made this all the more stunning. But this was also a part of why humans believed themselves to be superior to spirits.

But Han Sen had not only just killed a king spirit, he made spirits obey without a fight. He didn't have their spirit stones in hand. There was no real risk of death for them. Han Sen had done something spectacular. The gesture of what he had done was far more impressive than killing a spirit.

Dollar, in the hearts of humans, was no longer just a strong guy who brought their race glory in battle.

There were many human elites, yes, but none had done what Dollar did. None had made spirits obey before.

Humans were incredibly excited now, especially those who were enslaved by spirits. Han Sen was a beacon of hope for them.

Spirits weren't aware of what humans were thinking, and they thought it was ordinary for other spirits to obey The King. He was far more powerful, after all.

In the Martial Hall, Han Sen frowned. He could only last another half an hour. If he was going to battle his next opponent, his window of opportunity to do so was small.

Chapter 1103: Fighting Ancient Jade

Han Sen's next opponent was another king spirit.

The king spirit's title was Ancient Jade. It was a name that exuded a sort of grace or elegance, but in all truth, the name betrayed the fighter's true self. He was an eight-meter-tall spirit of mighty power and stone.

With each step he took, a crude imprint was left behind in his wake. And with each thumping footstep, the earth quaked.

The humans that watched were in shock. Whenever a royal spirit's weapon collided with the ground, not a scratch was made. But here, all it took was the spirit's footsteps to ruin the floor and leave holes.

"He seems pretty strong. Is Dollar going to be okay facing that thing?" someone wondered.

Su Xiaoqiao responded, saying, "When has Dollar ever lost? If he can kill Fei Yu King so effortlessly, he can most certainly kill this thing."

"You are right. How can he lose? It was silly of me to doubt." A bright hopefulness returned to the person's face.

Humans had been bullied in the Third God's Sanctuary for far too long, so they were all eager to see a human stand in the face of their adversity and show that it was possible to fight back.

Dollar's performance so far had shocked a great number of humans. What had occurred was a miracle they had long wanted to see; they didn't want it snuffed out anytime soon.

Han Sen had no idea what discussions were being held about his performance. He was oblivious to it all. Before the fight, though, he returned to the Alliance so he could relax and regenerate lost strength by bathing in a recovery pool. He wanted to be able to use super king spirit mode longer if he needed to.

Han Sen's communicator rang while he was there, and when he picked it up, he saw that it was Queen giving him a call.

"Did you go to the shelter yet?" Queen asked.

"No, I'm currently bathing. Can't you see that?" Han Sen waved his phone around to give her a look at where he was.

Queen said, "Well, hurry back. Dollar has joined Divinity's Bout. He killed a king spirit, and not only that, the following three opponents bowed and threw the match in fear of him. Three royal spirits! It's insane. He's fighting another king spirit later."

"Really? You're going to the Martial Hall?" If Queen was already in the shelter, waiting in the Martial Hall, it meant she would see him entering the battlegrounds. That would mean only one thing; Dollar's identity would be revealed!

But Queen said, "I will. But I'm in another empty shelter, so I can't return to yours just yet."

"I thought you weren't interested in watching that thing." Han Sen felt relief.

Queen, so far, had shown an insatiable lust for leveling up. It was all she had concerned herself with since he encountered her in the Third God's Shelter. It was almost as if she had to stay in a state of constant motion.

"I wasn't. But previously, there was no hope. And I would have rather spent the time improving myself. But Dollar killed a king spirit; a feat thought to be unachievable by one man. He deserves to be watched."

Queen went on to implore Han Sen, "You must come and watch, too."

"Why?" Han Sen asked.

Queen told him, "Because I'll fix you. Maybe one day you'll be as strong as Dollar, fighting in Divinity's Bout."

Queen quickly hung up after that and went to the shelter.

Han Sen gave a wry smile. His time for relaxation was practically over, and it was time for battle. He exited the pool, put his armor on, and teleported back.

Ancient Jade continued standing in his spot as a spirit conceded before him. It wasn't a royal spirit, though. He lacked the charms to make royal spirits concede.

Han Sen had worked hard to reach his status and prestige as The King. The fact others were willing to obey or concede to him was due to his incredible performance throughout the spirit bases, where he was believed to be invincible. He was an attractive idol to a great number of spirits.

When Han Sen arrived in the Martial Hall, Ancient Jade King was on the battleground already. He was waiting.

There was still some time left, though. And Han Sen spent this time observing his next opponent.

It was going to be quite difficult to kill a nine gene lock king spirit in a mere thirty minutes.

After what happened with Fei Yu King, Han Sen guessed future king spirits would treat The King like an actual threat. He didn't think he could one-hit-kill Fei Yu King so easily.

Furthermore, Taia and Phoenix Sword could not be used. Gold Raven, Disloyal Knight, and Golden Growler couldn't be used, either.

All he could use was Devil Pill. With the time to join almost up, he turned into a super king spirit and walked out onto the stage to face his next opponent.

Spirits and humans alike were shouting and chanting, all in Han Sen's support.

Seeing Han Sen walk out, Ancient Jade King flashed with a light of varying colors. A stone wall manifested out of the earth, shielding him in a barricade of rock.

"Your coins are useless against me," Ancient Jade King called out from within his shelter of stone.

“Really?” Han Sen clicked his fingers. From out of thin air, coins began to descend from the sky in a torrent like rain.

Ancient Jade King bolstered the strength of his walls and raised them higher to prevent the coins from touching him. When too many coins built up on the rock, it shattered.

This was something the spirit had prepared for, though. When the wall was just about to buckle and crumble entirely, another wall was ready to swap with its position. No coin seemed able to touch Ancient Jade King.

“Is that all you’ve got?” Ancient Jade King coldly laughed as he taunted Han Sen, figuring he had overcome Han Sen’s signature move.

Han Sen did not say anything in response, though. In his hand, he wielded a black sword.

The sword was wreathed in a holy light, and with a thrust, it came barreling towards Ancient Jade King.

Chapter 1104: Allure of Money

Katcha!

As the black sword sliced through a multitude of stone walls, more were raised to take the place of their fallen rocky counterparts.

Ancient Jade King did not fight Han Sen face-to-face, and he remained purely on the defensive. He kept on dodging and dodging. The only vain attempts of attack he had tried were the occasional raising of spiky rocks from the ground.

“This is a troubling foe. His powers of commanding the earth are formidable!” Han Sen thought to himself.

Making use of his Devil Pill in conjunction with super king spirit mode made Han Sen a combatant to be feared. He could slice through the rocks with ease, but the sheer abundance of them made it difficult for him to gain any real ground and advance on his enemy.

Seeing Han Sen continuing to chase Ancient Jade King in a dazzling display of cut rock and dust, the hype train was going at full-speed for the spectators.

“Dollar is so good! The king spirit is cowering like a beaten mutt.”

“He is the best surpasser. Hands down.”

“The King is invincible.”

“I bet even those emperors would lose against The King.”

“What if he is an emperor already? Titles can be misleading.”

Flower Empress and Heavenly Empress were watching this match with keen interest, as well. They were amazed by Han Sen’s performance.

The earth element was incredibly dense and heavy, yet Han Sen was easily able to destroy each shield of stone. They were deployed by a foe with nine gene locks, and yet Han Sen might as well have been dicing butter. It was incredibly likely only emperors could possess such mighty powers.

Ancient Jade King was taken aback by The King, too. He had not expected to be subjected to such fierce attacks, and he knew it was only a matter of time before he lost.

They had both opened nine gene locks, that much was clear. But even so, Han Sen was considerably stronger. All Ancient Jade King could do was dodge, as much as he hated doing it.

Han Sen was able to suppress him, but the moves he used to avoid defeat were cheap and infuriating. He was too good at producing shields. Whenever Han Sen thought there was an opening to strike the opponent himself, he’d still end up hitting a newly-produced wall of rock.

This wouldn’t have been an issue if Han Sen hadn’t been on a timer. But being on the clock, it was stressful and concerning.

Fifteen minutes had passed by this point, and Han Sen’s mind raced in search of a method to knock-down Ancient Jade King and keep him there.

Han Sen was dominating, but no one knew his life was depending on it. He was in a big rush.

“F*ck! I have to use this.” Han Sen stopped chasing Ancient Jade King and instead, summoned a single coin between two of his fingers.

The coin seemed fairly ordinary, up until it started to glow. After a moment of glowing, a number showed up on it.

1... 2... 3... 4...

It was ominous to see. And the higher the number went, the spookier it felt.

“What is he doing?” People wondered what Han Sen was going to do next, and what the result of that coin would be.

If Han Sen put all his power into one coin, it’d still prove useless, they thought.

Ancient Jade King was confident in his shields, and if the coin was imbued with such power, he was sure he could use his stone walls to block it while he ran elsewhere in evasion.

The coin grew even brighter now, as Han Sen did indeed imbue it with a terrifying amount of his own power.

The numbers continued to rise, until it hit the number ten.

Han Sen felt his body become drained of all strength. The number on the coin was a display of how much of his power had been put inside and multiplied.

It was incredible.

If the coin was equivalent to one of Han Sen's frighteningly powerful punches, then ten meant ten of those.

The coin quivered with the immense amount of power stored within, with the number ten signifying it having ten times the power it'd normally have.

It was a new technique Han Sen had developed, which he called "Saving Money." Saving Money took time, and it wasn't something that could be done quickly. It'd also cost a lot of power.

Also, by using Saving Money, he couldn't go anywhere. He couldn't move. And what's more, interruptions would result in a cancellation of all progress made.

While that may have been considered a significant downside, it wasn't all that bad, in practice. The coin could be fired whenever, at any cost of power. If it looked likely he was going to be interrupted, he could just fire it then and there.

But firing it meant you'd have to start from zero again.

And firing it at a lower number wasn't as effective as it would be at a higher number, either. It'd be much weaker.

It was a move that had been designed to be used with a teammate. It'd have been much easier to use if there was someone else on the field, distracting enemies.

Han Sen was going to use it now, though, because Ancient Jade King had only proven himself to be a wimp. He didn't even try attacking.

Han Sen's coin hit the number ten. To Han Sen, he regarded this as "saving ten dollars."

If it was a brave king spirit he was fighting against, he'd have most certainly been interrupted by now.

But Ancient Jade King had waited for a while, giving Han Sen the space to build up power. Now, after hitting ten, Ancient Jade King decided to try and attack.

Seeing Ancient Jade King shoot a stone wall at Han Sen, Han Sen fired an exchange. He blasted his coin towards the cowardly spirit, uttering the words, "Be tempted by the allure of money and become its thrall."

The coin flew towards Ancient Jade King, emblazoned with the number eleven.

Chapter 1105: Curse of Immortality

Over the past few years, Han Sen had studied and learned much alongside Bai Yishan. He spent most of his time researching the powers of the Coin Toad's energy flow and developing Saving Money.

Creating hyper geno arts was not easy, and he had only managed to create one during all that time.

What he often referred to as “Make It Rain” was not a proper skill, just a barrage technique he employed. Saving Money was different to this, as it actually involved a warping of the powers that would be used.

