

Super Power

Chapter 851: Strange Scene of Purple Mountain

By this point, Han Sen was very weak. But so too were the three super creatures, who were now robbed of the protection that the now-slain Holy Lightshield Bug had given them.

Han Sen was prepared to allow Little Angel to slay the rest before they left, but a horrible roaring soon sounded. And when he heard it, he sensed the foreboding dread he felt when he first encountered the Devil-Blood King. It must have respawned.

Without hesitation, Han Sen ran out of the shelter under the protection of Little Angel. He brought with him the body of the holy bug and the Life Geno Essence of the witch.

The Devil-Blood King was strangely powerful. Han Sen had barely succeeded with his assassination attempt, and he didn't fancy his chances if he were to fight against him head-to-head. Factoring in his current exhaustion, he thought it best to get out while the getting was good.

After leaving the shelter, he met up with Moment Queen. Wang Yuhang's clothing was tattered and severely bloodied. Still, he gleefully ran up to Han Sen and excitedly asked, "Tell me, bossman: What was your final tally, in your rabid slaying of super creatures on this day? How many beast souls have you amassed?"

"I killed two super creatures and I didn't receive any beast souls." Han Sen shook his head.

Wang Yuhang was severely disappointed upon hearing about the lack of beast souls. "The lint that has accumulated in my coinpurse is not sufficient for the purchasing of another high-class Angel Gene Fluid, you know."

In response, Han Sen said, "Little Uncle, I managed to obtain two Life Geno Essences. One of them is yours. How about I provide you with a high-class Angel Gene Fluid in exchange for your Life Geno Essence? That way, I'll have both."

"I accept." Wang Yuhang agreed without hesitation.

Wang Yuhang previously had two Life Geno Essences, but he believed it was better for him to have the Angel Gene Fluid.

With Angel Gene Fluid, they could continue killing super creatures and hold out for the prospect of better rewards.

Han Sen handed the Angel Gene Fluid he owned over to Wang Yuhang, and then came into possession of two second generation Life Geno Essences.

He fed the holy bug's body to the Spirit Owl and Death Knell, in the hopes they would soon evolve.

Fortunately, these pets did not disappoint Han Sen. After eating the body, they both began evolving, and their battle modes activated.

Now, Han Sen merely hoped they would finish their evolution process before the golden chests matured. If the stars aligned for this, Han Sen had confidence in his ability to protect the tree.

Searching for a safe place, Han Sen refined the two Life Geno Essences inside him. This time, he managed to gain fifteen super geno points, all in all. His total tally reached seventy-eight now.

As Han Sen snuck away to do this, he could hear Wang Yuhang screaming in agony over the shocking healing he had to accept from the silver fox. After what he witnessed last time, the last thing Han Sen wanted was to be healed by the silver blighter, so he always made sure to heal himself with his holy light after a battle.

When they had both recovered from their weakness and exhaustion, they returned to the shelter, wondering if they would have the chance to kill another super creature.

But this time, no matter which way Wang Yuhang attempted to attract the residents of that shelter, they would not come out. After what had happened, the super creatures did not dare leave, and so Han Sen and Wang Yuhang had no choice but to exit the area.

“The Devil-Blood King has fourteen super creatures left. We most certainly can’t draw them all out, but if he wants to try to steal the golden chest fruit, he’ll definitely have to leave a number of them behind. If so, I really do think I have a chance.” Back at Moment Shelter, Han Sen found himself in deep contemplation over the trials to come.

“Bossman, might you tell me which class this shelter of yours is?” Wang Yuhang asked, his eyes glistening with awe as they scanned the surroundings. He was curious about everything.

“It’s a king-class shelter, the first one ever gained for humankind,” Han Sen said, with a cocky look.

“‘Tis a shame, though; I must regretfully confess. Without people to populate its cobbled roads and luxurious palaces, a remote shelter such as this is useless,” Wang Yuhang said, upon hearing Han Sen’s boast.

“Do you think I need others?” Han Sen laughed, as he looked at silver fox and the rest of his pets.

Wang Yuhang eyed Big Black and Little Black, and his heart sank. He said, “Why do these super creatures follow you around and follow your commands? I am wealthier, smarter, and by all accounts more handsome than you. So, tell me, why are no super creatures inclined to accompany me?”

“It is because I am luckier than you.” Han Sen laughed.

Wang Yuhang opened his mouth to speak, but the words never came. Instead, he just gritted his teeth and went to inspect the Jade-Gold Tree.

“What do you suspect will reside inside the golden chests?” Wang Yuhang said, casting a famished gaze at the fruit as saliva drooled from his mouth. He could not wait to see what treasure was inside, either.

“Who knows? But it’ll take another two months for it to mature. I suppose we’ll find out then,” Han Sen said, as he looked at the tree. By now, it was three feet tall.

“And you said this little shrub of yours can lure a number of super creatures?” Wang Yuhang asked.

“You saw what happened with the Empty Vine, yes? This will be even greater, I assure you,” Han Sen answered.

“You consider this a good thing? Only the ethereal rulers above know how many crazed super creatures this thing will have descending upon your shelter. The Devil-Blood King and his zealous lot were difficult enough!” Wang Yuhang frowned.

Han Sen knew he’d have great trouble if the Spirit Owl and Death Knell didn’t finish evolving, but if they were active and ready to fight by the time that day came, he fancied his chances in repelling an invasion. Still, if he couldn’t, he wagered he could simply steal as much fruit as he could before fleeing the zone.

Han Sen and Wang Yuhang both resided in Moment Shelter for the time that remained, but they also returned to the Alliance on occasion. They had to prepare in anticipation of giving the defense of the tree their all.

A few days later, the Purple Mountain below Moment Shelter developed a new spring. The spring didn’t flow with water, however. It ran with blood. And it wasn’t only one spring, either. All across the mountain, springs popped up; it was as if the very mountain itself was bleeding.

Han Sen went to find out what was going on and examined the blood-red water that came out of the earth. He noted that it smelled like actual blood.

“Bossman, I think a blood spring is a bad omen,” Wang Yuhang said, as he looked at the blood spring alongside Han Sen.

“Little Uncle, if I feared bad omens and rotten luck, I wouldn’t be standing here with you today.” While Han Sen said this, he used his dongxuan aura to scan the blood spring and see what he could learn.

He did not learn anything, strangely. Nothing organic resided within the blood springs, and there was not a single lifeforce to be found.

After finding them all, Han Sen counted a total of seven springs. The blood springs only lasted seven days, and after that, they all ran dry.

The day after the blood springs stopped, menacing clouds formed to conquer the skies. For hundreds of miles around, the clouds roofed the lands encompassing Moment Shelter. A thunderstorm raged for an entire day. And for all those miles around, all the plants were destroyed and burnt to ash. Only the peak of the mountain was okay, save for the suffocating smoke that tainted the air.

After a day of thunderstorms, it began to rain. The rain was torrential and blood-red, too. Countless streams of blood formed at the coming of this rain, and it set the scene as a moody and foreboding one. It was quite terrifying.

Chapter 852: The Gourd Moves

“Something evil must be at work, to transform the lands like so. The Jade-Gold Tree must be birthing something most peculiar,” Wang Yuhang said, as he observed the downpour of blood-like rain.

Han Sen’s heart was filled with worry, acknowledging the spookiness of the scene. He understood something foul was at work, too.

“Maybe I shouldn’t have brought Little Uncle here with me.” Han Sen was also overcome with regret. Still, he knew that despite how unfortunate Wang Yuhang could be, even he could not cause something like this. It very-well could have been the work of the Jade-Gold Tree.

The next day, the blood rain stopped and the clouds dispersed. The horrific bloody scene portrayed the night before had come and gone, and it was as if the blood water had been willfully absorbed by the mountain itself. The blood rain that had soaked the earth of that place had also made the lands teem with life; plants were abundant once more, growing to maturity over the course of a single night. The black and charred landscape was now vibrant and green once again.

