

Super Power

Chapter 1241: Invisible Toxic King Scorpion

Han Sen didn't lie to Saint Fan, as his body truly had developed a problem.

The ugly biomass had developed a number of unhealthy blisters. They were empty, but they produced deep craters across his body when popped.

These blisters began to appear more and more, honeycombing the mutated being like some beehive. The gross sight of Saint Fan was only becoming more garish and twisted.

"Impossible! My body is fine; I can heal..." Saint Fan was speaking from many of the mouths that composed his body.

He had no idea when this had begun, and the wounds that were webbing their way across him had sprung up on him with surprising speed. It didn't seem as if he would have noticed, had Han Sen not pointed the issue out to him.

More and more blisters grew, transforming the biomass into a podded mess, not too unlike a thick bunch of grapes. The blisters, when they bloated and became too big, popped to reveal craters in the flesh. Nothing came out of them, but it was clearly a problem.

Saint Fan's body was full of these holes, and it was like he was fizzing away.

"How is this happening? Heal me, rhino!" Saint Fan commanded.

Holy Rhino cast its holy light on Saint Fan, but something seemed to separate the light from the wounds.

Saint Fan was frightened by what was going on, so he tossed away all the now-grotesque carcasses of spirits and creatures that had previously resided within him.

When he had been reduced to his true self, even his proper body was becoming holey. Things looked dire for him.

"What did you do?!" Saint Fan demanded.

"Nothing; aside from killing you," Han Sen said, with giddy excitement bubbling beneath his straight-faced words.

At the beginning, when Han Sen's talons scraped against Saint Fan, the spirit healed immediately after. The toxins Han Sen had deployed within that scratch, however, could not be healed.

Han Sen was not carrying poison around with him; he had actually put a glyph to use. It gleamed across his back now, and it was the glyph that came from the Thorn Scorpion. It had been combined with the Invisible King Scorpion gem beast soul.

Invisible Toxic King Scorpion Beast Soul: Glyph Type

Han Sen hadn't had a chance to try it out yet, and all he had known about it was that it carried and deployed toxic poisons.

The toxic substance was a silent killer, one without smell and taste. It could go totally unnoticed until the effects took action.

After Han Sen attacked Saint Fan, Han Sen initially believed it did nothing. There was no immediate reaction, and with Saint Fan being so strong anyway, it wasn't entirely unlikely that he could withstand the poison.

If it was effective, Saint Fan would have most likely brought attention to it, as well.

Han Sen only noticed the poison was working when he saw the blisters begin to develop, swell, and pop like a corrosive acid.

Han Sen was happy that the poison had taken effect, but he was more than surprised to learn Saint Fan hadn't even noticed what was happening to him until Han Sen had pointed it out.

The toxic substance might not have been the strongest in existence, but it was most certainly the most unsettling. It really was quite mindblowing to learn Saint Fan was completely oblivious to the poison he had been struck with.

Han Sen did not know if he himself could withstand such a toxin, either.

Han Sen really wanted to practice Jadeskin after seeing this, as it increased one's poison and toxin resistances. It was far better at developing such defenses than the Dongxuan Sutra.

The Dongxuan Sutra was great for building a powerfully-balanced body, but it wasn't the greatest out there. If it truly was the be-all and end-all, Dongxuan Zi would not have died.

"I definitely need to practice Jadeskin," Han Sen decided.

Saint Fan's body was peppered with holes, but he still could not feel anything. He only noticed what was going on due to what his eyes were relaying to him.

What's more, Saint Fan's life force was gradually beginning to fade. He became weaker and weaker, despite his insistence on clinging to the belief that he had not been poisoned and that this was the work of some other phantom menace.

Saint Fan looked at Han Sen with utter contempt, and suddenly, he jumped into the skies, wishing to fly away and abandon the field of battle.

Han Sen patted Little Silver on the head. Then, the furry fiend leaped into the air, split its ten tails, and fired a barrage of electric bullets to fry the airborne Saint Fan.

Saint Fan was incredibly weak by this point, so he was disintegrated into nothing more than dust.

Aside from the rhino, everything that was a part of him disappeared.

Everyone else who was present had just taken a seat to watch the spectacle. They were in awe at what had transpired, but they were also extremely confused. They didn't have a clue about what had just happened.

Dry Bone King wanted to kill the rhino. It might not have been an active participant in the fight, but it had supported Saint Fan and healed the troops constantly.

"Stop." Han Sen had a history with the rhino. He had even obtained its tear, as well. Furthermore, the rhino was most likely under contract with the spirit and was only doing as it was commanded. Han Sen didn't want the rhino to die or be killed so simply.

But Han Sen wasn't willing to let the rhino go back to help Saint Fan rebuild, either.

"Rhino, I know you have been contracted to help Saint Fan. And I know you were only doing as you were bid to." Han Sen said this while bringing out his Cruel Bottle. He went on to say, "This bottle is its own little dimension. It can disconnect you from the obligations you are sworn to here, in this world. The contract Saint Fan has with you has no meaning or hold on you inside this bottle. If you wish to switch masters, I will accept you. And if you join me, you can reside inside this bottle until I have finished with Saint Fan once and for all. Only I will have the power to release you once you enter, but you have my word that I won't hold you for any longer than is necessary."

Chapter 1242: Obtaining the Holy Rhino's Allegiance

Holy Rhino seemed to agree to Han Sen's offer. It roared and then entered the Cruel Bottle.

Han Sen was delighted about this, so he put a lid on it. For the rhino, this was similar to humans taking refuge in the Alliance, away from the sanctuaries where the motions and terms of a contract were always in play. For the duration it was in the bottle, the rhino was safe.

Saint Fan now couldn't kill the rhino for switching its allegiance, but if Han Sen wanted to enlist Holy Rhino as an ally in the future, he knew he'd have to take down Saint Fan once and for all.

Unfortunately for Han Sen, he could not yet kill Saint Fan. If anything, that frightening spirit was more powerful than ever. It was highly likely the rest of the super creatures inhabiting Saint Fan Shelter would be absorbed to become a part of him.

Saint Fan must have known he had been poisoned, too. Han Sen couldn't waltz in and expect to play the same trick on him, as Saint Fan would have most likely deployed a precaution to avoid it happening again.

The Invisible Toxic King Scorpion glyph was a powerful item he had developed, but Han Sen still had to get in close and deal proper damage to the spirit to put the poisons to work. If Saint Fan had combined with a host of additional king spirits and super creatures, getting up close and personal would be harder than ever.

Still, Han Sen could take solace in the fact that he and his people had each emerged from the battle as they had entered. Although his companions were weary, Han Sen had not lost a single one. Furthermore, the silver fox had come back to him. Of course, Han Sen acknowledged how terrifyingly close the situation had been to disaster before the furry thing had leaped in to save the day. If it hadn't come back at that precise moment, Saint Fan would have killed them all before the toxins took effect.

As evidenced by the delay that day, the toxins really did take a good amount of time to work on powerful foes. But, with the battle over, everyone returned to the shelter. Queen went straight back to practicing, as she had been unable to help at all in the fight.

There was a stark line between having a death wish and being willing to die in aid and service of others in the face of extreme adversity. Death was around the next corner, if she wished it to be, but a true cause to bring about death was a rarity.

After this, though, she was given a renewed perspective. She could see the contrast between her and Han Sen's strength, and she had a better grasp on how much weaker she was and how much further she had to go if she wished to compete and be of help like the rest of his companions.

Humans had only occupied the sanctuaries for two hundred years, while spirits and creatures had been there far longer. It was natural for humans to be weaker to begin with, and it was always difficult to find footing in each greater sanctuary.

Han Sen was delighted to have the silver fox return, but the others weren't.

The silver fox had used its lightning to heal the wounds of Han Sen's, which had them all writhing on the ground in agony. They half-believed Han Sen had turned on them!

After the healing, Han Sen went to take a look at the Three-Life Tree alongside the silver fox.

The silver fox showed interest in the hand, but nothing else.

Unfortunately, the silver fox could not speak. As a result, Han Sen was still clueless about the treasure the tree was giving birth to.

"If Saint Fan wants it, it must be good! Can it hurry up and grow a little faster?" Han Sen gave the tree another waterdrop while pondering the circumstances.

Saint Fan had been delivered a serious blow, so it wasn't likely he'd show his face anytime soon. Thinking this, Han Sen decided to return to the Alliance for a time.

Han Sen read a bunch of books and went to the virtual community to practice with others.

“Coach, you fancy a fight?” Immediately after Han Sen entered, Ms. Perfume sent him a message.

Complying, Han Sen sent her an invite. She was, after all, Qin Xuan behind the online handle. She frequently matched with him, and despite losing every single time, she was always improving.

Qin Xuan was still practicing Empirical Sword, and it was a one-of-a-kind technique. Its focus went beyond merely dishing out power. There had been a beauty in its crafting, and its existence was like poetry.

Han Sen could simulate the energy flow, but if he did not have the heart for it, he couldn't perform it.

Qin Taixuan had not told her it was actually Han Sen behind the online username “A Soldier on the Warship,” and so, Qin Xuan was still happy to just call him “Coach.”

In a classic arena, Qin Xuan kept slashing towards Han Sen at full steam without reprieve.

Han Sen did not evade her attacks, and instead, he just used his sword to block.

Qin Xuan's great-grandfather's username was “A King with Seventy-Two Wives.” If Qin Xuan could not complete the practice required of Empirical Sword and beat Han Sen, then Qin Xuan would not be able to control the skill.

So Han Sen did not hold back. As a result, Qin Xuan lost every single time.

But Han Sen was as surprised as he ever was with her determination. Failure never stopped Qin Xuan, and she would always bounce back with vigor and spunk.

Perhaps it was because of Empirical Sword, because the skill required a strong heart and firm courage to master.

Her great-grandfather told Han Sen that Empirical Sword was something to display one's power and might, but without a strong heart, the sword could break. You had to strike and forego any element of defense. Han Sen was supposed to be her whetstone, for her to use and be kept sharp with.

The strength of the heart was reflected upon the sword.

“Coach, are you a demi-god?” Qin Xuan asked.

“No, I'm only a surpasser,” Han Sen answered.

Qin Xuan was surprised to learn this, provided it was the truth. She said, “People as talented as you are surpassers? How difficult must it be to become a demi-god?”

“Perfection is not always required,” Han Sen said.

She was even more surprised now, and she said, “Are you going to max out your super geno points before ascending?”

Han Sen nodded.

Qin Xuan was extra excited to hear this, and she giddily said, "Which shelter are you at? I have almost maxed out my super geno points, so perhaps we will be able to meet up when I get to the Third God's Sanctuary!"

"The Third God's Sanctuary is a big place. When you get there, focus on what it will take for you to survive. Don't concern yourself with me or anyone else."

"Who knows, though? I might actually end up with you. I'm quite a fortunate person." Qin Xuan laughed.

Han Sen shook his head and did not respond. He knew Qin Xuan was actually more mature than him, so he wasn't too worried about how well she'd fare when she made the jump.

But Han Sen did not think Qin Xuan would be lucky enough to spawn on his shelter, as the chances of that were far too low for consideration.

Chapter 1243: Good Man's Standard

Han Sen exited the virtual community and saw Bao'er sitting in front of him. Immediately, she leaped into Han Sen's chest, loudly proclaiming, "I'm thirsty!"

"I'll go and get you some water," Han Sen said, heading for the water dispenser.

Bao'er then stroked Han Sen's head fondly, whispering to him, "I want ice cream, too."

"Of course you do." Han Sen knew what she wanted before she even said it. There was no way Bao'er would hang around waiting for him if she only wanted water.

Han Sen went to the Sapphire Ice Cream Store. She wouldn't eat ordinary ice cream, only the expensive homemade ones produced there. Fortunately, Han Sen had a lot of money, so it wasn't a strain for him to purchase her ice cream every now and again.

Han Sen saw Han Yan on the street on the way there, as she had recently enlisted at the Blackhawk Military Academy. Although she had been invited to join many other, better academies, she had rejected them all.

Han Yan had her mother's appearance, but because she had been practicing the Falsified-Sky Sutra, she carried herself with a unique aura.

