

Super Power

Chapter 1261: Getting Another Super Beast Soul

As Han Sen relished the joy, Little Angel delivered the Life Geno Essence to him. He accepted it and then returned Little Angel and Disloyal Knight.

“Not bad; I got another beast soul!” Han Sen smiled as he told Qin Xuan.

Qin Xuan looked at him with confusion rather than delight. She thought it was a sacred-blood creature, but seeing the Life Geno Essence, it had struck her with a paralyzing shock that he had just killed a super creature with ease. It was unbelievable.

Humans could collect super geno points, but they’d still need to fight hard and struggle in the Second God’s Sanctuary if they sought to obtain them.

In the Third God’s Sanctuary, slaying a super creature was unheard of. Han Sen had just mopped the floor with one, though. It was then that she realized the mount she rode upon must have been a super creature, too, for it to initiate a battle with one so fearlessly.

When Qin Xuan finally managed to speak, she said, “Now I know how you were able to take down an emperor class shelter. You’ve blown the socks off people’s power expectations. You’re far better and stronger than anyone could have imagined!”

Han Sen smiled warmly in response, and said, “When you obtain more geno points, gene locks, and beast souls, the rest comes naturally. We’re all capable of such feats, I am sure!”

Qin Xuan shook her head and did not say anything more. She knew he was strong, but she almost felt as if she had been misled about the extent of the strength he had gained. It was bewildering how strong he truly was.

When Han Sen first came to the First God’s Sanctuary, he didn’t even know what a creature was. Qin Xuan was the person leading him. But now, Qin Xuan had been left behind in the dust. He was the person who walked too fast, and too far ahead.

Reflecting over the past, she couldn’t help but blush.

Han Sen said, “There are strong spirits on the heels, or fins rather, of the fish king. It would be best if we avoid them and not alert them to our presence.”

“Whatever you say,” Qin Xuan.

Han Sen headed for the peak via a different road. He had done so to ensure Yaksha would not see the two.

Along the way, Han Sen mowed down a few sacred-blood creatures on her behalf, so she could earn a handful of sacred geno points and get a headstart.

The lower tier geno points could always be filled up at a later date, and a few slayings later, there was already far more sacred-blood creature meat than she could eat in any reasonable amount of time.

As she watched Han Sen cut down such creatures in a flash, Qin Xuan couldn't help but think, "This man is too powerful. If I ever seek to catch up, I'll have my work cut out for me."

Qin Xuan had managed to earn a lot of sacred geno points in a small amount of time. She had received some help in the Second God's Sanctuary, but nothing compared to this sort of power-leveling.

Han Sen also gave her some mutant and sacred-blood beast souls, so she could chip in if she wanted to and tackle the weaker sorts by herself.

But seeing Han Sen kill so many high-level creatures with ease, when she triumphed over the lower variety, the feelings of success and accomplishment escaped her.

Han Sen refined the Abyssal Beast's Life Geno Essence, and with Ice Wolf God's Life Geno Essence, he had managed to reach a total of eighty-one super geno points.

Although he wasn't full, his body was practically equal to a super creature in strength and might.

It was just a shame his Dongxuan Sutra could not keep up with Han Sen's rapidly rising power. It was sluggish, by comparison.

Han Sen really admired Dongxuan Zi. It was difficult to practice the Dongxuan Sutra, and for Dongxuan Zi to practice it up until he broke through the vacuum, Han Sen figured he must have possessed the power of a monster.

Han Sen was proud of his talents, but he still thought he paled in comparison to Dongxuan Zi when he held himself up against the man.

Those who succeed always have help to become better, and Han Sen wanted to do the same.

There were no more super creatures on the way, so the opportunity for another would have to wait a little while longer.

After half a month of travel, they reached the mountain. There, they saw the big dragon-like waterfall.

Because Han Sen had taken a different path, the fish king had yet to arrive.

Han Sen did not want to get too close, so he took the opportunity to poke around and find a nice cave to hide inside.

When night fell, Han Sen donned his Night Cloak and left the safety of the cave.

He didn't know if Yaksha had arrived yet, but after searching all night, he had yet to find hide nor hair of the spirits. But what Han Sen did find was a super creature residing inside the nearby lake. He didn't even need his Dongxuan Aura to sense it.

"The fish king is not here, but does this mean other berserk super creatures want the vine, too?" Han Sen wondered.

Han Sen returned to the cave again, and there, he waited for the fish king and Yaksha to show up.

Two days later, after dark, a strange noise sounded from the lake. It sounded as if someone had opened a can of soda right next to his ear. Han Sen left Little Angel and Bao'er behind, with instructions to protect Qin Xuan. Wearing his Night Cloak, he snuck down to see what had occurred.

Chapter 1262: Strange Occurrence at the Lake

Han Sen stood on a cliffside overlooking the lake. At the water's center, bubbles began to arise. When they reached the surface of the water, they popped and boiled with an extreme amount of fizz. It was like the opening of a firmly shaken soda can.

"Is the super creature in the lake about to emerge?" Han Sen guessed, as he observed the bubbly activity. But after a while of waiting for something to occur, nothing actually did.

The bubbles continued to appear, and soon reached a frothy amount. It was as if the lake was boiling with the ferocity of a volcano.

"What is this super creature doing?" Han Sen thought to himself.

Han Sen's Dongxuan Aura picked up the movement of a rock nearby the lake.

Han Sen looked over at it with his proper eyesight, and lo and behold, he saw it. There was a rock, and as if by magic, it was rolling itself down towards the raging waters of the lake.

Han Sen wondered why the rock had started to move by itself.

The large rock was not moving too quickly, and its coming was fairly gentle. But when it was a good two meters away from the lake's shore, it stopped.

Han Sen examined the way it had come, and the rock had left no trace or imprint in the earth it had rolled over.

The rock was like a boulder. It was ten meters high and had a diameter of six meters. It was a lumpy thing, and observing it from a distance initially gave the illusion of a miniature hill picking up stakes and moving location.

Amidst Han Sen's confusion around this strange happening, he then noticed a hole inside the boulder. Its diameter was a solid one meter at every angle.

Han Sen hadn't noticed it at first, and he believed it had only just appeared. It was like a hatch, or something cut out from its original structure.

Soon after, something crawled out of the hole.

It was a big red toad, scaled from head to toe. On its head, it wore a red pot as if it were a crown. It was a strange accessory to see adorning a toad.

"Is it looking for water?" As Han Sen asked himself this, his eyes flickered back to the hole the toad had emerged from. Weirdly, it was gone.

"Something most peculiar is cooking, that's for sure." Han Sen made himself comfy in a position that was a little more hidden and watched intently.

The toad was a super creature, that much was certain. While it was next to the waters of the lake, the red pot on its head opened.

Han Sen peered into it, and that was when he saw a number of eyes staring back at him. Han Sen was currently garbed with the Night Cloak, though, so there was no chance he could have actually been spotted.

From out of the pot, the triangle-shaped head of a snake emerged.

While the pot might have looked separate, and more like an accessory to the toad, it was actually a part of the creature. It was rather confusing for Han Sen to see.

But the snake head he was seeing now was just as strange. It was composed of bones, and it did not even have a tongue to rattle and shake with a seething viciousness. It still had its fangs, though, and the eyes were red gems of a sinister light.

When the snake came out and revealed more of itself, the rest of its body was seen to be the same. It was practically a skeleton snake.

The snake head had looked as big as the pot, but the entire body must have been six meters long, not to mention its wide girth. How it had all fit inside the pot on the toad's head was quite the conundrum.

The snake slithered around the toad, and then the toad seemed to issue it a command to enter the lake. Without hesitation, it followed the order and set off swimming to the center of the lake.

The bubbles in the lake did not appear to be harmful, and the snake had no trouble as it swam.

The toad issued another command to the snake, and after this, it started to dive.

"So, Mister Bone Snake must be a scout. But who is the real puppet here? Is the toad here by its own volition, or is it also a goon for someone else?" Han Sen pondered.

Suddenly, there was an explosion of bubbles. The water in the lake was thrown into turmoil. Soon after, things returned to semi-normal. The bubbles continued at their original pace and the waters were soothed.

“Blergh!” The toad spat out some blood, and in shock, it began to fall back away from the water.

The toad wished to reach the rock it had first emerged from, but something came out of the lake and grabbed the toad. The thing tried dragging the toad back in with it.

The toad struggled, and its claws dug into the earth. The nails broke under the pull of that supremely powerful shadow. With long, skin-crawling marks in the earth for a wake, the toad was pulled into the black depths of the lake.

The toad’s struggle beneath the water was plain to see, and the lake was upset in response. It was pulled in deep. When things suddenly turned quiet, an unnerving mist dyed the surface of the lake red.

Han Sen was shocked at what he had just witnessed. The toad was a super creature, but it had been killed effortlessly. Whatever monster resided in the lake must have been extremely powerful to do such a thing.

Chapter 1263: Super Creature’s Death

After the toad was dragged down into the murky depths of the lake, the boulder moved again. This time, it rolled away from the water. It had barely reached a distance of one meter before the shadow reappeared. It grabbed the rock and tried to pull it back.

The rock was too heavy for it to move in a hurry, though. And as it struggled, Han Sen was finally able to get a good look at the enigma that had been residing inside the lake all that time.

It was like an arm, but one that was plated all in copper. It was not too different from a snake, minus a head. When it came out to reach the boulder, it revealed itself to be at least one hundred meters long.

The rock tried its best to pull away from it, but it gave ground, bit by bit. It would soon be dragged in.

When the rock was two meters away from the water’s edge, a rocky explosion sounded as the boulder rose up off the ground.

The boulder turned into a golem, and there were people behind it.

“Is that Yaksha and Blood River King down there? Were they hiding inside the rock this entire time?” Han Sen saw Yaksha and Blood River King down below, the latter in his signature red armor.

There was a six-armed monster with them, and it and the two spirits ran off while the golem stayed behind to hold back the snake as they made their escape.

The black shape from the lake attacked the golem with a greater rage. But then, another black shadow emerged. It went for the three that were daring an escape. Yaksha used his wings to avoid the initial strike.

Blood River King and the six-armed ape managed to evade the attack, as well. But in the next second, many more of those black snake-like figures shot out of the lake.

Yaksha brought out his Black-Feather Dagger, while Blood River King drew his sword to attack whatever was chasing them.

A metallic noise sounded whenever they drew a cut across the black snakes. What's more, their weapons weren't formidable enough to slice through them.

Two king spirits and two super creatures were now trapped, as more and more monsters arose to eliminate their ability to flee.

The golem did not relent in fighting back that horrible foe, and it was able to stand strong and not get dragged into the lake.

But it wasn't long before even more of the black shadows emerged. A larger host of the black menace grabbed a hold of it, threw it down on the ground, and dragged it across the shore.

The golem was pulled into the lake, and seeing it get pulled in like that, Han Sen couldn't help but feel a shiver run down his spine. It was a shocking scene to behold.

"What in the sanctuaries is this thing? Both Yaksha and Blood River King are unable to fight it? I'm lucky I didn't try to get any closer," Han Sen thought to himself.

"Tzzi Tzzi!" While Yaksha and Blood River King fought side-by-side, the six-armed ape was the next to get grabbed. It was unable to resist the strength of the pull, and it was immediately dragged away and down into the lake.

Blood River King was furious when he saw that the three super creatures he had brought with him had been killed. They had all been dragged into the lake by one fearsome monster.

He hyped himself to fight in honor of his fallen creatures, but at that second, Yaksha managed to muster the strength to cut through the monster and clear a way forward to escape.