Han Sen and Wang Yuhang both observed the Jade-Gold Tree with a perplexed look, for they had just been delivered a shock. After the blood rain stopped, the tree had switched a metric and grown three meters tall. The seven golden chest fruits were each the size of an average shoebox, and they were each illuminated with a strong golden light.

Between the jade and gold colors, a purple mist developed. The tree did not look like any ordinary tree they had seen before. It seemed holy.

“Moment, do you really not know anything about this Jade-Gold Tree?” Han Sen did not believe something so strange could grow there for no apparent reason.

Moment Queen shook her head and replied, “If you believe this tree’s existence has something to do with me, you are wrong. And for it to be here like so, I truly cannot explain the reason why.”

Han Sen eyed Moment Queen for some time. Then, he frowned and said, “Well, the chests have yet to mature, and we’ve just had a spout of weird events. Is that a good sign or a bad one? Do you think we should remain here, guarding this place?”

“It is difficult for me to determine.” Moment Queen shook her head once more, confirming her lack of knowledge concerning the curious tree.

A few days later, the sound of crying came from the Purple Mountain. It was loud, as if someone was crying at the top of their lungs, hoping the high heavens could hear.

The sun rose, and with it came snow. For a few hundred miles, all around, it was like an icy, snowy kingdom. The lands were blanketed in virgin white snow; it was beautiful.

But overnight, the snow melted; leaving as quickly as it came. When the sun rose the next day, many flowers bloomed all across the mountain.

The day after that, the sun rose to greet lands of decay. The pastures that were previously filled with stunning, blooming flowers were now all dead. The mountains were grey and lifeless.

Han Sen was very concerned with what was going on. Wang Yuhang returned to the Alliance, as these strange occurrences continued to unfold.

Little White possessed snow-white antlers, but they suddenly began to appear red.

“A mascot monster turning red is a sign of something awful that is to come.” Han Sen’s breath was taken away by this sudden revelation. For something like this to appear on Little White, it had to be an ill omen.

This time, Han Sen returned to the Alliance. He wanted to research the weird events that had transpired recently. However, the texts he normally read had been written before sanctuaries were known to exist.

That being said, he was educated in similar things. If a sign involved blood, it was almost guaranteed to be bad.

Han Sen was getting very paranoid, right about now. He went on Skynet to read about Feng Shui, in search of an explanation for what had been happening back in the lands of his shelter.

Unfortunately, few people believed in such ancient arts in that age. But people did discuss supernatural things on forums. As a result, Han Sen made a post on Skynet, hoping individuals could educate him on what he needed to know.

After he explained his predicament, however, people believed he was crazy. They did not believe what Han Sen told them, and made sure to ask where such zany events had taken place.

There were others who tried to be more helpful, but unfortunately, they weren’t of much use to Han Sen, either.

“Purple Mountain is bleeding blood? Crying sounds at night? A mascot beast now appears to be covered in blood? According to what you have told us, OP, something evil will be born soon. It is said that if any one of these signs showed up, the world will be thrown into chaos and turmoil. That being said, it’s just a myth and nobody has actually seen such things happen before, lol.” Someone with the username Nighttime Star-Gazing replied, and what he told Han Sen struck fear into his heart.

Han Sen only spoke about a mountain bleeding and the crying noises at night. He did not namedrop Purple Mountain or the fact Little White had bloody horns. How did that peculiar poster know so much? It was too accurate, and what the poster said shocked Han Sen.

Han Sen quickly added Nighttime Star-Gazing as a friend and asked him what the signs meant in more specific detail.

Nighttime Star-Gazing told him he had read an ancient book. From it, he had deciphered something evil was to be born, but that was all that he had understood from the manuscript so far.

Han Sen spoke with him for some time, and it truly did appear as if that was all he knew. Therefore, Han Sen didn’t push him anymore.

According to what Han Sen had been told, if any of those signs appeared, something evil would soon be born. Yet bad things had been occurring each and every day on Purple Mountain, so did that mean the evillest thing ever would be born?

Still, Han Sen could not bring himself to believe what he had been told. To him, it was just a Jade-Gold Tree, plain and simple. He found it hard to fathom how a tree such as that could birth something so inherently evil.

Han Sen had even experienced first-hand the Empty Vine, so a Jade-Gold Tree couldn't be half as bad.

While this was how he felt, he was still nervous about the entire thing. He went for a walk around the mountain and realized there weren't any creatures living in those lands for several hundred miles.

That also applied to super creatures, something that scared Han Sen even more.

Back in Moment Shelter, Han Sen decided to bring Little Black, Big Black, and Little White with him to leave.

He would rather return there at a later date than hang around, twiddling his thumbs waiting for something bad to happen. The Purple Mountain was too scary, and Han Sen feared he'd die if he were to remain.

Han Sen did not want to stay until he could learn more.

He and his crew had to walk four hundred miles until they laid eyes on other creatures. Feeling relieved, Han Sen decided to establish a camp there. He could see Purple Mountain in the distance, and from this safe distance, he could watch for changes.

Ten days later, clear skies returned to Purple Mountain. He could see it from his camp. Not only that, he could smell a pleasant fragrance that had carried on the wind. Perhaps the golden fruit was beginning to mature.

When the smell grew stronger, Han Sen felt the gourd in his pocket move. With surprise, Han Sen took a look at it. In his hands, however, the movements stopped.

Inside the gourd, the heartbeat felt faster and livelier. No longer did it feel as if Han Sen was holding a gourd; instead, it now felt like he was holding a heart.

Chapter 853: Golden Chests Mature

"Is it going to hatch?" Han Sen wondered as he fingered the gourd. At this strange moment, the gourd was having some sort of reaction; whether that was good or bad had yet to be determined.

If a super creature did end up jumping out of the gourd, there was no certainty over its allegiance. Only after it emerged would it become apparent whether it was a friend or foe.

Han Sen waited a while as the gourd continued to beat with the rhythm of a heart, but there didn't seem to be any cracking.

The Purple Mountain, meanwhile, became brighter and brighter. When the day Moment Queen calculated for the golden chests to mature rolled around, the bright light made the sky look like pure gold. It was a stunning sight.

“I think the fruit is maturing. Should we check it out?” Moment Queen asked Han Sen, as she observed the gold light.

Just as Han Sen was about to speak, he saw a crane flying through the air towards Moment Shelter.

“Of course. It’ll be okay, even if it turns out to be evil. And if there is some good loot up for grabs, I won’t allow anyone else to nab it before I do.” Han Sen stopped to think for a brief while. After that, he turned to Wang Yuhang and said, “I will scout. When the time arises, I will contact you for your aid. If I deem things to be too difficult, I will run off by myself.”

“Regardless of how things may seem, exercise caution. My stomach is a nest of butterflies, so to speak,” Wang Yuhang spoke with surprising gravitas.

“I’m only going to take a look, nothing more. I’m sure I’ll emerge unscathed.” Han Sen, with Moment Queen in tow, began walking back to Purple Mountain.

Aside from the silver fox and the fairy, the other super creatures were to remain at camp awaiting Han Sen’s signal, too.

Moment Queen led the group, slowly but surely. With how little they knew of what was going on, they wanted to be as careful as possible. Along their way, flowers grew in abundance. And beneath the golden light from above, everything else appeared gold. It was difficult to discern the true, original colors of anything.

The closer they got to Purple Mountain, however, the more a presence began to hang over Han Sen’s mind. It was heavy and unnerving, and it became worse with each step. The others felt it, too, and their pace slowed some.

The gold light began to fade, and with it, the Purple Mountain’s energy. As the gold light lessened, the frightening presence increased with a greater acceleration. It consumed Purple Mountain.

Han Sen was unsure of how many creatures had come. When the gold light was at its brightest, the origin point at Purple Mountain must have been visible thousands of miles away. If something wretched was being born, he believed the number of creatures attracted would be even greater than the turn-out for the Empty Vine.

Han Sen’s sensation of a scary lifeforce increased. Super creatures were intelligent, and they made sure to keep a distance between each other. They wouldn’t start a fight before they got to the fruit, and risk some other creature stealing their prize.

