

## Super Power

### Chapter 1121: Forest of a Thousand Insects

"In the future?" Han Sen was surprised, and it seemed as if Bao'er wanted that vine even more than he had thought.

Considering her words, he decided against finishing off the fish king. Killing super creatures was no longer a monumental task for Han Sen, so it was worth putting this one aside if it meant keeping Bao'er happy.

Han Sen was interested in the monster with the vines, though. If the fish king could help with this situation, then it would be worth keeping.

Han Sen simulated the silver fox's lightning and tried to heal the fish king.

But the Dongxuan Sutra did not have a sufficient number of gene locks open, rendering the healing Han Sen could impart almost completely useless. The lightning didn't work very well on a creature as strong as that.

After half a day of healing, Han Sen was knackered. And despite his efforts, the fish had only healed a tiny amount.

"This must be a berserk super creature." Up close and personal with the fish, Han Sen could now get a real feel for how powerful the fish king was. It being a berserk variant was likely.

The fish king was looking better, though. It was now able to move. It turned to look at the mountain, and it seemed as if it wished to return. But it couldn't, and it looked regretful for knowing that, too. It turned away from Han Sen and Bao'er and swam away downstream.

Bao'er looked disappointed. Han Sen was standing on top of the fish king, holding Bao'er in his hands. As they were carried along, Han Sen remained deep in thought over the connection that may have existed between Bao'er and the vine.

The fish king swam for another half day, and eventually, they encountered Queen. Queen was taken aback when she saw the fish, which had none of its scales left.

Han Sen put away Golden Growler and invited her to come sit on the fish alongside him. He told her about what had transpired in the time he had been away, but made no mention of the possible connection to Bao'er.

"So much of what happened is mysterious and inexplicable. If the fish king was willing to die for it, it can only mean the vine is extremely valuable," Queen said.

Han Sen nodded. He really wanted to find out more, but he acknowledged he was too weak to find out in his current state. He hoped he could somehow get the fish king to return, fight, and beat the vine.

After traveling for a while longer, the fish king met up with its legion of lanternfish. When it reached them, they swarmed around to kiss its wounds.

With each kiss from a lanternfish, a mote of light would depart their lips and soak into the fish king's body. Miraculously, the fish king's lifeforce immediately began to replenish.

More and more lanternfish offered their motes to the fish king, and as this continued to occur, the scales began to sprout back and armor-up the fish king once again.

After seeing this, Han Sen was ready to hit the road and return to the mountain. But Bao'er stopped him and said, "Daddy, it will take us."

"Take us? Take us where?" Han Sen asked.

"It saw someone who looked like us," Bao'er said.

Han Sen looked at Queen. If the fish had seen other humans, it meant they could be taken to a human shelter. If that was true, that would be great news.

The fish recovered and swam quickly downstream.

After just under a day of travel, the fish king stopped and skirted a bank of the river.

When Han Sen looked at where they had come to, he was shocked. There were thorny vines wreathed around the ordinary forest flora. Wherever they were, they couldn't be too far from Thorn Forest.

They disembarked the fish king and looked back at it. It shook its tail as if to wave goodbye, and then took off swimming.

"Bao'er, how do we find the fish again?" Han Sen looked at the river. It was a large river, but not in the grander scheme of the land. Finding where they had come from would be difficult.

"It will go there," Bao'er said, as she looked off in the direction of the mountain.

For now, there was nothing Han Sen could do. Even with his super king spirit mode, he could not do battle with the vine beast and expect victory.

Fortunately, the vine beast did seem to have one limitation: it never seemed to leave the lofty peak it resided upon. If it truly was afraid to come down, that was good for them. Han Sen shuddered to think of what might have happened if it had followed them down.

"When I get stronger, I'll go back for that vine," Han Sen thought to himself as he walked towards the forest.

Eventually, they came across human footprints. That told Han Sen humans had to be around, someplace. After ten miles of walking, the trio stumbled across a castle, nestled between the trees. There, he could see humans fighting creatures.

“Friends, where have you come from?” someone asked Han Sen and Queen.

“Our shelter is someplace nearby, but we are lost,” Han Sen answered dubiously, wanting to test their intent.

“You are lucky, then. Venturing through this treacherous forest alone is no small feat; you are fortunate to be breathing!” the man exclaimed, with genuine surprise.

Han Sen was delighted to hear his words, as it meant Thorn Forest must have been around.

The forest they were currently in, as Han Sen later learned, was called The Forest of a Thousand Insects. It was a forest that neighbored Thorn Forest. The wide rivers bordered one length of this forest, which was nice, but what was even better was that there was only one royal shelter in the vicinity. The humans lived inside it, but Han Sen could not guess why it had been empty when they found it.

Thorn Forest and the rivers were said to be dangerous, but The Forest of a Thousand Insects wasn't. It was primarily populated by ordinary, primitive, and mutant creatures. The humans were fortunate to live there.

After the trio entered the shelter, they were warmly welcomed. There was much joy to see, and the humans all seemed to live in harmony with each other. Everyone aided everyone else, and there seemed to be no conflict, competition, or strife.

Han Sen and Queen decided to remain there for a short while, and in the meantime, Han Sen returned to the Alliance and pinpointed exactly where he was. Perhaps it would be possible for him to move the underground shelter.

Since that location was not too far from the river, and the river led to the vine beast, Han Sen planned to remain in that forest for quite some time.

Chapter 1122: Meeting the Creature from the Nest Again

Han Sen returned to the Alliance and used what little information he had to figure out where he was in the grander scale of the Third God's Sanctuary.

Han Sen stayed at the shelter for a while, and when he figured out where he was, he asked Moment Queen to move the shelter close to them. Unfortunately, the underground shelter could only move a certain distance with each teleportation. It would take a month for it to reach Han Sen.

The shelter they were at was called Nest. There were around forty people living there, with the population spread across a vast manner of different ages. The eldest among the people were over one hundred years old.

The area around it was rather safe, and any surpasser that came to be there was guaranteed a good life. The people at the shelter said only five people had died there in over a hundred years.

Two of them died while venturing into a creature's nest, whereas the others died while trying to brave either Thorn Forest or the waters.

Han Sen was surprised to learn there was a nest there, and Uncle Bug told him this nest was in the very center of the forest. No one dared to go there, and on the few occasions that they had snuck in, the eggs inside the nest had proven too sturdy for them to break.

Uncle Bug was the leader of the shelter. He was the oldest there, and he was the founder of the shelter; as such, he had the authority of leadership.

He didn't focus too much on himself, and he was always more concerned with helping others. Whenever someone new arrived, he'd make sure to provide them with beast souls to begin or aid them in their time in the Third God's Sanctuary. Having a leg-up, and having the proper equipment to deal with creatures of that realm right from the start, was an invaluable and much-appreciated boon.

He was titled "uncle" out of respect. His age meant nothing to the people of the shelter. He was a good man.

The reason he had the name "bug" was because of the beast souls he usually gave out. He loved handing out beast souls, but they were always some sort of bug. And on a day-to-day basis, he had a dozen bug beast souls all around him, too.

As for what Uncle Bug's real name was, none knew.

The new people who came to the shelter would always receive a bug pet beast soul as a welcome. They weren't powerful, but they were a worthy aid for newbies when fighting ordinary creatures.

When Han Sen and Uncle Bug saw each other for the first time, Uncle Bug looked at him strangely. He was sensitive enough to tell that Han Sen studied both the Dongxuan Sutra and Jadeskin.

Han Sen initially believed Uncle Bug's peculiar reaction at their meeting was because the man had recognized him. When considering Han Sen's past-glories, it wasn't too far-fetched to believe he was a recognizable face, after all. He was once a household name of the Alliance.

People still believed he was sick, though, so it would catch anyone off-guard to see him frolicking about the forests of the Third God's Sanctuary.

Uncle Bug was very nice. He took Han Sen and Queen on a tour of the area around the shelter, informing them both about the forest. When he was done, he provided them both bugs.

When Queen learned of Han Sen's intention to remain there, she decided to go out on a hunt.

Han Sen, in the meantime, decided to visit the center of The Forest of a Thousand Insects. For most surpassers, such a place was deadly; for Han Sen, it was a trove of goodies he could easily plunder.

If the eggs inside there were super creatures, it was sure to be a wonder.

What Han Sen currently needed most were super genes. He wasn't particularly interested in anything else, so he just flew straight for the center.

While traveling through the air, Han Sen caught sight of a mountain peak in the distance. It was like a blooming lotus flower, the top of which looked like an entrance. He guessed it was the entry to the nest.

Han Sen flew there and saw an abundance of bugs, all possessing gold shells. Like beetles, they all had shiny gold horns. Their claws were like saws, too. There had to be at least a hundred of the critters.

At the most, they looked to be mutant creatures. Therefore, Han Sen was too lazy to kill them. Traveling to the center of the mountain, he found a cave. It was the entrance to the nest.

Han Sen looked inside and noticed the surprising absence of creatures. He put on his super mantis armor and summoned Disloyal Knight.

Disloyal Knight entered first, but the path was clear of creatures for its entire length.

They approached a crystal wall, and they found it already broken. Someone had been there before them.

Han Sen looked around and saw no creatures or living things in the area around them.

Under the green light of the shattered crystals, Han Sen noticed the presence of many broken bug shells. They weren't in the best condition, and they looked as if they had been ripped and torn off the creatures they may have once belonged to.

Some were bigger than train cars, others were as small as one's fist. They were everywhere in that cave.

"This is a strange place. Has someone come here and killed all the creatures?" Han Sen thought to himself.

People said two had come to this place before. One died inside, while the other escaped but eventually died, anyway.

Han Sen did not expect a duo such as that would have what it took to kill so many creatures, large and small. Perhaps someone else had come to this place before Han Sen had.

Han Sen was disappointed. He feared the eggs further inside would already be broken. If they had, this entire venture would have been a waste of time.

Since he was there already, though, he kept exploring. And he wouldn't turn back unless he could confirm the condition of the eggs that were said to reside there. He continued on.

The bug shells were everywhere, and Han Sen couldn't help but frown when seeing them.

Chapter 1123: Metal Card

The broken shells were strange to see. They did not look as if they had been removed from the creatures with a fine weapon. The whole cave was littered with the shells, and there was not a single living thing to be found.

When Han Sen reached the deepest recess of the cave, he was dismayed to learn there was nothing there. No eggs: nothing.

“Who could have done all this and broken the eggs? Is this the work of a human or a spirit?” Han Sen frowned.

It was pointless to wonder now, though. But just as Han Sen readied himself to depart, he was overwhelmed with a chill that suggested he was in immediate danger.

He turned around and threw a punch without thinking. The gauntlets collided with a dark-green claw, and when they met, the force sent him flying backwards. As he careened through the cavern, he broke through many crystal walls.

Disloyal Knight ran to the monster to engage it, providing time for Han Sen to stand up. The pain he was feeling was excruciating, but he knew he did not have the time to wallow around.

When his eyes focused, he was shocked to see Disloyal Knight in conflict with a dark-green spider. It was the size of a household room, and it was hairy.

Disloyal Knight threw a punch, but before it could land, the spider fired a web to tangle and nullify its potential damage.

Disloyal Knight was strong, but the web was far too sticky for him to do anything against it. The web was like a million, syrupy rubber bands.

The web knotted its way around Disloyal Knight’s arm, and the spider continued to unleash stream after stream of the web. Eventually, Disloyal Knight was practically cocooned. He had been rendered unable to move.

Pang!

The metallic claws of the spider struck against Disloyal Knight’s armor and left a deep cleft across his chest.

With its foe trapped and unable to move, the spider made the most of this opportunity to keep attacking.

Han Sen now knew what the shells were. They were the shells of bugs that had been killed by the spider.

The meat of the prey had all been eaten, leaving behind the ruined remains of a husk. That’s what the tattered shells were.

“This spider must have been birthed from the egg that was said to be here. What a horrifying creature; to murder and dine on so many hapless victims. It makes me shudder!” Han Sen was strangely excited about this ordeal.

The eggs had not been taken, and neither had they been eaten, they had become a super creature.

Han Sen summoned his gold raven beast soul and transformed. With his Blood-Pulse Sutra, he activated his nine gene locks.

The spider, seeing this other threat, then turned to fire webs at Han Sen. They were hopeless against him, though, as the webs were immediately incinerated by the bird's fire.

Han Sen swooped in close to the spider, and with his talons, he cut the spider with a grizzly swing. Immediately, the spider began to gush green blood. Han Sen then spun around and fired a geyser of flame towards Disloyal Knight to free him.

The trapping web was scorched away, freeing him to do combat once again.

Following this, Han Sen and the knight co-operated in attacking the spider. With Disloyal Knight's halo and Han Sen's volcanic assaults, the spider stood no chance.

There was no place for the spider to run or hide inside the cave. And within the hour, Han Sen was able to deliver the final blow, crushing its brain.

"Super Creature Cruel Spider King killed. No 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."

Although there was no beast soul, Han Sen was still pleased with the result. He did not expect to receive a Life Geno Essence again, quite so soon.

When the body decomposed, though, something else was left behind. It wasn't just the Life Geno Essence this time.

Han Sen's jaw dropped when he saw what it was. It was a gold card, one emblazoned with the Nine-Life Cat emblem.

The card was red and around the size of a man's hand. On its back was the number seven.

Han Sen examined it closely, but could not learn anything more. He had no clue why it had been left there, inside the belly of that spider.

He took the Life Geno Essence and walked around, wanting to ensure he had not missed anything. Han Sen eventually returned to Nest Shelter and asked Uncle Bug a few questions.

The answers he received were disappointing. The scariest place in the region was the nest he had just been to.

"Aside from Thorn Forest and the water, is there anywhere else strange and treacherous I might venture?" Han Sen asked.

Han Sen did not want to go to the water. The last time he was there, the fish king made all the creatures run off. In case he needed to traverse the banks of those wide rivers again in the near future, the last

thing he wanted to do was provoke the kind inhabitants that had once respectfully provided him passage.

Thorn Forest was a mysterious place. It was wild and unpredictable, so without the safety net of his underground shelter, he wouldn't dare venture there.

"There is still one more peculiar spot, here in The Forest of a Thousand Insects," Uncle Bug said.

"What place would that be?" Han Sen asked.

Uncle Bug remained silent for a few moments, before telling Han Sen, "There are three small hills that skirt Thorn Forest. They are around five hundred meters tall, with a valley between them that is completely devoid of life. One dead spot, surrounded by the abundance of vegetation everywhere else in this land. Creatures have been known to wander in, but never wander out. And occasionally, you can hear the distant voice of a baby crying."

Uncle Bug went on to say, "I've been here all these years, and never once wanted to set foot in that place. What you might find there, I haven't a clue. But for what it's worth, I would advise against traveling there."

Han Sen feigned agreement, but secretly thought to himself, "This is exactly what I wanted!"

Han Sen asked where that place was, so he knew where to avoid. His next trip was set.

#### **Chapter 1124: Dongxuan Sutra's Fifth Tier**

Han Sen had managed to collect three Life Geno Essences by this point, but none had been fully absorbed.

"I need to get my \*ss in gear. Otherwise, I won't be able to absorb it." Han Sen thought about buying a geno fluid to help synthesize and speed up the absorption process. He was tempted, but he ultimately chose not to.

Firstly, it was too expensive. Secondly, he did not know whether or not there were any unwanted side-effects that had yet to come to light.

Before going to the strange valley that he had been told about, Han Sen decided to open his fifth gene lock first. He had opened the Dongxuan Sutra's fourth gene lock a long time ago, but he had held off on opening more due to his injury.

One had been opened by Big Mara, but he had managed to shut it down and close it.

So, for now, Han Sen focused on his Dongxuan Sutra. His fitness was sufficient to support the fifth gene lock being open, and since it had been opened once before, it was an easy and smooth process to open it again properly.



The moment he opened the fifth gene lock, his head felt as if something inside it had snapped.

The radius of his dongxuan aura had not increased, but he felt different with it.

Han Sen could sense a lot of things inside that aura with his seventh sense. But that was before; now, his sensitivities had widely increased.

He had the eighth sense. Now, when he was scanning someone, he could get a feel for what they were thinking.

He used his dongxuan aura and scanned the area around him. There was a guy called Wang Lin there, and he was currently busy slicing up the carcass of a creature.

He wasn't speaking at all, but Han Sen could sense what he was saying to himself with his mindvoice, "After I eat this mutant flesh, my geno point tally will reach seventy-six."

Han Sen didn't think it was possible to do this, but he knew it was impossible for him to guess something so detailed. He thought his dongxuan aura was somehow lifting the signals of their brain.

Han Sen scanned the others and realized he was correct.

"Xiao Mei is a slut! I almost broke my back last night. I'll have to remedy it with some oil later for round two tonight. I'm going to f\*ck her to death."

"Where should I go to kill creatures? Killing worms is too dangerous, but killing bugs is too simple and lame."

"F\*ck! That \*sshole Li tricked me. I'm going to f\*ck him up the next time I see him."

When he focused on a person inside the aura, Han Sen could read their minds in real time.

He could also get a perfect sense of how someone was feeling inside.

"Can I hear the thoughts of creatures?" Han Sen focused on Bao'er, who was currently scarfing down some grub.

Unfortunately, Han Sen was unable to hear a single thing.

Instead, he turned his attention to the bird that was sitting on Bao'er's shoulder. Much to his surprise, he was able to discern its thoughts.

"She never shares any food with me. What a b\*tch."

Han Sen was incredibly excited over this new ability, and he was giddy to try it out on everything he could. He ran straight into the forest to hear the thoughts of all the creatures he could find.

"Eat. Eat. Eat. Hungry. Hungry. Hungry."

Han Sen noticed most other creatures were simple-minded.

Han Sen now had a better understanding of what the fifth gene lock provided. He could hear the thoughts of others, but only if their feelings were strong and at the forefront of their minds.

The stronger their thoughts, the clearer Han Sen could hear them.

Han Sen thought about the long-term viability and usefulness of the power, as most super creatures had the eighth sense. That meant there was no use trying to hide from their seventh sense.

This skill didn't have a clear purpose, so Han Sen was unsure what to make of it.

It enabled Han Sen to simulate energy flows with greater efficiency, though, so at least the refinement of Life Geno Essences was faster.

"If I have nine tiers, does that mean I'll be able to read anyone's mind with crystal clarity?" Han Sen wondered to himself.

The Dongxuan Sutra meant you could see through things, even that which was in heaven. The thoughts of all humans could definitely be read.

Han Sen would have liked to open the ninth tier then and there, but there were no shortcuts available.

Han Sen went back to the shelter, walking right past Uncle Bug.

Han Sen focused on him, and he heard a shouting voice boom inside his head.

"No way is he Han Jingzhi's heir! But why does he claim that his grandpa is Han Jingzhi? And why does he have the Nine-Life Cat on him?"

Han Sen heard this and felt a shiver run down his spine. Uncle Bug knew about his family.

If Uncle Bug had run a background check on Han Sen in the Alliance, it might have been normal for him to have learned about Han Sen's father and grandfather. But there was no way Uncle Bug should have known Han Sen had the Nine-Life Cat.

Han Sen recalled his first meeting with Uncle Bug, and how Uncle Bug acted strangely and gave him an odd look. He might have seen Han Sen's necklace.

But Han Sen was wearing armor, so the man shouldn't have been able to sense or see it.

"This guy must have some connection to Blood Legion and Han Jingzhi." Han Sen would have loved to open his brain and get a proper look at what had been running through his mind.

## **Chapter 1125: Strange Valley**

"Uncle Bug, where are you off to?" Han Sen asked, looking at Uncle Bug.

"I am going to Redbug Lake to collect some more meat," Uncle Bug answered.

“You are strong, and you’re around the same age as my great-grandfather. Perhaps you met him at some point? It’s a shame he is dead now, though. His name is Han Jinzhi; have you heard about him?” Han Sen asked, coyly.

Uncle Bug gave a strange look at first, but then he smiled, saying, “That name eludes me, sorry!”

Han Sen wished to say something more, but Uncle Bug quickly waved his hand and said, “I need to go to Redbug Lake now. We can talk later.”

Watching Uncle Bug leave, Han Sen knew he had caught the man off-guard. Uncle Bug was a little nervous in his response. Han Sen wished to find out what had happened in the past, but no one ever wished to talk about it. Not even Sunset could tell him.

It was incredibly unlikely but fortunate for him to have met Uncle Bug, and Han Sen was fond of the area around the shelter. He knew he couldn’t push the old man too hard for information. Not yet, anyway.

“How can I get Uncle Bug to reveal more?” Han Sen wrestled with a number of different methods he could try, but none seemed viable.

So, he decided to find out more about who Uncle Bug actually was. People only knew him by the queer nickname, so he fancied trying to dig a little deeper beyond the name Uncle Bug.

Han Sen even asked someone to compose an image of the man. With this portrait in hand, Han Sen perused Skynet to learn more about Uncle Bug’s true identity. Unfortunately, he couldn’t find a trace of the man.

Uncle Bug gave Han Sen an uneasy feeling in his stomach, and his mere presence was different than what Han Sen received off others.

Han Sen concluded his investigation with lame results: nothing new was learned. He hadn’t even found the man’s real name.

Han Sen asked the elders in the shelter, who looked to be close with Uncle Bug, but learned nothing from them, either. They spoke a lot, but didn’t actually say much, so to speak.

Han Sen now knew there was something off about the man, but he wasn’t sure how he’d get him to talk.

Uncle Bug continued to pretend he didn’t know anything, upon future inquiries. It was rather frustrating for Han Sen.

Han Sen’s Dongxuan Sutra could not follow every train of thought or scan through the mind of a person as if it were an archive. Had he been able to do this, Han Sen wouldn’t have gone to such lengths to find out info elsewhere.

But he knew he had to be careful and not scare Uncle Bug off. If he was too pushy, things could turn ill. What's more, if Han Sen ever left this shelter, he wouldn't know where to find him back in the Alliance.

Han Sen decided to drop the investigation for now and resume his previous plan of heading for the strange valley he had been told about. He went there with Bao'er.

Finding a super creature in The Forest of a Thousand Insects was a very difficult affair, as the knotted realm was rather tame compared to other regions if one did not venture too far.

Han Sen went to the deserted area and saw the three hills, which acted as a crude border-wall separating The Forest of a Thousand Insects and Thorn Forest.

The hills were not too tall, and they stood at a height of around five hundred meters. They were quite plain and barren.

Han Sen flew into the sky to get an aerial view of the space. As he had been told, there was a Y-shaped valley devoid of any visible life. It was like a dead canyon, cloaked in white sand.

He wouldn't believe it was entirely empty, however. Giving the place a scan, his suspicions were confirmed. He found something. In that valley were numerous holes. They were all the size of a fist, roughly, and looked like little tunnels that belonged to a nest.

Han Sen's dongxuan aura could not see through the thick walls, unfortunately, so he could not get a proper scan of what might lay inside. He did hear a noise, though.

He wasn't entirely sure what the noise was, but he acknowledged it wasn't too dissimilar to the crying of a baby.

Uncle Bug had told him about the noise, but Han Sen was still surprised to hear it just as he said. And he could hear it from quite a distance away, too.

"Whatever creature is making that sound, it seems as if it resides beneath here. I'll have to draw it out somehow." Han Sen had an idea of how to do just that. So, he returned to the forest and caught two tank bugs.

Han Sen cut each of them up and tossed them into the valley.

The two tank bugs had not been killed, they had just been badly injured. They squirmed around in agony, trying to escape the place, as blood squirted everywhere.

Watching the bugs leave the valley, another thought cropped into Han Sen's head, "Are those creatures not interested in the tank bugs?"

As Han Sen thought about this, the tank bugs were successfully making their escape. Or so it seemed.

The tank bugs were only ten meters away from the exit. But then, they just vanished. The trail of blood they had left in their wake stopped in the exact spot they disappeared from sight. Stranger still, it didn't look as if something had pulled them down into the sand.