"Run!" Yaksha shouted. The monster was quick to recover, and it grabbed his arm. Then, a lot more did. They dragged him into the lake.

Blood River King was touched by his seemingly heroic sacrifice, and so he took him up on the command and escaped.

Yaksha was dragged into the lake, and once he was, solace returned to the land.

Han Sen frowned, believing that something wasn't quite right.

Yaksha was not the sort of person who was willing to sacrifice himself, especially if it was to merely save another. He was one of the eight generals, too, so there was no way he could have been dragged in that easily. As Han Sen mulled that puzzling happening, something floated up to the surface of the lake.

Han Sen squinted to get a good look, and he noticed it was a copper statue. It looked like a copper screen. But when it bobbed for a bit, and Han Sen was able to get a better view, he realized it was actually a copper throne.

The entire throne was adorned with a number of patterns. The seat had been composed by a number of copper, snake-like figures.

Han Sen did not know how many snakes had been intertwined to build it, but it clearly represented the snakes that had arisen to attack the party earlier.

They seemed to have been built from copper were thus inanimate, but they soon started to move. And they seemed to be pushing the throne to the surface of the water.

A female spirit was sitting atop it, one that wore a black dress. Her legs were long and succulent; a highlight of the sight of her, sitting on the throne. She had long black hair, painting her as something of a femme fatal. She looked cold and unremorseful.

"I brought you three super creatures, see? I should help you take the Aqua Vine." Yaksha emerged from the water, speaking to the woman in a polite and sickly tone.

Chapter 1264: Empress

Han Sen now understood Yaksha had been playing Blood River King like a fiddle. His co-operation had been a complete lie all along. He had only wanted Blood River King's super creatures, and he had gotten them successfully.

"Poor Blood River King. To think he actually believes he owes Yaksha his life..." Han Sen now knew not to underestimate Yaksha's cunning.

The cold female spirit responded to Yaksha now, saying, "I acknowledge and appreciate the help you have given, but three super creatures are not enough to satiate the hunger of the Serpent Throne."

"Blood River King was very hesitant, and despite pressing him all that time, I could only manage to convince him to bring three," Yaksha said in his defense.

The female spirit responded, saying, "Understood. Still, you have brought me many over time. And when the flying fish comes, once I have killed it, I should meet the requirements for challenging the Aqua Vine. If I am successful, you will receive your reward then."

"Thank you, my most gracious lady." Yaksha kneeled, as if in her service.

"Scour the stream for the fish's location. Until it arrives, I must return to rest," the female spirit said.

“Yes, milady.” Yaksha bowed and then went off downstream.

Han Sen was shocked over what he had just witnessed. If what she said was true, it seemed Yaksha had managed to obtain for her more than just those three super creatures.

“But who is this female spirit? She must be an empress, if Yaksha so willingly obeys her.” Han Sen had no clue who he was now looking likely to deal with.

Han Sen reflected over his dealings with Yaksha, and he thought the spirit was a remarkable nemesis. Yaksha was clever and deceptive, as much as he was strong and mighty. He had even managed to trick Xiang Yin. If his past behavior was anything to go by, Han Sen thought it was unlikely Yaksha had the lake’s female spirit’s interests at heart. It was likely he was just using her, too, and his kneeling and kind words were just for show.

“I don’t like the fact that they’re going to kill the flying fish king.” Han Sen frowned.

Han Sen had planned to wait until they started fighting the Aqua Vine before intervening. But now, if he wanted to save the flying fish king, he’d have to expose himself earlier than he wanted to.

After all, there was no chance Han Sen could make battle with the pest Yaksha, an empress, and whatever goliath the Aqua Vine was, all by himself.

Fighting alongside the fish king was his only chance. If he wanted the fruit, or whatever other treasure might have been waiting, he’d need the fish to be his ally in the endeavor.

Han Sen then wracked his mind, going over the many ways he might be able to save the fish king from the trap that was waiting for it. But as he thought, he noticed one of the serpents moving the throne to the shore.

It did so in a short amount of time.

The empress went to sit on the throne, and her expression and posture suggested her mind was elsewhere, and she was deep in thought.

The serpents moved around a lot, but the throne was stable as she sat. They were wriggling around like lecherous tentacles.

The throne was being brought further past the shore, up the cliffside of a mountain.

“The fish king is on its way. Where is she going?”

Han Sen, still in the Night Cloak, ventured forward to see what she was up to.

The Empress was going up the mountain the fish king would inevitably head for.

“Is she tricking the trickster? Has she tricked Yaksha, getting him out of the way so she can nab the fruit all for herself?” As Han Sen followed, the more he saw and the more he reviewed this curious happening, he realized he was incorrect.

The throne stopped before the mountain. Then, she stood up and said aloud, “Are you really going to remain guised in shadow? You should come out and greet me like a man.”

This came as a sudden shock to Han Sen, and he thought to himself, “She knows I’m following her? I thought nothing could notice me while I wore the Night Cloak!”

Fear became the prevailing emotion Han Sen felt right now, but just as it settled in, a stone door revealed itself on the cliffside. Beyond it seemed to be a fairly deep cave.

Han Sen felt major relief wash over him like a tide, and he comfortingly said to himself, “Whew! She wasn’t talking to me. This Night Cloak helped me assassinate an emperor before, so I suppose it makes sense even she would not notice me.”

Han Sen looked into the cave and noticed it was pitch black inside.

The throne was still in front of the cave, and on it, the empress said, “Have you come to a decision regarding the offer I presented you?”

A weird noise came out of the cave, like metal been scraped against rock.

Han Sen envisioned a being chained up in the darkness. And whatever it was, it was rattling the chains and beating them against the stone.

The empress did not say anything more. She waited outside the cave in silence.

The sound of chains grew louder, suggesting it was coming closer.

Han Sen leaned forward, eager to get a look at what was coming out of the cave. He really wanted to see. The noise of chains was now near the entrance, and something was ready to step out and make an appearance.

When the moonlight revealed what had been kept from sight, Han Sen was given a shock.

It was a man. His clothes were in tatters, and his hair was long and filthy. It masked much of his face, denying a view of his true identity. There were cuffs attached to each of his limbs, and the chains made a sordid sound when he moved.

The chains drifted behind the man, reaching back into the dark recesses of the cave. They had been created with the same material that composed the empress’ throne. But the most shocking thing about this entire affair was that the man was a human.

“Why has a human been chained up here? What could she possibly want with him?” Han Sen frowned, looking at the disheveled man.

“What is your decision? Will you help me?” The empress seemed to be giving the prisoner an ultimatum.

Chapter 1265: Blueblood Team

Han Sen was surprised. Emperors in the Third God's Sanctuary were of a tier far above the rest that occupied the realm, and they knew it. Yet strangely, this empress had come to ask the man—a human—for assistance politely.

"Is he really a human?" Han Sen thought it was a bit far-fetched, for an emperor-class spirit to behave in such a way before a human.

The man raised his head to the night sky and said, "It has been a long time since my eyes were last able to lay sight on the moon."

The empress frowned, clearly more concerned with receiving the answer to her question.

After a while, the man turned his gaze to the empress. He asked, "Where is that which I want?"

The empress responded, saying, "The Aqua Fruit is on the precipice of maturing. Do you know what that means?"

"Where is it?" the man asked again.

The empress said, "This is your last chance, so answer me."

The man laughed and balked. "You're wrong! This is your last chance."

"You do not fear death, do you? I find that an amusing surprise, given your kind can only live once." The empress frowned.

Han Sen's face changed, now confirming that the man truly was a human. There was no more doubt about that.

The man replied, saying, "Oh, I fear death. But I also know you won't let me die."

The empress's ire was incited by what the man had just said, and anger flushed to her face in immediacy. The serpents beneath the seat were poised, ready to strike the madman.

He did not care, though. He stood where he was, looking right at the empress, as if inviting their strikes. The serpents glided forward, hissing. But then, the empress raised her hand and gestured for them to leave him be.

"Fine. You can have it. But it will be in exchange for the Aqua Fruit," the empress said.

"Okay." The man did not seem surprised.

The empress waved her hand, and then a copper key manifested in the air and flew towards each lock on the man's shackles. One by one, they fell down and released him from their cold, cruel clasp.

The man did not seem excited about his freeing from incarceration. He merely walked calmly towards the lake.

"I can lock you up once more, as easily as I have just freed you. You know what it is you must do," the empress said.

The man kept walking, telling her, "Do not worry, I'm from the Blueblood Special Forces. The Aqua Fruit will be yours, have no fear."

The serpents beneath the throne began to move, as she followed him towards the lake.

Han Sen was in shock after what he had just heard, and he thought to himself, "He's from the Blueblood Special Forces!? If he was trapped in there for one hundred years, perhaps there is a chance he knew about Han Jinzhi."

The Blueblood Special Forces was a military unit of the Alliance. If he was who he claimed to be, though, it didn't make sense why the empress had behaved that way before him.

The empress was asking the man to take the fruit for her, as if he was tremendously capable and accomplished for such a task. This was crazy.

As the man walked, he removed the scraps of aged garments that still hopelessly clung to his body.

Han Sen was surprised that the man didn't look quite as disheveled when he was unclothed. The man was ripped, with hulking muscles that Han Sen couldn't help but admire. The man looked strong enough to kill anything.

But what was quite strange was that the blood vessels between his muscles were blue rather than green.

The man walked into the lake and washed himself. With his hands and fingernails, he gave himself a haircut, too. Now, Han Sen could see what his face looked like.

The man's face was strong and proud. His features had been chiseled in a way that exuded manliness. If he was seen strolling the streets, Han Sen believed women would get wet just seeing him.

The empress was sitting on her throne as he walked out of the lake, naked and on full display. Han Sen watched his manhood swing wildly from left to right with each footstep.

The empress frowned and threw down geno armor in front of him.

The man put it on and then sat down. He looked out over the lake and said, "The only way this could get any better is if there was a drink we could both share."

"Ugh." The empress groaned.

They merely sat, watching the view from the lakeside together.

A period of time elapsed with neither of them doing anything. They must have been waiting for the fish to arrive.

With the odds stacked against him, and the empress now having this other, mystic human on her side, Han Sen wasn't fancying his chances of emerging victorious.

Han Sen wanted to go downstream and see if he could stop the fish king from coming.

Even if the fish king did not come, though, it wouldn't mean much. The empress would still most likely nab the fruit she had come for. Trying to save the fish king's life and fighting alongside it seemed the best chance of prevailing Han Sen had.

As Han Sen reviewed his options, he began to hear movement stem from downstream.

He saw a golden light, and ahead of it, Yaksha. He was running back, and a peculiar look crossed his face when he noticed the human sitting beside the empress.

Yaksha bowed and said, "The flying fish king is here."

Chapter 1266: Aqua Fruit

Han Sen now knew it was too late to stop what had been put into motion, so he quickly tried to think how he might best help the fish king.

The light of its presence was rapidly approaching, and the water was in turmoil as it came.

"Do you need to step away?" Yaksha asked the empress.

The empress said, "I will watch."

"Are we killing it?" Yaksha thought they would go and kill the flying fish once it arrived.

"Not yet. We will let the fish and vine do battle first. When things look dire for either of them, we will swoop in and clean up the mess." The empress relayed to them the plan of action.

Yaksha did not say anything, but he clearly seemed to be agitated by the presence of the human sitting comfortably beside the throne.

The empress had wanted to hunt down the flying fish originally, so he thought the human must have done or said something to change her mind.

Yaksha did not know who the man was, and although sirens blared in his head urging him to do something, he didn't do anything. He did not want to upset or invoke the ire of the empress at a time as crucial as this.