Others would believe she looked incredibly holy, but to Han Sen, that was nothing new and he was used to it.

There was a distance between them, and Han Sen couldn't get to her quickly. When he eventually got close enough to bark a greeting, he saw a lot of young people around her playing instruments.

There was a handsome guy playing a guitar at the center, serenading. He was singing about her, and the music was obviously being played for her as well. Han Yan was walking as this occurred, and it was almost as if the others were chasing her with the music.

When the song was over, the boy put his guitar away and raced ahead to kneel in front of her. Then, he presented her a bouquet of roses. "Han Yan, I am very fond of you. Would you please be my girlfriend?"

The other guys were chattering amongst themselves, in hushed chants that whispered, "Say yes! Say yes!"

Han Sen felt very angry, watching this. Now he could understand what Ji Ruozhen had spoken about in his speech.

"That cheap *sshole! Using cheap flowers to try to seduce my sister. I'm going to beat him up!" Han Sen was still a distance away, so he wished to fly over. Not being able to right now, though, he opted for the next best thing. He started to cross the railing, to get there sooner.

He knew it was illegal to do that, and he'd be forced to study the traffic laws for ten days if caught, but that was the least of his concerns for now.

When just one of the legs crossed the railing, Han Yan took the flowers in her hands.

The anger that had been simmering inside Han Sen began to boil and swell, and he said to himself, "I treat you like a princess! I take you everywhere you want and give you whatever you want, how can you be tricked with just a few measly flowers?!"

Everyone around was clapping, and then the boy moved in for a hug.

"You dare? You dare?!" Han Sen was fuming with rage, by this point.

But Han Yan then extended her arms forward, with the bouquet of flowers resting across the palms of her hands.

Han Yan smiled and said, "The flowers are beautiful, but I want a boyfriend who is a good man. I want a man who can display his love and affection without the need for something material to represent it."

"My parents are noble, and I am going to max out my geno points. I will become a demi-god, one day!" the boy hastily replied.

Han Yan said, "Rich or poor, strong or feeble, that does not matter to me. Only if you are a good man, will I love you."

"Then tell me, what makes a good man?" The guy asked.

Han Yan answered, "It is simple, and all the requirements and standards I seek reside in the one person I myself admire the most."

"Okay, and who is that?" the boy asked.

All the boys listened in, as they all secretly wished to make her theirs, too.

Hearing Han Yan say she did not want money confused them. So, they each paid extra attention to learn what it would take to make them suitable suitors.

Han Yan smiled and said, "It is my brother. If anyone can beat my brother as a person, then they are a good man. And such good men are men I would have no qualms dating."

They all knew who her big brother was. He was the fearless conqueror of an emperor class shelter in the Third God's Sanctuary. Acknowledging such crazy requirements, they all felt hopeless.

"Do you mind if I keep the flowers?" Han Yan asked.

The boy, startled from out of his daze, swiftly raised his sunken head and said, "Of course, they are for you!"

"Thank you." Han Yan took the flowers and then left.

Han Sen brought his leg back after witnessing all this, and he did so with great joy.

"Alliance traffic law violation detected. You are in breach of law 6385, in an attempt of crossing the rail. Punishment requires a supervised study of the traffic laws for the duration of twenty-four hours. Follow the navigation beacons that will lead you to the traffic department." The computer near the railing notified Han Sen.

Fortunately, Han Sen did not cross the rail completely. If he had, he'd be locked up in study for ten days. Not even the president could get out of a jam like that.

He had to start his study in three days, so he decided to carry on with his current objective, and that was to take Bao'er to the ice cream store.

When Han Sen crossed the bridge, he saw someone approach. Seeing this person, he was flabbergasted.

Chapter 1244: He is Still Alive

Blind Man was one of the few strangers Han Sen cared about.

When they first met, Blind Man gave Han Sen a book that was similar to Primal Innocence. A long time later, he had randomly delivered to Han Sen a cauldron with the nine-life cat symbol on it.

Even if Blind Man was from Blood Legion, it was still strange of him to give such a thing to Han Sen of all people.

According to the Xuan Men successor, Blood Legion was the only other faction with true power. As such, Han Sen knew to exercise great caution when dealing with people who were associated with the organization.

“Come with me,” Blind Man said, with a lowered voice.

Han Sen followed after Blind Man, thinking there could be no risk of danger there in the Alliance.

Fortunately, Blind Man did not lead Han Sen someplace too private. Han Sen was taken to an AI-operated restaurant. They scanned their cards and then sat down.

“Why in the sanctuaries did you send me that cauldron?” Han Sen finally had the chance to ask.

Blind Man laughed and said, “I was saving you.”

Han Sen frowned and responded, “Don’t talk such crap. Tell me the truth.”

Blind Man smiled and said, “I am. I’m being serious when I tell you it can save your life. Before you become a demi-god, eat what’s inside.”

“Why would I want to eat it?” Han Sen thought Blind Man had gone mad. After all, why would Han Sen consume something that belonged to Blood Legion?

“You’ll eat it, that much is certain,” Blind Man said.

Han Sen laughed and balked. “Well, let me tell you how wrong you are!”

After this brief exchange, Han Sen readied himself to leave. He wanted to know more about Blood Legion, but Blind Man didn’t seem like the sort who wanted to have a proper sit-down and chat.

“Stay. There is something you should look at first,” Blind Man said, knowing this would invoke Han Sen’s curiosity and prevent him from leaving.

Han Sen looked back and froze when seeing what Blind Man was now holding.

Blind Man’s hands were very coarse and leathery, but the thick fingers held a ring. It was fairly ordinary, in that it had been forged with silver and been stoned with diamond.

Even in the Alliance, that was just a common ring.

But it stood out to Han Sen all too well because his mother had a ring that was identical. It was her wedding ring.

When Blind Man witnessed Han Sen’s petrified reaction, he placed the ring down on his table. Han Sen picked it up and read the inside. It read: “Love, Lan.” Han Sen was taken aback.

He remembered this. When Han Sen was young, he was given this ring by his father to hold, and he had read the inscription inside. His father was digging a pool at the time, and he wanted Han Sen to hold onto it in case it fell off and got lost.

Han Sen only knew the word “love,” but did not understand the word “Lan.” He remembered asking his father about that, as well.

Han Sen's father told him that the "Lan" referred to his mother. This perplexed him at the time, because his mother's name was Luo Sulan. The "Lan" of her name meant "orchid," but the "Lan" on the ring had been inscribed with a different character. They were homonyms, but they had been spelled differently.

It was only a few years ago that Han Sen had come to learn his mother's true name was Luo Lan, and it was that "Lan" that was on the ring.

It had been too many years since Han Sen had seen the ring, though. He couldn't be certain he was remembering things correctly or that Blind Man was actually showing him the original.

"What is this?" Han Sen asked.

Blind Man laughed. His voice cracked roughly, as if he had spent a few too many years drinking and smoking.

"If you don't know what this is, give it to Luo Lan. She will know."

Han Sen stared at Blind Man for a while after that. When the time to break the silence came, Han Sen lifted his head and said, "Is this what you wanted to show me, then?"

"The owner of the ring wants you to know you need to eat what is inside that cauldron before you become a demi-god," Blind Man said.

"You think a ring and a subtle-implication is going to convince me?" Han Sen said. Even if his father was standing right in front of him, he'd have to pull at his cheeks and give him a thorough examination to believe he was the real deal.

Blind Man said, "Do you know the color of the cat?"

Han Sen was not sure what he meant by this, as cats could come in a variety of colors.

"This isn't some secret-handshake or code, is it? I mean, I wouldn't know. I'm not a member of your organization," Han Sen said.

Blind Man shook his head and said, "It is blue. Why? Because someone painted it blue."

Han Sen felt as if he had been stabbed with a knife, and the object of this pain had been twisted around. His mind was blown.

Han Sen recalled there was an old white cat living in his house when he was just a child. It was always sunbathing in the yard. Once, Han Sen used paint to color it blue. His father was mad about this, and he told Han Sen never to touch the cat again, as it once belonged to his great-grandfather.

That was the first time Han Sen had seen his father get properly angry, so it was something he was not likely to forget.

Han Sen and his father cleaned the cat, but it died just a few days later. Han Sen was sad for a long time following this, believing it was his own actions that had led to the death of the cat.

Chapter 1245: Three-Life Fruit

Because only Han Sen and his father had been home at the time of that incident, knowing the cat had been painted should have been information exclusive to the two of them.

“Is he still alive?” Han Sen asked.

Han Sen was filled to the brim with a mixture of varying emotions following this most recent encounter with Blind Man. If his father hadn’t died, then he wondered why his father never came back to visit them. If this was revealed to be true, anger would be the prevailing emotion.

But Han Sen knew nothing was ever straightforward, and it wasn’t likely for his father to be some deadbeat dad. If he was alive, perhaps there was a reason he could not see his family anymore.

Han Sen only wanted to learn where he was and put all the nagging questions to bed with answers. The constant lingering questions never ceased to tug at the fringes of his mind.

“He is alive,” Blind Man answered resolutely.

“Where is he? I want to see him,” Han Sen said.

“Now is not the time,” Blind Man said.

“Why?” Han Sen asked.

Blind Man said, “He is doing something very dangerous, but if you become a demi-god, there is a chance you two can meet again.”

“He has been in the sanctuaries all this time?” Han Sen asked, with a leaping heart.

Blind Man did not answer this immediately. He simply knocked the table in idle silence for a while. When he spoke next, he said, “The pill that resides inside that cauldron is something most valuable. His procurement of it came at a great risk to his life, but he got it for you, nonetheless. But that is not the only thing he wants to give you, as there is advice, also. He wants you to refrain from getting involved with Blood Legion affairs and the circumstances regarding Han Jinzhi. Just take care of your mother and your sister.”

“Tell me what he is doing,” Han Sen demanded, with a cold stare.

“That is not for me to say. I cannot. But when you are capable, and the time is right, provided he is still alive, the time for another encounter will come,” Blind Man said, standing up to leave.

Han Sen was angry now, as he couldn’t stand such tantalizing teases. He hated being left to hang, only receiving half the answers. Cliffhangers were the bane of his existence, and it was frustrating how prevalent they were.

Han Sen was going to grab Blind Man, but he had already gone.

This was the Alliance, though, so it would be unwise for him to fight there. And when Han Sen left his seat to catch up with him, he couldn't find Blind Man anywhere. He seemed to be long gone.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to trace where he might have gone, but that was useless as well.

Han Sen was no longer in the mood to take Bao'er to eat ice cream, so he went straight over to his mother's house. There, he showed her the ring.

When his mother saw it, her eyes suddenly turned red.

"Is that your father's ring?" she asked, prompting Han Sen to relay to her the tale of what had occurred and who he had met while on his lengthy quest for ice cream.

"So, that's the long and short of it? The *sshole is alive, and he's not dead. If I see him again, I swear I'll kill him myself," Luo Lan said.

Luo Lan sounded incredibly angry, but Han Sen could recognize the soft undercurrent of a secret happiness in the way she spoke.

Of course, Han Sen couldn't be certain whether or not Blind Man was telling him the truth. But with all this on his mind, Han Sen decided to return to the sanctuary and take a look at the cauldron once more.

He couldn't tell what the little, jewel-like orb was. And since Blind Man wasn't the most trusting fellow, he couldn't be sure whether or not it would be beneficial as he said it would be. So, again, Han Sen shelved the cauldron.

At long last, Han Sen took Bao'er out to get the ice cream she so ardently desired. He also got her additional snacks. He was willing to spend a bit on food in the Alliance, too, as there was never anything decent to eat in the sanctuaries.

After half a month more had passed, Saint Fan had yet to show his face again. And now, the Three-Life Tree had finally matured.

The three fruits dropped to the ground like sparkling, shooting stars. The Three-Life Tree withered and died after the fruit departed its electrical branches.

Han Sen wouldn't dare open the treasure himself, as he never had luck doing such things. So, after he brought the fruit out of the well with him, he asked for Zero, Bao'er, and Little Silver to come join him.

"Who would like to open this?" Han Sen pointed at the fruit which contained the Twin Knight.