The two bugs just vanished before Han Sen's eyes, with no warning or indication of where they had gone.

Han Sen had already activated his dongxuan aura, so if something peculiar had happened, he should have noticed it.

But the two injured tank bugs suffered a fate that made no sense. Han Sen gritted his teeth and flew back into the forest again. He grabbed a few more bugs, wounded them, and tossed them into the valley.

This time, Han Sen focused on them intently. He wanted to watch where they went exactly.

He had tossed in ordinary and primitive class creatures, and they looked to be panicky and desperate. They urgently wished to escape the valley.

### **Chapter 1126: Human-Faced Scorpion**

Han Sen's pupils shrank as he saw three of the bugs vanish.

With no indication of another creature or unexpected movement, they disappeared right in front of his eyes.

The other two bugs tried to make themselves scarce, but it wasn't long before they were taken by the phantom that seemed to plague those sands.

"What is this?" Han Sen looked over to where they disappeared and scanned the area.

There was nothing to be seen. Again, five bugs had just immediately gone missing.

"Are there any cracks in the space of this place? Maybe they slipped into another dimension or something." Han Sen was shocked by what was going on.

Han Sen was glad that he had not wandered into the valley himself.

But, wanting another look, Han Sen went away to collect more bugs. When he had a few more, he tossed them down towards the sands below.

The results were mostly the same, though. This time, Han Sen scattered the bugs all around, but they all still vanished. They were able to disappear from any corner of that valley, and not in just one spot.

Han Sen spent more time conducting these tests, tossing dozens and dozens of bugs each time. Despite his best efforts to uncover what was going on, he was as clueless as when he began. His crack-in-space theory seemed unlikely, too, given that the bugs could disappear from anywhere. If there was a rip in space, it would most likely take the form of a single large hole.

Although it was difficult to detect the presence of cracks in space, Han Sen's keen eyesight should have allowed him to notice the slight shimmering they often gave off. With no other clues or ideas about what might have been happening, the thought still weighed on his mind.

He didn't dare go to the valley himself, though. Han Sen remained above, watching from the top of a hill in safety.

Eventually, the stars rose and the moon gleamed brightly above the land. Despite the hours spent there, Han Sen wasn't able to deduce anything.

The region he was situated in was eerily silent, but he remained there stubbornly. He peered into every nook and cranny of that place, hoping to catch a glimpse of whatever was causing that peculiar phenomenon. Unfortunately for him, he learned nothing.

If there was a creature lurking beneath those sands, how could it have snatched the bugs without a trace?

As Han Sen's mind wandered, a rustle in the trees startled him.

Han Sen looked into the forest that was a distance away and saw a man appear. It was Uncle Bug.

Han Sen was shocked, not expecting to see Uncle Bug casually approach the valley on foot.

"He said it was dangerous to come here. He warned me to stay away. Why is he coming here himself?" Han Sen frowned.

Uncle Bug was carrying a sack, and something seemed to be wriggling inside. Han Sen tried to determine what it was through a scan. All he could learn was that it was alive, and that it possessed a life force.

Uncle Bug approached the entrance of the valley and stopped. He peered across the sands of that place and tossed the bag onto the sands below.

Uncle Bug was strong, clearly. The sack was large, the size of a human. Despite that, he was able to toss it an entire kilometer.

Whatever was in the sack looked to be panicking, and it thrashed around frantically after it came crashing down to the ground. Unfortunately, it had been sealed tight, and whatever was inside could not escape.

Han Sen looked at the bag and thought to himself, "What is inside that? Is he doing what I did? Is he trying to uncover what lurks inside this valley, too?"

All of a sudden, Han Sen heard the sound of a baby crying once more. It was incredibly sharp, just like Uncle Bug had told him.

It was unnerving and unsettling. The baby's sound was as if it had been traumatized. Han Sen then realized the sound was coming from the holes he had examined earlier.

In that Y-shaped valley, the holes were emitting the sound of a shrieking baby like speakers. The only unclear thing was which hole the noise was coming from.

Quickly, Han Sen received his answer. After he listened closer, he realized that each and every hole was making the noise.

Then, something even creepier occurred. Countless scorpions began to pour out of the holes. Thousands of the critters began to cascade from the sandy orifices, all heading for the bag and whatever was inside it.

The scorpions were about the same size of a fist. They were black, but without sheen.

On their backs was the faint picture of a human face. It was like that of a baby, giving off a creepy, devilish smile.

When the scorpions moved, the smile looked like it was living and moving. It totally creeped Han Sen out.

The scorpions did not look strong, but they were scary enough to make Han Sen feel frightened.

When Han Sen mustered the courage to scan them, he learned they were just mutant creatures.

But since there were all mutant creatures, even that group was a force to be reckoned with.

Han Sen's only question was why they all came out when Uncle Bug threw down a prize.

"What is he up to?" Han Sen looked at the scorpions and wondered.

Eventually, the human-faced scorpions reached the sack. Then, whatever was inside managed to roll out.

### **Chapter 1127: A Man Who Wants to Die**

When Han Sen saw what emerged from the sack, his body flared with goosebumps and his head got all itchy.

The person that emerged from the bag was a man who was very skinny and seemed to be around thirty years of age.

It was a living person, and Han Sen could see the fright that twisted his face.

Before Han Sen could return from his thoughts, the scorpions were stinging the poor man. He was stung many times, like he was being deliberately tortured. He rolled around on the ground, writhing and screaming in agony.

"It is all a ruse! How can Uncle Bug feign such kindness every day, when this is the sick and twisted stuff he gets up to on his own. How could he even think to torture a man like that?!" Han Sen spine was frosting over with the chills he was feeling.

When Han Sen next looked at Uncle Bug, he froze.

Uncle Bug was crying. As he watched the man get stung all over, he himself looked as if he was in pain. Amidst the tears, he prayed over the man down below.

It was then that Han Sen realized the man being tortured looked familiar, like someone he had seen in the shelter.

Uncle Bug was being very emotional. Han Sen used dongxuan aura to get a read of the man's feelings and see what he could hear of the man's thoughts. But all he could hear was screaming.

There was one word he was able to discern, though.

"Son? Did he say 'son'? That can't be his son!" Han Sen exclaimed in his head as he turned to look at the naked man. He couldn't even begin to fathom why Uncle Bug would treat his son in such a manner.

But people wouldn't lie to themselves in such a situation. He had heard Uncle Bug scream it was his son. Han Sen could not have been mistaken.

Now, the body of the person on the ground was all swollen. The natural assumption would be to presume he was dead, or was going to be, in such a state.

He had been a rather skinny man when Han Sen first saw him. Now, he was swollen like a fat man. The man could no longer scream, but his muscles still twitched with the pain he was continuing to endure.

Uncle Bug continued to pray as tears drenched his face. As he did so, his teeth chattered in what had to be fear.

Han Sen had never seen anything as remotely curious, horrific, and upsetting as this. He had no idea how he should feel about what was going on.

Just as Han Sen thought the man was about to be dined on, he heard the baby cry again.

It wasn't sharp like before: the sound of the baby was rough and coarse.

When the noise echoed across the valley, all the scorpions returned to their holes.

Soon enough, all that remained was a man who looked much like a bloated pig.

Uncle Bug looked at the dying man in the valley.

Han Sen was keen to know what had happened, why this was happening, and what was to happen. He was sweating with nervousness. This entire scenario seemed bizarre.

When Han Sen looked at the man, he noticed his shadow appeared to be strangely large.

The man was like a pig, but there was no way his shadow was three meters tall.

The shadow was very weird. Half of it looked like a man, and the other half looked like a scorpion.



The shadow came to life and moved.

A person with long black hair and eyes that were as black as coal emerged. His muscles were thick and ripped beneath the black armor he was clad in.

The man's lower body was a scorpion, and the transition from man to scorpion was seamless. Han Sen looked at the scorpion man, feeling his lifeforce to be even greater than Disloyal Knight's.

"Why would this guy's shadow be a super creature?" Han Sen wondered as he looked at the scorpion man.

The scorpion man then waved his tail and plunged it into the chest of the corpse on the ground. Then, the body quickly became slimmer.

The man's body returned to normal, as all the stinging fluids went into the tail of the scorpion man.

Then, after that, the man stood up. He looked very energized.

When the man stood up, he walked towards the scorpion man angrily.

When he was in front of the scorpion man, the scorpion man became that man's shadow.

The man fell to the ground, throwing his fists against his own shadow. It looked like he was just punching the sand.

The man's hands bled as they beat against the ground, but he did not seem as if he wanted to stop.

"Little Yan!" Uncle Bug ran towards the man, wanting to hug him.

When the man turned around, though, Uncle Bug stopped his approach.

"I will hate you forever." The man looked furious.

The man stood up, picked up a rock, and tried to slam it into his own head. But before he could do that, a shadow touched the rock, causing it to explode. He couldn't kill himself.

Chapter 1128: Uncle Bug

The man tried his hardest to kill himself, repeatedly. But each and every time, the shadow stopped him. Uncle Bug was crying again, with a face that was full of regret and pain.

The man had been savagely injured, but he couldn't be free and allow himself to die.

"Little Yan, stop this!" Uncle Bug guiltily pleaded.

"What did you expect? Is this what you wanted me to become?" the man angrily responded.

In continued tears, Uncle Bug exclaimed, "I didn't want to, but you were sick! It said it would fix you. I didn't expect..."

Uncle Bug's tears did not relent.

“He fixed me, and I am not dead...” The man was laughing, but it was a laughter of hysteria. This was worse than him crying.

“I am sorry,” Uncle Bug said.

The man, who was laughing like a madman, responded, “You are not! You made me suffer something that was worse than being killed.”

Uncle Bug grabbed his own hair, all the while crying. “If I knew this was going to happen, I wouldn’t have...”

Uncle Bug’s dialogue disintegrated into incoherent mumbling and babbling.

The man looked at Uncle Bug, saying, “This is my life.”

His words were coaxed with desperation and sadness. After a while, the sun began to rise. And as it did, the man said, “If you continue to believe I am your son, find someone to kill me. I would rather be dead.”

“Little Yan!” Uncle Bug looked at the man in profound sadness, but as he did, the man fell to the ground.

Han Sen was surprised at the sudden turn of events. He was still alive, just unconscious.

Uncle Bug used a bag to pick the man up, and then turned to leave the area.

If Han Sen described what had happened to someone who hadn’t seen it with their own eyes, they’d think he was off his rocker.

Han Sen quickly followed after Uncle Bug to see where he was off to.

Han Sen thought it might have something to do with the god that Sunset had mentioned. Perhaps by following, he could learn more and uncover the mystery at long last.

Uncle Bug took the man back through the forest to Nest Shelter, though. Then, he took the man to his room.

Han Sen waited outside the room. It wasn’t until the next day that Uncle Bug emerged, acting as if nothing had occurred. He issued commands and went back to his usual duties, telling others to hunt and so on.

“Uncle Bug, there is something I need to ask you. Privately, if I may,” Han Sen asked Uncle Bug.

“There is no need for privacy. Just tell me here, and I’ll help you out.” Uncle Bug smiled, acting his usual self.

But Han Sen then implored, “I really must speak to you alone about this.”

Uncle Bug sighed and took Han Sen to a place outside the shelter.

“Little Han, tell me what’s the matter. If it is within my capacity to help, I will,” Uncle Bug said as he lit up a cigarette.

“Do you know anything about the Secret Service’s Seventh Team?” Han Sen asked.

Uncle Bug casually shook his head, asking, “What is that?”

“Do you know Han Jinzhi?” Han Sen then asked.

Uncle Bug responded, “Your great-grandfather is Han Jinzhi. He must be a great man if you keep mentioning him.”

Han Sen then said, “Then you must know Sunset.”

Uncle Bug looked at Han Sen strangely, clearly not expecting such a response. He told him, “I must be getting too old. I don’t remember a person called Sunset.”

“Then you must know Little Yan,” Han Sen said.

Uncle Bug’s body shivered. He stiffened himself up, telling Han Sen, “I haven’t heard of anyone going by these names.”

“You forgot what you wished for?” Han Sen said mockingly.

After that, Uncle Bug’s composure changed. He suddenly looked like an angry lion, and he exclaimed, “Who are you?!”

Han Sen could feel Uncle Bug’s lifeforce, and he could tell the man was the greatest and most powerful surpasser he had ever known.

Surpassers these days never came close to the heights of Uncle Bug.

At his age, it was a surprise to see him have such a high fitness. Humans did not max out their genes back when Uncle Bug had been in his prime, so it was quite the surprise to see how powerful the old man had become.

“Do you really not know who I am? I told you the name of my great-grandfather.” Han Sen looked at Uncle Bug.

“That is impossible. He cannot have had an heir,” Uncle Bug said.

“Why not? Everyone can make babies,” Han Sen casually responded.

“But he...” Uncle Bug suddenly stopped. His rage returned before he spoke again, and he blurted out, “How dare you try and trick me. I asked you a question first. Who are you?! If you don’t tell me, you’ll have to excuse my ruthless actions.”

Chapter 1129: Han Sen’s Guess

Seeing Uncle Bug’s murderous look, Han Sen could now see how cruel of a person he must have really been.

Han Sen sighed, unsure whether or not he'd be able to pluck more information from him. Thinking this, he decided to tell him, "Uncle Bug, I was in that valley the other night."

Uncle Bug's grimace turned to visible shock as he stared at Han Sen.

"That was your son, wasn't it? I think I can help." This was Han Sen's one and only trump card. If he wanted the information he sought, this was the only way.

Uncle Bug still looked to be fuming with anger, but he asked, "How do you know Sunset?"

"I met her." Han Sen proceeded to tell Uncle Bug about his encounter with her, inside the crystallizer ruins.

Uncle Bug, after hearing what he was told, had a complex look fall across his face. He said, "She still decided on living forever young."

"So, were you really a member of the Seventh Team? What happened?" Han Sen asked.

Uncle Bug said, "It is none of your business. If you pursue this matter any further, it'll only lead to ruin. Don't get yourself killed over all this."

"If that is so, do you need me to remind you about your son? Do you want him to remain in such a condition? I can help him." Han Sen knew the man would still be a little too stubborn to elucidate.

Uncle Bug shook his head, saying, "Just go. And don't breathe a word about this to anyone else. If you do, you're dead."

Han Sen didn't move, though. He remained and told Uncle Bug, "You are very strong, but even you cannot deal with the creature in the shadow."

"No one can deal with it," Uncle Bug said with a wry smile.

"I can," Han Sen said.

Han Sen knew it was a powerful super creature, but he still believed he could defeat it with the aid of Disloyal Knight.

The only thing Han Sen did not know was the relationship between the man and the creature. He had to learn more about that.

With another wry smile, Uncle Bug said, "You have no idea what that thing is."

"It is only a super creature; it is not some elaborate secret," Han Sen dourly said.

Uncle Bug responded, "No single human can beat super creatures in the Third God's Sanctuary."

"I'm not just anyone," Han Sen said.

Uncle Bug wished to say something more, but suddenly, Han Sen's back was blazing with a bright fire. Wings were outstretched, transforming him into a big fiery bird.

"Is that a super shapeshifting beast soul?" Uncle Bug gasped with surprise.

Han Sen returned to his human form and said, "So, what do you think? Do I have what it takes?"

Uncle Bug looked at Han Sen and said, "You are special; I'll give you that. But shapeshifting beast souls can be draining, and you don't have an infinite amount of time to use it."

"Well, what about with this guy by my side?" Han Sen then summoned Disloyal Knight.

"A super pet beast soul with battle mode?!" Uncle Bug was incredibly shocked by this.

"Even if I was unable to defeat the creature, I could bring your son everlasting peace," Han Sen said, peering into Uncle Bug's emotional reaction.

Uncle Bug bore a complicated look, one that was a mixture of excitement and confusion. His lips trembled when he asked, "What do you want from me?"

"I want to know what transpired in that other dimension: the one spoken of by Sunset. And I want to know why everyone keeps saying Han Jinzhi could not have had an heir," Han Sen gave his terms.

To this, Uncle Bug said, "If you can help Little Yan, I will tell you everything."

"Then it is settled. But it would be best if you tell me what happened to your son, first, and tell me exactly what I'm dealing with here. I will do my best to kill the creature without harming your son, if such a thing is possible," Han Sen kindly said.

Uncle Bug looked touched upon hearing this, and he said, "Little Yan's mother bore the same sickness. He has what she had. There was no cure, and his mother passed away. The same fate was to soon befall Little Yan."

Uncle Bug told him most of the story. Han Sen was able to fill in the blank spots himself.

Uncle Bug said that he had learned of a way in which he could save his son. It was a method in which you could sign a contract and bind your life to that of a creature. They could live together, sharing energy.

Uncle Bug convinced his son to sign such a contract, and his son did indeed live. But unfortunately, his son was too weak to share his life with the creature, and now, he was being entirely controlled by it.

Little Yan was in a vegetative state, only waking up once a month. What Han Sen had witnessed was him traveling to the valley to absorb scorpion poison and feed the super creature that lived inside him.

If Uncle Bug did not take him to the valley, he'd be in even more agony than that which he suffered at the stings of the scorpions. His fate truly was worse than death.

Although he had avoided death, he was most certainly not living. He was hardly human, and he had suffered this fate for one hundred years.

Han Sen felt a shiver run down his spine when he imagined what it must have felt like to exist in such a state.

Han Sen had never heard of such a method being employed before, though, and he believed it might have had some connection to the Seventh Team accessing the dimension that Sunset had told him about.

He had been able to come to the Third God's Sanctuary and sign a contract with a super creature; no ordinary human could do such a thing, not through ordinary means.

But these were just guesses and thoughts Han Sen had, and he wasn't sure if they were correct.

Qin Huaizhen, Sunset, and Uncle Bug all claimed to have seen a figure that proclaimed itself to be God in that dimension.

Perhaps that God was a being that said it could fulfill their wishes.

Qin Huaizhen may have wished to live forever, so he was frozen in place. But still that only led to death and did not make him immortal.

Perhaps Sunset wanted to be young forever, so she was placed inside that vase to remain like so. When she was exposed to the elements outside that sturdy vase, that age caught up with her and she died.

Uncle Bug's wish may not have applied to himself. It could have been to save his son, but even those results turned sour.

If Han Sen's hypothesis was correct, and that really was God, Han Sen thought He was an \*sshole.

"Don't worry; I'll do my best to take down that super creature," Han Sen said.

### **Chapter 1130: Invisible Creature**

Killing the super creature he had proposed to slay would not be easy. Uncle Bug told him the shadow of the creature was what possessed his son, but the actual body he would have to defeat was someplace in the valley.

Han Sen thought about the bugs he had thrown down into the valley, the ones that disappeared, and wondered whether or not they were related to the creature he was preparing to defeat.

Han Sen returned to the valley, bringing many bugs with him. He perched himself atop the hill like he had before and tossed a few bugs down into the valley every now and again.

Just like before, the bugs would try to scurry away but then get snatched by some unseen force. They'd just vanish into thin air.

Han Sen kept chucking the bugs into the same spot and noticed the bugs only disappeared when they reached a certain point.

That proved there were no space cracks, as space cracks could not move.

“If there are no space cracks, then that means it must be a super creature. But if so, how can it make these bugs disappear so easily?” Han Sen thought hard about what may have been the crux of the issue.

Whatever was going on, his dongxuan aura was not able to detect any creatures down there. Being unable to determine the nature of the threat made Han Sen far more cautious than usual.

Han Sen remained on the hill for a few days, watching and waiting to see what he could. If there was a creature lurking beneath the sands, he wanted to see it.

Han Sen watched the shadows of the bugs intently, wanting to see if there were any disruption before they disappeared. It was a fine idea, but did not provide him the answers he sought. Nothing was assaulting the bugs from within their own shadows.

In the midst of all these uncertainties, one thing was for sure. It was a scary super creature, and Han Sen had yet to gauge how powerful it might have been. A lack of intel was one of the most dangerous things, when attempting to fight a foe.

But whatever the case may have been, it looked to Han Sen that there were two possibilities. First, the creature itself was invisible. Or second, the powers of the super creature were invisible.

“If it’s the second possibility, I should have no problems dealing with it. If it’s the first possibility, I’ll need to watch myself. That’d be tough,” Han Sen thought to himself.

If it was a creature that the dongxuan aura could not even detect, it had to be an absurdly powerful monster.

Due to Han Sen’s desire for caution, he remained there for another fifteen days. Unfortunately, despite all the time that had elapsed, he still had zero concrete intel on the creature he would have to face.

If he didn’t want the secret of Han Jinzhi and Seventh Team, he wouldn’t even think about fighting such a creature.

You only live once. Every strike could be fatal, so Han Sen needed to know he could get a handle on whatever he would face when he confronted the creature.

And Han Sen really wanted to know what had happened with the Seventh Team and why Han Jinzhi humiliated God as Sunset had told him. And also, why Qin Huaizhen had told him to be wary of Han Jinzhi.

Han Sen had been collecting breadcrumbs for this entire affair for a long time, and he was desperate for the full story. The knowledge was within his reach, so he had to commit to what he had pledged to do for Uncle Bug. If he did this, he would finally know everything he wished to.

That night, Han Sen heard a baby crying once more. Uncle Bug said he had to bring his son there once a month, so it wasn't time yet. This made Han Sen a little wary, and he wondered why there'd be movement now.

The human-faced scorpions came out, covering every inch of that valley in their thick and wriggling hides. It was disgusting.

If there were space cracks there, scorpions would have slipped in no doubt. This frightening sight certainly put that theory to bed.

Their movement drew Han Sen's attention, and he watched intently as they all began to congregate in the center of the Y-shaped valley. A curious view, as there did not appear to be anything of particular interest in that spot.

Eventually, their congregation began to spread and form a circle. They left the very center spot open.

Han Sen stared at the space they had left open and noticed something.

The moonlight was extra bright on this night, due to it being a full moon.

The moonlight began to illuminate the oily hides of the scorpions, making the faces on their backs seem alive.

When the light hit the spot they had left open, it was as if the light was striking an invisible wall. It seemed to collect and form a faint outline.

Han Sen's eyes opened wide, as more and more light gathered to form a faint figure.

Eventually, Han Sen was able to see the shape of a half-man, half-scorpion creature that was identical to the one that plagued Uncle Bug's son.

But whereas the shadow variant he had seen with Uncle Bug's son was pitch black, this one was transparent.

If it wasn't for the moonlight illuminating it, Han Sen didn't think he'd have been able to see it at all.

But even though Han Sen could see it with his naked eyes, the dongxuan aura still proved ineffective. He still couldn't get a feel for the lifeforce of the scorpion.

The fact that the transparent scorpion seemed to be capable of eluding the dongxuan aura was a frightening thing to think about.

"This guy is invisible!" Han Sen frowned. This was the worst possible result he could have.

"Maybe it would be best for me to strike now, while I can still see it." Han Sen stared at it, thinking of how he'd begin his engagement with the beast.

But eventually, Han Sen decided against fighting it. He remained there, watching the invisible scorpion, absorbing the moonlight that had been channeled through the bright reflections of the little scorpions' chitin.



This went on for one hour, and when the moon began its descent, the reflections subsided. And then, the faint outline of the scorpion man-beast went with it.

### **Chapter 1131: Invisible Opponent**

Han Sen kept track of how long it took for the light to fade and the shroud of invisibility to return and cloak the scorpion.

It took ten minutes for the invisible scorpion to disappear from sight. And it got Han Sen thinking, "It would be best if I could kill it in under ten minutes, in that window."

Han Sen decided to strike the next time it came out for some moonlight refreshment.

Of course, the full moon that drew it out only occurred once a month. If it came out for each full moon, like clockwork, he'd be waiting a while, but Han Sen decided to remain and see if there were any other events that would compel the scorpion out of its lair. He stayed there for a few days.

With time to kill, he focused on refining his Life Geno Essences while he observed the valley. Now, he had eleven super geno points.