Humans could create and use powers that were complex in their employment. The intricate nature of human skills was why they took a long time to master, but it was also what gave them an edge against spirits. Spirits were a lot more basic, and their power was often derived from simple strength. If all battles were a direct collision of strength, spirits would almost always win.

Saving Money used the coins as a base. It was a combination of that and Bao’er’s energy flow.

Saving Money made use of a suction vacuum, courtesy of Bao’er. Through an analysis of her profound magnetic-like abilities, Han Sen was able to work it into amplifying the crushing weight of the coins.

And now, this was to be a first-time showcase of what he had developed. And Han Sen had turned the dial all the way up to eleven.

Pang!

When the coin fired directly towards Ancient Jade King’s body, the spirit’s entire body was suddenly morphed into a stone pillar. And then, a brief second later, it crumbled to the ground.

Ancient Jade King started to run. He knew he couldn’t dodge and deflect such a powerful coin, so his ability to duplicate himself as a pillar was what would save him.

He thought he had managed to get away scot-free, but he was wrong. And when he acknowledged this, his face fell. He felt a wretched suction start pulling him back towards the coin he was trying to escape.

Ancient Jade King tried to fight the tide of suction, but it was futile. He ended up rolling back towards the coin.

The audience only saw Han Sen’s coin destroy a sudden pillar of stone, and when Ancient Jade King tried to make an escape, he was pulled back towards it.

It was a nine gene lock super king spirit’s power multiplied by eleven.

The moment Ancient Jade King came into contact with the coin, his armor shattered.

Ding! Ding!

Nothing but blood remained. And atop it, spinning on its side, was the coin. It was completely clean.

Everyone fell silent upon witnessing what had just occurred. The entire battleground had been devastated by what Han Sen had just done; it was frightening.

But the silence didn't last long. Han Sen had won again, and that warranted grand applause. Screams of fanatical cheering began to erupt.

Han Sen did not have the time to hang around, though. He simply waved and ran back to the shelter.

When he returned, he immediately fell on the floor. He could hardly breathe, and in the aching of his muscles, he ended up flopping in a pool of his own sweat.

Fortunately, he was able to exit just in time. He couldn't risk having that occur in the arena.

After lying down for a while, he felt moderately better. Still, he was incredibly weak.

"Ugh, I'm still so far away from reaching the top ten. What's the use of continuing today and trying to win the entire competition?" Han Sen thought to himself.

While he was ready to call it quits, he did not harbor any regrets. Even without a benefit to himself, he was happy to step on the throats of other spirits.

"It's a shame I couldn't well-and-truly eliminate and kill Fei Yu King," Han Sen said to himself.

With no time to dwell on it, Han Sen returned home and hopped into his recovery pool. Saving Money had put a massive strain on him.

It would take two weeks for him to recover from that, so it was unlikely he could fight again the next day.

Han Sen felt his entire body become drained of power, and every cell in his body had almost zero energy.

Suddenly, though, he felt a power in his heart. It was thumping with a strength greater than he was accustomed to.

Han Sen was shocked, feeling his heart actually begin to change. Power was starting to return, all derived from the new manic pumping of his heart.

"Curse of Immortality? It finally finished after all this time." Han Sen placed his hand on his chest and felt incredibly happy.

Heresy Mantra had four different tiers to it. He had learned the third tier a long time ago; something which was called Long Live. The fourth tier, Curse of Immortality, had not finished yet. But on this day, after having been drained of all energy, Heresy Mantra had finally become ready to evolve.

Han Sen thought to himself, "What changes will Curse of Immortality bring to my body, I wonder?"

Heresy Mantra was a passive skill, but it had always proven useful. It had always been there, like a rock or pillar to support him.

It was like Jade-Sun Force, except this one worked on the heart. The heart was a core component of the human body. While all his other organs were exhausted, Han Sen's heart was stronger than ever.

Where he once felt like dying, now he was full of life. His Heresy Mantra had reached a new tier, and he couldn't be happier.

But with this new-found strength, Han Sen discovered a new hunger. He was starving, very much like the first time he practiced Heresy Mantra.

He crawled out of the pool and returned to the shelter. He brought out some of the creature flesh he had stored and started to stuff his face with it. It was raw.

Chapter 1106: Refining the Crystals

Han Sen was feeling far too hungry. His body was incredibly tired, and he knew he should have been resting, but he was overwhelmed with a strange ravenousness.

He knew such behavior was dangerous. Heresy Mantra was able to hasten his recovery, but he knew the power to do so couldn't just come from anywhere.

If he wanted to recover and get back in tip-top shape, he had to have power.

He was currently not supposed to have any. Curse of Immortality was sure to damage him further, by making him so active in such a weakened condition.

Han Sen kept on scoffing down sacred-blood flesh. He couldn't get enough of the stuff, and he thought each and every fatty, red morsel was better than the highest-class nutritious solution.

After another hefty slab of meat, the hunger of his crying stomach did not relent. The energy inside was not able to keep up with his heart.

But as hungry as he was, his stomach was full. His belly had inflated like a balloon, and there was no room left for food.

His heart was good but his stomach wasn't; there was no way he could eat any more. And even if he was in fine health, he couldn't come anywhere close to eating as much as he just had.

Han Sen was sitting on the floor like a pregnant woman, with his appetite still fierce.

His stomach was stuffed, and yet, he was still so hungry. It was an annoying conundrum to deal with, as two contradicting pains collided.

If Han Sen wasn't as strong a person as he was, he'd undoubtedly be screaming.

His face was all pale, and a ghastly sweat had started to form. His clothes were all soon drenched in this sweat.

Hungry. Hungry. Hungry.

Han Sen placed his hands on his belly and tried to suppress it and fight back against its calling for more food.

Jade-Sun Force could barely provide him with energy. If he wanted to get it started, to put him in better shape, he'd need nutrition. Just like if there was no oil, there was no way to refine gas. Unfortunately for him, Han Sen was too full right now. Even a single pea or grain of corn would be enough to tip him over the edge.

"I should have learned a hyper geno art to improve the fortitude of my stomach," Han Sen said to himself, remorsefully realizing it was now too late for that.

When he crossed Ghost Mountain, the big white snake gave him a Dragon Saliva. It was a super-class geno treasure. If he drank it, he'd most assuredly be energized.

But Han Sen didn't want to use it in such a condition. He was fighting back against the use of something that might save his life.

Han Sen's body was beginning to shrivel now. The fat was burning at a hastened rate, and he was immediately appearing much slimmer.

"Heresy Mantra should be practiced by women; it sure helps you lose weight." Han Sen remained light-hearted, despite his predicament.

While Han Sen contested with whether or not he should eat the Dragon Saliva, the crystallized organs inside him started to feel relieved.

Han Sen was shocked when he noticed this. He found that the crystals inside him had been detached from his organs into a slimy, fatty state; and now, they were being absorbed.

Han Sen was afraid the crystals would change his body, which was why he had not tried absorbing them. But now it was happening whether he wanted it to or not.

He noticed the refined crystals did not blend into his body. They were instead burned like fat, providing energy to his heart.

The heart pounded inside his chest like the chugging of machinery as it worked hard to refine materials. And as this occurred, his stomach began to feel lighter. The hunger he was feeling began to subside.

As Han Sen digested these crystals inside, the media was having a field day back in the Alliance. They were ecstatic over the fact Dollar had managed to kill two king spirits and make three royal spirits obey him.

The Alliance did not typically talk about the Third God's Sanctuary, and all subjects of its discussion were usually banned.

But this time, they allowed talk of it. Regarding this event, people were given permission to speak and report freely over Dollar's accomplishments.

Dollar's name was on the tip of everyone's tongue once more. He was the talk of the town, as everyone idolized and theorized how powerful he must have been.

The surpassers, who had a better understanding of the power Dollar must have had to defeat his foes in the way he had, thought it was a miracle.

It was difficult to carve out a living in the Third God's Sanctuary, and more often than not, luck was the deciding factor over whether or not you'd end up a slave to a spirit all your time there.

What Dollar had managed to achieve was something no other human believed possible. He had now become a superstar.

Some people began to whisper suspicions, though.

Humans who lived in spirit shelters heard talk about a spirit known as The King, and while Divinity's Bout was on, they often heard spirits refer to Dollar as The King. They were one and the same. They were saying Dollar was actually a spirit.

But such talk was not given the time of day and was quickly hushed by the authorities. Dollar was in the Third God's Sanctuary, and he was able to use beast souls.

Not many people knew about the connection between Dollar and The King, so there was no big fuss made of it. The validity of their claims could not be verified, after all.

The spirits in the shelter were ravenously discussing The King's victories, too. They believed he would one day become an extremely powerful emperor.

He was the first human to ever make spirits feel this way.

Humans and spirits were hoping to catch a glimpse of Dollar or The King the next day.

But much to their surprise, Han Sen did not show up.

They all then discussed the reasons why he might not have continued his participation in the competition, but none believed it to be fear. Aside from a king spirit with eight gene locks, the remainder of his opponents were to be royal spirits. There did not seem to be a comprehensible reason why he would not show up.

Chapter 1107: Recovery

Han Sen wanted to continue fighting, but it took four days for Curse of Immortality to complete.

If he was to fight or interrupt its process, all progress would have been reset. Not wanting to risk anything ill, he knew he had to sit the fights out.

"I wonder if I can still take part, somehow?" Han Sen was really disappointed he could not contend.

Although he was unable to be there, Han Sen still tuned in to watch the fights. As he viewed them, he mulled to himself how he could hold his own against emperor spirits through his super king spirit mode.

They wouldn't stop him from reaching the top ten. The only thing that would prohibit him from breaching the top ten rankings would be if he ended up going against an emperor spirit with ten of its gene locks opened.

"I have to improve my normal self. I personally need to grow stronger, so I don't always have to rely on super king spirit mode," Han Sen resolutely told himself.

Han Sen: Super Body Super King Spirit

Level: Surpasser

Lifespan: 400

Body Evolution Requirement: 100 Geno Points

Owned Geno Points: Ordinary Geno Points – 100; Primitive Geno Points – 100; Mutant Geno Points – 100; Sacred-Blood Geno Points – 100; Super Geno Points – 5

He had managed to max out four tiers of geno points. With the bonuses of his hyper geno arts, his fitness had managed to hit two-thousand-one-hundred.

Han Sen was undoubtedly the strongest surpasser out there, no contest. But compared to super creatures and king spirits, he was still leagues away from what they were capable of.

Any super creature, even the lowliest of them, would possess a fitness level of at least three thousand.

But by now, at least, most of the crystallized light that plagued his body had been refined. While a few of his organs were still in a crystallized state, they didn't hinder his fighting capabilities.

"It's good to have my powers back," Han Sen thought, using his Dongxuan Aura.

The gene locks he had opened in Ancient Devil Shelter had been shut down. He hadn't practiced them since that day, so no progress had been made at all.

"This is strange. How can an open gene lock be shut down? That Ancient Devil's light power could not replace my own power." That thought, at least, was something for him to feel glad about.

If the power was depleted when a gene lock was opened, it could lead to major issues during real fights.

