



SUPER GENE

BOOK 11

Twelve Winged Dark Burning Angel

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

Super Gene

(超级神基因)

by

Twelve Winged Dark Burning Angel

(十二翼黑暗炽天使)

Synopsis

The future unfolded on a magnificent scale into the Interstellar Age. Humanity finally solved the space warp technology, but when humanity transported themselves into the other end, they discovered that place neither had a past nor future, nor was there any land under the starry skies.....

The mysterious sanctuary was actually a world filled with countless tyrannical unusual organisms. Humanity faced their great leap in evolution, starting the most glorious and resplendant new era under the starry skies.

“Slaughtered the God Blood organism ‘Black Beetle’. Received the God Blood Black Beetle’s Beast Soul. Used the God Blood Black Beetle’s flesh. Randomly obtaining 0 to 10 points of God Gene(s).”

Acknowledgement

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Chapter 1001: Waterfall on God Mountain

Han Sen chased the ape king, but again, he was unable to keep up. He could have sworn the simian fiend was cheating, and before long, it had completely disappeared from sight.

But with the king gone, the other monkeys still tried to attack Han Sen. After sealing their seventh sense, he went into hiding.

When their sight returned to them, they poked around and looked for Han Sen, but they couldn't find him. Not too concerned with establishing a manhunt, they just went away.

"I'm going to find you now." Believing they were headed home, Han Sen decided to follow the monkeys.

After ten miles of travel, he saw a grand mountain many of the monkeys were scaling.

Han Sen admired the grandeur of the mountain and was in awe at the spectacle. Its peak was nestled above the clouds, and there was a massive waterfall. It was incredibly beautiful.

"If I had to wager a guess, I'd say the monkey king makes its home here," Han Sen said to himself, and then thought, "Now I know where you live. If you ever show your face, and if you ever disturb my people again, I will be back. I'll kill your kids and all your grandkids. We'll see who's laughing then."

Han Sen approached the mountain, and as his sense of scale improved, he got a sense of how truly enormous the mountain really was. He could not even see the peak.

The silver waterfall came from someplace above the clouds, and it looked like a silver dragon descending from the heavens.

"Strange; I wonder where the water comes from?" Han Sen looked around, and noticed it really was just a single mountain surrounded by the woodlands of Thorn Forest. It was not a mountain range.

A lonely mountain, with a spectacular waterfall such as that, was strange in Han Sen's eyes.

"Does the water come from the sky?" Han Sen thought, but then quickly disregarded the idea as ludicrous.

Han Sen turned his attention back to the monkeys that scaled the mountain. Curiously, they were all headed for that waterfall, and when they reached it, they went beyond it.

Han Sen's interest was captured by the sight, and he wanted to see exactly what they were doing and how they were disappearing into the waterfall.

After another moment of contemplation, Han Sen decided to check out the waterfall himself. So, he started to scale the mountain, heading there alongside the blue monkeys that still couldn't notice him.

The monkeys were unable to beat him in a fight, and even if Han Sen had to take on the ape king, he was confident he could beat it. Therefore, he did not need to fear going after them.

Han Sen wished to see what they were doing behind the waterfall.

Upon reaching it, Han Sen found that there was a cave behind the waterfall. He scanned the entrance and could not see a thing. All traces of the monkeys had vanished.

Bao'er herself looked curious, and she asked, "Daddy, where are the monkeys?"

"I'm sure we'll see them soon enough." Han Sen walked inside the cave with caution, slightly worried that he was walking into a trap.

But nothing happened. He walked through the caves for three kilometers, and still, he could not find the monkeys.

The cave was getting dark, too. Han Sen could no longer see Bao'er's face, either.

He had his Dongxuan Aura active, and try as he might to find a creature, there was nothing. There was only the black.

Han Sen kept a hand on the cave wall as he went, and he thought to himself, "What are the monkeys doing down here? Is there a treasure of some value, maybe?"

With the thought of treasure running through his mind, Han Sen's excitement for this affair was renewed.

Wherever he was headed, there was only one way. The cave's tunnels were linear, and there were no forks or branching pathways. As such, he did not have to worry about getting lost.

He walked another ten miles in that place, and he started to wonder whether or not he was going to reach the end. Regardless of where he was, the mountain was far too big for its own good, he thought.

He suddenly saw a light ahead of him, which brought him a joy that had long since been vanquished. Holding Bao'er tight, he ran towards the light.

It was an exit, and speeding up, Han Sen ran out. Before him lay a valley.

There were countless monkeys playing in that valley, and across the verdant greens of that expanse, were gorgeous trees.

"Are they geno plants, I wonder?" Han Sen looked at the trees, and after a brief scan, Han Sen could detect the lifeforce of each. They were indeed all geno plants.

Many of the trees were ripe, and there was much fruit growing across their boughs. The monkeys were gorging themselves on the succulent fruits, even now as he looked on.

"Awesome! So many plants with really high lifeforces; I most certainly hit the jackpot today." Han Sen wanted to rush forward and claim them for himself, and even Bao'er was squirming with hands outstretched, obviously wanting to eat the fruit.

"Don't be hasty. We're still not sure if we can even eat them yet." Han Sen held Bao'er tight, watching the reactions of the monkeys as they ate the fruit.

The geno plants did look strange, admittedly. As such, he was a little hesitant to begin eating the fruit their branches offered.

The geno plants possessed fruit, but that was it. There were no flowers or anything of the sort, which was why Han Sen thought it strange.

Han Sen, with his eyes alone, could see at least a hundred of the geno plants. But none of these plants grew weapons, beast souls, or creatures. Not even spirits.

There was only fruit. The monkeys weren't selective of which fruit they wanted, either. They just picked up the fruit nearest to them and kept on eating.

Bao'er could not wait any longer, and she escaped Han Sen's grasp. She crawled to the nearest tree and climbed it. She picked up one of the fruits and ate it.

Chapter 1002: Mystic Valley

Bao'er sat upon a branch of the tree with a fruit in her hands. Then, she took a big bite. A lot of juice flowed out of the fruit, and it emitted a pleasant fragrance.

Bao'er ate the fruit whole in a few more bites. Then she licked her lips and immediately went for another.

She climbed further up the tree and collected as many as she could carry. She stuffed her face with the fruit, all the while saying, "Daddy, come and eat the fruit!"

Dismally, Han Sen thought to himself, "If only I could be so carefree. Unfortunately for me, I have monkeys to deal with first."

Han Sen was not currently in the mood to eat, and there were at least a thousand monkeys with their eyes fixed upon Bao'er as she munched their food.

The monkey king made an appearance, and after it noticed her, and it yelled at her in its simian tongue. All the monkeys began hopping and jumping about in excitement.

The monkey king was glowing blue, and it jumped towards Bao'er.

Han Sen immediately grabbed Bao'er away from the tree and activated his Dongxuan Aura. But this time, the monkey king seemed immune to the seventh sense-stifling effects. It came directly towards Han Sen, without pause or confusion.

Needing an extra kick, Han Sen activated Jade-Sun Force and Long Live to speed up and evade the incoming attack.

The monkey king was incredibly powerful, and if Han Sen didn't use his super king spirit mode, he wasn't sure if he'd emerge victorious.

Han Sen was far slower than the ape, as had already been

established. But he was fortunate to have the geno trees all around. They were basically sacred to the monkeys, and the last thing the monkey king wanted to do was destroy those trees in a rampage. Acknowledging this, Han Sen was able to use the trees for protection.

Bao'er swallowed the last morsel of fruit she had collected, and she looked bloated. She reclined in Han Sen's arms, satisfied, without concern for the horde of furious monkeys.

Ducking and weaving, Han Sen was getting chased all over the place by the monkey king.

They ran across the valley for a long time, but then, Han Sen stumbled across a wine jug that had been crafted from jade.

Half of the pot was in the soil, and only its rim and lid were exposed above the earth.

The reason it stood out to Han Sen, and why the wine jug was most curious, was the fact that it was ten meters tall. He could not fathom what sort of being would use it to pour wine for themselves.

"Do humans or spirits reside here, I wonder?" If he had to take a guess, Han Sen thought it would most likely belong to a spirit. He didn't think humans could make use of a ten-meter-tall wine jug.

Before he could admire it more, though, the monkey king was closing in. In the nick of time, Han Sen evaded the attack. But when he did so, he took notice of a giant stone bowl in the ground.

This shocked Han Sen, as well. They were curious items, and yet, they were all half-sunk into the ground.

There was a forty-meter-tall cauldron in the area, too. It was all rusted, but there were several dings in the area, also.

It was strange. Everything in the area was significantly larger than they should have been, and even the smallest cup was a few meters tall.

Han Sen wondered how long they had been here, but signs pointed to it being a long time. All the wares there were caked in dust.

The items had also been crafted either out of jade or copper. And whereas the jade items were doing perfectly fine with the advance of time, the copper wasn't faring so well. The copper wares had rusted, and were clearly in a state of decay.

Han Sen ran the length of the valley, from end to end. He could not detect the presence of a single human or spirit there, but now, he had been trapped. He had backed himself into a corner, which proved to be a dead end, and he had no way out.

The monkey king was still in pursuit, and it was drawing near. It came for Han Sen with blistering speed, gleaming with a blue light all the while.

Han Sen jumped into the air, wishing to fly up and above the rabid ape.

But the monkey king jumped and tried to attack Han Sen. Fortunately for Han Sen, he was adept with airborne maneuvers, and he was able to sidestep in the air to evade the monkey's fist. As he did so, he called out to the monkey, "Haha, Chunky Kong! I can fly; I bet you can't do that."

The monkey king did not look angry, though. It looked happy, and a grin formed on its face. It seemed as if it was the monkey was now laughing at Han Sen.

There was clearly something amiss, and Han Sen felt it. But even with his Dongxuan Aura active, he could not sense what had brought on the aura of unease.

Having almost exited the valley in flight, Han Sen felt as if he hit a wall. Brought to a sudden stop, he fell back down with Bao'er.

He reactivated his flight and dodged the monkey king, who had come over for a follow-up attack.

Han Sen maintained his position, but could not see what had brought his earlier flight to a sudden stop.

Looking up, there was no wall or fogged-object that he might have accidentally bumped into.

Han Sen flew up to where he hit something solid, but this time, he went slowly. He felt as if he was coming into contact with an invisible wall, and when he reached out to touch it, it bounced him away.

"What sort of power has created this invisible, skyborne hurdle?" Han Sen tried exiting the valley from another portion of the sky, but he was met with the same results there.

All the while, the monkey king continued attacking while Han Sen dodged. It had been going on for some time now, though, and he knew he could not keep it up much longer.

Han Sen decided to fall back to the tunnel he had entered the valley from, but strangely, it had disappeared.

He punched where he believed the cave had once been, and the power of his strike was deflected back into him. There was a lot of power in that fist, and Han Sen ended up making himself bleed.

"Holy sh*t! Where the h*ll have I ended up? What is this place?!"

Chapter 1003: The Fruit

The blue monkey king came swiftly from behind, and Han Sen decided he'd had enough of this ordeal. He stopped dodging and simply activated his super king spirit mode.

Boom!

Han Sen punched the monkey king with tremendous force, which knocked it backwards into a roll. Unexpectedly, it landed perfectly. The strike had hit the monkey's fist, and the only damage the strike did was to cause the creature's hand to bruise and swell.

This was an unpleasant surprise. His super king spirit mode had opened its first gene lock, but his fitness level was much higher than a sacred-blood creature's. For the monkey king to be nearly unfazed by Han Sen's strike, he couldn't imagine how many gene locks of its own it had opened.

Han Sen's super king spirit mode was always on a short fuse. If he stood a chance, he couldn't waste a single second. He had to take his opponent out before the timer expired. But weirdly, the monkey king was starting to run off again, and Han Sen was unable to catch up.

"How many gene locks has this guy opened?" Han Sen deactivated his super king spirit mode.

Han Sen knew he wouldn't be able to catch up with the ape, so he thought it best if he saved some strength.

The monkey king looked scared of Han Sen, surprisingly. It stopped, then simply watched him from afar.

The monkey king commanded the other monkeys to follow it, which made them back away from Han Sen. The worst they did was give a mean stare to the intruders of the valley, as they heeded their king's order.

It was fortunate for Han Sen that the monkey king was somewhat of a wimp. Being unable to beat the monkey king with his ten seconds of super king spirit mode would have left Han Sen in a dire predicament.

With the valley now mostly clear of monkeys, Han Sen decided to explore the area a bit. The only things of note there, aside from the trees, were the oversized dishes and cooking implements. None of them were particularly special or fancy in appearance, and they looked fairly practical and crude. Whatever they were, they were made by hand, that was for sure.

Han Sen didn't want to spare too much time thinking about those items right now, though. After the fight, he noticed he was feeling rather hungry. He ate some of the red fruits Bao'er had consumed, to fill his empty tummy. They tasted sweet and refreshing.

"It's no wonder she loves these things. They taste much better than the seedless fruit you can buy back in the Alliance." Han Sen ate a whole fruit.

"Super King Self Spirit Gene +1."

Han Sen was shocked, learning that a single one of those fruits could provide one self geno point.

Yaksha had only managed to grow one Devil King Tree, the fruit of which also provided one self geno point.

"Is it possible that all these trees can be as bountiful as the Devil King Tree's fruit?" Han Sen, not sparing any time, raced to grab another fruit.

"Super King Self Spirit Gene +1."

After Han Sen ate the next, he heard the same announcement. He had rarely been this happy.

"What about this fruit here? Can they provide the same?" Han Sen picked up a yellow fruit, which he had seen a few monkeys consume earlier.

When Han Sen ate this fruit, he heard the announcement play again. He was giddy like a schoolgirl.

"If I eat them all, how many self geno points might I receive in total? I'd wager a fraction of this valley would be enough to cap off my self geno point needs!" Han Sen, reveling in excitement, began munching all the fruit he could.

Unfortunately for him, he was not a super creature and his belly had a limit. After ten of the fruit, he was stuffed and could eat no more.

What disappointed Han Sen the most, though, was that after eating three of the red fruits, his points did not increase any more. It seemed as if by consuming the same fruit three times, and by receiving a self geno point each time, he couldn't get any more.

"Still, there's a wide variety of fruit here in the valley. Even if I took three from each, I could still earn myself a few hundred geno points." Han Sen was not at all disappointed, as there was still plenty to get.

After Han Sen was full, he decided to look around for a way in which he might exit the area. The sides of the valley were tall and steep, and the sky was blocked by an invisible force. He had been trapped.

The monkey king and the monkeys were still in the region, but they did not dare provoke him. In fact, it seemed as if the monkeys themselves were looking for an exit, as well.

After the monkeys had eaten the fruit, their bodies seemed to morph and become stronger. Even the mangy, lanky monkeys were starting to buff-up and look similar to the king.

Han Sen's face became dire when he noticed this. What's more, it seemed the monkey king had only just found this place instead of living there, as Han Sen had initially suspected. If they did not know how to leave, then he was stuck there with them.

And by further observation of their behavior, his suspicions were confirmed.

The monkeys had gotten bigger. They weren't king-sized yet, but it was clear they had opened a few gene locks.

Han Sen made sure to eat as much fruit as he could, whenever space was reclaimed inside his stomach. Before long, he had reached the third tier of super king spirit mode.

His power had not greatly increased, but there was an improvement to the length of the talent.

Han Sen summoned his Disloyal Knight, Meowth, and Golden Growler, and got them to dine on what they could. Following their consumption of the fruit, they each experienced some changes.

After this, though, Han Sen was determined to find a way out. There had to be a way to escape the valley, he just had to find it. But the mystic force that shielded the place proved to be too formidable, and it protected the land there. Han Sen could not even create a cleft in a rock with a mighty strike.

Han Sen realized time itself was rather stiff in the valley, too. It felt as if time was standing still there.

The trees had stopped growing. The ripe fruit did not fall to the ground, and the unripened fruit stayed as they were.

"This valley is a strange place." Han Sen was a little bewildered by the place he had found himself. But it seemed that, until the cave revealed itself again, he wasn't going anywhere.

He also realized he couldn't get in touch with Moment Queen. It was as if such connections were interrupted by the powers of the valley, isolating him.

Chapter 1004: Three Years

Stuck there in the valley, with no immediate concerns, Han Sen was bored and had nothing to do. Aside from chatting with Thorn Baron and taking care of Bao'er, he spent all his time practicing the Blood-Pulse Sutra.

Perhaps it was because he had a lot of fruit, the speed in which he could practice had vastly increased, and he unlocked the next gene lock in a few short days.

His Blood-Pulse Sutra was developing very quickly, but the same could not be said for the Dongxuan Sutra.

Han Sen put a stop to his practice of the Dongxuan Sutra to wholly focus on the Blood-Pulse Sutra, for the time being.

And that was all he could do. As boring as it may have been, at least it was beneficial for his personal growth.

When he was a little worn out, though, he'd take the time to investigate the valley and examine the earthenware a little more closely, and perhaps even see if he could unearth a clue or come up with a solution to his dilemma.

But the items that were strewn across the valley lacked markings or telltale signs of their former owners or makers. Without any leads to follow, Han Sen seemed to forever remain at square one.

There was, however, one item he came across that was interesting. It was a broken tablet that had been entirely buried beneath the ground.

He caught sight of a monkey taking a leak nearby. It dug a hole and did its business, and when it was done, Han Sen noticed the corner of the fragmented tablet the monkey had inadvertently dug around to answer the call of nature. Unfazed by the monkey pee, Han Sen went over to uncover the rest and dig it all up.

The tablet was big, just like everything else in the valley. It was

ten meters wide and two meters tall. The text on the tablet was written in an ancient human language, one that Han Sen had little knowledge of. The only word he could decipher, was the word knock.

It was fortunate Han Sen had once taken the time to educate himself about ancient languages. If he hadn't, he would have passed the text off as nonsensical scribbles.

"Hmm, this is an ancient human language. Was this thing created by humans?" Han Sen was shocked at the discovery he had made.

On the word knock, Han Sen noticed there was a blood-stain. It was a melancholy sight to see.

He then looked at the craftsmanship of the tablet. He couldn't guess what tools had been used to carve it and etch the ancient characters, but the work was remarkable. It was all very smooth. It was strong, too, and even if Han Sen exhausted all his power on the tablet, it was likely he couldn't break it. He'd probably not even be able to leave a mark.

Aside from this curiosity he had found, no other item he had seen in the valley had words etched upon them.

Han Sen and the monkeys were still stuck there, and with no daytimes or nighttimes, it was impossible to determine how much time had passed.

Han Sen continued his practice, and things came along very well. With his fifteen-hundred fitness level, he managed to open six of his Blood-Pulse Sutra gene locks.

He also made sure to eat a lot of fruit, too. When his self geno point tally reached a sum of nine-hundred, it appeared to become significantly more difficult to increase.

No matter what fruit he ate, he could not increase his self geno points. As far as he could tell, he had maxed it out.

Even Thorn Baron helped herself to the fruit of that valley, and

her development came along quite a bit. She managed to open nine gene locks.

The blue monkeys had done well for themselves, also. They all looked like fierce primate warriors; they were terrifying!

But because they had all been in the valley together for the same amount of time, trapped, they had become friendly. All of them were in the same boat, and both parties acknowledged there was no need to make matters worse by maintaining their hostilities.

With no day and night cycle to mark the passage of time, Han Sen had made sure not to lose track of the calendar, though. He counted the hours that passed in his head, and every time the count hit twenty-four, he made a mark.

It might not have been the most accurate calendar, but it had to be fairly close.

They were there for a long time, so long. Han Sen believed they had all been stuck in that valley for three years. His Blood-Pulse Sutra was up to its ninth tier.

There had been no advancement with his super king spirit mode. It was still at nine hundred, and Han Sen was still unable to earn any more points for it.

Unfortunately, his fitness was still stuck at fifteen-hundred. His sacred-blood and super geno points had not increased one tiny bit. Still, the fact he had managed to open so many gene locks with such a low fitness level was a remarkable accomplishment, and one that was extremely rare.

But even at seven gene locks open, Han Sen's body could not support the surge in strength it provided.

Super king spirit mode did not have this negative effect, though. So, Han Sen was able to use that as freely as he could. With all of its gene locks open, Han Sen could use super king spirit mode for at least a whole hour.

If he did use it that long, though, Han Sen required a whole week of rest to recover before he could use it again.

After three years, Bao'er was still the baby she had always been. But Han Sen understood her lifecycle might have been different than a typical human's.

On this day, as he frequently did, Han Sen took a stroll all around the valley. He did this every day, trying to spot even the slightest difference in the place, which seemed to be stuck in time.

And over the course of the three years, there had not been a single change. That is, except for the fruit they had all eaten. The trees were bare and the valley looked glum and dead, following their three year occupation of the place.

If they didn't find a way to leave the valley soon, there was a possibility of a simian uprising, and Han Sen and the apes would end up fighting again.