During this month-long wait, Uncle Bug came to the valley to subject his son to the once-a-month torture. Although Han Sen had seen this play out once before, it still frightened him to see it all unfold again. It was rather sad, too.

The full moon finally rose, and with its coming, the face-shaped scorpions emerged from their creepy tunnels. They used the faces on their back to help the transparent scorpion collect moonlight.

Han Sen waited until it absorbed as much as it could and then began his assault. He activated super king spirit mode and ran into battle alongside Disloyal Knight.

Disloyal Knight's halo was brighter than ever, and it shone across the entire valley as Han Sen rained coins in unbridled oppression.

The transparent scorpion noticed this quickly occur, and the light-carrying baby faces all seemed to turn to look at the duo. As a coin was about to land atop the transparent scorpion, the beast threw a punch to deflect it.

Pang!

The moonlight acted like super-fuel for the creature, and the power of its hit connected with the coin and turned it to dust.

Needless to say, Han Sen was shocked. The scorpion was a far more terrible beast than he imagined it to be. The powers were far beyond any other super creature he had fought thus far.

Disloyal Knight marched forward to clobber the scorpion, but the scorpion's tail managed to sting its arm and knock it back.

"Berserk super creature?" Han Sen was quite surprised. Disloyal Knight's halo was already working to weaken the foe, and yet its power was still of such heights.

Han Sen grabbed his Phoenix Sword and Taia. Clad in his mantis armor, with dragon wings decorating his back, he charged.

The scorpion raised its arms to defend against Han Sen's barrage of sword strikes.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

The fighting sounds echoed throughout the valley, as curtains of sand were kicked up in the haze of battle.

The area was in chaos, as rocks were broken into chips.

Despite Han Sen using super king spirit mode and all those beast souls, it still didn't provide the advantage he needed to beat the scorpion. Any damage he dealt was not enough to slay the monster.

Disloyal Knight co-operated with Han Sen, who was using a combination of Double Fly and his phoenix techniques to attack.

The scorpion swung its fists and its tail to batter Han Sen, but he did not fall back.

But as time went on, the scorpion's body began to dim as the light inside it faded. It was becoming harder and harder to see, the more time elapsed.

"Go." Han Sen knew he wasn't going to be able to kill the scorpion that day, and there was no doubt that he had gotten into a fray with a berserk-class super creature.

But as much as Han Sen thought it would be best to flee, the scorpion was enraged. It was not keen to let the man who had the gall to disrupt its monthly ceremony go free. The pincers of the scorpion grabbed him, and they rendered Han Sen immobile.

And just as this occurred, the scorpion entirely disappeared from Han Sen's vision.

Pang!

Disloyal Knight's body was suddenly open. A bloody hole appeared on his body, and Han Sen knew he had been struck by the scorpion's tail.

It took a lot to cancel the determination of Disloyal Knight, and as much as he still wished to fight and grab the tail that had stabbed through him, it disappeared before he could grab it.

Pang!

Han Sen was beginning to panic, but he could not see the scorpion. His chest was feeling pressure like no other, as his legs kicked the sand in an attempt to slip away. As this happened, the armor on his chest began to dent and bend to the violent will of the pincers that had him caught.

“D\*mn it!” Han Sen clicked his fingers to rain another barrage of coins down from the sky.

The next best thing to keeping track of this opponent was to rain coins. Coins stuck to their target, so Han Sen believed he could at least get a grasp of the creature’s location if it was laden with coins.

As the coins rained, though, there was no sign of the scorpion.

Disloyal Knight let out a shrill warcry as he was stung by the scorpion’s tail once more.

Fortunately, Disloyal Knight was immune to poison. If he hadn’t been, he’d have been rendered unable to fight by the first stinger-strike.

Disloyal Knight kept on swinging his manic fists around in a bid to hit the phantom that assaulted him, but he had no clue where it was.

“Argh!” Han Sen felt pain in his back.

Han Sen was the next recipient of the scorpion’s stinger. Fortunately for him, the super armor was sturdy enough to provide protection and keep the tail from piercing through.

“Run!” Han Sen managed to slip through the pincer and fly higher. The super creature was far too powerful for them, and not even the coins were enough to reveal the monster.

But as Han Sen took to the skies, his relief was short-lived. He felt something snag and pull him back down as if a chain had quickly wreathed itself around his waist. It forced him down into the ground, and when he smacked hard against the sandy floor of the canyon, a hole was created in his shape.

The transparent scorpion was invisible, the coins could not stick to it, and not even Han Sen’s eighth sense could keep track of it.

Disloyal Knight was not as strong as a super king spirit, and all its armor was dyed in red.

Han Sen was in a sorry state now, too. He could not see where his opponent was, and all he could do was brace for the next attack that was sure to strike him.

### **Chapter 1132: The Dinosaur is Born**

Han Sen returned Disloyal Knight to the Sea of Soul. He wanted to flee the valley, and he believed with his super armor and super king spirit mode active, he could still manage that much.

He had been unable to slay the transparent scorpion, and that was partially due to his inability to see the foe. He knew he’d have to figure out a way to see it before he returned to try again.

Before Han Sen was able to escape the valley, though, he very clearly heard the sound of something cracking. And then, something falling to the ground.

When Han Sen took a look at what he had heard, he saw a broken blue eggshell on the ground. It was very brittle and very close to opening entirely.

“The blue metal dinosaur has finished its evolution now?!” Han Sen was shocked, and scrambled to pick it back up.

Even if the dinosaur was a super creature, though, Han Sen did not believe it could effectively deal with the scorpion.

Before he could pick up the metal egg, though, a sharp pain struck into his back. It pushed him forward, throwing him through the air until he came crashing into a rocky wall that erupted into a plume of ruined stone, sand, and haze.

Pang!

An invisible power trampled the egg, shattering it.

The sight of that made Han Sen incredibly angry. He had waited a long time for the egg to hatch, and when it was finally about to, it was mercilessly slain underfoot.

If he could see the scorpion, he’d unleash his most furious barrage of attacks he had ever performed and slice it up into mincemeat.

But of course, he still could not see it. So, he still had to make an escape his priority.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

Han Sen heard a clanging noise behind him, and when he turned to look, he saw an invisible power repeatedly strike the spot where the eggshell lay shattered. A hole was formed in the ground that was stomped on, over and over again.

But strangely, the vision of blue began to expand until it claimed the shape of a blue metal dinosaur.

“It wasn’t killed?” Han Sen was given a single moment of happiness amidst this grueling ordeal.

The blue dinosaur expanded in size until it was three meters in height. It looked incredibly heavy and monstrous.

The body of the beast was so tall and heavy, it looked indestructible.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Han Sen could make out the fact the stinger was repeatedly striking the dinosaur. It may have been able to deal damage to Han Sen through his armor, but it was largely ineffective against the sturdy metallic hide of the dinosaur.

The blue dinosaur, unfortunately, was unable to see the scorpion just like Han Sen. When it got hit, it began to roar and run around helplessly in pursuit of the invisible aggressor.

Fortunately, though, the scorpion seemed to occupy itself with the dinosaur exclusively. It let Han Sen be. The dinosaur was knocked down by the repeated scorpion strikes, but each and every time it was hit, it got back up.

“The dinosaur is slow, and its power may only be decent, but boy oh boy—it’s a tank!” Han Sen knew he did not have much time to stay and admire his new pet, though.

Super king spirit mode only lasted an hour, and so he had to leave soon.

Han Sen was going to command the blue dinosaur to leave alongside him, but the dinosaur roared again. And then, a blue horn sprouted from its forehead. And as if they were bright light bulbs, the eyes flashed.

Pang!

A wretched force whacked the dinosaur and made it collapse on the ground, a deep mark etched across its hide.

But the light bulb eyes then fixed themselves in a certain direction, and then they followed something.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

Han Sen heard more noises, as more and more wounds began to manifest across the dinosaur’s body. But all that time, the eyes were fixed on something.

“Holy sh\*t balls! Can it actually see the scorpion?” Han Sen was shocked at this revelation.

Then, the blue dinosaur moved. It moved its arms forward as if it was hugging nothing at all. It was still receiving blows, but the dinosaur managed to open its mouth and bite down on something that didn’t seem to be there. The maw of the blue dinosaur would not completely shut.

The scorpion had been bitten. It was maddened, and it unleashed a barrage of pincer snaps and stinger strikes at the dinosaur. The dinosaur was strong, but not strong enough to withstand all of those attacks. Eventually, it began to bleed blue blood.

The mouth of the beast was bleeding due to one particular hit.

But still the mouth of the dinosaur was clamped down on something, and it refused to let go.

Han Sen stopped running. He held a single coin between his fingers, as a number ticked up.

The scorpion acknowledged what Han Sen had cooking, and it wanted to free itself to prevent the terrible power that was about to befall it.

And whether or not it was aware of what was going on, the dinosaur just didn’t let go. The scorpion was trapped in place, no matter how it tried to squirm its way free.

“Hold on... hold on...” Han Sen said to himself, as the coin quivered and shone with a cruel power.

“Seven, eight, nine.” As the numbers ticked up, the appearance of that coin looked scarier and scarier.

The scorpion knew about the danger, and it repeatedly stung the dinosaur in a bid to loosen its jaws and escape.

The stings were awful, though. They were wickedly powerful, and the dinosaur had to loosen its grip to scream a little every time.

And with that small amount of leeway, the scorpion was able to escape the dinosaur's metal maw. But unfortunately for it, it was still gripped in place by the dinosaur's talons.

"Now!" Han Sen could not wait any longer, so he fired his coin towards where the scorpion had to have been.

### **Chapter 1133: Transparent King Scorpion Beast Soul**

Han Sen had saved ten bucks and knew he could not wait any longer. If the dinosaur lost its grip of the scorpion, he'd lose its position and lose the only chance he had in ending the threat.

A coin, with the number ten on it, was set free to spiral through the air and home in on its target.

And then, it stopped. It stood still in the air and did not drop, as if it was defying gravity and the laws of physics themselves.

Boom!

Something dropped from the air and created a massive crater in the ground.

The blue dinosaur let go of the scorpion and leaped away.

The coin was on the sand, quivering and trembling after its discharge. The scorpion did not die, though, despite the vast surge of power it had just been a victim of.

The coin began to move, still fixed on its target. With this marking his foe, Han Sen fired a barrage of coins to accompany it.

Those coins had not been buffed by Saving Money, but the super king spirit mode was still fueling their firing, and that was more than enough to damage the scorpion.

Pang!

It sounded as if a watermelon had just greeted a sledgehammer in full swing. The coins were sinking into the invisible target, despite Han Sen not being able to see what damage he had actually caused.

“Berserk Super Creature Transparent King Scorpion 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 delighted to have received the beast soul from such a terrifying foe; it had to be amazing, whatever it was.

Han Sen quickly ran to the sandpit and picked through the invisible carcass to collect the Life Geno Essence. He found an invisible crystal and assumed that had to be it.

The blue dinosaur approached Han Sen, not looking hostile at all.

Han Sen examined the creature’s wounds. They looked rather ghastly, but they didn’t seem to have done any lasting, permanent damage.

“This guy is a super meatshield. It’s the worst job I can think of, but someone has to do it.” Han Sen patted the dinosaur’s head.

Han Sen let the dinosaur stay in the valley. And then, he rode Golden Growler back to the shelter as he was too weak to fly.

Han Sen was keen to find out what had happened to Uncle Bug’s son. He had slain the scorpion, so he wished to see whether or not the son would be given back his life, free at last.

If Han Sen only wanted to help his son, he wouldn’t have had to go through all the trouble—he’d only have to end the man’s life.

But before Han Sen entered the shelter, he saw Uncle Bug walk out with his son’s body in his arms. He looked as if he had been crying a lot.

Han Sen sighed in his heart, painfully admitting to himself, “I was unable to save him.”

But Uncle Bug was not mad. He was able to lift a genuine smile at Han Sen, and when he approached, he told him, “Thank you for freeing him from the painful existence I forced upon him. Before he... left this world, we had a discussion unlike we have ever had. He was happy. And that makes me happy.”

“Uncle Bug...” Han Sen did not have the words to respond.

But Uncle Bug did not expect anything. He said, “Little Yan wished to be buried in a grove he very much used to love. When I am done, I will seek you out.”

After that, Uncle Bug walked into the forest with a composure that was a mixture of both sadness and happiness. It was bittersweet.

Han Sen needed to wait until Uncle Bug returned, so he decided to examine the beast soul he had received.

Berserk Super Beast Soul Transparent King Scorpion: Gem Type

Han Sen felt the presence of a transparent gem in his hand. It could not be seen, but Han Sen knew the scorpion was inside it. Han Sen had received a gem beast soul before. They could be fused with another beast soul to increase their power.

Han Sen could use it on any beast soul, and it'd level up to a berserk super beast soul. It'd be given the power and might of the scorpion.

While he could do this with any beast soul he wanted, it was always best to infuse a gem beast soul with the same type of sacred-blood beast soul.

Han Sen did not know which element this was, so it was tricky. If he could find or purchase a sacred-blood scorpion beast soul to infuse it with, the success rate would be solid, though.

"Should I have an armor beast soul? And if so, would that mean I could be invisible? Or should I opt for a weapon? If it was a weapon, they wouldn't even know I was near. If I do go for a weapon, though, I should go for an arrow." Han Sen had many different ideas, all as good as each other.

Uncle Bug did not return for a while and wouldn't, so he brought out the Life Geno Essence he had collected. Han Sen had not been able to see the scorpion's energy flow, so without being able to simulate its power, he was unable to absorb it.

But Han Sen still had another two Life Geno Essences to absorb, both of which were already in-process. Perhaps he could absorb this one when his Dongxuan Sutra was better.

Uncle Bug returned that night.

Han Sen was not going to invade his privacy at once, and so he planned to give him some space first. Not everyone could remain calm following the death of their son.

"Follow me." But Uncle Bug approached Han Sen and told him to come; then, he led Han Sen to his room.

Han Sen followed. He wished to say something comforting, but he could not formulate such words.

"Thanks to you, both me and Little Yan can be at peace. You eased our sorrows, son." Uncle Bug shut the door and proceeded to brew a pot of tea, which he then served to Han Sen.

"But I was unable to save him," Han Sen said with a wry smile.

Uncle Bug said, "I forced him to live one hundred years longer than he should ever have had to, in an existence that was nothing but pain. If I had the chance to go back in time, I'd have allowed him to die."

Han Sen remained silent, unsure of what to say.

Uncle Bug acknowledged this and just smiled. Then he said, "Ask me what you want to know."

#### **Chapter 1134: Two People Who Rejected God**

Han Sen opened his mouth but stumbled, unsure of where to begin.



After a while of thought, Han Sen asked, "Uncle Bug, where did the Seventh Team teleport to? Where did they go and what did they find?"

"We met God... Well, more like a demon." Uncle Bug looked as if he was in pain, in remembrance.

Han Sen just watched Uncle Bug, allowing him as much time as he needed to explain.

Uncle Bug, after a long pause, said, "I was an Interstellar Pirate. I came into possession of a Qi Gong, and after practicing it, I became incredibly strong. Through strength came wealth, and I became rich."

He stopped and sighed for a moment before proceeding. "Perhaps it was karma, and God decided to punish my family."

"After my wife died, Little Yan received the same disease that had taken her away from me. In my desperation, the Alliance found me. They wished for me to join the Seventh Team and conduct research. In return, they were willing to give Little Yan the best medical care they could, and have only the best doctors attend to his failing health. As you can imagine, I didn't think twice about agreeing."

Suddenly, Uncle Bug's face was drawn with confusion. He muttered to say, "I thought it was very dangerous, but after teleporting, it was like heaven. I had everything I could ever want."

"What was this place?" Han Sen asked, unable to even comprehend what the team had experienced.

"It defies words, son. I don't even know how I could explain it." Uncle Bug knew such a description could not suffice, and it could not possibly satiate Han Sen's thirst for knowledge, so he tried. "It was a realm controlled by a demon. It was like an ever-changing canvas that morphed to his desire. If he wanted a mountain, he'd have a mountain. If he wanted water, he could birth an endless sea. If he wanted women, there they'd be. It was only natural to assume we had met God, the creator, the maker."

Uncle Bug's face was then taken by pain and sorrow. He said, "If I had not made that wish, Little Yan would not have had to suffer all those bitter, horrible years."

"What did the demon look like?" Han Sen tried to take his mind off the subject of his son.

"It is difficult to say, but I believe it was a man. It was masculine, in some way. I don't think it had a fixed appearance, as it was different for each of us. When I asked Old Han, he told me this demon was but a mere old man. Sunset told us it was a beautiful woman. It was in front of us, in the same spot, but it appeared as a different form for the each of us."

Han Sen frowned and asked, "And then?"

"The demon told us it'd give us a test. If we were successful, it'd grant us one wish. I believed him to be God, a benevolent being of grand magnificence. The fool I was. I accepted the test, as who could turn down a free wish? Old Han tried to convince us to not accept, but none of us listened," Uncle Bug said.

"Did everyone else accept this test?" Han Sen asked.

Uncle Bug said, "There were only two people who rejected the offer."

"One was Han Jinzhi; who was the other?" Han Sen was surprised to hear someone else had rejected an offer from God.

"No, Old Han accepted the challenge," Uncle Bug revealed, as he shook his head.

"What?! He did?" Han Sen exclaimed.

Han Sen believed he hadn't, which was why he thought Sunset had told him that Han Jinzhi had humiliated God.

"I don't know if he made a wish, but he did take the test," Uncle Bug said.

"Then who didn't take the test?" Han Sen asked.

Uncle Bug said, "One person's surname was Ning. He was good friends with Old Han, and Old Han was always called him Brother Ning. I am not sure what his full name was, to tell you the truth. But Old Han told him something, and that was why he did not accept the challenge."

"Was Brother Ning from the Ning family in Starry Group?" Han Sen did not know there was a person with the surname Ning in the Seventh Team. But if there was, then it had to have been from that Ning family.

Uncle Bug shook his head, admitting, "I don't know."

"Okay, and who was the other person?" Han Sen asked.

"It was a very beautiful woman." Uncle Bug's mood brightened when he spoke of her.

Han Sen stared at Uncle Bug.

Uncle Bug explained, "When I was an Interstellar Pirate, I took refuge on a barren planet. I didn't know much about the Alliance back then, I only knew about the mega-corporations. When I was in the Seventh Team, everyone used their titles instead of their real names. Aside from Sunset and Old Han, I did not know much about the others."

"The woman was on the Seventh Team, but she was very careful to reveal nothing about her background. No one introduced her, and I did not even know her title. All I know is that she was the prettiest and most beautiful woman I have ever laid eyes on, even to this day."

Han Sen looked at Uncle Bug and asked, "After you finished the test, what wish did you make? And what wish did Han Jinzhi make?"

Uncle Bug said, "I do not know what the others wished."

Uncle Bug went on to say, "After the test began, I was sent to a place on my lonesome. When I was done, all I saw was that demon. I could not see the others."

“When I made a wish to the demon, he gave me a drop of blood. He told me to give it to Little Yan and then bring Little Yan to it. He told me he could live with creatures, and the sickness would no longer harm him.” Uncle Bug began to shed tears.

Han Sen could guess what happened next, and the information he was currently receiving was not elucidating the mysteries he wished to have explained.

“Uncle Bug, how did you know I have the Nine-Life Cat pendant?” Han Sen knew there was information he could gather, so he shifted the subject to ask this.

### **Chapter 1135: The History of the Nine-Life Cat**

“How did you know that I noticed the pendant?” Uncle Bug asked with shock.

Uncle Bug had made sure to avoid mentioning anything regarding the Nine-Life Cat to Han Sen, so this surprised him.

“I thought I kept seeing you stare at it.” Han Sen pointed to the spot on his person where the pendant was.

Uncle Bug nodded and said, “I was surprised to see you wearing that necklace. Old Han carried that thing around with him, just as you do. Knowing your great-grandfather was Han Jinzhi, I went to learn as much about you as I could. Memories of yore kept me staring at it, I suppose. I didn’t mean nothing by it, and I didn’t suspect you’d find out from the occasional gaze.”

Han Sen did not say anything, as he wanted the man to continue talking.

Uncle Bug sighed and said, “The reason why I know it is there, truthfully, is because I can feel its existence.”

“You can feel its existence?” Han Sen looked rather confused. The Nine-Life Cat pendant did not exude any particular force. The only remotely remarkable thing it had done was reacting when Han Sen began learning the Blood-Pulse Sutra.

Han Sen could only assume that Uncle Bug’s ability to feel the existence of this pendant was because he was a member of Blood Legion. There didn’t seem to be another likely alternative.

But all Uncle Bug had said about his past was that he was an Interstellar Pirate. He had made no mention of an association to Blood Legion.

Uncle Bug then pointed towards Han Sen’s chest and asked, “Can I take a look?”

Han Sen was a little dubious about whether he should show it to the man, but he did so anyway.

Uncle Bug gently took hold of the pendant, and his eyes fluttered as if he was in remembering something far in the past. He said, "This necklace... it was found in an old ruin. I'm the one who gave it to Old Han, you know."

Han Sen was delivered another shocking revelation. He had always believed the pendant to be a relic of Blood Legion, and that Han Jinzhi had been a member.

What Uncle Bug had told Han Sen surprised him a great deal.

Recalling those past memories, Uncle Bug looked painfully nostalgic. He said, "I hadn't gained any fame at that point, but I did have a modicum of infamy. I was once a thief, after all. Old Han invited me to poke about and explore an old ruin. It was an experience that changed my life. That is where I found the Qi Gong I mentioned. The Qi Gong and the pendant were both found there."

Uncle Bug then smiled and said, "The Nine-Life Cat and Qi Gong were together, but we became separated at one point. When I found the items, I kept the Qi Gong for myself and only gave the Nine-Life Cat to him."

"It was because of that Qi Gong I became stronger. I became a renowned pirate because of it."

Uncle Bug gave back the pendant to Han Sen and he said, "The Qi Gong has some association to that pendant, in some way or another. If it isn't too far away, I can feel it."

Han Sen put the pendant around his neck again and asked, "And what about the ruins? What was so remarkable about them? Did he only go there for the pendant?"

"It was a city that had been buried beneath a mountain. Perhaps it was a city from ancient times. I think the reason Old Han went there was for the pendant exclusively, as he made explicit mention of it. Just the pendant, too. He said he had to bring it back with him or something," Uncle Bug further explained.

Han Sen frowned. Uncle Bug's answers were disappointing, as he had not yet elucidated the relationship between Han Jinzhi and the Nine-Life Cat.

"By the way, there is one more thing I must ask. Why did you think it was impossible for Han Jinzhi to have an heir?" Han Sen asked.

Many people had found it difficult to believe Han Jinzhi had an heir for some reason, so Han Sen was eager to find out.

In that era, infertility wasn't an issue. The technology to create babies existed, even if it was only done through the artificial combination of two people's genes. It was extremely rare for someone to be unable to create a baby.

If people were so sure Han Jinzhi could not make a baby, he had to have some sort of problem.

Han Sen wanted to know why, to ensure he really was an heir to Han Jinzhi.

Uncle Bug gave a wry smile, saying, "I am telling you for sure: you are not Old Han's heir."

"Why?" Han Sen needed a firm reason to believe this claim.

Uncle Bug said, "That was once a secret. But since he is gone, maybe now I really can tell you."

Han Sen perked his ears up, eager for the answer he had been awaiting for so long.

Strangely, Uncle Bug ended up asking, "Are you a human?"

Han Sen was immediately taken aback in confusion. He exclaimed, "Of course I am human!"

Uncle Bug responded, "That is right. You are a human; he was not."

"Then what was he? A shura?" Han Sen was shocked, and he did not expect that answer.

It was then that Han Sen remembered Han Jinzhi was said to be the last human with a master Qi Gong, and he was a commander of the Blueblood Special Forces. But if he was a shura, how could he be allowed such a position?