Han Sen was starting to suspect the opened gene locks were artificial, and that his actual gene locks had not been opened. Perhaps he and all the other creatures in that shelter had been tricked into feeling as if their gene locks had been opened, but it was nothing more than an illusion.

But with his crystallized light not going to be an issue very soon, Han Sen did not have to worry too much about it.

Han Sen visited the Saint Hall community, wanting a new hyper geno art. He wanted one to reinforce his stomach.

His Curse of Immortality had finished, so he no longer felt it gouging his insides in a demand for food.

But in the event something similar occurred, further down the line, he figured it would be best for him to put some work into bolstering the strength of his stomach. Plus, if he was able to eat more than he currently could, recovery could come swifter.

Han Sen found a good many hyper geno arts that dealt with what he was looking for. In fact, there were seven different ranks of stomach-related hyper geno arts.

The reason so many had been developed was partly down to humanity's ravenous appetite—in that, folks often wanted to be able to digest more meat at a time.

Unfortunately, the hyper geno arts weren't all that effective. And the cream of the crop would only allow you to eat up to three times more than you usually could. That was good, but it felt like it could be better.

For Curse of Immortality, not even those hyper geno arts would be enough.

Han Sen perused the S-class hyper geno arts and walked away disappointed.

So, he gave Bai Yishan a call and asked for advice and what he could do or what he could find.

The answers Han Sen got off him were disappointing, as well. The hyper geno art Han Sen wanted did exist, but to get it, a certain price had to be paid.

It came at the expense of a visible stomach increase. He'd be able to eat up to ten times more than he currently could, on average, but his belly would be rather big.

And what's more, he'd have to fill his stomach with food every time he wanted to eat. If he didn't, he'd only feel hungry.

That being said, the Alliance had no shortage of materials and food to fill up one's stomach. Being able to consume ten times more than what he usually could would be no trouble for Han Sen there.

But the same could not be said for the sanctuary. You couldn't always eat food there, and thus, it'd prove troublesome.

And if collecting ten times the normal amount of food was no problem, it'd prove cumbersome to carry around each and every day.

For the times where there was no food, though, it could be extra dangerous. Having learned this hyper geno art, you could starve to death in three days without the proper nourishment.

Han Sen wasn't planning on learning a skill with so many negatives, so he ended up going back to pick up an ordinary S-class hyper geno art called "Nourishing Stomach." It allowed for the simple three times increase of what a person could eat and it also sped up digestion.

It did not match the requirements Han Sen had hoped for, but it was better than nothing.

And Han Sen thought he might be able to find a better one in the future, anyway. This would just do for now.

Back in the sanctuaries, Han Sen thought of ways in which he might slay a super creature.

The barrens were not host to any, and Han Sen hypothesized it was due to its proximity to Devil's Realm.

"It looks like I'm going to have to pick up stakes and move on. And when I open my tenth gene lock, I'll return to kill Big Mara." Han Sen really wanted to go back to his underground shelter.

There were many super creatures in Thorn Forest, but he hadn't a clue where he was or how he'd get back there.

All of a sudden, Queen returned to the shelter, too. She was covered in blood and severely wounded.

When Queen saw Han Sen, she fainted.

Chapter 1108: Don't Stop

Han Sen rushed over to hold Queen. As he held her, he swiftly examined her wounds to check how badly she was hurt.

She had been severely injured, and the sacred-blood armor Han Sen had lent her had been practically destroyed. Only shreds of it remained clinging to her blood-soaked body.

The garments she wore beneath the armor had also been torn and ripped away. Despite most of her body being exposed, it was unlikely you'd feel horny seeing her in such a condition.

Her entire body was covered in wounds and lacerations, and many areas had scabbed. Others were still fresh, oozing blood. Some cuts were so deep, you could see the bone. There was one particular cut running the length of her stomach. Had the cut been any deeper, her guts would be falling out.

"She has fought hard." Han Sen believed he had gotten into a bad state before, due to pushing himself too hard, but Queen was taking the cake.

Han Sen used his holy light on her damaged body. It was a simulation of the Holy Rhino's energy flow, and while it was effective for most injuries, it did little for grave wounds.

"You're going to have to bear with me for this next bit, okay?" Han Sen had to then simulate the silver fox's healing powers to heal her.

"Okay."

Queen's body was consumed by fierce lightning. Her body twitched violently, but she did not scream under the duress of that excruciating pain. She merely clenched her teeth and held her vocal cords.

“This lightning heals wounds better than you might think,” Han Sen comforted her as he pumped the volts into her ravaged body.

The armor he had given her was burned to a crisp, but the nasty wounds she had suffered were healing quick.

Queen was by far the strongest woman Han Sen had ever come to know. Whenever Han Sen was healed by the silver fox, he’d end up screaming. Queen had only groaned low a couple of times.

Most of her wounds were sorted by now, but the deep cut across her stomach was going to take a lot more of the charge to get fixed.

After an hour of this lightning and pain, even Han Sen was feeling guilty over the treatment he had to give her. But like a brave soldier, she did not moan or complain once. She endured it all like a champ.

“You should go bathe in the healing pools of the Alliance. You should be fit as a fiddle in a few days.” Han Sen had managed to heal the worst of her wounds, but he could not bring himself to make her suffer any longer.

“Keep going.” Queen’s teeth quivered and chattered as she spoke.

“There’s no difference now between what I can give you and what you can get in the Alliance. All I can provide, in addition, is needless pain,” Han Sen said.

“This is faster.” Queen was firm in her desire.

Han Sen vehemently shook his head, but eventually complied with her request. Then, he started to electrocute her with the healing charges again.

Half an hour later, all her wounds had sealed and healed. All that was left was the presence of red marks where they once had been.

Queen summoned a beast soul armor and said, “Have you recovered?”

“I’m almost there.” Han Sen had revealed to her he could make use of his powers, so there was no use hiding it.

She nodded and started to leave the shelter once more.

Han Sen stopped her and said, “Don’t go. There’s something I need to talk to you about.”

Queen stopped walking and turned around.

“Because I’m almost healed, I will soon be leaving this place. I’m returning to my old shelter; would you like to come with me?” Han Sen asked.

Queen nodded and replied, “Okay.”

Han Sen had expected he’d have to explain, and he was surprised when she agreed so quickly.

Han Sen asked, "What happened to you, anyway? How did you get hurt?"

Queen said, "To the west is another disheveled shelter. I had wished to make use of its teleporter, but I was attacked."

She gave him further details, and following the explanation, Han Sen retreated into deep thought.

Although she hadn't been there long, Queen had managed to gather many geno points. With Han Sen's beast souls, she could easily escape the clutches of a sacred-blood creature.

But the creatures had managed to injure her badly, and that suggested they had to be at least sacred-blood creatures.

She had tried to flee upon seeing them, but one in particular had managed to tackle her by surprise.

It was fortunate she had been brutally hit by the sacred-blood; otherwise, she'd have waltzed into the domain of a super creature.

"Take me to that shelter." If there really was a super creature, Han Sen would be quite pleased. Bao'er, seeing Han Sen leave the shelter, swiftly followed and leaped onto his back.

Han Sen had been in that shelter for a very long time, and Bao'er had been bored of the area for a while now.

Queen guided Han Sen west, and half an hour later, they stumbled across the remains of a slain creature.

It was a frighteningly large mantis that was around the same size as a fully-grown wolf. Its carapace was purple, and the two arms were like scythes.

"This is one of the creatures that cut you up?" Han Sen saw that Queen had killed it as she escaped.

Queen said, "Demon-Blood Mantis, yes. They were mostly primitive, but this one was mutant."

They continued walking, and there must have been thirty of the beasts all strewn about the plains there. It had obviously been a nasty fight.

With Golden Growler's speed, it only took them two hours to reach the shelter. Just like every other shelter in the area, it looked to be in disarray. It had been abandoned by spirits a long time ago.

There were no signs of the mantises though, so it seemed like the rest of the horde had retreated back into the deeper recesses of the shelter.

"Wait here; I'm going to take a closer look," Han Sen told her.

"I'm coming with you." Queen followed.

"Okay." Protesting would be of no use, so Han Sen summoned Disloyal Knight and had it take the lead.

Chapter 1109: Devil-Blood Mantis Beast Soul

“Is that a humanoid pet beast soul?” Queen asked, while looking at Disloyal Knight.

Han Sen nodded but did not elaborate. He knew she’d get to witness its power sooner or later, anyway.

Disloyal Knight approached the entrance of the shelter, and already, purple mantises began to emerge in a bid to assault the would-be trespassers. Some of them came from beyond the gate, whereas others leaped down from the perimeter wall of the shelter. They had wings to glide, but they could not use them to properly fly.

Han Sen had encountered mantises before, and he knew their arms were practically blades.

One of the mantises was as big as a tiger, clearly above the others that had come to attack. It jumped before Disloyal Knight.

“That might be the sacred-blood mantis,” Queen said.

The mantis that jumped in front of Disloyal Knight swiftly raised its arm-blade to swipe at his neck and sever the head from his metal shoulders.

Pang!

Disloyal Knight punched the mantis with a fist that was as quick as lightning. The creature was sent flying into a nearby wall, as a fist-shaped hole was left in its now-bleeding carapace.

Disloyal Knight fired up the halo and then got to work, slaying an abundance of mantises with a single punch to each.

Han Sen heard announcements continuously ring inside his head.

Queen watched as Disloyal Knight brutalized the inhabitants of the shelter. It only took two small punches for a sacred-blood creature to fall.

“Sacred-Blood Creature Devil-Blood Mantis killed. Beast soul gained. Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly.”

Han Sen was delighted at the result. He had managed to obtain a beast soul from his first sacred-blood kill.

Seeing the Disloyal Knight lay waste to all the creatures outside the shelter, it then proceeded to enter. To this, Han Sen said, “Come on, let’s clear the rest out. We can collect the flesh later.”

Queen had been in shock when Han Sen provided her all those beast souls when they first met up again. But now, she had been delivered another shock. His Disloyal Knight could kill sacred-blood creatures with ease.

“Disloyal Knight... it cannot be... is it?” She shook her head to rid herself of the thought. If what she thought it might be was true, it’d be frightening to consider.

“All those people who believe Han Sen has now been rendered harmless... What would they say if they saw him now?” Queen thought to herself.

Han Sen had been in the Third God’s Sanctuary for less than a year before he suffered his injury. It was crazy to try to comprehend what he had managed to achieve in such a short period of time.

Queen was a surpasser with a super body, yet even she knew how difficult things were with a super body. It didn’t give anyone that much of a leg up.

If Han Sen hadn’t given her the beast souls, it would have taken her an extremely long time to work up the strength necessary to kill a mutant creature.

With no resources or help, Han Sen had reached this level in less than a year. It was a remarkable accomplishment, something no one had ever managed before.

“People think they can be like Han Sen if they have a super body? Pah, that notion is ridiculous,” Queen thought as she stared at Han Sen in admiration.

After Han Sen ventured inside for a short while, bodies were soon strewn about in bloody piles.

Without a single break, Han Sen kept hearing the announcements play. He killed four primitive, one mutant, and one sacred-blood mantis on the inside of the shelter.