But on this day, when Han Sen approached where the entrance of the valley had once been, he had his breath taken away.

Han Sen almost cried tears of joy. The flat wall, which had blocked his return once before, now led into a tunnel. It was the exact same one he had traversed to get to the valley three years ago.

"After three long years, we are free! Bao'er come, we can leave this place!" Han Sen ran to Bao'er and picked her up as hastily as he could. He was afraid the cave would disappear.

He returned Thorn Baron to the Sea of Soul and called over to the monkeys, saying, "Come on, let's go! We can leave!"

Han Sen did not know whether they understood or not, and neither did he care to stay and find out. He raced back to the tunnel as fast as he could.

As he ran through the dark tunnel, the roar of a waterfall began to echo around him.

When the literal light at the end of the tunnel greeted Han Sen's eyes, and the sound of that waterfall caressed his ears, Han Sen felt like crying.

Over the past three years, he had become far stronger and had advanced a considerable amount. But still, it felt as if he had spent the time in jail. He had been stripped of all freedom. Now, he had been given that freedom back, and that sensation trumpeted through every cell of his being.

Han Sen ran out through the waterfall and flew into the sky with Bao'er in his hands. He went up and up, shooting through the clouds.

"Han Sen is back! Haha!"

Chapter 1005: Fleeing Team

On the slopes of that mountain, a group of people were traveling. They were a mixture of young and old people, and there were about two hundred people in total. They were sluggish and in disarray, and upon closer inspection, many were wounded. Some had been more grievously injured than others, with many having lost entire limbs. It was a horrifying scene.

"Uncle San, are we going to make it?" a young woman asked an elderly person, as she rode upon a unicorn.

"Yes, we are," the old man answered her with absolute certainty.

They were surpassers, hailing from Wind God Shelter. They were once incredibly strong, and one of them had even opened eight gene locks. They had conquered royal shelters for years.

But this legacy was brought to its knees upon the arrival of a powerful spirit. Thousands of people had died in the sudden siege, and only two hundred had made it out alive.

The man who had opened eight gene locks, and many other brave warriors, remained behind to stall the spirit that attacked them. They gave their lives so others could escape.

But fleeing to the wilds was not a guarantee of safety for anyone. It was often a crueler fate, and this mountain was not someplace anyone could take refuge. This was a place not even an army of spirits would dare go, and so the small group's chances of survival were nearly nil.

But these people did not know this. Still, they remained wary, just as much as they were weary. It was a foreign land, and they had to maintain vigilance.

Even if they crossed the mountain successfully, there was no guarantee fonder pastures awaited them on the other side. The area past the mountain was most likely controlled by spirits, as

well.

With nowhere specific to run, and with no idea what fate might soon await them, all they could do was give in to the whims of their feet. They traveled with no destination in mind, in a simple escape of the horrors behind them, in a desperate hope that no more would lie ahead.

Lin Weiwei did not ask again. As kind as her uncle's few words were, she had just been hesitant to accept the truth of what was most likely to happen. She wanted at least one comforting thought, but their reserves were empty and there was no comfort to be had. Whether any of them would survive was now in the fickle hands of destiny.

After another two days of harsh passage, they encountered more than a fair share of creatures. Two more people fell in battle with them, and they were still in what could be regarded as the foothills of the mountain. As they went deeper, they knew crueler monstrosities would soon appear.

"Careful; we have movement to the left," someone said, which drew their attention there.

"Prepare for battle!" Uncle San rallied, whose actual name was Lin He. After his command, silence gripped the air again. Then came the sounds of rustling. It drew nearer and nearer.

Sweat and fear choked the hearts of those who waited for whatever foul beast would emerge and waylay them.

A shadow started to form in the foliage, and with their weapons in hand, they prepared to fight.

But when this shadow came closer, the dark figure began to take shape. It was a person, strangely. It was a twenty-year-old man with skin that was smoother than any fair maiden.

If it wasn't for the person's manly face and strong, wide body, he could have very well been mistaken for a woman.

When they saw another human approach, relief captured their hearts. Someone yelled, "What is wrong with you? You should stick with the team!"

"He is not one of us. And how can a baby exist here, in the Third God's Sanctuary?" When Lin He said this, the warmth of relief evaporated in a sudden tug. Their nervousness was amplified once more.

The people realized that they did not recognize this man, and a baby was asleep sucking her finger. The sight unnerved them.

Humans could not enter a sanctuary before they were sixteen years old. Only death would await them, if they tried. If this was true, how could one survive there?

"Kill him! He is not human, and this is a trick." When a person commanded this, bows were raised and aimed at the shadowy figure.

"Don't shoot!" The man with a baby in one arm, raised his other with the plea.

"Renounce that forked-tongue, and spare us any lies you wish to conjure. Attack this wicked fiend!" With these words, arrows were nocked and strings were drawn.

The refugees were on edge, and they had every right to be. With this person appearing from out of nowhere, in possession of a strange baby, they struggled to believe it to be an actual human.

"Stop, he is one of us!" Lin Weiwei leapt off her unicorn and stopped the barrage of arrows that was about to be loosed.

"One of us?! You don't even know him," someone asked.

"I know him. And if you can't recognize his appearance, then his name is one you must certainly be familiar with," Lin Weiwei said.

"Are you certain? You know who this man is?" Lin He asked, as no one dared to lower their bows.

"This is President Ji's son-in-law, Han Sen," Lin Weiwei said.

Lin Weiwei was Lin Feng's auntie. They had once met a long time ago, in a conference held by the four families of Lin, Xue, Ji, and Wang.

"He is Han Sen?" Lin He asked, in disbelief.

"Ask him, if you do not believe me," Lin Weiwei said snidely.

Before Lin He could ask, Han Sen broke the silence. He asked, "Sister Wei, how is Lin Feng?"

A vat of relief washed over Lin He. It was immediately comforting for him to learn this person knew Lin Weiwei and Lin Feng, who was still in the Second God's Sanctuary.

"Not bad. But now is not the time for idle chit-chat. Do you care to tell me why you are out here, on Ghost Mountain? And where in the sanctuaries did this baby come from?" Lin Weiwei asked.

Everyone was still in a state of alarm, so Han Sen stepped forward to be friendlier and ease some of the tension out of the atmosphere.

"A creature chased me here whilst I was out hunting. Oh, and it's not an actual baby. It's a humanoid pet. I'm still growing it." Han Sen smiled.

Han Sen wished to say something more, but a sudden scream erupted from the front of the team. It was a wretched plea for aid, and when they turned to look, they saw a surpasser burning to cinders.

Chapter 1006: Three Days, Three Years

A monster appeared on the slopes ahead, wreathed in fire. A man, who was looking Han Sen's way, was suddenly set ablaze.

Han Sen frowned at the sight, but thought it fortunate he had stumbled across the group right before a crisis befell them. Now, he had an opportunity to prove his worth and removed any shadows of doubt they harbored that he might not have been who he said he was.

But before Han Sen could move, Lin Weiwei tugged at him and said, "Please be careful!"

"I can help," Han Sen replied.

"Protecting yourself is the best thing you can do for now," Lin Weiwei said, before she started running towards the monster.

Han Sen wished to tell her, "I can kill that thing. Get your hands off me!"

But before he could, she and the others in their company had gone forward to run the creature through.

Lin He was a fairly accomplished fighter, and he had opened seven gene locks with a skill that aligned to the wind element.

Nobody looked happy as they felled that beast. They were upset at the realization they had so suddenly lost a teammate and friend, one who had already endured so much.

Han Sen spoke with them for a bit, and when they believe him, they accepted him into their fold.

"Sister Weiwei, what is the date? I was chased for a few days, so I fear I have lost track of the date and time," Han Sen asked.

When Han Sen exited the cave that led to the valley he had been trapped in, he emerged in a land he had never seen before. As strange as it was, the monkeys did not follow, either.

After taking off in flight above the clouds, when he descended, the mountain was gone.

Try as he might, he could not find the same mountain. And during his search, he had stumbled upon Lin Weiwei and her people.

She told him that her shelter had just been destroyed by a fierce spirit, and they were in search of a new place to stay.

Han Sen asked them if they had heard about Thorn Forest before, but they looked at him blankly. No one knew of such a location!

"Today is the seventh," Lin Weiwei said. It was common for people not to know the date.

"Which year?" Han Sen asked.

"It is the year twenty-five, the month of March." Lin Weiwei found it strange he had asked that.

"Are you sure it is the twenty-fifth?" Han Sen asked, with wild eyes.

Although there had been no shift in daylight during his stay in the valley, the constant presence of the sun and blue skies might just have been an illusion. And even if he had miscalculated the time that had elapsed, he wouldn't be as clumsy as to mistake three days for three years.

But Lin Weiwei told him it was the twenty-fifth year, and he had chased the monkey king on the fourth of March. There was no possible way he had only been absent for three days.

"I am not old enough to misremember the year," Lin Weiwei said.

Han Sen was flabbergasted and not sure what to say. For him to only have been missing three days was quite the shock.

"That valley must have had some control over the flow of time. Time was still there, and the monkey was able to speed up time. There must be some connection there," Han Sen wondered to

himself.

The mystery of what occurred on that mountain puzzled Han Sen a great deal. It was a conundrum he was keen to mull over, and so he wondered who or what was responsible for the shift in time there.

Han Sen had never heard of a power that could have such a radical effect on the flow of time.

Lin He asked Han Sen a few questions. He told them he had come from Thorn Forest, which disappointed everyone.

"We have to keep moving. We need to cross this Ghost Mountain and find someplace new to settle down," Lin Weiwei said.

Spirits were strong, but so were super creatures. Past the mountain, the lands were divided like kingdoms, domains ruled either by spirits or super creatures.

If they ever reached a place with no spirits, they could possibly take a spirit shelter for themselves.

Han Sen followed them. He had opened nine gene locks, but his fitness was low. If he had to go to war, he'd have no chance of competing against super creatures and king spirits.

They encountered many creatures on the road, ones which Han Sen wished to help fight against. But each time Lin Weiwei pulled him back in the belief she was protecting him.

They only ever encountered mutant creatures, anyway. And those were killed in the blink of an eye.

Lin Weiwei knew Han Sen had just become a surpasser, and so she believed he was weak. Because she regarded him as a friend, she felt compelled to protect him, too.

The further they went across the mountain, the stronger the creatures became.

The team stopped after their fourth day of travel. A green forest

lay ahead of them, one that looked like an endless expanse. The trees nearest them seemed to be silverleaf poplars.

The trees there crackled and popped with a green lightning. If you touched them, you'd be painfully electrocuted.

They wondered whether or not they should have ventured beneath the boughs of such a curious location. The lightning trees were spaced a few meters apart, so if they all traveled together, and something bad happened, they'd be in great danger amidst a scramble.

But being unable to return the way they came, it didn't seem as if they had much of a choice. So, they had to keep going.

Everyone ventured beneath the canopy of that forest with care. They dismounted their rides, not wanting to risk touching the trees.

When a stiff wind blew, it tickled the electricity of the trees and produced many snapping sounds.

A few lightning-charged leaves fell from the boughs above, and onto a surpasser who was immobile due to grievous injuries sustained in a previous fight. He screamed as his blood boiled, and smoke arose from his head.

The leaves did not kill him, thankfully. But it made the group doubly wary of the trees on their way.

Chapter 1007: Life or Death Moment

"If we keep going like this, we are sure to meet our demise. We might as well turn back," one surpasser said, pleading for them to leave. Another surpasser threw up, and others broke down in tears or screams, afraid of the killing trees that surrounded them.

"Turn back? Turn back and go where?" Lin He asked.

"Back to Wind God Shelter," the man answered.

Lin Weiwei angrily retorted, "Have you forgotten what occurred there? It was conquered by a spirit—it would be suicide to return!"

"If we sign a contract, perhaps they won't kill us!" the man said desperately.

Everyone looked to Lin He, thinking the same way.

Whichever way they were headed, their survival was not guaranteed. But amidst the deadly trees that surrounded them, making a groveling return to the shelter to put themselves at the whims of a spirit suddenly seemed like a more attractive option than it had before.

If they knew for sure that there was a place of sanctuary somewhere ahead, they would continue. But only the unknown guided their feet, and that was the nexus of all their fears.

Lin Weiwei had thought of surrendering to the spirits, too. What had occurred to them was not an anomaly; in fact, such conquerings were a frequent occurrence. They had each been lucky enough to spawn in a human shelter, anyway.

"And what do you say?" Lin He looked at each of them now, posing the question. When he did, they each lowered their heads in shame for what they wished to do.

"Uncle San, if there was a human shelter ahead of us, we would go. But we don't know what awaits us," a middle-aged man sadly

proclaimed.

"Uncle San, can we truly make it across Ghost Mountain? We have barely begun our ascent, and already, a few of us have been killed. If monsters lie in wait, especially here amidst these trees, fighting them would be folly. We assuredly cannot compete."

People started to argue amongst themselves, laying forth their reasoning, but it did little to change things. People were starting to turn away and return. No one mentioned their desire to surrender to the spirit that had robbed them of their home, but their intent to do so was clear.

"Everyone has control of their own fate. Choosing whether you live or die is not a frequent privilege, but on this day, I believe you have each been given this choice. And this is not something I can decide for you. You may either straddle a thin line between life and death amidst the treacherous unknowns ahead, or return in the belief you will guarantee your survival, albeit as a thrall for a new and cruel master." Lin He gave another look to each member of his weary, broken-hearted group and continued by saying, "I will not falter in my resolve to keep my fate my own. I will continue to traverse this path, and you are all welcome to join me. I would sooner die due to a bad decision that I made myself than submit to the whims of a callous spirit."

"You won't go back?" a few people asked in shock.

"No. I won't forget the sacrifices made by our fallen allies; they that bravely allowed us to escape from the shelter. I won't allow their deaths to be in vain," Lin He proudly stated.

The soldiers each wore a complex expression. No one wanted to be taken as a slave, but they couldn't see a happy existence ahead. Both options were shrouded in darkness.

"All life is precious. Command your own fate, and you won't be subject to judgment from me. Do what you think is best with this one life you possess." Lin He smiled.

"I'm going with you. I'd rather die with pride than whimper softly as some spirit's toerag," Lin Weiwei said, as she went over to stand by Lin He's side.

Han Sen started walking over to Lin Weiwei, too. But she stopped him and said, "You should go back with them. Ji Yanran is waiting for you, and this road is too perilous for one as green as you."

Han Sen did not honor her wishes this time. He continued walking forward and said, "If I go back, I don't think the spirit will allow me to use a teleporter."

Han Sen's words startled a few of the surpassers, who had not fully realized how miserable and robbed of freedom they would be, with a spirit presiding over them. Some of those who were still on the fence decided to join Lin He after hearing this.

Others, without a word, gave one last look to the foul trees around them, and turned away to exit.

Although Han Sen was strong, he could not promise to lead them all out safely. As such, he did not say a word.

"We will share our resources evenly, and then, we will go our separate ways," Lin He solemnly said.

"You are a good person." Lin Weiwei was actually surprised Han Sen had decided to follow them.

Lin Weiwei always thought Han Sen was a decent human being, due to the accolades given by Lin Feng. But seeing his stoic heart in person was something else entirely. She had really grown fond of him.

For many surpassers, this was a difficult decision. Such choices never came easy, even to the strongest of people. And Han Sen, new as he was, made it without flinching.

Han Sen wished to tell her that, with his power, he would survive even if the rest of them died.

But he held his tongue. Now wasn't the best time to hurt their feelings.

Seeing people pack and organize their things before going their separate ways, no one looked confident in the decision they were making.

"Let's go," Lin He said, after taking a deep breath.

Lin He started walking in the front, knowing he was the leader. He had to be firm in his resolve and not show a single sign of regret. He had to be a pillar of support for all those who followed him. After all, a leader could not lead if he did not know where he was going.

The members of his band looked at each other and then moved forward to follow him, beneath the cruel malice that tainted the trees of that forest.

Using his Dongxuan Aura, Han Sen scanned the area. He needed to remain alert, for his own sake as much as theirs.

"Han Sen, when are you going to marry Yanran?" Lin Weiwei asked Han Sen this lighthearted question, upon seeing the glum expressions that were glued to the faces of everyone else in their company.

"After this ordeal is over, I think it will be the right time," Han Sen answered.

Lin Weiwei wanted to say something else, but Han Sen then suddenly said, "Careful. A group of creatures is coming this way."

Everyone was shocked at the sudden announcement, but when they looked carefully, they could see the flickers of a shadow that suggested something was coming for them.

Chapter 1008: Wolfpack

Lin Weiwei and her people looked through the darkness in confusion, and Han Sen did not say anything more.

It didn't take long for her face to change and exclaim, "Han Sen is right! Many creatures are fast approaching."

Lin He heard the patter of paws on the forest floor, growing louder as the creatures moved towards them. He was surprised to learn that Han Sen had noticed them a whole ten seconds before he did. Lin He had already opened seven gene locks, and for Han Sen to have better awareness, he must have had a higher number unlocked. How such a thing was possible, he could not guess.

Lin Weiwei looked at Han Sen with shock now, too. She was just as surprised as Lin He was, to learn Han Sen was quicker to notice the incoming threat.

The phantom prowlers were drawing nearer, and the sound of footsteps could now be heard by all of them. Stricken with nervousness, the fighters summoned their beast souls and began to sweat.

They did not know what was coming their way, and they did not know how they'd fare when the battle commenced.

Soon, a green shadow flickered through the nearby underbrush. A pair of emerald eyes gazed at them from out of the black.

More flickering shadows appeared, and their silhouettes outlined by the green cracks and snaps of electricity.

"Daddy, I want to play with the cats," Bao'er professed, clapping her hands with sudden exuberance.

"They aren't cats, Bao'er. They're wolves." Han Sen had a wry smile, as he determined the shapes to be that of wolves on the prowl. Han Sen attributed Bao'er's interest in the animal figures to her fondness for bright lights.

The others were not half as relaxed as Han Sen and Bao'er were, though. There were at least three hundred of those green wolves, but fortunately, they did not look too strong.

Still, the environment did not do the humans any favors. In this dangerous forest, the trees themselves could be considered enemies. Once the wolves attacked, they'd have to watch their step, and it'd be too dangerous to take off running. If they ran smack into a tree, they'd be incinerated and killed in a frighteningly painful manner.

Roar!

A lightning wolf cast a bolt of electricity at a person on the team, which was quickly repelled with a fist ablaze with fire.

Pang!

Fire and electricity collided in the air. The block was successful, but the man had to take several steps back to maintain his guard.

Everybody was now very alarmed at the sudden violence.

The man that deflected the lightning bolt was called Chen Hu. He was not the strongest in the party, but he had unlocked five gene locks and his fitness was just over fifteen hundred. Although he managed to repel the attack, it was not a flawless deflection. The wolves were strong, it seemed, and Han Sen wagered they were mutant class creatures.

The wolf that attacked looked identical to the others in its pack, and this told Han Sen one thing; they were all the same strength. They were all mutant class.

The party of humans was a strong collective, but they could hardly face down the three hundred wolves that had shown up to chew them all to pieces.

The wolf in the front howled, and they jumped towards Han Sen.

Han Sen was happy this was going to happen, though, and he

thought to himself, "Finally, it's my time to shine. I'm getting tired of Weiwei making me look like a noob. How can she have the audacity to make me look like a noob?"

Han Sen rolled up his sleeves, ready to fight. But before he could make a move, Lin He brought out a longsword and screamed to the high heavens. One moment later, two of the wolves were dead, and a few were injured.

The swing of that longsword was fast and cruel.

Whimper! Whimper!

The wolves fell back, the injured ones limping away while whimpering.

Lin He was delighted, learning he was powerful enough to kill them. As good as this was for him, he feared his team wouldn't be up to the task and would fail to repel the invaders.

So he decided to step forward and attack before the wolves could retaliate. He wanted to let the wolves know their passage shouldn't have been disturbed, and they were not a company of travelers to mess with.

The wolves had most certainly been spooked. Despite their visible fear and trepidation, however, they seemed determined not to leave.

Lin He thought about trying to flee with his people, but all of a sudden, a louder howl sounded. The trees around them shivered with lightning that lit up the sky in response to that announcement.

Everyone looked in the direction the howl came from, and they saw a giant blue wolf perched on a rock. Blue lightning flashed around it as its howl ended.

Everyone's face dropped in misery.

They might have been able to kill the three hundred mutant

creatures, and they were confident enough to try. But when the alpha wolf showed up, that confidence evaporated, leaving them to tremble in fear.

"It's a sacred-blood creature!" Han Sen frowned. He was not afraid of doing battle with a sacred-blood creature, but he was unsure what it would be like to deal with an alpha wolf that was sacred-blood.

Many alpha wolves were smart, and if the humans couldn't kill it quickly, they'd have a lot of trouble going forward.