The fish arrived at the lake and looked at the empress.

The fish king eyed the audience warily, and he seemed upset with their presence there. It began to circle the lake, and not much more.

The night was starting to fade by this point, and the sun was soon to raise its head above the horizon. When it did, the Night Cloak would be rendered useless. Han Sen hid in the forest and tried to mask his sense, instead.

When his seven gene locks of the Dongxuan Sutra were open, Han Sen could simulate the energy of small plants. Han Sen had initially thought it to be a pointless boon, but in a time like this, he realized how handy it could be. Unless someone could see him with their naked eyes, Han Sen was just another shrub in the dense undergrowth of the forest floor.

Han Sen was afraid that when the fighting began, the cave he had previously taken refuge in might collapse. Thus, he wasn't willing to hide there.

Hiding in the forest was a far better option, and even if trees were toppled on top of him, they wouldn't hurt.

The rising orb from the east began to bathe the land in the orange light of a new day. The waterfall was like a silver dragon, but then, curiously, it ran dry.

And as the sun rose, the clouds in the sky began to disperse and fade away.

"Strange. Last time I was here, even during the daylight, the clouds could still be seen. And why has the waterfall now stopped?" Han Sen frowned, concerned with the curious turn of events.

On the peak of the mountain, Han Sen saw a purple dragon-like vine wriggle.

The vine was massive, and it was surrounded by the bones of creatures it had drained the life out of through its leeching.

Han Sen noticed there were seven vines in total, each bearing an Aqua Fruit. The fruits looked like bells, and when the wind blew, the chiming of these bells could be heard. Each one was big, as well, not too unlike a grinding wheel.

When Han Sen paid attention to each sounding bell, he noticed they each played a different note.

Han Sen suddenly saw fairies begin to fly around the fruits. The fruits looked incredibly holy with the fairies that surrounded them like little angels.

The flying fish could not resist the temptation, so it leapt into the sky, up towards the purple vine. The purple vine then swiftly moved. Like a lashing whip, it cast itself towards the flying fish king.

The flying fish king seemed to have improved since it last tried to do battle with the vine. Its body shone brightly with the color of gold and its head was crowned with a glorious horn. In a flash, it leapt to the side and avoided the incoming attack.

The flying fish managed to evade each lashing vine that tried to get it as it made its daring ascent.

The empress and the human watched the fish king intently.

Han Sen watched the fish king evade the vines with ease, and noticed it was now only ten meters away from grabbing one of its fruit.

Suddenly, though, the fairies began to fly towards the fish like a swarm of angry bees.

Han Sen was shocked. He initially believed the presence of the fairies to be some sort of an illusion. The fairies were real, and they were now all around the fish king.

The fairies carried a ribbon, and they seemed intent on wrapping the ribbon around the fish to capture it.

More and more ribbons appeared in the hands of the fairies to tie the fish king up. But the scales on the fish king became spiky next, proving just enough to tear through the ribbons and escape.

The fairies were not dismayed by this, though, and they looked happy to take things up a notch. Their gracious appearance was cast aside, as each of them turned into a mini skeleton. Then, they all leaped towards the fish king.

Chapter 1267: Dragon Fish

The fish king's gold body was unable to prevent the advance of the skeletons. The now-bony fiends were transparent, and the fish was unable to strike or even touch them. But when they tried biting into the fish king, they were able to sink their teeth into its flesh and rip out small chunks.

They were like a swarm of little maggots, all converging on the fish king to nibble it to death. As they all bit into it, they dyed the surroundings red with blood.

The fish king wanted to rid itself of the skeletons that sought to eat it alive, but there was nothing it could do.

Its scales could do nothing against the skeletal fairies, as they straddled a line between the physical and supernatural. They could not be touched by others, but they could touch anything they desired.

"The fish is almost done for. Is now the time we should strike?" Yaksha asked aloud.

The empress seemed unconcerned, and replied, "Do not underestimate a creature with ten gene locks open. They are stronger than you might imagine."

Yaksha knew the fish king could not be killed so easily, and he was actually trying to usher the empress into attacking. If he did that, he could find his best chance to Judas her.

With the empress not yet willing to budge, Yaksha could do nothing. He returned to silence and waited.

The fish king then suddenly roared. Its body began to shine like a beacon of gold light as it grew in size. Large talons decked the feet that then sprouted out of the fish, as its entire body took the form of a dragon.

“It is no wonder Yaksha called it a flying dragon fish!” Han Sen was shocked, witnessing the fish’s transformation.

The dragon’s head turned, shooting hot air at the skeletons that swarmed its new form. The skeletons were turned to dust by the power of that gust. Then, the fish king turned around, ready to swallow the fruit it had long lusted for.

The fairies all around the fruit were dead, and now there was nothing prohibiting the dragon fish king from consuming that which it had come for.

The bell-looking fruit then shone green.

The dragon fish king suddenly roared and fell backwards, all the way down into the lake below.

As it fell, its body returned to that of a fish.

Pang!

The fish king’s impact with the water created manic waves, as its blood turned the lashing waters of the lake red.

“What are you waiting for?” The speech of the empress was directed towards the man.

The man then stood up and approached the dried-up waterfall.

The man was going to climb the whole way up.

Han Sen was shocked, and he thought to himself, “He doesn’t know how to fly? How is that possible?”

The man climbed the treacherous cliffside slowly.

“Who is that guy?” Yaksha asked.

“He is the one who will collect the fruit. You should go and help him,” the empress directed. She remained seated on the throne as it began to move towards the lake. She was going for the fish king.

Yaksha was delighted, thinking he now had a chance of grabbing the fruit.

He had been worried earlier. If he had to steal the fruit alongside the empress, he’d have difficulty nabbing one. If the only thing that stood in his way was a human—one who couldn’t fly, at that—there was nothing really stopping him.

Yaksha was fairly confident he could collect the fruit the fish king had just approached. The fish king had triggered the Aqua Gas, so it was no longer a threat.

Seeing the empress head for the lake, Yaksha summoned his wings and followed after the man.

Yaksha flew around the man, saying, "The empress instructed me to help you. How do you plan on reaching the fruit?"

Yaksha was not keen on the man, but there had to be a reason for him being there. The man must have had something the empress wanted, so Yaksha wanted to find out exactly what that was.

The man continued to climb, simply stating, "I will climb up here, and then I will climb up there. I will reach for the fruit with my hands, and with my hands, I will pick up the fruit. I will then climb down from there, and climb down from here."

Yaksha thought he was talking crap, but he just smiled and said, "The fruit is a dangerous item. How exactly do you plan on grabbing it?"

"She told me I can pick it just as easily as I would an apple," the man said.

Yaksha was getting annoyed with the man, but he didn't let it show. He went ahead to say, "Well, you have to hurry. If the fruit manages to build up another cloud of gas to emit, nabbing it won't be so easy."

"Don't you see that I am climbing as fast as I can?" The man gave a smile.

"Don't you know how to fly?" Yaksha was getting annoyed at the snail-like pace of the man.

"No," the man said.

"Really?" Yaksha was legitimately surprised.

"Do you see any wings on my back? I don't," the man said.

"Well, you take your time climbing this rockface like a sloth. I am going to go on ahead and grab the fruit for our empress." Yaksha then departed, going upwards.

This was his best chance. It was a now-or-never moment. Once he had one of the fruits in his hand, he could pocket it and run. Yaksha did not think the empress could catch up with him, with the headstart he'd get.

When the fish king fell, Han Sen had snuck into the water to get a peek at its injuries.

Han Sen dived in deep, and when he approached the fish and got a good look, he was quite surprised at what he saw.

Chapter 1268: Pinecone

There was a green pinecone in the fish king's head. It was half-embedded, and it shone an ominous green like a third eye. The light pulsated, and when the pinecone lit up, it caused the fish king's body to twitch.

The fish did not look like it had been dealt a grievous blow, but it seemed to be incapacitated. The fish was submitting to the water, and it was sinking fast.

“Is that what the fruit spat out? It knocked him unconscious,” Han Sen thought, as he swam towards the fish, clutching Taia.

The fish king was unable to move, so Han Sen sought to remove the pinecone with his sword.

Dong!

Taia hit the pinecone but was unsuccessful in damaging it. Han Sen stabbed it a few more times, but it proved to be far sturdier than he imagined.

“I’ll dig it out then!” Han Sen opened the nine gene locks of the Blood-Pulse Sutra, and it made Taia glow a spooky red.

Then, Han Sen skirted the placement of the pinecone with Taia. He had to plunge the sword fairly deep, and he could hear the cracking of the fish king’s bones as he went.

The fish king looked to be in pain following Han Sen’s treatment, but it did not do anything to stop him. It was, of course, much better for Han Sen if the fish king did not struggle.

Han Sen pulled Taia back and saw the precise area of the head that had connected with the pinecone. In that spot, there were several white lines drawn across the green item and the creature; they looked like veins.

Han Sen started cutting the lines, and he was able to slice them with ease. Apparently, they were far weaker than the pinecone itself.

When they broke, the pinecone and the fish king shook. The glow of the pinecone became dimmer, too, and it looked to have been weakened.

Han Sen continued to cut every vein he could find in a bid to free the pinecone from the fish king’s forehead.

But the fish king’s skull was no laughing matter. It was rock hard, and doing so was rather difficult for Han Sen.

When he was about halfway done, his peaceful work seemed likely to get disrupted. The serpent creatures had reared their ugly heads and were on their way.

“That quick?” Han Sen knew the empress would soon arrive.

Then, Han Sen hid behind the large body of the fish king and watched as the woman glided through the water on her throne.

He noticed it was just her there, and that she had come alone.

Han Sen thought he might stand a chance, if he battled her and her alone.

Han Sen looked at the empress and then looked at the embedded pinecone and how far he had to go. He chose not to hesitate and activated his super king spirit mode, then he stabbed the fish king's forehead.

Taia plunged a deep, searing pain into the fish king's head.

The empress was coming from a different direction, so she couldn't see Han Sen do this. Then, she commanded the serpents to begin consuming the fish king.

Han Sen hurried with the deed, noticing their hungry maws open and come for the fish.

Dong!

Han Sen managed to dig the pinecone out from its head, but a lot of blood came out as well. The fish king woke up and immediately swung its body around in a spin, blasting both Han Sen and the serpents away.

The empress was shocked by its sudden revitalization, as she knew full well the fruit had sprayed it.

Han Sen had made sure to simulate the fish king's energy, so the empress could not suspect there had been someone else there, and that they had freed the fish from its incapacitated state.

The fish king, when it was awake, saw the serpents and the empress that wished it devoured. It doused them in a bright golden light.

The golden light was like a laser, and Han Sen watched as it went towards the empress.

The empress did not even blink as one of the snakes pushed the throne away, out of the line of fire.

Pang!

The serpent's tail was then hit by the gold light, and it caused the entire lake to blow up in utter chaos.

Han Sen had already exited super king spirit mode by this stage, and he was out of the lake, safe and sound up in the air.

He landed in the forest and made his lifeforce replicate that of another plant.

Horrible noises continued to emerge from the tumultuous lake, and the waters thrashed so wildly, it might as well have been raining for all those in its proximity.

Han Sen hid inside the forest, allowing himself to get wet.

By now, the human had climbed up halfway. Yaksha, however, was at the peak after a brief flight up. Yaksha's body was exuding a black gas, and his wings weren't that far off a devil's.

The fruit noticed Yaksha reaching for it, and it managed to pump out another cloud of gas. It hit Yaksha directly in his forehead.