As the super creatures approached, Han Sen followed. When they stopped, so did he. Half a day later, they were on the foothills of Purple Mountain. The gold light had disappeared, but a pleasant scent came from the peak. The perfume mist could now be seen descending the slopes to veil the mountain.

Han Sen saw many hidden creatures. None of them climbed any further, and they seemed to just watch, waiting in suspense for whatever might happen.

“The Devil-Blood King!” Han Sen saw a group of super creatures heading towards Purple Mountain. Taking a closer look, he noticed they were the creatures owned by the Devil-Blood King.

The silver ape, the big dragon, and the golem were amongst the six that accompanied the Devil-Blood King. After the Empty Vine’s slaughter and Han Sen’s attack, his number of super creatures had been drastically reduced.

The river of pleasant fragrance soon ran dry, however. The smell weakened considerably, revealing the presence of far more creatures than he had initially expected to see.

A black bull was the closest to Han Sen. Its black body was like metal, and it was at least ten feet tall. Steam came out of its nose, and a pool of magma seemed to swirl in its eyes. With each step it took, flaming hoof prints scorched the ground. A trail of fiery flowers followed in its wake.

The fire did not last long, though. Each flameprint extinguished after a minute or so, and it did not cause a wildfire or anything of the sort.

Looking further, Han Sen saw a giant, colorful snake slithering its way to the mountain. It spit out colorful gas, and all the plants that came into contact with the gas died.

The Devil-Blood King included, the creatures did not dare tread further than the foot of the mountain. Something frightened them, and stayed their desire to ascend.

Han Sen counted the creatures, and with the Devil-Blood King included, there were at least twenty super creatures in the area. Most of them were solo, but still, it was a scary number to think of competing with.

Han Sen was glad that he decided not to remain in Moment Shelter, guarding the tree. The power he had at his disposal wouldn’t have been sufficient to stem the tide of super creatures, even if the Spirit Owl and Death Knell finished their on-going process of evolution.

“I am out of ideas. I will have to stay mobile, and if the golden chests do indeed contain good loot, I’ll have to nab as many as I can. I should at least try to grab a few, but getting them all does not seem likely.” Attempting to obtain each and every golden chest seemed like a bad idea.

While Han Sen was thinking, he suddenly heard an instrument being played at the top of the mountain. He wasn’t sure what instrument it was, but it made a heavenly sound.

When Han Sen heard the music, he felt dizzy. Without realizing it, he began to ascend Purple Mountain.

But it was only for one moment, and after quickly snapping out of his daze, he turned around from the shock to see Moment Queen ascending beside him.

It wasn't only her, either. All the super creatures in the area appeared to be hypnotized, walking up the mountain in a trance.

Han Sen quickly returned Moment Queen to the Sea of Soul. The Devil-Blood King included, all the other super creatures continued to climb the mountain.

The Devil-Blood King woke up after taking a few steps. He looked surprised, and after noticing what had just happened, he tried to reassume control of the super creatures he had brought with him.

But the super creatures paid no heed to his commands, and they merely continued on their merry way up top.

Some creatures did manage to snap out of their hypnotized state, one of which included the silver ape. The majority of them continued walking up, however.

A complicated look fell across the Devil-Blood King's face, as if he was weighing whether to proceed or fall back. Although there was a very strong and organic lifeforce to be found up the mountain, it was strange to see even a spirit such as the Devil-Blood King hesitate and consider his options.

As he juggled his thoughts, the music from up the mountain came to a stop. The mist atop the peak spread as a lifeforce expanded to consume the mountain. Six golden lights lit up.

"Are the golden chests maturing?!" Han Sen was shocked, unsure whether or not he should call for Wang Yuhang. This scene was entirely too creepy for him to comprehend.

Chapter 854: Stealing the Chests

Roar!

The creatures were awoken from their daze. Han Sen didn't know which monster began roaring first, but after that roar, they all began rushing to the peak.

Every creature ravenously raced towards the gold light. Each and every creature there had an insatiable appetite for the golden fruit borne by the Jade-Gold Tree.

The energy that consumed the mountain top was like a fountain, and it seemed to energize every creature that walked upon its slopes.

Gritting his teeth, the Devil-Blood King now rushed up the mountain and into Moment Shelter. He had come to a decision, and that decision was to not give up on the potential treasure that resided within.

Unlike the rest, Han Sen was still quite hesitant. He felt as if something bad was still going to happen, so he hadn't sent word for Wang Yuhang to come.

Han Sen summoned Moment Queen again and asked her, "Observe the situation there and report back to me."

Moment Queen did as she was commanded and went up. At the peak, she was able to see the energy that consumed the area. She told Han Sen, "An energy burst like this would suggest something good is being born."

"Hmm, perhaps we should go take a look." Han Sen nodded, but still decided against giving Wang Yuhang the signal. Stroking the silver fox's head, he let Moment Queen lead their way up towards the golden light.

He traveled through the mist towards Moment Shelter, a place he had come to be both fond of and familiar with. There were no visible changes, from what he could initially tell. All he could see was that the tree had grown to be about one hundred feet tall. It basked in a holy presence, and the chests beamed with gold light.

Han Sen, seeing those six chests, was shocked. Before, they looked fairly ordinary. Now, they looked different. All six of the golden chest fruits were of different sizes, and they were all shaped differently.

The combined light of the chests was so bright that looking towards them was difficult. But still, each golden chest emanated with a certain scary energy.

The crane he had seen before screamed. It flew past Han Sen's head and collected the golden chest that was the furthest from the ground, and then flew away with it.

The big dragon and a four-winged beast quickly flew forward to stop the crane and retrieve the chest.

The creatures, seeing the crane grab one of the chests to no ill repercussions, began rushing towards the tree in the hope of nabbing the rest.

The Devil-Blood King brought the silver ape with him to grab a golden chest. After retrieving one, they looked to take another.

Within fifteen minutes, the six golden chests had found new masters. Han Sen was too far away, and due to his initial hesitation, he was unable to procure one for himself.

But this was just the beginning, for even if he did get a chest, escaping the ire of the surrounding creatures would be a bigger challenge by far.

The shelter was in utter chaos, as creatures battled for ultimate possession of the chests. The sounds of combat, the screeches and the roars, it was all deafening.

There was fire, toxic mists, and thunder being cast out, all into one dangerous melting pot of anarchy. It was fortunate Moment Shelter was tough, because otherwise, it would've been reduced to nothing but rubble.

"Should we join the battle and attempt to procure a chest for ourselves?" Moment Queen asked.

“We should wait a little longer.” Han Sen was not yet ready to strike. He stared at the Devil-Blood King, who had managed to acquire two chests and was still not satisfied. Leading his pets, he went to try and steal another.

Han Sen had fought him once before, but he had yet to determine what his true strength actually was. Amidst this raging battle, Han Sen believed he’d be able to accurately gauge that strength through observation.

After a while, Han Sen smiled. He could now tell exactly how the Devil-Blood King was able to close the gap and eliminate the distance separating the two like he had in their previous fight.

The Devil-Blood King vanished from sight, and when he reappeared, he punched a super creature away and took its chest.

Han Sen saw this happen many times, and he was now positive the Devil-Blood King could not teleport: he traveled through shadows.

The Devil-Blood King had to stand in a shadow. When he was in a shadow, he could melt into the shadow and move freely within. It was as if he was traveling through another dimension. He could not get hit, nor could he be detected.

“Ah, that’s why!” After managing to observe the Devil-Blood King’s power, Han Sen felt relieved.

Although that shadow ability was effective, it was not unbreakable. He had to be in a dark shadow, not one that was faint. And to move efficiently, the shadows had to be connected.

All Han Sen would have to do was keep an eye on his shadow and not have it connect with anything else. If he did that, the Devil-Blood King could not warp around and would instead have to approach him like any other combatant.

But this shelter had many palaces, and thus many wide and strong shadows were cast. That gave the Devil-Blood King a big advantage, and he could practically travel freely with that skill. He had already taken three chests.