Han Sen had once encountered a sacred-blood fox king in the First God's Sanctuary. It was able to control its entire tribe of foxes, and dealing with it was a monumental task for Han Sen.

When the subordinate wolves heard they were being backed up by their alpha, their fear vanished. With hearts renewed with courage, they leapt forward.

"Fly, you fools! I will draw their attention," Lin He commanded, as he ran towards the wolves with his sword in hand. He was determined to take down that alpha.

Chapter 1009: Wolfpack Gone Stupid

Han Sen looked at Lin He with great respect. He knew he would most likely never see the man again, but he admired his willingness to give his life and draw the wolves away so that the rest could escape.

Han Sen did not believe he himself could perform such a courageous and selfless act.

The alpha wolf looked disdainfully down at them. It acknowledged the ploy and howled, commanding the wolves to ignore the old man and go straight for Han Sen.

The alpha wolf looked at Lin He himself, and as it did, the blue light around it increased in intensity.

Lin He knew he would be unable to one-hit kill the alpha wolf. He just wanted to pull the attention of all the wolves onto him, so his people could get away.

He did not expect the alpha wolf king to be so smart, though. The wolf king knew better than to command its pups anywhere near Lin He and his drawn sword.

Lin He wanted to run back now and help his people against the legion of wolves. But before he could, the wolf king leapt off the rock and fired a bolt of blue lightning at him.

Seeing all the mutant wolves headed their way, the faces of the people changed. They knew things had taken a dire turn.

"Kill as many as you can!" Lin Weiwei ordered, before fearlessly running forward to meet the wolves in battle.

Chen Hu and the rest followed without delay, bravely submitting themselves to the grievous combat.

"Give me a chance to perform." Han Sen opened his Dongxuan Sutra and used it to wipe out all the senses of the wolves in the

area.

While Han Sen was in the valley, he had practiced the Blood-Pulse Sutra primarily. When he reached the ninth tier, and there was no more progress to be made, he turned his attention back to the Dongxuan Sutra. With it, he managed to reach the fourth tier.

The fourth tier, unfortunately, did not stifle the eighth sense of others as Han Sen had believed it might. All it did was increase the radius of the other abilities he was already able to perform. It was fairly disappointing.

That wasn't to say Dongxuan Aura was ineffective, though. Upon its casting, Han Sen transformed all the blood-thirsty wolves into canine-like relatives of headless chickens. They started to flail around aimlessly, unsure of what was happening or what they could do.

Unfortunately, while it worked wonderfully on the legion of lesser wolves, it wasn't strong enough to debilitate the wolf king. That meant the wolf king, much like the monkey king, had opened its eighth sense.

Lin Weiwei believed she was running into one last valiant battle, where she'd most likely fall. But all of a sudden, the wolves in front of her lost their focus. They wonkily remained in place, as if they were spaced out.

The humans initially believed this to be a scheme of the wolves, but when they lunged forward with their weaponry, the wolves failed to evade them. They were able to cut down the wolves with ease, and there seemed to be nothing the wolves could do to protect themselves.

The wolves acted as if they had been robbed of their brains. It seemed as if they did not even feel pain, and they all just stood there, allowing themselves to be killed.

A couple of the wolves were jumpy and spat out lightning. But

those bolts only ended up striking their allies and incinerating them.

Han Sen went to join in with the mutant wolf-slaying, but felt it was unnecessary. His mutant point tally had been maxed out, so it was pointless for him to do this.

When all of their senses were blocked, their sight and hearing were blocked as well. Their sense of touch was disabled, too, and that meant they couldn't feel pain.

The wolves were allowing themselves to be killed, or so it seemed. And swiftly, thirty of the blighters had been cut down.

Although the humans on the field were unsure of what was going on, they were delighted, regardless. Lin He was ecstatic.

When the wolf king noticed something was wrong with its subordinates, it howled to rally them.

But the wolves, of course, could not hear a thing. They either stood still, trying to maintain balance, or walked around in circles aimlessly.

Seeing the wolves get mowed down with ease, the wolf king decided to flee the scene despite the grievous loss. Its speed was blisteringly quick, and it managed to disappear from sight in no time at all.

Lin He turned back to rejoin his allies, and side-by-side with Han Sen, got to work on killing all the wolves that had once sought to eat them up. All-in-all, the group managed to kill just over a hundred of the furry fiends. Fortunately for many of the ones in the back, they managed to wander away and have their lives spared through sheer luck.

"Are those wolves retarded?" Chen Hu said.

Everyone looked happy. After fleeing their home and fearing for their lives for weeks on end, it felt tremendously good to kill their enemies without worry. Their adrenaline was pumping, and their

murderous rage had flared.

They had hunted sacred-blood creatures together in the past, but such fights were extremely difficult. They were long and tiring, and one had to exercise caution at all times. To mindlessly hack and slash enemies, to kill carefree, was a joyous experience.

"Uncle San, what happened to those wolves?" Lin Weiwei believed it was Lin He who had done this.

But Lin He shook his head, indicating he didn't know what had happened, either.

Lin He looked to Han Sen, then. He knew his people well, and he knew of all the abilities they possessed. The only person he didn't know well was Han Sen. What's more, Han Sen had somehow managed to detect the presence of the coming wolves before even he could.

"Han Sen, you did this, didn't you?" Lin He asked.

Han Sen nodded and said, "Yes. I can snuff out six of their senses."

Han Sen did not dare say he could actually block seven of them. That would have given people quite a shock.

Lin Weiwei was just about to say it couldn't have been Han Sen, as he had just become a surpasser. But now, she had her breath taken away. She could hardly believe it.

Everyone now looked at Han Sen in a different way.

"It is no wonder President Ji would allow you to marry his daughter. You saved all our lives here." Lin He gave Han Sen a pat on the shoulder.

"Good job, Brother Han." Chen Hu gave him two thumbs up.

Lin Weiwei looked at Han Sen as if she did not know him.

"Little Sen-Sen, why didn't you tell me you could do something like this?" Lin Weiwei asked Han Sen, which made him feel

awkward. Fortunately for him, she wasn't mad, and she didn't feel as if she had been insulted.

Chapter 1010: My Time to Shine

The lightning forest was not the sort of place one could hold lengthy discussions. After a brief talk, they heard wolves howling in the distance.

When the sounds subsided, the lightning trees seemed to react as if a message was being relayed, passed from tree to tree.

Chen Hu and the others were unnerved at the sight, and mournfully realized that their trials might not be over.

In the distance, the surviving wolves prowled in the undergrowth and watched the travelers.

"Come and fight us, if you dare! Your howls will accomplish nothing!" Chen Hu was annoyed, and their constant watching made him itch. He couldn't help but blurt out insults towards them.

"Let's just hasten our passage and leave this forest as soon as we can," Lin Weiwei said.

"Don't be afraid. There's no need to be. If they come closer, I am sure our friend Han Sen will re-activate their retardation mode," Chen Hu said.

"Talking will only slow us down. We should hurry; I have only opened my fourth gene lock. And if there are sacred-blood creatures amongst them, my powers won't be half as effective. It'll be bad news, if we have to face-off against sacred-blood wolves," Han Sen said.

"But there's only one wolf king. And it's only sacred-blood!" Chen Hu let out a hearty laugh.

They continued walking through the forest, and they espied more and more wolves amassing on the fringes of their sight. There were dozens of sharp, gleaming eyes watching them.

Some followed them from behind, others were up front. Every now and again, they all howled.

"Oh no! There must be at least a thousand of them around us, by now," Lin He said.

They did not see the wolf king, but the number of subordinate wolves was enough to strike fear into their hearts.

Chen Hu did not say anything now, and Lin Weiwei's nerves looked wracked. Things did not look good for the band of travelers.

If Lin He had Dongxuan Aura, it would have been far more effective. But he didn't, and Han Sen's senses were the best of the group. This meant he was the one who had to remain the most alert. And Han Sen knew the number of wolves around them was greater than Lin He's estimation. There was, in fact, twenty-three hundred wolves baying for their blood.

Although there were no sacred-blood creatures, it was a terrifying number for even the strongest person to think of competing with.

"Those wolves sure look hungry. Please, remain vigilant." As Lin He said this, the sacred-blood wolf king revealed itself.

Before they could react, though, four more wolf kings appeared. They each came from a different direction, surrounding them on all sides.

"Me and my big mouth." Chen Hu wished he could take back what he had said, and did not incite any further ire from the wolves by taunting them.

Even though Han Sen could deal with the legions of mutant wolves, the combined strength of the sacred-blood wolf kings was out of his league.

Hooooowl! The five wolf kings howled in unison, and after that, all the lesser wolves began running towards the group with a

ravenous appetite.

Han Sen quickly snuffed out their senses, for a re-enactment of what had occurred earlier.

"Pah! So dumb! Have they not learned a thing?" Chen Hu tried to lighten the mood.

But unlike last time, the wolves did not stop and wander about aimlessly. They seemed to react better to their disability, and they ran forward at a decent pace.

Pang!

A wolf came into contact with a lightning tree, which rattled it. From the boughs above, many leaves began to fall.

"Oh, no!" Lin He screamed.

It was a new tactic. The wolves mindlessly charged forward to bash the trees and make the forest rain those electrifying leaves.

The lightning danced from leaf to leaf in sparkling freefall.

Everyone drew a weapon and tried to cut the leaves before they could touch them.

With every connection of a leaf to a weapon, the leaves exploded in a firework of electricity. It was a frightful sight.

The leaves were like rainfall, and one leaf was enough to injure you so grievously, you could no longer raise a weapon.

"These wolves are smart," Lin Weiwei said, as her once-hopeful spirit began to sink.

With a wry smile, Han Sen responded, "I underestimated their cunning. I shouldn't be surprised that they came up with a solution for our initial trick."

Lin He was shredding the airborne leaves like a madman, and without him there, they wouldn't have been able to survive the leaf-rain as long as they did.

The wolves did not relent in their bashing of the trees. And as more and more leaves departed their harboring branches, many wolves decided to rush to the fighters and do what they could in close-quarter combat.

"It's my time to shine." Han Sen's skin started to turn red, as if he was a being formed of blood.

His black pupils turned red, with many rings emerging within.

Han Sen's pupils soon had seven of these rings, indicating his Blood-Pulse Sutra had seven gene locks active.

He only had a fitness of fifteen hundred. If he activated his eighth gene lock, he wouldn't be able to last very long, and he'd most likely end up damaging his own body.

Han Sen ran the Phoenix hyper geno art, and his body burst into a living brazier of wild flames.

The fire was no longer black, either. Due to the effect of the Blood-Pulse Sutra, the fire looked demonically red. It was terrifying.

Chapter 1011: Killing the Wolf King

Lightning was tearing the battlefield asunder, and it sapped the fighters of their hope of triumph. But suddenly, from the corner of their eyes, a red flame danced.

Han Sen was standing there, a red flame encompassing his being. He raised his hand and a thousand firebirds shot out, hungry for murder. There were so many of them, they covered the skies like a veil.

At first, the firebirds went for the leaves. Their touch incinerated the leaves effortlessly.

The fire still raged around Han Sen, and he generated more and more firebirds.

When each leaf was destroyed, a blood-bird spawned out of its ashes, as well. Where there was once lightning, now there was fire. The forest had become a raging inferno, all answering to the whims of the one who controlled it: Han Sen.

The fire quickly overwhelmed all it came into contact with, and everything that it touched was turned to ash. From that ash, firebirds arose. It was like the spreading of a violent, parasitic infestation.

The firebirds did not extinguish, either. They went on ceaselessly, incinerating the wolves with a ravenous appetite for the act.

The wolves whimpered and cried out for aid, but nothing could save them. The squeals were like those of tortured souls wailing from the pits of hell. Countless wolves fell in a short amount of time.

Aside from where they were standing, everything around them was ablaze.

Everyone looked at Han Sen, who had become a fire-casting

monstrosity.

"Phoenix? But Phoenix is not that powerful!" Lin He struggled to speak. He was too overwhelmed by what he was seeing.

Howl!

The five wolf kings howled to the skies once more as the lesser wolves started to scatter and run away in fear. A hundred wolves and a dozen trees had been burnt to a crisp in a matter of moments.

The wolf kings were not going to flee, though. With an aura of blue light surrounding them, they raced towards the travelers, all from different directions.

Han Sen was not going to waste any time, and he was surely not going to wait for them to close the gap. He transformed himself into a phoenix and flew forward to meet one of the kings.

Hooooowl! Seven bolts of lightning were fired towards Han Sen.

That meant the wolf had opened seven gene locks. It was a scary thing, considering the wolf had a much higher fitness level.

Pang!

Lightning and fire collided into a dizzying array of fireworks that exploded against each other.

Han Sen did not relax his attack. He fearlessly flew towards the wolf king, Taia in hand.

The wolf king bared its fangs to Han Sen in response, and lightning flickered across them. The beast reared its head, ready to sink its teeth into Han Sen's neck and rip out his throat.

The wolf king's mouth reached its target, and the monster brought its hungry maw down on Han Sen's neck. Strangely, not a single mark was left. The wolf king, however, had been cut.

Boom!

The wolf king twitched as blood gushed from the wound Han Sen had inflicted. It looked ready to collapse and die.

Everyone was shocked, having seen Han Sen kill a sacred-blood wolf king with seven gene locks active with a single hit.

Lin Weiwei thought her eyes were playing tricks on her, and she found it difficult to believe what Han Sen had accomplished in the single year he had been in the Third God's Sanctuary.

"It looks as if he managed to max out his super geno points before choosing to become a surpasser. But still, he has only been here for a year. Where has all this additional power come from?" Lin Weiwei retreated into her mind, as a complicated look consumed her face.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Lightning Wolf killed. No beast soul gained. Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

Han Sen heard the announcement and did not relent. He went straight for another wolf king.

The Blood-Pulse Sutra was quite simple. It did not matter how many gene locks it had open, it imbued the power of blood onto every skill its user performed.

The more gene locks that had been opened, the stronger this boon of blood-power would become.

Without this skill, even with Taia, Han Sen would not have been able to take down the wolf king in a single hit.

Everyone was shocked, and even the wolves were taken aback by what had just occurred. Without hesitation, they chose to flee before any more of them became victims of the ruthless man.

Han Sen caught up with one of them, and try as the wolf king might, it was unable to avoid Han Sen's assault.

His phoenix flames annihilated the seven lightning bolts the wolf

cast, as Taia was plunged deep into the furry fiend's throat. It was killed in one hit, once again.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Lightning Wolf killed. Beast soul gained. Consume its flesh gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

The rest of the wolves managed to get away. They were terrified of Han Sen, and they scrambled wildly in their attempt to flee.

To be honest, it wasn't only the wolves who were scared. Even Lin He and his people were unnerved. The power they had just witnessed was too shocking for them to comprehend.

Lin He could have fought against one wolf king, but it would have been a lengthy battle. The victor of such a fight would be difficult to determine, as well.

But Han Sen was able to one-hit kill a wolf king. Rarely had he ever been in such a state of speechlessness and shock.

"Oh my God! Brother Han is that strong? Weiwei, didn't you tell us he had only just become a surpasser?" Chen Hu was flabbergasted at the ruthless spectacle he had just witnessed.

"I told you that because it's true..." Weiwei wasn't sure what to say anymore.

But Han Sen did not have time to revel in the glory of victory, because the wolves now stopped running.

Chapter 1012: Real Wolf King

The wolves and wolf kings stopped their flight. They stood where they were, trembling in fear of something else.

"What's wrong with them now?" Chen Hu wondered, with a look of confusion.

"Oh, no! Run!" When Lin He discovered the unseen menace, he did not delay a single second.

"It's too late." Han Sen shook his head and peered into the darkness of the forest.

"What is too late?" Chen Hu asked.

"It's the wolf king," Lin Weiwei said.

"What about them? Wasn't Han Sen just killing them?" Chen Hu's mouth had always been a little faster than his brain, and he was content to remain that way. He had never been fond of thinking.

"No, I'm talking about the real king. Have you ever seen a pack with five kings before?" Lin Weiwei said.

"No. A wolf pack should only have one king; the alpha." Upon finishing his sentence, Chen Hu's face remained still in thought. A few seconds later, it dropped.

If those wolves weren't the actual kings, then the real one had to be above sacred-blood class. It might be a super creature.

Having now realized what was going on, Chen Hu's face looked glum.

A giant wolf emerged from the shadows of the charred trees. It was purple and without lightning; it looked like any ordinary wolf.

The other wolves parted to make a path for it to approach. It was obviously all for show, a way for the wolves to display how the one nearing them was the big cheese.

Han Sen looked at the purple wolf and saw the subdued gleam of purple lightning flickering in its eyes.

Han Sen felt a renewed pressure, watching this wolf come closer.

Everyone sweated in anticipation. If they had to fight again, they didn't think they'd have the morale to go on.

They wished to run, but their legs wouldn't follow their commands. That being said, they believed it was for the best. Attempting to outrun what was most likely a super creature was folly.

Everyone was petrified, and even Lin He was shivering with fear.

The wolf was as strong as the spirit that had destroyed their shelter, and it sent a number of flashbacks coursing through Lin He's mind, those of the atrocities that had led them to where they were standing now.

"Oh, no. The real king is this powerful?" Lin He sighed in his heart.

The wolf walked up to Han Sen and stopped right in front of him.

They both looked at each other, as if they were squaring-off right before a fight.

"It's definitely a super creature. And that means I'll definitely have to become a super king spirit if I'm to stand a chance." Han Sen didn't want to use it because it'd render him weak, but there was little else he could do.

This forest composed only one area of Ghost Mountain, and no one could promise they'd not encounter another, further along their journey. As such, Han Sen really didn't want to use it.

But he was accompanying Lin Weiwei, and Lin He had proven himself to be a good man. He'd feel awful if he left them behind.

"Daddy. Kitty." Bao'er was behind Han Sen, pointing at the wolf while speaking.

"It's not a kitty; it's a wolf." Han Sen's smile was wry, but he did think it was amusing how she thought every furry creature was a cat.

"But Bao'er wants kitty." Bao'er never listened, and she was determined to own everything she deemed cute.

The wolf king's hair stood on its end, and purple lightning flared up to coat its fur. It seemed upset, learning the baby believed it to be a cat.

The group of travelers knew they were weaker, but they still valiantly held up their weapons for the fight that was about to ensue.

Han Sen looked at the wolf king's changing temper and prepared himself to cast his super king spirit mode.

The purple lightning grew brighter across the wolf's body, and it looked powerful enough to destroy an entire planet.

The wolf seemed as if it was going to attack, and the lightning bubbled and boiled like the magma residing in a soon-to-erupt volcano. It made everyone take a step back.

Howl!

Just as Han Sen was preparing to cast his super king spirit mode, something howled in the distance.

It was as if all the wolves stopped breathing. And to the humans, the long howl stood out from all others they had been hearing so far.

It was similar to the howl of a wolf, but it was slightly different.

Strangely, when the howling came to an end, the wolf king looked less aggressive. Its blinding light subsided, and then it turned around and left.

All the wolves turned away from them and left. They disappeared into the darkness, vanishing as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 1013: Human Elite

All the wolves had left. Before the group of travelers also continued their journey, they gathered up the carcasses of the slain wolf kings, and a few mutant ones, to take with them.

They traveled with greater care from then on, but met no more resistance from the forest's occupants. Four days later, they found the other end of that place.

When it was time for supper, nobody touched the meat of the wolf kings. They only dined on the mutant flesh.

Han Sen offered for them to eat whatever they desired, but Chen Hu told him, "You saved our hides multiple times back there. These wolf kings were slain by your hands only. How could we ever have the audacity to eat your food, on top of what you have already done for us?"

It was a nice gesture, but Han Sen didn't really care much for the meat. He could now kill sacred-blood creatures whenever he desired. And besides, with the size of those wolves, it'd most likely take him an entire month to eat them. If they didn't want to eat them, though, he wasn't going to push it.

Despite leaving the lightning forest behind, they were still on Ghost Mountain. They reached a valley, eventually, where a rapid river rushed through.

While they held a discussion about which way to proceed, they espied the presence of a turtle riding the stream. On its back was a human.

"Is that a human or a spirit?" Lin He asked Han Sen, who was now regarded as their boss.

Han Sen was able to tell them. The turtle was a sacred-blood creature, and the man atop was indeed human. He could tell that the man had greater strength than the creature he was using as a

surfboard.

Seeing a human riding a creature in such a manner was a little strange, Han Sen thought.

"He's human," Han Sen said as he watched the man.

"Does that mean there might be a human shelter nearby?" Chen Hu's excitement flared up.

They had managed to get through the lightning forest unscathed, though not for lack of effort on the part of the wolves. But they still wondered why they had been let go, when the super creature showed up and looked likely to attack.

Whatever had occurred, the timing of the wolves' withdraw was impeccable. And they did not think such good fortune could arise again.