Han Sen stared at Uncle Bug, wanting even more answers.

But to this, Uncle Bug shook his head and said, "I don't know what his race was, but he was certain when he told me himself: he was not human."

"There must have been something to differentiate him from other humans. Did he have a horn or something?" Han Sen wasn't convinced.

"He walked, talked, and looked like a human, but his blood was blue," Uncle Bug said.

"He was a commander of Blueblood Special Forces and he had blue blood. Is that a coincidence?" Han Sen frowned.

Uncle Bug then provided Han Sen with a scroll, and he said, "This is the Qi Gong I took. It is pointless for me to have this now, so take a look for yourself. If you're interested, take it with you."

Han Sen accepted the scroll and thanked him. They then went on to chat about other things, but they weren't of importance.

### **Chapter 1136: Life Door**

Back in his room, Han Sen started to read the scroll he had been given. He was quite surprised.

He thought he had received another copy of the Blood-Pulse Sutra, and that was what Uncle Bug had found all those years ago. This was actually a different Qi Gong, and it was called Life Door.

Life Door was a supportive Qi Gong; something to strengthen a person's inner body.

It was not too dissimilar to Heresy Mantra or Hidden Blood, in concept. Life Door, however, did not apply to a single organ. It strengthened a door inside a person's body; one that was called the Life Door.

The scroll said that to practice Life Door would enhance your entire body.

But to complete Life Door, you would have to reach a certain level.

Han Sen tried practicing Life Door, and after spending a few days with it, his body already felt better. Still, he knew it'd take far longer than that to open the Life Door itself.

Uncle Bug told Han Sen it took him twenty years to open his Life Door. Han Sen was far stronger than he was, and even though he knew it wouldn't take that long, it wasn't something he could get done in a few days.

A few days later, Moment Queen had successfully moved the underground shelter nearby. After entering, Han Sen was able to see Zero again.

Although Zero could teleport to Han Sen, he wanted her to remain in the underground shelter to care for the Flying Mushroom. After all that time had elapsed, the Flying Mushroom had matured. With it ready for consumption, Han Sen was eager to return to the underground shelter just for it.

It had the ability to turn ordinary spirits into king spirits, but Han Sen didn't want the mushroom to be too ripe.

Back in that shelter, he looked at the spirits he had come to possess and summoned Thorn Baron.

"It's yours," Han Sen told her, while indicating to the Flying Mushroom.

Thorn Baron looked delightfully surprised, and she gasped. She politely double-checked, asking, "Are you sure you really want me to use it?"

"I believe you are the best available candidate," Han Sen replied.

Thorn Baron's bloodline had a king spirit in its ranks, so her success rate would be higher.

After giving Han Sen a weirded-out look, Thorn Baron bit into the Flying Mushroom.

When it was eaten, the Flying Mushroom turned into a delectable nectar. And as she gorged on it, her body began to glow. She said, "Take me back to the Sea of Soul. I'm going to evolve!"

Han Sen placed Thorn Baron back as instructed. She glowed more and more, becoming brighter and brighter. In a short time, she had become so bright, she was nothing more than a blob of pure radiance. Her form could no longer be distinguished.

"I hope she makes it soon, too. If she finishes up sometime soon, I'll have yet another beautiful fighter by my side." Han Sen was thinking about Little Angel, and gave her a look. He wondered when she'd finish evolving.

Han Sen had absorbed a lot of wild plants, but he had used all of his waterdrops on the super beast souls.

While effective, it wasn't as effective as feeding them black crystals. The gold raven had finally started to evolve now, though, becoming a berserk super creature beast soul.

Han Sen hadn't had his other super creature beast souls for long, so nothing was happening with them just yet.

"Moment, have you found any solo super creatures roaming about?" Han Sen asked her, while sitting on the throne.

"I saw one, yes. But I don't think we have what it takes to fight it." While Moment Queen addressed Han Sen's questions immediately, her mood seemed off.

During Han Sen's several-year absence, Moment Queen had become the boss of the shelter. The leash had been disconnected, so-to-speak, and she was free to do as she wished.

Now that she had to start taking orders again, she was quite peeved.

"What kind of creature is it?" Han Sen asked.

Moment Queen must have gotten quite strong across those years, and she must have opened several gene locks by now.

She still wasn't up to par with Han Sen, though. Plus, Han Sen had the faithful and diligent Disloyal Knight and Blue Dinosaur to back him up. Aside from berserk super creatures, he'd have no trouble hunting whatever he wished to.

Moment Queen did not yet know how powerful Han Sen had become, so she was just telling him based on the assumption a super creature would be too much to handle.

The creature she spoke of resided deep inside Thorn Forest, and it was described as a scaly lizard. It was only two meters long, and she had seen it during her time of moving the shelter.

The creature was dining on an array of different bugs, consuming dozens with each mouthful. If it wasn't for a bunch of sacred-blood bugs that got munched on all at once, she wouldn't have guessed it for a super creature, given its rather tame appearance.

Han Sen decided to hunt the super creature. He commanded Moment Queen to move the underground shelter to the valley, and there, he bid for the Blue Dinosaur to enter.

It was the biggest and strongest tank a party could ask for. It was a meatshield that could withstand the grizzly blows of a berserk super creature.

Moment Queen was taken aback when she saw the beast. The other humans in the shelter were even more shocked.

"Have you happened to see any sacred-blood scorpions on your way here?" Han Sen asked, before they departed.

"I have seen some, yes. Which type are you looking for?" Moment Queen asked.

"Well, tell me which you have seen," Han Sen said, with curiosity.

The Transparent King Scorpion gem was useless just sitting in his inventory. It had to be infused with something.

### **Chapter 1137: Underground Space**

Queen and Bao'er came to the shelter before departure. Han Sen didn't extend an offer to the people of Nest Shelter to come along, as they were living a pleasant life where they were, already.

With everything prepared, Han Sen commanded Moment Queen to begin taking the shelter towards where the creature had been spotted.

Along the way, though, they stopped by two spots which possessed different types of sacred-blood scorpions. Han Sen was going to kill them along the way to see if he could get a beast soul he could combine with the gem.

The shelter could be moved only once a day, and after the third move, they arrived before a valley. There, they found many sacred-blood scorpions.

Han Sen bid they remain there, and asked Old Huang to go and hunt them. Queen would accompany him.

The scorpions were green in color, and their size was comparable to that of a hound. They were called Sinister Scorpions. Their ranks were mostly comprised of primitive creatures, with a few mutant creatures among them. Moment Queen presumed the king of that enclave of creatures would be sacred-blood class.

Old Huang killed a lot of primitive and mutant scorpions, as they could be eaten. That many scorpions would stock the shelter's pantries well.

Unfortunately, they were unable to find the sacred-blood variant. So, Han Sen and Queen decided to look around. Doing so, they ventured towards a cave they thought the king might be residing in.

Queen had been working hard ever since she had come to the Third God's Sanctuary and met Han Sen. All she needed now were sacred-blood and super geno points.

Needless to say, the beast souls Han Sen had given her had propelled incredibly quick growth.

The cave they ventured into was huge, and it was full of scorpions. But soon after, they noticed most of them were dead.

Han Sen and Queen looked at each other. Old Huang was still fighting outside, so they were unsure why there were mounds of dead ones inside that cave they had not yet taken notice of.



They inspected the corpses of the scorpions and noticed they had been killed by weapons. If humans hadn't been out there, then it meant spirits had.

They followed the trail of bodies deeper into the cave. They ventured down a weaving, subterranean path for four kilometers, up until they came across a light glowing in the dark distance ahead of them.

There they saw four people having a barbecue. They were grilling the carcass of a scorpion that was around the same size as a car. Han Sen presumed it to be the slain sacred-blood scorpion he had been after.

Needless to say, he didn't expect to find humans there. When Han Sen approached them, they quickly drew their weapons, prompting him to say, "We are humans, too. We came here to slay the scorpions, but it seems you beat us to the punch. Who are you people?"

"Are you Han Sen?" One of them recognized him, which prompted them all to put away their weapons.

"Yes, I am Han Sen. What is your name?" Han Sen asked.

It was difficult to tell the age of the barbecuing quartet, but if he had to guess, Han Sen would say they looked to be around thirty or forty years of age. The man that recognized Han Sen was a mountain of a man, and a spear was slung over his shoulders.

"My name is Liu Yunhui; I work for Starry Group," the man introduced himself and the others in his company.

They were all keen to put their weapons away, as they had each heard a great deal about the person called Han Sen. A man called Wu Tian spoke, "I thought you were disabled, and that your body had been badly injured."

Many people knew about Han Sen's condition, but to this, Han Sen smiled and said, "I am recovering. With my partner here to protect me, I do okay. Are there any human shelters around?"

Wu Tian said, "There aren't. We live in a spirit shelter, the owner of which is surprisingly fair. He allows us to return to the Alliance whenever we wish."

Han Sen asked them a few more questions, and he learned that the cave they were inside actually led to the spirit shelter they spoke of. There, they had encountered the scorpion king and killed it.

They told Han Sen he was at the precipice of an underground realm, and that it was massive; their shelter was only a small section of it. The realm could be a hostile place, as it was home to an abundance of wildlife.

The infamous super creature of the area was a rock rat king. It led an enclave of rats of varying ranks, and their numbers were in the millions.

Individually, they weren't a threat, but inciting the ire of its legion would lead to a terrifying counterattack.

Aside from the rock rat king and its army, green-scaled snakes were a common bother.

The underground world there had one large water source, with many rivers flowing into and out of it. All creatures would visit there, someday or another.

All the rivers connected to an underground lake.

The green-snakes inhabited that lake, mostly. A green-snake wouldn't attack someone who wanted water, unless it was mad.

They said they always saw the snakes there whenever they went to fetch water.

According to what the spirit told them, there were a few other creatures that resided within that subterranean domain. And while they believed the spirit, they had yet to confirm the validity of the claim and encounter the creatures themselves.

Wu Tian also said there was a giant geno tree far below. It supported the entire structure of the underground kingdom. The spirit told them it was super geno plant. If it ever matured, it'd provide geno treasure.

Not too long ago, the tree exuded a pleasant smell to attract creatures there. It was a sign of the tree soon maturing.

The presence of all the creatures that were starting to visit the tree was what had compelled them to venture so far in a hunt.

### **Chapter 1138: Mother Tree**

"Uncle Liu, can you provide us passage to this tree?" Han Sen asked, thinking to himself, "If the treasure is going to mature, I need to see it!"

"You don't want to go there; trust me. Countless creatures have amassed there. Your life is of considerably more important than the fruit," Liu Yunhui said.

They wouldn't take him there, no matter what Han Sen pleaded. Han Sen knew they were only being nice, but still, he wanted to see it.

So, Han Sen wasn't going to push the matter any further with them. He told them he'd at least like to be nosy and poke about their shelter.

They agreed to take him there, but Han Sen called for Moment Queen and Blue Dinosaur to accompany him. The dinosaur could fight two super creatures at once, easily. If he held them off, Han Sen believed he'd have more than enough time to grab the treasure all for himself.

The humans were living in fair conditions in that shelter, and doing quite well for themselves. They were allowed to bring Han Sen and Queen in with them.

Amongst the four, Wu Tian was the weakest. Although that was just relative, as he had opened six gene locks. Two of the others had opened seven, whereas Liu Yunhui had opened eight.

The reason they had so many gene locks open was because their spirit had provided them geno points.

The royal spirit that signed a contract with them had to have been really powerful. The humans, being of such strength, must have been quite important to the spirit, in return.

Wu Tian did not take them too far into the shelter. They walked around for a bit before they were told to leave.

Han Sen was going to offer to conquer the shelter on their behalf, but he wanted to take a look at the tree first.

Wu Tian told Liu Yunhui, "There is a ninety percent chance those two will go and look for the tree."

Liu Yunhui replied to this, saying, "We advised them not to. If they continue, and something awry befalls them, on their heads be it. Their blood cannot be on our hands."

"That's a shame. It's a waste of a stunning booty, in regards to that woman," Wu Tian said.

Han Sen and Queen walked a few additional miles before coming across Moment Queen and the dinosaur running towards them.

The dinosaur had gobbled up a bunch of scorpions along the way, and it looked excited.

"Why did you call me down this gloomy hole?" Moment Queen asked, and then started to sniff around as if in delight.

Han Sen took notice of the pleasant fragrance Moment Queen was smelling, too. It was as refreshing as it was surprising, given the environment.

To find the tree, all they had to do was follow their noses. As such, they did not require the humans to guide them there. Moment Queen looked as if she knew where the scent was coming from, otherwise she wouldn't have looked so strange and coy right now.

"It looks like you know what it is. Spare us both the trouble and just tell me," Han Sen told her.

If she wasn't going to be honest, Han Sen had a way in which he would deal with her.

Moment Queen knew the jig was up before it had even begun, and that her expression had sold her out. But she couldn't blame herself, as the scent took her by complete surprise. It was too late for her to say she didn't know anything now, though.

Moment Queen told Han Sen, "This scent reminds me of a tree I once knew. I'm not sure if it is the exact same tree, but it sure does smell similar."

“And I’m sure you aren’t mistaken, right?” Han Sen said with snark.

It was obvious Han Sen was warning her. If she was not telling him the truth now, even Moment Queen herself knew she’d be in hot water.

Moment Queen was a little mad at the comment, though. She said, “In the garden owned by my previous emperor, there was a Mother Tree. The smell is remarkably similar, that is all. I am not entirely certain, so it really won’t be my fault if I am mistaken!”

“Why?” Han Sen asked.

Moment Queen sniffed and said, “The tree I used to know had been growing for thirty thousand years, and the smell was far weaker than this. So, like I said, I am not entirely certain.”

“What is that tree, then? What can it grow?” Han Sen asked.

“I don’t know. I only saw it once, and the emperor did not tell me what manner of fruit it could grow. He only said it was an emperor tree that could benefit everything.” Moment Queen told Han Sen this, but it wasn’t the truth.

She had seen the tree, but it hadn’t ripened. The emperor, though, told her exactly what could be harvested from the tree, and that was why she was so shocked. If the emperor was telling the truth, it was no wonder he took such fond and delicate care of the tree. They were extremely difficult to come by.

Han Sen knew she wasn’t telling him the whole story, though, and she was back to her conniving ways. As punishment, he returned her to the Sea of Soul.

Whatever she had planned, she could only sit back and watch now.

Moment Queen wanted to kill Han Sen more than ever, but it was a desire that had never truly gone away. She was planning on taking advantage of the tree, but now that Han Sen had put her back, she couldn’t do a thing.

That being said, Han Sen did not care for her feelings, and so he just walked to the tree alongside Queen and the dinosaur.

The Blue Dinosaur seemed to very much enjoy that smell, too. Without even being commanded to, it eagerly led the way forward.

### **Chapter 1139: Surprising Fruit**

Things began smoothly enough. No hassle was posed by other creatures, as they all seemed to avoid the Blue Dinosaur. Furthermore, Han Sen could hide his life force.

The further they went, the more the smell intensified. Soon, a number of rock rats emerged, and their countless numbers made it difficult for the Blue Dinosaur to continue moving forward.

Every footstep of the Blue Dinosaur was met with the squelch of a number of rock rats being trampled underfoot.

The rock rats were very similar to ordinary rats. They were a little bigger than the average rat, with a disheveled grey look. They moved with a singular, focused purpose as they raced towards the scent, uncaring for their friends and brethren that were being killed unceremoniously by the dozen.

And so, the Blue Dinosaur continued to accompany them. It carried on leading the way, following the endless stream of rats. It wasn't long before the tunnels they followed became wider and wider. Han Sen wondered how large that underground labyrinth might have actually been, as he knew he had only traversed a small portion of it thus far.

The underground realm was huge, and he got a better idea of just how big it was when the tunnel opened to a grand cavern. Their road now skirted a precarious cliffside, and down below, a lake stretched out to fill up what could have been an abyssal chasm. There was an abundance of waterfalls, feeding it from various spots across the landscape

On one side of this titan of a lake stood a tree. This tree was a goliath, and it stretched upwards and outwards. It was so wide and thick, one could easily believe it was supporting the entire underground region with the sturdy boughs that brushed against the ceiling of the cavern.

The roots at the bottom were like coiled, slumbering dragons. The branches high above all touched the ceiling.

The tree's actual color was dark and yellowish, and the leaves were of a similar color. It looked fairly ordinary, as such.

But the life force the tree had was what immediately told Han Sen how special it actually was, and when his eyes first caught sight of the fruit that adorned those thick boughs, he was more than surprised.

Han Sen had seen a lot of different geno plants in his time in the Third God's Sanctuary. He had seen the tree that gave birth to Disloyal Knight, which was magnificent. But all he had seen thus far paled in comparison to this tree underground. He wouldn't be surprised if the fruit it bore gave birth to genuine angels or demons.

His eyes became glued to the fruit of that tree. He couldn't stop staring at them. The fruit were like jellyfish, alive and flickering like lightbulbs.

Their tentacles waved up and down as if they were already underwater. They writhed and wriggled, ready to detach from the tree and float away.

Across the tree, there were thousands of them. If they could all yield a benefit for Han Sen, he thought it'd be quite frightening.

"I wonder what the use of this fruit is," Han Sen thought to himself.

Queen was just as surprised as Han Sen was, as she bathed in the atmosphere and soaked in the landscape before them. The jellyfish fruit were of particular interest to her, and she could barely keep her eyes off them, as well.

The Blue Dinosaur began to drool, adding to the number of waterfalls that checkered the cavern. It was eager to get moving and visit the tree.

The rock rats were like a rapid river, as well, continuing to race there in unison.

The vermin were everywhere, and there was not a single vista left untarnished by their scruffy bodies. They spread out for at least a dozen miles, all packed together without an inch free.

On a pillar near the tree stood another rock rat. This was the king, and it stood on its pedestal with its eyes fixed on the jellyfish.

Aside from the rat king, though, no other rat was willing to remain too close to the lake and tree. While he observed the rats, Han Sen noticed a shadow below the waters. It lurked, waiting.

He wondered what it might have been, but there was plenty of space near the roots of the tree it could have occupied. No rock rat was getting that close, after all.

On the east side of the tree, the area looked to be on fire. Han Sen saw giant red toads there, impatiently ribbeting and jumping, waiting for the jellyfish to be theirs.

There was one particular toad that stood out to Han Sen. It was a giant red one, as big as a rhino. Han Sen didn't need to use the dongxuan aura to determine that it was a super class creature.

On the west side of the tree, there was a collective of black bugs. They were unfamiliar to Han Sen.

They were each the size of a fist, and they looked like crickets. Their antennas looked surprisingly sturdy.

Their eyes creepily clashed against their black bodies, and as they waited, they produced a sharp and irritating noise. At the front of this group was a cricket that was bigger than the rest, equal to the size of a fully-grown cat. As it waited, it remained silent.

"Another super creature," Han Sen thought to himself.

But that couldn't have been all. Han Sen could detect the presence of many stronger lifeforces observing the fruit, waiting for their opportunity to snag a prize.

When the fruit became mature, it wouldn't just be the three clans of super creatures battling for it.

In fear of what might happen, Han Sen did not allow the Blue Dinosaur to get too close to the tree. Despite its appetite, the Blue Dinosaur was willing to adhere to its master's commands.

There were too many rock rats, though, and they continued to appear fearless and uncaring for the Blue Dinosaur. But it wasn't just the rats like this, either. None of the other creatures in the vicinity appeared to want a fight.

The jellyfish fruit were more captivating than anything else in existence at that point in time.

Strangely, though, no creature wanted to get too close to the tree.

Han Sen did not share their fears, if fear was what stayed them. So, he ventured closer to the tree in deep observation. The jellyfish were living up to their namesake, shimmering and wobbling like jelly. Han Sen really wanted to give them a nibble.

But Han Sen's face changed when he viewed one of the branches of the Mother Tree up close.

On the branch, Han Sen saw a human shadow.

No creature dared venture close to the tree, but as for what was amongst those boughs right now, Han Sen could not hazard a guess.

### **Chapter 1140: Sonic Battle Beast**

Han Sen stared at the shadow in the tree with shock.

After his vision focused to see it clearly, he noticed it was a slender woman. She looked light and brisk, as her garments waved in a subterranean breeze.

The woman was incredibly beautiful, so much so, she appeared angelic. She sat on the branch of the tree without shoes, like an art piece.

"Is that a spirit or a humanoid creature?" Han Sen wondered, as he was somehow unable to detect the power within her.

As Han Sen observed her, the woman turned her head to look at him. Then, she smiled.

Han Sen was still a distance away from the Mother Tree, but for the woman to notice him and smile made him feel good. He was still a noticeable fella.

"The consequence of being so handsome..." Han Sen ran his fingers through his hair and then patted down his clothes. He bared his teeth to present what he believed to be a charismatic smile.

Of course, he still knew he should exercise caution. He remained vigilant, beneath his awkward facade of the suave explorer he was putting on. She was the only one that dared approach the tree, let alone sit on it. It was a clear indicator of how powerful she might have been.

The lady looked surprised when she saw Han Sen smile in response.

"Do you know her?" Queen asked, as she looked in the direction of that woman.

Han Sen shook his head, saying, "Not at all. I don't even know if she is a spirit, humanoid creature, or an actual human. She seems pleasant enough, though."

Queen wished to continue the dialogue and say something more, but all of a sudden, a large noise sounded. The red toads began to croak at a deafening volume, like an amphibian choir. The red toad up front, the king, had a frighteningly large belly, and when it croaked, it was like thunder.

The toad king approached the tree, while everything else in the vicinity did nothing and just watched.

The toad king was looking at the lady in the branches, seemingly making the noise towards her. Then, it inflated its vocal sac.

The lady saw it and smiled, then she pulled a white flute from out of nowhere.

She placed her lips on the flute and began to play. A strange and harmonic tune gently graced the cavern.

Han Sen was shocked. He thought the lady possessed sonic powers.

Han Sen quickly used his dongxuan aura to hide the senses of as many of the creatures in the vicinity as he could.

Han Sen was so surprised, for as she played, the notes of her melody appeared physical. He never thought music could literally be seen. The notes came out of her flute, rose, then fell gracefully down like feathers.

Queen was just as shocked as Han Sen, to see this woman literally blow notes out of her flute.

And the surprise became only greater when the notes touched the ground. They did not fade away. Instead, they remained. And then, their shapes twirled and twisted into that of a snake. After that, the snake slithered over towards the toads.

A scary fight began. And as the snake battled with the toad king, it showed no weakness. It wasn't going to lose to the red croaker.

As they fought, the red toad spat out crimson blades towards the snake in an attempt to slice it up. But the snake was too quick and cunning for such simplistic techniques, as it was able to curl to deflect and roll to evade.

The two were fighting fiercely, as all the other creatures in the vicinity looked on without care.

Han Sen was shocked. Even a single note from that flute was capable of beating a super creature.

He was made quickly aware the woman was not someone to be trifled with. As far as he was concerned, she was the master of all sonic powers; whoever—or whatever—she was.

"I can't believe sonic powers can be used in such a fashion." Queen was in utter disbelief.

As the two creatures fought, they both did combat with care and grace. Neither of them wanted to accidentally deal damage to the tree.



The red lights the toad cast were useless, and nothing it could do damaged the snake. The snake eventually wrapped itself around the toad to choke it, and then, with its mouth wide open, sought to swallow the wretch.

Pang!

But as this occurred, the vocal sac of the toad exploded, and a stinky fluid drenched the snake. Evidently, it was a corrosive substance, and the snake melted into nothing.

When the sac exploded, though, the toad's body looked slumped and knackered. It may have defeated the snake, but it was at a great expense of strength and effort. Not wanting to provoke the lady anymore, it slinked back closer to its toad friends.

Suddenly, a new foe emerged from a nearby crevice. It looked very powerful.

Han Sen looked at it, and he was in awe of its yellow hair, big eyes, and long tail. It looked like a squirrel, but it was bigger than a tiger.