Because he had taken three gold chests, other creatures focused their attention on him now. But the silver ape was a valiant defender of its master, and it prevented anything else from getting near.

“I can’t allow him to take everything.” Han Sen, seeing the Devil-Blood King become so greedy, became extra happy.

Han Sen was not going to focus on attacking the Devil-Blood King. Instead, he was going to focus on the big ape.

The silver ape was powerful, that much was clear. Its body was tough, and it was surprisingly quick for its size. It didn’t possess elemental powers, but its physical attack strength was through the roof. Its nails could tear through a super creature’s body with ease.

It was clear to Han Sen that other super creatures were unable to touch it. Regardless of what element hit it, the worst that happened was a faint scorch mark upon its fur. Nothing truly damaged it.

“If I kill that thing first, I rob the Devil-Blood King of its muscle,” Han Sen said to himself, as he watched the violent, murderous ape.

There was another reason why Han Sen wanted to kill it. The ape was a second generation super creature, and he’d get a mighty reward for slaying it.

But the silver ape was too strong for a prolonged fight, so Han Sen tried to think of a way in which he could one-hit kill it.

After a bit of thinking, Han Sen noticed something strange after it slew a dragon with one swipe of its claws. Its invincibility may have been overstated.

Han Sen noticed it was strangely protective of its ears. Whenever a heavy attack came its way, it made sure to protect its ears above all else.

The ears looked like silver snails, and were about the size of eggs.

Chapter 855: Opening a Chest

The blood of super creatures not only stained the plaza; there was so much of it that a pool had formed, flooding the paved area. The blue bell was already in the midst of evolving, so Han Sen thought it was a shame to see so much blood go to waste.

The airborne crane let out an ear-piercing screech at the precise moment the dragon swooped in to tear its head off. The golden chest fell to the ground, and was quickly taken away by a centipede-like worm.

The crane was the first super creature fatality of the battle. The body decomposed as it fell back down to the plaza, and as it fell, a Life Geno Essence went with it.

The dragon quickly consumed the Life Geno Essence and attacked the giant centipede.

Han Sen watched the grand battle for a while. When the opportunity arose, he summoned Moment Queen and Little Angel and then sent them over to attack the silver ape.

Dong!

The silver ape used its thick arms to block Little Angel’s greatsword. She had been buffed by the Steel-Knight King, but even so, all her strike could leave behind was a light scratch mark. Its body was incredibly tough.

As this occurred, Moment Queen teleported behind the silver ape and punched its left ear.

Katcha!

The sound was as if a snail had just had its shell cracked, and the sound indicated she had broken his left ear. The ape shouted in pain and moved one of its hands to protect it.

Han Sen, in the meantime, drilled his Flaming Rex Spike into the silver ape's right ear.

Roar!

The ape thundered in pain. It grabbed the Flaming Rex Spike and threw Han Sen away with tremendous force.

After its ears were both injured, its face began to bleed. The silver color of its body seemed to wash away, and the power it once exuded began to fade.

Little Angel attacked again, and the ape sought to use its arms to block the incoming strike. Unlike before, its entire arm was lopped off. Following the breaking of its ears, it seemed as if the ape's body had become weaker.

When the Devil-Blood King saw Han Sen assault and damage his silver ape, he became infuriated. No longer caring if the golden chests ended up in the possession of others, he ran towards Han Sen with fuming rage.

As he went, he issued a command for the rest of his super creatures to surround Han Sen. They circled him, and the dragon guarded from above like a lid. The Devil-Blood King flashed and melded in with the shadows. When he reappeared again, he was standing behind Han Sen.

When he struck, the Devil-Blood King's attack hit nothing. Somehow, Han Sen had evaded his strike.

"Better learn a new trick, 'cause that one's getting old." Han Sen picked up his Flaming Rex Spike and swung it down on the Devil-Blood King.

Han Sen had already deduced that the Devil-Blood King moved through shadows. Now, he could use his dongxuan aura to predict his destination.

Even so, the Devil-Blood King did not believe Han Sen could beat him. Repeatedly, he disappeared into the shadows for spring attacks. After several more repetitions, he was taken aback to see Han Sen dodge them all.

When he realized Han Sen truly could track his movements, his face looked dire.

Roar!

The silver ape screamed, just as Little Angel brought down her greatsword to hew its head from its body.

"Super Creature Silver-Blood Macaque killed. Beast soul gained. The flesh of this creature is edible, and you may harvest its Life Geno Essence. Consume its Life Geno Essence to gain zero to ten super geno points randomly."

Han Sen heard the announcement and was pleased to hear that he had finally obtained another beast soul.

The Devil-Blood King's reaction to this slaying wasn't quite the same, though. His blood boiled with anger. His determination to kill Han Sen doubled, but just as he was about to attack once more, a super

creature barred his way. From the sides, other wild super creatures attacked and tried to maul him, in a bid to take his golden chests.

Moment Shelter was in a diabolical mess, and amidst the chaos, the silver fox thought it was a good time to depart Han Sen's shoulders and chow down on the dead silver ape.

While the Devil-Blood King was preoccupied, Han Sen took the opportunity to flee to an area that had fewer shadows. If his nemesis came after him again, things would be significantly easier. Although Han Sen could dodge the attacks, one mistake was all it would take for him to be destroyed. It was better to be safe than sorry.

The Devil-Blood King's fury showed no sign of lessening, however. Shaking off the super creatures, he followed after Han Sen through the air, screaming.

The dragon, hearing its master scream in the pursuit of his most despised human, accompanied the Devil-Blood King. It flew high above Han Sen, forming a shadow.

The Devil-Blood King used this portable shadow to warp towards Han Sen.

To this, Han Sen coldly smiled. He did not dodge; instead, he swung his fist. His fist was like a silver sun, one that illuminated the area and forbid the approach of any shadow.

Pop!

The Devil-Blood King could not make use of Han Sen's shadow to pounce upon his foe. Spilling blood, he exploded back through the dragon's shadow as if he had been banished from its premise.

Moment Queen used her teleportation-like abilities to swoop behind the Devil-Blood King and smack his head. The Devil-Blood King's head was driven through the stone platform beside him in a squishy mess. Grabbing the three gold chests he had possessed, she quickly took off.

Despite his ruined, bloody, and disfigured head, the Devil-Blood King was not done yet. He called and went after Moment Queen with the rest of his super creatures, wanting those three chests back more than anything.

"Run!" Han Sen commanded Moment Queen to escape with the goodies she had managed to retrieve. Obtaining three was more than he expected, and securing them was his first priority.

With Moment Queen's speed, escape shouldn't have been difficult.

But much to Han Sen's surprise, Moment Queen was not able to escape the pursuit of the Devil-Blood King and his subordinates.

Moment Queen's face was consumed by a look of disdain, cursing the creatures that chased her.

So, Moment Queen opened the three chests in her possession. A gold light burst forth, expelling a wretched energy.

Han Sen was shocked, and his face became gloomy. He knew something terrible was about to occur.

The other super creatures had not been able to open the chests, due to how tightly they had been sealed. One creature had even swallowed theirs, all to no avail.

When Han Sen watched the super creature do this, the beast was torn apart from the inside. When the chest slipped out of its intestines, it was fine and unchanged.

For a chest that seemed to be impossible to open or eat, Moment Queen had popped her lid with relative ease.

Han Sen was already suspicious regarding the Jade-Gold Tree's choice of rooting itself in Moment Shelter, and he still didn't believe she was totally unaware of what the tree's existence meant.

Moment Queen had been performing exceptionally well in recent times, and she had obeyed Han Sen's every command. Her life was in his hands, too, so he never thought to question her loyalties.

But now, something was amiss. Moment Queen must have known something about the tree, and she had decided to keep Han Sen in the dark. Opening a chest now, with apparent ease, was revealing.

Han Sen stared at Moment Queen and the three open chests, wanting to know what was inside them.

Chapter 856: The Birth of Six Treasures

The three treasures shone with a golden light, and from each chest, something appeared directly in front of Moment Queen.