"Me!" Bao'er immediately raised her hand.

"Okay, but you have to give it back when you've opened it. Do that, and I'll reward you with ice cream," Han Sen nodded approvingly.

Bao'er took the fruit and bashed it against the floor. The shell broke.

The knight beamed into Bao'er's head.

"So, care to tell me what it is? Han Sen asked.

Dragon King told Han Sen it was a Twin Knight beast soul, but noted how remarkably strange it was for it to be growing on something that wasn't a Twin Knight tree. Therefore, what was inside could not be guaranteed.

All he knew for sure was that it was a beast soul of some kind.

Bao'er sent Han Sen the knight beast soul and made sure to comment, "Just don't forget my ice cream."

"Super-class Twin-Thunder Knight [possession type] beast soul obtained."

It was indeed a Twin Knight, but one associated with thunder. If it could only adhere to the one thunder element, then that was disappointing.

"I won't forget." After Han Sen told Bao'er this, he turned to look at the silver fox. Little Silver seemed to have a bit more control over itself now, but he still looked incredibly anxious to open the fruit that was before him. "This is for you, Little Silver."

The silver fox was the strongest there amongst them, as it had ten whole gene locks open. It was only fair that Han Sen provided it goodies.

Little Silver reached out its paws and crushed the fruit. Then, the hand inside emerged and began to fly around.

Observing the hand after it emerged from the fruit, Han Sen noticed that it wasn't actually made of flesh. What Han Sen had presumed to be veins were actually streaks of lightning.

The silver fox then gobbled up the entire hand, and his body started to shake and vibrate. After that, the furry thing burped out a plume of blue lightning.

Chapter 1246: Battle Gene Beast Soul

After the silver fox gobbled up and swallowed the hand, nothing much happened. Little Silver shook for a minute, then simply walked over to Han Sen's sleeping quarters and took a nap.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to examine the silver fox's lifeforce after a brief worry that something might have been wrong, but from what he could tell, all was fine.

"Zero, you open the final fruit." Han Sen then pushed the fruit that contained the hammer over to Zero.

Zero accepted it and crushed it, prompting a light to shoot into her head.

It must have been a beast soul, if it could go straight into the Sea of Soul. Han Sen had originally thought the hammer might have been some sort of geno treasure, so this came as a bit of a surprise to him.

Zero then passed the hammer beast soul back to Han Sen.

"Super-class Thunder Hammer [battle gene type] beast soul obtained."

Han Sen had no clue what that was. He had researched many different types of beast souls in the past, but never before had he come across something like this.

Han Sen gave the hammer a better look up-close. It was a fairly plain, blue hammer, that had a symbol of lightning inscribed upon it. The head was a simple square block.

Han Sen sought to summon it, but before he could, another announcement sounded.

“Would you like to absorb the Battle Gene Thunder Hammer?”

This was the first time Han Sen had experienced something like this, so it was quite startling. It made his jaw drop.

He didn't think any harm could come from accepting, so he chose to absorb it.

Then, the Thunder Hammer that resided in his Sea of Soul turned into a lightning bolt. It shot into his body, giving Han Sen an intense electrocution.

The electrical current exhausted quickly, though. It went away as swiftly as it came, but strangely, the hammer was now absent.

Han Sen checked out his body, but nothing appeared to have changed. What's more, he hadn't received the thunder-derived superpowers he expected to have been bestowed upon him.

“How dreadfully dull. What was that thing supposed to do, exactly?” Han Sen mulled to himself, with simmering frustration. So, he tried throwing a punch.

While doing so, Han Sen simulated the silver fox's lightning power. Fortunately, this brought him the answers he sought, for when the whips of lightning manifested, they became a mighty hammer crudely built from thunder. It struck a nearby pillar.

Pang!

The thunder hammer left a giant crater in the sturdy stone, which flickered with a residual pool of electricity.

Han Sen was gobsmacked, witnessing the power of that thump he had delivered unto the pillar.

The pillars of an emperor shelter were incredibly strong, and they could resist most mighty blows. And yet, with a small flick of his wrist, Han Sen had delivered it such extreme damage. It was nearly frightening to comprehend what he could do with some real effort.

For a small punch like the one he had just performed on the pillar, it really put into perspective the power of the beast soul.

And furthermore, Han Sen put no genuine focus on his casting. He didn't even expect the hammer to manifest in the lightning, but it had popped up and walloped the pillar, all the same. This was far greater than any of Han Sen's thunder hyper geno arts, that was for sure.

Wanting to test it out a few more times, Han Sen did. When he got a fairer grasp on it, Han Sen noticed he was able to channel the hammer explicitly when he desired to. The hammer wrought of thunder and lightning could just appear whenever he willed it to. Despite being far easier to use than a hyper geno art, it was far stronger, too.

"Does that mean I have a thunder hyper geno art of sorts, now? I didn't even need to practice it, and yet it is already supremely powerful," Han Sen thought.

Practicing hyper geno arts took a lot of time, and in recent times, he had spent more time researching and practicing hyper geno arts than going out to hunt.

Now, after obtaining this beast soul, it felt as if he didn't need anything else.

But it was a thunder battle gene beast soul, and Han Sen only wished it had matched the elements he favored.

"Where might I find more of these battle gene beast souls, I wonder? If I get a few hundred more of these things, I'll never have to practice hyper geno arts ever again," Han Sen thought to himself.

Of course, he knew that might be impossible. Prior to this discovery, humanity had no records of such a beast soul existing. So, his finding one was a remarkable thing to begin with.

Han Sen was delighted with the Thunder Hammer he had received. It had quickly become his most powerful attack, but he just found it lame that it was associated with the thunder element.

Han Sen's Dongxuan Sutra had hit its seventh tier, but even if he simulated the silver fox's powers, it still wouldn't be as strong as what Little Silver could perform. That put their power gulf in perspective.

"When my Dongxuan Sutra has opened ten gene locks, I will be able to simulate the silver fox's power to their full extent. Then, I will become unstoppable and unfathomably mighty." Han Sen was extremely giddy, developing these thoughts and fantasies.

Han Sen exited the hall, and as he did so, he saw Ghost Eye and Dry Bone King approach.

"Master, we have found a super creature at a nearby lake that is east of here," Dry Bone King reported.

Ghost Eye kept jumping on the spot, performing monkey screams and howls. Han Sen surmised he was trying to tell him that he was the one who had discovered it.

"Well done," Han Sen said to compliment them.

Han Sen had sent them out to find super creatures, despite not expecting there to be any in the surrounding area.

Ghost Eye and Dry Bone King then took Han Sen over to the lake they mentioned. Han Sen wanted to kill the creature in the hopes of obtaining geno points.

By this point, Han Sen was dying to move on to the Fourth God's Sanctuary. There were many reasons, but above all, he sought answers. He knew many of the answers to his burning questions could be found there.

Each member of the Han Sen family shared a similar issue: they always kept their problems to themselves.

To be blunt, they were each stubborn.

Luo Lan and Han Sen's father were like that. It was something Han Sen recognized, despite it being a trait of his own, too. He just didn't realize the same issue applied to him.

Chapter 1247: Shapeshifting Knight

There was a lake before them, one that was illuminated by glowing algae that glinted along the surface. Due to it being dead water, it was too murky to see what lay below.

Han Sen activated his Dongxuan Sutra and scanned the lake. At the center of the lake, he was able to detect something strong. It was almost frighteningly strong.

"What was the super creature you two saw?" Han Sen asked.

Dry Bone King answered, "Let me ask Ghost Eye; the eye of his namesake is better than mine."

Han Sen waited for him to ask Ghost Eye.

After Ghost Eye performed a pointing gesture, Dry Bone King turned back to Han Sen and said, "He described it as being seven meters long. It carried a purple shell on its back. He wasn't entirely sure what it was, but he was clear that it had the power of a super creature."

Han Sen noticed the lake was three miles in length, so drawing something out from the murky pool would be difficult. And if he had to bring the fight to the super creature and battle it in the water, that wouldn't be easy.

Han Sen wished he had brought Water Fairy with him, as that would have made things much easier. But then again, he reassured himself, it was just a super creature. The three of them should be able to sort it out, no problem.

"Dry Bone, use your heartbone. Perhaps your musical talents can scare the fiend into leaving the water," Han Sen said. With the water being as dirty as it was, he did not fancy dipping his toes in it.

"Okay." Then, Dry Bone King pulled out his heart and began to pound it. Shortly after, ripples began to form at the center of the lake.

They waited a bit, but nothing further occurred. So, Dry Bone King got back to playing and went along with a disturbing melody.

The lake continued to quiver, and eventually waves began to form.

Bao'er covered her ears to block out the wretched sound.

The heartbone did not actually hurt Bao'er; she was just a musical aficionado of refined tastes. She thought the music being played was downright diabolical.

Han Sen frowned. Despite the increased number of waves, the super creature was reluctant to exit the lake.

"Don't you have any better songs to play than that?" Han Sen asked.

"Not really. I use it to disturb the lifeforce of my enemies; I didn't invest time in learning any more melodies. It's not like I want my foes to be dancing the mamba," Dry Bone King said.

"I could teach you a thing or two about the musical arts, let me tell you. Look at Bao'er's face; that is the face of a soured critic. How do you expect to draw a super creature out of the lake with that awful tune?" After Han Sen said this, he played a melody he used to like when he was small.

Dry Bone King paid attention and tried to learn the melody Han Sen played for him, then he tried to copy it.

"Dong! Dong! Dong-Dong! Dong! Dong! Dong-Dong!"

Bao'er was slowly able to remove her hands from her ears.

And suddenly, the water at the center of the lake began to whirl. A purple shadow rose amidst the turmoil.

Han Sen squinted and saw that it was a seven-meter-long lobster. It waved its pincers towards the lakeshore crowd.

Bao'er's eyes were wide open, but not in fear or surprise. In fact, she looked hungry. She looked as if she wanted to eat the lobster.

Seeing the lobster come towards them, Han Sen summoned his Disloyal Knight. Han Sen put the Twin Thunder Knight beast soul on Disloyal Knight, and fortunately, it did not seem limited to the thunder element.

Disloyal Knight's body immediately displayed a number of changes. His copper armor turned blue, as did the light of his halo. It was like a neon, fluorescent cyber halo now. Furthermore, the soft image of his halo had changed to look like a circular saw, with jagged edges representing the lightning that now fueled him.

Disloyal Knight used his lightning halo on the lobster, and immediately after, the lobster itself started to turn blue.

It was slower and weaker now, to the point where it was starting to look paralyzed. But it wasn't enough to disable the lobster entirely, as it was still able to leap into the air and attempt to strike Disloyal Knight.

Its pincers were like garden scissors, spreading wide to cut him in two.

Disloyal Knight looked like a rocket immediately after launch. He kicked up a sandstorm behind him as he flew upwards.

Pang!

Disloyal Knight flashed like lightning himself. He soared past the pincers with ease.

Disloyal Knight then returned to pummel the lobster's head numerous times. Lightning began to fizz and crackle against its weakened carapace as the lake-emerged super creature's movements became duller and duller, to the point that it appeared to have passed out. Unable to dodge, all the lobster could do was submit to getting pounded.

With lightning powering his fists, Disloyal Knight punched the lobster over and over without reprieve. The seafood nemesis had no chance of fighting back. In the end, Disloyal Knight was able to break open the entire shell of its head and mangle the brain inside its fleshy scalp.

Han Sen was shocked as he witnessed the scene. He could hardly believe Disloyal Knight was able to do that all by himself.

"Super Creature Lake Lobster killed. No beast soul gained. The flesh of this creature can be consumed, and you may also harvest its Life Geno Essence. Consume its Life Geno Essence to gain zero to ten super geno points randomly."

Han Sen was delighted to hear this announcement.

After combining with Twin Thunder Knight, Disloyal Knight had received a great buff. The effectiveness of his halo, in particular, had increased immensely.

Chapter 1248: Rich

Han Sen tried it, too. If he stood inside the halo, he would receive buffs. The blue lightning enveloped him, increasing his power and speed. Whenever he struck an enemy, they'd become paralyzed.