It shone with a gold light, and it ran with an incredibly quick pace. The rock rats in its path could not do anything and were gruesomely squished underfoot before they even knew what was happening.

The rat king took notice of this and appeared to be quite angry at the act. But it remained still and did not do anything in response.

The big-eyed fiend ran up to the tree and made a barking noise at the lady.

The lady looked moody and annoyed by the second intrusion, so she summoned a lute. She held it softly and strummed a magical melody, where each note came together to build a big, golden bird.

### **Chapter 1141: Lady on the Tree**

The big-eyed thief looked incredibly arrogant, but when it saw the golden bird, the fire on its body extinguished and it tried to flee.

The bird wasn't going to let it escape, though. It flapped its wings and flew towards the big-eyed thief's rear. A countermeasure was in place, as the big-eyed thief shone gold and released a thick haze of toxic gas.

But the golden bird shone gold, as well. Its talons cleaved through the smoke and grabbed the big-eyed thief, and then tore the fiend in two.

Han Sen and Queen were frightened by the sight, but they weren't shocked the musical note was able to fight another super creature. What did surprise them, though, was its ability to tear one in half with a single strike.

"Is that lady an emperor?" Han Sen asked himself, still reeling from the shock of that grizzly sight.

The big-eyed thief's yellow miasma still hung in the air, and it was a ghastly smell. The creatures that had been caught inside it had all been killed.

The lady made a gesture with her gentle hand and wafted it away. The pleasant fragrance of the tree came back stronger, eliminating whatever was left of the big-eyed thief's stink.

Having seen what had just occurred to the big-eyed thief, no other creature in the vicinity dared provoke the lady now.

But none of the creatures dared leave the area, either. And they remained there, as if to guard the tree until its fruit was ready for consumption.

"Grabbing this fruit may prove difficult," Han Sen thought to himself as he rubbed his head. He was unsure whether or not he could obtain a benefit or be gifted a fruit from the pleasant-turned-cruel mistress of the tree.

If she was an emperor with ten gene locks open, Han Sen didn't believe he'd be able to obtain anything, even with the Blue Dinosaur and Disloyal Knight by his side.

That being said, the other super creatures in the vicinity would be too proud to allow the lady to take everything for herself. If chaos was to arise, Han Sen thought he might be able to nab something for himself amidst the carnage.

Han Sen decided to wait alongside the rest of the creatures, and as he did so, he occasionally chatted with Queen. The two did not speak loudly though, and whenever they talked, they made sure to do so in whispers.

The lady, in the meantime, continued to remain perched in the tree. She swung her little legs delicately as she did.

The bird had gone by this point, and the lute had been returned, too. But eventually, the lady raised her arm and pointed her finger at Han Sen. Then she signaled for him to approach.

Han Sen was shocked. Regardless of race or species, the signal she had just made was a gesture for him to come closer.

At that moment, every creature in the region looked over to see who the lady was pointing at.

"Me?" Han Sen looked around, acknowledging she meant him without mistake. There were no other creatures around him, after all.

The lady smiled and nodded.

"Don't go. It is too dangerous," Queen pleaded. Although Han Sen was strong, the lady was too strange. It'd be a risk to approach, but he didn't want to incite her ire by refusing her summons.

“It’s fine. I can always turn away and leave. Besides, I’m interested in seeing what she wants.” Han Sen flew over to the tree, leaving the Blue Dinosaur behind to safeguard Queen.

Han Sen was rather interested in the identity of who or what the lady actually was, but it was primarily due to the fact the fruit was on the precipice of maturing. Getting that close, in anticipation of that moment, was a good thing.

Nothing was better than being able to approach the tree without a fight. Although the lady was frighteningly powerful, Han Sen believed he could always escape whenever he wanted to.

Without anything barring his passage, Han Sen approached the tree with ease.

“What is it?” Han Sen asked, as he hovered before her.

The lady pointed to another branch and bid that he sit with her.

Han Sen did as she asked and took a seat on the branch, but he made sure to keep his distance and maintain his vigilance. He did not trust the lady, so he exercised every caution he could possibly take while spending time with her.

Han Sen immediately noticed how good the lady smelled, and how her fragrance was actually different than that of the tree itself

Her scent wasn’t strong or overwhelming; it was light and refreshing.

“Pretty Lady, do you need something from me?” Han Sen asked with a smile.

The lady smiled in return, her face curious.

“Has a spirit never laid eyes on such a handsome face before? Did you need to take a closer look? You should take a picture,” Han Sen jested, due to her awkward and intimidating silence.

“Um, pretty woman? Do you mind saying something?” Han Sen said.

The lady maintained her stare in silence.

“Um, that’s okay. We don’t need to speak. And I know I’m handsome, so feel free to admire me all you like.” Han Sen started to look at the jellyfish fruit that were tantalizingly near.

The fruit all looked alive, and they definitely seemed to be king-class geno fruit.

“There must be more than ten thousand of these things. If they can all increase a person’s super geno points, this sanctuary could see the rise of countless more elites,” Han Sen believed.

Han Sen had no idea what the fruit did, though. Moment Queen was probably hiding most of the story from him.

“What is your name?” the lady finally asked.

**Chapter 1142: Broken Bone**

The lady's voice was like music, and just hearing it made Han Sen happy.

"My name is Han Sen. What about you?" Han Sen asked.

If she was an emperor, she'd undoubtedly speak her title. And once she did, he could find out what or who she really was.

"Xiang Yin," the lady said with a smile.

"Xiang... Yin..." Han Sen repeated after her, weirded out that it wasn't a name typical of any spirit.

Xiang Yin looked at Han Sen and pointed at his Dragon-Blood Ring, saying, "Why would you have that? Has he died?"

"You know Dragon King?" Han Sen asked with shock.

Han Sen did not know whether the lady was a friend or foe of Dragon King, so he knew he'd have to tread carefully with his answers on the subject. The last thing he wanted was to have her as an enemy.

"If you know Dragon King, how have you never heard my name?" Xiang Yin asked, with that ever-present smile.

Han Sen was shocked, and so he asked, "Are you one of Ancient Devil's generals?"

Xiang Yin said, "Do not avoid my question. Why do you have that ring? Where is he?"

Han Sen eyed Xiang Yin dubiously, not expecting she might be one of the generals.

But at least he now knew why she had summoned him over there, and that was due to his possession of the Dragon-Blood Ring.

Even if she was a general, though, she could be an enemy of Dragon King. There was no telling whether or not she was friendly with him.

Han Sen told her, "I stumbled across it at the resurrection sight."

He then went on to tell her the whole story, but with a few modifications. He told her he was only watching the entire thing, and he didn't tell her what had actually gone on between him and Dragon King.

Xiang Yin, after hearing it all, sighed and said, "Even Dragon King failed to ascend. Tell me, is he dead?"

"Sister, do you want to become a demi-god, too?" Han Sen, noticing how relatively non-hostile she was, was feeling some relief.

She nodded and said, "When the flower opens, that is the time."

“Flower? The jellyfish? They aren’t fruit?” Han Sen asked with shock.

Xiang Yin said, “Who told you these were fruit? They’re just the flowers of this tree.”

Han Sen noticed Xiang Yin being quite relaxed, and so he asked, “There are many scary creatures here. Don’t you think they might interfere with your attempt of ascension?”

Xiang Yin glossed over them and said, “If I succeed, they are nothing greater than dust compared to me. If I fail, they can have my body.”

Han Sen was shocked. It was then that he understood that the creatures were not there for the tree, but for her. They were waiting to see whether or not she would succeed.

If she failed, her flesh would be extremely beneficial and a whole lot more valuable to the creatures than any fruit could be.

When she ascended, she would receive the powers of the Fourth God’s Sanctuary. If she failed, she would still have a bit of that juice left in her system.

Han Sen no longer wanted to steal anything from the area. Seeing the beautiful woman happily face a life or death gambit, he felt incredibly antsy.

Han Sen knew he could not compete with her, even if he tried his absolute best. But if she had a chance of becoming a demi-god, she was definitely an emperor with at least ten gene locks open.

“I did not expect to meet someone I could talk to, before I departed this place. I would like to provide you with a gift before I depart.” Xiang Yin retrieved something weird.

The item had been created from bone, and it was oval-shaped. There was a hole on the top, with a number of smaller holes on its body.

Han Sen had no idea what manner of instrument it was, but he knew it had to be incredibly powerful.

Han Sen said he shouldn’t accept such an impressive gift, but his true intent manifested in his hands which lecherously reached out and grabbed it.

Xiang Yin smiled and said, “This is the Broken Bone. It was crafted from my collarbone. If I fail, this will be a historical relic, and proof of my existence.”

“I am sure you will succeed,” Han Sen said.

Han Sen was shocked, though. He thought the generals were all spirits, but if she was telling him the item was crafted from an actual bone of hers, it meant she was a humanoid super creature.

Only creatures could create something like this, as spirits could only craft geno treasures. Han Sen did not despise creatures, and he had many as pets like the silver fox.

She looked human, besides the fact. She was a stunning woman, and he was hard-pressed to believe she really was a creature. She was so nice and generous to give him a gift such as that.

Xiang Yin smiled, and suddenly, the flowers above began to shine and fall.

They didn't fall off like flowers, though. They were like jellyfish, floating down deeper into the abyss of an ocean.

The glowing jellyfish were all around the tree, like a dream.

But the creatures did not admire the beauty of this scene, they instead stared at the center of the tree.

Han Sen looked to where they did, and noticed there was a hole in the tree. The hole was bright, brimming with an untold energy.

When the light from inside it got stronger, it was like witnessing a rising sun. The jellyfish flowers began to change their course and fly towards it.

### **Chapter 1143: I'll Teach You How to Blow a Xun**

Thousands of jellyfish flowers flew inside the hole in the tree. Its capacity seemed infinite, as each entered without struggle. And as they did, the light inside grew in intensity.

Han Sen felt the frightening power coming from inside the hole in the tree. It was so powerful, the dongxuan aura could not provide an accurate reading. Neither could he see what rested inside, beyond the blinding light.

Xiang Yin didn't seem to be focused on the hole. She merely continued to sit on the branch in a carefree manner. She looked at Han Sen and asked him, "Would you like me to teach you how to blow a xun?"

"Sure." With surprise, Han Sen passed her back the xun.

This looked to be an important moment, so he did not expect her to set aside time to teach him how to play an instrument.

Xiang Yin took the xun and placed her fingers on the holes around the instrument's belly. She placed her lips around the head and blew it, as gentle and pleasant sounds were birthed and heard.

Han Sen had never seen this instrument before, and the notes played were melancholic. It sounded as if someone was crying, or a woman was whispering to the wind in some lonely valley.

The sounds were clear and defined, but at the same time not.

The sound was reminiscent of a flute, and it was a delight to hear. Whether or not it was the instrument itself or the talent she possessed, the music produced was beautiful.

Han Sen could see the notes physically emerge from the instrument, and how they became fairies that danced around them. He was stunned, witnessing it all.

The creatures that were dying for the fruit and becoming restless were instantly soothed and calmed when they heard the music.

Fortunately, Han Sen was powerful enough to not be lulled into a trance. He was able to just sit and admire her energy flow.

Xiang Yin was using her energy flow to play the music, and this was something he had never seen anyone else do before. Han Sen doubted anyone could produce the same effects, even if they had the instrument to play.

Xiang Yin knew she was being scanned by Han Sen. She was a berserk super creature with ten gene locks open, so his dongxuan aura with five gene locks open could not be hidden from her.

She was not offended by his actions, though. She had decided to teach the young man how to play the xun, and that wasn't going to change.

Han Sen was shocked and did not expect he'd be able to watch her energy flow, but he was glad he could. He wanted to watch how she blew the xun.

And Xiang Yin did not mind the violation. She did not mind him observing her energy flow. Her energy flow was, however, complicated. Merely trying to remember it was very difficult for Han Sen.

When she finished playing her song, the creatures continued to sit in silence. Their eyes could not leave her grace so suddenly.

The light in the hole then began to fade, and with it, so too were all the jellyfish. A light that was no brighter than a candle was all that was left there.

Xiang Yin gave Han Sen back his xun and said, "This is all I can teach you for now. Practice more and you will be able to play a number of songs successfully."

"I will practice," Han Sen said, as he took back the xun.

He said this to please her, though. Han Sen was not really interested in the art of making music, only in the sonic powers that could be manipulated through the instrument.

Xiang Yin knew Han Sen was not fond of music, either. But she still smiled and said, "Return. My time here is up."

After that, Xiang Yin turned to approach the hole herself.

Han Sen did not know what to expect, so he just bid her farewell and made his way back to Queen and Blue Dinosaur. Then, they all watched her go towards the tree.

Xiang Yin reached her hand inside and brought something out.

The item was what made the hole glow. It was similar to a big waterdrop, and it wobbled in her hands like jelly.

Xiang Yin kissed the blob and then consumed it.

When she swallowed it, the scent of her body became much stronger. Her fragrance was so strong, it took on an appearance like smoke.

The mist began to fill the entire cavern, giving the place a dreamy look. It was like heaven.

Han Sen sniffed it and immediately felt refreshed; so much so, he felt several years younger. All the creatures in the area sniffed it, too, and they looked to be really enjoying it. It was a divine treat for them all, as well.

The smell of her body hung in the air like a delightful haze. Eventually, it parted like a curtain, and then, a stone door appeared.

The door had no markings or anything, but it looked holy. It made all who laid eyes on it feel tiny. Aside from Xiang Yin, all the creatures knelt when seeing the door. The rat king and toad king showed great respect as well and did the same.

“The gate to the Fourth God’s Sanctuary.” Han Sen was in absolute shock.

When he was in the Second God’s Sanctuary, the Holy Rhino and Little Fairy had been taken by spirits into the Third God’s Sanctuary.

Han Sen expected a spirit to emerge from that stone door and bring her forward into a new realm, but it remained shut.

Xiang Yin flew around in the mist like a fairy, and it looked like she wanted nothing more than to open the door and go through.

#### **Chapter 1144: Ten Steps of the Holy Door**

The stone door hovered in the air, adamantly remaining closed.

The underground cavern was a mighty place, but the door seemed so far away. With Xiang Yin’s speed, it looked like she could reach it in the space of a second. But with everyone’s bated breath, it felt like she’d never reach there.

The mist that was a pleasant smell began to stream towards the door and Xiang Yin followed in its wake. The tallest point of the cavern’s ceiling was ten-thousand meters high, but to Han Sen, Xiang Yin felt like she was an entire galaxy away from him.

When Xiang Yin reached the door, she placed her hands against it and pushed it partially open.

The scary power that came from that small gap immediately frightened Han Sen and flattened him down on the ground.

It wasn’t just Han Sen like this, but the creatures all around were pushed down to the ground, as well. Only the super creatures could manage to somewhat stand in defiance of that new gravity.



Although the super creatures could fight it back, they still looked terrified before that power.

Xiang Yin's clothes violently waved in the wind of a phantom typhoon that seemed to stem from that partially-opened door.

But Xiang Yin still managed to stand strong against it all, maintaining her grip on the door she pushed against.

As the door slowly opened, more and more of that wind entered the cavern. Soon after, not even the super creatures could stand.

Where Xiang Yin was, the wind was even more terrifying. The gusts were so sharp, they cut her like blades and knifed through the mist.

Xiang Yin frowned and summoned a flute. She blew a few notes towards the door, which manifested as a wall of snakes to aid her in withstanding the force of that invisible storm.

She continued her defiance of the door and pushed it with all her might, but soon after, not even the snakes could withstand the gusts.

So then, she summoned her lute. Notes emerged from the instrument without it even being played, and the notes took on the form of birds. Like a raven shield of gold, they stood against the fierce phantom winds as a bulwark before her.

It did not last forever, though, and each time her protection broke, she'd summon another instrument to create a shield. Over the time it took for her to open the door, she ended up summoning eight different instruments and eight different creatures.

Boom!

Even the stone door itself quivered. She had managed to open the door fully, but no spirit came through from the other side.

In the black on the other side of the stone door, there were stairs. Where they led, none could tell. The dimension inside was distorted and twisted, preventing any clear view by the onlookers.

Xiang Yin placed a foot on one of those steps, and the moment she took a step, a transparent fire blazed to consume her.

The beasts that accompanied her were useless, and they all turned to soot in the hungry flames that licked them.

Xiang Yin's clothes and instruments became cinders and ash in the flame, and she looked to be in agony. The fire was making her suffer, but her resolve was not swayed. She pushed on to take a second step.

More fire blazed to envelop her, as all the items she possessed disintegrated into nothing. With Xiang Yin's clothing gone, her flesh was seared through to expose bones that were then catching on fire.

That mist began to seep out from the seams and tears of her composition, and so too did magical musical notes. The forces tried to form a veil of protection around her, against the most brutal fire that sought to put an end to her ascension.

With every step she took, it seemed like a century had elapsed. And each time she took a step, another one would appear.

The transparent fire did not relent as she ascended, and it continued to ravage her as she went. But while it did indeed hurt her, it morphed and warped her super body's genes.

Han Sen was shocked. When she reached her seventh step, her super body began to collapse. He could not tell how many more steps awaited her.

When she reached the ninth step, her entire body was vaporized. Han Sen could only see a blurry light reach that ninth step, and the notes and mist that accompanied her had drawn faintly.

"Ten Steps of the Holy Door. I did not expect you to reach the ninth step; you must be the greatest of the eight generals," a weird voice boomed throughout the underground. Quickly, it tried to follow Xiang Yin.

Han Sen was shocked when he saw who it was. It was Yaksha!

He looked different than the last time Han Sen saw him. Yaksha looked strange, but as murderous as ever. Han Sen knew exactly what he was up to.

But with Xiang Yin focusing on her ascension of those brutal steps, she couldn't turn her attention away to focus on anything else.

Yaksha had appeared at the perfect time to prevent her ascension. He was there now, bitterly seeking to stop her. Han Sen realized Yaksha must have been hidden there the entire time. He had waited for this paramount moment to reveal himself and make her fail.

By doing that, he hoped to achieve the powers of the Fourth God's Sanctuary and flesh easily.

Prior to this moment, Xiang Yin would have had no trouble exterminating the villain Yaksha was, but she was on the final step of that excruciating climb. She could not be distracted.

But it did seem like Xiang Yin herself now acknowledged Yaksha was there. She was shocked by his sudden appearance, and it immediately made her quiver. As she took notice, her notes appeared weaker.

"Oh, no." Han Sen looked at his xun and sought to stop Yaksha.

"Little b\*stard! How dare you show your face to me." Yaksha looked incredibly angry, seeing Han Sen approach in an attempt to stop him.

Han Sen summoned Disloyal Knight. The gold raven was still evolving, so he knew he couldn't personally put up much of a fight without it. The last time he fought Yaksha, he had only just woken up. Now, he could be much stronger.

Disloyal Knight cast his halo and threw a punch towards Yaksha.

Yaksha did not evade, though. He fearlessly went forward to meet with Disloyal Knight and threw a punch of his own. When the two fists collided with each other, they generated a massive shockwave.

But even though the halo had worked its magic, Yaksha was still stronger than Disloyal Knight. He was the victor in that first strike, hurling Disloyal Knight backwards.

Yaksha's face changed, and he said, "A halo super beast soul?"

Han Sen was dismayed, seeing the effects not weakening Yaksha as much as he had hoped. It had worked on him, but not to the point that he could not fight back. This meant Yaksha had to be close to opening his tenth gene lock.

"Yaksha, I knew I should have come looking for you. But today, you have delivered yourself to me, so there's no foul. Come here, let me kill you." Han Sen just wanted to infuriate Yaksha, which was a simple enough task.

Yaksha knew this, but he complied anyway and said, "If you want to die that much, I'll grant you your wish."

Yaksha leapt forward, but this time, it was towards Xiang Yin. That was his reason for being in this place, after all. Stopping her was his number one priority.

Han Sen commanded Disloyal Knight to charge forth and stop him, but he was very slow compared to Yaksha. Han Sen knew he'd have to chip in, so he drew his Taia and Phoenix Sword. Wearing his mantis armor and dragon wings, he flew forward.

Yaksha had been weakened by the halo, so with the phoenix techniques of flight Han Sen had learned, he was able to catch up. Han Sen would not use his super king spirit body unless it was absolutely necessary.

His fitness was still not up to par with a king spirit. If he wanted to be a match for Yaksha, he'd need another thousand fitness levels. But it was Disloyal Knight's halo that evened the odds.

Yaksha saw Han Sen fly before him to prevent his passage, so he threw a punch and said, "Use your creepy skill. If you don't, you won't be able to fight me!"

"You want me to use that to kill a pathetic, little king spirit like you? Pah! You're only worthy of my bottom-shelf skills." Han Sen, with his phoenix techniques, dodged the incoming strike and retaliated with his own.

Yaksha believed Han Sen's movements were strange, so he said, "Against my speed, I'm afraid you'll be killed before you even know what hits you. It must be sad to know you'll die without even knowing how."

Yaksha sped up once more. His weakened body was managing to move even faster now, and when Han Sen next saw him, his lecherous fingers were reaching forth to strike Han Sen's eyes.

He evaded the fingers by an inch, but not without his helmet being scratched.

Han Sen felt the marks that had been delivered and his face changed. Only Yaksha's nails had scratched his helmet, but even so, they had almost broken his super armor.

If it wasn't for his phoenix techniques, the scratches would have gone through and shredded his head like a rotting melon.

Yaksha wasn't looking to waste time with the distraction that was Han Sen, though. He moved forward with the haste of a near-teleportation level of speed and grabbed Han Sen.

A red mist then began to envelop Han Sen as he opened the ninth gene lock of the Blood-Pulse Sutra. The red mist dyed his armor and weaponry a creepy crimson color.

He cast Heresy Mantra, as well. The refined and purified blood began pumping and coursing through his body.

His kidney produced a large amount of energy to fuel all this and keep Han Sen going in the struggle.

But still, it didn't prove enough to keep up with Yaksha. His chest was cut up, and the lacerations began to bleed. It was quite terrifying to see himself be delivered such wounds, despite wearing such sturdy armor.

"It is no wonder he is one of the generals. He must definitely be as strong as Xiang Yin." Han Sen flapped his wings, slipped Yaksha's grasp, and flew forward to catch up with him. Then, he cast Dual Blade.

Yaksha's attack had not severely damaged Han Sen. Killing Han Sen would be a trivial task for him, but he knew he had to stop Xiang Yin's ascension first.

Disloyal Knight finally caught up and punched Yaksha in the back. This was all Han Sen needed to keep doing, to slow him down. With Disloyal Knight there, keeping him occupied would be far easier.

Yaksha, feeling something else come towards him from behind, turned to look. There, he saw Han Sen racing towards him, prompting him to spread his wings.

And the moment Yaksha spread those wings, his speed became unfathomably quick.

Pang!

Disloyal Knight's fist could not catch up, and Han Sen could only see a blurry shadow speed away from him. But then, a Han Sen received a hit to his chest, which sent him flying away.

Han Sen was thrown through a rock, splitting it. On his chest were five bloody holes—his heart had almost been ripped out.

“You should be proud of yourself, for that strike not to have killed you. Now, go away!” Yaksha mockingly stated before turning around to resume his flight towards Xiang Yin. He did not want her to take that last step.

#### **Chapter 1146: Using the Fifth Dongxuan**

A shadow of blood emerged from the floor as Han Sen barred Yaksha’s way once more.

“Do you really want to die that much? That’s fine by me!” Yaksha was now getting infuriated with Han Sen. He and Disloyal Knight had wasted too much time already, and Yaksha knew now that he had to take them out.

Yaksha’s wings were strong, but he could not remain at that speed the whole time.

He flapped the wings and appeared in front of Han Sen with a whooshing sound.

Yaksha tried to grab Han Sen but he failed—Han Sen had dodged it.