The man on the turtle saw the collective watching him, and he decided to approach. When he got closer, he said, "Uncle San and Weiwei; long time no see!"

"You know this man?" Chen Hu asked.

Lin Weiwei nodded and said, "Yes, this is Liu Yuxuan from Baojin Mining. He has been in the Third God's Shelter for only six years, and in that time, he has already opened eight gene locks. He is a genius, and I can't say I expected him to be here on Ghost Mountain."

Liu Yuxuan quickly started a discussion with them, while ignoring all the others.

"Tell me, Weiwei; what brings you here? This place is dangerous, even for mighty elites such as myself," Liu Yuxuan spoke smugly.

Liu Yuxuan was hitting on Lin Weiwei, that much was obvious.

After the question, Lin Weiwei explained to him the events that had transpired and put them on their present course. Then, she asked, "Is there a human shelter in the nearby vicinity?"

Liu Yuxuan shook his head and said, "Humans cannot dream of owning a shelter anywhere near this wretched place. There is a king-class shelter, mind you. But it is owned by a spirit, one with whom I signed a contract."

"Brother Liu, can you tell us which direction we might be able to go to escape this place?" People did not think poorly of him for being the slave of a spirit. It was far more common for humans to sign contracts with spirits in the Third God's Shelter, than to have absolute freedom with those of your own kind. Survival was the name of the game, after all.

Liu Yuxuan shook his head and said, "You wish to escape this place? I don't think that's possible. I'm surprised to see you haven't been eaten by the wolf king yet, but that's not the only super creature you should be worrying about. There are quite a few populating this mountain, and to escape their notice will be quite the task. An impossible one." Liu Yuxuan paused for a moment, and then went on to say, "Weiwei, why don't you and your fellows come with me? I'm a valued member of the king spirit shelter, and I can vouch for you all. You will be safe there."

Lin Weiwei frowned. Going there would only reduce their chances of escaping that mountain.

They had risked everything and lost so much, all in the name of maintaining a hold on their freedom. Going into the service of a spirit would be like throwing in the towel, and it wouldn't feel right submitting now.

Liu Yuxuan looked at Lin He and made an offer, "Uncle San, I believe you are well aware of the dangers this mountain poses. Even our king spirit master would not lurk in the territories ruled by the super creatures of this place. If you come with me, I can assure you that you will be treated well."

Lin He turned around and asked, "What do you think, Little Han?"

Liu Yuxuan saw Lin He ask Han Sen, and thought it strange. He looked at the young man a little more closely, as he had initially believed him to be another random nobody.

"This is...?" Liu Yuxuan asked Lin He.

Lin He introduced Han Sen by saying, "This is President Ji's son-in-law, Han Sen. We joined forces on the slopes of this mountain, after a chance encounter."

"I have heard of him before, yes. I never expected the name Han Sen to be the label of a young boy such as yourself." Liu Yuxuan feigned politeness, but the ignorance behind his words was clear to hear.

After smirking at Liu Yuxuan for a second, Han Sen turned to face Lin He and answered his question. "I'm not seeking employment with any spirit. I still want to leave this mountain of my own accord."

Han Sen would sooner die than submit to slavery under some spirit. If anything, he would be a slave-driver of spirits.

Of course, Han Sen knew his powers weren't the best they could be. What's more, the instability and imbalance of his powers could be problematic. He didn't have what it took to conquer a king spirit shelter just yet.

Liu Yuxuan looked at Han Sen with disdain and said, "Pah! A typical noob outlook on things. I'm afraid you have yet to learn the way things go in this sanctuary, and how powerful the spirits of this place truly are. Without the power and support of many, you aren't likely to last out there. Folks who fly solo never last, and even a person such as I, with eight gene locks open, knows it's better to get along with spirits than to fight them."

Chapter 1014: Liu Yuxuan's Scheme

"Uncle San and Weiwei, follow me to the shelter," Liu Yuxuan said, with surprising passion.

He had not lied when he told them he was quite an important figure in the king spirit shelter. But he had opened eight gene locks, not because he was strong, but rather because the king spirit liked him and helped him a great deal. Over the course of a few years, he had been given over eight hundred spirit genes. It was that generosity that allowed him to open the gene locks. He wasn't a genius.

Of course, he had not received any king spirit geno points. And that was because he hadn't signed a contract with the king spirit. He had signed his contract with a subordinate of the king spirit, one that had also opened eight gene locks. But with the spirit itself having only opened eight gene locks, that meant it was the highest Liu Yuxuan could open, as well.

The king spirit wasn't very keen on signing contracts with any random human. This king spirit would get their subordinates to do it, and that was what had occurred for Liu Yuxuan.

"Brother Liu, are you certain there is no safe passage for us to leave the mountain?" Lin He asked.

Lin He wasn't willing to violate his own principles by submitting to Liu Yuxuan's offer, but he felt them waver. When he heard Han Sen speak up for not becoming the slave of a spirit, though, he was firm in his resolve not to go to the king shelter.

"There is no safe route, so don't throw your life away. Especially on this man's accord; this guy doesn't know anything. He's barely out of his Third God's Sanctuary nappies!" Liu Yuxuan was staring at Han Sen as he spoke.

It was obvious to Lin Weiwei that he was indeed an influential

figure in the shelter, but he just wanted to flex his importance to impress and seduce her.

In his shelter, it was unlikely they'd be able to return to the Alliance, as well.

In the Alliance, he was nothing in the eyes of the Lin family. Here, things were different, and he had a much better chance of wooing her.

He didn't care for the wellbeing of the others. More than anything, he just wanted to bring her back to the shelter so he could have her sign a contract with the spirit he knew. Then, no matter what, she'd be unable to escape him.

And if he played his cards right, fun with Lin Weiwei wouldn't be the only thing he could have. He could end up having some of the other humans as subordinates for himself. If they didn't behave, they'd be killed. Their lives in the Alliance would have already been forfeited, anyway.

"Are you positive there aren't any safe routes?" Lin Weiwei asked.

"Yes. So, please, don't do this." Liu Yuxuan started to act all upset, and went on to say, "The mountain is too dangerous. If you insist on trying to cross its perilous terrain, you really will lose your life. A grizzly death is all that will await you. If you come with me, I can make it so you can get to the Alliance whenever you wish. And if you don't like the shelter, once you're in the Alliance, just don't return."

Liu Yuxuan was not dumb, and he wouldn't start an argument with them.

But in his heart, he thought, "Mwahaha! Once you're in the shelter with me, you'll never visit the Alliance again!"

Liu Yuxuan did not start a fight because the eight gene locks he had opened were solely from the spirit genes, and as such, he'd most likely be weaker than some of his opponents when it came to

actual battle.

Lin He had opened seven gene locks, but they were earned the old-fashioned way. As such, he'd likely wreck the conniving wretch.

That's why he was trying to trick them into coming to the shelter. Once they were there, he could do whatever he wished to them.

Hearing what Liu Yuxuan had told them, Chen Hu was tempted to go with the man. After all, he was told he could visit the Alliance whenever he wished.

Ghost Mountain was a wicked place, and going back to the Alliance with your life was a fair option. And once in the Alliance, the leash of the contract was ineffective. They could just forfeit their lives in the Sanctuary, and live in the Alliance forever.

Not being able to grow stronger was a better choice than being killed.

Chen Hu and a few others showed great interest in going, so they asked Liu Yuxuan for many details.

"You see this sacred-blood turtle? The king spirit gave it to me as a gift. He's a stellar bloke. If he treated humans like thralls, would he have given this to me?" Liu Yuxuan's words were creamy, and his ploy was more than convincing.

Chen Hu then turned to Han Sen and said, "Come on, Brother Han. We should go there together!"

Again, Han Sen reaffirmed his goal with a shake of his head. "I am leaving this place," he said.

"Me, too. I've come too far to turn back now," Lin Weiwei said.

Chen Hu gritted his teeth and said, "Well, if you guys are going, it'd be unkind of me to remain. We've been through a lot together, and on this road, there'll undoubtedly be more hell to endure. And

if that's the case, I'm going to be right by your side and not miss a second of it."

The offer had been very tempting, but when the time to make a decision came, everyone still decided to remain with Han Sen.

Lin He said, "Brother Liu, I thank you for the offer, but we decline. The kindness you wish to show us is a testament to your good heart. And if your heart is as good as I have been led to believe, then you will point us to the path of least resistance. Tell us which way will let us leave this mountain the easiest, and we'll owe you—big time."

Liu Yuxuan did not expect everyone to end up following Han Sen. He had clearly underestimated his influence.

Liu Yuxuan was fuming on the inside, but he still feigned a weak smile, as if his ulterior motive had not just been foiled. He told them, "I truly admire your courage. Unfortunately, I cannot guide you away from this place entirely. But, I can lead you for three hundred miles, and make sure no harm falls upon you. I will guarantee your safety."

Chapter 1015: Blood-Wing Beast King

Han Sen calmly observed Liu Yuxuan. Han Sen was dexterous in the arts of assassination, and when his Jadeskin had allowed him to open his eighth sense, he gained the ability to detect any hostile feelings towards him.

Although Liu Yuxuan had hid it well, Han Sen could sense he meant to do him harm.

Of course, Han Sen did not say anything just yet. The road they would go along together had to be safe, because schemers and backstabbers like Liu Yuxuan rarely put themselves in dangerous situations.

Everyone followed him, and as he led the way, many creatures came into sight. When they saw the turtle, though, they ran off and posed no threat.

"With me here, nothing for the next three hundred miles will lay a finger on any of you." Watch the creatures run off, Liu Yuxuan puffed his chest up and spoke with an arrogant tone of voice.

"It's nice to have you here with us," Wang Yu said.

"Soon, we'll be passing through the territory of a super creature. But again, you needn't worry. I, Liu Yuxuan, am here to safeguard you all." He continued to speak with the same snobbish mannerisms.

Lin He and Lin Weiwei responded with simple grace, saying, "Thank you for your service."

"Well, we are friends, aren't we? I am especially fond of you, my dear Weiwei. This is the least I can do for you," Liu Yuxuan said.

In his heart, his real emotions were actually like curdled milk. He snickered to himself, saying, "That super creature is a good friend of mine, and I often please his son. He'll do me a favor, for sure. Once I get him to deal with the rest of this annoying congregation,

I can whisk Weiwei home to my bedroom chamber."

"And I'm not letting Han Sen get off the hook by granting him a swift death. They'd all be on their way to the shelter right now, if it wasn't for that snotty brat. He'll die slow." Thinking of his bestiality fetish, a pleasurable chill ran down Liu Yuxuan's spine. Then, he looked over to Han Sen.

Han Sen was, much to his surprise, was looking his way as well. He was smiling, but that smile almost felt as if he had been able to read his mind.

"Has he noticed something amiss? Does he know what I'm up to?" Liu Yuxuan was spooked.

He mulled it over a bit, and then comforted himself by saying, "Pah! That is preposterous. He doesn't know a thing; he's a noob that's somehow fumbled his way into the Third God's Sanctuary. I should ease up a bit."

Liu Yuxuan presented a smile back and said, "There is no need for you to worry, Brother Han. I can keep you safe."

"Gee, thanks," Han Sen said in response.

"Fool. Even if you did max out your super geno points, here you are, waltzing into my trap without a single suspicion. You numbnuts," Liu Yuxuan thought to himself, cackling on the inside.

Cliffs adorned both sides of the valley, and there were many caves dotted across them. There were many winged beasts in the area, and a few thousand of them populated the skies.

The group was a little nervous and antsy, seeing that many creatures were lingering above them.

"Again, there is no need to worry," Liu Yuxuan said, then screamed into the skies.

After that, all the beasts returned to the caves as if they were afraid. Then, they just watched from the darkness of their holes.

"You are good," Wang Yu said.

"Later, I will summon the super creature's son. He'll come over and meet us. Under his protection, we can travel further along the valley. Nothing will attack us, then." Liu Yuxuan's tone of voice was already changing, as if he had a mouthful of plums.

He had spent a long time studying the language of creatures. After much time, he had learned a fair few words, and this was a talent few people had.

To his credit, he was a smart man. Few humans were ever treated with even a modicum of respect in spirit shelters. Liu Yuxuan had done well for himself, to have gotten to the position he was in. What's more, his skills of observation were in fine shape.

He let out another scream, to summon the super creature's son. This scream was different, though, and in the language of creatures, he mentioned he had brought a grand bounty of food with him. Except for Lin Weiwei, everyone else was up for sacrifice.

No one there spoke the language of creatures, so no one had a clue what to expect.

After the scream, an echo of response came from further down the valley. A red beast appeared and came before them.

It had blood-colored wings that were thirty meters wide, and horns decorated the monster's head like those of a goat.

Chen Hu, upon seeing this, couldn't help blurting out, "Wow, you really are good!"

Han Sen had fantastic eyesight, and he saw a small beast atop the big beast's back.

Liu Yuxuan's face changed when he saw the big beast appear.

He had only wished to summon the super creature's son. He hadn't expected he'd end up summoning the big one that the son

rode upon.

He rarely ever got to see the king, and he was only used to interacting with the son.

Liu Yuxuan would have had some control over what happened if only the son had shown up, as he had planned. With the blood-wing beast king there, as well, he'd be helpless in controlling what might happen.

"Maybe I shouldn't have mentioned the presence of a sacrifice. I think a simple summoning of the son would have been better," Liu Yuxuan thought the beast king had come over upon hearing there'd be much food on offer.

Whatever happened next was entirely up to the hulking, airborne monstrosity. He could only hope it'd leave Lin Weiwei alone.

If the beast wanted to eat Lin Weiwei, as heartbreaking as it'd be, he knew better than to protect her. He only wanted her as a pretty toy, and it wasn't worth risking his life for her.

Chapter 1016: Unbelievable Kindness

Seeing the Blood-Wing Beast King nearing, Liu Yuxuan quickly kowtowed before it and made a few subservient sounds.

He had only wanted to summon the beast king's son, due to the fact the two shared something of a bond. Now, he had to tarnish his own image of being strong and influential to the creatures of the domain by going down on the ground.

But Liu Yuxuan knew what to prioritize with the beast king's unexpected approach. He'd rather discard his image than his life. If he was disrespectful towards the king, he could provoke its finicky wrath and end up as its teatime meal.

Han Sen didn't care much for the two-faced man, making a fool of himself on the ground. He was a dead man walking, as it was.

Chen Hu, on the other hand, saw things differently. He was touched by what Liu Yuxuan was doing, believing his act wasn't one of self-preservation. He believed he had gone on the ground to kowtow on his behalf and the others that were with him.

Boom!

The beast king landed before them all. Liu Yuxuan did not relent in his feverish kowtowing.

But the king paid no heed to him. It walked towards Han Sen, at which point, the son leapt off its parent's back.

Liu Yuxuan wished to remind the king that, if it was hungry, Lin Weiwei was not one to be eaten. But he was having cold feet about telling the king anything. Seeing how mighty and powerful it looked, he thought it best to shut up completely and not say a word.

Han Sen looked at the beast that was approaching, thinking he'd use Liu Yuxuan as a meat shield if a fight started.

"Eat them. Eat them all up. Just please, save me the delicious Lin Weiwei!" Liu Yuxuan thought to himself.

But what happened next went against all of his expectations.

The beast king, after coming directly in front of Han Sen, performed a friendly gesture of respect.

Neither Liu Yuxuan nor anyone else could understand what was going on, and why the beast king was acting that way towards Han Sen.

"How?" Liu Yuxuan's breath had been yanked from his lungs. Even king spirits were afraid of this creature, so it was difficult for him to fathom why it'd show so much respect towards Han Sen. He thought he must have been having a nightmare.

No one else spoke the language of beasts, but there was no hostility between the two parties. And the tension that once existed, quickly vanished. Chen Hu, hurriedly asked, "Mister Liu, can you translate what it is trying to tell us?"

Liu Yuxuan was so shocked, he didn't hear a word Chen Hu said. But the shock wasn't going to end anytime soon. What happened next made him dizzy.

The beast king's son ran towards Han Sen and leapt into his arms. It placed a red fruit in his hand.

Seeing this, Liu Yuxuan felt blood rush to his head in such volume that it felt like his head was going to explode.

"I must be dreaming. I must be! This must all be a bad dream! Why would he give a blood fruit to a human?" Liu Yuxuan's eyes almost popped out of their sockets, as he eyed the fruit in Han Sen's hand with envy.

The king spirit once asked Liu Yuxuan to deliver gifts and treasures to the beast, in the hopes of one day receiving such a fruit in return for the kindness. But the spirit had yet to be given a single one, despite the repeated offerings that were provided. Liu

Yuxuan had only glimpsed the beast king once before, too, as he was never allowed in its presence.

This had gone on for quite some time, but the king spirit never thought to stop; the fruit really was that valuable. Constant gifts with an expected return never given.

The king spirit, despite his grand efforts, did not receive a single one. But here, now, Han Sen was handed one oh-so-simply. Liu Yuxuan's mind was suffering a meltdown.

The beast king's son licked Han Sen's cheek in admiration, and its tail wagged with unbridled joy.

Liu Yuxuan's mind recalled how each of his visits with the son usually went, in that it always used him as a faucet of blood. Every time they were together, he would have to allow it to sink its teeth in him so that could it drink his blood. It always acted superior, as well, vastly different to the puppydog-like behavior it was showing Han Sen.

Han Sen stroked the beast king's son's head and asked, "Is this fruit for me?"

The beast king's son seemed to enjoy the hand was that caressing it softly, and it made a gentle sound. Then, it nodded in confirmation.

Liu Yuxuan's shock had turned to jealousy, but now, it turned to anger. The creatures never replied to him whenever he spoke the human language. That was the whole reason he taught himself how to communicate in the language of creatures, in the first place.

"D*mn it! D*mn that *sshole." His face was still on the ground, and he did not dare get up.

He couldn't at all wrap his mind around why the two creatures would show so much love and respect towards a human they had never seen before.

Bao'er, seeing the beast king's son being so friendly, wanted to show it some love, too. She crawled up to it and rubbed her face in its lovely mane.

This did nothing to upset the disposition of the beast king's son or the beast king itself, either. Things were as peaceful as ever, and the son decided to lick Bao'er a little, as well.

Han Sen was surprised by the entire affair, also. He had gotten himself ready for a fight, so the lack of hostilities came as a delightful shock.

The blood fruit he had been given looked immensely powerful. It looked far superior to the ones birthed by Devil King's seeds or any of the ones found in the Valley of Time.

Roar!

The beast king suddenly roared, and after it did, many small creatures flocked to the valley as if they were in celebration of Han Sen's coming.

With the beast king protecting them, the group traveled through the valley for a few hundred miles, entirely unhindered. But when they exited the valley, it was no longer the dominion of the Blood-Wing Beast King. When it was time to say goodbye, the king leapt onto a rock and gave a faint cry of sadness in farewell.

Chapter 1017: Blood Fruit

"Mister Liu, I thank you. You have greatly opened our eyes," Chen Hu said.

He believed the beasts were so kind because of Liu Yuxuan's behavior.

With a forced smile, Liu Yuxuan pretended that had been the case and said, "You are welcome."

"Brother Liu, when we return to the Alliance, we will send you a reward in return for your kind deeds. But if I may ask, where do we go from here?" Lin He knew it wasn't actually Liu Yuxuan who had made the beast king so friendly, but he was still oblivious to his evil thoughts and intentions. So, he just went along with his credit-taking and thanked him.

"Well, that's me. Helpful as always." Liu Yuxuan smiled and went on to say, "There is a path you'd do well to take, just up ahead. Come, I will lead you there."

"Ah, in that case, we thank you again," Chen Hu said.

Liu Yuxuan then turned to ask Han Sen, "Have you seen the Blood-Wing Beast King before?"

"No." Han Sen shook his head.

Liu Yuxuan had no reason to believe Han Sen was lying.

"Is this guy the luckiest man in existence or what? Why would this brat be given a blood fruit?" Liu Yuxuan did his best to contemplate why.

Liu Yuxuan forced another smile and tried to weasel his way into getting a nibble of it. He said, "That blood fruit is a gift for everyone; why don't you share it?"

Cheekily, having not received it, he tried to lie and say it was something that belonged to everyone.

If Han Sen was willing to share, it meant he'd be given a slice. With a fruit so brilliant as that, even a small nibble would be wondrous.

If Han Sen was not willing to share, others might end up upset. They might even revolt against the man they all seemed to be blindly following.

"I gave it to Bao'er." Han Sen pointed at her.

Liu Yuxuan had only focused on Han Sen the entire time, not noticing Bao'er was munching away at the fruit as its juice stained her cheeks.

"How could you?!" He was unable to hold his tongue and feign kindness at this point, and like a sudden barking, he yelled at Han Sen.

He was infuriated to learn that Han Sen had fed a fruit that was greatly desired by a king spirit to what he deemed a useless pet.

"I shouldn't have done that?" Han Sen smiled.