"That's pretty good!" Han Sen was delighted with the results. Although it wasn't a berserk beast soul, and it hadn't opened its tenth gene lock, Disloyal Knight was far stronger than it used to be. If it consumed more lifedrops and became a berserk beast soul, it'd become as strong as Xie Qing King, Han Sen wagered.

Han Sen summoned Golden Growler and put the lobster on its back. Then, they all returned to the shelter to have themselves a barbecue.

Han Sen washed the lobster out and put the meat on the grill, as Bao'er drooled uncontrollably. When they both sunk their teeth into the tantalizing-looking lobster meat, their faces turned sour as if they had taken a swig of curdled milk. It tasted awful.

But despite the fact that they couldn't enjoy it, all the others considered it a treat. Each and every other super creature had a bite, and they were loving it.

Ghost Eye and Snowball made sure to sit down in front of Han Sen and Bao'er, stuffing their face with the lobster meat. They made squelching noises and let their lips hang to show how much they were enjoying the food, while those two could not.

Han Sen then decided to pick up Bao'er and return to the Alliance.

"Let's go eat some real food. We'll let them enjoy their dog food," Han Sen sternly said.

"We need to eat something much better!" Bao'er affirmed.

"Of course! And for tonight, we're going to dine on the best food money can buy. Order whatever you want, Bao'er, I'm made of money!" Han Sen kindly, albeit boastfully, proclaimed.

"MONEY!" Bao'er shouted in response, raising her fists in the air.

Han Sen drove an aircraft to Roca Planet and went to the most expensive restaurant there. It was called Doria.

"Sir, what would you like to eat, this fine evening?" the waitress asked, while presenting a menu. Even Bao'er was given one.

In this era, where proper labor practically did not exist, having real human staff just went to show how high-class the restaurant was.

"Give me your finest, madam. The best this place can provide, I'll take it!" Han Sen proudly said.

Bao'er, with a more serious tone of voice this time, just shouted, "MONEY!"

The waitress wasn't sure what to respond, as she had never encountered such a peculiar duo before.

But then, someone from behind mocked them out loud by saying, "Has someone just won the lottery, and wants to flaunt his new-found, but bound to be short-lived wealth? Everyone here became rich before you did. Pah! The gall."

Han Sen saw a middle-aged man sitting with a pretty woman. He was well-dressed, but his face left much to be desired. He looked at Han Sen with incredible disdain.

Han Sen frowned. He didn't think they were speaking too loud, and the man obviously had a chip on his shoulder, to pick on total strangers. But Han Sen was the president's son-in-law, and he didn't want to make this a point and embarrass the president by beating him up.

So, Han Sen just picked up the menu and ordered a few portions of the most expensive food that was available.

The man heard what Han Sen ordered and said, "Stop pretending you are rich, dear boy! If you were that noble, go upstairs and eat amongst the nobles, dining on noble food."

Han Sen frowned, hearing that voice again. He came here to spend a night relaxing in the comfort of fine dining. He hadn't expected that someone so wretchedly annoying would choose to pester him all evening.

Bao'er didn't want to hold back her hatred of the man, though. The fire of murder blazed in her eyes, and she was now clutching her gourd. It was evident she did not like people bullying or complaining to Han Sen, and so she wanted to absorb the man.

Han Sen noticed what she was going to do. With a racing heart, he had made sure to stop her. If something like that occurred, the Alliance would be thrown into shock and turmoil; particularly so, given Bao'er's origin.

When the waitress was about to confirm the order, an old man approached Han Sen.

"Manager?" The waitress thought she had done something wrong, and that was why he had stepped forward.

The wages for Doria employees were incredibly high, and she was given complimentary flesh in the First God's Sanctuary. The last thing she wanted was the loss of her job.

The old man smiled at the waitress and signaled for her to step back for a bit. Then, the manager turned to Han Sen and bowed. He said, "Dear Mister Han, we have prepared the top-floor garden exclusively for you. Chef Shirley will prepare the food for you, and only you. You will be given her undivided attention."

A profound silence fell over the restaurant as everyone turned to look at them in shock.

No one could buy their way into the garden, but it provided unparalleled views of the city. Not even Sacred-Blood Aristocrats could get a seat there. And the last person who was able to get Chef Shirley to prepare their food was Jiang Bichen.

Everyone looked at Han Sen in awe. They were in disbelief, seeing Doria provide such a worthy offering.

When a few people recognized Han Sen for he was, one of them proclaimed, "It's Han Sen! That's our first Super Aristocrat."

Han Sen picked up Bao'er and followed after the manager. He did not want to revel in the limelight and remain the focus of everyone's attention.

The man who had mocked Han Sen was glum, and a dire look had fallen upon his face. He rushed out of the restaurant without even finishing his meal.

Han Sen took Bao'er to the top floor, and there, he saw a beautiful woman in the kitchen.

"It's you!" Han Sen was shocked when he saw the woman.

Chapter 1249: Pretty Chef's Request

"What would you like to eat?" The beautiful chef smiled with a warmth that could melt ice.

"We'll eat whatever you recommend." Han Sen proceeded to sit down with Bao'er near the kitchen.

It was difficult for Han Sen to believe Xue Feiyan was a chef.

Han Sen couldn't help but wonder to himself, "Is the food she makes actually edible? I hope it doesn't arrive cold."

Han Sen wouldn't be surprised if she served a heaping bowl of human flesh, quite frankly.

But since he was there, and he had been treated so well by the restaurant, he wasn't quite willing to run for the door just yet. He was going to stay and witness whatever she decided to prepare.

Xue Feiyan did not talk much. She went straight into preparing food, and as Han Sen watched her operate, he couldn't help but be impressed by her chopping skills. There was an artistic quality to the way she wielded her knives.

The grill was hot, and as the food sizzled atop it, a delectable aroma wafted out of the kitchen to tantalize the noses of the eager diners. Han Sen and Bao'er actually found themselves rather excited, and they stared at the cooking meat with wide eyes.

Professional chefs really were in a league of their own, and Xue Feiyan's skills in the kitchen far exceeded Han Sen's.

After the food was served, Bao'er ate what was on her plate like a ravenous pig. Her chubby face was smeared with grease.

If this was an all-you-could-eat buffet, Han Sen wagered Bao'er would end up emptying the pantry.

"I did not expect you to be able to cook so well. I appreciate your grace, hospitality, and excellent service," Han Sen praised her, as he prepared to pay.

Xue Feiyan smiled in return and said, "There is no need for you to pay. But might I confess a problem I have? Perhaps you could help me with it."

"What is it? If it's a reasonable request, I can certainly be of service," Han Sen said.

Xue Feiyan placed her hat down on a table and then took off her uniform. Then, she went to sit down near Han Sen.

Xue Feiyan maintained her professional image, for when she removed her uniform, her body was revealed to be fitted with a tight white dress that delicately cradled her every curve.

“If you can’t do this for me, then I deem the deed impossible,” Xue Feiyan said.

“Okay, go on.” Han Sen was delighted she was willing to request his assistance, and what’s more, it seemed as if she was confiding in him something personal. She seemed to have difficulty mustering the courage to tell him what issue plagued her mind.

Xue Feiyan said, “I have actually been here for several months. Every night, I wait in the hope that I can see you. Two of my family members have found themselves trapped in the Third God’s Sanctuary. They are in the Thunder Hell Faction. If you can rescue them, we will pay you handsomely.”

“Where are they, exactly?” Han Sen asked.

“It is a king-class shelter called Blood River Shelter,” Xue Feiyan explained.

Han Sen said, “If news of them being trapped has reached you, I doubt they are in any immediate danger. I’ll check the place out, regardless. Then, after some reconnaissance, I’ll tell you what I can do.”

“Thank you. And believe me, you have our full support. Now and forever!” Xue Feiyan said, in praise.

Before they left the restaurant, Xue Feiyan provided Bao’er with a lot of different desserts for the road.

Han Sen thought about Blood River Shelter for quite a while. He had always wanted to take down a king-class shelter, anyway. Han Sen could not take on emperor shelters reliably, but he could most certainly assault a king-class shelter.

After all, he now had the silver fox back. It even had its tenth gene lock open. This could be a great opportunity for him to collect a few more Life Geno Essences.

Xue Feiyan provided Han Sen with the location of where he needed to go, and indeed, he fancied heading out there to see what was what.

When he arrived home from the restaurant, he teleported back to the sanctuary. There, he took Bao’er and went towards the shelter Xue Feiyan had told him about.

With the silver fox and everyone else back protecting Thunder Hell Shelter, even if Saint Fan decided to show, he could return quickly.

Since Thunder Hell Shelter wasn’t a mobile shelter, though, it had to remain there and thus, remain guarded.

Without a shelter, the plants would dry, and Han Sen needed waterdrops. The more super beast souls Han Sen collected, the more waterdrops he would need to make them berserk, after all.

Because this place was in the Thunder Hell Faction, the super creatures and king spirits had all taken flight. After half a day of travel, Han Sen saw a red river running to the east of him. It was wide like a sea.

Han Sen frowned. He had been told Blood River Shelter resided on an island in the middle of that same river.

He didn't expect the river to be so wide, though, and even from where he was standing, he could sense a wretched presence residing there across the water.

Han Sen didn't take a straight road to where he was supposed to be going. Instead, he decided to go to where the Xue family members had been spotted. He wondered if he'd be able to confirm their current condition from that same place.

After a while, Han Sen saw three peaks in the distance. Strangely, they looked like steamed buns.

He found a green field to rest in for a while. The two Xue family members were supposed to be on patrol, and they would pass through there.

Chapter 1250: Too Powerful

Bao'er sat on the grass drinking milk. She was a few years old by now, but her appearance hadn't changed at all.

Han Sen did not know whether she was simply slow to develop, or if she'd be like this forever. Regardless of what her circumstances were, he was determined to take care of her.

Han Sen was going to wait until dark. If the two people he expected to see did not arrive, he'd attempt to sneak into the shelter with the Night Cloak.

Within the hour, though, Han Sen noticed a ship approaching the shore from across the river. He stood up to take a better look. It was white, and it moved incredibly quickly.

When the ship neared, though, Han Sen's face changed and he looked ill.

The ship was made out of bone. It had a bone mast, and the sails had been crafted from animal hides. Of course, such a ghastly ship wouldn't scare Han Sen. He had encountered far more nerve-wracking horrors in his time.

What most rattled Han Sen about this scene, however, was the presence of a human at the front of the ship. At the bow of the ship stood a cross, and there was a man crucified upon it.

The man seemed to be of old age, although his treatment had undoubtedly made him seem more withered than he might have actually been. He had been stripped naked and pinned to the cross.

He was fastened to the cross by thick, crude nails that had also been forged from bone. They had been driven deep into his arms and feet. The old man looked to be in great agony, but he knew moving would only incite more pain. Thus, he moaned softly, but he remained still.

Blood ran down his body and the cross like monstrous veins. Han Sen thought he was having a sneak peek at the gallows in hell.

Han Sen knew many humans were suffering in the Third God's Sanctuary, and their numbers might even outweigh the amount of those who were happy and in good condition. But this was a cold reminder of reality. This savagery had become just a simple fact of existence there, and now it had been reinvigorated and put on display in front of Han Sen. It made him angry, and it was fanned by the flames of frustration, knowing there was nothing he could do right now to help the man.

Han Sen gritted his teeth and swallowed the bitter pill of knowing he could not be of aid.

He couldn't risk exposing his presence there, and even if he did try to save the old man, any enemies that might have been on-board could kill the man and prevent Han Sen from getting what he wanted.

Furthermore, if Han Sen was unable to remove the contract that bound the man, even after a successful rescue, he'd be killed before Han Sen could return him to the Alliance.

The old man then saw Han Sen, and after, the boat steered in his direction. It was as if the boat was obeying some manner of mind-control.

The old man looked to be in pain and said, "Young Man, do you hail from another shelter?!"

"Yes," Han Sen said.

The old man looked happy, and the faint presence of a smile crept courageously back onto his face. He asked, "Are you free? Can you return to the Alliance?"

Han Sen nodded and said, "Yes, I can go back. What is your name?"