Yaksha’s face curdled like sour milk and he barked, “That must have been a coincidence! How could you evade my Yaksha speed?!”

Han Sen was delighted at what he had just managed to do. Han Sen was indeed much slower than Yaksha. But he had opened his fifth tier of the Dongxuan Sutra. His ability to read the minds of others was really coming into its own.

Yaksha wanted to eliminate Han Sen with a burning desire. It was a simplistic notion, and it was reflected in the workings of his mind. Han Sen knew exactly what he was thinking in this endeavor.

“I am going to dig his heart out.” Han Sen heard his mind speak these words and reacted before Yaksha even made a move.

Although Han Sen could not entirely dodge the next attack, he managed to get away with only a slight scratch.

“Is that all you’ve got, Yaksha?!” Han Sen yelled and started laughing at his humiliation.

Yaksha was as shocked as he was angry. The fact that Han Sen’s evasion had worked twice made it seem unlikely that he was just getting lucky.

“He can’t catch up with my Yaksha speed.” Yaksha used the same move to attack again.

And like before, Han Sen heard exactly what he proposed to do and when he proposed to do it. With effective judgment, he managed to dodge it.

With the magic of the Dongxuan Sutra and phoenix techniques, plus the Blood-Pulse Sutra and Disloyal Knight's power, Han Sen did not even have to cast super king spirit right now.

Queen was in shock, watching them fight like so. She said out loud, "Wow, he's that strong already?! I have my work cut out for me if I hope to keep up!"

After watching for a while, she began to feel depressed.

Han Sen's skill was on a whole different level than hers, and it made her feel useless. She almost felt as if she didn't deserve to be at his side.

"How did he do that?" Queen watched Han Sen with a complicated expression.

But Queen was still Queen, and her will to improve and go on did not falter. In fact, after witnessing all this, it only grew. The fire of her heart was stoked with an even bolder flame.

Queen continued to watch and observe Han Sen's movements. She recalled how she used to teach Han Sen Heavenly Go, but now, it was almost the other way around. She viewed him intently, learning how to perform phoenix techniques as he did.

Queen was a very talented person, and when Han Sen used phoenix techniques, they inspired her greatly.

What Queen considered to be the most valuable of Han Sen's abilities were his skills of prediction. She had no clue how Han Sen managed to dodge half the attacks he always did, particularly so now, with the frightening foe that was Yaksha.

Because Han Sen was much slower, which was plain to see, she thought it'd be impossible for him to dodge and evade in the manner he was doing. The only way he could stay ahead was if he knew what the attacker was going to perform beforehand. How Han Sen might have done so enthralled her.

And every time, in succession, Han Sen did indeed dodge with success. It was an excellent show.

Queen did not know Han Sen had learned the Dongxuan Sutra, though. She just thought he was a brilliant guesser. Queen was a very talented person, as well. Even Huangfu Xiongcheng told her she was perfect for the learning of Heavenly Go.

But now, as she watched Han Sen, she believed herself to not be half as good. She thought she was lame, in comparison.

"If my talents are as rare as others say, then what does he have that I or others don't? What magic propels him?" Queen was in shock and awe over his display.

Queen was not one to concede or throw in the towel, though. The better Han Sen was, the better she wanted to be. And that was an admirable trait.

Han Sen did not know this was the way Queen felt. The Dongxuan Sutra was the reason he could fight as he was.

Han Sen was currently fighting like a dragon, and with Disloyal Knight by his side, he was only getting better and better against his nemesis.

He was used to predicting the moves of his enemies, and his talent with this was only getting better. Yaksha was moving extremely fast, and although he delivered the occasional scrape, it was happening less and less often. Han Sen was being dealt less and less damage.

While Han Sen fought, a power came from someplace to the side. He blocked it with his arm.

Cha!

A grey spear pierced through his arm and cut through his bone.

Han Sen looked to where the spear might have come from, and he noticed it was the rat king that was stood atop the pillar. It was laughing, and then it turned into another spear and flew towards Han Sen.

With the rock rats now joining the fight, seeking to stop Han Sen, things were about to go very bad.

It wasn't just the rat king looking to join the fray, either. The toad king, cricket king, and other creatures all took aim at Han Sen.

Seeing the creatures all wanting to kill him, Han Sen understood what was going on. All the super creatures there wanted Xiang Yin to fail so they could dine on her flesh. Just like Yaksha, none of them wanted her to succeed.

### **Chapter 1147: Crimson Fruit**

Even more creatures were joining the fray; a dozen insects, each a meter long, began to rise from the lake.

The super creatures were bee-lining for Han Sen, that much was clear.

They wanted nothing more than to dine on Xiang Yin's flesh, but they had previously been unable to disrupt her ascension. Now that Yaksha had appeared, proving formidable enough to do so and give the creatures what they desired, they had hope. But Han Sen had come along to stop Yaksha, and with only him in their way, they all thought it best to chip in and stop the meddler.

Han Sen had done what he could in the time he had, but under fire from so many super creatures, he knew it would now be best to run.

While he wished to save Xiang Yin and ensure her success, Disloyal Knight and the Blue Dinosaur were not enough to repel the assault of a dozen super creatures.

Even if Han Sen did stay and fight, Yaksha would be free to fly towards that door while the super creatures kept his foe occupied. Remaining there would be a pointless endeavor, and stopping Yaksha any further would be silly.

“Run!” Han Sen yelled back towards Queen and the Blue Dinosaur.

Blue Dinosaur was no sharper than a bag of socks, but even it wasn't dumb enough to try to withstand a dozen super creatures. It knew it was time to run, and so it did.

Queen was atop it, and she rode it back into the tunnels they had come from.

Han Sen tried to veil the seven senses of the creatures, so they could neither hear nor see him.

But its effectiveness on super creatures was practically null, and it did not quell their raging stampede towards him. All Han Sen could do was focus on his flight out.

“You had it coming!” Yaksha coldly mocked, before turning to go for the door.

The nine steps Xiang Yin had traversed were brutal and endowed with a hungry fire that ravaged all who sought to ascend. She was little more than a shadow at this point, and that shadow was flickering faintly, as if it was about to be completely dispelled by a dazzling light.

Xiang Yin had been aware of what was occurring outside of the door, and she had been touched by Han Sen's bravery in trying to secure safe passage for her.

When he fled from the attacks of the super creatures, she completely understood.

Nearing the end of her painful journey, Xiang Yin decided to forget about Yaksha who was now homing in on her. She now had to focus on completing what she had started.

She concentrated on withstanding the fire that sought to incinerate her. She could not allow her mind to waver, falter, or be distracted by the incoming threat. If her mind wandered for a second, it'd be her demise.

“Maybe this is my fate.” Xiang Yin was still composed, and she didn't feel hatred for the one who came for her.

Han Sen had already fought on her behalf for a while, but she hadn't yet been able to make that final step. Even if Yaksha wasn't there to disturb her, she was teetering on the brink of failure.

This was a life and death moment for her. This was the single moment that would decide her future, for there would be no return to the present.

Xiang Yin had no choice now but to ascend. She could not return; she could only go on. Go on or fall.

The jellylike fruit would vaporize shortly after becoming ripe, so she couldn't eat it anywhere else at any other time.



Yaksha had now reached the door. He could tell Xiang Yin was about to fail, even if he hadn't come to meddle with her ascension.

"It is a shame you have become my enemy, but I cannot allow you to go to the Fourth God's Sanctuary," Yaksha said as he watched her burn.

Xiang Yin paid no heed to his words and maintained her focus on the task at hand.

Although she looked like she was going to fail, just in case, Yaksha pulled out something to throw beyond the door.

Yaksha had not yet opened ten gene locks, so he was not foolish enough to enter himself. If he went inside, he'd be turned into soot in a matter of seconds.

So, aware of this, he had an item. If he threw this item inside, there was a high chance it would secure her demise.

What Yaksha was holding was a black-metal fruit called a "Crimson Fruit." It was attuned with the element of fire, and it had been obtained from a king spirit tree.

If he threw it inside, it could pollute the holy, cleansing fire.

The holy fire cleansed those who walked through it. It rinsed and burned away past sins and removed your old body to provide a new one that was spotless. It was a necessary process to become a demi-god.

Once the tenth step had been reached, you would become a demi-god.

Yaksha wanted to pollute the holy fire, though. The dirt of the fruit was said to warp and sour the cleansing process and provide greater damage to whoever walked through it.

"Xiang Yin, I will take your place in the Fourth God's Sanctuary and find Ancient Devil Emperor." Yaksha smiled as he prepared to chuck the fruit inside.

Xiang Yin believed there now to be no hope. Seeing the fruit leave Yaksha's hand, she sighed.

But the moment the fruit was about to cross through the doorframe, it stopped. It appeared as if something was pulling it back.

In the next second, the flight of the fruit was course-corrected, and it ended up flying in the opposite direction. A hand then grabbed the Crimson Fruit.

Yaksha saw it happen, and he realized that someone had just claimed his fruit.

"It's you!" Yaksha and Xiang Yin both exclaimed.

Han Sen, all bloodied, now possessed the fruit. He smiled and said, "You are a noob who does not even have ten gene locks open. You're using this to disrupt her ascension? Cheap. It's a shame it's mine now."

"You are dead." Yaksha's face turned green. He flapped his wings and soared towards Han Sen.

## **Chapter 1148: Torturing Yaksha**

Yaksha was furious. He only had one Crimson Fruit, as it was a treasure from a king spirit tree that could only provide one with each harvest. That harvest took one-hundred-thousand years to grow. He wouldn't be able to receive another one quite so easily.

But while Yaksha was angry, he was not in panic mode yet.

The Crimson Fruit may not have entered the door, but its appearance had still distracted Xiang Yin quite a bit. She looked to be at the end of her tether, and taking that last step seemed out of her reach.

Han Sen had been grievously injured, but he had come back alone. The super creatures were still on his trail, so it was something that was in Yaksha's favor.

And so, Yaksha decided to attack Han Sen. He thought it was about time Han Sen got a pummeling, and he very much wanted to see him writhing in agony when the posse of super creatures also caught up.

But all of a sudden, Han Sen blazed with a bright white light. His hair turned white and flowed down to his feet. His eyes turned as white as his gleaming, ivory armor.

Pat!

Han Sen clicked his fingers and turned the entire cavern into one coinstorm cloud. Coins manifested in the air and dropped from every inch of that place. The creatures that sought to catch up with Han Sen were immediately suppressed and brought to the ground.

Yaksha's body was pumping with pure, unbridled hatred and rage. He swung his lethal nails around to slice the coins.

But unlike before, Han Sen did not keenly evade Yaksha. All he did was raise the corner of his lips. In his ordinary form, Han Sen was too weak to block Yaksha's attacks; that's why he had to focus on evasion.

Now things were different. Although Yaksha's speed was still greater, super king spirit made Han Sen stronger.

What's more, between all that was going on, Yaksha's mind was screaming.

Pang!

Yaksha's nails were about to descend on Han Sen, but he did not move until they were about to skewer his eyeballs. And that move was to grab Yaksha by the waist and prevent him from being able to move.

"How?!" Green, pulsating veins scrawled over Yaksha's arms. Try as he might to resist, he could not move or free himself.

Han Sen's hands were like chains, tying up his waist.

“You are right; you are dead!” Han Sen said, just as his white light grew in intensity.

Han Sen’s grip on Yaksha tightened, as the madman flailed in hopeless resistance.

Yaksha tried using his nails to slice Han Sen’s belly. He was fast that not even light itself would have been able to dodge.

But Yaksha’s failing was his anger, and how he screamed on the inside. Han Sen knew exactly what was going through his mind, and he knew what to do.

Pang!

Han Sen threw his other fist to repel Yaksha’s incoming nailstrike. There was so much power in that parry, it broke every finger on Yaksha’s hand. They all bent backwards like broken twigs.

But the fist didn’t just stop there. Han Sen’s fist continued going forward right into Yaksha’s face.

Pang!

Yaksha wanted to scream, but he couldn’t after that. His lips and jaw had been shattered and smashed. They were twisted and ruined so much that Yaksha could barely control his mouth. His body leaned back.

His other arm was still held by Han Sen, and now, Han Sen gave it a tug.

Han Sen pulled Yaksha forward and delivered another punch.

Yaksha’s skull cracked, and the force of that second punch sent a shockwave through the cavern.

Pang! Pang! Pang!

Yaksha would take a punch, fall back limply, then be tugged forward only to be hit again. This process repeated again and again. Eventually, one of Yaksha’s eyeballs fell out of its socket. He no longer looked human.

Yaksha’s speed was useless against Han Sen in such a state. His brain had been rattled too much, his mind was a mish-mash of displaced thoughts that scrambled to gather cohesion.

Han Sen, seeing Yaksha was on the razor’s edge between life and death, let him go. And then, with both fists, planned to give him one last brutal hit.

Alu Alu Alu!

Han Sen suddenly screamed like Xie Qing King. The last hit he sought to deliver turned to a great many, and he punched like a nutter. Over and over he threw his fists, with each one making him feel better than before.

All of Yaksha’s bones had been broken, and eventually, his meat and skin were little more than a crumpled sack to contain a collapsing skeleton.

Yaksha squealed like a dying pig, and in his final moments, Han Sen moved forward to pick him up.

The creatures that sought to attack Han Sen stopped, not wanting to meddle with such a frightening foe.

The creatures weren't exactly co-operating; they were all competing for the meat. So, it was not like they could rely on each other to take on Han Sen in unison.

Han Sen's murderous and intimidating presence stopped anyone or anything from harboring thoughts of potentially trying to attack or kill him.

"Haha!" Yaksha, he who had been brutally beaten like so, suddenly laughed.

"What are you laughing at?" Han Sen asked as he grabbed him by the loose and torn garments that still hung from Yaksha.

"My spirit stone is not here, you fool! I'll respawn, should you kill me. And Xiang Yin? She's going to die. You were unable to save her. I may not have won, but you still lost. Isn't that so sad? Haha!" Yaksha continued to laugh, as his other eyeball dropped from its socket. He actually seemed very happy.

### **Chapter 1149: Kill You Forever**

Han Sen looked inside the door and saw the shadow kneeling. There were no more musical notes or energy signatures left to scan. Xiang Yin would probably not make it.

"You lose. Badly! Now, watch as she dies! I am different; I have many more ways to play with you." Yaksha began to cackle like a mad scientist.

"How can you be so certain I'll watch her die?" Han Sen said.

Yaksha spat out blood and mumbled, "You are only a little stronger than me. You have only opened nine gene locks; you cannot enter there."

"And who said I'll need to enter to save her?" Han Sen then brought out his bone xun.

"What's that for? Are you going to play a requiem on her behalf? Or perhaps you're going to somehow play the song of Gandharva?" Yaksha jested in spite.

"I can play that, if that is what you would like to hear." Han Sen then brought the xun to his lips. He blew into the head, causing a stream of white light to cast its way into the door.

The power was the same that the xun created, and he used this to recharge her body.

"How?" Xiang Yin felt this power enter her body, providing her support before she collapsed completely.

She only needed a little bit more power to reach the tenth step, and with that power, she had hope.

Xiang Yin's notes filled the air, and her scent re-fragranced the atmosphere. With Han Sen's help, she was slowly able to move forward and take one last step.

"Impossible! She only played it once. How can you know the song of Gandharva already?!" Yaksha barked.

Carried by the gentle soundwaves of that divine music, Xiang Yin leaned forward, ready to take that last step.

"No! It should be me who makes that final step!"

Yaksha looked insane as he watched Xiang Yin take that one last step.

Yaksha's eyes were going bigger and bigger, unable to believe what he was seeing.

Boom!

The tenth step was scaled, and when Xiang Yin set both feet on it, a flame ravaged her entire body.

The light was too bright to witness what was happening now. But it eventually dimmed, and when it did, Han Sen saw her reborn. She looked so holy, like a divine fairy or angelic being.

Xiang Yin spoke something to him, but Han Sen could not hear the words. He could only read her lips.

The door closed, and as it did, Han Sen reviewed the words he believed her to have spoken: "I'll wait for you in the Fourth God's Sanctuary."

Han Sen was not entirely sure that was what she said. She pointed at him as if she wished to say something further, but the door closed before she could.

Boom!

The door was closed, separating the two for good. Han Sen was depressed, having not even been able to receive a "thank you" for his efforts.

But Han Sen did not have time to dwell on it. He picked up Yaksha and just said, "You said you have many ways, right? I can tell you right now that you don't. I'll kill you every single time I see you. So, my advice to you is to keep that spirit stone safe. If you don't..."

Han Sen punched through Yaksha's skull and tossed his body away. Yaksha's body faded from sight, warping him back to his spirit stone.

When he respawned, he mulled over the words Han Sen had spoken to him. Han Sen's speech was one of remarkable confidence, and it made Yaksha angry to realize that he was now the weaker one.

"I'll make you regret this." Yaksha left his shelter, making this one final vow.

Han Sen decided to make his way out of the underground realm. He exited his super king spirit mode, and his body was exhausted. So, he called for Golden Growler to carry him back.

Not long after, Han Sen came across the Blue Dinosaur and Queen. Queen looked incredibly relieved to see Han Sen.

“Let’s go back to the shelter as soon as we can,” Queen said, as she ran over to hold Han Sen in her arms.

“I’m not going back. Those \*sshole super creatures tried to kill me, so I’m going to exact my revenge.” If it wasn’t for the super creatures getting involved, Han Sen wouldn’t be in such a condition.

He recalled their names and knew he had to kill them.

“They lead armies of noobs. That’s it. And when they recover, I’m going to make light work of them,” Han Sen said.

Han Sen set up a camp outside the cave’s exit, and when he recovered, he thought of going after the rat king first. He wanted to take its Life Geno Essence.

A few days later, he was back in tip-top shape. With Blue Dinosaur, he returned to the underground.

#### **Chapter 1149: Kill You Forever**

Han Sen looked inside the door and saw the shadow kneeling. There were no more musical notes or energy signatures left to scan. Xiang Yin would probably not make it.

“You lose. Badly! Now, watch as she dies! I am different; I have many more ways to play with you.” Yaksha began to cackle like a mad scientist.

“How can you be so certain I’ll watch her die?” Han Sen said.

Yaksha spat out blood and mumbled, “You are only a little stronger than me. You have only opened nine gene locks; you cannot enter there.”

“And who said I’ll need to enter to save her?” Han Sen then brought out his bone xun.

“What’s that for? Are you going to play a requiem on her behalf? Or perhaps you’re going to somehow play the song of Gandharva?” Yaksha jested in spite.

“I can play that, if that is what you would like to hear.” Han Sen then brought the xun to his lips. He blew into the head, causing a stream of white light to cast its way into the door.

The power was the same that the xun created, and he used this to recharge her body.

“How?” Xiang Yin felt this power enter her body, providing her support before she collapsed completely.

She only needed a little bit more power to reach the tenth step, and with that power, she had hope.

Xiang Yin's notes filled the air, and her scent re-fragranced the atmosphere. With Han Sen's help, she was slowly able to move forward and take one last step.

"Impossible! She only played it once. How can you know the song of Gandharva already?!" Yaksha barked.

Carried by the gentle soundwaves of that divine music, Xiang Yin leaned forward, ready to take that last step.

"No! It should be me who makes that final step!"

Yaksha looked insane as he watched Xiang Yin take that one last step.

Yaksha's eyes were going bigger and bigger, unable to believe what he was seeing.

Boom!

The tenth step was scaled, and when Xiang Yin set both feet on it, a flame ravaged her entire body.

The light was too bright to witness what was happening now. But it eventually dimmed, and when it did, Han Sen saw her reborn. She looked so holy, like a divine fairy or angelic being.

Xiang Yin spoke something to him, but Han Sen could not hear the words. He could only read her lips.

The door closed, and as it did, Han Sen reviewed the words he believed her to have spoken: "I'll wait for you in the Fourth God's Sanctuary."

Han Sen was not entirely sure that was what she said. She pointed at him as if she wished to say something further, but the door closed before she could.

Boom!

The door was closed, separating the two for good. Han Sen was depressed, having not even been able to receive a "thank you" for his efforts.

But Han Sen did not have time to dwell on it. He picked up Yaksha and just said, "You said you have many ways, right? I can tell you right now that you don't. I'll kill you every single time I see you. So, my advice to you is to keep that spirit stone safe. If you don't..."

Han Sen punched through Yaksha's skull and tossed his body away. Yaksha's body faded from sight, warping him back to his spirit stone.

When he respawned, he mulled over the words Han Sen had spoken to him. Han Sen's speech was one of remarkable confidence, and it made Yaksha angry to realize that he was now the weaker one.

"I'll make you regret this." Yaksha left his shelter, making this one final vow.

Han Sen decided to make his way out of the underground realm. He exited his super king spirit mode, and his body was exhausted. So, he called for Golden Growler to carry him back.

Not long after, Han Sen came across the Blue Dinosaur and Queen. Queen looked incredibly relieved to see Han Sen.

“Let’s go back to the shelter as soon as we can,” Queen said, as she ran over to hold Han Sen in her arms.

“I’m not going back. Those \*sshole super creatures tried to kill me, so I’m going to exact my revenge.” If it wasn’t for the super creatures getting involved, Han Sen wouldn’t be in such a condition.

He recalled their names and knew he had to kill them.

“They lead armies of noobs. That’s it. And when they recover, I’m going to make light work of them,” Han Sen said.

Han Sen set up a camp outside the cave’s exit, and when he recovered, he thought of going after the rat king first. He wanted to take its Life Geno Essence.

A few days later, he was back in tip-top shape. With Blue Dinosaur, he returned to the underground.

### **Chapter 1151: Thorn Scorpion Beast Soul**

When Han Sen moved the underground shelter again, there was only Queen, Bao’er, and Zero left.

Old Huang and his people stayed in the Dark Shelter they had just liberated. This was by their choice, of course. Han Sen wanted to go deep into Thorn Forest; a knotted realm where none of the others would have a chance of hunting. Therefore, they decided to remain there in the new shelter.

Han Sen put Dark Prince in charge of the Dark Shelter, as he did not want to completely forfeit his new acquirement.

Han Sen still wanted to exact revenge on the super creatures that resided someplace in the depths of that underground realm, so he also commanded Dark Prince to keep an eye out for them on his behalf.

Han Sen had the shelter moved twice, so they could reach the place where the second sacred-blood scorpion was said to reside.

This scorpion was different from the others Han Sen had seen, near the underground realm, as this one seemed to live alone. It was, however, bigger than a tank. The chitin was probably thicker than metal plating, too. For food, it seemed to enjoy munching on the many thorny vines in the area.

When they prepared to engage the beast, Queen was the first to run forth and charge. Han Sen sat back and merely watched her fight. He noticed how well she had copied his phoenix techniques, and judged the accuracy of her attempt to be around the eighty percent mark.



The scorpion was very strong, and it was a sacred-blood creature with eight of its gene locks open. Queen had not been a surpasser for very long, but she had so far managed to open four gene locks. She wouldn't have been able to fight the beast without the beast souls she had been given.

That's not to say the beast souls made it easy. She still struggled to fight the monster solo.

Han Sen, while watching her fight unfold, said to himself, "Bones like those of a crane, a figure like that of a swallow, wings brush the ground..."

Han Sen was reading the texts he had obtained when he first learned the phoenix techniques. She would never be able to learn the techniques in their entirety, since she had never seen the room that was decorated in birds and brought the text to life. And that aside, she had not learned the genuine Seven Twists, either.

But Queen was very talented, so Han Sen did not mind spending the extra time to train and improve her further. She could become much stronger in a short amount of time, he reckoned.

Due to her toughness and super body, Han Sen treated Queen as an equal. He respected her a great deal and took her as a serious partner. Han Sen did not often encounter people with super bodies, but this was one. And he really liked Queen's super body.

Each person's super body was different and unique to them. Han Sen was keen on the elements of space and time, and that was what Queen possessed.