Yaksha was shocked, as he had not expected it to be able to spray twice. Fortunately, he had come prepared. As soon as his eyes caught sight of an aqua light, he dashed away from the fruit.

But the light wasn't keen to let Yaksha slip away, and it bent its course mid-air, turning around to strike Yaksha in the back of his head. Then, the conniving spirit began to plummet all the way down the cliff.

Chapter 1269: Accidental Reward

"It is no wonder why the empress wasn't willing to take them herself. Both the fish king and Yaksha were destroyed in their attempts to obtain it." Han Sen was relieved he had not tried to take the fruit before the others did.

But if the empress and berserk super creatures could not take the fruit, why would she believe a human was capable?

Han Sen hid himself in the woods and started to watch the man intently. He was climbing at a very slow pace, and Han Sen wasn't sure if the man was simply a poor climber, or if he was deliberately going slow in fear of what awaited him up top.

The empress was still fighting the fish king. Now she could be seen rising up into the air, still seated firmly upon her throne. Despite fighting in the water for all that time, her clothes did not appear wet. And she was so still, it was as if she was inanimate.

The fish king leapt out of the lake in pursuit of her. Its mouth spat out torrents of water in her direction.

The entire throne was bathed in a strange light, as the serpents bobbed and weaved to block and deflect every rocket of water that targeted their mistress.

Han Sen was in awe of how the empress fought, and he was severely impressed by how adequate and capable the throne was in combat.

Han Sen had yet to see what the empress herself was capable of, though, as the throne wasn't actually a part of her. They were two halves, clearly, but they were also separate entities.

"Does this mean the empress and the throne are... two emperor-class beings?" Han Sen wondered to himself.

For now, though, the victor of that fight had a long way to go before being determined. No one had the upper hand, and despite the crazy fish king that was after her, the empress seemed far more concerned with the man who was climbing. More often than not, her attention and eyes were locked on him.

Han Sen, when not observing the events of that battle, watched the man go, too. He was very slow.

The man was clearly not in a rush, and if he continued at that agonizing pace, it'd take another half an hour for him to reach the top.

Tidal waves were starting to drown the encompassing lands of the lake now, too. Han Sen found himself hugging a tree to remain upright, as the water was up to his waist. There wouldn't be a forest for much longer, that was for sure.

Something then began to float up from beneath the chaotic waves of the water.

It was the pinecone Han Sen had removed from the fish king's head. It was bobbing along with the tumultuous waves, but strangely, it was coming for Han Sen. He thought it might have been looking for another forehead to call home.

Han Sen was shocked when he thought about this. He knew he'd have to be careful, as there'd be no one around to help remove it from his forehead if it truly did plant itself there.

Han Sen swam away from it, but the pinecone was in hot pursuit. It seemed eager for his head.

"Something is wrong with it." Han Sen clutched Taia tightly. If the pinecone got any closer, he'd activate super king spirit mode and give it a firm strike.

The pinecone did not relent in drifting towards Han Sen, though.

So, Han Sen did what he proposed to. He gave it a hit and watched it skip across the surface of the water a few meters. Han Sen did not want to alert the empress, however, so he made sure to do it gently.

The pinecone came back, though. And whenever it came in range of Han Sen, he'd make sure to whack it away. This happened a few times, as if he was playing tennis against an invisible opponent.

"Has it been losing its powers ever since I dug it out?" Han Sen hypothesized.

Nothing much actually happened when he touched the pinecone with Taia. It was a very dull object, despite its desire to come after Han Sen. Eventually, Han Sen tried to touch it with his hand.

The pinecone now proved to be little more than a lambent, emerald jewel of sorts. The white stuff that had wreathed the pinecone was gone now, and its parasitic look had vanished too. It really did look like a gem now.

So, Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to give it a scan. He was able to detect the presence of a lifeforce within it.

Han Sen then thought, "Is this a seed belonging to the vine? If it is, does that mean I can grow my own Aqua Vine? The fruit it bears must be quite the treat, considering the effort that the empress and Yaksha put into trying to get some."

Han Sen then recalled Yaksha's sudden descent. A pinecone had planted itself in him, too, so he thought he might as well go and grab that one.

Yaksha was like a dead man now, one that had been flushed down the drain and left to float and bob on the water that had flooded the forest.

Han Sen saw the pinecone had embedded itself in the back of Yaksha's head. But a new conundrum was now posed to Han Sen.

Yaksha was being controlled by the pinecone, and thus, he could not return to his spirit stone. If Han Sen removed the pinecone, that meant he would be saving Yaksha.

Saving Yaksha was the last thing Han Sen wanted, so he came up with an idea. Yaksha was unconscious, so Han Sen was able to put him inside the Cruel Bottle without issue.

All Han Sen would have to do was take the pinecone and keep Yaksha trapped inside the Cruel Bottle. If he did that, Yaksha would still be robbed of his ability to return to his spirit stone, and thus, he would be trapped and unable to roam the Third God's Sanctuary causing everyone grief.

Han Sen would like to find out what might happen if he died inside the bottle, as well.

Thinking of that, Han Sen immediately put him inside the bottle.

"Where did you get the Aqua Fruit from?!" Moment Queen squealed, when she saw Yaksha.

"Wait, this is the Aqua Fruit?" Han Sen was surprised by the sudden twist.

Han Sen thought the bell-shaped fruit was the Aqua Fruit, but now that she had said this, he realized it was the pinecone itself that was the treasure he had come for. Still, this was Moment Queen, and he could never be sure if she was telling him the truth.

"It is the Aqua Fruit, but... it isn't at the same time," Moment Queen said.

That made no sense to Han Sen.

Chapter 1270: Blue Blood

Han Sen saw the man was nearing the top of the mountain. He was very close to the vine now, and Han Sen was eager to see just how the man expected to retrieve the fruit.

The rockclimber was within arm's reach of the vine, and he reached his hand out to grab it.

The purple vine was like a berserk super creature, and for the man to try and grab it with his hands, Han Sen thought he was either incredibly daring or incredibly stupid. It was a crazy stunt, either way.

When the man grabbed hold of the vine, the vine had no reaction, though. In fact, it was as docile as any garden-variety plant.

"How is that possible?" Han Sen wondered as he rubbed his eyes.

The man, clutching the vine, now began to climb with a greater acceleration.

None of the vines moved, and it was as if they were all asleep.

“It’s no wonder the empress wanted him to take the fruit. How does he do that? Is the vine not hostile to humans? Can I do that, too?”

The empress could have found any human easily, if the vine did not care for the intrusion of humans. But then again, she had come to this person specifically. And the manner of her retrieval of him was rather curious, and indicative of them sharing a history together, in one way or another.

“So, how does this man make the vine docile?” Han Sen could not wrap his mind around it.

The empress continued to watch the man, despite the bluster of the rampaging fish, and a smile now crept across her face. She actually looked happy.

The man had been climbing so slowly on purpose. And now, after reaching the vine, he went at a remarkable pace, given the tricky act of rockclimbing. He went straight up towards the Aqua Fruit the fish king had aimed for.

Han Sen and the empress now watched with bated breath, keenly wondering if the man could take the fruit.

The man was not in a rush to take it, that much was clear. But he plodded up at a steady pace and put his arms out. With one of his grizzly fingernails, he ran a finger across the upturned palm of his other hand and cut across it.

Han Sen was shocked when he saw the blood.

The man’s veins were blue, and so the blood should have been red.

But this man’s blood was blue, and it came as quite a shock to Han Sen.

“Blue blood? Is he Han Jinzhi?” Han Sen was extremely surprised, seeing the blue blood run from the self-inflicted wound.

Then, the man ran his cut palm across the fruit and painted it with the blood.

When the fruit came into contact with the blood, it began to tremble and shake as it absorbed the liquid. Then, its glow began to shine brighter.

When the blood was all gone, the man moved to grab the fruit.

Suddenly, the fruit flashed a blinding light. It surprised Han Sen and brought visible shock to the empress. The man grabbed hold of the light as if it were an object, and then, with his other free hand, he pulled the fruit.

The fruit had no hostile reaction.

The empress, seeing his success, called out to the man and said, “Bring it down!”

The man did not hesitate to follow her command, and he began his descent. The empress was still ignoring the fish king, and now, she brought the entire throne over to the man.

By this point, the fish king knew it was not able to beat the empress. It gave one last look at the Aqua Vine before turning tail and swimming downstream in retreat.

Han Sen was shocked. It was a strange turn of events, and it seemed as if they had all only come for this one fruit. No one dared touch the other six.

“Give me the fruit,” the empress said as she approached the man.

The man ignored her and kept climbing back down the mountain.

The empress looked mad, and her impatience was clearly getting to her. Still, she held her tongue and did not say anything more until he had finished his descent.

“Can I have it now?” the empress was finally able to ask.

“Where is what you owe me?” The man reached his free arm out to the empress.

The empress brought something out and held it in front of the man. The man grabbed what he was owed and gave her the fruit, as promised. Then, upon her throne, she left.

Han Sen was surprised. The empress had an incredible amount of power, and she didn’t have to give him anything. She could have robbed him and gone on with her day. She respected the terms of their agreement, and this made Han Sen believe the blue-blooded man possessed an untold power.

The empress had given him a wooden bottle. He opened it and drank the contents.

Han Sen wished to know what was inside.

Suddenly, the man began walking in his direction. It made Han Sen wonder whether or not he knew about his presence there.

The man walked into the forest and frowned, noticing Han Sen hiding.

“Drop the fruit and you may leave with your life,” the man said.

Chapter 1271: God’s Retribution

The man had found Han Sen, so there was no use in hiding any further. When Han Sen emerged from the bushes, he did so drenched in water.

“Friend, what are you talking about? What fruit?” Han Sen played dumb.

“Human?” The man’s intimidating look turned to one of legitimate surprise.

“We’re of the same kind, are we not? My name is Han Sen. What is your name, friend?” Han Sen thought this was the perfect opportunity to gather the information he wanted.

The man answered, "I'm not your friend, buddy. And I have never been a friend of humans, so don't have the audacity to declare us one and the same."

"You say that like you're not a human," Han Sen said.

The man said, "Don't mistake me for one of you mud-blooded low-lives. Pah, you talk too much. I was going to let you live, but now..."

After that, the man immediately threw a punch in Han Sen's direction.

Han Sen did not expect his eagerness to fight, and he didn't think the man would have a disdain for humans and believe himself to be so different.

But Han Sen was certain the man was a human.

As much as he would have loved to mull the situation some more, he didn't have the time to think. The fist was in front of his face, and he had little time to react.

Han Sen opened the nine gene locks of his Blood-Pulse Sutra.

Pang!

Han Sen felt like he had tried to deflect an oncoming train, and the force sent him staggering backwards a number of steps. Han Sen came to a stop after planting his feet and creating a pair of hundred-meter-long skidmarks in defiance of the force.

Han Sen's bones had cracked, and his arms had been utterly broken.

"So strong!" Han Sen was in shock, particularly so given that the man's punch was one derived of pure, raw strength. There was no element associated with the hit.

"The Blood-Pulse Sutra? Are you from Blood Legion?" The man was visibly surprised.

"You are?" Han Sen asked. Earlier, the man had said he was a member of the Blueblood Special Forces. Now, was he suggesting he was a member of Blood Legion?

The man smiled and said, "I was afraid there weren't any more true descendants in this day and age, but if you practice the Blood-Pulse Sutra, you must be a genuine disciple of Blood Legion. You must have heard the tale of the thirteen members, then? I was one of them; I was God's Retribution."

The man went on to say, "Who is your master? And why is your Blood-Pulse Sutra so weak?"