There was a purple shortsword, a small purple hammer, and a small purple shield.

Hilt and blade combined, the shortsword was about two feet in length. The shield was around the size of an average frying pan. The head of the hammer was about the size of a fist, with a handle that was barely half a foot long.

The three items were tiny, and it was hard to guess what use they would be. When they exited the chests that initially harbored them, the chests shattered into dust and scattered on the wind.

When the Devil-Blood King and the rest of the super creatures saw these items, they each tried to grab a hold of them.

The creature that came closest was the black bull, and with its ten-meter long metallic body, it rushed towards them with unprecedented speed.

Moment Queen grabbed the small hammer and drove it into the bull's head.

The little hammer did not seem threatening, like a mosquito going up against an elephant. The bull paid no heed to its approach, but was quickly brought to a stop when they collided.

It was like a train that was going three hundred miles per hour had been brought to a sudden halt. The black bull stood still, and blood seeped from the area of the bull's head that Moment Queen hit.

Katcha! Katcha!

The noises came from all through the bull's body, as if all of its bones were breaking, one after another. The ten meter long body dropped to the ground like a crumpled sack. It was very dead.

Super creatures, spirits, and humans alike were shocked to witness what had just happened. A dreadful, gripping fear had taken hold of their hearts, and kept them from moving.

The bull was a second-generation super creature, and it was difficult to believe that it had been one-hit killed by a hammer.

Han Sen and the Devil-Blood King both looked shocked, and they looked upon Moment Queen with wide-open eyes, as she hovered mid-air with the three articles of weaponry.

No super creature moved in response to what had just happened, but Moment Queen did. She flew over to the giant centipede that had procured a chest for itself.

Swinging the purple shortsword, she sliced the monster in half, as if it was composed of tofu.

The fourth golden chest was in Moment Queen's hand. Seeing things were getting out of control, Han Sen decided to return Moment Queen to the Sea of Soul.

But Moment Queen raised the purple shield and encompassed herself in a purple light. Han Sen's control over her was revoked, and the authority of his contract with her had been nullified.

Moment Queen merely smiled at Han Sen, and then ignored him. She opened the fourth chest, which was a little bigger. A set of armor was inside, which Moment Queen immediately donned.

Moment Queen was starting to look more and more like some primordial demon. She wielded a sword and hammer, as she went over to another super creature that was in possession of a golden chest.

No matter how strong the super creatures were, they were nothing in comparison to Moment Queen. With her shield and armor, any attack she took was useless, as well.

As Moment Queen's smile crept Han Sen out and soured his disposition, Han Sen turned around with a desire to run. He no longer wanted treasure; he only wanted to run as far away as he possibly could.

Moment Queen was able to use the weapons inside the chests to destroy their contract. She had become so powerful, she could slay super creatures as easily as one could kill livestock. Without his ability to govern her actions, Han Sen was undoubtedly the easiest target.

Han Sen had treated her like a maid for so long, he figured that she must have despised him. And when she procured the contents of each and every chest, he figured that she would come after him. He couldn't fathom the gruesome manner in which he would be killed.

Han Sen was feeling bitter over the circumstances, but no one could ever expect that a claimed spirit would have the potential to destroy their contract. It was the first he had heard of such a thing happening, and it could have quite possibly been the first occurrence in history. Such things hadn't been recorded to happen even in the demigod sanctuary. No one thought that claimed spirits could rebel.

And now, it wasn't only Han Sen running off. All the super creatures had snapped from their daze and chosen to flee, the Devil-Blood King included.

Not long after, Han Sen had escaped the Purple Mountain. And far-off, in the distance, the painful cries of super creatures could be heard. Having taken all the golden chests, Han Sen pictured Moment Queen mercilessly slaying each and every super creature without reprieve.

With Moment Queen's speed, she was undoubtedly the strongest being in Second God's Sanctuary.

Now that she had overpowered armor and weaponry, a super creature's survival in her shadow was entirely dependent on the mercy she was willing to offer. Currently, there had been none.

"Argh!"

Han Sen heard a voice cry out. He could tell it was from the Devil-Blood King, and Han Sen figured he must have been slain.

Han Sen's determination to escape heightened, and he decided to flee even harder. He couldn't respawn like the Devil-Blood King could, so all he could hope to do was run.

But the Devil-Blood King's death cry was the last thing Han Sen could hear. After that, only the silence sung. The profound quietness brought Han Sen discomfort, and when he turned around to take a look, he jumped.

Moment Queen was standing behind him, silently. She was staring at Han Sen intensely, with eyes that were as cold as ice.

Aside from the purple armor she was now clad in, she was also garbed in a pair of purple, metallic wings and a purple crown. She looked like some ancient queen, hailing from some mythical hellscape of a different world. She was even wreathed in a purple, flickering flame.

Despite the fact she was standing so close to him, Han Sen was unable to detect her energy. But still, nothing accentuated her terrifying visage more than a crystal-clear image of her standing right before him.

"My Queen, congratulations! It brings great joy to my heart, seeing you obtain all this treasure for yourself," Han Sen said, as his mind raced for a solution on how he might escape his predicament.

But no reasonable idea came to him, and fleeing actually seemed impossible. The items she had received from the golden chests were too powerful, and Han Sen's gear would be no match.

"You had fun bossing me around, didn't you?" Moment Queen smiled at Han Sen.

The smile was so beautiful and radiant, it seemed genuine enough to thaw the icy image she was previously conveying.

But to Han Sen, personally, it still felt as if he had a bucket of icy water thrown on his heart.

Han Sen turned around and started running. Moment Queen flapped her wings, and appearing behind him, grabbed his back.

Boom!

The silver fox was furious, and it spat out silver lightning. But the lightning was immediately cancelled by the purple aura that encompassed her body. It dealt no damage. She didn't even react to its touch.

Uninhibited, Moment Queen grabbed Han Sen and the silver fox. Not willing to give up entirely, they both cast their best attacks. Han Sen aimed for her belly, while the silver fox aimed for her head.

Chapter 857: Geno Seed

Han Sen's heart beat faster and faster, as his kidneys kicked into overdrive to produce energy. His body was charged with the element of thunder, and the tolling of a bell chimed. The fusion of thunder and sonic forces was driven directly into her belly.

The silver fox exerted more effort than ever before, focusing all it could to defend its master. It channeled its energy into an explosive, electric charge and fired a lightning thunderbolt towards her face.

The combination of these two strikes would have been fatal for most, but to Moment Queen, they were little more than a stiff wind.

She exuded a holy presence, an aura that graced her armor and shielded her. Furthermore, her crown produced a purple mist. The Sonic-Thunder Punch with Yin Force could not penetrate the armor.

The purple mist was able to dissolve the lightning that sought to strike her, and not even her hair was ruffled.

"Better try a new trick, because that one's getting old. That's what you would say, isn't it? Now, simmer down and cease wasting my time. Pestering me further will only invite a sooner death. I have no ardent desire to kill you, not yet. Still, it would be ill advised for you to test my patience." Moment Queen grabbed Han Sen and silver fox, and with a flap of her wings, took off in flight. The speed was so dizzyingly fast, the duo felt as if their bones were going to snap.

Pang! Pang!

A moment later, Han Sen and the silver fox were thrown to the ground. Such was the force, they could do little but writhe around in agony afterwards, groaning.

Trying to subdue the savage aching of his bones, Han Sen looked around. Moment Queen had brought them back to Moment Shelter, directly beneath the boughs of the Jade-Gold Tree.

Never had Han Sen seen the silver fox, in the time since he witnessed its birth, be so angry. It wanted nothing more than to lash out and attack Moment Queen, despite the futility of such an action. Fortunately, Han Sen was able to keep it from doing so.

They knew they were unable to compete with Moment Queen, and attacking her would only incite her wrath and lead to a quicker death. If she didn't want to kill them just yet, there was a chance they could make it out of their predicament alive.

Han Sen looked at Moment Queen who was standing under the tree. She looked upon it in admiration, but she didn't speak or do anything. What thoughts graced her mind, Han Sen couldn't tell.