Queen's super body was called "The Wheel of Space," and when Han Sen watched her fight, he could closely observe her ability to warp and create mini tears in the fabric of the space and time as she fought her opponent.

Such powers were difficult to harness, and all Queen had achieved so far was to use her super body to speed herself up somewhat. Although it looked weak now, Han Sen firmly believed that when Queen became stronger over time, she'd become extremely powerful.

Han Sen still did not know which element his super body was attuned to, and for whatever it was, he couldn't give it a name.

Queen continued to battle the scorpion, listening to Han Sen read the text. Her skill in battle was improving in realtime. After hearing Han Sen speak, Queen realized the true potential of phoenix techniques and how beneficial they could be.

It was almost frightening how effective the techniques were. Now that she knew that Han Sen possessed such talent, she half-believed he'd one day end up becoming a monster.

Queen would not mind learning Han Sen's skills, as she was mostly concerned with becoming stronger.

But Queen also knew Han Sen wouldn't just give out a skill such as this to any person who sought to learn it. It was a very profound thing, for Han Sen to go out of his way to teach and aid her. It meant a lot to her.

Han Sen felt a little different, though. He mostly didn't mind because it was just a skill, and it hadn't even been completed yet.

Han Sen was still knee-deep in the process of modifying it, after all. But of course, Han Sen appreciated Queen being there. He was fond of her, and thus he was very willing to help teach her more.

Furthermore, watching someone else make use of the phoenix techniques provided him with inspiration. It gave him a third-person perspective, so he could truly observe the techniques and see where exactly he might best make modifications.

Teaching had always given Han Sen new perspectives, and it always allowed Han Sen to view things in a different light.

Queen had come a long way in a short time. She had leveled up very quickly, but regardless, Han Sen helped her put the creature down for good, after a time of battle.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Thorn Scorpion killed. Beast soul gained. Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

Han Sen was delighted, so he scrambled to take a look at what manner of beast soul it was.

Sacred-Blood Beast Soul Thorn Scorpion: Glyph Beast Soul.

Han Sen was shocked at the result, as glyph beast souls were complicated things.

He summoned it, and his back gleamed with a tattoo-like drawing of a scorpion.

Han Sen did not feel any stronger or faster, though.

"What is this for?" Han Sen couldn't figure out what purpose it served.

When he was in the Second God's Sanctuary, he obtained a glyph beast soul that was called Evil-Blooded Condor. He wasn't sure what it was for, and he had yet to figure it out.

If this beast soul was the same, Han Sen didn't fancy the prospect of evolving it.

Amidst Han Sen's thoughts, a primitive bug appeared and tried to bite him. Han Sen stepped on it in annoyance, and he became both surprised and enlightened.

Han Sen's attack-step on the bug was corrosive, and it melted the bug into little more than icky juice.

"This glyph provides me a toxic element?" Han Sen was quite shocked, so he tried it again.

## **Chapter 1152: A Super Creature That Loves Food**

After an extensive session of testing, Han Sen was able to confirm the Thorn Scorpion glyph imbued his attacks with a lethal venom.

The toxins were extremely corrosive, but they had to contact blood to work. Once Han Sen came into contact with a creature's blood, it'd boil and fizz like acid.

All he would have to do was make an enemy bleed, and then he could allow the toxins to work their magic and taint the rest of the bloodstream. If the foe's toxic resistances were low, it'd be dead in no time at all.

Han Sen loved the concept of this glyph, but the power was not very compatible with the Invisible King Scorpion's power. With this discrepancy, Han Sen could not tell what would happen if they were combined.

After a period of thinking it over, Han Sen put the idea aside for the time being. He wanted to see if he could stumble across a better beast soul before making a final decision. If there was no greater choice, he'd use the gem on the glyph.

Back in the shelter, Han Sen asked Moment Queen to drive the shelter through the Thorn Forest.

Han Sen tried teaching Bao'er and Zero how to play the xun. He spent many sessions with Zero, but Bao'er was flat-out uninterested. The first time she was given it to hold, she lobbed it away. Fortunately, Han Sen was quick enough to catch it.

Bao'er loved animals, though. The white bear, rabbit king, red bird, and even the Blue Dinosaur were now subjected to her bullying.

"I hope my real kid won't turn out like that," Han Sen thought to himself.

If Queen wasn't out hunting, she was spending her time practicing hyper geno arts in the shelter. Han Sen half-believed she was a machine; one that could not turn off, at that.

If she turned out to be a machine, Han Sen wouldn't be surprised.

Queen's figure was as voluptuous as ever; perfectly sculpted as if through masterful design. Whenever she exercised, her boobs bounced vigorously and almost unnaturally. Their physics were hypnotizing to watch, and it was something Han Sen believed only robots designed for that purpose could achieve.

Queen's face was unwelcoming 24/7, too. She certainly had the warmth of a cold-blooded cyborg.

Zero was far gentler, by comparison. She cooked, cleaned, and even took the time to massage Han Sen. Her only downside was her lack of speech, as she was fairly silent on a day-to-day basis.

Moment Queen continued to think Han Sen was an enemy, and she was now giving him the silent treatment.

“It looks like Ji Yanran is the only normal woman in my life,” Han Sen said to himself, before his thoughts lusted over her.

The underground shelter, after five daily jumps, finally reached the super creature Moment Queen had mentioned.

Han Sen went out looking for it, heeding the instructions Moment Queen was now willing to give. There were no super creatures around, but he did find many empty anthills.

There were many lumps and mounds in the earth of that area, all with the telltale signs of having previously housed ants. Han Sen counted at least a dozen of them, but they had all been de-capped and their denizens removed.

“A super creature must have come through here. Look, it has eaten all the ants. Let’s go further,” Han Sen said.

In their travels, Han Sen noticed many more anthills. But they too had been stripped bare, absent of tenants.

“This guy is a hungry feller! He must have eaten every single ant in a ten-mile radius,” Han Sen commented, as he observed yet another empty mound.

“I don’t think they’re anthills,” Moment Queen said.

Han Sen turned around, and in-between the thorny vines, he saw a beehive that was approximately the size of a three-story tall building.

But that too was absent of occupants, and the hive itself looked as if it had been damaged pretty severely.

Han Sen examined it closer and noticed many of the scuffs and destructive markings across the beehive were similar to those that had mangled the anthills. The creature that did this could have very well been the same one.

Han Sen then smelled something very sweet permeating the air. He saw liquid, and it was honey. The drop of honey was on the nest, and everything aside from that drop of honey had been consumed.

Han Sen walked around and found more beehives, all of which were in a similar condition.

“This guy is even hungrier than I thought! He has eaten every single ant and every bee in a fifty-mile radius.” Han Sen frowned.

“Perhaps it is making babies,” Moment Queen chimed in to say.

Han Sen nodded, thinking she could be correct. He knew that super creatures who were pregnant usually ate a lot.

“Let’s go back. We can’t mindlessly wander; we should return and formulate a proper plan,” Han Sen said, then started walking back to the underground shelter, as he didn’t wish to stray too far from it.

But soon after, he saw something crawling out of the undergrowth. It was a green pangolin that was around two feet long. It was emerging from a pair of bushes, and it seemed to be in search of something.

Han Sen was delighted. It looked very small, but Han Sen was able to sense that it was indeed a super creature.

“Is that the super creature you mentioned?” Han Sen asked.

Moment Queen tilted her head and said, “That does look similar, but it is far smaller than what I saw.”

Han Sen wished to say something, but before he could, the creature scurried away and disappeared into a burrow.

Han Sen immediately regretted he had not taken advantage of that opportunity and leaped forward to slay it. Following it underground was not a good idea.

Suddenly, though, the creature came back out carrying something.

### **Chapter 1153: Baby**

When the creature emerged from its burrow again, it had a coin in its mouth. Han Sen and Moment Queen were surprised, thinking it would be carrying a rat or food in its maw, if it sought to give them something.

Or maybe even rare medicine like ginseng.

But the creature brought them a coin, which was quite puzzling. There was no currency in the Sanctuary, so silver coins such as that were useless. But Han Sen could not have been mistaken, and it was indeed a coin.

The coin was similar to the old coins of yore, with the image of a head on one side and a number on the other. In this case, it was the number one.

The creature, which was continuing to hold the coin in its mouth, crawled its way over into another bush. Han Sen put Moment Queen away, masked his sense, and went after it.

The creature kept on going until it reached a hill. There was a stone cave at its bottom, and the creature scurried its way inside. The hill was around a hundred meters tall, but it was entirely laced with thorny vines. Making out the cave’s entrance would be a trying task for the untrained eye.

Han Sen waited outside the entrance for a bit, seeing if it would re-emerge. The creature did indeed, but when it came outside again, it did so without the coin.

Seeing the creature walk back in the same direction it had come, Han Sen decided to duck into the cave once the coast was clear.

Han Sen gave the place a scan and verified the immediate vicinity was free from lifeforces. He ventured down deep, and after a few turns, his dongxuan aura's range was not enough to scan the entrance nor the deepest recess of the place.

"That creature was small, perhaps young. Maybe its parent lives somewhere down here?" Han Sen wondered.

Han Sen put on his armor and summoned Disloyal Knight. Together, they continued the descent.

Han Sen stood behind Disloyal Knight and did his best to scan the area. The last thing he wanted to do was unknowingly stumble upon and invoke the ire of a group of super creatures dwelling in the dark.

If there were any more than two super creatures down there, they'd be in danger.

The pair kept at a brisk pace down the tunnel. They wanted to scope the whole place out before the little creature returned to the cave. There'd be no way to maneuver past it if it came back before they were out.

After a few more twists and turns, Han Sen reached the deepest pit of that cave. They did not encounter a single creature along the way.

When Han Sen entered that last pit, he was shocked. The cave had many peculiar items residing inside it. There were mounds of broken armaments, weaponry, and garb.

Some pieces of metallic weaponry had rusted so much, they looked like burned sticks.

Han Sen found a coin amongst the junk. It was on top of everything else, indicating it had been put there most recently.

"Why would a super creature gather so much junk? Well, one man's junk is another super creature's treasure!" When this thought breached Han Sen's mind, an expression fell across his face like that of a conniving thief.

Han Sen grabbed a rusted sword from the pile and thought to himself, "Perhaps this was once used by a powerful emperor; one who once ruled every region of the Third God's Sanctuary under a single banner! Over the years, it traded hands and degrading qualities of care until it was forgotten. And then? It ended up here, lost to the lonely decay of time."

"It has come to me! It's mine. My own, my precious. Oh, my beloved sword, I have come to rescue you from this pit!" Han Sen swung it around and then katcha! It broke.

Han Sen was only holding the hilt of a rusted sword now, and he thought to himself, "Hmm, perhaps I must go deeper. This junk on top of the other junk must be the real junk. The junk below the junk must be the junk worth salvaging, and is the junk that is secretly treasure..."

Han Sen rummaged through the mound of rubbish and eventually came across the glint of bronze armor. He said to himself, "Ooh, this armor looks very well-crafted. I wonder, could it be a prized treasure of some ancient emperor?"

Han Sen tossed aside most of the junk that was covering the armor and tried picking it up. Before he could lift it fully, though, the shoulder plate came right off.

It really was just a pile of rubbish. Everything there was broken, aside from the coin that was last brought inside.

"You are a super creature, not the sanctuary's garbage collector," Han Sen told himself, sapped of excitement.

Han Sen decided to pick up the coin. It looked like metal, so he tried giving it a powerful squeeze. It didn't leave a mark.

With Han Sen's power, he could now leave a fingerprint on a chunk of z-steel stone with just a pinch. The fact that this coin remained totally unharmed surprised him. Earlier, Han Sen could only see the face and the number on opposite sides of the coin. But now, after closer examination, he was shocked.

The carved head of a woman looked alive, and it suggested to Han Sen that it must have been designed by someone famous.

On the other side, the number one was surrounded by a variety of strange symbols. Their meaning escaped Han Sen's knowledge.

The woman's head on the coin seemed familiar, too.

But she did not look like any of his close female friends.

After staring at it to figure out who it most looked like, he blurted out, "I know! That's her head!"

### **Chapter 1154: The Usual Stuff**

It was only her head on the coin, but it had been delicately crafted. And simmering beneath the surface of that innocent image was an untold power.

And startlingly, the face was familiar to Han Sen. He knew of a person whose face looked exactly like the one on the coin. It took a while for him to remember her image, due to him having only seen this woman once.

When the Empty Witch ascended to the Third God's Sanctuary, a spirit escorted her through the door that manifested in the air.

Han Sen's remembrance of that spirit's face was a little woozy. A lot had been going on when he saw her, and it was a very long time ago. So, even though his memory of it was fuzzy at first, it was now coming back to him.

Staring at the coin intently, Han Sen couldn't shake the feeling that it really was her. The resemblance, at least, was uncanny.

She had also left the mark of a lotus on Han Sen's forehead, but it was destroyed by Dragon King. Dragon King told Han Sen that he had been marked by the Lotus Empress.

"This must be her. It has to be! It has to be the Lotus Empress!" Han Sen was firm in this belief. He wasn't one hundred percent sure, but he couldn't think of anyone else it could have looked like.

Han Sen looked around, wondering if there was anything else worth taking, but there wasn't.

Proper currency was worthless in the sanctuary, so coins must have been forged by the Alliance. But the hardest material in the Alliance was z-steel alloy, and it wasn't as sturdy as the material used to craft the coin.

The coin had been retrieved by the creature from below the earth, so it was also quite puzzling why it had been buried in the soil of such a random location.

Han Sen had been rattled by this discovery, and it made him a whole lot more curious about the creature that had initially collected the coin. But alas, Han Sen had been lost in thought for some time, and he hadn't paid attention to how long he had been down there.

Han Sen was afraid the little creature could show up any second.

He went over to hide beneath the garbage. There was a mighty shield amidst the junk, and it was perfect for him to hide behind. He masked his scent and clutched Taia tightly.

Han Sen was planning to wait until the creature returned, and when it did, assassinate it.

It was a super creature, and if he was able to insta-kill it through assassination and forego the need for a drawn-out fight, that'd be a mighty swell thing indeed.

It wasn't long until Han Sen started to hear sounds coming from further up the cave. They were the sounds of the creature, on its way back down as predicted.

Han Sen made sure his scent was hidden. Then, he went into a state of focus, ensuring the hand that held the sword was firm but relaxed and ready to strike.

To perform the strongest assassination strike, your body had to be relaxed. It was something he had practiced extensively during his time in the First God's Sanctuary. He was very proficient in the ways of the assassin.

Not too much later, Han Sen felt the little creature approach.



He could sense something scraping against the ground, and this made Han Sen think the creature was bringing a bigger item along with it.

Han Sen did not very much care what the little blighter was carrying with him; he just remained focused, preparing to strike. And the closer the creature got, the more relaxed Han Sen became.

A noise rung out, sounding like the creature had chucked the latest scrap of junk onto the garbage pile.

Han Sen could see every movement and motion made by the creature, all through his mind's eye. He could sense it all without the need for his true naked eyes.

When the item landed on the heap, that was the time for him to strike. And so he did; Han Sen leaped out from behind the shield with Taia, ready to plunge Taia deep into the witless super creature that was none-the-wiser.

His heart and kidneys pumped fast, as his entire body began to glow red.

Han Sen knew he was performing the perfect strike, as expected. Nine gene locks of the Blood-Pulse Sutra and Taia made for a lethal combination. Super creatures would do well to fear such a combo.

The creature turned around, but Han Sen still had his eye on the prize. Being so fast and so accurate, he thought he had ticked all the boxes, and he was more than ready to see Taia plunge through the creature's throat. There was no chance the creature could react in time.

Dong!

The sword was aiming for the neck with pinpoint accuracy, but before a connection was made, the scales of the creature lit up with a bright green light.

An aura of light suddenly enveloped the little beast, as if it was encased in a tight bubble of impenetrable protection. The creature was sent flying, but it was dealt no harm. The creature escaped the assassination attempt unscathed.

"A super creature with defensive powers, huh?" Han Sen was quite shocked. But while the creature was still airborne, Han Sen drew his Phoenix Sword.

Dong!

The Phoenix Sword was incapable of penetrating the creature's green shield.

"Die!" Han Sen used all his power to repeatedly strike the creature, keeping it airborne amidst a flurry of hits.

The Phoenix Sword and Taia beat against the shield non-stop.

The shield looked like a balloon under fire, as if it'd break any second.

Boom!

Han Sen batted the creature into a wall, and before it could recover, pounced on the creature like a madman. With another barrage of strikes, Han Sen went to town on the creature.

"I don't need super king spirit mode to kill a super creature!" Han Sen was insanely excited.

“Die!” Han Sen was shouting as he slashed, and eventually, the green bubble shield shattered into a faint haze of dust.

Without the shield, the creature was naked and helpless. It was like a little lamb, prepared for slaughter.

But before Han Sen slew the creature, he froze in place.

“Aw, I was just playing games with you.” Han Sen suddenly looked incredibly kind and gentle, and he brought his hand down to stroke the creature.

Han Sen slowly turned around, and that was when he saw a number of giant creatures behind him. They all stared at Han Sen with menacing eyes.

### **Chapter 1155: Got Surrounded**

Boom!

Han Sen hit the wall of the cave like a cannonball, and in the haze of dust and debris that accompanied his fall, he spat out blood.

Before Han Sen was able to stand up again, a big monster stood above him, with legs on each side of him. His pupils grew bigger. Unable to stand up, Han Sen had to roll in evasion, to avoid the crushing legs that began to work like pistons in an attempt to stomp on him.

The frightening feet were far too close to comfortably avoid. As Han Sen rolled, he could feel the ground shake with each pounding stomp, and he could hear the echo of each thump carry through the cave.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Han Sen kept on rolling as six massive creatures did their best to try to trample him underfoot. He was already using super king spirit mode, but even so, he was unable to fight back.

When Han Sen was able to stand back up, a scaled tail lashed his back like a whip.

More blood oozed from his mouth as he was sent careening through the air once more. His bones were starting to feel like cracked glass, ready to shatter with the slightest additional jarring.

Han Sen came down against an awkwardly shaped rock and broke it in his descent.

Things had rarely turned so sour and remained so dire for Han Sen. Ever since Han Sen had come into possession of super king spirit mode, things had never gotten this bad.

There were six super creatures in that cavern. They were the same breed as the little one he had attempted to assassinate, but these were monstrously large. What's more, they all had the same green bubble of protection.

He had tried throwing coins on them, but it was all to no avail.

Han Sen believed he had stumbled across an entire family of super creatures, as their co-operation was even better than the army.

Whenever Han Sen tried to attack, they each weaved together to protect one another. And whenever Han Sen wished to dodge, phoenix techniques were the only things able to keep him alive.

The creatures were surprisingly quick and nimble. So much so, they had prevented Han Sen from being able to escape the grip of that wretched cave. He had been subject to extreme torturous pain from the repeated pummeling he received in his bid to flee.

Despite the strength and sturdiness that Han Sen's super king spirit mode imparted, he had never expected to be in a situation where it did not prove enough. It wasn't the Get Out of Jail Free card he had grown accustomed to. If this was any other super creature, he would have been beaten it to death by now, three times over. These creatures, however, working in unison, were far too much for him to handle.

"This isn't fair! This should be a one-on-one." Han Sen leaped out from the rubble, as fast as his aching bones could carry him.

A split-second after he leaped away, a creature's bottom was crushing the remains of the rock he had shattered.

Six creatures were doing their best to attack Han Sen, as he desperately sought an escape route. He wouldn't dare summon Disloyal Knight for such a circumstance, as he was not very good when it came to dodging.

The halo could weaken them, but there were six super creatures to still contend with. It wouldn't be enough, and Disloyal Knight would most likely be killed.

"This must be karma; it's finally come calling," Han Sen told himself.

Han Sen was hit by a tail, and before he could recover, another one struck him like a burning chain.

Han Sen gritted his teeth to bear the pain and jumped, using the tail to propel himself up. He wanted to use that boost to go airborne and try to get away. But another three tails manifested in the air, as if by magic. Han Sen was able to dodge two, but he could not avoid the third.

The tail whacked Han Sen with speed and power that felt like a train.

Pang!

Han Sen crashed into the ground like a meteor, forming skid marks in the stone-cold floor as he rattled, scraped, and rolled along it.

Before Han Sen could pull himself up, a foot was on top of him.

The ground around him was breaking as Han Sen sunk deeper and deeper into the earth under the obscene weight of that foot.

The foot removed itself, and Han Sen was brought to the startling realization he was two feet in the ground. Thankfully, it wasn't yet six.

His super king spirit mode had been extinguished, and he was no longer able to move.

Pang! Pang!

Another beast brought its foot down on him, as Han Sen felt his body pushed down with the weight of a mountain. His armor had endured enough, and it shattered.

The creatures then stopped and turned to each other, as if they were communicating. Han Sen looked very dead, but with one last morsel of energy, his dragon wings spread enough to lift him out of the pit.

The creatures looked at Han Sen with shock.

Han Sen spread his wings further and took off flying for ten miles as his tormentors struggled to catch up. Eventually, Han Sen brought himself down and summoned Golden Growler to take him the rest of the way back to the shelter.

"My bones are like sand," Han Sen thought to himself.

Fortunately, Han Sen was able to play dead and buy enough time to escape. If he hadn't, he really would have been killed there.

He had survived, but the mantis armor had been destroyed. What's worse, he had not obtained a single return from the investment of that horrible affair.

All Han Sen had acquired was a coin, and he couldn't wear that.

Whenever Han Sen wanted to bully a small super creature, he ended up getting attacked. It was like a curse.

"I hope this coin turns out useful. I can't stand the thought of all that being for nothing." Han Sen teleported back to the Alliance and jumped into a recovery pool.

He stayed there for a whole week, and even still, he had not fully recovered. He knew he would have to take a small break from adventuring.

Han Sen's body was strong, and due to prior practice with hyper geno arts, his abilities of recovery were good, though. It wouldn't take much longer to be back in tip-top shape.

Returning to the sanctuary, Han Sen entered a room that was empty in the shelter. There, he summoned Dragon King.

"Do you know what this is?" Han Sen asked, showing him the coin.

Dragon King looked at it with shock, and he said, "Is that an Empress Coin? Where did you get it from?"

“Is it worth anything? Retrieving this thing almost cost me my life.” Han Sen was already feeling better, judging from the reaction Dragon King had given him.

### **Chapter 1156: Empress Coin**

Dragon King examined the coin, and after a while, he tossed it back to Han Sen.

“What is it? Say something, would you?” Han Sen frowned.

Dragon King shook his head and said, “This is an Empress Coin, but first, tell me where you got it from.”

“Tell me what I want to know first. What does it do?” Han Sen gave Dragon King an intense stare. He was still feeling a little sour from his horrid experience in the cave, so he wasn’t in the mood to play games.

Dragon King smiled and said, “This thing is special. I can’t just sum it up in two seconds.”

Han Sen sat down and gave Dragon King another look. Dragon King was able to tell Han Sen was not in a good mood. “There are many emperors in the Third God’s Sanctuary, and there are many empresses, as well. The most famous of all was Night Empress. Even Ancient Devil Emperor feared her.”

Han Sen picked up the coin and asked, “Is this her geno treasure?”

“Not quite,” Dragon King answered.

Han Sen gave him another stare, saying, “Then why tell me this?”

“The Empress Coins are not geno treasures, but they did belong to Night Empress. They don’t do anything, but perhaps they can be used to trade for something decent,” Dragon King explained.

“What might I be able to trade it for?” Han Sen asked.

Dragon King told him, “Do you see the Night Empress on the coin? Don’t you think she looks a little like the Lotus Queen?”

“I wondered that myself. Are they related?” Han Sen asked.

Dragon King said, “Night Empress is currently in the Fourth God’s Sanctuary. Lotus Empress is her heir. When I came here, she had already built a name for herself and become famous.”