Han Sen took a chance and said, "I am a student of Qin Huaizhen. He taught me this before he died, so I do not know too much about the legion."

“Qin Huaizhen?” The man paused, as if in thought. Then he said, “Is Blood Legion doing that poorly? Are they teaching... outsiders now?”

Han Sen did not respond. If he spoke, he knew he'd have to choose his words carefully. He did not want to incite the ire of this man any further, as a mistake in what he said could result in his death.

The man said, “It is difficult to find someone who can learn this, and you must be the first of your lineage to carry this skill. You should use a title, but you are far too weak right now and thus cannot. Down the line, a few generations ahead of you, when your descendants become Blueblood, they can bear a title.”

Han Sen suddenly understood a lot more.

Blood-Pulse Sutra was used to strengthen your genes for those further down in your lineage. Each generation would be stronger than the last. The Xuan Men successor said the Blood-Pulse Sutra was a frightful thing, and that their fitness was far above everyone else's.

And now, this man had just told him that each new generation in a lineage would be stronger than the last. And what's more, their blood would become blue. In turn, that meant every true member of Blood Legion should have blue blood.

Time was what strengthened the Blood-Pulse Sutra above all else. Vigorous practice of its teachings did not allow for much in the grander scheme of things.

The best thing about the Blood-Pulse Sutra was the evolution of genes from generation to generation. Many generations down the line, family members would become incredibly strong.

Its ineffectiveness for the first generation was why Han Sen, despite his vigorous study of the Blood-Pulse Sutra, had yet to become much stronger than a super creature.

People like God's Retribution were the elite of the elite when it came to Blood Legion.

Han Sen thought to himself, “If the thirteen members were the ones who were born from families whose lineage reached back into ancient times, Han Jinzhi must have been one.”

But Baby Ghost told Han Sen he had been kidnapped. If this new learning was true, why would he have been kidnapped? And the Qin family's blood was red and not blue, too.

Han Sen's mind was drowning in a vat of questions.

But if Han Jinzhi was not one of the thirteen members, he could not have been Han Sen's great-grandfather.

No one in the Han family had practiced the Blood-Pulse Sutra, that was true, but it'd take a few generations for the strength and potency of a Blood Legion lineage to lessen. Han Sen should have still had some amount of blue blood.

His father should have most certainly had some, for sure. Han Sen knew his family had nothing to do with the blue-blooded, and he knew he couldn't have been a part of Blood Legion.

If the Han family had nothing to do with Han Jinzhi, though, why would he possess the nine-life cat item?

The man suddenly said, "The two Aqua Fruit you possess can be kept. Consider them a gift, from one member to another."

After that, the man turned to leave.

Chapter 1272: Copper Statue

Seeing the man leave, Han Sen had to ask, "God's Retribution, of the thirteen members, was one of them named Han?"

"No. You should leave now," the man said.

Han Sen wanted to ask something else, but the man left at a speed his eyes could not follow. It was as if the man had teleported away. Han Sen knew how strong the man was, but he noticed the man did not seem to possess any special elements at all.

Even if he could not fly, he could defy gravity with a jumping capability that was almost as good as having wings.

"Were Han Jinzhi and someone from the Qin family members of the thirteen he spoke of?" Han Sen wondered.

As Han Sen mulled the question, he detected movement. When he looked in the direction of the disturbance, he noticed the empress returning. As she always had been, she was firmly perched upon her throne.

Han Sen now understood why the man had told him to leave, but unfortunately for Han Sen, he had not followed the advice. He wouldn't be able to leave without the empress spotting him.

"God's Retribution! How dare you trick me!" The empress was fuming with rage as her hands clutched the shattered remains of some gem. Closer inspection told Han Sen it was the fruit.

She saw Han Sen, and although she knew he had done nothing to contribute to her being tricked, she wasn't quite willing to let him get away. Her anger had to go somewhere, and Han Sen was as good a punching bag as any.

The throne flew directly above Han Sen with a speed that exceeded the capabilities of his phoenix techniques.

As countless snakes took aim at Han Sen, he couldn't help but think, "Why is she taking it out on me?!"

Han Sen summoned Little Angel and Disloyal Knight, then he used his Ancient Devil Soldier. With Phoenix Sword and Taia equipped, he was ready to do battle.

Disloyal Knight used blue lightning, and it drew a halo below every hostile creature in the vicinity. The light slowed the serpents down by a considerable amount, and it also weakened the power they possessed.

Han Sen and Little Angel were buffed, too, and they were now able to paralyze enemies.

Unfortunately for Han Sen, each individual snake possessed a power that was comparable to a berserk super creature. When Han Sen tried attacking one of the slithering serpents, he could not hew its body in two.

Still, the serpents were unable to do anything to Han Sen, either.

The empress was even angrier now. She had wanted to vent her rage on whatever creature or being she could find, and now she had been stalemated and was unable to do a thing.

“Hey, lady empress, what’s your problem?! I’m just a simple traveler, passing by this scenic lake. We don’t have a grudge, do we? Why don’t we stop before we get ahead of ourselves?” Han Sen did not want to fight.

Furthermore, she was a spirit and she could respawn. Han Sen hadn’t the faintest clue where she came from, so even if he was to struggle and defeat her, it would achieve nothing but a greater hatred and a grudge he might have to deal with further down the line.

And since Han Sen had just managed to obtain two Aqua Fruits, he was far keener on finding out what he could do with them.

God’s Retribution knew the empress would eventually return to the lake with a bloodlust, which was why he left the area in such a hurry and made sure to tell Han Sen to make himself scarce, too.

Han Sen’s mind had been preoccupied with the mound of questions that had taken root, that he didn’t really concern himself with the warning he had been given by God’s Retribution.

“You humans are the worst! I am going to kill you, and then I am going to kill him.” There was no quelling the fire the empress was breathing.

And try as she might, the steam she wished to release was not going anywhere.

She thought there had to be a connection between Han Sen and God’s Retribution. They were both human, after all. It was far too much of a coincidence for her to have been played, and for there to be another human in the area just moseying about.

That was why she wanted to make Han Sen her target. She believed he had to be in on the trick that had been played upon her. The throne was unable to capture Han Sen, though, and this just bolstered her resolve and belief Han Sen must have had a hand in the misdeed that had been performed upon her.

Not many humans possessed such strength in the Third God's Sanctuary, and so the empress thought that further confirmed a connection between the two.

The empress was looking severely annoyed by this point, and she actually stood up and left her throne.

Her legs were so long and succulent to look at, she was like a most-stunning queen to behold. Her fatal eyes stared at Han Sen, and they were so intense, you'd believe they could drill holes in whatever surface they looked at.

Han Sen kept falling back in his evasions, in the hope he could develop enough space between the two of them to run off. Unfortunately, the throne could not be shaken, and its resolve to murder Han Sen reflected its owner's desire.

The empress' eyes then began to glow, and the volume of light grew brighter and brighter. They soon resembled a couple of light bulbs.

In those eyes, there was a copper statue. It was molded to the shape of Han Sen.

Han Sen suddenly felt himself freeze. He was unable to move.

When Han Sen looked down, his flesh and bones had become copper. And lastly, his skin.

Han Sen was in shock. There was nothing he could do to prevent this from happening.

Now, after seeing the shape inside the empress' eyes, he understood what had happened.

The Blood-Pulse Sutra had been unable to prevent this from happening, and all he could do now was watch himself turn into a copper statue.

"You think I can be bullied so easily?" Han Sen's eyes flashed with a white light that shot out to encompass his entire body.

Chapter 1273: Time and Space

The super king spirit's power enabled Han Sen to escape the clutches of the coppering.

Nothing had yet been able to defeat Han Sen and his super king spirit mode. And additional debilitating techniques had always been rendered useless against him in this form, like the toad that fired coins that formed the basis of Saving Money.

Han Sen was confident this was what it would take to escape what the empress had started doing to him. When his transformation had finished, his entire body glowed white.

The copper on his body had started fading away, slowly freeing him. Unfortunately, the copper was strong, and it would take a while for it all to disappear so Han Sen could move as freely as he wished to. He'd have to stand his ground against whatever the empress and her Serpent Throne sought to do for now. And already, the snakes were coming for him.

Little Angel and Disloyal Knight were still in the area. They came to Han Sen's side to protect him while he recovered from the empress' frightening skill.

It was a tricky situation, and one that he never had to deal with before. Han Sen was helpless, and his life was truly in their hands. It made him sweat bullets.

Han Sen was going to summon all his king spirits, so they could aid in protecting him. But suddenly, a splash of water was heard. It was very close. A gold-plated fish had arrived in his aid, and it helped repel the serpents that sought to kill Han Sen.

"Fish king?!" Han Sen exclaimed with glee.

The fish king flew above Han Sen, arcing through the sky like a rainbow. It managed to subdue and suppress each and every attack the snakes tried to perform.

The empress's rage only increased, and now she sought to turn the fish to copper. She stared at it intently, as she had stared at Han Sen earlier.

Suddenly, a sound similar to that of a clicking finger was heard behind the fish king.

The sky had suddenly started to rain down coins.

The empress' vision of the fish king was disturbed, and its copper rendition in her eyes vanished.

The coins fell upon the snakes and the throne they carried, and the coins stuck to them like glue. Almost immediately, they struggled to move. And just when Han Sen thought the empress's anger could not increase, it did. She grabbed a copper spear from her throne.

When she pulled it out, the very shape of the throne started to twist and look misshapen. The downpour of coins was not relenting, but this was not the cause of that transformation. The throne and the snakes were starting to come together to build something new, and when they all came together, one giant serpent beast appeared to fight.

The empress rode this new snake towards Han Sen, a spear in hand. The snake was able to withstand the downpour of coins.

Han Sen was behind the fish, and the fish moved forward to attack the coming empress.

The empress swung her spear and pierced it through the golden mist. She was going to drive it directly into the fish king's head.

Han Sen grabbed Little Angel and kissed her, initiating the process of them combining into one supremely powerful entity.

At that precise moment, a strong light prevented the spear from killing the fish king.

At the same time, Han Sen was standing atop the fish king in possession of a halo and white wings. In his hands, he wielded an angelic blade.

“Kill!” Han Sen exclaimed, and then the fish king pushed forward to meet with the empress and her crony. Han Sen’s eyes were filled with lightning as he came forward to engage the empress with his angel sword.

The empress looked incredibly mad. She rode the snake to engage with the fish, spear raised, as if to joust with Han Sen.

The gold and copper light came into contact, with the sound of thunder being the first noise that could be heard. It was like the skies had just been torn asunder.

They fought and fought, as the environment all around them was destroyed in the midst of their manic battle. Many of the tall trees had been sundered, toppled, or even lopped clean in half.

The earth was cracked and thrown into turmoil, while the skies changed color. If one did not know any better, one would presume the world was ending and the apocalypse had come.

It was a shame Han Sen had only opened nine of his gene locks. But still, with Little Angel, he could always find himself able to compete with emperors who had ten gene locks open.

Han Sen had almost maxed out his super geno point tally, so he could take on this form for a much greater duration before finding himself knackered and weary.

Still, the limit was there, and he knew he was on a timer. But Han Sen did not want to leave and make himself scarce.

The sword in Han Sen’s hand started to appear twisted.

He made use of what he had learned with space and time, by speeding up the latter and teleporting via the former. Han Sen had been researching this for a long time. He did not know which was the best way to do this, or when would be the best time.

But now, seeing the empress prove such a threat, Han Sen made the decision to use what he had learned now. Han Sen had learned a lot, but he had never put it into practice. He had a feeling that this would prove successful.