Seeing that old man, Han Sen was really reminded of how lucky he was to be free in the Third God's Sanctuary.

The old man replied, "My name is Xue Yucheng; can you take a message to the Xue family for me?"

"Okay," Han Sen answered.

"Please, tell them to hurry here quickly." Xue Yucheng still looked to be in a lot of pain, and his words trembled out of his lips as he spoke.

Xue Yucheng went on to say, "Xue Chen is still trapped in Blood River Shelter. They need to find him, because our stuff is in his hands."

Han Sen thought he had been asked to save two family members, but with what he had just been told, it seemed as if there was an important item the family wanted to have returned.

“Okay, and what is all this? Why have you been... put on display like this?” Han Sen asked.

Xue Yucheng said, “This boat can patrol the river. In order to operate, it requires a driver. I am its captain.”

“You drive it like this?” Han Sen frowned.

Xue Yucheng sighed and answered, “A powerful spirit or people who have been given the authority are the only ones who can drive it. I am a weak human, lacking the trust of spirits. This is the only way I am able to drive it. I am doing this in the hopes I can send a message home.”

Han Sen felt so angry, learning that the spirits did not trust him. Because of that, the man had to operate the boat in constant agony.

Han Sen knew humans were the weakest in the Third God’s Sanctuary, but he was still mad over their unfair mistreatment at every corner.

“You have to take this message home. The Xue family will reward you handsomely. Now go. Go before the creatures notice you.” Xue Yucheng steered the boat around, ready to leave.

“Hang on; can you tell me how many king spirits and super creatures reside in that shelter?” Han Sen asked.

Xue Yucheng responded, “There are two king spirits. One is Blood River King, the other is Yaksha. There are seven super creatures residing there, also. Tell my family to come, reclaim the stuff, and go.”

Han Sen was shocked. The last time he saw Yaksha had been during Xiang Yin’s ascension.

“Nice. That’s one loose-end that needed tying up a long time ago. I can only hope his spirit stone is here, as well,” Han Sen thought to himself.

“Do you know how powerful they are?” Han Sen asked.

Xue Yucheng replied, “It does not matter. Fighting them would be a futile endeavor.”

After that, Xue Yucheng drove the boat away. As he sailed across the red water, Han Sen heard him whimpering and moaning in pain.

Chapter 1251: Calculation

Han Sen shouted, “Don’t go yet! I am going to take down Blood River Shelter and save you all!”

Xue Yucheng heard him say this and said, “You have no idea how powerful a king-class shelter is. Simply sending a message will do.”

After that, he continued driving the boat away.

Han Sen did not blame him for thinking this way. He might not have even heard of Han Sen, and it was highly unlikely he had learned that Han Sen had taken down an emperor shelter.

Han Sen remained in that place and waited for nightfall. Then, he donned the Night Cloak to sneak into the shelter.

Han Sen had an advantage for now, but if he called for his companions to come, he'd lose it. Furthermore, he'd be risking the loss of Thunder Hell Shelter.

And if Saint Fan had been biding his time, waiting for the moment Han Sen left the shelter unguarded, he could take over and ruin the teleporter inside. If that occurred, the shelter would indeed be rendered useless.

Han Sen planned to observe the goings-on of Blood River Shelter for a bit and come up with a viable plan of attack.

If he could one-hit-kill Blood River King, that would be wonderful.

Han Sen snuck to the island as unnoticeably as he could. The river was a few hundred miles wide, and the island itself was rather large. The castle there was not all that different from Devil's Nest.

Near the river, Han Sen saw a giant tentacle making waves.

Han Sen was not sure what it was, but it had to be around fifty meters long. The tentacle came out from the water and kept patting and splashing the surface of the river.

Inside the shelter, there were many strange fish with legs. Their mouths were filled with crocodile-like teeth, too. Luckily, Han Sen had the Night Cloak to shield him from their vision. Then, not long after, Han Sen felt the presence of a familiar lifeforce nearby.

"Yaksha." Han Sen saw two people walking through the castle's garden; one of them was Yaksha.

It had been a while since Han Sen last saw him, and he clearly hadn't been idle in the time since. He was now much stronger, and he'd be a far more formidable foe this time.

Yaksha was one of the eight generals and had been, once upon a time, at the same level of strength as Xiang Yin and Sky King. It was only a matter of time before he recovered, and if he recovered any further, defeating him would be far more difficult.

Besides Yaksha, there was a king spirit. He was clad in red armor. He had a red cloak, and two swords crossed behind his back.

"That must be Blood River King," Han Sen thought to himself.

"I hope you can give me an answer. If you let this opportunity to pass you by, it may be tens of thousands of years before you get another," Yaksha said.

Han Sen leaned closer in an attempt to hear what the two were discussing.

Blood River King said, "Emperor treasures are good, but that vine has no difficulty eating berserk super creatures on a whim. Even with our spirit stones intact, 'tis a dangerous venture to consider."

Yaksha said, "I am well aware of how powerful the Aqua Vine is, but we can just go there to steal the kill."

"What do you mean?" Blood River King asked, with visible surprise.

"Do you know the flying dragon fish?" Yaksha asked.

Blood River King said, "You mean, the flying dragon fish that has opened ten gene locks in the Empty River?"

"Yes, it has ten gene locks open. And what's more, it can go past the Ten Steps of the Holy Door. It can go there, but it is intent on searching for the Aqua Vine. If it ate the Aqua Fruit, it could become a demi-god, no problem."

"You mean..." Blood River King began.

Yaksha said, "We have to wait until they are both injured. We can get the fruit without issue. And if we play our cards right, we might also get the fish."

"If this is as easy as you say it is, why do you implore my assistance with this? Why do you want me to join you so badly?" Blood River King wasn't entirely trusting.

Yaksha said, "The Aqua Vine can restrict my powers. And it can self-destruct before anyone gets what it holds. But you, you are fueled by the element of blood. You might be able to pick them up."

Yaksha also went on to say, "There are seven Aqua Fruits for the taking. If you grab them all, I'll keep two. If you obtain fewer than four, I'll have one."

"We can give it a try. But when will the dragon fish be back on the move?" Blood River King said.

Yaksha smiled and said, "I know the answer to that. If you are truly interested, come with me."

Yaksha did not tell him the exact time, as he was worried Blood River King might abandon him.

Han Sen thought to himself, "Are they talking about the lantern fish and the purple vine? This is great!"

The vine on the peak had almost killed the lantern fish. And what's more, the fruit or treasure that might have been up there was of great interest to him.

Chapter 1252: Broken Flagon

Han Sen listened for a while longer, but there was nothing more useful he could learn. As for the shelter, he decided to delay his attack on it for the time being.

Han Sen was going to wait for Yaksha and Blood River King to take the vine. At that point, he would either attack the shelter or try to claim the fruit. There were two choices, and Han Sen still had to weight the pros and cons of each.

Han Sen poked around the shelter for a bit, wanting to get a look at the super creatures that inhabited it.

Although it was not an emperor shelter, Han Sen knew he should still maintain caution and not be so foolish as to underestimate the threat of those that resided inside the shelter.

Han Sen walked towards a tree and saw a human pouring the blood-like water of the river on it. Seeing his skin, Han Sen knew he was one of the Xue family members with the incorrect learning of Jadeskin.

“That one must be Xue Chen. I wonder what he possesses that is so important,” Han Sen wondered to himself what it might be.

Han Sen used the Night Cloak to enter the shelter, and as much as he would have liked to ask him, he knew he couldn’t risk doing so. It could jeopardize the lives of the two and blow his cover. So, Han Sen found out where he lived and then decided to leave the shelter.

Even if Han Sen did go and meet him, he didn’t think the man would give him whatever he was holding onto. So Han Sen returned to the riverside and looked for a cave he could camp out in for a few days. When the time was right, he’d go out and take the vine for himself.

There were loads of mountains around, and when he found a cave, he brought Bao’er in with him. Even if there were creatures inside, Han Sen could defeat them with ease and not bring awareness to his presence there.

The cave was very dry, though, and neither was there any discernible odor. That told them it was creature-free, and as a result, hassle-free. The cave was only sixty meters deep, and the only exit was the one they had used to enter.

Strangely, however, Han Sen did find something there. Despite there being no telltale signs of a nearby creature, or one that had paid a recent visit, there was a bird’s nest that had been crudely built from wood. The egg inside looked rather like a goose’s egg.

The nest looked old, though, and the egg was caked in a layer of dust that obscured its true color.

“Bao’er, we’re in luck!” Han Sen grabbed the egg and examined it.

Holding it in his hands, he thought it must have weighed around a kilogram.

Han Sen gave it a scan, but he could not sense the presence of a life force within. Han Sen wondered to himself, “Is this a rotten egg?”

After wiping the dust away, he noticed the egg was red. What's more, it was decorated with a number of symbols.

The symbols were similar to waves, and not unlike a representation of the Blood River.

"Meh, I'll cook it first, anyway." Han Sen brought his cooking tools and utensils out of the Cruel Bottle. He decided to boil the egg in hot water. Perhaps it was because it had no life force, but Bao'er showed no interest in the egg. Instead, she just grabbed her jerky and snacks to munch on.

Han Sen grabbed his flagon and started to drink near Bao'er.

Since they were in a remote location, and Han Sen had hidden their presence there, he didn't think anyone would come poking about.

The best thing about the Cruel Bottle, he had recently discovered, was not the fact you could hide creatures and spirits within. No, it was the fact he could store tools and utensils. It sure helped lessen his load.

"Cheers, Dad!" Bao'er used her milk to raise a toast.

"Cheers!" Just as Han Sen was about to drink from his flagon, its bottom collapsed. The drink that was within all fell out and soaked his clothing.

Han Sen was shocked, and his first reaction was to look around for a potential troublemaker. But he could not detect anyone or anything nearby.

Han Sen saw a gaping hole in the bottom of his flagon, and its bottom looked as if it had been cut out perfectly.

Tang Zhenliu gave him this flagon, and he told Han Sen it had been crafted by a master craftsman. It was the work of a legend, and it had been forged from z-steel. It was supposedly one seamless item.

"He must have gotten tricked! This thing isn't seamless, and now his foolishness has had me waste all my drink. My wife gave me this!" Han Sen's mind was in a bit of a state.

Han Sen was willing to lick the drink from the floor, but he held off from doing that for now. The thought of an enemy nearby hadn't completely escaped him, so he had to stay on his toes and remain wary.

Han Sen put the flagon back and pulled out the whole bottle. Fortunately, the drink was not strong, and it could help keep one's eyes open.

Pang!

Before the bottle reached his mouth, the bottom of the bottle also broke.

But he wasn't going to waste the drink this time, so he quickly pulled the bottle up and positioned his mouth below, so it'd all spray into his mouth.

Han Sen quickly looked around, to try to confirm if there was trouble afoot.

It couldn't be a coincidence that this had occurred twice in a row, so Han Sen decided to check out the surrounding vicinity again.

The water was boiling by this point, and the egg was still intact amidst the bubbling water. It still looked as dead as ever, too.

"Was that just a coincidence? If so, that's a bad sign." Han Sen was not superstitious, but this sure made him think twice.

He returned to the fireside and brought out another drink. As he held it in his hands, he stared at the egg. The egg looked fine, but Han Sen knew nothing was ever so straightforward. He had to be sure.

As Han Sen continued to stare at the egg, he brought the drink to his mouth.

Chapter 1253: The Egg That Loves to Drink

Pang!

The bottom of the bottle broke again.

This time, Han Sen had been staring at the red egg that was still inside the pot.

He couldn't sense a life force within the egg, but the moment the bottle shattered, Han Sen saw a light swiftly beam out from it.

Han Sen was shocked. His Dongxuan Sutra was stronger than ever, but it hadn't been able to sense anything. His plain old eyesight, however, could.

"Must I suffer trouble even if all I want to do is boil an egg?!" Han Sen mused as he eyed the egg with a soured look.

"Something is wrong." Han Sen then realized that the drink that had been spilt on the floor was missing. The cave wasn't particularly warm, so it didn't make sense for the ground to have dried up already.

As Han Sen frowned, he suddenly smelled the scent of alcohol.