Dragon King went on to explain, saying, “Lotus Queen likes to collect the coins of her mother. You could probably go and see her and exchange this coin for a lotus seed. You can push your luck and ask for more, but that is a decision I’d best leave up to you.”

“What good is a lotus seed?” Han Sen inquired.

“Think about it! You could grow fruit worthy of an emperor. It’d be great for opening gene locks. Only Lotus Queen can make these lotus seeds, too. They are highly sought after things,” Dragon King said.

Han Sen looked at the coin and said, “If you’re saying this coin is useless, why does the Lotus Queen want them so much? I imagine it’s for more than simple sentimental value.”

Dragon King said, “People who possess Empress Coins have come to conclude that they are incredibly sturdy. Sturdy, but useless. Night Empress created thirteen of these coins and gave them to the king spirits she liked most.”

Although Han Sen believed the coins had a greater worth and purpose than he was being told, if he couldn’t figure out what that was, the coin really would be useless. But he still thought swapping it for a few lotus seeds would make for a decent exchange. Opening more gene locks could never be frowned upon, after all.

His Dongxuan Sutra was coming along nicely, but Han Sen still felt as if its development was a bit too slow.

Lotus Empress had seen him in the Second God’s Sanctuary, though, and given him a mark. He was worried she might try to imprison him if he approached her.

“Perhaps I can get a spirit to do the exchange, in my stead,” Han Sen thought to himself.

Dragon King looked at Han Sen and asked, “So, can you tell me where you got this coin from?”

Han Sen explained to him what had occurred with the little creature, but left out the part where he tried to assassinate the creature and got cruelly beat up by its family. He merely said he stole it from the nest after following it inside.

Dragon King was surprised, and he said, “Wow, you found a Metal Eater.”

“I found a... Metal Eater?” Han Sen was unfamiliar with the name.

Dragon King said, “Yes, Metal Eaters are an infamous sort of super creature. They dine on metal and absorb the powers of it. The items in those rusted piles of junk were grand things, I imagine, once upon a time. It’s just that their properties were absorbed by the creatures.”

“Now it makes sense.” Han Sen knew the rusted stuff had to be special.

“That must have been why the Metal Eater took the coin. It’s quite the artifact, and it is composed of a very resilient metal.” Dragon King felt it was a shame, so he went on to say, “I cannot believe there were six of them. You might have fared okay against one, but six? Not even an emperor would provoke those things, so I’m glad you had the sense not to do anything stupid in there, like attacking the little one.”

“Even emperors wouldn’t provoke them?” Han Sen gulped, almost unable to believe what he had just been told.

Dragon King smiled and said, "Metal Eaters can become berserk super creatures. They can have greater vitality and defense than an emperor, and metal weapons are entirely ineffective against them. No emperor I know would approach one of those creatures with confidence, especially those with nine gene locks open. They are vengeful things, too. If you killed one, those that knew about it would hunt you down until the end of time."

Han Sen was glad he did not kill the little one. If he had, he'd have been in trouble.

Han Sen was then very excited, thinking about something.

"The little creature collected the coin from a burrow or hole in the ground. Do you think there might be something else inside?" Han Sen asked, with a manic glint in his eye.

Dragon King said, "It is certainly possible, yes. I don't see why an Empress Coin would randomly appear there, of all places. And if there was something more there, it should still be there."

Now, Han Sen's enthusiasm had been restored. He was wide awake and ready to go. He packed his stuff and left the shelter, wanting to go dig through the hole the creature first came out of. He was keen to find out if there was anything else inside.

### **Chapter 1157: Digging Treasure**

Because the hole was not too far away from the nest of the Metal Eaters, Han Sen approached it with great care. The last thing he wanted to do was make them aware of his presence there.

Han Sen wasn't afraid of the Metal Eaters; he had just been caught with his pants down when he encountered them before. He had only expected there to be the baby Metal Eater and no others. They were fearsome foes, and he simply wanted to exercise caution.

With great care, he approached the hole. If he caught sight of them again, he'd shoot off back into the trees as quick as he could.

Fortunately, though, he didn't see any of the creatures as he ventured towards the hole. He poked about its surrounding vicinity to ensure there weren't any lurking about, either. All seemed good.

Han Sen squatted down at the hole. The hole was around the size of a bowl, and he could not tell how deep it went. Due to the hole not being completely vertical, scanning what may have been down there was difficult.

"Maybe I should just dig a hole of my own." Han Sen summoned his Devil Pill and created a shovel. With that, he started to dig.

The soil was cumbersome to dig up, as there were many rocks to remove. Fortunately, Han Sen was a very strong man. He managed to dig a hole for himself that was five meters deep in no time at all.

Quite the feat, considering the ground was mostly rocks beneath the thin layer of grass and soil.

Dong!

Han Sen's shovel struck something quite hard, and try as he might, he could not dig any further.

He was delighted at the discovery, and he knew that he had come across something remarkable.

If it was just a rock, his shovel would have cut through it. With the shovel unable to break more ground, Han Sen had reached treasure for sure.

Han Sen quickly brushed away the soil, and soon after, a part of the item emerged. He froze when he saw it. It was actually rock, albeit one that seemed to be extremely well-polished—unnaturally so.

There was only a small part of it showing, so Han Sen got to digging out the rest. With the shovel, he began to remove the other stones and soil around it. This rock he had stumbled across was far bigger than he expected. It ended up taking him far longer to dig it up than he initially expected.

The rock looked as if its top and its bottom had been cut clean through, leaving it at a height of two meters.

Its width, however, was easily ten meters. It looked as if it belonged to a part of something much bigger; when or what that was, however, was up for debate.

With nothing particularly remarkable about it, Han Sen thought to flip it over and see if he had missed something. The rock was not only surprisingly sturdy, it was surprisingly heavy, too. Try as he might, Han Sen could not lift it an inch.

Han Sen opened nine of his Blood-Pulse Sutra gene locks, wiggled his fingers beneath the rock, and then tried to lift it.

"Get up, you stupid rock!" Han Sen exclaimed.

Han Sen's face was as red as a beetroot, but he could not lift it more than a few inches. His body trembled with the effort he exerted in trying to lift it, but he ended up having to just let it go.

When he dropped the rock back down, the ground all around quaked.

"This has to be something good, right?" Han Sen wondered. He summoned Disloyal Knight and Golden Growler.

Han Sen asked them both to help him lift the thing, all together.

"One, two, three!" Han Sen shouted, before putting all his strength back into the trying task of lifting the rock alongside his companions.

He almost managed to flip it this time, but Han Sen got spooked by something most unnerving. It frightened him backwards, making him drop the rock back where it lay.



The small Metal Eater was directly below the rock he had been trying to lift, and it had been looking directly at Han Sen.

Han Sen leaped out of the hole he had dug, wanting to get out of the area as quick as he possibly could. But he then realized he had not seen the other six Metal Eaters.

“Why are you down there, squirt? It is dangerous for you to be out in the woods all alone. You should go home,” Han Sen said with a condescending tone of voice.

The Metal Eater simply wriggled out from underneath the rock and stared at Han Sen, not at all intimidated by him.

Without the adult Metal Eaters anywhere nearby, though, he did not yet want to leave.

The Metal Eater did not act aggressively towards Han Sen, at least. But just to be sure, he scanned the proximity and made sure there were no adults lurking nearby. Then, he summoned Meowth to stand outside the hole and serve as a lookout.

Han Sen looked back down at the Metal Eater and told it, “Good kid. That’s right; don’t call out for Momma.”

The Metal Eater gave no response, so Han Sen jumped back down and returned to the rock so he could try lifting it up alongside Golden Growler and Disloyal Knight again.

“One, two, three!” Han Sen shouted.

The trio were barely able to lift it, and it seemed as if the baby Metal Eater thought they were trying to play some sort of game. It joined in and tried helping them lift it.

Boom!

The rock was lifted, and after it had been flipped, Han Sen noticed an engraving on the stone’s underside. When Han Sen wiped away the soil to get a proper look, he froze. On the big rock, two words had been engraved: “Person One.”

“What does that mean? I am one person!” Han Sen was quite confused, to say the least.

As Han Sen examined it further, his face changed. The rock and the text looked familiar. Han Sen tried to remember where he had seen something like this before, and that’s when it hit him.

“This must be it! The words are so similar,” Han Sen said, as he looked at the rock.

Han Sen continued staring at the rock.

Han Sen had been trapped in the Valley of Time for three years. In the valley, there was a broken stone, and it was one he had seen off-and-on for the duration of that painful time.

He was positive this rock was connected to the one back in that valley, and they looked as if they may have once been connected.

“If this is a part of that rock, why would it be all the way out here? And what is the connection between this and the Empress Coin?” Han Sen frowned, with a headful of questions.

## Chapter 1158: Night Treasure

Han Sen could not wrap his head around it, which was disappointing to him.

He thought the rock would be a tangible treasure he could take with him and somehow utilize, but as far as he could tell, it was just a large slab of rock hewn from an even bigger slab of rock. After a three-year investigation of its origin piece, Han Sen had not discovered anything inherently special about it, either. It was just a tough stone, for all the intents and purposes he could fathom.

Not content with what he had found thus far, he decided to dig deeper. And so he did, swinging his shovel in a near-manic fashion.

The little Metal Eater remained there with him, staring. Its cute face suggested it was trying to figure out what Han Sen was doing and what drove him to behave in the way he was.

As long as the little creature did not squeal or bring other members of its family over, Han Sen did not mind its presence there. Perhaps being in its good books would help, even.

With his Devil Pill and his strength, Han Sen was like a human backhoe, and he was a few meters deeper into the earth in no time. Eventually, he found something else.

It appeared to be a rag, buried deep in the soil. Unfortunately, his shovel had pierced right through it.

Han Sen pulled it out of the soil and was surprised to see it was fairly long.

It was shaped like a flag or banner, but it lacked any designs or symbols.

“Can someone explain to me why I keep on digging up useless stuff?” Han Sen was getting disheartened by the constant stream of lackluster results. Regardless, he decided to summon Dragon King and ask him, “Do you know anything about these two things?”

Dragon King briefly examined the rock and shook his head, but when he looked at the flag in Han Sen’s hand, he said, “Oh, you’ve found a Night Flag! It bears the symbol of the Night Empress.”

“Don’t bullsh\*t me! Why would an empress make a flag out of a flimsy material that tears with such ease?” Han Sen said.

Dragon King frowned and said, “You don’t know anything. Do you see this? It was stitched from Night Silk; it just seems to have lost its energy, that’s all.”

“Because it was buried for too long, maybe?” Han Sen asked.

“Night Silk comes from the root of an emperor tree. Even if you threw it in a fire and kept it stoked for a thousand years, if you removed it, it’d come out undamaged.” Dragon King seemed confident, and he went on to say, “Night Empress’ bannerman, upon waving the flag, could even change day into night on a whim, if commanded to.”

“Well, this can’t be it. This has to be some cheap, back-alley knockoff created by some wannabe cosplaying spirits. Look.” Han Sen pulled the fabric in both hands and tore it even more.

Dragon King just shook his head, indicating he did not know why it was so weak, either.

Han Sen tossed the flag away and went back to digging. After a while, the hole started to collapse.

Han Sen flew up quickly to avoid being buried. When he peered back down to where he had been digging, the ground had opened up to reveal a cave.

Han Sen poked his head inside and discovered the cave wasn’t too big.

The place was semi-circular, like half a giant bowl buried far beneath the surface soil of the sanctuary. Upon further examination, Han Sen learned it really was a large bowl. And by his digging, Han Sen had unwittingly broken a part of it.

There, also, Han Sen discovered human remains. The clothes had almost wholly decomposed, and only the skeleton remained.

Dragon King was shocked to see this, and he blurted out, “I was half-expecting to see a king spirit, not a bannerman.”

“How do you know it’s a bannerman?” Han Sen asked.

“His clothes, see? It’s a uniform that appears to have been crafted from Night Silk; it was custom for bannermen to wear such garments.” Dragon King flew over to the body and continued, “This is a Night Bannerman. His forehead has an eye socket, see? Night Bannermen were Dark Cyclopes.”

“Weird. You told me she gave thirteen coins to her favorite people. Why would a bannerman be given one?” Han Sen frowned.

Dragon King explained, “When she ascended to the Fourth God’s Sanctuary, the faction she had established collapsed. Lotus Queen worked her hardest to achieve what she has a hold of now, and as for the thirteen king spirits... they went missing. I, nor anyone else, know what became of them.”

Han Sen approached the body and started to poke around it, seeing if there was anything he could loot. He was more than fine with looting the corpse of something that was non-human.

It was indeed Night Silk, but again, Han Sen was able to break the cloth with ease. The uniform was in tatters by the time Han Sen was done rifling through the pockets.

He was able to discover a few things.

There was an empty stone bottle, an old cloth, and a black cloak.

Everything was rotten there, except for the cloak. It appeared to have been created from basic linen, despite its spotless condition suggesting it should be something else.

Dragon King, when he saw the cloak, continued to be on the observative ball. He shouted, "Oh my days! Why in the Sanctuaries would the Night Cloak be here, of all places?!"

"Is this good, then?" Han Sen asked.

"Night Empress wore this cloak herself. It was one of her favorite treasures." Dragon King couldn't keep his eyes off the garment.

"Really? I can't see anything special about it, personally." He wasn't quite willing to believe Dragon King's outlandish claim.

"If you could tell what this thing does, then it wouldn't be the Night Cloak." Dragon King paused to compose himself, and then explained, "Before she became an empress, she wore this cloak to go to Sky Palace. There, she assassinated Nine Emperor and achieved the title of empress for herself."

### **Chapter 1159: Night Cloak**

"Neither the king spirits in his employ, nor Nine Emperor himself, saw the Night Cloak coming. Even you wouldn't be able to detect someone wearing it," Dragon King said.

Han Sen was delighted, so much so, he didn't even care for Dragon King's explanation being in a condescending tone. If the item was as good as he said, he really had stumbled upon a most extraordinary treasure.

"This cannot be as flimsy as the Night Flag, surely." Han Sen gave the Night Cloak a firm tug. Fortunately, it did not tear. He applied more strength, and still the Night Cloak remained strong.

"Great. So, how do I use it?" Han Sen looked at Dragon King and asked.

"Well, it can only be used at night. It's faithful to its namesake, but when equipped, you'll be completely invisible," Dragon King concisely explained.

"Hmm, okay. What about dark locations, such as in caves?" Han Sen asked, as he looked at the skies, realizing the day was still young.

"Nope, there's no cheating there. It's called the Night Cloak because it is meant to be used at night." Dragon King pointed towards the bannerman then, and said, "The reason she wanted a team of bannermen, was so night could be called upon whenever. She wanted darkness to come when she needed it. She was by far the strongest emperor or empress the Third God's Sanctuary has ever known, when it came to strength during the night. Even Ancient Devil Emperor avoided her and made sure to stay out of her way."

Han Sen put the cloak away, eager to give it a go later that night.

Han Sen continued to dig around for a while longer, to see if he could find anything else. He had an unquenchable thirst for treasure, and he always wanted more. But unfortunately for him, there was nothing extra to be found.

Han Sen wanted to take the stone back to the shelter.

So, he asked for all the help he could get. Even Bao'er pitched in, sitting on the stone to play and boost their morale. Eventually, it was successfully brought into the shelter.

It may have looked useless, but Han Sen couldn't shake the nagging feeling that there was something special about it. The Valley of Time warped the flow of time completely, so something quite grand must have occurred there sometime in the distant past.

Furthermore, the stone appeared to have been cut through with a weapon. Han Sen couldn't wear a single scratch into the slab, so it was near-frightening for him to imagine what manner of creature or person had been able to split the stone in two. Han Sen used to be very proud of the power he possessed, but now, he wasn't so sure he should be.

The little Metal Eater continued to follow Han Sen around, even after entering the shelter. It was a great opportunity. If he moved the shelter, the baby Metal Eater would go with Han Sen, enabling a flawless and no-trouble kidnapping.

But Dragon King did mention Metal Eaters loved to exact revenge. If Han Sen stole their baby, there was a chance the family would come after him. Kidnapping could prove dangerous.

Han Sen dwelled on the subject of whether or not he should, but ultimately decided to keep the little creature.

When the shelter door was closed, Moment Queen moved the shelter.

"Metal Eater bros; I'm taking the kid for a ride. I'll bring him back when I'm done with him," Han Sen told no one, in an attempt to flimsily establish a poor justification for kidnapping a baby.

No matter how strong the Metal Eaters were, though, they couldn't do anything if they couldn't find Han Sen.

Han Sen didn't plan to hurt the Metal Eater, however. He had plans to train the Metal Eater so it could become his second meatshield. Slowly but surely, he was establishing a convoy of damage-soaking tanks.

The small Metal Eater played around in the shelter for a few days, but it eventually got bored and showed signs of wanting to leave.

So, Han Sen decided to visit the Alliance and ordered as much scrap metal as he could. He brought it back into the sanctuary to see if the Metal Eater wanted it.

The gift was much appreciated. The Metal Eater leaped onto the metal and rolled around in it. The little creature appreciated every scrap of metal it was brought each day, and it especially enjoyed z-steel. It hugged scraps of z-steel as it went to sleep, each and every day.

With it being tempted with so much metal-candy, the little creature no longer wanted to leave the shelter.

After a few days, though, the metal it was given would become rusted. When the metal lost its luster, the Metal Eater no longer wanted it. So, Han Sen had to keep on bringing in more. He observed the Metal Eater's reaction to each piece he brought, to see which it liked the most.

And Han Sen noticed it really did enjoy z-steel raw stones. Fortunately for him, they did not rust as quickly, either.

The Metal Eater didn't physically consume metal. Whenever it was in proximity to a piece of metal, it would just absorb the essence and properties of the material.

Ordinary metals only lasted a few days, but z-steel raw stones lasted a long time.

"Metal Kid, go!"

Han Sen threw a stick-shaped hunk of z-steel.

The Metal Eater happily ran to catch it.

Bao'er sat on a chair as this occurred, munching on snacks. She watched the two play about.

Queen glimpsed at the duo and gave a strange look but nothing more. She never thought a super creature could actually be trained in such a manner. Queen did not like Han Sen doing that, though. It was as if he was training a dog, but it did surprise her to see the Metal Eater enjoy its treatment.

Unfortunately, though, the stick of z-steel was never returned after being caught. This disheartened Han Sen quite a bit, as z-steel was pretty expensive to procure.

Han Sen tried replacing the z-steel with a different metal, but the Metal Eater had grown used to the finer variety. It only wanted the high-quality stuff. Han Sen chucked it plenty of alloys, but Metal Kid did little more than glance at it disapprovingly.

Han Sen would have kicked it out a long time ago, had he not thought it to be a useful creature.

The only overwhelming positive so far was that the other Metal Eaters hadn't come after them. But for hunting more super creatures, Han Sen planned to move elsewhere.

Han Sen could only have the shelter moved once a day, so he occasionally returned to the Alliance to rest. He also prepared to send the kid away.

### **Chapter 1160: Consumer Treatment**

After sending the kid off, Han Sen held Ji Yanran and spoke with her for a while.

“There’s a new aircraft in-store today. Would you like to go give it a try?” Ji Yanran said, as she drew invisible circles on Han Sen’s arm.

“An aircraft, huh? Is it better than my beetle?” Han Sen said.

“Ouch!” Han Sen exclaimed, after being bitten on the arm following his boast.

“Why are you biting me?” Han Sen asked.

“Are you going? Yes or no?” Ji Yanran asked, simply.

“Yes, of course I’ll go,” Han Sen confirmed.

The next morning, Han Sen brought Bao’er with him to the store Ji Yanran owned and operated. Her store was the biggest of its kind on Planet Roca. There were many high-class aircraft on display in it.

The salesmen were all robots, though, and not a single human actually worked there.

“Wait for me here; the new aircraft is still in the warehouse. Let me go get it out.” Ji Yanran passed Han Sen her bag and coat. Then, she went towards the control room.

Han Sen brought Bao’er to walk around with him, so they could check out their own store in full.

Very rarely did Han Sen make use of aircraft, and if he did, he’d usually used one that would take him to his destination without any effort on his part. As such, he wasn’t very interested in them.

But most men loved good, old-fashioned machines, and just seeing them there before him, Han Sen wanted to bring some home. Bao’er, by comparison, was flat-out uninterested. The only interest she had was in the employee-robots of the store.

“Hello, young man. Could you help us, please?” As Han Sen observed an aircraft, an old couple approached them. They looked to be in slight distress and confusion.

“How can I help?” Han Sen didn’t mind lending a hand.

The man said, “We would like to purchase an aircraft, but we haven’t a clue what to choose. Could you help us in deciding, and perhaps provide us a few recommendations?”

Han Sen looked at them strangely, and he told them, “For information like that, you’d best ask the robots. They are more informed than I am on such a subject.”

The man, however, looked embarrassed upon being given that answer. He said, “But we’ve never interacted with robots before; I have zero education on what to do with them. I would just like to see if there is a simple aircraft I can purchase for casual enjoyment. I just have no clue where to start.”

Han Sen was surprised to learn there were still people in the Alliance who did not have a clue about this sort of stuff. They had to be very old; otherwise, they'd have received the necessary education in school.

"If you two aren't in a rush, I can consult my wife. She's the owner, and thus, she knows a lot more. She can answer all your questions and then some," Han Sen proposed.

"That sounds delightful. Thank you so much!" The couple were very happy, and until Ji Yanran showed up, they began to chat about other things.

The old couple seemed very polite, and subjects of conversation came easy to them.

Han Sen was able to learn they were both nearly three hundred years old, and they were natives to Planet Roca. They had never before left the planet.

There were more and more old people like them in the Alliance. They hadn't been to the sanctuaries, but their lifespans were long. They owned a garden, and in their younger years, managed a pet store. They were very good at taming pets, apparently.

When people discovered the sanctuary, though, average pets were rarely wanted. Due to this, they had to shut down and keep all the pets for themselves.

The old man even told Han Sen he had trained creatures for people in the sanctuaries, though. Han Sen asked quite a few questions on this subject, and he was able to learn a lot.

When Ji Yanran returned, Han Sen introduced the old couple before handing them over. She then told them everything they needed to know and helped them in their decision-making.

When she figured out what the old couple were looking for, Ji Yanran picked out a few aircraft for them to try out.

They ended up selecting a model of aircraft called Cloud Crane. They thanked Han Sen and Ji Yanran a lot, telling them they were free to come and visit them whenever they wanted to.

"Do you know who they were?" Ji Yanran asked.

"No, I just met them today. Why? What is the problem?" Han Sen asked.

"You were born on Planet Roca; how could you not know them?" Ji Yanran looked at Han Sen queerly.

"Are they famous, then?" Han Sen truly did not recognize the couple.

Ji Yanran shook her head, telling him, "Well, the old couple themselves are not famous. Their son, however, is."

"Who's their son?" Han Sen asked.

"Have you learned about the Battle of Rekno?" Ji Yanran asked Han Sen.

"Yeah. It was the most important battle humanity ever fought upon entering the space age. It laid the foundation for all we have managed to accomplish." The battle was indeed very important, so much so, Han Sen still knew much about it.



“Do you remember there was a general who ran out of ammo? So he drove his ship into a ship belonging to the shura?” Ji Yanran asked.

“Wait... They cannot be Xu Henian’s parents!” Han Sen was shocked.

In the Rekno system, Xu Henian controlled the ship called Phoenix. He selflessly rammed his ship into the shura’s command ship and changed the entire tide of the battle. When the shura lost their primary battleship, their command was lost. It swiftly led to their fall. Humans were then able to take the system, and ever since, the Alliance had been strong and able to grow freely.

Xu Henian and the Phoenix, with its ten thousand soldiers, had been written as a tale of paramount importance for the development and future expansion of humanity.

By most of humanity, it was regarded as a great triumph. But for the families of Xu Henian and the ten thousand families caught in grief and mourning, it was a disaster.

Now, Han Sen was able to understand why they chose the ship Cloud Crane.