The powers of time and space were gathering to become one.

The empress’s spear was on its way over to Han Sen once again, but then, it felt as if it was her eyes that were approaching instead.

The fish king’s gold mist kept repelling that copper light as the region that encompassed the fighters turned to utter ruin.

Suddenly, Han Sen told the fish king to stop. The mountain ahead was where Bao’er and Qin Xuan were hiding. If they were found, they’d be dead.

“Let’s do it here, then.” Han Sen was brewing a monstrous amount of power.

Chapter 1274: Killing the Empress and Obtaining a Beast Soul

The empress saw Han Sen stop with the intent to grab the spear that she held. She spun it in a bid to strike him. But as the spear spun, it disappeared from her hands. Where it went, Han Sen could not keep track of.

He didn't much care for this, though. All Han Sen wanted to do was focus on channeling energy and power into his greatsword for an attack of his own.

The angelic sword drifted in and out of reality, hovering amidst shards of distorted dimensions. It was like the image of some magical blade, taken from an ancient tale.

Han Sen held it, now ready to slash the empress.

"Die!" the empress yelled, as a creepy and excited look flashed across her face. The spear had appeared in front of Han Sen.

The empress thought she could plunge the spear through Han Sen's head before his sword landed a strike.

Slash!

The empress' eyes opened wide in utter shock.

Her body had been cut in half from a downward swing, and the face that dribbled blood across its center wore a look of fright. The serpent that had accompanied the empress now looked terrified, and it swiftly tried to flee the scene.

Han Sen wasn't going to allow that, however. He gathered up another surge of power to unleash at it to prevent its departure.

Due to the empress having been killed, the giant snake was attempting to scramble and slither its way up over the rocks in a bid to escape the human. But it could not lose Han Sen, and he was quick to remain at its tail.

Qin Xuan and Bao'er had felt an earthquake just a moment ago, so they had exited the mouth of the cave to come take a look.

When they came out, they saw a hazy mixture of gold and copper lights. The scenery all around was destroyed like a post-apocalyptic wasteland.

The lights were coming towards them, with a trail of destruction being left in its wake.

Qin Xuan grabbed Bao'er and took off running.

Qin Xuan had only just arrived in the Third God's Sanctuary, so her effort was in vain. She was too weak to run from the lights.

Not long after her attempt of flight, she heard something most monstrous come from someplace behind her.

The copper light was on her heels, coming at a most fearsome speed. It was so close, and now Qin Xuan was able to see what that copper light was. It was a giant copper snake, similar to the ones people used to worship long ago. Its lifeforce was frighteningly strong.

Qin Xuan thought this had to be it, and that she was done for. She didn't think there'd be an escape from this predicament. She held Bao'er as if she were a real baby. She thought it was most likely a pointless thing, but she did so anyway, as if to protect it.

The snake wanted to dive down and head underground, and it was a simple misfortune for Bao'er and Qin Xuan to be in its way.

Qin Xuan shielded Bao'er from the sight of the beast and watched it come down.

She was a soldier, and she made sure to watch. She knew closing her eyes would not make a difference, and it would not reduce the danger that had befallen her. So she kept them open and stood strong. She did not let fear take hold, and she did not let the hope of a possible survival escape her.

The mouth of the snake had come down from above, tenting their position, and in that moment, Qin Xuan threw Bao'er away.

Qin Xuan did not even know Bao'er was a beast soul, she just thought by throwing her away, she might survive.

After throwing her away, she faced her imminent death alone.

Katcha!

The serpent was about to close its teeth on her lonely body, but suddenly, another light flashed across her vision. Qin Xuan suddenly saw the snake reel back as its head was hewn from its coiling body.

After that, its body began to flail backwards as the light ran through it from top-to-tail. Vertically, down the center, the body was cut into two perfectly symmetrical halves.

The snake had built up momentum though, and it leaned forward even in death.

Qin Xuan was still stood where she had been, as the rocky landscape around her began to crumble. She stumbled and grabbed a hefty stone to keep her balance.

When the snake's flailing came to a stop, and the dust that had kicked up was all that could be seen, Qin Xuan saw a gold light pierce the haze.

There was a most beautiful goldfish coming towards her through the murk. She stumbled backwards. Even though it was a beautiful beast, she knew it was a creature.

If the snake had been killed by the goldfish, then the goldfish had to be even more powerful than it.

She wished to run, but Qin Xuan was afraid that if she did start to flee, the fish would attack her.

Bao'er was waddling her way over to the goldfish as Qin Xuan mulled her courses of action.

"Bao'er, be careful!" Qin Xuan pleaded, but it didn't stop her.

Bao'er jumped atop the goldfish's head, and then Qin Xuan watched her jump into the arms of someone.

"Han Sen!" Qin Xuan looked at the figure and the fish in awe, and when the dust had cleared just enough, she saw Han Sen standing atop the creature.

Han Sen was delighted as this occurred, because he was in the midst of hearing the announcement play.

"Berserk Super Creature Serpent Throne 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."

Chapter 1275: Aqua Fruit Core

Han Sen was very weary now, but he was still in a jovial mood. After this latest adventure, he had earned much. And now, after this latest kill, he had also gotten a berserk beast soul. While he could always create his own, earning one and not having to wait out the evolution process was a brilliant thing.

The Serpent Throne was a super creature with ten gene locks open, so there was no doubt in Han Sen's mind that it would be a magnificent beast to have at his disposal.

Han Sen looked into his Sea of Soul to get a look at its type.

"I have armor and weapons already. This looks like a mount more than anything. But I don't really want a mount. If it is a shapeshift beast soul, I don't want to shapeshift into a chair, either. Plus, I have my Gold Raven and Ancient Devil Soldier beast souls for whenever I wish to shapeshift," Han Sen thought to himself.

Berserk Super Beast Soul Serpent Throne: Doll Type

"Doll type? What is that?! I don't need an action figure," Han Sen was surprised, to say the least.

Han Sen had discovered a lot of unique beast souls during his time in the Third God's Sanctuary, and the Alliance always rewarded the finders of new beast soul discoveries. That being said, Han Sen had not reported any of his findings. He had enough money as it was, so it was simple laziness that was prohibiting him from making the reports.

Han Sen put Qin Xuan on the fish king and went downstream.

Han Sen really appreciated the assistance of the fish king. If it hadn't shown up, even with Little Angel, Han Sen wouldn't have been able to buy the time necessary to build up the moves that brought an end to the fighting.

Han Sen was going to call this new hyper geno art, that used space and time elements together, "Ghost Slash."

While the name did not bear any semblance to the space and time elements that fueled it, it was a name he had carefully selected due to the meanings that resided below the surface.

Before humans entered their interstellar era, they could not interact, bend, or meld the actual elements of space and time. There were a number of ships, however, that disappeared and reappeared a few decades later. They were dubbed "ghost ships" due to having unwittingly stumbled through wormholes and traveled through time. What seemed like seconds of travel to those onboard had actually been years for everyone else.

The Ghost Slash Han Sen had formulated was similar, as it rapidly redefined and reduced the breadth of time when performed.

It made the time and distance his attack had to travel next to nothing. While the opponent could see his attack appear like normal, they were completely oblivious to what he was actually doing.

The space and time Han Sen operated in, during those brief moments of attack, were different. His attack was impossible to block.

The empress was stronger than Han Sen, there was no doubt about that. Ghost Slash should have been able to injure her, but not kill her.

But Ghost Slash ignored the general rules of space and time. She was going to stab Han Sen with her spear, so, being unable to dodge, she had completely opened herself up and made herself susceptible to a one-hit-kill.

Seeing this, it drove a fear into Serpent Throne's heart that made it flee. This also made it drop its guard, allowing Han Sen to one-hit-kill it, as well.

And of course, it was Han Sen's combining with Little Angel that upped his strength enough to deliver the power required to achieve the two kills.

Han Sen was happy with Ghost Slash, though. It wasn't what he believed it would be, but due to its unstoppable, he liked it a lot.

The fish king took the three of them to a nearby shelter, then Han Sen led Qin Xuan back to Thunder Hell Shelter. There were still six Aqua Fruits back on the vine, but none had dared take them. And Han Sen, in the meantime, was simply glad he had managed to obtain two.

Qin Xuan was shocked upon her arrival at the shelter. She couldn't believe all the king spirits and super creatures that occupied the place, each in service of Han Sen.

Qin Xuan was not surprised Han Sen had managed to obtain a number of super beast souls, but she had believed it to be impossible for him to make super creatures and king spirits willingly obey him.

Qin Xuan had learned Queen was still traveling with Han Sen, and she wished to meet with her, but when they arrived, Queen was out hunting. Han Sen got all the meat Queen would ever need for her, but she still insisted on hunting by herself to hone her talents.

Once Han Sen had recovered from his state of weariness, he was planning on returning to Blood River Shelter and conquering the place. That was still unfinished business.

Blood River King had just lost three super creatures, so Han Sen thought he wouldn't have too much trouble taking it down with just Little Angel and Disloyal Knight by his side.

Han Sen went to his room and summoned Moment Queen.

"Are you enjoying life inside the Cruel Bottle?" Han Sen asked.

Moment Queen knew what he had actually summoned her for, and so she said, "Maybe now I can finish what I was trying to tell you. That which is embedded inside the king spirit's head is the core of an Aqua Fruit."

"Is there a difference?" Han Sen asked.

Moment Queen said, "Among the Third God's Sanctuary's emperor-class plants, Aqua Fruit is undoubtedly in the top ten. They can allow emperors to open gene locks. If they have ten gene locks open already, the fruit can allow them to open the Holy Door."

"But spirits don't really know what it does. And they don't know that the fruit itself can only be used to open a few lower-level gene locks."

"Spirits? Are you trying to tell me you aren't an ordinary king spirit?" Han Sen wondered.

The empress had been tricked by God's Retribution. Three cores had been obtained in total. One had been taken by the blue-blooded man, while two had been retrieved by Han Sen.

Moment Queen sighed and said, "It is pointless if you learn more about me. Just... tell me what I must do to earn back my freedom."

"Well, I can't quite confirm the validity of what you have told me just yet," Han Sen said.

Chapter 1276: Moment's Enemy

Moment Queen paused for some time, and when she resumed her speech, she said, "If I said I was an empress, would you believe me?"

"Of course I would." Han Sen had seen a few empresses in his time, so he wasn't afraid of them.

And with the knowledge she possessed, despite how much she had tried to twist it and mislead Han Sen in the past, the fact she might have been an empress at one point in time was not unbelievable.

Furthermore, she once managed to break the contract between them. That was something he had never seen a spirit do before.

Moment Queen went on to say, "I failed my ascension of The Ten Steps of the Holy Door, and following my failure, I was captured by my enemy. After that, they cast me back to the Second God's Sanctuary."

"That means what you told me before, in the beginning, was false."

"No, it's true. I killed the son of an emperor."

"What was his title?"

"No God."

When Han Sen heard this, he almost spat out the water he had just taken a swig of.

Han Sen had heard about No God before, when he was competing in the Third God's Sanctuary's Divinity's Bout, but he was too weak to reach the top ten.

No God reigned supreme, beating out all other challengers to become number one. If No God was her enemy, she must have been powerful. But somehow, she had been repeatedly bullied by Han Sen.

"Are you lying to me?" Han Sen thought she might have read the list of spirits that competed in the tourney and was fabricating another falsehood.

Moment Queen pleaded, "Not many king spirits know about the Aqua Fruit Core. You have many king spirits in your service, so why don't you ask them? See if they know."