Han Sen had actually tried having some earlier, but it had no effect.

When Bao'er showed him she really wanted it, he had no problem giving it to her.

"Let her have it. We don't need it, anyway," Chen Hu said.

"The beast king provided it to Han Sen as a gift. It was his to decide who should or who should not receive some," Lin Weiwei spoke out, in defense of his decision.

She could tell Liu Yuxuan hadn't actually helped them, as well. If the king had really been nice to them because of his kowtowing, the fruit would have been given to him.

Seeing that he had lost his temper this way, Lin Weiwei was now positive her hypothesis was correct.

With everyone else also saying they did not mind not having it,

Liu Yuxuan was again left struggling to comprehend why everyone was so supportive of Han Sen.

Seeing Lin Weiwei looking at him, Liu Yuxuan tried to swallow his flaring temper and gently explain, "It can merely benefit the human body, that's all. I just thought it was a shame to give it to a pet."

"It's fine. I treat her like a daughter, anyway," Han Sen said.

"Fine. Whatever. Let's keep walking." Liu Yuxuan marched ahead as soon as he finished his sentence.

Liu Yuxuan went with a smile, but inside, he was thinking, "F*ck! That's it; I'm not allowing any of you to live. That *sshole Han Sen must die."

Liu Yuxuan despised Han Sen more than ever, and the fact he had ruined his plans was driving him nuts. He wanted them all dead, especially since they had seen him shamelessly kowtow in front of a super creature.

He hadn't told anyone which shelter he actually came from, fortunately. But regardless, he wasn't going to allow anyone there to walk away and possibly mention the shameless act they had seen from him.

But these thoughts and desires were all manic concoctions of his disturbed mind. No one thought anything ill of his behavior so far. They actually appreciated his willingness to go down on the ground in a subservient manner before the beast king. They might not have known his true intentions, but still, that was besides the fact.

Right now, though, Liu Yuxuan was leading them to a dead end. They were headed to the territory of another super creature. It was another place the king spirit would not dare tread.

Compared to the Blood-Wing Beast King, this super creature was ten times more ferocious, Liu Yuxuan reckoned. It was known to

kill and gorge on whatever living thing came near its lair. Not even the bones of its victims would be left uneaten.

When they were almost there, Liu Yuxuan stopped and pointed in the direction, saying, "I can't lead you any further. Beyond is where you should head, and not soon after, you'll be led away and off the mountain. Be careful on your way, lest you make your presence known to the king spirit."

Liu Yuxuan was lying, of course. The super creature was said to lurk directly ahead of the party now. He had no actual clue where the mountain's exit might have resided, and he had no idea what was past the doom-bringing beast he was leading them to. Not that it mattered to him.

"Mister Liu, wait." After everyone thanked him for his guidance, and he was ready to turn away and leave, Han Sen stopped him from going.

Chapter 1018: Crazy

"What is it, Brother Han?" Liu Yuxuan asked, looking back at Han Sen.

"There is something I need your help with, before your departure," Han Sen said.

"I'll certainly help, if I am able to. What is it?" Liu Yuxuan said.

What happened next would be up to him to decide.

"Take us further," Han Sen said, looking at Liu Yuxuan sternly.

At this request, his face changed. And he said, "Well, like I said, I would like to help you. Unfortunately, I am not too familiar with these roads. But, should you proceed this way and meet some misfortune, you can come back and seek me out. The offer for you staying at my shelter still stands."

Lin Yuxuan's tone of voice bordered one of mocking, as if he was trying to make Han Sen seem as if he was scared.

"I have no problem going further, but you need to come with me," Han Sen said.

Liu Yuxuan was suddenly angered by the persistence of this request, and he moodily said, "Uncle San and Weiwei, did you hear what he just said? I am not one of you people, but I have helped you get this far out of the kindness of my heart. Haven't I done enough for you? I even kowtowed on your behalf; what, do you expect me to die for you lot, too?"

Lin He looked at Han Sen and said, "Brother Liu, calm down. I'm sure you have misinterpreted Little Han's words. Chill for a minute and hear him out, in full."

"He didn't misunderstand. He has to come with us," Han Sen spoke plainly.

"You are crazy! Who do you think you are by telling me what to

do!?" At this point Liu Yuxuan was yelling at the top of his voice. He went on to shout, "Uncle San, Weiwei, do you hear what he is saying? This guy is f*cking impossible to please; he wants even more?! Dogs would show a greater appreciation than this boy!"

Han Sen coldly said, "I am crazy. I have been for a long time. Are you only just learning that now?"

"The boy has a death wish. But whatever, I'm done with you!" Liu Yuxuan did his best to speak poorly of Han Sen, trying to discourage the group of travelers from supporting Han Sen any further.

No matter how powerful Han Sen had become, he had been in the Third God's Sanctuary for a year. Most people would have only suspected him to have opened three gene locks at the most. Although Liu Yuxuan's gene locks were weak, he still had eight of them. And what's more, he had a sacred-blood turtle.

Liu Yuxuan's body was burning with a fire of utter hatred and contempt for Han Sen, and he growled, "You're so cocky. You think you're the best, don't you? Come on, show me what you got!"

Others thought to say something, but before they could, Han Sen swung his fist.

Han Sen knew why Liu Yuxuan was behaving the way he was, and he knew the man had a secret desire to get them all killed.

What's more, Han Sen was not a fan of negotiation. When he encountered a heated confrontation with someone he deemed evil, a quick fist was Han Sen's favored method of achieving resolution.

Han Sen's fist traveled with a fire. Seeing it come, Liu Yuxuan transformed into a flaming snake that lunged at Han Sen.

The snake was ten meters long, and all Han Sen had was a fiery fist. The scene certainly looked unbalanced.

But when the two fiery figures collided, Liu Yuxuan was the one given the most shock.

Boom!

Han Sen hit the flaming snake, and ignited the body with a searing flame of a far crueller power.

Liu Yuxuan dropped to the ground, rolling around on the grass and screaming in agony. He managed to utter a command to his turtle, which then attacked Han Sen.

The turtle's first move was shooting water towards Han Sen.

This attack was rapidly dodged, and in retaliation, Han Sen jumped to the turtle's head with Taia in hand.

Katcha!

The turtle's head was sliced off with ease. Blood squirted from the red, rhythmic pumping of its exposed throat.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Armored Turtle killed. Beast soul gained. Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

Liu Yuxuan continued rolling around on the ground, but the fire that was ruining his body refused to be put out.

Han Sen picked him up and got rid of the flames himself, but the man was heavily damaged.

Liu Yuxuan's eight gene locks were nothing compared to Han Sen.

Liu Yuxuan pretended to be a victim in this entire ordeal, crying tears while proclaiming, "Uncle San, Weiwei, Chen Hu... I helped you! What did I do to deserve this treatment?!"

He made himself look so wronged, others actually felt pity for him.

"Maybe there really was a misunderstanding..." Lin He did believe Han Sen had been a little too cruel on him.

But Lin He trusted Han Sen's judgment, and he knew there had to be a reason Han Sen was so willing to lash out against Liu Yuxuan.

"I will explain later. You guys remain here." Han Sen continued down the path, dragging Liu Yuxuan along with him.

Liu Yuxuan yelled for help from the others, but he didn't get any. Eventually, as Han Sen pulled him nearer the place he wished for them to meet their doom, he quieted down.

He was scared now; he was terrified of waking up the super creature that was said to lurk there.

Liu Yuxuan, at this point, knew Han Sen had figured out what he had been up to. It had to be the reason why he had been dragged there like that.

But Liu Yuxuan believed Han Sen's determined march into that wicked territory was merely a bluff. He thought Han Sen wouldn't risk going too far forward. If Han Sen could not provide his party an explanation for what he had done, Liu Yuxuan thought there might be a chance to turn them all against each other and possibly crawl away from this entire affair with his life.

Chapter 1019: This Must be a Nightmare

Seeing Han Sen continue to walk forward, not slowing down for a single second, Liu Yuxuan was moving from afraid to terrified. It didn't help that Han Sen had remained silent the entire time, as well.

Most people that found themselves being suddenly dragged away against their will by an angry man would object quite loudly, but Liu Yuxuan remained as quiet as he could. There was a risk he was trying to avoid, despite thinking Han Sen's bluff was still in play.

Lin He and Lin Weiwei could see the two from where they were, and they watched intently. They were still a little unsure about what had motivated and instigated Han Sen's aggression, but they knew there was more to this than met the eye.

Liu Yuxuan's eyes were wide open now, having realized Han Sen had strolled directly into the area the beast was said to feast on intruders.

"You're crazy! That's it, we have to go! We have to go now or else we die!" Liu Yuxuan finally spoke, and his voice wasn't at normal volume. It was a scream, one driven by an intense fear of imminent death.

Han Sen stopped, looked at the wriggling worm, and said, "Why would we die? I thought you said this is a safe road, and that our exit from the mountain is just beyond here."

"Do it! Just do it! Get out! Leave this place!" Liu Yuxuan was writhing around with what looked like a broken mind. He really didn't want to die, and he was utterly terrified of the concept of waking up the super creature that was said to live there.

"Leave? Leave here? Give me one good reason to." Han Sen was slowly starting to walk forward again.

"You are crazy! It's a dead end, not an exit! And only death will

await us both if you continue going forward!" Even the deaf could have heard Liu Yuxuan's hopeless crying, and so pretty swiftly, his scheme was revealed to the party that watched from afar. If it wasn't for Han Sen, they all would have merrily walked into a trap, still thinking Liu Yuxuan was a decent fellow.

Han Sen turned around and dragged him back to Lin He. Then, he threw him onto the ground.

"*sshole! Why do you want to hurt us?!" Chen Hu was furious at this revelation.

"Run! Run!" Liu Yuxuan believed the creature must have woken up by now.

"It would be best we stay away from this area for now. Come, let's backtrack a bit," Han Sen said.

Lin He agreed, saying, "Yes, Chen Hu, everyone, let's go."

But suddenly, the sound of a wicked scream and an explosion was heard from far behind them.

"We are dead because of you!" Liu Yuxuan yelled at Han Sen, as if he was a victim.

Han Sen frowned at the emergence of a new threat, but he was not afraid.

The sound was loud, and the noise of something hissing was quickly drawing near. A white snake came into view.

It was like a cross between a white cobra and a dragon. The head possessed a unicorn horn, and ice-like eyes. The scales of its form were like threaded diamonds. The monster was as beautiful as it was scary.

Nobody's legs could move, though, and it felt as if something was keeping them from fleeing.

The creature was infinitely more frightening than the Blood-Wing Beast King they had previously encountered. In the presence

of that monster, they could not even think about running.

Even Lin He felt his body stiffen, and all he could do was remain still, watching the snake approach.

The snake looked at the crowd and hissed. Its forked tongue rattled in the open maw. As everyone looked on, they were sapped of their hope of survival.

Liu Yuxuan looked as if he belonged in an asylum. He was crazy, mumbling and dribbling in fear. He repeatedly blubbered, "That's it, man. Game over, man. Game over!"

In the next second, the white dragon moved in front of Han Sen. Everyone thought he would be the first to go, regretfully.

The snake pulled out its tongue and touched his body.

Han Sen was able to move the entire time, but he had chosen not to. He knew the beautiful white snake was not actually going to be hostile at all.

He had, of course, at first prepared to fight. But as the snake drew nearer and nearer, he was able to realize there was no aggressive intent in its approach.

Amidst everyone's mounting shock, a white mushroom fell out of the snake's mouth and into Han Sen's hands. Then, the snake lowered its head in front of him.

"Is this for me?" Han Sen looked at the mushroom with confusion.

The mushroom was very big, and the life force it possessed was no joke. It was incredibly strong. Simply smelling it was enough to bring a person's mind great comfort, and it looked so delicious, Han Sen thought he could hear his cells moaning and groaning for a taste.

It was lucky the super creatures had no intention of harming him, but Han Sen couldn't yet understand why that was. And

stranger yet, why were they delivering him gifts?

Having also received the blood fruit earlier, he now thought to himself, "Does Lady Luck simply have a crush on me? Is this her work?"

Liu Yuxuan was frozen for a different reason now. He watched what occurred with immeasurable shock. He exclaimed, "Impossible! Dragon Saliva! Impossible!"

Everyone looked at Han Sen strangely. They now knew for sure that the Blood-Wing Beast King really had only cared for Han Sen.

Suddenly, though, the white snake grabbed Han Sen. They believed it was going to eat him for a second, but that spike of fear was quickly alleviated. It had only grabbed Han Sen by his clothes, and gently, it placed him on its back. It had decided to guide him through the next region of the mountain.

Seeing Han Sen atop the white snake, Liu Yuxuan's broken mind seemed to completely shatter. He muttered, "This must be a nightmare. I have to wake up! This must really be just a bad dream."

Chapter 1020: Past Life Lover

Han Sen had his people bring the body of the slain turtle and Liu Yuxuan with them. They followed the snake he rode upon through the region the creature presided over.

Bao'er climbed ahead of Han Sen, sitting directly on the snake's head. She held the creature's horn, which worried the others.

If her behavior angered the white snake, no one could imagine what wrath might be brought down upon them.

Liu Yuxuan spoke a lot about how cruel and evil the white snake supposedly was, but from what they were actually seeing, his words couldn't be further from the truth. It didn't mind Bao'er climbing all over it, and it continued leading them in a delightfully tame and kind manner without an ounce of hostility.

It went quickly, though. Lin He and his fellows often had trouble keeping up, but it seemed to acknowledge their existence by slowing down for them, every now and again.

The group traversed this portion of the mountain without a single incident. All was well and all was safe. When had gone as far as it could, it gently allowed Bao'er and Han Sen to disembark. Then, it returned to its domain as swiftly as it had initially left it.

"Brother Han, why do super creatures treat you like this? Were you once a renowned super creature king in a past life?" Chen Hu asked, in equal parts amusement and awe.

Everyone seemed to be a little dazed by what was going on. No one had ever seen or even heard of a human receiving such treatment from creatures before.

"If I told you I didn't know why they treated me this way, would you believe me?" Han Sen asked.

Lin Weiwei just smiled and said, "I'd believe you. Super creatures are... unpredictable, to say the least. But perhaps there is an item

in your possession that attracts them to you."

"That most certainly sounds like a feasible possibility," Lin He added.

Their comments reminded Han Sen that he did indeed have something special on him, but it was something he had brought with him from the Second God's Sanctuary.

The only special item he had acquired recently was the Dragon-Blood Ring. But if his possession of that was why, then neither the wolf nor the monkeys would have attacked him.

Han Sen, unable to understand, shelved those thoughts for the time being.

"Well, Han Sen, is it time we decide what to do with this *sshole? Should we kill him and be done with it?" Wang Yu said, with a tone of utter contempt.

The jig was up for Liu Yuxuan, and it had been revealed to them all how much of a spiteful, twisted, back-stabbing liar he truly was. The region they had crossed with the snake was nothing like he described.

"Don't kill me! I just don't like Han Sen, that's all. I only tried to get rid of him!" Liu Yuxuan was on his knees, sobbing for mercy.

"Little Han, what will you do?" Lin He asked.

"Kill him." Lin Weiwei, now understanding what he had planned to do, was in great relief she had not decided to follow him to the shelter.

"We'll take him with us for now. If something seeks to attack or kill us, he'll make a fine decoy," Han Sen coldly said.

To Han Sen, he was a dead man already. The only reason Han Sen was going to allow him to live a little longer was so his death could prove at least somewhat useful.

Hearing what Han Sen said, they each thought it to be the best

course of action. They did not have any more ideas or opinions to share.

A while later, they all stopped for a rest. Since there were hungry stomachs all around, Han Sen got to preparing a meal from the turtle he had slain.

The turtle was a fairly big creature, so it was going to prove too big for Han Sen to eat all by himself. As such, he offered some of the cooked turtle to the others, and they each accepted a portion.

Bao'er looked excited, eating the turtle. She had developed a great taste for meat.

While everyone ate and dined merrily, though, creatures approached them. A white, sacred-blood deer walked up to Han Sen and placed down a clump of holy grass in front of him. Then, it left.

It wasn't long until other creatures showed up, bringing with them the carcass of a creature they had hunted. They laid it down in front of Han Sen and walked away as well.

Han Sen cooked the creature he had been provided, and he was delighted to learn it was a sacred-blood creature, too.

Liu Yuxuan had no clue why all the creatures of the mountains, those he had once believed to be utterly wretched, wished to please Han Sen.

Everywhere Han Sen went, creatures welcomed him. He received an abundance of gifts over the course of their travel, all beyond their wildest expectations.

"Little San-San, you must have been quite the romantic creature lover in a past life," Lin Weiwei said.

"I must have worked hard, all day and night, to please the number of creatures that seek to reward me." Han Sen gave her a wry smile.

"Maybe you were just a popular figure, adored by all?" Lin Weiwei suggested.

"Yep, I can believe it. Everyone must love Brother Han!" Chen Hu said, in admiration.

Han Sen replied to them both, saying, "Maybe in a past life, I was their king."

"King..." Lin Weiwei shook her head. Then, she said, "No, more like a celebrity."

"Yep, a celebrity," Chen Hu said.

Han Sen wasn't actually a believer in the concept of reincarnation. He knew there was a reason for the kindness being shown towards him by the creatures, but he just couldn't figure out what it was.

But at least it made for a pleasant journey. Encountering creatures was no longer a problem for them, and the fear that first plagued their journey had vanished. Before Han Sen, every creature was tame and gentle.

They went on in this manner for quite some time. They traveled for an entire month, and they moved at a quick pace. Their lives were better than they had been, even when they were living in a human shelter.

Han Sen had eaten two whole wolf kings, some turtle, and a variety of other meats given to him by creatures. In total, his sacred-blood geno point tally managed to reach fifty-six.

Chapter 1021: Golden Flying Bug

Although Han Sen had received many presents from the creatures of the regions he and his party traversed, none of those gifts had yet surpassed the Blood Fruit and Dragon Saliva in terms of rarity and power. Those gifts, given to him by super creatures, were by far the best.

Upon nearing the exit of Ghost Mountain, they encountered another super creature. It was a giant ape, and it provided Han Sen with a small wine cup.

Han Sen could tell it was actually a geno item. But despite his close examinations of it, he couldn't really tell what purpose it might serve him.

The giant ape also aided them in travel. He grabbed ahold of every member of Han Sen's party and placed them all atop his shoulders. Then, he took off running for four days straight. The craggy slopes of the mountain soon gave way to an emerald, verdant expanse that was home to a number of horses, merrily grazing away the hours of sunshine.

"We are finally off Ghost Mountain!" Everyone was exuberantly happy.

The ape placed them down, roared at Han Sen, and then returned to the mountain.

Looking back to where they had spent so much time traveling, it was almost like a dream.

Everything they had been through seemed unbelievable, even to Han Sen.

Aargh!

Just as everyone was in chirpy spirits, a scream sounded from their midst. Liu Yuxuan was rolling on the ground in pain, shrieking in agony.

A wound had formed on his body, as if something had cut him badly. He was covered in blood, yet no one around him had done a thing.

As Liu Yuxuan screamed, he barely looked human. His body was being skinned by a phantom aggressor, and soon, his flesh started to get carved away in large chunks. Soon, it'd be down to the bone.

The wounds were not fatal, though.

"Kill me, please! I was wrong. I wanted Weiwei, and yet I was willing to harm and kill you to have her!" Liu Yuxuan's face was distorted and covered in blood. But the torture he was now under was so unbearable, he actually wanted to die.

Everyone understood what was happening. The spirit that owned Liu Yuxuan must have detected that he had left Ghost Mountain. Thinking that it was an act of disobedience, the spirit started to torture him.

Lin He grabbed his sword and plunged it deep into Liu Yuxuan's heart. As his lifeforce left his body, his muscles relaxed and his face became softer. He looked free, as if he had been granted a release he had long wanted.

"There was no need for him to suffer. We are still the same kind. He may have deserved death, but not one that was brutally prolonged," Lin He explained.

Han Sen nodded. Even though he despised Liu Yuxuan and would have killed the man himself, he wouldn't have tortured him.

The others, seeing the way he died, were in shock. They were eternally glad they had not returned to the shelter and submitted themselves to the command of a spirit. One day, they could have ended up just like Liu Yuxuan.

To avoid his body being desecrated by creatures, Han Sen torched it until there was nothing left but dust.

When it was time for them to set out again, they were not too

sure where to go. The only thing in front of them was a flat, plain field that went on as far as the eyes could see. So they picked a direction and went straight ahead.

The horse-like creatures were afraid of the passing humans, it seemed. Before they even got close, the horses would run off and maintain a lengthy distance.

After a while of travel, they suddenly heard a buzzing noise. Something gold was coming towards them from across the expanse. At first, it was alone. But later, more of the golden things appeared. After squinting to get a better look, the group saw that the creatures were golden, fist-sized bugs, and their numbers were many.