Because the bottle broke, Han Sen hadn't taken immediate notice. The fragrance he detected now was coming from the bubbling pot.

"Is this thing boiling itself with alcohol?" Han Sen wasn't quite sure what to think.

The egg was strange, that much was certain, but Han Sen was not worried about the mischief it was causing. Even if it turned out to be a hostile super creature, he knew he could take it down.

Han Sen had Disloyal Knight and Little Angel by his side, so slaying a super creature would be a trivial task.

The egg showed no more activity in the pot, but that scent of alcohol was unmistakable. Han Sen turned to take a look at Bao'er on her airbed, but she was still merrily drinking from her bottle of milk.

"It looks like the egg's not interested in breaking bottles. Maybe it really is just fond of going after alcohol." Han Sen grabbed himself another drink.

This time, Han Sen poured it into the pot.

After doing this, the symbols on the egg began to glow brighter. It seemed as if something would soon hatch. But still, Han Sen could not detect a life force. And if he didn't know any better, he'd still believe the egg to be dead.

"Strange." Han Sen had a lot of confidence in his Dongxuan Sutra, so this puzzle was perplexing to him.

It might make sense if an emperor was masking its presence and avoiding detection of the Dongxuan Sutra, but this was just an unborn creature egg. Not even berserk super creatures could avoid his detection.

"I need to find out what you are, you little blighter." Han Sen grabbed a few more bottles and emptied their contents into the boiling pot.

He would be better off if the creature was born, Han Sen believed. If he could then kill it for a Life Geno Essence, he could nab a few more super geno points.

So, Han Sen wanted to see what was inside it.

Han Sen summoned Disloyal Knight and Little Angel, and then the three of them all stared at the egg intensely.

Something strange was going on, that much was for sure. But all of a sudden, the red color of the egg vanished, and only the pure, clean color of white remained. Strangely, though, it almost looked like it was bleeding. The color red was returning slowly.

The white egg began to run red, but the red only appeared around the strange symbols. Against the plain white, the color red now really stood out.

Han Sen knelt closer, wanting to get a better look at the egg in the water. Regardless of what was inside, Han Sen was determined to kill and eat the creature.

Katcha!

A lot of small cracks began to form across the white of the egg, and they were spreading quickly. It wouldn't be long before its entire surface was webbed. But strangely, the area of the symbol with waves was completely free of these cracks.

Han Sen pulled out Taia and Phoenix Sword. Then, he summoned the Ancient Devil Soldier beast soul, which granted him his devilish horns and wings. Little Angel clasped her Angel Sword, while Disloyal Knight shone with a blue light that illuminated the entire cave.

They all stared at the egg intensely, ready to kill it the moment the residing creature was born.

The alcohol and water mixture was still bubbling and boiling, and Han Sen thought that if a chicken emerged, it'd taste delicious.

Katcha!

The egg cracked even more now, and its surface was nothing but a webwork of crevices. Even the red portion of the egg was cracking now.

The red areas were beginning to peel and fall into the pot like thin strawberry flakes. The red part only covered thirty percent of the egg, so Han Sen still had trouble trying to determine what was within.

He tried scanning the egg again, and weirdly, he could still not ascertain what the creature was or what it was going to be.

Katcha!

The rest of the egg broke. The entire egg began to fall away and collapse like a jigsaw puzzle, leaving something behind.

Han Sen saw it, and all he could ask himself was, "Why in the sanctuaries would something like this be inside an egg?"

Han Sen had seen many strange things in his time in the sanctuaries, but this was most certainly winning the award for the strangest thing to emerge from an egg.

Chapter 1254: Jue

Inside the pot, amidst the broken shell, was a bronze goblet: a jue.

The surface of the jue was decorated with an array of beautiful engravings and symbols. It was filled to the brim with an alcohol that looked like warm, red wine. The jue was submerged in the water of the pot, but the water did not mix with the red concoction inside the jue. It remained separate.

Han Sen had initially wanted to eat the egg, but he did not expect that this would emerge from it. The jue did not have a lifeforce, and it was more akin to a physical item than a creature.

Han Sen stared at it. All he knew was that it was a goblet or vessel for pouring alcohol, and that some people said it could be used for rituals of sorts. Aside from that, Han Sen didn't know much about what it was, exactly. It looked like an ancient jue, from time immemorial, due to it being perched on a small tripod.

Han Sen couldn't believe it that the egg had contained a jue.

It didn't move while in the pot. It remained where it was like an inanimate object, as the water around it continued to boil and vaporize.

Not long after, the last of the water boiled off. The red liquid remained where it was in the jue, having not been disturbed by the water one bit. No matter how hot it had gotten, or how wild the water of the pot had bubbled, the substance inside was fine.

The pot was now completely dry, and the jue remained exactly the same as it had been.

Han Sen gave the alcohol inside the jue a good sniff, and he was taken aback by how pleasant its fragrance was. He wasn't much of a drinker, but he most certainly wanted to partake in that drink.

The jue creeped him out, though. And he wasn't so silly as to start drinking without knowing any better.

Bao'er was different, however. She had finally shown some interest in the contents of the egg, and after crawling over to the jue, she reached in and grabbed it.

"Careful." Han Sen still didn't know what was inside the jue, and if the beverage inside was poison, it would be a poor decision to drink it.

Han Sen wanted to take the jue away from Bao'er, just in case, but before he could reach for it, she drank it all.

"Bao'er, are you okay?" Han Sen asked with concern, finally pulling the jue away from her.

Bao'er's face looked red and flushed, as if she was drunk.

Han Sen examined her a little closer. She was indeed drunk, but that aside, she did not look at all harmed. The contents of the jue seemed to have caused no damage.

Han Sen held the jue in front of him, waiting for it to move or at least do something. Unfortunately, nothing occurred.

The pot was burning hot, being atop the fire for so long, but the jue was surprisingly cool to the touch.

"It has no lifeforce, and it isn't aggressive. It doesn't do anything. Did this thing really come out of that egg?" Han Sen couldn't imagine a Mama or Papa Jue producing Baby Jue eggs.

But still, there was a prevailing absence of danger. Bao'er continued to appear unaffected and just went to sleep, drunk.

She didn't wake up until half a day later.

"Are you okay?" Han Sen asked.

"I'm fine." Bao'er looked to the jue that was still in Han Sen's hand and said, "I want more of that drink."

“This sort of drink is reserved only for adults. Children can’t drink alcohol,” Han Sen explained.

It seemed as if the alcohol had special properties he himself was keen to explore. He was indeed quite curious regarding its origins.

Han Sen remained there for many days, watching the jue intently. He wasn’t missing anything, though, as he had repeatedly checked on the whereabouts of Yaksha and Blood River King. They were still inside Blood River Shelter.

Three days later, Han Sen’s curiosity got the better of him. He grabbed a bottle of alcohol and poured it into the jue. The alcohol originally looked white, but it turned the sickly color of blood upon entering.

The jue smelled so very strong, and the scent was heavier than any white wine he had ever known. It prompted Han Sen’s saliva to go renegade.

Bao’er tried her best to grab the jue that was held out of the reach of her arms, so Han Sen pulled her by the clothes and lifted her up.

As Bao’er was in the air, her arms flailed in the direction of the jue. She was desperate for more.

“You’re just a kid. Let me drink it first.” Han Sen picked up the jue.

Han Sen enjoyed another hearty waft of its fragrance, loving it. Han Sen now knew the red wine was not harmful, so he had no qualms with drinking it.

Han Sen felt a sensational warmth descend his throat. The pores on his skin felt rejuvenated, as if he had just stepped out of a hot spring.

“That’s a nice drink.” Han Sen did not know much about alcohol, but he knew this was a belter. Han Sen licked his lips, having enjoyed every last drop.

As Han Sen reflected on the mesmerizing flavor he had just experienced, an announcement suddenly played.

“The sacrificial wine has been consumed. The sacrificial ritual now begins.”

“What?” Han Sen noticed his body begin to flare up with a red color.

He saw an array of symbols get etched across his body, not too unlike the jue. Then, the entire cave turned red. Han Sen did not know why nothing occurred when Bao’er drank it, but something bad seemed to be happening with him.

And amidst all this, he looked at Bao’er who was still in his arms and noticed how she was still perfectly fine.

Boom!

Most of Han Sen’s body was set ablaze as the red symbols branded themselves across his skin.

Chapter 1255: Three Statues

Blood River King stood at the tallest rampart of the castle, overlooking the river.

The Blood River ran fast, and the banks sometimes burst, but flooding had never been this bad before. Much of the shelter had been submerged.

“My King, does the river always behave this way?” Yaksha asked, as he approached and also looked out over the river.

There had been no rain, so it was a most peculiar phenomenon, witnessing the river flow at an increased pace and volume to such a degree.

Blood River King shook his head and confirmed, “I have been here for fifty thousand years. Never once have I seen the river behave this way. But...”

“But what?” Yaksha asked.

Blood River King explained, “Before I first arrived here, a berserk super creature roamed beneath the waters of the Blood River. He was the leader of this place, and it was said that whenever he desired to eat, the river would flood and allow it to swim above land to eat its fill. When its hunger was satiated, the waters of the river would quell.”

“And where is this beast now?” Yaksha asked.

“It went to the Fourth God’s Sanctuary. That... was a long time ago. Truth be told, I wouldn’t be here, had it not been for its ascension. I was fortunate enough to enter these lands after it had moved on,” Blood River King admitted.

“Weird. If it rises randomly like this, something ill must be afoot. Do you know if the creature had any kids?” Yaksha wondered.

“Not to my knowledge, but it is not out of the question. Perhaps we can search for it,” Blood River King summoned the tentacle monster, bidding it to go out and look for another possible creature in the waters.

After some time had elapsed, there had been no reports of such a creature existing. Nothing had been found, and the mystery of the rising river saw no elucidation.

The river now submerged Han Sen’s cave entirely, but strangely, no water entered the stone pocket.

Han Sen looked all around him before recentering his vision on the jue. After drinking the wine, Han Sen’s body was dotted with peculiar symbols that were on fire.

The fires eventually departed his body, floating through the air towards the jue. Then, Han Sen’s body returned to normal.

The jue for the wine was now like a lit oil lantern.

But the flames within did not illuminate the cavern, and a greater darkness intruded. Beyond three feet in front of him, he could not see a thing.

Han Sen held Bao'er and checked himself for any further changes. Aside from his own life force appearing a little weaker, there did not seem to be any alarming changes.

The jue suddenly moved in another direction.

Han Sen swiftly followed after it. Away from the jue, there was only darkness, so he kept close to it. And out in the darkness, Han Sen could not escape the nagging feeling that someone was watching him.

Han Sen did not fancy remaining in that darkness, so he made sure to keep close and follow the floating jue.

Bao'er's hands clutched Han Sen's neck tightly, for she was deeply afraid of the dark.

The jue continued its airborne flight, and although he felt compelled to follow, Han Sen found it a touch suspicious. He remained alert and ready for anything hostile that came his way.

Han Sen recalled the directions he was going should have led him to a dead end by now, for there was nothing special in that cave. But weirdly, they were able to keep on walking.

And after miles of walking, they went on and on. There weren't any walls around them either, or so it felt.

The sense that someone was watching him heightened, but he could still tell that it was just him being paranoid. There was nothing actually there.

Eventually, after much walking, an exit could be seen far ahead in the dark distance. It was like a sole beacon, a sole puncture of light.

As Han Sen got closer, he was indeed able to confirm that it was an exit.

The exit was dead ahead, but Han Sen could not make out what lay beyond the blinding light. The moment he stepped out, though, all became clear.

Bao'er looked around in amazement.

They were underwater, and as Han Sen reached his arms out to touch the water, his hands felt soothing coolness.

The water had formed a dome, leaving the area inside completely dry,

It was like an invisible wall was separating them from the water. In that place, there was a circular altar made of stone.

There were three different statues on the altar, too. They represented the same thing, but all had differences to differentiate them from each other.

The left statue looked like a mermaid. The statue on the right was a reverse mermaid. The middle statue was the creepiest, depicting a human covered in patches of scales.