Han Sen checked out the beast soul he had received and noticed it was a set of armor. He then gave it to Queen, saying, “We’re leaving. It will be a long road, and one that will be more safely traversed while wearing this.”

Queen could not even respond. She just accepted it and wore it.

It was a purple set of armor, and with its shiny sheen, she looked even more attractive than before. The rounded chest plate made her boobs look even bigger.

It was tight around her waist, and it helped to accentuate her each and every curve. Her beauty was head and shoulders above any other woman Han Sen had seen, and she was pure, riveting eye candy.

The armor itself was a remarkable piece of gear, too. The gauntlets were fitted with blades like teeth, a feature that was not often seen on armor.

The legs and knees were fitted with blades, too. It was a great repellent for anything that sought to get too close.

“That is a perfect set of armor,” Han Sen said.

Queen moved around to get a feel for it. It was comfortable and did not stifle her agility, but she thought she looked like a monster.

As Han Sen admired the stunning femme fatale, his gaze was cut-short by the sudden sound of a wretched shriek. It came from just outside the shelter.

Disloyal Knight punched a mantis that was as big as an elephant. The power that had been delivered against it was so high, it vibrated the earth and rattled the rocks that littered the ground.

“Is that a super creature?” Han Sen had hoped to encounter one, but he hadn’t really expected to see one there.

Disloyal Knight continued to rapidly punch the mantis’s arm. More and more shockwaves were generated, and the decayed shelter started to fall apart.

“Super creature?!” Queen looked at the Disloyal Knight in utter shock. She reckoned it had to be one, and this had confirmed it.

Chapter 1110: Super Armor

When Disloyal Knight was battling another super creature one-on-one, its best weapon was its halo. This was because it had no physical armaments.

If two armies were going into battle, its halo could weaken the entire enemy horde. Its debuffing capabilities were excellent, and using them was where Disloyal Knight truly shone. But still, one-on-one, it was by no means a poor battler. It wasn’t losing against the mantis, it just wasn’t proving strong enough to kill it.

As they fought, Han Sen ran further into the shelter. With Taia and his Phoenix Sword, he got to slaying as many primitive and mutant mantises as he could.

Han Sen wanted to see if there were any other super creatures in the vicinity, and why such a large hive of the creatures had taken sanctuary in this shelter in particular.

Due to the proximity of Devil’s Realm, creatures didn’t often visit the area. For so many of them to be at this particular location, Han Sen figured there had to be a specific reason.

From the group of creatures Han Sen was doing battle with, a sacred-blood variant emerged. Without fear, Han Sen engaged it. Queen merely stood by and watched him, eager to see just how powerful he had become.

Han Sen made use of his phoenix techniques to fly around the mantis and slice it with both swords, forming a bloody cross upon its body.

Katcha!

The mantis had been diced into four parts.

When she saw him manage to one-hit kill a sacred-blood creature, Queen was gobsmacked. She imagined he absolutely had to be a top-dog surpasser.

“No beast soul,” Han Sen thought to himself.

Aside from the wide array of mantises that still occupied the shelter, there didn’t seem to be anything particularly interesting in the area.

After killing three more sacred-blood creatures, no more could be found.

In a courtyard, Han Sen espied the presence of a tree. It looked like a plum tree, which he had mistaken for an oversized mushroom when he first saw it in the distance.

Every branch and twig was laden with fruit, ripe for the taking. The fruit were like red eggs, just hanging there.

What’s more, many mantises stood like sentinels around it. Many of the creatures were actually staying there, in the tree’s defense.

“Geno plant.” Han Sen could not mistake the energy radiating from that tree.

He didn’t know what benefits such fruit could yield, but seeing the mantis guard it like so, he knew it had to be something beneficial.

Han Sen raced down to the courtyard as the mantises swiftly came to engage the intruder. With Han Sen and Queen’s combined might, it had proven more than easy for the duo to kill primitive and mutant creatures by the boatload.

Unlike Han Sen’s feverish interest in the tree, though, Queen did not care for it. She was intensely focused in her observation of Han Sen’s capabilities.

She had only taught him a small amount of Heavenly Go a very long time ago, but now, he was doing much better than her. This was her signature move, and yet, Han Sen had far exceeded her own abilities with the technique.

Queen had only practiced Heavenly Go, but Han Sen had integrated many different movesets and techniques into it. Queen was actually seeing a mixture of Heavenly Go, phoenix techniques, and Seven Twists.

Of course, they were just additions. Han Sen still relied on Heavenly Go as the foundation for his evasive techniques.

The way Queen was staring at Han Sen was as if she had just swung wide the large gates of heaven. With each step Han Sen took, it was as if she was transported to an entirely different world.

Tzzk!

The super-class mantis let out a bone-chilling shriek as it flew over to the courtyard Han Sen and Queen were intruding upon. It had given up the fight with Disloyal Knight and headed straight for the tree—clearly, the tree was important to the creature.

“Careful!” Queen shouted. The mantis was already above Han Sen’s head.

Han Sen’s eyes flashed with the presence of a red flame, and then the fire leaped out of his eyes to encircle his entire body. His body turned into a golden raven with wings outstretched. In this manner, he twirled to avoid the mantis.

Pang!

Queen was in utter disbelief. As she looked, she asked herself, “A super-class shapeshifting beast soul?”

She wasn’t even sure if she should be surprised anymore. Han Sen’s latest dazzler had left her feeling numb. It was too amazing.

“Even if he had been injured and was off the playing field for another ten years, I doubt anyone else could come close to competing with his accomplishments,” Queen thought to herself.

For a human to possess two super beast souls in the Third God’s Sanctuary was unheard of. It was extremely rare for a person to possess even one in the Second God’s Sanctuary.

Disloyal Knight raced after the mantis and resumed its battle alongside Han Sen. Quickly, the mantis was at a disadvantage and was clearly going to be the loser in the engagement.

The fire-wreathed talons of the raven slashed at the mantis’s shell. The monster’s blood gushed out like a cascade of fireworks. It had been severely weakened by Disloyal Knight’s halo, and after realizing it was going to lose, now wanted to flap its wings and fly away.

But Han Sen wasn’t going to allow it to escape. He gave chase to the beast, hacking away at the insect as it went. Eventually, Han Sen’s talons pierced through the mantis’ chest and killed it for good.

“Super Creature Devil-Blood Mantis killed. Beast soul gained. The flesh of this creature is inedible, but you may harvest its Life Geno Essence. Consume its Life Geno Essence to gain zero to ten super geno points randomly.”

Han Sen was overjoyed to receive a super armor beast soul in the Third God’s Sanctuary. Seeing the creature decompose, Han Sen hastily grabbed the Life Geno Essence and put it away.

The last Life Geno Essence he had retrieved could not be refined due to his injuries, so he wasn’t sure how long it would take to absorb a second.

Chapter 1111: Squeezing Beast Souls

When the super-class mantis fell, all the other mantises that were left on the field scrambled and scurried away. Uncaring for the stragglers, Han Sen returned to the courtyard to examine the blood-egg tree.

Han Sen was not sure if the fruits it bore had matured yet, but he knew whatever he could harvest was different than what he’d usually get. He believed the fist-sized fruit would produce creatures, and weren’t for proper eating.

Han Sen picked one off a branch and crushed it.

This was what he had done to the Dragon-Blood Fruit, and that was how he received the Dragon-Blood Snakes. The same protocol most likely applied, though he wasn't sure what manner of beast souls he might get off this tree.

The blood-eggs looked like real eggs, and when he crushed the shell, a red light shone.

The red light formed the image of a monkey with wings, and after the brief apparition, disappeared.

"Blood-Demon Fruit has not yet matured; beast soul creation cannot be completed."

Han Sen heard the announcement and thought to himself, "It's a beast soul geno tree. I wonder when it'll finish maturing?"

Unlike the mantises, he wouldn't have to remain there and wait for it to finish maturing. All he would have to do was fertilize it with his waterdrops.

Unfortunately, he had given most of his waterdrops to Zero, so she could continue growing the Flying Mushroom. He had been in the Third God's Sanctuary for three years, and in that time, the waterdrops would have most likely been used. Therefore, he thought he'd have to collect more sooner-or-later.

Han Sen then gave up his plans to abandon the barrens and decided to take up residence in the shelter, so he could feed the tree with waterdrops every day.

After eight days, the tree fully matured. And when it had, all the egg-fruit fell from their harboring branches.

Following that, the tree hastily withered into a dry, sordid husk of what it once was. Over the course of a single day, it became a rotten thing that was barely fit to be used as firewood.

Han Sen counted the Blood-Demon Fruit and came to a tally of seventy-one.

He gathered them all up in a mound on the floor. He, Queen, and Bao'er all sat next to it.

"Let's start crushing them. These are yours, these are mine, and these are Bao'er's." Han Sen, after proceeding to split the pile of eggs up, quickly got to crushing them.

After crushing an egg, the image of a firefly formed inside the red light. It went straight into his Sea of Soul.

"Ordinary-class Blood Firefly beast soul gained."

Han Sen was surprised, and he gasped to himself, "What is this? I thought it was a monkey with wings. And why is it only ordinary class? Is that what the super creature wanted so much?"

With a closer examination of the beast soul's attributes, Han Sen discovered it was a pet-type beast soul with only one gene lock open. It was useless.

Bao'er picked up a fruit and crushed it. For her, the image of a red unicorn formed, which disappeared after drifting towards her forehead.

Han Sen was shocked. He only gave a pile to Bao'er for fun, believing he'd still receive whatever she crushed. Aside from humans, only spirits that were owned by humans could own and make use of beast souls. Although rare, he had heard tales of a few creatures possessing the ability, but that was beside the point.

If Bao'er could accept a beast soul, though, did that mean she was human?

Queen looked at Bao'er strangely after witnessing this, too, but she didn't say anything.

Queen picked up a Blood-Demon Fruit and crushed it. She was given a four-winged tiger.

"So, what did you guys get?" Han Sen asked.

Bao'er did not respond, but Queen told Han Sen, "I received a sacred-blood flying beast soul."

Queen then summoned the red wings—they looked beautiful on her.

Han Sen did not tell her what he received and just tried to hide his jealousy. Immediately, he proceeded to break another egg.

He knew it was little more than a lootbox, in which whatever he received was random and purely down to luck.

He wondered if there was a super beast soul amongst the eggs, but still couldn't fathom why the mantises wanted the tree and its fruit so much.

When the shell shattered in the palm of his hands, the red light took the form of an ant. Then, it entered his Sea of Soul.

Han Sen thought to himself, "Ant beast souls aren't the worst. If it was an ant-based super armor, that'd be spectacular."

"Primitive-class Blood-Ant beast soul gained."

Han Sen didn't even bother looking at its further statistics, so he just picked up another egg and broke it.

"Ordinary-class Blood-Spider beast soul gained."

Han Sen crushed another eight, and all he received were either ordinary or primitive beast souls.

"What the f*ck is this? Why am I so unlucky with my drops?" Han Sen fell into a depression.

Bao'er crushed her second fruit, and Han Sen watched in awe as a blood-colored dragon twirled in the air. It roared and flew into her forehead.