More and more emerged, until they started to blot out the sun and ink the sky. But since they were gold, they did not darken the field they traversed. Instead, the brightness of the region only increased. The area became almost blindingly bright.

"I wonder what these things will give us?" Chen Hu looked very excited.

Although Chen Hu did not personally receive any gifts or reap any specific benefits, he was excited to see what new thing they would bring.

But Han Sen was not in this mindset. His face changed and he said, "They are not here to bring gifts. Everyone, get ready to fight!"

"No way!" Chen Hu could not believe it.

The golden bugs closed in on them quickly. They swooped down low and tried to bite them in a hungry swarm.

With their gene locks open, the fighters raised their weapons to counter the assault.

Han Sen was ablaze with a red fire, and he commanded a phoenix to incinerate the bugs that were directly in front of him.

But the golden bugs were strange. When the phoenix slew them, it did not respawn and allow Han Sen another usage.

Even stranger, there was no announcement after the bugs died, and his Dongxuan Aura revealed nothing on those bugs. He didn't learn a thing.

The group of travelers unleashed everything they had as they fought back against the tide of insects, but the enemy's numbers were too many.

If a bug landed on one of their bodies, even mutant armor wasn't an effective enough resistance for the subsequent biting. The bugs would tear through their bodies in an instant.

Screams started to erupt from the group. When Han Sen turned to look at those who cried out, he found them soaked in blood.

Han Sen tried his best. He always did, but he knew he could not protect everyone this time.

Han Sen gifted the turtle armor beast soul to Lin Weiwei and said, "Put this on!"

After donning the armor, she was far safer—and she felt that way, too. The golden bugs could no longer nibble their way through that protection.

But it did nothing to alleviate the enormous swarm that assaulted the rest. There were so many, it was almost like a sandstorm of the fiends. And as for how they might get out of this predicament, Han Sen was short on ideas.

Aargh!

The people screamed. Many of the bugs were attached to Wang Yu's legs, which were being ravenously gnawed. Within a few seconds, nothing but the bones remained. He collapsed to the ground.

On the ground, his ability to resist was drastically reduced.

Countless more of the bugs swarmed his defenseless body. He was being ravaged, and in a few seconds, ransacked bones were all that would remain.

Chapter 1022: Meeting Again

Han Sen's body surged with red fire, and the bugs that swarmed around Wang Yu were blackened and burnt. The man had been saved, but only barely. He could not stand up, let alone fight.

Chen Hu was next in line to suffer, though. He screamed, and Han Sen watched as he fell to the ground. A fireball was sent his way, incinerating the hungry bugs that sought to do him harm.

Han Sen was managing for now, but he knew he couldn't save everyone.

"Bao'er get these bugs!" Han Sen pleaded, but the baby did not move. Her eyes seemed fixed on something.

Han Sen knew he could escape and save his own hide, but he knew that would only result in the deaths of the people he had now spent much time with. Chen Hu, Lin He... they'd all die a gruesome death.

Lin Weiwei had been safe in the armor, but that too was now riddled with cracks. It wouldn't be long before that broke, exposing her to the ravenous hordes of insects.

Bao'er continued looking in the same direction, not bothering to summon the gourd.

Han Sen suddenly heard an explosion in the sky above. A shockwave followed, almost knocking the fighters off their feet.

It was a howl, and it was familiar. It was reminiscent of the howling of a wolf, but it wasn't quite the same.

When they were on Ghost Mountain, the purple wolf super creature heard this sound and left Han Sen and his people be.

Han Sen suddenly thought he might receive protection from the creatures, after the howl.

But the howl, as loud as it was, meant whatever made it was

close. Han Sen wasn't sure what would happen next.

And yet, nothing did. After a moment of anticipation, the bugs merely continued their onslaught without reprieve. It was disappointing, to say the least.

But in the next second, silver lightning tore the skies asunder. Its presence quickly surprised everyone, knocking them down to the ground.

As their hope had just started to wane, silver lightning descended from the sky like a river.

The bugs in the path of those lethal webs of windborne fire were destroyed.

Needless to say, it was shocking. Huddled together, everywhere outside their small portion of land was being ravaged by what felt like world-ending chaos.

All the bugs that sought to kill them were promptly electrocuted.

"No way..." A thought flashed through Han Sen's mind, but it was so crazy, he wasn't sure whether or not he was a fool to believe it.

There was a small shadow in the direction Bao'er was looking. It was headed towards them, emerging from beyond the streams of lightning.

It was a small, silver fox. It approached them slowly, with grace and elegance.

No lightning touched it; it was as if the curtain of silver fire parted for its entrance.

"No way..." Han Sen was speechless.

Han Sen now understood why the wolf king left them alone, and why the creatures had all started to be nice towards him. It was because something had been watching over him the entire time.

"Little Silver!" Han Sen shouted, running to greet his old friend.

The lightning broke away for Han Sen's approach. He dropped to his knees before the fox and planted a big kiss on the much-missed creature's forehead. Then, he ruffled the fur on his head.

The silver fox shoved his muzzle towards him and licked Han Sen's hands. Then, he buried his head in Han Sen's chest.

Bao'er squinted her eyes, looking furious at the silver fox. She seemed jealous that something else was obtaining Han Sen's love.

The bugs had all gone. When the silver fox looked at Bao'er, it looked as if there was friction in both their eyes and an ignition of sparks.

But one second later, they looked away from each other.

Fortunately, Han Sen did not notice this brief stand-off. It was best that nothing spoiled the moment for him. Han Sen had wanted to discard the gourd once before, and had gone so far as to throw it away. But it was the silver fox that picked it up and brought it back, indicating Han Sen should hold onto it.

Strangely, after the occupant of the gourd emerged and met the person who had given it a father, they did not seem friendly.

Han Sen wished to say something to the silver fox, but suddenly, there was another explosion. A giant, golden bug emerged from the ground in a haze of soil.

Its lower body was like that of a snake, whereas its upper body was plated with a carapace that was not unlike a centipede. The creature's head was like a scorpion, and a stinger-tipped tail swung from its back.

It looked evil, like a demon freed from hell itself.

Amidst the golden light that reflected from its shiny plating, the hideous creature roared. Chen Hu was grabbed and pulled across the disheveled field; as he went, soil and grass-stained his clothing.

After a roar, the golden bug's tail started to move. It swayed from

left to right, as if it was taking aim at Han Sen.

Boom!

Nine streaks of golden light were cast towards Han Sen, which twisted the very composure of space.

The silver fox leapt in front of Han Sen, amassing a massive vortex of silver power. It transformed back into the fierce lightning fox it could be.

Before the golden beam could reach its target, the silver fox roared as a big beam of silver lightning blazed back to counter it.

Chapter 1023: Attacking a Shelter

Silver lightning burst out of the silver fox and collided with the golden light.

Boom!

The golden light was fractured, and in a second, the atmosphere exploded around them in a blinding flash. A one-mile wide hole formed in the ground, and aside from Han Sen and Bao'er, everyone was blown away.

The streaks of the silver fox's lightning filled the exhibit of destruction, suppressing all the golden bug sought to do. Try as it might to break that oppressive power, the golden bug could not; all it could do was flail around helplessly.

The silver fox's fur gleamed. A silver aura formed around him, and it became brighter and brighter. It culminated in a wretched bullet of silver lightning. His target—the insect aggressor—shrieked wildly in agony.

Lin He was frozen as he watched the scene unfold. Even Han Sen was shocked. The silver fox hadn't been in the Third God's Sanctuary for very long, but he had already amassed a terrifying amount of power. He had managed to alter the minds and desires of the super creatures of Ghost Mountain, and promptly came to Han Sen's aid on the verdant expanse.

Of course, this wealth of power wasn't entirely down to the silver fox's own prowess.

The silver fox had opened nine of his gene locks, but he had done so through the help of other super creatures. It was through their aid that he managed to open so many gene locks so quickly, and it was how he had obtained such fierce powers already.

The reason silver fox had received such treatment was his rarity. He had become widely respected throughout the creature

kingdom, and that was down to his healing abilities.

Many injured creatures had kindly received the silver fox's healing. He was proficient with this talent, and grievous injuries were healed in no time at all. It was that which earned him this great respect amongst creatures.

Of course, only having nine gene locks open meant he could not even beat the white snake if it came down to a fight between the two.

Han Sen had nine gene locks open, as well, and when bringing fitness into the equation, the two were well-balanced. Just like Han Sen, the silver fox's fitness had not been able to keep up with the number of open gene locks. So, even in the Third God's Shelter, they'd make for a remarkable duo.

Boom!

The golden bug let out a shrill scream. It hastily dug back underground and disappeared, leaving behind stains of gold blood.

The silver fox looked like a simple fox again. It trotted over to Han Sen and started rubbing his head against Han Sen's legs again, just like he used to.

Han Sen picked the silver fox back up in his arms and said to him, "Well done."

Bao'er was sucking her dummy extra hard, upon seeing this. She was most certainly not happy.

No one dared remain in the area. Quickly, Han Sen and his party moved on. They eyed the silver fox with slight wariness because of the power they had seen him wield. He was quite a scary thing.

They looked at Han Sen with such strangeness, too. Han Sen was bringing it along with them, as if it was a pet. It was difficult to imagine what might happen to a man, should they incite the ire of the fox.

Han Sen had raised the silver fox since its birth, though, and there was no possible chance it would attack him. The only downside to the silver fox's presence was its tendency to keep creatures at bay. While this trait had its benefits, it made trying to hunt a touch more difficult.

But, after the golden bug was chased off with its injuries, it did not show up again, thankfully.

After another two weeks of travel, the group stumbled across humans. There were three of them, and they seemed to be collecting grass.

At the sight of them, the group was made extremely happy. If there were humans there, it might mean that there was a human shelter nearby.

When the three people saw Han Sen, they too looked happy. And without delay, both groups met up for a chat.

"This is not a human shelter." Chen Hu was disappointed.

The eldest man amongst the three was a fellow called Zhao Xin. He told them, "There aren't many humans here, but we belong to a royal spirit shelter. It's called the Sword-Furnace Shelter."

Lin He said, "Are there any other human shelters around?"

Zhao Xin regretfully informed them, "No, this area is under the control of spirits. It would be best if you return wherever you came from, lest the spirit become aware of your presence."

Lin He and Lin Weiwei looked at each other. They were saddened, upon hearing they had still not reached a location where they might safely settle down.

Han Sen asked, "Do you know of a place called Thorn Forest?"

Han Sen needed to know where he was, in order to let Moment Queen move the shelter.

They all shook their heads, much to Han Sen's disappointment.

Immediately, he asked a follow-up question. "Do you know if there is a king class shelter nearby?"

Everyone's eyes lit up, upon hearing this question. If there was no king class shelter, there was a chance they could claim the royal shelter for themselves. They most certainly had enough power, between Han Sen and his silver fox.

Zhao Xin shook his head and informed them, "I only know this is a royal shelter, and it's fairly remote. I don't believe there are any other shelters in the immediate vicinity."

"Brother Han, let's do this," Chen Hu and a few others said.

It had been too long since any of them had gone to the Alliance, and they all wanted the opportunity to see their family and friends again.

"Uncle San and Weiwei, what do you think?" Han Sen asked.

"Go ahead. If this doesn't work out in the long run, we can retreat to the Alliance forever," Lin He spoke with hefty gravity.

"If we let this opportunity pass us by, who knows when our next chance at a place of sanctuary will be?" Lin Weiwei said.

Zhao Xin looked at the party in shock, and he asked, "What are you guys talking about?"

"We are talking about becoming the new owners of Sword-Furnace Shelter," Han Sen answered.

"No! Even if you do take down this shelter, it ultimately belongs to Sword-Palace Shelter. If they send reinforcements here..." Zhao Xin quickly told them.

"Then I'll deal with them and take Sword-Palace Shelter for myself, as well." Han Sen spoke calmly, with perfect confidence.

Chapter 1024: Holy-Sword Emperor

"Brother Zhao, do you think they can do what they say they can?" Zhao Xin and the others hid amongst some bushes. While they watched Han Sen, the youngest of the three asked Zhao Xin the question.

"They sound confident, so they definitely possess some manner of strength. But even if they can take down this royal shelter, I'm not sure they have the strength to take down Sword-Palace Shelter." Zhao Xin paused for a minute, and then said, "Still, for now, if they can just manage to break the spirit stone here in Sword-Furnace Shelter, we'll be free."

"Then let us hope for the best and pray they are successful!" the young man said, his eyes also resting on Han Sen.

The three of them held their hands and prayed after this. If the group was not successful in liberating the shelter, their betrayal might later be found out. If it was, then the three of them who were under contract would most assuredly be given a torturous death.

After Han Sen and his people entered the shelter, the noise of explosions, clanging weaponry, and the shrieks and warcries of battle sounded from within the walls. The three of them sweated in anticipation.

It didn't last for very long. And after a short while of audible fighting, the city fell silent.

"Brother Zhao, why is it all quiet? Were they all killed?" the young man asked.

"I don't think so." Zhao Xin wasn't entirely sure. It was strange, though; they had only been inside for a short while, so how could the battle have come to an end so soon?

The fear of the group being unsuccessful lingered on the minds of

the three, and the idea that Han Sen might have already conquered the shelter in such a short time seemed too silly for them to even consider.

All of a sudden, a swordsman appeared from out of the gate. His build was heavy, and they recognized his figure all too well. It was a spirit of Sword-Furnace Shelter.

"We are done for," Zhao Xin quietly muttered. He hadn't expected them to be defeated so soon.

The two young men had hoped, more than anything, to return to the Alliance if they had been freed. But now? They didn't think that was happening anytime soon.

But then, after watching the spirit with bated breath, the tension in their contorted expressions loosened. They couldn't believe it.

Another person came out from behind the gates of the shelter, and as he stepped past, the spirit moved aside like a servant.

When Zhao Xin squinted to take a better look, that person was the young man who had told them his people could take the shelter and give them back their freedom.

"The royal spirit is obeying him?" Zhao Xin looked amazed.

"How could he have achieved all that so quickly?" The young man was in awe.

Han Sen bid for the three to emerge from the bushes and enter the shelter. After coming inside, they were able to confirm that Han Sen had indeed conquered the shelter and asserted control.

The bodies of slain creatures were strewn about everywhere. The shelter had been populated with a large sum of mutant creatures, but now they were all dead.

"Who are you people?" Zhao Xin asked in shock. If they possessed the power to oh-so-easily bring down Sword-Furnace Shelter, they couldn't have been an ordinary bunch of adventurers.

"You aren't aware of what President Ji's son-in-law looks like?" Chen Hu smiled.

"You are Han Sen?!" the young person exclaimed with much glee.

Zhao Xin had been in the Third God's Sanctuary for far too long, though, so the name Han Sen didn't ring any bells.

But now, they could all use the teleporter. It had been many years since Zhao Xin had been to the Alliance—he had a lot of catching up to do.

Lin He and his group were supposed to stay for a while and protect the shelter, but Han Sen allowed them to return first. With the silver fox and Bao'er there, even if Sword-Palace Shelter came quickly for retribution, there'd be little the other royal shelter could do against the combined might of those two.

Han Sen gave them their places and explained to them what should be done, in the event hostile forces came to the shelter. Then, he too returned to the Alliance. It had been a while since he was last in touch with his mother and Ji Yanran, and so he sought to allay any fears they may have had for his well-being.

Inside a giant city, one that sat in the center of the glorious emerald expanses, many royal spirits had come together for a meeting. The leader amongst them wore green-plated armor, and he spoke to them all.

A swordsman spirit approached another royal spirit and whispered in his ear. When he heard the whispered words, the spirit's face changed.

"My son, what is wrong?" Holy-Sword Emperor asked.

Ghost-Sword was only just a royal spirit. He hadn't become a king spirit yet, but he was the strongest of Holy-Sword Emperor's sons. With the possibility that, in time, he might be able to become a king spirit, his father loved him dearly.

"Father, a few humans stormed Sword-Furnace Shelter and took

it from me. We should send reinforcements to slay them," Ghost-Sword said, then gestured to the swordsman, who promptly left.

"Okay, then." Holy-Sword Emperor did not think this matter was too concerning.

In that place, only super creatures could pose a threat to them. Humans were weaklings, and not a force worth worrying about.

Mostly, though, Holy-Sword Emperor's placid reaction to the news was because he was in a good mood. He had just been the recipient of a treasure. It was given to him by an emperor spirit from Phoenix Desert.

With that treasure, he had a chance of transcending his own class to that of an emperor.

The power of an emperor was not far off that of a berserk super creature, and it was half a tier higher than that of a king spirit.

Spirits that had opened ten gene locks mostly moved on to the Fourth God's Sanctuary.

The treasure he had received was from an emperor spirit that had gone to the Fourth God's Sanctuary. It was a very beneficial gift for spirits such as Holy-Sword Emperor.

He hadn't previously hoped he could achieve ten open gene locks, but now, he did.

A swordsman approached Ghost-Sword and whispered to him again. Upon hearing what the messenger said, his face turned green. He stood up.

Chapter 1025: Goodbye to Silver Fox

After a time spent in the Alliance, Han Sen returned to the sanctuary. As soon as he arrived, Bao'er leapt up to kiss his cheek and say, "Father, I missed you!"

"I missed you, too." Han Sen kissed her and then went off, looking for the silver fox.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura and found the fox lying atop the shelter's ramparts, just above the gate.

Han Sen took Bao'er with him to where the silver fox was and said, "Little Silver, I'm back. There is no need to guard so fiercely anymore."

The silver fox just continued staring in the direction he had been. Han Sen could tell the silver fox was concerned about something, but all that did was make Han Sen worry, too.

Han Sen frowned. Ghost Mountain was in the direction the silver fox faced.

Caringly, Han Sen went to stroke the silver fox's head and ask him, "Do you miss your friends?"

Han Sen believed the silver fox might have missed the fellow creatures back on Ghost Mountain, as they had treated him well for a long time.

Before he could receive a response, though, Han Sen's attention was snatched by the sudden sound of a cry. It came from Ghost Mountain.

The silver fox stood up in alarm, paying extra attention to the cry. He approached Han Sen's legs and rubbed his head against them.

Acknowledging something was wrong, Han Sen stroked the silver fox's face and asked, "What is it?"

Gently, the silver fox crooned as an answer. He jumped up, licked Han Sen's cheek, and then jumped off of the shelter's wall. The silver fox started to run in the direction of Ghost Mountain, but as it went, it repeatedly looked back at Han Sen.

Han Sen did not delay in going after the silver fox, but Little Silver kept on howling back at Han Sen—who sought to give chase—as if he was telling Han Sen to stay back and not follow him back to Ghost Mountain.

"What's wrong, Little Silver? You can tell me!" Han Sen did not heed the silver fox's warnings and continued pursuing him. Bao'er was left behind in the meantime, up on the ramparts of the shelter.

Han Sen thought about why the silver fox might not have come to see him in the very beginning, when he was up on Ghost Mountain. The silver fox had called off the super creature wolf. It was strange how he had only shown up after they exited the mountain.

Howl! The silver fox tried to warn Han Sen off and get him to stop following.

"Little Silver, is someone trying to bully you? Are you being threatened? What is that far-off cry?" Han Sen increased his speed, to catch up with the silver fox.

Although Little Silver was not a human, he was a creature Han Sen had raised since its birth. At one point, the silver fox was his most trusted ally and side-kick. He was family to Han Sen, and he couldn't just let the fox run off into danger.

It was okay if the silver fox wanted to go back there to be with the creatures. Han Sen wouldn't have forced him to stay with him, if that was the concern. But if something was forcing the silver fox to do something against his will, Han Sen wouldn't stand for it.

Little Silver slowed down due to Han Sen's repeated calls, but the crying noise from Ghost Mountain started up again. Little Silver

barked at Han Sen, and then, with a bolt of lightning, ran off.

The silver fox was incredibly quick, and Han Sen had no chance of following him. The creature was going to leave his range of vision in no time.

With eight gene locks open, though, Han Sen did his best to try and catch up.

He had fallen behind, yes, but he still continued on his way to Ghost Mountain. That was where the silver fox was headed, after all.

The silver fox heard the upset howling again and stopped in his tracks.

Seeing him stop in the distance put a smile back on Han Sen's face. But as he neared the silver fox again, and was close to catching up, Little Silver electrified him.

The silver fox barked at Han Sen, commanding that he stop following.

Bringing himself back up to his feet, Han Sen was not mad at his behavior. He said, "If you are willingly going back, I won't stop you. But if someone is making you do something against your own will, I'm not leaving your side."

Boom!

The silver fox shot Han Sen with another bolt of lightning, but after, he looked a little remorseful. He seemed to have been touched by Han Sen's words, despite his initial reaction.

Shrugging off the pain, Han Sen continued to approach the silver fox.