The jué went to the left statue and lit it up.

Within that flame, the statue opened its eyes with a frighteningly powerful aura.

Han Sen frowned. The mermaid statue was alive. It slid down the altar with its scaled lower body.

The red-haired mermaid formed her lips into an “O,” forming a number of bubbles that drifted over to Han Sen.

Han Sen summoned Disloyal Knight and Little Angel, and then, Disloyal Knight covered everything in the vicinity with blue lightning.

Boom!

Disloyal Knight leapt forward and punched the red bubble that was nearest to Han Sen.

Chapter 1256: Blood River King's Battle Geno Essence

The bubble burst and sprayed Disloyal Knight with blood-colored water.

His blue armor was dyed red, and as much he wanted to continue breaking the rest of the bubbles that were bearing down on Han Sen, he could no longer move.

He had been glued to the ground, with that bloodwater acting as some form of super-adhesive gel.

Disloyal Knight's feet were locked in place. He struggled to move, but he might as well have been nailed down. He was completely stuck in place.

Disloyal Knight tried to jump, and he seemed to get free for a moment, but the substance was like supremely elastic gum. After ascending a height of a few meters, the gel yanked him back.

Pang!

Disloyal Knight hit the ground with a snap, courtesy of the gum that had bested him. The glue was now all over his body, and he was down on the ground like a slinking gecko.

Disloyal Knight continued to struggle, but it was all to no avail.

Seeing the bubbles, and what they were capable of, Han Sen commanded Little Angel to fall back. But their numbers were many, and they were quickly filling up their stadium of battle.

Han Sen brought out his Phoenix Sword and Taia. He struck one bubble, unleashing the flood of red water.

Of course, he now knew what to expect. So, immediately after it burst, he evaded the sticky spillage. Unfortunately, his Phoenix Sword had gotten some on it.

Han Sen pulled out a cloth and tried wiping it clean, but that did not help. As soon as he applied the cloth, the cloth became stuck and was unable to be removed.

“If I introduce this stuff to the Alliance, all the smithies will be out of jobs. Who needs soldering when you can just use this as a dip?” Han Sen mused.

He was not worried, though. He shapeshifted into a gold raven.

Han Sen opened his mouth and retaliated with an attack of his own. He spat fire across the arena to counter the bubbles and pop them from a distance.

Han Sen knew water was weak to fire, but he didn't expect this move to be that useful.

Han Sen breathed fire across Disloyal Knight and his Phoenix Sword, and suddenly, both of them were free, sharp, and battle-able once more.

The mermaid was still firing bubbles towards Han Sen. To get her to stop, he flew directly towards her.

The bubbles were of no threat to Han Sen and his Blood-Pulse Sutra which had opened nine gene locks. When they came into contact with the raging fires that cloaked Han Sen's burning assault, the bubbles evaporated into nothing but steam.

Katcha!

The gold raven struck the head of the mermaid, causing the entire statue to shatter. However, it wasn't a super creature as Han Sen expected it to be, for he received no announcement of its felling.

But in the statue, there was a red gemstone that looked rather like a Life Geno Essence.

Han Sen took it and noticed the presence of a mermaid swirling inside it.

“Obtained Blood River King's Battle Geno Essence.”

Now Han Sen heard an announcement play.

As much as he wanted to inspect the item, he didn't quite have the time to do so. The jue flew over to the right statue, inciting the reverse maid to come to life. More action would inevitably unfold.

The legs of this being were encircled with wild waves of bloodwater, and it threw a kick towards Han Sen. Han Sen flapped his wings and soared forward to meet the incoming tide head-on.

When the waves tapped Han Sen's infernal fires, the substance became steam.

Katcha!

Little Angel flew past the monster and sliced its head clean off. The fish monster shattered like the mermaid had, and it too possessed a gem for the taking.

Han Sen picked it up and saw the image of that very same monster inside it.

“Obtained Blood River King’s Battle Geno Essence.”

“Why are these both here? Why are they achievable in the same manner? Are they Blood River Kings?” Han Sen found himself shocked at the implication.

The jue then flew towards the middle statue, prompting the fishman to come to life like the other two had. Strangely, it did not leap into battle. It stood where it was, staring at Han Sen.

Han Sen thought it was going to speak, but it eventually raised its arms and formed an orb of water between its hands.

The water continued to gather and build, but reached its maximum size fairly swiftly. The arms remained raised, however, as another facet of it began to increase. The power and lifeforce of the water was still growing.

“Kill him!” Whatever the fishman was doing, it was similar to Saving Money. Therefore, Han Sen was quick to realize what was happening. If the fishy fiend maximized its power output, Han Sen didn’t think he’d have what it took to block the attack.

The three of them launched themselves forward, trying to reach the altar so they could kill the enemy. But as they reached their foe, a red shield suddenly appeared to bar their way.

The three of them battered the shield as best they could, but they were unable to break it. The fishman was free to build up power without interruption.

Chapter 1257: Fighting Fire with Fire

Emblazoned across the red shield, Han Sen noticed the faint outline of a fish. It was like a shark, but it was even more fearsome looking than that. Behind the head of this image, there was a tentacle-like limb that reached over. From this tentacle, something hung.

Han Sen thought it was a human hanging from the tentacle. It was quite the unnerving picture.

The aquatic monster’s outline was large, and it encompassed the entire altar that was behind it, like some wretched sentinel.

“Is this an image of the King of the Blood River?” Han Sen wondered, as the trio were slashing against the barrier that repelled their attempts to attack the third statue. Now, they acknowledged their power was not enough.

The shield had ten gene locks powering it, that much was for sure. Ordinary powers weren't going to scratch it, let alone cut through it.

"Let's see who can hit harder, then." Han Sen commanded his followers to stop attacking, then he activated his super king spirit mode.

The holy, white light began to gleam. Han Sen's body shone like a deity of light; one with a coin between his fingers. The number on the coin began to ascend, one by one; a signal of its increasing power.

The fishman continued gathering its power, too, as Han Sen did the same on the opposite side of the barrier.

Both of their powers were like the rumbling and thunder from a couple of volcanos preparing to erupt. The sheer volume of energy that whirled throughout that chamber was frightening.

The fishman started to tremble. The power cradled in the basketball-sized sphere of water was equivalent to the amount needed to sunder entire mountains.

Boom!

The fishman lobbed the orb of water like a hydrogen bomb, leaving its legs trembling with exertion.

Han Sen's body was also trembling with the power he had been summoning into the coin. Its number had now reached an all-time high, hitting twenty-one. The moment the sphere left its bearer's hands, Han Sen let the coin fly.

Within the tiniest fraction of a second, the orb and coin collided in mid-air.

The power unleashed was crazy, and the shockwave caused by the impact was enough to send Little Angel and Disloyal Knight flying away.

Amidst this carnage, Han Sen saw the coin pierce through the orb of water and cause a massive shockwave.

The coin did not stop there, however. It carried on through towards the fishman's head, obliterating it. And in the immediate aftermath of that, the suction of the coin began to pull everything towards it like a magnet.

The altar was broken, and its remains all flew towards the coin as if it were a black hole.

The red shield had been shattered, and the fishman was no longer visible.

Boom!

Just as it looked like everything was over, everything was cast away in one last bout of chaos. Then, to accompany the ruin, the water that had previously been held back, began to pour inside.

Han Sen quickly grabbed the final red gem before the entire place flooded.

“Obtained Blood River King’s Battle Geno Essence.”

Han Sen heard the same announcement play.

Then, he grabbed Bao’er and started to make his daring escape. The first thing to grace his eyes, following the dash from that bloody arena, was the glory of moonlight. It made for a delightful return to the surface.

Han Sen saw a very clear lake before where he stood now, and it did not at all seem associated with the Blood River.

Han Sen flew around with Bao’er, but there were just mountains skirting the lake. There were no signs of that grand river.

Little Angel and Disloyal Knight emerged from the lake, and when he confirmed there to be no immediate danger, he returned them for the time being.

Han Sen landed on the plush ground near the lake and noticed the jue had been following him. It was now near his feet. The fire inside it had depleted, and it went back to looking fairly ordinary again. Now, it looked like little more than an antique.

When Han Sen picked it up, there was nothing more curious about it. It seemed to be what it looked like.

Han Sen decided to pour another drink into the jue.

Then he took a sip. It tasted just as good, but nothing wild or crazy occurred like it had last time. No more spooky symbols flared across his body, either.

Han Sen wouldn’t mind killing a few more statues to obtain Battle Geno Essences, though.

While the jue was still able to formulate the delightful sacrificial wine, it was no longer able to begin the sacrificial ritual.

Han Sen summoned Dragon King. He was very knowledgeable when it came to peculiarities of the Third God’s Sanctuary, and Han Sen had frequently used him as an encyclopedia. Perhaps there was a chance he’d know what the jue was.

“What do you want from me?” Dragon King still had no body, and every time he was summoned, it cost him a little bit more of his true self. Needless to say, this upset him.

“Do you know what this is?” Han Sen knew he was upset, so he didn’t beat around the bush and asked him directly.

Dragon King looked at it, and his mood perked right up. He shouted, “Holy crap! Where did you get this from?!”

“Is that a good surprise or a bad surprise?” Han Sen wasn’t sure whether the item was good or not.

Chapter 1258: Geno Core

Dragon King looked at the jue and said, "That actually depends. Continuing the theme of duality, this thing can be good and bad. If you are a demi-god, it is good. If you're not... it can kill you."

"So, what does that mean? What is it for?" Han Sen wasn't put-off by the words he had just heard.

Dragon King began to slink and speak mysteriously, saying, "I'm afraid not many people in the Third God's Sanctuary know what this is. Fortunately for you, I am one of the very few who know. Me and Asura..."

Dragon King suddenly trailed off into silence.

"Is this related to the betrayal of Ancient Devil Emperor?" Han Sen asked.

"It's not like that." Dragon King paused for a brief moment, and then went on to say, "This thing has nothing to do with us, but I knew of an artifact that was quite similar."

"What would that be?" It was painful for Han Sen, being so patient with Dragon King's slow droning.

"It's a secret. I've told you many secrets in the past, but I've never received a single scrap that could benefit me as a reward. I'm at the end of my tether! Why should I continue helping you and not expect anything in return?" Dragon King said.

Han Sen eyed Dragon King with a lethal look and asked, "Ah, so you're no longer afraid to die. Is that what you're telling me? In that case, perhaps there is a favor I can perform for you."

Dragon King rebutted, "You never planned to fix my body, so death is coming for me, one way or another."

When Han Sen looked at him and saw clearly the crux of his issue, he conceded to say, "I have actually been looking out for one for you."

"Don't give me that crap! I know you already found an egg up on that mountain. Do you think I'm stupid?" Dragon King said.

Han Sen smiled and said, "I did find one, yes. But you almost got me killed at the Sky Tree! If our roles were reversed, would you still give me an egg?"

Dragon King had an awkward look descend upon him, and he pleaded once more, "It was a mistake! An honest mistake. Every time you ask me a question, I give you answers to the best of my knowledge. I never try to trick and mislead you."

Han Sen said, "Well, an apology isn't good enough. It sure doesn't suffice, for you to receive a super creature's egg off me."

Dragon King pointed at the jue and said, "I'll tell you what it is if you give me the egg."

"I'll consider the proposition, but if we're talking a trade, the bargain needs to be evaluated. It all depends on whether the secret of this jue is decent. If it's some snob's wine pourer, forget it!" Han Sen said.

"I'm serious when I tell you that this thing is known only by very few people. I know what this is, and if I don't pass this knowledge on to you, you'll only end up harming yourself," Dragon King said, with a surprisingly alarmed tone.

"Fine. Tell me the secret first. If I deem the knowledge worthy for the trade, I'll give you the egg. Deal?" Han Sen made his offer.

"No! You say something like this every time, I swear! You have to promise me this time. Pinky promise!" Dragon King spoke with distress.

Han Sen said, "Oh, come on. You make it sound like you're the only one who knows what this thing does. I am giving you an opportunity here."

"Are you suggesting you know what it does? If so, why don't you tell me?" Dragon King said.

Han Sen said, "It's an item from the Fourth God's Sanctuary."