Han Sen knew that couldn't have been an ordinary or primitive beast soul, and it was clearly better than anything he was receiving.

“Bao’er, what did you get?” Han Sen asked, looking at Bao’er.

Bao’er looked at Han Sen as if she had no clue what he was saying.

Queen crushed three fruit, one-by-one, after each other. Then, she told Han Sen what she had received.

“I got a mutant Blood Wolf, a sacred-blood Three-Eyed Snake, and a mutant Firebird.”

“I don’t believe it.” Han Sen crushed another egg.

“Ordinary-class Blood Turtle beast soul obtained.”

Han Sen’s demeanor was a mixture of depression and anger. Queen was aware of what was going on, and she struggled to hold her laughter. Bao’er broke another fruit, and a grand grizzly bear roared and charged into her forehead.

“Good Bao’er; very good. Hey, how about we swap?” Han Sen then traded some of his fruit with the ones in Bao’er’s pile.

Chapter 1112: Lucky Bao’er

Han Sen’s confidence had been renewed, after grabbing some of the eggs in Bao’er’s pile. And as he clutched one, he shouted to the skies, “This is going to work! Buddha! Laozi! Jesus! RNGesus! Mary! Please, please, please! Bless me with immaculate fortune, as I walk through the valley of shoddy lootcrates... Heeyaa!”

Han Sen crushed the egg, and he watched the red light that oozed out with a manic stare. With his intense gaze, he waited to see the form it’d take. And then, all of a sudden, a housefly buzzed straight into his Sea of Soul.

“Ordinary-class Blood Fly beast soul obtained.”

Han Sen felt as if his heart had been trampled underfoot, and he had now fallen into a deep depression. He continued tearing through the eggs before him, and he seemed to exclusively receive ordinary and primitive beast souls.

Queen, on the other hand, had managed to receive four sacred-blood beast souls. She never once received anything lower than a mutant-class beast soul, either.

Bao’er, although Han Sen could not tell their class, seemed to have been the continued recipient of greater fortune. Beast soul after beast soul rose from the cracked eggs, and powerful and monstrous red forms of light entered her forehead.

Han Sen was down to one single fruit remaining. He wrestled with whether or not he should open it, and ultimately decided not to. He put it away.

He had suffered a similar misfortune when he squeezed the Dragon-Blood Fruits in the underground shelter. He let Zero crack the final one open for him, and she managed to obtain a wondrous Dragon-Blood Snake for him to use.

“Bao’er, you don’t need those beast souls, so how about you give me yours?” Han Sen gave the creepiest grin as he looked at her. Then, he took her in his arms.

“One,” Bao’er actually answered, putting up one finger as she spoke.

“Come on; you love Daddy, don’t you? All?” Han Sen pleaded pathetically.

“One,” Bao’er insisted.

Han Sen swung his arms around, saying, “Ooh, that reminds me. I heard there’s a new flavor of ice cream. It’s a super jumbo ice cream, too. It’s massive!”

Bao’er could not resist the temptation of a new super jumbo ice cream and said, “One for each super jumbo ice cream.”

“Deal.” Han Sen then proceeded to lock his pinky with hers.

Bao’er gave Han Sen all the beast souls she had received, and Han Sen could not stop smiling as this occurred.

They were all sacred-blood beast souls except for one, which was a super beast soul. The super beast soul was that fierce dragon he had seen.

Blood-Demon Dragon: Flying Beast Soul

“Haha! It’s a super class flying beast soul; I love you Bao’er!” Han Sen repeatedly kissed her cheeks.

Han Sen’s fine mood had returned, better than ever. He had now managed to receive two super beast souls from his escapade at the shelter. First, he had managed to receive the super mantis armor, and now he had received super wings.

With the wings, Han Sen could use phoenix techniques while remaining in his human form. The blood-demon wings increased his speed and power, too; so that was a welcome trait.

Han Sen summoned them, and immediately, giant dragon wings appeared across his back. He gave them a test flight and was delighted to learn he could fly at a speed that was greater than what the super-class mantis could achieve.

Flying speed always came down to the beast soul itself. Although he wasn’t as strong as one, Han Sen at least now had the speed to match any super creature.

Queen thought it was ridiculous, how he had received another super beast soul. Particularly given the manner he received it: bribing it off Bao’er.

She then planned to give Han Sen the beast souls she had received and not keep them.

“Keep them; I don’t need them,” Han Sen told her. He also provided her with a few more sacred-blood beast souls he did not need. “You might need them to protect yourself, in the event I’m not there.”

Queen did not say anything and just did as he said. She knew she was weak, and she could not hold her own and fight side-by-side with Han Sen as she might have once been able to.

Han Sen then had another idea. He decided to give Queen his Polluted Devilhorn King scimitar. As he did so, he told her, “Take this, as well; I don’t need it.”

Han Sen knew the creatures in the Third God’s Sanctuary were strong, and the emperors there always had super creatures and spirits in their employ. He might need her back-up, as many of the trials ahead might require him not to go solo.

Since he did not need those beast souls, it was best to have a moderately-powerful sidekick accompanying him.

Queen accepted the scimitar but did not say anything.

“Safety first. If something happens to me, my life may be in your delicate hands. This gear will help,” Han Sen said.

Queen was too hard on herself, and even Han Sen thought the wounds she had sustained earlier were far too wretched. He didn’t want to see her in a condition like that again.

She blushed and simply walked back to the teleporter, returning to the Alliance.

Han Sen also went back, bringing Bao’er with him. He fulfilled his part of the bargain with her and bought her a lot of snacks.

Bao’er’s luck was as good as Zero’s. Evidently, he could not open stuff and expect decent results. It seemed he would have to rely on Bao’er, for the time being.

Two days later, Han Sen planned his next route and set-off away from the barrens.

Before he left, Bai Yishan gave Han Sen a call, bidding that he come visit him in the Saint Hall.

On the communicator, Bai Yishan didn’t mention exactly what he wanted to discuss, but it did sound important. Without any elucidation, he just told Han Sen to come see him in the Saint Hall.

Bai Yishan had treated Han Sen like a proper student; it was something he was very grateful for. Therefore, Han Sen had no problem adhering to his desire, and went to go see him at once.

This was the first time he had been to the headquarters, as ordinary people weren’t usually allowed. But Han Sen was not an official student, so he had to wait outside.

“Han Sen, why are you here?” Han Sen heard someone ask.

Chapter 1113: Hidden Blood

Han Sen turned around to see a man approaching. It was his once-classmate Lu Meng, from the Blackhark Military Academy.

"I am meeting with Professor Bai. Why are you here? I thought you became a Vice-Captain for Heavenly Machine." Han Sen saw Lu Meng, dressed in a Saint Hall uniform.

Their 304 living quarter roommates were still in contact with each other. They didn't see each other much, but they knew what they were each up to. Han Sen, however, did not expect to see Lu Meng there in the Saint Hall.

"Heavenly Machine was shot down by the shura. I was going to go serve on another ship, but my mother has forbidden me from doing so. Instead, I have decided to become a researcher at Saint Hall." Lu Meng spoke with maturity, and an elegance that was not over-bearing. He was far from the kid Han Sen once knew.

"Something that big occurred? Why didn't you tell us?" Han Sen looked legitimately shocked.

"Well, had I died, you'd have been informed. I walked away fine, so there was no point in worrying others. It's a waste of time for those who worry and a waste of time for those who are worried over." Lu Meng smiled softly for a moment, and then went on to say, "I heard you were injured, though. How are you, all things considered?"

"Much better," Han Sen said, enjoying the chat with Lu Meng.

The two proceeded to speak about recent events, and gossip as they had not done for the longest time. They discussed older topics too, in blissful nostalgia. They spoke of their school lives, and what was going on with Zhang Yang, Shi Zhikang, Wang Mengmeng, Fat Leader, and Thin Man, even.

Bai Yishan reached the lobby, at which point the closure of their dialogue was abruptly delivered.

"Han Sen, come to my office," Bai Yishan swiftly commanded. When he recognized who Han Sen was talking with, though, he had to ask, "Do you two know each other?"

"Lu Meng was my roommate once upon a time, and he is a good friend. He was a bit of a bully during my study years, though. You better put a tight leash on this fellow, if you're teaching him," Han Sen jested.

Bai Yishan looked at Lu Meng's card and said, "You are an intern. Hm, come to my lab tomorrow. Find Mister Li and he'll put you to work."

Bai Yishan seemed to be in a rush, though, and so he said, "Now come, quickly. There is a problem."

"We'll talk later, buddy." Han Sen followed after Bai Yishan, concerned what matter could be so pressing.

Lu Meng winked at Han Sen and then watched him go. It was rare for someone to work alongside Bai Yishan in his lab. Even the most experienced researchers could be forbidden from entering there, if Bai Yishan had no desire for them to have access.

It was an extremely fortuitous opportunity, being invited to enter the lab. But he knew that if he was to act on the invitation, he'd have to be at his best performance. If he didn't have what it took, he could be removed from the lab with a snap of the fingers.

The invitation meant one thing above all else, though. And that was Bai Yishan's favor and respect for Han Sen. Usually, a rigorous testing process was required before someone could enter such a prestigious lab. His association with Han Sen seemed to suggest Lu Meng could forego that.

Bai Yishan brought Han Sen into his office and presented him with a set of documents.

"Saint Hall has a rule. There is a program here, one we must all follow. Sign this document, and you can be made councilor of this project. You know this is classified, yes?" Bai Yishan said.

Han Sen read the document in front of him, and then signed atop the dotted line.

"So, what is this project? Why is there so much mystery?" Han Sen asked, as he signed his name.

Bai Yishan sent the document before responding. He contacted someone to confirm Han Sen's identity and said, "Come to my lab; we'll talk."

Bai Yishan printed off Han Sen's worker card and pinned it to his chest.

Bai Yishan seemed to be in a hurry, and he was scurrying about with haste. Even his speech was quicker than usual. He said, "You asked me if there is a hyper geno art that can make a stomach stronger?"

"You created one for me?" Han Sen was surprised, and performed an emotional gesture with both hands clasped.

Bai Yishan rolled his eyes and said, "It's not like you're my son, boy. I'm not going to treat you that well."

Han Sen immediately looked disappointed, and instead asked for clarification. "So, what's the big deal about my asking?"

"I am researching a hyper geno art called Hidden Blood. It might be something you'd have an interest in," Bai Yishan explained.

"Hidden Blood? To make your heart stronger?" Han Sen was disappointed. He already had Heresy Mantra for his heart, so there was no need for any other such skills or techniques.

But Bai Yishan shook his head and said, "It's not for your heart. It's for your spleen."

"Spleen?" Han Sen knew the word but did not know much about it. The best he could recall was that it was an organ associated with the filtering of blood or something.

Bai Yishan elucidated it for him, saying, "The spleen can filter blood and create blood."

Han Sen listened to what Bai Yishan told him with interest as he walked alongside the man. He could understand a few words, here and there. Han Sen was more interested in Saving Money, though. He didn't concern himself too much with hyper geno arts that dealt with organs of the body.