Han Sen fingered the gourd in his pocket, suddenly noticing its rapid vibrations. It truly did seem ready to be born.

Suddenly, Moment Queen turned around. The unpredictability gave Han Sen and the silver fox a jump scare, and they couldn't help but take a step back.

"There is no need to fear me. I do not plan on killing you yet. You had me as your puppet for a time, so your death will be slow," Moment Queen said.

"Following my commands was a decision you made. Aside from asking a favor from time to time, I didn't mistreat you. Why don't we just go our separate ways, let bygones be bygones, and never see each other again?" Han Sen looked up and into her cold eyes. Then, he continued by saying, "If you think your service to me was unfair, how about we reverse roles for a time? Give me a task or two."

"Unfair?" Moment Queen looked angry, and continued to elaborate, "Killing you is the only thing that can make us even. You deserved to die the moment you approached the gates of my shelter. You deserved to die the moment you asserted yourself as my master."

"Calm down; with the treasure you have, the contract has already been destroyed." Han Sen went on, "I have seen a lot today, and I didn't expect a tree could grow armaments such as those you obtained. How did you learn what it took to grow such sacred items?"

"Sacred items?" Moment Queen's faced looked both mocking and scornful. She looked back to the Jade-Gold Tree and continued her dialogue, "Ignorant fool. They aren't sacred items; they are Geno Seeds. I brought them here from my time in Third God's Sanctuary. Do you really think something of such power exists here, in this place?"

Han Sen was frozen. He had heard about Geno Seeds before; it was something Ji Yanran and Annie had spoken of. But there was no way for them to ever appear in Second God's Sanctuary, so this possibility never crossed Han Sen's mind. He merely believed the tree to have birthed items of some sanctity.

Now, thinking about it this way, the Jade-Gold Tree was quite similar to the description given to him by Ji Yanran. After planting the seeds, they grew amazing items: weaponry and defensive armaments, some even grew creatures.

In the Third God's Sanctuary, Geno Seeds were important. Higher tier seeds provided higher tier armor and weapons.

He was told that the items birthed by Geno Seeds were entirely randomized, but Ji Yanran and Annie didn't go into too much detail. As such, Han Sen never expected the Jade-Gold Tree had grown from a Geno Seed.

“It is no wonder that these items are so powerful, learning that these weapons are the boon of a Geno Seed from Third God’s Sanctuary,” Han Sen said, complimenting the geno gear she had obtained.

Moment Queen coldly laughed and said, “The reason why the Jade-Gold Tree was able to be born was all thanks to you. If it weren’t for you, it would not have been able to grow.”

“Why? What did I have to do with it?” Han Sen asked, with a look of shock.

Moment Queen laughed and said, “You brought that lucky beast here to live with us. The seed grows thanks to the luck it bestows. You gave me back the hope I thought you had robbed forever.”

Han Sen wanted to slap himself. He shouldn’t have brought Little White here. Now, she was reaping all the benefits and worse yet, his life was dangling by a thread. Moment Queen held the scissors.

Han Sen’s face was full of regret, whereas Moment Queen’s face was one of unbridled joy.

“If you have just told me that I helped you, why do you want to kill me?” Han Sen said, as he thought of how he might escape.

“Do not worry; I am not going to kill you. But whether or not you live is another matter, and that is something that depends entirely on you.” Moment Queen wore a mystic smile.

“Please explain what you mean.” Han Sen frowned.

“I want to see if you can survive in Third God’s Sanctuary,” Moment Queen coldly said.

Han Sen thought about asking something else, but the Jade-Gold Tree that was about one hundred meters high was still growing. There were no more chest fruits, but the tree’s growth hadn’t stopped. It looked as if it was prepared to sunder the skies.

“The Jade-Gold Tree does not belong in Second God’s Sanctuary. Its birth was inspired by the lucky beast you tamed, but still, it has difficulty growing here. The Second God’s Sanctuary cannot handle the energy force it possesses, so it will break the sky and pierce through to Third God’s Sanctuary.” Moment Queen spoke with excitement, looking up at the tree that continued to grow before their eyes.

Han Sen felt the entirety of Purple Mountain quake, and eventually, rise. With the mountain set to its trunk, Moment Shelter was lifted from the earth below and taken up into the skies.

Han Sen was shocked. He was not yet a surpasser, and while entering Third God’s Sanctuary like this gave him a better chance at an initial survival, long-term survival did not seem likely. Any ordinary creature in Third God’s Sanctuary would be stronger than Han Sen.

As the Jade-Gold Tree continued to grow, the gourd in Han Sen’s hand became more and more excited. Han Sen could sense its actual feelings of happiness.

Han Sen had no idea why it felt happy.

Chapter 858: The Gourd’s Show of Strength

The earth was quaking as Moment Shelter rose up alongside the Purple Mountain. Beneath the sundered mountain, gargantuan jade roots were exposed.

The corpses of all the super creatures, and their Life Geno Essences included, were each consumed by the tree.

Its branches spiralled out and up into the air. Eventually, they reached what appeared to be an invisible ceiling, and above them, cracks suddenly started to appear in the sky. They spread out in the tangled manner of a spider web, suggesting the very skies were about to collapse.

A new life force energy came from beyond those cracks, and it was quickly absorbed by the tree. Following its consumption, the tree's body became greener than ever.

Although the Gold-Jade Tree was primarily only able to grow through Little White's luck, the tree still lacked the amount of nutrition it required. This was because it was still in Second God's Sanctuary. It found a way to make up for the lost energy by absorbing it directly from Third God's Sanctuary. Following this, it started to grow again.

Moment Queen looked delighted and said, "Finally! Finally, I can return to Third God's Sanctuary once more. It is finally happening! The *sshholes of that land better watch out, for I am back—with a vengeance."

Seeing the Jade-Gold Tree bring the shelter and the mountain itself up high, Han Sen's eyes couldn't help but widen. He was seeing something unbelievable.

Han Sen's gourd shone gold, and it vibrated with a greater ferocity. A black light began to seep and shine from its tip.

It was like a black hole, where a dimension at the gourd's tip had been distorted. Light and color were all being sucked into this black hole.

"Has the gourd chosen to hatch now? Talk about bad timing!" If whatever was inside the gourd was something good and beneficial, it was likely that Moment Queen would opt to take it away and claim ownership.

Han Sen noticed Moment Queen looking at the gourd. She frowned and asked him, "What are you doing?"

She had followed Han Sen for a while and knew much about who he was and what he possessed, but she believed the gourd he owned was little more than a toy.

But the black hole at its tip seemed capable of bending dimensions, and this made her frown.

“Nothing!” Han Sen wasn’t sure how to respond. He had owned this gourd for the longest time, and he’d lambast the heavens for the misfortune if it was stolen by Moment Queen now.

After Han Sen said this, he thought about putting the gourd away. But the black hole on the gourd expanded, and it spit out a strange manifestation of black light towards the Jade-Gold Tree.

The tree was surrounded by this black light, and its energy was being visibly drained from it. Like a physical river, the energy followed the black light back to its source: the gourd.

The gourd was only the size of a person’s palm, so the quantity of energy it was merrily absorbing was nigh unfathomable. The life force of the tree was clearly fading in response, and its appearance was quickly robbed of its lustre. The Jade-Gold Tree was wilting.

“What’s going on?” Han Sen asked, while holding the gourd in surprise.

“Do you want to die?” When Moment Queen noticed that the Jade-Gold Tree was dying and its efforts to break the sky were now failing, she believed it to be the malevolent work of Han Sen. She lunged forward to attack him.

Han Sen was prepared to evade, but before he did, the gourd fired another beam of black light towards Moment Queen’s purple shortsword.

Phew!

The purple shortsword was whipped out of her hands. As if caught by a gravity well, the sword then started moving towards the gourd. At the sight of this, Moment Queen’s face dropped aghast.

Although it was only a two foot long shortsword, the gourd was only the size of a person’s palm. And yet, the shortsword was sucked into this black hole, becoming trapped inside the gourd.