Dragon King looked shocked, but he balked, "You are smart! But if that's the extent of your knowledge regarding this thing, what a waste of time to tell me. Knowing that means knowing nothing. You need to know what this thing is truly for. And me? I know."

"It's for a sacrificial ritual," Han Sen then said.

Dragon King, with a look that had been tarred with great disdain, said, "That is not what you call a secret, either!"

"Then tell me what it is for!" Han Sen said, with a raised voice.

"Give me the egg and I'll tell you," Dragon King insisted.

Han Sen looked at the jue and once again noted nothing special regarding it.

If it was an item from the Fourth God's Sanctuary, it really was not something he wanted to get rid of. But if carrying it around with him brought harm, he didn't fancy that, either.

Han Sen wanted to know what it was before he started carrying it around with him.

But he couldn't keep an eye on it 24/7.

"I can promise you, I'll give you the egg. But only if the information is worth it. I'd sooner destroy the egg than give it to you, if you don't cough up something of value; remember that." Han Sen issued a threat.

"You won't regret this! And I really need a body now. In the past, even if you offered me ten eggs, I wouldn't have cared." Dragon King sounded confident.

“But the egg is not on me right now, just keep that in mind. When I return, you can have it. So, tell me,” Han Sen said.

Dragon King said, “It is from the Fourth God’s Sanctuary, yes. Have you heard of demi-god genes?”

“Is a jue a demi-god gene?” Han Sen asked, while observing the jue.

Demi-god genes were like super genes, but their proper name was Demi-God Geno Core.

These were genes that could only be obtained by demi-gods. They were different than other types, like mutant or sacred-blood genes. If a super gene was a computational command, then a Demi-God Geno Core was a hub that could execute a number of different commands.

The progress of a Geno Core affected the very powers of a demi-god.

Han Sen did not know much about this, because Demi-God Geno Cores were a secret to demi-gods alone. Han Sen had only heard scraps of information about this from the Ji family.

“Yes. It is a Geno Core that was created by a demi-god creature. I have only seen such a thing once before; where did you find this thing?” Dragon King asked.

Chapter 1259: Accidentally Meeting Again

Han Sen explained how he managed to obtain the jue and what he had experienced with the altar.

Dragon King’s expression warped, and he said, “If I am correct, then this jue is not a Demi-God Geno Core. It is still an item from the Fourth God’s Sanctuary, however.”

“Why isn’t this a Demi-God Geno Core from Blood River King?” Han Sen asked.

This jue had opened a passage to an altar. This was all on the same island as Blood River Shelter, so Han Sen found it quite peculiar, hearing that this did not actually belong to Blood River King.

Dragon King said, “Blood River King wants Demi-God Geno Cores, sure. But he can only gain hold of them by doing what we all must do: ascending The Ten Steps of the Holy Door. The only way he might have been able to create the Demi-God Geno Core in the Third God’s Sanctuary was while walking the ten steps and failing. Failure leads to death, mind you. That could be left in his absence.”

“What makes you think Blood River King is not dead, though?” Han Sen frowned.

“If he was dead, you wouldn’t be able to summon his altar. The ritual you had was one that summoned a demi-god. If you activated it, then that means he is still alive,” Dragon King explained.

“But that can’t be right. My jue summoned the altar, and that must mean the jue was created by a demi-god,” Han Sen said.

“That’s why this is bad. Blood River King is still here, and the jue must not be the true Geno Core he created. But it was able to summon the altar and almost summon the king himself; if you didn’t destroy the altar, he’d be back. All these facts lead me to one startling conclusion.” Dragon King’s tone and look gained a significant amount of gravitas.

“What?” Han Sen asked.

“The jue can summon other demi-gods. The workings of this thing are wild and unpredictable; it’s too dangerous to carry around,” Dragon King said.

Han Sen didn’t think his time at the altar was all that special. He had managed to kill all three statues with relative ease, and he had obtained three Battle Geno Essences for his trouble.

“If the demi-gods return, what can they do?” Han Sen asked.

They were demi-gods, so it didn’t seem as if there’d be a reason or purpose for them to occupy the Third God’s Sanctuary.

“That is the secret. Give me the egg and I’ll tell you.” Dragon King hushed his lips after this.

Han Sen clicked his fingers and put Dragon King away for the time being. Han Sen flew around the area he had ended up in, wanting to check it out some more.

To the east were an abundance of hills, and to the west were thorny vines and a river. So, Han Sen traveled to the west.

A strange expression fell across Han Sen’s face as he realized the place looked similar to the area he had met the lantern fish. In the river, he saw them again. The stream was filled with the lantern fish, and they were all headed upstream.

“Nice. Yaksha wants to fight the king fish and the vine, doesn’t he? I should get ready to swoop in and aid Lord Fish.” Han Sen followed the stream up, hoping to catch up with the king.

After flying a few hundred miles, he didn’t find the fish king. What he did find, however, was a shelter.

The shelter was nothing fancy. It was just a mere, solitary royal shelter.

Han Sen planned to take it over. Even if he had no need for it, it would allow future humans who spawned there to be safe.

When he entered the shelter, though, there were no foes to rout. It had already been abandoned, and there was nobody there.

The entire shelter had one teleporter inside, though, and it was in perfect working condition.

Han Sen returned to the Alliance and took a break with Ji Yanran. After that, he returned to the sanctuary.

Han Sen packed his stuff alongside Little Angel, when suddenly, something seemed to be coming through the teleporter behind him.

“A human is spawning here? Neat timing.” Han Sen was wondering who it might be.

If it wasn't an enemy, Han Sen wouldn't mind lending a hand for a while. He didn't want anything bad to befall humans, as there was a long road to go for them to occupy and govern a greater portion of control over the Third God's Sanctuary. And every new person needed all the help they could get.

Seeing the dimensions distort, someone appeared.

It was a woman with a rapturously gorgeous figure, and when Han Sen pried his eyes away from her curves, he was shocked to discover who it was.

The woman had a similar response seeing Han Sen, and she too was surprised to see who she had immediately encountered.

“It's you!” they both said in tandem.

Han Sen had just spent time with her on Skynet, not so long ago. It was Qin Xuan.

“Well, this seems too far-fetched to be a coincidence.” Han Sen thought the chances of her ending up there with him were a little too unlikely. It was an enormous world, yet she had ended up with Han Sen in her first moment there.

“I am so lucky to see you, aren't I? What are the chances? You are going to carry me, aren't you?” Qin Xuan laughed.

“That's no problem. I'm getting used to carrying people.” Han Sen smiled.

Just as Qin Xuan started to speak again, a number of loud, repetitive noises sounded from someplace not too far away. They were like the repeated drumming of a stampede. Han Sen's face changed, so he flew up and had a look.

Many creatures were coming from the river, and they looked terrified as they took refuge in the shelter.

Chapter 1260: Fish King's Reappearance

Above the water of the river, a million flying fish had appeared. They were all following its winding course upstream.

“It looks like the fish king is on its way to tangle with the vine again.” Han Sen was surprised, and as he looked over, he saw the big, familiar fish. Its scales gleamed like a trove of gold in the sunlight; fitting for the king it was.

Han Sen wanted to send Qin Xuan someplace safer, but there was currently no time. He put her on Golden Growler, and together they chased after the fish.

“What’s going on?!” She had been in the Third God’s Sanctuary for less than two minutes, and she had no clue what was going on. She was unnerved and almost scared about what might soon happen.

Many monsters were escaping the river and its proximity to make way for the abundance of flying fish. It was a spectacle, for sure, but the power of everything around dwarfed her own. She was terrified.

“The fish king is on its way to fight something particularly powerful. I’m here to see if I can claim a few goodies,” Han Sen explained the long and short of it.

“Will my presence prove a burden? Perhaps I should go back for now?” Qin Xuan knew Han Sen was the strongest human there, and the last thing she wanted to do was drag him down. She had only just arrived, so there’d be no chance she’d be able to fend for herself, after all.

“We’re only here to watch from afar; for now, anyway. It’ll be fine if you come along,” Han Sen said.

Leaving Qin Xuan there would be just as good as sending her on a death march. She could return to the Alliance, but Han Sen did not know when he’d be able to fetch her.

Han Sen was also worried that the creatures would destroy the teleporter in their panic. If that happened, she’d have to end up respawning elsewhere.

Han Sen was going to remain in hiding, anyway. When Yaksha and Blood River King came, all he’d have to do was make sure she was extra hidden.

Bao’er wanted to play with the flying fish once more, but he stopped her this time.

Han Sen did not know where Yaksha was, currently, but it’d be difficult for them to avoid being spotted if they followed the fish too closely. They had to be as sneaky as possible.

The fish king was going at a slow pace, and there must have been quite a distance to go for it to reach the showdown it was headed for.

The amount of fish that was following the king was nigh unbelievable to see. Their numbers were countless, and the only word a mind could muster to describe the spectacle was “insane.”

Golden Growler followed the river on the rough ground past its banks. Still, it managed to move so smoothly, that there was nary a shake or bump.

But then, Han Sen suddenly saw a crocodile-like creature that was around ten meters long. When it saw the Golden Growler, it tried to eat it, Han Sen, and Qin Xuan.

Han Sen thought it was an ugly beast, as its body had thick, hardy scales and a mouthful of razorblade-sharp teeth. The monster was a super creature—that much was certain.

With its mouth that was comparable to a black hole, it sought to swallow the trio.

Golden Growler did not shy away, though. It expanded the size of its body, making itself become a giant, goliath-sized beast. The crocodile now looked like a scrawny lizard, and so Golden Growler stepped on it.

Golden Growler, by this point, had seven of its gene locks opened. Han Sen had fed it much super flesh and many waterdrops to nurture its growth over time. But the speed at which it had developed was surprising, even to Han Sen. And the size it could grow to, if it so chose, was rather shocking to witness.

Golden Growler had as many gene locks open as Han Sen did with his Dongxuan Sutra. Its primary talent was its ability to grow bigger, just as it had been back in the First God's Sanctuary.

But now, size wasn't everything. The bigger it grew, the stronger it became. And this scaled with how many gene locks it had opened, too. When Golden Growler opened its seventh gene lock, its vitality exceeded Han Sen's.

This didn't surprise Han Sen, though. Golden Growler was special, as most creatures of the First God's Sanctuary did not possess an ability. But Golden Growler could grow bigger or smaller on a whim, so Han Sen had to wonder if it actually was a super creature from the First God's Sanctuary.

When Little Angel ate the other Golden Growler's flesh, she was able to evolve. It was a plausible theory.

Regardless of its origins, however, Han Sen thought it to be a remarkable thing that Golden Growler could evolve and become better. Golden Growler had seven of its gene locks open, but it was now fighting a super creature with nine gene locks open.

The mouth of the creature Golden Growler had stomped on was frightening, but all the teeth in the world couldn't harm Golden Growler now, due to its size. When it was bitten, it was like a small nip, and no pain was felt.

But for a creature with seven gene locks open, engaging with a creature with nine gene locks open was difficult. Golden Growler could not dish out a grand amount of damage, at all.

But what it could do was still shocking enough to see, anyway. Golden Growler was a mount beast soul, so fighting was never expected to be its forte.

Yet still, it was able to hold its ground against a super creature. It was shocking. But Qin Xuan was more shocked than all, right now. The impacts and shockwaves were difficult for her to withstand, as they fought.

"Are creatures in the Third God's Sanctuary always this strong?" Qin Xuan was amazed, despite being a little worried. The first creature she had encountered just so happened to be a super creature.

Han Sen placed Golden Growler back in his Sea of Soul. It had grown too big, and he didn't want anyone to see it. Not wanting to waste any time, though, he summoned Little Angel and Disloyal Knight.

Disloyal Knight used a halo to debuff the creature and buff Little Angel to become stronger. Little Angel swung her sword and left a deep, few-meter-wide cleft across the monster.

The monster screamed, prompting Disloyal Knight to dash forward and strike the beast's jaw and send it flying.

Little Angel flew towards it and chopped it to bits within the blink of an eye.

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

Han Sen was delighted, not expecting to achieve another super beast soul so soon.