That being said, Han Sen was surprised to find himself interested in Hidden Blood, after hearing what Bai Yishan was telling him about it. If what he was saying was true, it had to be a powerful hyper geno art. It had to be one that would be quite beneficial for Han Sen.

When they finally reached the lab, Han Sen was taken aback. It had to be bigger than the size of a football stadium. Aside from a few enclosed areas, the entire lab was partitioned by glass windows, where you could observe the researchers going about their various tasks.

"There is a problem with it, though. I was hoping you might be able to help us with it," Bai Yishan said as they entered a private room.

"What would this help entail?" Han Sen asked dubiously, as he looked at Bai Yishan. The man's crooked smile was like that of an old, wicked fox.

Chapter 1114: Spleen

Bai Yishan answered, saying, "Hidden Blood is just a name we have given it. But it is an ancient skill, one that was developed by a certain cult. The skill's original name was Blood Magic, and I can only suppose it was once regarded as being evil."

"These are the days of greys, though. Determining what is good and what is evil, that which is black and that which is white, is a thing of the past. The roads to hell are paved with good intentions, after all. All that matters is the method and reason for which something might be used. And that is the case with Hidden Blood. I've been researching this particular skill for quite a few years, and I think it's time for the training wheels to come off and for it to be used properly."

Han Sen was rather shocked by Bai Yishan's vivid and detailed explanation, but he still wanted to know more. He asked, "What do you mean?"

Bai Yishan said, "Hidden Blood increases the strength of one's spleen. It makes the blood itself stronger, and through using it, you can actually feel your bloodstream pump with greater energy. The blood itself is energized."

"And what's so good about that?" Han Sen asked.

"It filters the dirt in your blood and concentrates it. Think of it like fuel for an aircraft; one liter of fuel can allow for the flight of a thousand miles. If aircraft could learn Hidden Blood, that same liter of fuel could allow for a flight of many thousands of miles. It means you can store much more power inside your body." Bai Yishan looked very excited as he explained Hidden Blood to Han Sen.

Bai Yishan was still not done, either. With a remorseful look, he said, "But we have a problem. Ordinary people cannot handle this energized blood pumping through their veins; more specifically, their hearts cannot handle it. Our bodies are designed for ordinary blood, after all."

"You want me to be your guinea pig?" Han Sen guessed.

Bai Yishan looked at Han Sen and said, "Well, you have Heresy Mantra. Your heart and vessels are considerably more powerful than those of others. With your fitness level, you should be able to make use of Hidden Blood without issue."

"No way." Han Sen thought it to be a needless risk, one that was too dangerous.

"Think about it! A good generator needs good fuel. You have a powerful heart, but your blood is average. Don't you think that is a shame?" Bai Yishan said.

Han Sen told him, "You are right, yes. But being a lab rat..."

Bai Yishan said, "We have already conducted a plethora of tests. Blood Magic cannot be controlled, though. It is addictive, to say the least. Once you have started learning it, you cannot stop. But that was the skill in its original form. We have tweaked it so that this is not an issue. You can stop practicing it whenever you want. Furthermore, we have developed pills that can revert your blood back to its ordinary, unrefined form."

Han Sen was starting to look excited as he considered these prospects. He asked, "This skill is going to be forbidden soon, isn't it?"

With an awkward expression, Bai Yishan admitted it by saying, "The rules and restrictions of the Alliance are too cruel."

Han Sen thought to himself, "It's not about the rules, man. You're always researching the forbidden, evil arts."

"But don't worry, your talent is around thirty percent as good as mine. So again, like I said, you'll be fine. And you can stop learning it whenever you desire," Bai Yishan said.

Bai Yishan then went on to say, "If you help me with this, I'll help you research a stomach hyper geno art. How does that sound?"

"For the future of humanity, for the advancement of prosperity and peace across the galaxy, I, Han Sen, will submit and become your lab rat. This is a choice I will not regret," Han Sen agreed.

He didn't like his current stomach hyper geno art, so if Bai Yishan was willing to create a better one for him, it was a worthy deal to accept.

Han Sen thought Bai Yishan was right, too. His heart really was strong, and it would have been best to have finer blood coursing through it. Han Sen was confident about his control over the skill, too, in that he'd be able to stop whenever he wanted.

Bai Yishan gave Han Sen Hidden Blood's information and the geno solution. He still respected Han Sen, so he wanted him to review the situation and what he was getting into first.

There were risks involved with the skill, too. So, for the duration of his learning, he had to remain where he was and be monitored.

Bai Yishan had arranged and done everything, even creating the classified documentation for Han Sen. Neither of them wanted information to leak, stating Han Sen had actually recovered from his crystallization blight.

But Han Sen was prepared for his healing to receive exposure, whenever that happened. It wasn't the biggest secret, and no harm would actually come from others learning he was better.

"Little Han, you are so strong. I have never seen a surpasser as strong as you, especially where your heart and vessels are concerned. Dare I say, you were born to learn this skill, boy. You were born to learn it!" Bai Yishan's constant compliments were becoming sickly.

Han Sen gave up on the idea of leaving the barrens for now, deciding to stay there, practicing Hidden Blood for the time being.

He felt good practicing it. He used to believe his blood was already quite pure, but this skill taught him differently. After its filtering and refining process, he felt considerably stronger. His spleen was like a clean, energy storage facility that could constantly produce energized blood.

Chapter 1115: Ask Me Questions

The progress of practicing Hidden Blood came smoothly. There were no hindrances, and Han Sen was able to withstand the high-energy blood he was given.

After fifteen days, Han Sen became what could be considered a beginner. The energy in his blood, by this point, had doubled. Han Sen now had the time to enter the sanctuary and get to refining both Life Geno Essences.

Bai Yishan had been satisfied by the results thus far, and when Han Sen got even better, he would document his experiences with the skill for information data.

Of course, his experience was only one of the many things required, so it wasn't enough to complete the project to a degree of satisfaction. Bai Yishan found Han Sen to ask him questions and learn whether or not problems with the hyper geno art came from the heart. If so, they could make the necessary changes.

Ordinary people could not practice Heresy Mantra, but there were other hyper geno arts out there that could strengthen the heart. These were, however, not half as efficient.

Han Sen had learned a lot from his time practicing Hidden Blood. In the past, Bai Yishan had only given Han Sen information that could be found on Skynet. But now that Han Sen could learn it right there with him, it was great. Plus, spending time in the labs allowed Han Sen to observe a variety of different experiments conducted by researchers.

There were hundreds of people there, running countless experiments at the same time. Bai Yishan was in charge of Hidden Blood because it was his own personal project; other projects were handled by those under his employ.

Han Sen was captivated by the experiments, and on this day in particular, he lost track of time and missed his dinner. Fortunately for him, there was a vending machine there. He bought a snack and sat down to eat in the canteen.

Ever since he had learned the stomach hyper geno art, he had had to eat a lot more.

While Han Sen ate, a group of other people entered the canteen.

It was past supper time, but still they came. One of the group was laughing loudly, and when he saw Han Sen, he stopped. The others, seeing him stop so suddenly, looked in the direction he had frozen. And then, they too saw Han Sen there.

Han Sen glanced up and noticed it was Wang Lin. It was the person Han Sen had humiliated, back when they were on the Xue family's original planet.

Han Sen continued eating, ignoring the man. He was friends with Wang Mengmeng and Wang Yuhang, so he wasn't too keen on keeping a rivalry with someone in their family.

Wang Lin went back to talking with the people who were accompanying him. Unfortunately for him, Han Sen's ears were far too good. He could hear every single word that was spoken.

Wang Lin told the story of what had transpired at the Xue family meeting, but reversed their roles entirely. Han Sen had mocked Wang Lin, saying he was a disgrace of a student for Professor Li, too, but Wang Lin had just said he was only insulting Professor Li, and he had stepped in to defend his teacher.

Li Singhua was there in the canteen with them, and although Han Sen had never seen him before, he knew who it was. The way he stood out from the others in the group was plain to see.

His strength did not matter, though. This was the Saint Hall, and he could not freely attack Han Sen if he believed his student's words and wished to do so.

The researchers, hearing what Wang Lin said, all looked at Han Sen with anger.

Han Sen did not blame them, though. He'd be angry if he learned others had been insulting Bai Yishan.

One of the angry researchers approached Han Sen.

“Did you say Professor Li has no clue how to teach students?” The man asked.

Han Sen could not deny he said this, because he did, all for the purpose of mocking Wang Lin who had verbally assaulted Han Sen first.

If they were there, though, everyone would know Han Sen meant no ill sentiments toward Professor Li. After hearing what Wang Lin had told them, though, they obviously favored believing their colleague.

“I did say that,” Han Sen admitted.

The researcher looked furious, and he said, “Apologize immediately! If you don’t, don’t hold it against me for what I do next.”

“If one of his students can beat me and prove me wrong, sure. I’ll apologize,” Han Sen said.

“How? Through a fight? I thought you were disabled.” The man seemed shocked, hearing the suggestion.

Han Sen merely smiled and said, “We are researchers; he didn’t teach you to kill.”

“Then what are you suggesting? How would we compete?” the man asked, frowning.

Everyone researched different subjects, so it was difficult to find common ground. It wouldn’t be fair for Han Sen to suggest something he had already studied.

Han Sen smiled and walked before Li Singhua.

“Han Sen, what are you doing?” the researcher said, stepping between the two.

Han Sen bowed to Li Singhua, saying, “Professor Li, why don’t you suggest a research topic we can research together. I lose if they are faster, and vice versa.”

Everyone thought Han Sen was crazy. Different researchers were good at different things, so if Li Singhua suggested something Han Sen didn’t know squat about, he’d immediately be at a disadvantage.

Li Singhua was their teacher. If he suggested a topic his students already knew, then Han Sen would also lose.

Li Singhua smiled and said, “Bai Yishan does have a good student.”

Chapter 1116: The Theory of Energy Flow

The way Han Sen asked made him seem very self-confident. It also gave Wang Lin more material to attack with.

Li Singhua was famous in the Saint Hall, so if he suggested a subject to embarrass Han Sen, and Han Sen lost, it wouldn’t reflect well on him. Therefore, someone like Li Singhua wouldn’t give an advantage to his students. He’d have to select a subject that was fair and square.

If Li Singhua suggested a subject and Han Sen won, it would mean Wang Lin and his colleagues were dumb. It wouldn't reflect poorly on Li Singhua himself.

There was no personal grudge between Professor Li and Han Sen, and Professor Li was most certainly not going to make himself an enemy on Wang Lin's account.

Han Sen had thought of all this, so that was why he so happily made the suggestion to Li Singhua. Wang Lin, with a spectrum of view and thought that was not as broad, believed Han Sen was merely being naive.

"Teacher, give us a subject! We won't embarrass you," the angry man said.

Wang Lin quickly retorted, saying no. He said, "Teacher, if he loses, he will say that it was because it was a subject you have taught us before."

Wang Lin was still oblivious to what was actually going on.

Li Singhua simply smiled and said, "If you want me to suggest a subject, I will."

Li Singhua pulled out his communicator and sent information to Han Sen and Wang Lin. "This is what I have been researching in my own free time. Come find me when you have the results I wish to see."