Han Sen already believed her, though. He maintained a dubious guise, but he knew she possessed a lot of knowledge, and the manner she spoke carried a weight of earnestness this time.

Moment Queen proceeded to tell Han Sen how to use the core, but she told him he could only use one. Using any more than one could be harmful.

What's more, it only worked with certainty on spirits. It could work on humans, but there was no guarantee it'd help.

Han Sen planned on getting the core out of Yaksha's head, to begin with. He wanted Moment Queen to do it, but she said if she did, it would latch onto her instead. It was quite like a parasite. She'd also need a pure weapon to dig it out.

Han Sen was caught off-guard by her comments, as he had managed to dig another one out of the fish king with no issue.

“Was it because of my Blood-Pulse Sutra? I mean, God’s Retribution managed to grab a fruit without becoming a host to the parasite. And Blood-Pulse Sutra is something we both have in common,” Han Sen wondered.

Han Sen entered the bottle and cut the core out of Yaksha’s head. Moment Queen was shocked to witness this. Han Sen was able to touch the core with no adverse effects.

Yaksha woke up, and when he saw Han Sen, he spared no time in trying to attack. His fury was so great, the black smoke that billowed around him was nearly asphyxiating.

The Cruel Bottle was a separate dimension of sorts, but that was the extent of it. It couldn’t suppress an individual’s power. Han Sen was not afraid, though. Nowadays, he had the capacity to defeat emperors.

Han Sen pulled out his Phoenix Sword and swung it towards Yaksha. When Yaksha saw the sword, it suddenly disappeared. Then it was Yaksha’s arm that was missing.

Yaksha’s face twisted in disbelief of how powerful Han Sen had become. Han Sen didn’t want to kill him, though, as he did not know what would happen if Yaksha died.

If he couldn’t resurrect, then it’d be a waste.

Han Sen wished to ask Yaksha about Asura and Dragon King, especially about the former. He thought there was a connection between Asura and the shura.

Yaksha was one of the eight generals, so there was a hearty chance Han Sen could learn something off the fiend.

Han Sen coldly told him, “Do you know what this is?”

“What? Where am I? What is this place?” Yaksha could not feel his spirit stone, so a legitimate fear was taking hold of him.

“That is not for you to know. What you need to know, and in turn tell me, is whether you wish to live or die.” Han Sen carried himself in a menacing way.

Yaksha said, “I’m a king spirit. Do you really think I am afraid of death?”

Han Sen replied, “Tell me; what happened between the eight generals and Ancient Devil Emperor? If your answer satisfies my curiosity, I will let you live. If it doesn’t, we’ll play a game called, let’s see if the king spirit can resurrect.”

Yaksha’s face turned grim, and he said, “How can I know you’ll free me if I tell you what you want to know?”

“I didn’t promise I would, but I’m not too concerned about a weakling like you. I can kill you on a whim, so the ball is indefinitely in your court. What happens next is entirely up to you.” Han Sen left the Cruel Bottle to give him time to think.

After this, he freed Moment Queen as well. Now that Han Sen was much stronger, there was little to fear. And what's more, he might have need of her knowledge soon.

"This is your last chance," Han Sen told her.

"How do I use this thing?" Han Sen wondered, as he eyed the Aqua Core he held.

Moment Queen said it would only work for spirits, so Han Sen had to weigh whether or not there was danger in taking it himself. After all, opening ten gene locks would be a remarkable thing.

Chapter 1277: The Three of Us

Han Sen fingered the cores for a while, but he didn't make use of them. It was a risk to do so, and he didn't like committing to uncertainties. Plus, opening his tenth gene lock was only a matter of time, anyway. It wasn't worth the risk, all in all.

If there were adverse side-effects to the consumption of the Aqua Fruit cores, they could be lethal. As such, he chose to leave them be for now.

Purple Emperor was an emperor, but due to its deprivation of nutrition before birth, it lacked the power to equal others of its class.

If Han Sen gave him an Aqua Fruit, there was a chance that could be fixed, and the spirit would be as fit as a fiddle with all ten gene locks open. With an emperor like that by his side, Han Sen would have no trouble taking on and taking down Saint Fan Shelter.

He summoned Purple Emperor, peeled away the fruit, and fed him the core.

Purple Emperor had no clue what it was, but since Han Sen commanded him to consume it, he did not hesitate in swallowing it. When the core slid down his throat, it dissolved into a gentle liquid that reinvigorated his body.

Han Sen felt a change in Purple Emperor's lifeforce, and the color of his body started to turn a certain shade of green.

When the new color grew, the emperor's overall color became a mixture of purple and blue.

Boom!

Purple Emperor's body began to leak gas. He hadn't farted; it was just that this gas was starting to seep out of the pores on his body.

Most people wouldn't be able to notice a difference, but through the use of Dongxuan Aura, Han Sen could see that Purple Emperor had been reborn. He was a totally different spirit now.

Han Sen was delighted with the results. It had actually become difficult to sense Purple Emperor's life force now, which painted him like some sort of silent reaper.

Han Sen brought him over to the training room. After a session of practice, one-versus-one, with no transformations involved, Han Sen was hopeless against him.

"That core is the bee's knees. I should save the other one for the silver fox." Han Sen decided to work on opening the tenth gene lock by himself, so he saved the second for his favorite pet.

When Han Sen found the silver fox, he teased him with the core.

Han Sen wanted to spend more time with the silver fox, and when the time came to open the Holy Door, he hoped they could ascend together.

But when the silver fox looked at the core, his interest quickly diminished. Then he walked away and went to rest elsewhere.

"All these emperors are fighting for this thing, and you have no interest?" Han Sen thought.

If the silver fox wasn't going to eat it, then neither was Han Sen.

"Then who should I give it to?" Han Sen could not decide.

It seemed the Aqua Fruit was not to everyone's tastes. He had a few king spirits in his service, though; ones he could help. But such numbers proved troublesome for this decision. He liked them all, and providing a boon to just one was a difficult choice.

"Well, I guess I'll just pocket it for now." Han Sen thought about giving it to the fish king, but he imagined it might become a demi-god immediately after.

With the fish king in the water, nothing could threaten Han Sen there. They were now buddies of a sort, after all. And if the fish king ascended, it would only be a matter of time before something else took its place.

"Let me take down Blood River Shelter first." Han Sen took the silver fox and Bao'er with him.

He kept Purple Emperor in the shelter, as taking the silver fox would be much safer for him.

Han Sen approached the shelter, and as he went, he thought about the Battle Geno Essences he had collected.

They had the term "Geno Essence" in their title, but they most certainly weren't like Life Geno Essences. Han Sen had tried absorbing them through his usual trick of simulating energy flows, but he wasn't successful.

Han Sen couldn't find a way in which he could make use of them.

Xue Yucheng was in Blood River Shelter, and the man hoped the Xue family would come to his rescue, or at least take the item so he could die without worry.

But a while had passed since Han Sen had been given the message, and no one had yet come. Today, however, he saw Han Sen once again. Gritting his teeth to bear the pain once more, he crucified himself and started driving the boat over to meet with him.

“Young Man, did you deliver the message?” Xue Yucheng asked.

Han Sen shook his head and said, “Sorry, I was a little busy collecting fruit.”

Xue Yucheng looked concerned and seemed to be in a worried rush. He said, “You have to believe me! If you deliver the intel, you will be rewarded handsomely!”

Han Sen responded with an explanation, saying, “Calm down, pops. I don’t need to ask for the aid of anyone. The Xue family are actually the ones who requested that I help you guys out. I have come here to save you. That’s why I was here before, but then something else came up. But I’m here now to help!”

“Are you kidding me?” Xue Yucheng asked, his tone suggesting that it was a legitimate question.

“Do you remember this?” Han Sen pulled out an item Xue Feiyan had given him.

“It’s the Ice Ring! In that case, you just need to find Xue Chen. If you show him that ring, he’ll give you the item. Then, all you must do is take it home.” Xue Feiyan looked relieved after seeing the ring. And ease had definitely been brought to his worries.

Han Sen thought it best to show the ring instead of wasting any more time.

Han Sen put it away now, and said, “I’m taking down Blood River Shelter, so you can be that elusive item’s mailman and save me the trouble.”

“You jest, surely! How might you do such a thing?” Xue Yucheng’s face was painted with a mixture of varying emotions.

“This is no joke. We’ll conquer it; just the three of us.” Han Sen raised a finger to point at the silver fox and Bao’er each.

Xue Yucheng balked. “Stop joking, man! We need to be serious now and discuss how we get you inside. We’ve got plans to formulate!”

Han Sen didn’t say anything more, and simply proceeded towards the shelter.

Chapter 1278: Coming Close

Xue Yucheng still thought Han Sen was joking, but seeing him walk forward unrelentingly, he quickly followed after him.

“What are you thinking, man?” Xue Yucheng’s face was looking grimmer by the second. He was now writhing in his disbelief, which made him bleed even more.

"I am going to take the shelter. Didn't I already tell you that?" Han Sen said.

"Did the Xue family really ask you to come here?" Xue Yucheng was looking confused now.

One man, accompanied by a little fox and a baby for backup, was going to waltz up and attempt to conquer a heavily-fortified castle. He thought Han Sen must have had a death wish, or at least an ardent desire to feel the insides of a creature's stomach.

This was a king class shelter, so it seemed unfathomable for a young man to so simply proclaim he was "going to take it."

Xue Yucheng had been stuck in that shelter for a long time, so it was no surprise he had no idea who Han Sen was and what he had accomplished. Therefore, Han Sen thought it best if he showed the man what he was capable of, rather than wasting time explaining.

"Don't follow me. I don't want you to get involved, and I'd rather not have the master of this place think you betrayed him," Han Sen said. Then, he quickened his pace.

Xue Yucheng was shocked, seeing how fast Han Sen and his allies were now going.

"But this is a king spirit's shelter! Even if he is able to defeat the creatures, there's no way he can defeat the spirits that reside here," Xue Yucheng thought to himself, as he tried to keep his eyes on the speeding Han Sen.

He didn't think Han Sen would be able to get close. Even in the waters of the river that served as a wide moat for the shelter, there resided a large super creature. The old man thought it'd gobble Han Sen up before he crossed.

Han Sen did not hide his lifeforce, though. He wasn't planning on assassinating Blood River King and being stealthy with his approach. With the silver fox by his side, Han Sen had complete confidence in being able to tackle the shelter. He walked with a swagger, his body moving as if to say, "Come and get some."

Blood River Shelter only had four super creatures left, so Han Sen planned to kill them all at once and earn four Life Geno Essences. If he managed to get those, he believed he'd be fully maxed out.

Unless he encountered a being that had opened ten gene locks, Han Sen did not believe he'd fight anything stronger than him, after that.

But when Han Sen came close to the shelter, the creatures started running off before he even had a chance to breach the walls. It was as if Han Sen was carrying a wretched disease or something.

The tentacle monster that resided in the river seemed to have disappeared as well.

“Why are they all gone?” After thinking this, Han Sen looked at the silver fox on his shoulders and remembered something. “I remember now; when you’re around, everyone runs.” Han Sen was recalling their times in the Second God’s Sanctuary.

The silver fox was a berserk super creature now, so not even super creatures would stay to challenge him.

Xue Yucheng was watching Han Sen as he went, and he was in utter shock. He thought everything would come out to attack the young man, but rather than do that, they all ran off in fear.

Xue Yucheng, seeing them run, could hardly believe what his eyes were telling him.

Han Sen reached the main island without trouble. The monster with tentacles was a complete no-show.

“Did that super creature fall asleep or something?” Xue Yucheng was amazed.