“What is this?!” Moment Queen looked at the gourd, failing to believe one of her six Cog armaments had been taken by it.

The Jade-Gold Tree’s seed was forged by a king, and it possessed many super genes inside it. It grew poorly in Second God’s Sanctuary, and the items it grew weren’t as effective as the genuine Super Gene ones. Still, the power these items possessed was far greater than the power of any other obtainable items of Second God’s Sanctuary.

Coming into possession of such an item in the Second God’s Shelter was an extremely rare opportunity, and already, the gourd had snatched one of them away from her. Although it was quickly smothered by her rage, Moment Queen was full of surprise.

At this sudden development, however, Han Sen was secretly exuberant. He hadn’t expected the gourd to prove so invaluable, particularly in his time of need. For one of those horrible Geno Seed weapons to be so quickly consumed by it, he had the sneaking suspicion things would soon turn in his favor.

“My baby gourd, suck her!” Han Sen wasn’t even sure if the gourd would follow such a command, but regardless, he barked it out.

And then, the gourd did indeed listen. A black beam was fired towards Moment Queen. She attempted to evade it, but she felt as if she was being pulled back to it. Unable to free herself, her face changed.

Whoosh!

It was Moment Queen's little hammer, followed by the shield she carried.

Within this strong well of suction, the six Cog armaments were being sucked into the gourd one by one.

"Suck it! Suck it! Suck it!" Han Sen was incredibly excited. He had believed himself to be a dead man, but when the gourd sprang to life, things truly seemed to be working out in his favor.

Moment Queen wished to escape the suction but she could not move. And amidst her hopeless bids to free herself from the restraints of the gourd's light, all of her new tree-born equipment was pulled away. Regardless of what she did, the gear found a way to squirm and slide its way out of her possession and towards the gourd.

"Suck it hard!" Han Sen shouted at Moment Queen, as he lifted up his gourd.

The black light continued to burst forth, and the purple crown was the next to depart her brief ownership. The mist it once expelled did nothing to keep it from being pulled into the whirling black abyss stemming from the top of the gourd.

Moment Queen was shocked, having no clue what that gourd could have possibly been. She had trouble fathoming the power it possessed, for it to so easily trump and consume her armaments.

"How can Second God's Sanctuary birth something such as this?" Moment Queen asked in a tone of obvious desperation. The cockiness she once exuded had all vanished.

"Kill her!" Han Sen lifted up the gourd and barked this one final order in the direction of Moment Queen. As he did so, an ear-to-ear smile materialized on his face, in merry delight of how the tables had turned so suddenly.

The wings on her back were now ripped off, too. They were sucked into the gourd.

But that wasn't the end. Moment Queen's purple armor, the final item, was ripped off her body. It became a formless purple light, and in a blink, disappeared into the gourd's trail of suction.

Moment Queen was now clothed only in her underwear.

"Little Moment, what were you saying?" Han Sen stared at her as he held his gourd, and he spoke to her slowly.

"What is that thing?" Moment Queen's spirit had been wholly defeated. She looked at the gourd, struggling to believe that her equipment had been taken away so easily.

Without the protection of her six Cog armaments, she could not rebel against Han Sen and his contract.

Chapter 859: Crying

"Come here," Han Sen said, and Moment Queen unwillingly approached.

Han Sen pushed her on the ground and slapped her round buttocks. The slap was so loud, she trembled with wide eyes.

It wasn't because of the pain, though. It was due to the humiliation she was now being forced to endure; never before had she been treated like this in the sanctuaries.

Of course, Han Sen couldn't care less. Repeatedly, he continued to smack, slap, and spank her bum. Eventually, the fabric of her underwear was torn open. This revealed the reddened skin of her sore—but plump—bottom.

Han Sen's handprint was clearly displayed, for so hard were his hits, even her natural body couldn't withstand the strikes.

Han Sen was incredibly mad on the inside, for that was the closest brush with death he had ever endured. Had things not turned out the way they had, Moment Queen would've killed him and the silver fox. In response to her misdeeds, he felt killing her outright would be too kind of a fate.

Moment Queen, still under the control of her contract, was unable to resist. Being humiliated in such a fashion actually brought tears to her eyes.

Han Sen did not care, obviously. He continued to slap her butt as hard and as loudly as he could.

"I will never forgive you for this." There were many things Moment Queen wanted to do, but she couldn't bear the humiliation she was currently enduring. She desperately wished she could self-destruct.

"Oh, you want to die, do you? I'm not allowing you to get away with what you have done that easily. What was it that you said to me earlier? My death was going to be a slow one?" Han Sen had now changed the contract, forbidding her from being able to self-destruct.

Pat! Pat! Pat!

Han Sen kept on hitting her bum without reprieve, and as she thought about what was happening, she was overcome with whelming sadness. She started to sob her eyes out.

The Moment Queen of Moment Shelter, the cold and fierce spirit, was crying like a baby girl.

The gourd, meanwhile, had not yet satiated its hunger for the tree's energy. So, as this was occurring, it continued to consume everything that it could. The leaves of the tree had lost their lustre and yellowed. Many leaves had started to depart their birthing branches now, as well, falling to the cobbled grounds of the plaza.

The gourd shone gold like some sort of crystal; it was a most eye-pleasing jewel.

Boom!

The Jade-Gold Tree died. Purple Mountain and Moment Shelter which had resided atop it both fell all the way back down to where they had previously rested.

The Jade-Gold Tree still remained, but it was little more than a deadwood sculpture of what it had once been. There was nothing left for the gourd to drain, and following this, the black hole blipped out of existence as easily and as quickly as it had first appeared. The gourd itself returned to its original, dull appearance.

Now, Han Sen stopped his torture of Moment Queen's bottom. He kissed the gourd and stroked it, saying, "Oh, baby gourd; might you allow me to play with the six pieces of Cog gear you recently consumed?"

The gourd gave no response, and he wondered whether or not it could hear his commands following its deactivation.

Han Sen greatly desired the weapons Moment Queen had previously used. Any one of those pieces could make him virtually invincible, he believed. They would prove invaluable upon his ascension to the Third God's Sanctuary, too.

Han Sen knew the weapons were inside the gourd, but it was refusing to release them.

"Oh, baby gourd. I have taken good care of you for the longest time now; I treated you as well as I would a true son. Perhaps now it is time for you to show a kindness in return. Give me two of them, at least. Or how about just one? One will do!" Despite Han Sen's continued pleading, there was still no response.

To say that this put a dampener on his mood was putting it lightly. He looked at Moment Queen, who was still crying, and said, "Moment, what can you tell me about this gourd?"

Moment Queen did not respond, and her face was still a blubbing mess. She had never felt so insulted before, and even if she did know something about the gourd, she would most certainly not oblige his desire for knowledge and explain to him the nature of the gourd that had defeated her.

"Hmm, it looks like your punishment was not sufficient." Han Sen used his mind to control Moment Queen, forcing her to stand up and approach him properly.

When she saw Han Sen rub his hands in an impish fashion, she became angry. But she also knew that resistance would only lead to further humiliation. Holding back the urge to kill him, she remorsefully said, "It does not come from the Second God's Sanctuary."

"Okay, continue. What is it, then?" Han Sen asked.

"I am not sure. But I assure you, I have never seen such a thing before. Also, it has not yet been born. There is something within, as you undoubtedly know, but I cannot even wager a guess about what lies inside. If I did have to guess, though, I would say that it is a high-class Geno Seed." Moment Queen did her best to subdue the shame that told her not to say a word.

"Geno Seed?" As he held the gourd, Han Sen could still feel the pulsating of its heartbeat.

He believed she really didn't know much about it. If she had known, she would have performed better against it earlier.

The gourd had managed to absorb the entire life energy of the gargantuan tree, and yet, it still wasn't ready to be born. Han Sen's mind could not fathom what manner of creature resided inside. Perhaps she was indeed right, guessing that it wasn't something that belonged to the Second God's Sanctuary.