After that, Li Singhua left. Wang Lin and his friends followed.

Han Sen read the information he had been given while eating. It seemed like a fairly easy subject.

It was very simple, as a matter of fact. The topic was on research on the energy flow cycle.

Han Sen thought it was simple due to his experience with energy flows. When he uses Dongxuan Sutra, he could simulate three or four different energy flows simultaneously.

But the information he had been given concerned itself with something a little different.

Li Singhua's research was about making two different energy flows run inside the body at the same time, but without either of them affecting the other.

That meant practicing two hyper geno arts without either touching.

Han Sen didn't think such a thing was possible, due to the blood pulses being connected. Every Qi Gong had to flow through the pulses, and they couldn't overlap.

Li Singhua had performed many tests with this subject. He had used many different hyper geno arts in trying this out, but the results were always the same. They always overlapped.

Han Sen knew it'd be impossible. When he practiced the Dongxuan Sutra, he could only practice the Dongxuan Sutra. He couldn't practice the Dongxuan Sutra at the same time he practiced the Blood-Pulse Sutra. If he ran two energy flows inside him, at the same time, he'd be lucky if he didn't blow up.

It was then that Han Sen realized the truth of why this subject had been selected. It was an impossible question, and it'd get him and Wang Lin to stop fighting.

After returning to the lab, Bai Yishan called him.

"Did you have an argument with Professor Li? I heard you had one," Bai Yishan inquired.

"It was nothing." Han Sen then went on to tell Bai Yishan what had transpired.

"Can I see?" Bai Yishan asked.

Han Sen thought he might as well show Bai Yishan, since an answer wouldn't be possible.

Bai Yishan looked very excited upon being shown what Han Sen had been given. He exclaimed, "Li Singhua is good! That is why he is my number one opponent. This is a very interesting theory."

Han Sen looked confused, and so he asked, "But there is no solution to this, is there?"

"It is impossible to solve, yes. And it is not just him who has been researching this; many scholars have tried."

Bai Yishan continued talking as he perused the information. He said, "Li Singhua's thoughts and suggestions make people think. He has inspired me a great deal."

"But you can't solve it," Han Sen said.

"Research does not require answers. Not everything on this plane of existence can be answered, and that is the beauty of research. There may be incidental results, but they are often viewed as being worth more than the subject itself. This research is comprised of many astounding theories, thoughts, and insights. For him to allow you to see this is brilliant."

Bai Yishan went on to tell Han Sen, "Read this information. If you understand all that is written here, you'd fare well in the prospect of graduating."

Han Sen was shocked. He didn't know why one minor, unsolvable subject such as this would fascinate Bai Yishan so much. Han Sen only now noticed the value of what he had been given.

Han Sen went to read it further, and there was much in there that he did not understand. He had to ask Bai Yishan for clarification.

Han Sen knew Li Singhua didn't just want to resolve the tensions, he wanted them both to learn more and become better than two squabbling kids in the canteen.

"Professor Li, you are very kind." Han Sen often consulted Bai Yishan for clarifications, but there was much even his teacher did not understand.

Surprisingly, Bai Yishan let Han Sen ask Li Singhua himself.

“Is this appropriate?” Han Sen asked. Everyone knew Bai Yishan and Li Singhua were enemies, so this was indeed a surprise.

“We have disagreements pertaining to the work we both share and love. There is no personal animosity between us. Feel free to ask him whatever you want,” Bai Yishan said.

Chapter 1117: Upstream Fish

Han Sen ended up not looking for Li Singhua in his lab, as he could have been rather busy. So, he sent him a message instead. That way, he could ask all the questions he wished to pose to the man.

He didn't really even expect a reply. But that very night, Li Singhua gave his response, answering each of Han Sen's questions with keen insight. He even provided Han Sen with links to further reading material on the subjects.

Han Sen saw his reply, and while he had received many answers, many of those answers merely led to him having even more questions.

Every now and again, Han Sen would continue to send Li Singhua a message with more questions. Each and every time, Li Singhua would reply within a day or two.

Now, Han Sen understood why Bai Yishan and Li Singhua did not get along. He could see now that it was due to their different methodologies of research.

Li Singhua saw things at a broader perspective, encompassing a lot more. Bai Yishan was of a narrower vision, one that was fixed to the most minute of details. Their methods of research were polar opposites.

Han Sen learned a lot from Li Singhua.

A month later, Han Sen finished the second stage of his testing of Hidden Blood. His spleen had become much stronger, the blood was twice as thick, and his heart was full of vigor.

This wouldn't have worked on anyone else because the ordinary, natural human heart wasn't strong enough. It was the crux of the problem, and what Bai Yishan was most concerned with fixing.

When Han Sen was done and dusted, he decided to return home.

His trip to Saint Hall had earned him a lot; Hidden Blood was a marvelous thing to have been given. And with his time spent in the labs and the theories he had discussed and researched, he had walked away with a greater fascination than ever.

“If I can finish the research topic—which I’ll just dub Double Cycle—from Li Singhua, that potentially indicates that I can practice two hyper geno arts at the same time.” Han Sen knew there’d be no answers, though. It was an enticing thought, but not one that could be resolved anytime soon.

In regards to the Double Cycle research, it did give Han Sen inspiration for Double Fly.

It was a dual-wielding skill that used the same energy flow for both hands. He now wondered if he could use two different skills, one for each hand.

It wasn’t exactly what the subject of Double Cycle concerned itself with, but it was a start. The energy flow was still connected, much like Yin Yang Blast. Han Sen wasn’t going to give up on this seemingly impossible research topic, and he hoped that one day, he could find an answer.

And from those days onwards, whenever Han Sen had a problem, he’d ask Li Singhua for guidance. This correspondence of theirs went on for a long time.

Now, Li Singhua was busy at work. He took a timeout to answer him, and after he was done, he sighed.

That day in the canteen, he had given this research topic to two people. And yet, despite that, only one had come to ask him questions.

His students were smart, and they knew there was no answer to the subject to be found. But upon encountering an immediate dead-end, they too came to a stop. They didn’t carry on and invest in the research like Han Sen, despite it seeming like a futile endeavor.

Two people had come to ask Li Singhua once, but there was too much information to process, and they gave up. Only Han Sen persevered and tried to process all the information and make heads or tails of it all.

Li Singhua knew Han Sen was serious about this subject due to the nature of the questions he posed.

To start off with, the questions seemed fairly basic and almost stupid. But they improved over time, which showed that Han Sen was a keen learner and he had put true dedication towards the subject.

When someone didn’t understand something, it was only natural for them to make a mistake. Fixing a mistake was valiant, only if it led to an improvement of understanding with the crux of the problem. If someone understood everything, then research would not be necessary.

Li Singhua was impressed with the speed Han Sen came to understand things, and genuinely admired his dedication.

“Bai Yishan has a good student there.” Li Singhua was a little jealous. Smartypants were everywhere, but many were just born that way. Passion was what Li Singhua valued above all, and Han Sen had it in spades. Not to mention perseverance and patience.

Back in the sanctuaries, Han Sen prepared himself for the coming journey. Queen had become a lot stronger over the month Han Sen had been gone, and she had incurred many wounds, too.

Han Sen wondered what her super body might have been and was of the mind to ask. But everyone's super body was a secret, so he thought it'd be intrusive and rude to ask outright.

Only Ji Qing and a few others had announced what their super bodies were, but they were merely names. No one actually knew what their super bodies actually did.

Han Sen picked up Bao'er and selected a trail that seemed most likely to lead to Thorn Forest.

If they ended up getting lost, though, it did not concern Han Sen too much. His primary goal, as it always had been, was to slay super creatures. And if they did get lost and unknowingly venture into wild, uncharted lands, he'd be able to kill more of what he sought to.

Queen slew most of the creatures along the way. With her super weapon and sacred-blood beast souls, she had become a worthy partner to venture with Han. She could most certainly now accompany him in slaying a super creature.

After reaching the outskirts of those barren lands, they came to a land with countless rivers running through it. The water of those rivers was extremely quick.

And in those waters, many fish were leaping in and out. They opened their fins eventually and used them to fly upstream, above the current of the water.

The fish were red, and their fins were shaped like wings. They were a meter long, on average.

In this shoal of fish, one of the fish was ten meters long. Its red scales shone brightly beneath the sunlight.

The fish leaped up and down, below and above the water, as the rest of its fishy friends followed in a glide.

"Super creature?" Han Sen felt a chill upon seeing this. He grabbed Queen and did not allow her to take one step closer.

This super creature was different, which was why it made Han Sen act so cautiously. If this was any average super creature, he would never have been so careful.

Chapter 1118: Lantern Fish

The life force of the big fish was extremely powerful, unlike anything Han Sen had ever seen before. He had seen much during his time in the Third God's Sanctuary, but nothing was comparable to that river fiend.

Han Sen grabbed Queen and did not move a muscle. The fish in front of them might have opened ten of its gene locks, so the last thing Han Sen wanted to risk was a provocation of its ire.

Furthermore, the school of fish following it were all sacred-blood at the very least. Their numbers alone would be overwhelming.

Queen did not know how powerful the fish were, but she knew Han Sen well-enough to know he wouldn't be so alert if they were not in peril. She complied with his obvious wish and stayed absolutely still.

The fish king must not have noticed the pair, so they merrily continued upstream.

Han Sen sighed. He was going to move once the fish were gone, but there were too many of them. The fish swarmed up and down every water stream they would need to cross.

After a while of waiting, the bright skies succumbed to the onset of night.

The river was sparkling beneath the moonlight, and the fish were all glowing and red. They illuminated the river beautifully. They were still all following where the fish king had gone, and the vast number that passed by was almost unbelievable.

Bao'er was captivated by the beauty of this sight, and like always, she wanted a closer look. She climbed onto Han Sen's shoulder, and using it like a springboard, she dove directly into the river.

The lanternfish were not afraid of her. Bao'er grabbed ahold of one of them and rode its back.

The fish was not angry or disturbed, and it just gave Bao'er a merry ride. One moment it would glide through the air, the next it would be doing spins underwater. Bao'er was delightfully happy while experiencing it.

"This isn't normal. It seems to me that something's afoot; let's take a closer look and see what might happen." Seeing Bao'er ride the fish, Han Sen wondered what the rest of the fish were all up to. He summoned Golden Growler, and with Queen, followed Bao'er and the fish upstream.

The river was completely red in their sparkling, ruby glow. If Han Sen had to wager a guess, he'd estimate there to be at least one million of the fish.

None of the fish seemed aggressive, and they didn't bother any of the creatures that could be spotted in the waters of the river, either.

Bao'er was jumping about in great merriment, hopping along the fish as if they were stepping stones. They were all still tame, none looking as if they wanted to hurt her.

Bao'er became braver and braver. When they reached the fish king, she hopped on its head repeatedly.

Han Sen sweated profusely at the sight of this. Even if it was tame and not hostile, it was common sense not to disturb such a powerful creature. You could never be too careful, and doing something that might provoke the anger of such a creature was just silly.

But, like the rest of the fish, it was uncaring. It just continued going upstream with the rest.