Little Silver couldn't bring himself to shock Han Sen the third time, so he just barked, ran, and leapt up into Han Sen's chest.

"Little Silver, I don't want you to leave me." Han Sen stroked the silver fox's head with much love.

Little Silver licked his dear master's cheeks and barked quietly, as if he wished to speak with him in a common language.

But suddenly, the silver fox jumped away from Han Sen and made all his fur stand on end.

Han Sen suddenly felt a terrible presence drawing near. Turning to take a look at where it was coming from, he saw a black shadow approaching them from across the field.

The shadow was very slow, but every step made Han Sen feel as if the very world was under-threat. It was as if the world was shrinking, the nearer it drew.

Han Sen could sense a terrifying power residing within that black shadow.

Now, Han Sen believed he understood the reason why the silver fox had not revealed his presence as soon as he probably wanted to.

It wasn't that the silver fox did not want to be with Han Sen, it was this shadow that was stopping him. He only revealed himself when he did because it had been a life and death moment for Han Sen. The assault of those bugs out on the plains could have ended poorly for all the humans involved.

Staring at the scary shadow, Han Sen thought even the intimidation of the snake paled in comparison to it.

Chapter 1026: You Deserve It

When the shadow arrived, it felt as if the entire expanse had been veiled with a cloak of darkness.

The creature was a fox. It was different than the silver fox, not only in that its coat was black, but it had a look of murder in its eyes. It was evil.

It had nine tails that wagged strangely, and it gave the illusion of a warped dimension.

The nine-tail fox approached like a demon, and its oppressive appearance made Han Sen feel he could drop to the ground at any given moment.

The eyes of the phantom fox were frightening. The sockets were where they should have been, but they were empty. Sunken and empty.

The fox looked at Han Sen, and as it did, he felt a weight of doom press on his shoulders. The tyrannical feelings it exuded were suffocating, so much so, Han Sen felt short of breath.

Han Sen did not have an eighth sense, but he knew all too well that the fox wanted to murder him.

He felt as if he was encountering a twisted, vengeful ghost from the beyond. And it was then that it hit him; perhaps there was a reason the area was called Ghost Mountain.

"Is this why Ghost Mountain is called Ghost Mountain? Is it because of this ghost-like fox?" Han Sen mulled to himself.

Howl! The silver fox cried out at the ghost fox, as if it was begging it to let Han Sen walk away.

But it seemed as if the ghost fox did not care. It looked furious, undoubtedly angry Han Sen had taken the silver fox away from it.

Seeing the ghost fox approach, nearer and nearer, Little Silver

straightened his hair with a charge of electricity. He growled at the ghost fox, as if he was telling it to stay away.

The ghost fox was irritated by Little Silver's behavior, and it let out a horrid shriek. After it was over, its tail sprang outwards to attack Han Sen.

The silver fox was shocked, so it unleashed a barrage of silver lightning at the ghost fox in retaliation. Strangely, the lightning flashed through the body of the ghost fox and only scorched the ground behind it. It was as if the ghost fox was truly a ghost.

The silver fox unleashed more and more lightning, each discharge being stronger than the last. Try as he might, though, not a single one impacted or dealt damage to the shape of the foe that opposed them.

Han Sen turned into a phoenix and leapt towards the ghost fox.

But after unleashing a number of attacks, nothing touched the ghost fox. Han Sen felt like cowering in the ghost's intimidating shadow.

Suddenly, Han Sen behaved as if he was possessed. Black smoke rose from his flames, and his eyes turned black as well.

Han Sen's hands rose up of their own accord and placed themselves on his own neck. Then, he vigorously tried to strangle himself.

"You deserve it. Hahaha!" Han Sen squeezed his own neck with tremendous strength, wheezing out a cackle whenever he could. He had gone psychotic.

A tick-tick sound came from the neck, and it sounded as if it was going to snap any second beneath the horrid pressure that was being put upon it.

Han Sen had never had to deal with a power such as this before. Only his consciousness was free; everything else about him was under the control of the ghost fox who had disappeared into him.

The silver fox howled in fright over what had happened to his master. He couldn't do anything to save him, and he could only run around in circles.

The ghost fox had possessed Han Sen, and even though it was vulnerable now, if he attacked, he'd be harming his master.

Little Silver's eyes turned red, and it began kowtowing before the ghost fox.

"I told you; I'd grant him safe passage across Ghost Mountain, only if you remained my slave. You broke your end of the bargain, and now, he has to die." Han Sen's mouth spoke the words that the ghost fox desired, and did so with a spooky, empty tone that was devoid of all emotion.

The silver fox had no idea what to do. He didn't know if there was anything he could do. All he did was beg and beg for the safety of his master.

"Little Silver... don't beg. He isn't worthy enough to be your master." Suddenly, Han Sen had managed to regain some control.

The ghost fox was surprised at the resilience of its host. It had never expected that a possessed human could summon the will to regain command of their voice.

Not even super creatures could resist the powers of the ghost fox, so how a human had managed to do so was unfathomable.

To the ghost fox, the one-thousand-seven-hundred fitness the human possessed was incredibly weak.

Not wanting to risk him regaining any more control, the ghost fox decided to kill him outright.

The ghost fox strengthened its power, but strangely, it could not corrupt any more of Han Sen's body.

A holy light came out from Han Sen, and it seemed to be purifying and negating the effects of the black smoke. This humble

light grew, until the darkness that surrounded him was wholly vanquished.

"Impossi—" The ghost fox sought to squeal a few words using Han Sen's mouth, but his attempt was cut short by the severing of the corruption.

Han Sen's black hair became a bright, stunning white gown, and it grew so long that it brushed the emerald grass.

His body was beaming with a holy light.

The nine gene lock super king spirit body was increasing in strength and magnitude.

The dark presence in him was ejected, and the form of the ghost fox returned. It looked at Han Sen in utter shock.

"How dare you make Little Silver cry. You know what? You deserve it!" Han Sen's eyes burned with the brightness of stars. A fist, imbued with the same power, was thrown towards the wretched ghost fox.

Chapter 1027: Killing Nine-Tail Ghost Fox

The ghost fox squealed as if it was trying to say, "I am indestructible, you are nothing!"

But in the next second, Han Sen's mighty fist was burying itself deep into the ghost fox's face. It annihilated the composure of its shadowy form and sent the beast flying.

The ghost fox wore an expression of complete incomprehension. It couldn't believe the human had actually managed to punch it.

Han Sen did not hesitate for one second, though. His anger was like the sudden eruption of a volcano, and he moved over to deliver follow-up blows. Approaching the fox, his arms swung wildly.

Pang! Pang!

Han Sen punched the nine-tail fox repeatedly. Blood squirted out with each brutish impact like flowers in the air.

The ghost fox was in shock at how the tables had turned on it. Han Sen was an oppressive tyrant, standing in front of it, beating it senseless. The crazy man's barrage of punches ruined its body into a sickly, disfigured mess. All it could do in response was scream, shriek, and squeal in agony and fright.

"Die! Die! Die!" Han Sen's fists were faster than any eye could track.

Katcha!

A fist opened up and grabbed one of the fox's tails. It ripped the tail off and cast it away like some joke.

The nine-tail fox could not hold back its pained cries. It tried to raise its claws in a hopeless defense, thinking it might be able to get away.

But Han Sen's fists of fury were too powerful. The nails and paws were shattered with no additional effort, and then, he teleported in

front of the fox's face.

Katcha!

Han Sen grabbed the fox by the neck and reached around for another one of its tails. Effortlessly, another tail was torn from its flesh.

The ghost fox was in shock. It had resided on the mountain for countless years, but it had never been this scared before.

Han Sen was like a demon. Its ghost body was useless against the raging madman. The fox couldn't fathom trying to fight back anymore, and all it wanted to do was run off and retreat to some cave where it could lick its wounds.

Every step it tried to take, Han Sen was there with it. Another tail was ripped off.

Every time a tail was ripped off, it lost its shadowy, phantom-like illusion. When it hit the ground, it was an average, fluffy fox tail.

Han Sen chased the fox for three hundred miles. Over the course of this distance, the ghost fox was beaten until it continuously spilled blood from its mouth, and countless wounds checkered its body. Every now and again, a tail was ripped off and cast away, too.

When Han Sen reached the last tail, the ghost fox no longer looked like it had before. It had lost its translucent look and simply became a frail, beaten, black fox.

With Taia, Han Sen did not show any remorse or mercy. He cut the head of the fox clean off, from a strike that started low. The upward momentum sent it barreling through the air.

The ghost fox Han Sen had been savagely beating on was killed then and there. It wasn't in any particularly flashy fashion, just a clean, simple severing of its head.

"Super Creature Nine-Tail Ghost Fox killed. No beast soul gained.

Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten super geno points randomly. You may also collect the Life Geno Essence."

After killing the nine-tail fox, Han Sen exited his super king spirit mode. It was incredibly draining on him, and he had been sapped of all strength. Now, he could barely lift a finger.

His bones felt like glass, as if they were fragile and ready to shatter. His flesh felt stressed, as if the entire composition of his body had been stretched. He was like butter, scraped over too much bread. His lifeforce was weak now.

It took him a whole hour of super king spirit mode to kill the fox. If he hadn't figured out how to kill it by tearing off its tails, he wouldn't have been able to finish it off.

The reason Han Sen was able to make a comeback and kill it, though, was all down to the ghost fox's underestimation of his power. If the fox had not tried to possess and toy with him for a while, he could have been outright killed before being given the opportunity to fight back.

If the fox had tried to kill him properly, it all would have been over for him.

Han Sen had more than a few tricks up his sleeve, and the ghost fox had no idea he was capable of unleashing such vast amounts of power.

The fox had been in charge of that mountain for countless ages. By killing the master of that massive region, it finally made him realize just how powerful and fortuitous he was to possess a super king spirit body.

"This hurts way too much." Whichever way Han Sen chose to move, it felt as if he was pressing his body against a thousand knives.

The silver fox had done nothing for a while. He had only followed Han Sen, staring at him with his mouth agape.

The ghost fox had been wickedly powerful for many years, and heaven knew how many good things it had eaten over the course of its time as supreme commander of Ghost Mountain. A super creature that had reached its ninth tier would most certainly not have been able to kill it. The fact that it was so far ahead of every other creature there was why it had been in charge. Even the silver fox had been forced to become its slave.

No one could have expected it to have been so simply killed by a human like that.

Han Sen summoned Thorn Baron, asking her to bring the fox's corpse with her.

Back in the shelter, he rested the following day and night. His body had moderately improved, but he was still very weak, and there'd be a while to go before he could make a full recovery.

Not even the silver fox's powers of healing were enough to fix him.

Han Sen had tried to use his own holy light to heal himself, but it was futile. It seemed as if only time possessed what it took to recover, this time.

The silver fox brought out the Dragon's Saliva Han Sen had been gifted. After eating a bit, Han Sen felt much better.

Still, with not much going on, Han Sen thought it'd be a waste to eat it now. Its recovery benefits could prove very useful in the future.

Han Sen dug up the Life Geno Essence. The silver fox circled him as he did so. With the saliva drooling from his mouth, it was obvious Little Silver wanted some.

With a wry smile, Han Sen gave the Life Geno Essence to the silver fox. He barked after accepting it, then ran off to enjoy it.

After trying to eat some of the ghost fox's tail, Han Sen found it to be inedible. So, he summoned the Disloyal Knight and got him

to eat it.

The Disloyal Knight gobbled up all the meat it could, and was then sent back to the Sea of Soul. This time, it began to shine with a green light—it was evolving!

Chapter 1028: Ghost-Sword Comes

Now that the ghost fox had been slain, Han Sen believed he could ransack Ghost Mountain alongside Little Silver.

But the silver fox, after receiving the Life Geno Essence, disappeared for a few days.

Han Sen was still awfully weak, and was in no condition for solo travel. He thought the silver fox might have gone to the ghost fox's den, but Han Sen had no idea where that might have been. Since it was too dangerous for him to venture there in such a weak state of body, he didn't dare leave the shelter.

After a period of rest and recovery, Han Sen found himself nearing full recuperation. But just as he was, he was alerted to the nearby presence of a swathe of angry creatures and spirits.

The leader was clad in black-iron armor, and he wielded a black-iron greatsword. He rode atop a lion, whose fur was also black.

Many powerful creatures and spirits trailed behind him, as a wake.

They had come to the front of the shelter once before, but this was while Han Sen was back in the Alliance. The silver fox had been there at the time, and he managed to ward them off by incinerating a few.

Learning a high number of creatures and spirits had come for them, Lin He and Lin Weiwei returned to the Alliance so they could fetch Han Sen.

After returning to the sanctuary, Han Sen picked up Bao'er and ascended one of the shelter's watchtowers. There, he used his Dongxuan Aura to measure the strength of those that sought to oppose him.

Amongst the collective that had now gathered in front of the shelter, Han Sen espied the presence of a small sacred-blood

creature that looked like a pigeon. This pleased him.

Sacred-blood creatures that were small in size were quite a rarity. He could finish that pigeon in one sitting, easy.

There were a few other sacred-blood creatures there as well, but they were too big and none tickled his fancy in particular. The second smallest was the black lion, but a preliminary examination suggested it would be inedible for him.

"Contemptible humans; how dare you assault and claim my shelter for your own? Lay down your arms and submit to slavery and I will spare your lives. This is the only offer for such mercy you will receive," Ghost-Sword Prince coldly proclaimed.

"What do we do? Should we return to the Alliance?" Zhao Xin's face seemed disturbed.

"Don't worry; it's only a royal spirit." After that, Han Sen turned his head to address the spirit below. He said, "Hm, this seems rote. How about we spice things up with a duel? If you defeat me, then by all means, enslave us all."

"Fine," Ghost-Sword Prince agreed.

Han Sen had embarrassed him, directly in front of his father, no less. Killing them all in a crude siege would have been too simple for Ghost-Sword Prince, so a duel for the regaining of the honor he thought he had lost was a concept he rather enjoyed.

Ghost-Sword did not think much of humans. He thought they weren't very powerful, due to most of the human population being mere slaves in the Third God's Sanctuary.

And he wasn't entirely wrong. Humans had become slaves to the overwhelming strength of spirits all across the Third God's Sanctuary, and humans of some renown were in very short supply.

Luo Haitang was a human of renown, but his time had come and gone.

Han Sen drew his Taia sword and leapt down to the grassy fields below. He said, "Come on, show me what you've got."

No human could talk to him like that, or so he thought. Being addressed in such a boorish fashion enraged him, so he spared no time in trying to swing his black-iron greatsword down on Han Sen.

It was a geno weapon he wielded. It might not have had the glow or sheen that was typical of such weaponry, but it had a dark and imposing figure. The sword itself looked powerful and unbreakable.

Dong!

Han Sen used his Blood-Pulse Sutra to perform a guard with Taia.

The force that came down on the sword was tremendous, and it knocked Han Sen back about ten feet. Still, Taia was left without a scratch.

"You must have a death wish, to willingly fight one such as I." After Ghost-Sword Prince finished speaking, he lunged forward for another strike.

Han Sen knew his power was weaker than the Prince's, who seemed reliant on the use of raw, physical damage. But since that was only one element of the fight, it didn't concern him.

Han Sen could have used super king spirit mode, but he didn't want to. He thought it'd be a waste of time and strength, using it on a foe he didn't deem worthy enough to be the recipient of its might.

Han Sen used Aero and Double Fly, and attacked like a dive-bombing phoenix.

Sword-Ghost's power was no joke, and each strike could have proven fatal if they met with their target. Fortunately, Han Sen was able to dodge each and every one, using stealth to insert hits of his own.

Ghost-Sword Prince felt as if he was doing battle with the air. Try as he might, he only broke the sky—he couldn't touch Han Sen!

Han Sen was silent the entire time, though. He was focused right now, and he was in the zone, entirely concentrated on honing and improving the skills he employed to fight the spirit.

It was difficult to find an opponent that was of a similar level as him, but here one was. If Han Sen had to take a guess, he'd assume the spirit had managed to unlock eight gene locks. He was nigh the perfect opponent to train and spar with.

"Weiwei, it looks like Han Sen can make use of both Heavenly Go and Seven Twist," Lin He said, correctly determining what moves Han Sen was making use of.

Lin Weiwei nodded, saying, "He learned Heavenly Go from Queen. As for Seven Twist, I have no idea where he learned that or from whom."

Lin He, as he continued to watch, said, "Little Han is quite a talented young chap. Even though he has opened one gene lock less than the spirit he battles with, he can keep up just fine and surpass his opponent. Han Sen is clearly winning. He really is the best of the best."

"Where did that fox go, I wonder?" Lin Weiwei was worried about Ghost-Sword Prince not keeping to his promise if Han Sen won the fight. If the creatures in his command still attacked, she thought the fox would be of great service to them.

"The fox isn't here, and if that spirit does not stay true to his word and attacks us anyway, I'm not entirely sure we can hold this place." Chen Hu had the same worry.

And just as Chen Hu said this, Ghost-Sword Prince commanded his followers to commence an attack on the shelter.

Chapter 1029: Striking Ghost-Sword

Han Sen wished to spar with Ghost-Sword Prince for a while longer, but the snake had commanded his troops to commence an attack on the shelter.

Han Sen opened his eighth gene lock, which made Taia gleam with a dark purple light and look like calcified blood.

He had managed to collect many sacred-geno points up to this point, so he'd be able to last a while longer.

Taia's blade swung right before Ghost-Sword's face.

And then, with a sudden blaze of additional speed, Han Sen kicked things up a notch. His fierce blade accelerated, forcing Ghost-Sword to raise his greatsword and attempt a block.

Dong!

But the greatsword did nothing to repel Taia. In an instant, the mighty greatsword was broken. Taia continued its forward thrust, directly towards Ghost-Sword's chest.

Taia was an incredibly strong sword, but its strength was determined by its wielder. If Han Sen wasn't half the man he was, the blade's strength would most likely have been similar to z-steel.

If you were a weak person, Taia would have been useless.

The Blood-Pulse Sutra imbued the blade with the power of blood, and it bolstered its strength by a huge degree. It lent it the mighty force that drove the current attack.

Ghost-Sword was too pompous to expect such a thing to occur, and so, it was too late for him to evade it.

Just as this happened, the pigeon on the spirit's shoulder flashed with a green light. It flew down to shield its master's heart.

"Awesome." Han Sen was made even happier. He had done all this for the sole purpose of killing that creature.

Blood sprayed everywhere as the blade severed the bird's head from its neck.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Green Falcon killed. No beast soul gained. Consume its flesh to gain zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

Ghost-Sword's disposition only curdled after this, though. Enraged, he drew a longsword to replace his now-broken greatsword and attacked Han Sen madly.

Han Sen's body looked red, but he did not dodge the attack. Instead, he allowed the longsword to pierce directly into his chest.

He didn't fall, though. Instead, he looked cold, as if this had all been predicted beforehand. It was as if the entire fight had been calculated already. He dashed forward and brought himself directly in front of Ghost-Sword.

This scared Ghost-Sword. He had expected to be able to cut Han Sen in half, but instead, he felt his own head depart his body. In Han Sen's hand, droplets of a red substance dripped from Taia's blood-soaked blade.

The army that had accompanied Ghost-Sword all fled, as he was zapped back to his spirit stone.

In the manic scramble of creatures that were tripping over themselves to escape, Lin He and a few others ran out to nab a few easy kills. They had never been so happy.

They used to be terrified of fighting, and they had only just escaped the coming of a spirit that sought to conquer them and had, in fact, succeeded. It was a great relief to see victory achieved so easily.

In the past, it took a large amount of planning with a high volume of people to secure a win, but this was swift and only required the help of a few individuals. It was unbelievable.

At midnight, in Holy-Sword Shelter, a man pounded a stone door

with one hand, hold a torch in the other.

The door opened, and the man went inside and closed it behind him.

"Brother Seven, why are you here?" a bearded man asked.

Brother Seven set the torch in a wall mount, and with much excitement, said, "Junhao, Holy-Sword Emperor was just yelling at his son."

"The one he proclaims to love so much?" Qin Junhao asked.

"Yes, that one. He failed in trying to reclaim his own shelter!" Brother Seven said.

"Which spirit was able to beat a spirit that has eight of his gene locks open?" Qin Junhao wondered.

"It's not even a spirit. It was a human. It was one of us!" Brother Seven couldn't quell the giddy excitement that drenched his speech.

"Are you serious? How is such a thing possible?" Qin Junhao's facial expression suggested that he was struggling to believe what he had just been told.

Brother Seven, finally starting to get a grip on his composure, explained, "I don't know, but this actually happened. I got the story from the horse's mouth; I heard Ghost-Sword talk about it himself."

"That is good news, then. Finally, humanity seems to be accomplishing something in this place. I must tell you, though, this sounds like a person I'd very much like to meet," Qin Junhao said.

"I'm glad you say that, for I would very much like you to go meet with this person," Brother Seven said.