"It looks like only the Third God's Sanctuary can produce something like this." Han Sen put away the gourd and returned Moment Queen to the Sea of Soul.

He didn't want to kill her yet, as it wouldn't make him feel any better over what had transpired. Furthermore, she was his property, and it'd only yield a loss if he were to destroy her.

Plus, Moment Queen had quite the history. She might have a use in the Third God's Sanctuary.

Of course, Han Sen wasn't going to underestimate her any further. For the rest of her existence, he was going to keep an eye on her. What's more, he was going to treat her like a slave and make her pay for her grievous misbehavior.

He left the shelter and went off to find Wang Yuhang, but he still wanted to establish a guard for Moment Shelter during his absence.

Much had transpired within the walls of that shelter, and yet, it was still standing. Believing its history to be of some importance, he wasn't quite willing to give up on it.

"Bossman, by the sanctuaries! Care to tell me what happened over there?" Wang Yuhang asked as soon as Han Sen returned, unable to wait a single additional second. From where he had been, he had felt the ground quake and even see the Purple Mountain rise from the earth, before descending back down again.

When the mountain fell, anything within a few thousand miles would have felt the tremor.

"The Jade-Gold Tree was evil. It killed almost all the super creatures there. Fortunately, I was powerful enough to overcome the wooden fiend and defeat it." Han Sen pointed at the Jade-Gold Tree in the distance as he boasted.

Wang Yuhang did not believe the absurd story he had been fed, but he wasn't going to ask again. If Han Sen did not want to tell him the truth, he was willing to accept that.

After tidying up the shelter, Big Black and Small Black returned to continue their defense of the area. Han Sen, in the meantime, returned to the Alliance in the hope of researching Geno Seeds and learning how they might pertain to the gourd. He had to find out more.

Chapter 860: Training

Han Sen learnt more about Geno Seeds from Ji Yanran. Perusing the information she provided him, though, he noted that it wasn't very substantial. He did learn that Geno Seeds were able to absorb all manners of genes, and which genes they absorbed would affect what grew inside them.

Some could grow geno equipment, whereas others could grow creatures. Others could form spirits or beast souls. What they chose to grow was influenced by the energies they absorbed.

Humans and spirits knew how to create Geno Seeds that they favored, and this was accomplished by injecting the genes of their choice into one. Doing so would enable the altered Geno Seed to create what the injector specifically sought.

Different sanctuaries had different ways of cultivating Geno Seeds. And the stuff they produced was different from place to place.

But humans lacked a lot of information about Geno Seeds, and as a result, Han Sen was unable to discover anything revealing about the nature of his gourd or the six Cog armaments.

“It looks like this is a mystery that will only reveal itself once I reach the Third God’s Sanctuary.” After Han Sen deleted the confidential information he had received, he returned to the sanctuary.

All of a sudden, he received orders bidding him to join a training program.

Han Sen went back to ask Ji Yanran about it, and she said it was a training program of the Alliance. It was something related to the Crystallizer civilization. All members of the Daphne had to take part, including her.

Han Sen had no choice but to join, since he was issued the order. He wasn’t strong enough to take-on the entire Alliance yet, so he still had to adhere to whatever order was given to him by the council. Unfortunately for him, however, it threw a wrench in his plans of attacking Devil-Blood Shelter again. It would be delayed.

The Devil-Blood King had been heavily damaged, and he was lacking his former power. Han Sen believed he could take out Devil-Blood Shelter and max out his super geno points in the process.

Spirit Owl and Death Knell had not finished evolving yet, though, and they were two companions he thought he might need. As a result, he didn’t think it’d do much harm to go to the training program first.

When Han Sen arrived at the training base at Moka Planet, he was surprised to see that it wasn’t only his team that was receiving the training.

A lot of Crystallizer Ruin research members would receive this training, as well. All in all, there were more than ten thousand people there.

“Han Sen! You are Han Sen, yes?” Immediately after arriving, Han Sen was greeted by someone who fanboyishly recognized him. The man hastily moved to intercept him.

Han Sen was quite happy about this, and he couldn’t help but think, “Haha, I really am rather popular.”

“Yes, I am Han Sen.” The person in front of him was a twenty-year-old soldier. Han Sen was pleased at the reception he was given, and he was about to ask the man if he wanted an autograph.

But jovially, the young man quickly said, "It really is you? Sweet! Your fiance is the princess of the Alliance, Ji Yanran. We are very fond of her."

"What the hell?" Han Sen had rarely felt so awkward. He explained to them, "Well, for what I suspect you will ask next, the answer is yes. She will be joining the training program, too. You can see her later."

"Whoa! Awesome!"

A bunch of soldiers began to babble amongst themselves. Then, a woman soldier approached Han Sen and handed him a pen and paper. She politely asked, "Can I have your signature, please?"

Han Sen noticed that this female soldier was attractively challenged, but still he thought, "Well, at the very least, women have better judgment, I suppose."

"Of course." Han Sen smiled and accepted the pen and paper, ready to scribble his signature. But just as he was about to bring the pen down on the paper, the female soldier said, "Can you write, Ji Yanran's fiance for your name?"

Han Sen almost bit his tongue off, and was tempted to grab her clothes and yell, "Are you trying to make me look like a fool? How shameless are you, asking me to sign this?!"

The female soldier, however, looked like a very shy individual. Despite being disheartened, Han Sen complied with her request and proceeded to scribble down Ji Yanran's fiance.

"Yay! I have obtained the signature of Ji Yanran's fiance! Woohoo!" The soldier thanked Han Sen with a frightening amount of glee and hugged the paper tightly.

Han Sen heard a familiar voice laughing somewhere nearby. He turned around and saw a familiar yet strange shadow.

"Mengmeng?" Han Sen was very surprised, but still he approached her. He had not expected to see Wang Mengmeng there.

Since he last saw her, she had grown taller. She exuded a sense of greater maturity, but her overall appearance was still an undeniable victim of her babyface.

"Tell me, Handsome; as the fiance of a princess, do you feel pressured?" Wang Mengmeng asked, with her eyes wide open in curiosity.

"Before arriving here, I believed myself to be a figure of greater fame than she was." Han Sen was feeling hopeless.

Wang Mengmeng smiled and said, "It's normal, don't worry. The president has a beautiful daughter, and it is not uncommon for people to crave every tidbit of news about what the president is up to. Of course the media chases her, and her title as Princess is formally recognized throughout the entire Alliance. Even the news of your triumph against Yu Qiellan referred to you as 'the princess's fiance.'"

Han Sen wasn't affected by this, however. He simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "I recall you are a member of the Royal Warframe Team, so how come you are here today? Why are you here, taking part in today's special training?"

"Honestly? I'm not sure. Some of us received the order to come, whereas others didn't. Perhaps there is an important operation regarding the Crystallizers?" Wang Mengmeng hypothesized.

"Let's walk and talk; where is your room?" Han Sen spoke as he walked alongside Wang Mengmeng.

In an office of the training camp, an old man watched a video stream of the ongoing scene between Han Sen and Wang Mengmeng.

"Teacher, would you like to me to bring Han Sen here?" Wen Zhong asked the old man.

The old man shook his head and said, "No, there is no need to. I do not wish to make my identity and presence known to him yet. I will continue to watch them in secret, in the meantime."

"Um, I don't think that is very appropriate," Wen Zhong said, in surprise.

"It isn't inappropriate. It makes for a compelling watch, that's all." The old man smiled as he looked at Han Sen. Then he said, "I can see the real him like this."

"Teacher, do you really want to accept him as a student of yours?" Wen Zhong was hesitant to ask this question, but he did so anyway.

"Maybe. Maybe not. First, I have to meet with him," the old man said.

"I still think it is inappropriate. He hails from the Luo family, after all." Wen Zhong wore a complicated expression.

"Then doesn't that make for an even more compelling watch? I, Zhuo Donglai, having a student from the Luo family would be rather interesting, don't you think?" The old man squinted his eyes, with a smile that could only be defined as perfect.