The further upstream they went, the steeper the trail became. It eventually took them to mountainous highlands, and so stern were the slopes, Golden Growler could barely keep up.

There was the occasional creature spotted alongside the river, but they all stayed away with the approach of the fish. They didn't seem as if they wanted to interact with them.

All creatures had territory to call their own, realms they fiercely protected and reigned over, and yet, all creatures were fine with allowing the fish to pass through unhindered. It was a strange occurrence that Han Sen had never seen before.

Han Sen eventually stood atop the peak of a mountain. In the distance, he saw a one-hundred-meter long water snake leave the river, allowing the fish to go on their way.

There was a ten-meter-long crocodile at one point, and even a toad that was carried by a toxic-looking cloud. They even passed a water dragon, which departed its waters politely, allowing uninterrupted passage for the fish.

"That fish is pretty bad-*ss." Han Sen envied the respect the fish received.

Seeing the docility of the red lantern fish king, even with Bao'er on its head, Han Sen fancied riding one of the lesser fish.

But he wasn't Bao'er, so he wasn't sure if he could. Creatures enjoyed attacking Han Sen, but they never seemed to go for Bao'er. If Han Sen jumped onto one of the fish, they could end up killing him.

"Where are these lantern fish actually going?" They followed the river for days, alongside the fish. And still, there was no end in sight. Curiously, though, the fish were beginning to pick up the pace and start swimming a touch faster.

The fish stopped playing around eventually and just keenly followed their king. When the fish king picked up its pace, many of the smaller fish ended up getting left behind.

In the end, even Golden Growler could not keep up. And that was even after going at full speed. Golden Growler was strong, but it hadn't opened many of its gene locks. As such, despite its good speed, it wasn't as fast it could have been, and compared to the fish king, it was rather slow.

Han Sen requested Bao'er to leave the fish and come back, but she shook her head and remained on top of the fish king.

Han Sen knew something big must have been on the verge of happening, but Golden Growler was starting to lag and get left behind just like the other fish.

Han Sen told Queen, "I'll go on ahead; you follow the stream with Golden Growler."

Han Sen stretched his Blood-Demon Dragon wings, and with his phoenix techniques, took off in a faster pursuit of the fish king. This combination allowed Han Sen to follow the fish king well, and he was no longer left behind.

Chapter 1119: Purple Vine

The lantern fish king was eventually going solo, for it had gone so fast, none of its brethren had been able to keep up. Only Han Sen could stick with it. Bao'er was still sitting atop the fish king, and as she sat there, she had a serious look on her face.

Han Sen kept following the fish king at this speed for two whole days. Fortunately, the wings were a beast soul. If he was using his own energy to fly, he would have been knackered far earlier.

Eventually, though, Han Sen saw the end of the long river he had traversed. It led to a big mountain, the peak of which was high up in the clouds someplace. An accurate estimation of its height could not be guessed.

There was a big waterfall on the mountain, too. It descended from someplace above the clouds, as if it were a tether to hold the sky and clouds in place.

It was a gorgeous sight, and before that grand waterfall, even the fish king looked small.

The waterfall descended into a lake. When the fish king reached this lake, it began to stream up through the waterfall into the sky. Bao'er held onto the fish king tight, flying up with it.

Han Sen shouted in her direction, but Bao'er ignored him. She remained fixated on the mountain they had come to.

The fish was swimming against the waterfall, and as it cleaved its way upwards, many splashes were created.

Han Sen had the power to do this, as well, but he refrained for now. And as Han Sen was lost in thought over the place he had come to, something came down from above the clouds.

Han Sen stood on the shores of the lake watching. Then, he saw a purple vine descend and try to lash the fish king as if it were a whip.

The fish king puffed up its belly and withstood the blow like a red sun.

Pang!

The fish king received that hit and bled a copious amount of blood; so much, the waterfall and lake below were dyed red.

The fish king opened its mouth and did not relent in its ascension of the waterfall.

Pang!

The vine was still there, and it lashed the king again. Many of the fish's scales were stripped from its body.

Han Sen was frozen at the scene of this terrible sight. The fish king was incredibly powerful as it was. But the purple vine was able to nearly wreck the beast with but a single hit.

“What in the sanctuaries could that thing be? Is it a plant?! Is it a weapon?! Is someone controlling it or what?” Han Sen wondered, aghast.

His Dongxuan Aura was not efficient enough for him to detect what might have lurked above the clouds.

What Han Sen couldn't understand the most, though, was why Bao'er was acting the way she was. She was determined to remain on the fish king, and her face was extremely serious. Han Sen had never seen her behave this way before.

“Does she know what is up there?” Han Sen thought to himself.

It did not seem possible. She had never been there before, so how could she know?

Regardless, one thing was for sure: she wanted something. There had to be something up there and she wanted it.

Pang!

The fish could not withstand this blow, and it could no longer continue its ascent. It fell all the way down to the lake below, creating a massive splash and tidal wave.

Han Sen knew the fish king could fly, but it must have been too weak to do so, following its third and final strike.

The fish king was not wholly defeated yet, though. It shone brightly, swimming around in circles before resuming its upwards flight.

The head of the fish was now crowned with a golden horn. The moment the vine came down, the fish king was able to skewer it with the horn.

The purple vine emitted a mist, following this. And it was still active; it lashed the horn.

Pang!

The golden horn was shattered, and the fish king fell back down into the lake once more.

The fish king was determined not to give up, though. It shone even brighter than it had before, and it was so bright, Han Sen found it difficult to watch.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to view the king, and he was able to see it regenerate. The scales around it healed, and its tail at the back was like a chipper cloud.

The fish king leaped out of the water and flew upwards like a rocket.

The purple vine whacked the fish again, shattering more of the scales. But the fish king did not submit to gravity this time, and it continued onwards and upwards. As it went, the obliterated scales were like golden stardust, left as a wake for its starbound pursuit.

The vine was unable to stop the fish king this time, but the seeming victory appeared to be short-lived. The illusion of success looked likely to crumble, as another vine appeared.

But the fish king kept going. It pushed on and accelerated, despite the loss of its scales.

It was so fast that the second vine was actually unable to do anything. And witnessing its failure to prevent the fish king's ascent, the vines retreated above the clouds.

Bao'er's face looked more dour than ever, after withstanding all that. She now held the gourd in her hands as she stared up at the clouds she was fast approaching.

Han Sen watched as the bleeding fish penetrated the clouds and then, from somewhere above, the noise of thunder sounded. Purple lights appeared in the sky.

The clouds were torn asunder by these lights, and the fish became a bloodfish. Its scales had all been stripped away.

The moment the clouds were torn, Han Sen was able to see the peak of the mountain. There, atop the mountain, was an old vine. The two vines that had assaulted the fish were only a part of it.

And the purple light that now flashed was sent out by the old vine.

"What is that thing?" Han Sen looked at it in surprise.

Chapter 1120: Beast Vine

The clouds only remained open for a second, but in that time, Han Sen was able to discern that the vines were not growing from the mountaintop. They were actually the appendages of a monster.

In the space of that brief look, the image of the monstrosity was seared into Han Sen's mind. The vines had a mind of their own, but they grew out of a living creature. This was something he had seen before.

The gourd Bao'er came from had brown upon vines that had writhed around the ancient bones of creatures. The vines were almost completely similar.

The only difference was the absence of a gourd on the vine.

"That vine can't be a relative of Bao'er's, can it?" Han Sen wasn't so sure whether or not these things could bear gourds. Perhaps it one day would grow one.

But there had to be some connection between the vine and Bao'er. If there wasn't, she wouldn't behave in the manner she currently had been.

During Han Sen's thought, the fish king blitzed through the pain it had endured and dove through the clouds with its tail, breaking it like a thick mucus to provide passage. Once it was through, it went for the vine.

The purple light shone again, but it was not like a blade. It created a swarm of purple bees that rushed to surround the fish king.

Bao'er finally moved. She slapped her gourd, which allowed it to suck and ingest all the purple bees.

Pang!

The fish king's body was sent crashing down the mountainside. But it was not content to stay there. It jumped up and headed for the vines, again, as if it were in a desperate rush.

It looked as if the fish was hungry to consume the vine, but before it could, the monster stood up. Its hideous head knocked the fish king away, making it bleed even more.

Roar!

The monster let out a fearsome roar as it raced towards the fish king with its vines lashing wildly.

The fish king shone gold and was unfazed by its gruesome foe. Quickly, it went to clash with the fell beast.

A purple and gold light mixed together in mid-air.

Han Sen flew up above the clouds to watch the fight unfold. Even with super king spirit mode, Han Sen did not believe he was a match for either of the creatures. For now, he was content to just watch.

Han Sen noticed the monster was different from the skeleton of the one in the Second God's Sanctuary, where Bao'er's gourd had grown.

Although only the bones had remained, he could immediately tell.

This monster was like a ghost with horns. Its body shape, he could tell, was different from the one in the Second God's Sanctuary.

"Does Bao'er have something to do with these vines?" Han Sen watched the vines with ardent curiosity. The vines were quite frightening. They were like tentacles, growing from the raging monster that fought with the fish. But Han Sen could not see any fruit or gourds growing from them.

Perhaps the vine fed on the monster's energy, or empowered it. If it was just the monster fighting the fish, it would have been killed.

The monster's vines kept hitting the fish. Their brutal powers were proving too much for the fish, though, and it was clearly going to be the loser in this battle. Despite having been ravaged and despite oozing gallons of blood, the fish was not willing to give up. It did not relent in its combat.

The fish king was getting weaker and weaker, and eventually, the vines managed to grip the fish and begin strangling it. The fish was made unable to move.

The beast's horns managed to skewer the fish, and with the fish drained of its health, it was tossed crudely down to the lake below.

The lake turned completely red after this happened. And unlike before, it did not immediately spring back into action. After a while, it slowly resurfaced.

It wasn't dead yet, but the light was dim and fleeting.

The wounds across its body were massive, and most of its body had been stripped of scales and flesh. Much of its skeleton was exposed. The fish struggled to regain its composure. It tried jumping up, but it got no further than a height of ten meters, before falling back down.

Bao'er looked at the sky, looking as if she did not wish to give up just yet.

Han Sen, seeing the fish king die, went to pick up Bao'er.

After the fight, Bao'er did not appear to have suffered a single scratch. Perhaps the vine did not want to injure her; he did not know.

"Bao'er; what do you want up there?" Han Sen hoped she would answer his question.

Bao'er continued looking up at the mountain, and said, "Dad, I want vine."

"For what purpose?" Han Sen asked.

"I just want it," Bao'er said.

Han Sen kept asking her for more details, but she did not elaborate. He suspected she didn't even know herself, but there was some phantom urge compelling her to go.

Han Sen stopped asking, but resolved to finish the fish king off. He grabbed his Phoenix Sword and readied himself to plunge it deep into the creature. It was a super creature, one that might have opened ten of its gene locks.

It was dying, and now was his opportunity.

"Don't kill it," Bao'er said.

"Why?" Han Sen was confused, as she had never stopped him in such a way before.

Bao'er looked back to the mountain, saying, "It is not our enemy. We need its help."