As strong as Han Sen was, however, the creatures were mainly just afraid of the silver fox.

Seeing them all run off, Han Sen pulled out his swords and sprinted after them. He had to nab them all before they disappeared.

Xue Chen was watering the trees as this transpired. An alarm sounded, indicating something was attacking the shelter.

“Who in the sanctuaries would attack this place?” Xue Chen said, with genuine curiosity. But he couldn’t disobey his orders to check it out.

Strangely, the creatures Blood River King owned were shivering. Perhaps it was because they were forced to go to the shelter’s defense. Xue Chen saw the super creatures behaving in a similar manner, too, though. And this made him start to worry over his wellbeing.

If the sacred-blood creatures were that scared, the enemy had to be incredibly fearsome. If so, they’d be merciless. And to Xue Chen, that meant he’d not likely survive such a siege.

“I still need to deliver that item, though. I can’t die yet!” Death was also guaranteed if Xue Chen disobeyed his orders, though. The spirit would surely kill him if he abandoned his post.

No matter how slowly Xue Chen walked, reaching the gate was only a matter of time, anyway.

Xue Chen then caught sight of Blood River King and his other spirits approaching. Strangely, they did not look afraid.

Xue Chen saw three super creatures looking very annoyed.

“What kind of enemy can incite such a reaction within them?” Xue Chen looked over to the Blood River then, and he saw a young man approaching. He had a fox and a little girl on his shoulders.

Chapter 1279: Strong Killing

“That... looks like a human.” Xue Chen observed the presence of a young man approaching, but he couldn’t be entirely sure he was a human, given the brashness an individual would require to actually stroll up to a shelter such as that.

Furthermore, if it really was a young human, why would they all be in such a state of panic, and why would Blood River King himself be concerned?

“Who dares approach?!” Blood River King called out to the figure below their walls.

The spirit was unfamiliar with Han Sen, and therefore, he did not know how strong Han Sen was. With his creatures all acting up, however, he knew he wasn’t dealing with someone ordinary. Even Blood River King knew he should be cautious.

Han Sen saw the three super creatures and responded by saying, “I am Human Emperor, Han Sen. If you pass me your spirit stone, I’ll let you live.”

“After Blood River Shelter, I am going to take down each and every shelter in the Third God’s Sanctuary, so that when Ji Yanran and Mom make the jump, they can do so in safety,” Han Sen told himself.

He was not strong enough to do that just yet, but this would go on to be the humble beginning of that venture.

Human Emperor.

These two words, this name, would someday freeze hearts. But having just been used for the first time, it was an unfamiliar title. It confused the inhabitants of the shelter.

But at least it told Xue Chen that the person who had come was a human.

Blood River King replied to Han Sen’s demand, saying, “How dare a human call himself an emperor!”

Han Sen didn’t submit a verbal reply, and instead drew his Phoenix Sword.

Xue Chen was in awe, thinking the young man approaching was far more reckless than anyone in the Xue family. That, in itself, was quite a feat.

Blood River King drew his greatsword. Powers were to collide, and Xue Chen knew a big fight was brewing. But in the next second, that did not turn out to be true. Instead, Xue Chen was just made speechless, frozen in shock.

Blood River King’s eyes were wide open, rolling in their sockets as the head that carried them was sent tumbling through the air. Before Blood River King could even ready his sword after he unsheathed it, he had been beheaded.

Every being in the shelter was now either in shock, fright, or absolute panic. Whatever the case was, everything and everyone wanted to up-stakes and escape. Blood River King had been killed practically before the fight began. Whoever remained to combat such a foe would be a fool, after all.

Han Sen didn't want to let the super creatures get away, though. So he flew up into the air and chased each of them down like an airborne hound. Xue Chen saw Han Sen and the silver fox swoop down at the creatures like a pair of hawks, and he was gobsmacked.

Wherever they went, all that remained on the ground following their re-ascent was a mound of fallen creatures and spirits and a pool of blood.

"Now that is what you call unstoppable!" Xue Chen was jumping for joy in his heart.

The young man that had come to assault the shelter had amazed him. It filled him with a surge of energy he hadn't felt in a long time. But most of all, it gave him a sense of hope. It told him there was a chance of achieving a future in the Third God's Sanctuary, where humans weren't always reduced to slavery.

"If he takes down this shelter and breaks the spirit stone, does that mean our contracts will be destroyed as well? Will we be free?" Xue Yucheng wondered.

Xue Yucheng saw Han Sen commit to slaying every super creature that previously inhabited the shelter, and the act genuinely surprised him.

"Since when can humans achieve that much strength?" Xue Yucheng was amazed by what he saw.

Two of the super creatures had been killed in less than two seconds.

The other super creature was finely-attuned with the elements of earth. It tunneled underground as quickly as it could, but even when Han Sen drove his sword under in pursuit, it managed to escape. It was gone.

Han Sen didn't concern himself with escapee too much, though. He simply proceeded to the spirit hall of the shelter. Han Sen swung his sword to kill the faithful spirit servants, felling each one with a casual whisk of his blade. The rest of the creatures were allowed to escape as freely as they may, as long as they did not get in his way.

Xue Yucheng drove the boat closer to the shelter. He was still hanging from the pins, so although he couldn't dismount, he could still see everything.

Xue Yucheng was reveling in sheer delight, the possibilities of which he thought had long since abandoned him. In this joy, tears filled his eyes and rolled to soak his cheeks. "Oh God, I have made it to this day!"

Han Sen entered the spirit hall. Blood River King had yet to respawn, and it made Han Sen notice the fact that different spirits possessed different respawn times. Thunder Hell Emperor could respawn instantly, for instance.

Han Sen flew over to the statue and took the stone in his hand.

Han Sen could faintly hear the sound of Blood River King crying inside the gem he now held. The next second, the spirit stone collapsed into a mound of broken glass. It had chosen not to obey Han Sen.

The moment it was destroyed, though, Xue Yucheng and Xue Chen's contracts were broken.

The two looked at each other in utter happiness.

Following this short conquest, Han Sen had received zero beast souls and earned two Life Geno Essences.

Han Sen knew he probably spent all his luck in his last adventure, to get the berserk super beast soul and the fruit cores. He sent Xue Chen and Xue Yucheng back to the Alliance, to fulfill the task Han Sen had promised to do for their family.

Han Sen stood in Blood River Shelter alone now. He looked at the spirit statue and squinted. In Han Sen's Sea of Soul, the Serpent Throne was showing visible excitement towards it.

"Does this thing like it? I still don't even know what a doll beast soul is used for, anyway." Han Sen summoned it.

When the Serpent Throne appeared, it turned and immediately ran towards the spirit statue.

Chapter 1280: Doll

The Serpent Throne became a physical manifestation of light, and then it entered the slot that used to contain the spirit stone. When the blinding light dimmed, the statue's forehead was revealed to now contain a brand-new spirit stone. This one possessed the image of a snake.

"I thought this was a doll type beast soul. Hmm, so why did it just become a spirit stone?" Han Sen was confused.

As he mulled the oddity, he noticed another image inside the spirit stone. It was hazy, like little more than a reflection, but its faint outline suggested the shape of a human.

"Blood River King?" Han Sen was quickly given a shock, as the human image cleared to reveal it was actually Blood River King.

It was different, however, and it seemed to be a replica of the spirit that used to preside over the shelter. But it was a replica built from copper, and it had a texture that mirrored the Serpent Throne itself.

"Master, I am Serpent Throne." The copper Blood River King appeared before Han Sen and knelt, as if in service.

"What are you?" Han Sen wasn't sure what to respond with, as this was all new to him.

“Master, I am a copy of Blood River King’s genes. I am his replica, a doll in his image and being. I possess his powers, to their full extent. I am him in every way, save mind,” the Serpent Throne elucidated the curious happening.

Han Sen asked, “So you’ll look like this forever?”

“You can put me inside any statue. Do so, and I will reflect the image of the last spirit to occupy that shelter,” Serpent Throne said.

Han Sen was delighted. It was a powerful berserk super creature. This meant, even though it could make use of Blood River King’s powers, the output would be greater than the original spirit’s.

And what’s more, it was a beast soul. There was no danger or fear of betrayal; it would do Han Sen’s bidding without question.

Han Sen needed to take down Saint Fan’s Shelter, and now he couldn’t help but imagine the prospect of having a Saint Fan copycat bow before him.

“Can you resurrect like a spirit?” Han Sen asked.

“I am just a clone. Even after death, I can produce another copy of your chosen spirit, but it can take a while. That is the only restriction,” Serpent Throne said.

“Very good.” Han Sen escorted the doll to the battleground so he could test its strength.

It really did have Blood River King’s powers, just at a greater level. For all intents and purposes, it was now a faster and stronger Blood River King.

Han Sen was now dying to locate an emperor shelter he could take over, so he could have a copy of an emperor. The copy had no fixed power limit, and the power of the shelter was what dictated the power of the copy.

Han Sen currently had Thunder Hell Shelter for an emperor shelter, but first, he wanted to try it out in his underground shelter. Han Sen was super duper curious who the last master of the underground shelter was.

Although it was not able to copy the mind of the previous lord, he’d at the very least like to get a good look at their appearance.

Han Sen went to the underground shelter’s spirit hall and summoned Serpent Throne. It entered the spirit stone’s slot, like before. However, generating the doll took much longer this time.

After a while, a copper light was cast into the hall right before Han Sen. The image was materializing.

Han Sen examined the doll with great curiosity, as its image was completely different than Blood River King’s. This new presence was quite astonishing.

It was a female spirit; one with horns and draconic wings. She had armor scaled like the hide of a dragon, and she looked like a Valkyrie.

“Who is this spirit?” Han Sen asked, with his jaw agape.

“Apologies, but I only copied the genes that form their person. Identities and former knowledge are impossible to replicate,” Serpent Throne said.

“Then, how many gene locks do you have opened?” Han Sen asked.

“Ten,” the Serpent Throne answered.

“This really is an emperor-class shelter.” Han Sen wasn’t very surprised. With the abilities the shelter possessed, it was difficult to believe it could have once been owned by anything less than an emperor. It was unique and special and far beyond any other shelter they had seen before.

After this, he took the Valkyrie doll to the battlegrounds, keen for a showcase of her powers. He expected great things from an empress that once ruled his OG shelter in the Third God’s Sanctuary.

After entering and readying themselves, Han Sen expected to be greeted by a multitude of explosions and flashy lights. What actually transpired subverted his expectations, and all he could hear was a low rumble, accompanied by the formation of what could best be guessed to be a black hole.

But soon after, the head of a black dragon appeared out of the dark, swirling vortex. It came out of the fierce pit, roaring with its intimidating teeth on full display. Drops of saliva accompanied the visible exhaust of breath, which was, admittedly, not the sweetest smelling...

And then, the body and wings of this magnificent beast emerged. Valkyrie then leapt atop the glorious beast and rode it as if she was a Dragon Knight from an old storybook.

Strangely, it didn’t look as if she herself could fight, though. Instead, she just rode the beast, commanding it to attack in her stead. She had to be some sort of summoner or beastmaster; Han Sen imagined her to rely solely on the support of a creature in her command.

The black dragon’s power was not too different than that of the fish, all in all, in terms of might and strength.

While this wasn’t what he expected, Han Sen was still happy with the results. All-in-all, this just meant Han Sen had acquired the service and powers of another emperor that had ten of its gene locks open.

“Master, can you allow me to display to you the full extent of my might and strength? I believe it will be to your liking,” the doll asked with a bubbly attitude, as if eager to impress her master.

“Wait, you mean you can do something aside from summoning and riding a dragon?”