"How can I even arrange such a meeting?" Qin Junhao was stuck in this shelter, unable to leave.

"I have an idea, but they are probably unaware of Holy-Sword Emperor and what he is capable of. We have to warn this man, and the people that accompany him." Brother Seven paused, and then went on to say, "Holy-Sword Emperor is on his way to Phoenix Desert. This is our window of opportunity to act. Now is the time we would do best to warn them."

"But I can't leave," Qin Junhao said.

"I have a method, a way in which you can leave. But if you are caught, you will be in grave danger." Brother Seven now spoke with a tone of dark gravitas.

"Danger means nothing to me, if it enables me to warn others and possibly save them," Qin Junhao said with pride.

Brother Seven nodded and went on to explain his plan, and then he said, "I must accompany Holy-Sword Emperor. If you make it back to the Alliance, tell my wife I cannot return the favor."

Qin Junhao looked shocked, and asked, "Is he going to Emperor Mountain?"

"Yes, he can go there now with the gift he was given." Brother Seven now possessed a wry smile.

Qin Junhao quickly suggested, "Brother Seven, come with me. Perhaps we can return to the Alliance together?"

But Brother Seven shook his head and said, "You have to do this alone. You have a higher chance of making it by flying solo. If I come with you, they'll immediately come after me, and we'll both be killed."

Qin Junhao wished to say something, but Brother Seven interrupted him and said, "When you find these people, tell them to return to the Alliance. Otherwise, they'll never be given the chance to again."

Brother Seven provided a map to Qin Junhao and said, "This is a map I have drawn. I have worked on it for many years, and it is

done from memory. It includes the location of God Mountain. If humanity ever goes for a full-blown war with spirits one day, this may be of great service."

Brother Seven spoke as if he'd be dying soon, and he gave many of his secret possessions to Qin Junhao.

Chapter 1030: Daddy is Popular

Han Sen, browsing the aisles of the supermarket, held Bao'er in his arms. He had spent so much time in the sanctuary, returning to the conveniences of civilization made for a nice change of pace.

Bao'er and Han Sen each had an ice cream, and they were delicious.

"Teacher Qu, Lanxi?" Han Sen caught sight of two people who were familiar to him.

One of them was a very elegant woman. Her full name was Qu Wange, and she was a lecturer at Saint Paul college. The other woman was Qu Lanxi, who Han Sen had met in the Third God's Sanctuary.

"Han Sen?" They were both quite surprised.

Han Sen was also surprised, especially at seeing them both together. They seemed rather close with each other.

"You two are good friends?" Han Sen guessed, unsure of the exact nature of their relationship.

"Lanxi is my big sister; I didn't realize that you knew her." Qu Wange smiled.

"When I first came to the Third God's Sanctuary, Lanxi helped me out a lot. I just didn't expect you both to be sisters." Han Sen smiled.

Qu Lanxi blushed and said, "Are you sure it was I who helped you? It was thanks to you that Chu Ming and I were able to return here."

Qu Wange chimed in to say, "Didn't you tell me it was San Mu who helped you?"

"I am San Mu." Han Sen smiled.

"Come to my home for dinner tonight, then. Our parents would

really like to meet, greet, and thank the person who saved my sister," Qu Wange said.

"There is no need for that," Han Sen said.

"I have wanted to do this for a long time; so, if you really aren't busy, I would much appreciate it if we could have a get-together," Qu Lanxi pleaded.

"All right, then." They had endured many hardships together, so Han Sen wasn't entirely against joining her for a night.

"Is that your daughter, by the way? She's cute," Qu Wange asked.

"Bao'er? No, she's just a humanoid pet beast soul. I treat her as if she was my daughter, though." Han Sen had started to use that as an explanation for what Bao'er was, masking her true, enigmatic identity.

If it became known that Bao'er was a creature of sorts, one that could actually come to the Alliance, people would undoubtedly freak out. A ruckus would ensue, all with Han Sen back in the limelight again.

If there were other creatures that could come to the Alliance, things would be far more dangerous for humans.

And what's more, he feared Bao'er might be taken away by the government if her nature was exposed. As such, he kept it a secret.

"That must be quite rare." They looked at Bao'er with much surprise.

Bao'er reached out and said, "Beautiful aunties... hug me."

Immediately, they were both smitten with Bao'er. They did not mind that it was a pet beast soul, as they had been told, and were keen to treat it like any ordinary baby.

While Bao'er could be sweet and had the naivety of an actual child, after the time he had spent with her in the sanctuary, Han Sen had come to know that Bao'er had an evil streak within her.

She wasn't entirely innocent.

Bao'er could even command Moment Queen to do things for her.

After Bao'er's introduction to Qu Lanxi and Qu Wange, the baby was able to obtain many things Han Sen usually forbade. She had put on a front of being as adorable as possible, getting the two she referred to as aunties to buy her many things. Much of this stuff was just junk food.

Han Sen thought it was a waste, buying her such food. He believed it would be useless for her development.

Furthermore, Han Sen didn't like spending too much, either. And with Bao'er's belly being like a black hole, she could eat and eat and never be satisfied. He couldn't risk spoiling her.

But on this day, those two girls greatly enjoyed feeding Bao'er whatever she requested.

"Have you been abusing her? Why is she so hungry?" Qu Wange stared at Han Sen with trepidation.

Han Sen shrugged and thought to himself, "It's all fun, lollipops, and kisses for now. If only you had to take care of her for a few days, you'd understand how difficult she is to take care of."

After their time shopping was over, Qu Wange drove Han Sen and Bao'er to their house.

Their parents greeted Han Sen very passionately. They were so grateful Han Sen had been able to deliver Qu Lanxi back to the Alliance without harm, after her many-year absence.

While Han Sen was in deep discussion with her parents, Qu Lanxi took Bao'er up to her room.

"Bao'er, does this dress look good on me?" Qu Lanxi asked, after placing Bao'er on her bed.

"No. You're too old," Bao'er said, with squinted eyes.

Qu Lanxi froze, utterly dazed from the response she had received

from a baby. Her attitude was most certainly different than when she was around Han Sen. It was as if her cuteness had entirely evaporated.

"You are so old. And to wear such old-fashioned clothes, it's no wonder you haven't married yet. You'll never wed anyone if you carry on like this." Bao'er spoke with a deep, serious, and rough tone, all while she sucked her dummy.

Qu Lanxi had not expected a pet baby to insult her this way.

Bao'er placed her little hands below her jaw and said, "Yeah, I don't think you'll ever get married. Of course, if you aren't against the concept, I can get my daddy to be your husband for a temporary period of time. You'll just have to buy me good stuff for the duration."

Qu Lanxi was still frozen, with her wide eyes staring at Bao'er.

Bao'er seemed to be adding something up with her fingers, and eventually, she said, "Daddy is popular, so this is going to cost you at least two hundred ice creams."

When Han Sen was ready to leave, the sisters looked at him strangely. They avoided eye contact and didn't even bid him goodbye.

But before they left, Qu Lanxi gave a lot of food to Bao'er.

"Bao'er, did you do something to offend your two aunties?" Han Sen asked.

"I behaved," Bao'er said, as she munched on jelly.

Han Sen went home to rest for the next two days, but Lin Weiwei sent him a message. It told him that a person had come to the shelter and that he would like to meet Han Sen in the virtual community.

Chapter 1031: Phoenix-God Mountain

The reason they were to meet in the virtual community was because Qin Junhao had a contract with a spirit. He escaped from the shelter where he was held, so returning to the sanctuary might have resulted in a painful death.

When Han Sen went there to meet with him, he saw Lin Weiwei, Lin He, Chen Hu, and Zhao Xin standing next to a tall young man.

Lin Weiwei introduced this person to him, and Qin Junhao proceeded to explain the concerning matters to Han Sen.

"Me and Brother Seven thought you may be unaware of the existence of a king spirit. When I learned you had been able to kill a super creature, though, I fear we may have worried too much." Qin Junhao sighed.

"No, this is important information. I'm glad to have learned this, and while we knew about super creatures and king spirits, we did not know there was a king spirit in the vicinity. If you hadn't risked life and limb to inform us, we might have been caught with our pants down," Han Sen said with appreciation.

Qin Junhao then said, "You are welcome. If you have someplace to run, it is best to move now. Else, stay here and never return to the sanctuary."

Han Sen asked, "Brother Qin, aside from Holy-Sword Emperor, are there any other king spirits or super creatures we'd do well to know about in the region?"

Qin Junhao swiftly answered, "There aren't any more king spirits. But super creatures? Yes. There are two of them. One belongs to Holy-Sword Emperor through a mutual respect, earned by him having saved the super creature's life one time. The other super creature is there by contract."

When Han Sen heard that there were two super creatures, he

looked dismayed.

If Holy-Sword Emperor was on a journey to some remote desert, he might have had an easier time obtaining its spirit stone. But with news that there were two super creatures still there, guarding the shelter, he doubted he could pull it off.

Furthermore, if there were super creatures, the rest of the shelter had to be packed with sacred-blood and royal spirits. Han Sen could not kill them all at his current level.

He could enable his super king spirit mode, but he'd have one hour to complete the entire conquest. Even if he risked running inside for the sole purpose of obtaining the spirit stone, if it had been hidden, he wouldn't have enough time to eliminate the enemies there and then commit to a search. His body would be practically crippled afterwards, too.

"Brother Qin, can you tell me about the Phoenix Desert and God Mountain?" Han Sen fancied the idea of slaying the king spirit, but he had to collect as much intel as he could.

"Yes, I can tell you what I know." Following this, Qin Junhao told Han Sen everything he knew.

Phoenix Desert was a dominion of creatures now, but one-hundred-thousand years ago, an emperor spirit ruled the area.

This spirit's title was Phoenix, and he was the most powerful spirit to have ever existed in the Third God's Sanctuary.

But then he went to the Fourth God's Sanctuary, leaving no heir behind. Over time, Phoenix's shelter became known as God Mountain.

Many warriors traversed those blistering deserts, all in search of God Mountain and the treasure it contained.

But nothing ever came of such searches. In fact, most never even found the fabled location known as God Mountain.

Holy-Sword Shelter was fairly close to Phoenix Desert, but try as he might, not even Holy-Sword Emperor had been able to locate God Mountain.

When Brother Seven entered the Third God's Sanctuary, he spawned in Holy-Sword Shelter.

Holy-Sword Emperor had just lost a fight, and in his foul mood, he planned on killing Brother Seven in a vain attempt to make himself feel better.

But Brother Seven managed to prove to the spirit that he would be useful. After being spared, he worked tirelessly in his service. Eventually, he helped Holy-Sword Emperor discover the exact location where God Mountain could be found.

"Brother Seven was good. He did something a king spirit could not!" Chen Hu said. Everyone shared this thought.

Qin Junhao said, "He's not a great fighter; the fortitude of his mind is his greatest asset. He is intelligent. He is a geographical professor, who just so happens to be well-versed in the arts of Feng Shui. While he proved to be of some worth, he was still hesitant about wanting to assist a king spirit. So, even though he helped him locate God Mountain, he made sure it would take a long time."

"Brother Seven is a good man," Han Sen said, admiring him.

"But still, it was all in vain," Qin Junhao continued to say. "Holy-Sword Emperor found a geno item. This item allowed him to find the entrance of God Mountain. He has taken Brother Seven with him, but Brother Seven said he would do his best to stop the spirit from obtaining a certain treasure, no matter what it took."

Qin Junhao sighed and spoke with remorse, saying, "Brother Seven is such an honorable man. He shouldn't be forced to die this way. I'm still only breathing because of him; I'd have died years ago, if it weren't for him. He's the one that bid me to come here and inform you of all this, too."

"You said he left a map that would show where the mountain is?" Han Sen asked.

"Yes," Qin Junhao answered.

"May I have a copy?" Han Sen asked.

"Of course. What do you plan to do with it, though?" Qin Junhao wondered.

"I want to go to Phoenix-God Mountain; maybe there is something I can do to help Brother Seven," Han Sen said, squinting.

Qin Junhao looked as if he was in shock, and he said, "No! You can't. That place is too dangerous, and Holy-Sword Emperor is most mighty and strong. And with Brother Seven's contract, there is no possible way you could save him."

"If there's a will, there's a way." Han Sen did not explain too much about what he was thinking of doing. More than anything, right now, he simply wanted that map.

Chapter 1032: There is Treasure

Han Sen reached the desert, map in hand.

It was very detailed, and there were many points of interest marked on it. Locating his exact position was not at all difficult.

Due to the silver fox's continued absence, Han Sen traveled there with just Bao'er.

Holy-Sword Emperor had not come alone, though, according to what he was told. Still, provided no super creatures were accompanying him, Han Sen thought he'd do just fine.

What Han Sen most feared was the mountain he was headed towards. It had once belonged to an emperor spirit, after all. He had no idea what to expect or what he might find once he reached it.

Carrying a parasol to deflect the brutal heat of that region, Han Sen traveled. Bao'er, who was in his other arm, had her tongue out like a puppy. It didn't seem as if she was too fond of the weather, either.

But suddenly, Han Sen stumbled across a dune that was littered with the remains of dead scorpions. They were muddy in color and fairly big. Each was about the same size as a small car.

There had to be at least three hundred of them all strewn about. Judging from the wounds they had incurred, each had been killed in a single hit.

Han Sen checked his map again, and it was noted that there would be a vast number of scorpions in a location that looked to be where he was at right now. He was on the right track.

"It looks like Holy-Sword Emperor passed through this way." Han Sen checked the wounds again, to see if he could estimate when exactly they had died. From what he could tell, they had been slain no later than one day before. He was close.

They were sacred-blood creatures, but Han Sen didn't bring any with him. They were inedible, according to Brother Seven.

This didn't just apply to the scorpions, either. Curiously, almost every monster that populated that desert had the strange property of being inedible. Their drop rate for beast souls was awful, too. As such, he couldn't expect to receive any, on his venture there.

Of course, that was what he had been told and what had been written on the map. Trying to have a nibble himself was the only way he could confirm whether or not it was true.

Brother Seven said, after killing a thousand monsters there, he had only been able to obtain one beast soul.

With the bodies there, at least, Han Sen knew he was headed in the right direction.

After four days of travel, Han Sen found himself almost walking in circles. One would have assumed Brother Seven's abilities of cartography were very poor, at first glance, but it really was a strange route he had to take.

But after seeing those bodies, Han Sen was confident he would ultimately be led to God Mountain if he stayed on the funny route the map said he had to follow.

And he wasn't wrong. Before long, a mountain came into view, its peak nestled above misty clouds.

It stood out, and was a striking sight. But it had just snapped into his vision in an instant, fairly close. He should have been able to see such a mountain from a long distance away.

As if it had appeared out of thin air, a massive edifice of stone was now ahead. He took a moment to take in its splendor, but wondered what was at the very top, at the peak that was hidden from sight.

The mountain was massive, though. It was difficult to comprehend its size, and it had to be many hundreds of miles in

length.

It was decorated in a vast array of green plants, but the earth that composed it was like sparkling copper that gleamed in the midday sun.

The Phoenix Shelter had sealed up, and had indeed become a mountain like in the legends.

Not even other emperor spirits would be careless when approaching such a place. But the task that stood before him now was locating its entrance, and for such a big place, that wouldn't be easy.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to scan the nearby vicinity. He couldn't see any human or spirit ahead of him.

The map ended here, though. This was most likely because Brother Seven himself had never gone any further.

Regardless, Han Sen hopped to it. He had to find the entrance of that place as soon as he could.

Not daring to fly, Han Sen simply walked.

The mountain wasn't too steep, but the slopes were still wide. After a whole day of traveling, he was still on what could be considered the foothills.

The plants he had seen were all around. They were lovely there, and it was pleasant to know there weren't any nefarious beings lurking beneath their canopies. In fact, there were no creatures at all.

Han Sen grew concerned, though, unsure of how long it would take for him to circle the mountain, if that was what it was going to take to locate the entrance.

"Maybe I should head straight for the peak first?" Han Sen decided to venture straight up instead,

It took him a whole day of careful travel to get there.

Or so he initially thought, after reaching what he believed to be the peak, he saw an even higher one up ahead.

He continued his climb up this new mountaintop, but when he arrived at the top, it was to the realization that there'd be another peak to climb. The mountain seemed endless.

Han Sen decided to look down the way he had come. Even the clouds seemed far-off now.

"This peak isn't leading to a sky palace, is it?" he wondered, despite knowing shelters did not have sky palaces.

All of a sudden, Bao'er leapt out of Han Sen's arms. She kept on running in a direction, beelining there with sudden vigor.

"Bao'er, where are you going?" Han Sen called, chasing the runaway baby.

Something had clearly snared her attention and desire, and she crawled away so fast, she eventually disappeared from Han Sen's sight.

Taking a moment to scan the area, Han Sen found her again. She was climbing a tree.

Strangely, it was just a pine tree. But from its boughs, Bao'er jumped and disappeared again.

"Bao'er?" There was only one pine tree there, so how could she have just disappeared?

"Daddy, come quick! There is treasure." Han Sen heard her voice, but he could not see where she herself was. So, he followed where the sound came from.

Chapter 1033: Taking the Treasure

Han Sen climbed the pine tree, but still couldn't see Bao'er.

"Bao'er, where are you?" Han Sen shouted.

"Here." Bao'er's head popped out from behind a metaphysical wall the tree brushed up against.

Seeing just her head, looking at him from outside what appeared to be a stone wall, he was perplexed, to say the least. He reached over with his arm and tried to touch the same wall Bao'er's head was sticking out from, and much to his surprise, it went right through. It was an illusion.

The wall looked rock-solid, but that was only in appearance. There was nothing physical there, at all.

"Daddy, come!" Bao'er said.

Han Sen pulled his whole body through, and when he looked up, he noticed he was in a large cave. Looking back, he could see the pine tree he had climbed, and the rest of the environment. It was like a one-way mirror of sorts.

The cave didn't seem like anything special, though. So, what might have been hidden there was not immediately apparent. There were plenty of stalactites, but that was it, in terms of decoration.

Bao'er sat upon a rock, gnawing on purple mushrooms.

Han Sen saw there were many other such mushrooms near the rock she sat on, and he thought they looked delicious.

But he knew the more colorful a mushroom was, the more poisonous it could be. Back in the world of the Alliance, he wouldn't have dared to eat one.

Seeing Bao'er happily munching away, though, he knew they couldn't have all been bad. So, he decided to try one.

He picked one up and sunk his teeth into its moist cap. Then, he ate it all. He immediately felt really cool, as a chill ran up and down his body.

"Sacred-Geno Point +1."

That came as quite the surprise. He was more than happy, discovering the mushrooms there could provide him sacred-blood geno points.

He and Bao'er then stayed there for a while, merrily chomping on as many mushrooms as they could. Over and over, the announcements popped for Han Sen.

But after downing the fifth mushroom, the announcements stopped. He couldn't receive any more sacred geno points off them.

Bao'er continued to eat as many as she could, though. After a while, she sat back and burped. She was done, too.

Han Sen decided to poke about the cave some more. It seemed rather deep, and there could be plenty of spelunking to do before he was done exploring it all.

"Might I be able to enter the shelter from here?" Han Sen wondered to himself.

If the entrance was as well-hidden as this cave was, he imagined he would never find a way in.

He'd probably have to inspect every inch of the mountain to find another not-a-wall wall that may have existed, just like the one that had led him there. Such a task would take years.

The idea of continuing to explore this cave, though, concerned Han Sen. It felt as if he could no longer make use of Dongxuan Aura.

He tried using it and felt its radius shrink down to one meter. Then, nothing. He couldn't use it at all anymore.

That must have been why he could not sense the boons the

mushrooms would have provided, and only decided to eat them upon seeing Bao'er enjoy them.

"Bao'er, come on. We should go deeper," Han Sen said, and so off they went.

The cave was fairly straight, without any branching pathways. The duo walked for hours, and still, there was no end in sight.

The only remarkable thing to occur on that long travel was stumbling across another variety of mushrooms.

Bao'er was full, though, so she was not interested in eating them. Han Sen ate one, but found out they did nothing. There was no point increase.

So, he summoned Meowth and Golden Growler and got them to eat the mushrooms. He had continued feeding them waterdrops for quite some time, but it had been a while since the drops had influenced their growth. No longer did the waterdrops make them stronger.

After some more travel, Han Sen saw a light at the end of the tunnel. He was excited to see what might be ahead, but he doubted he'd find the entrance to Phoenix Shelter through that dingy cavern.

When he exited the cave, he was back outside. Strangely, though, there were no more peaks to climb. He had emerged on the absolute mountaintop.

When he looked down, the mountains looked like large lotus flowers. Every petal was one of the peaks. It was no wonder it had taken him a long time to reach the highest point.

Upon this main peak, there was a big tree. It had to be at least a hundred meters tall, but it was dead, dried up like charcoal. It was, however, hollow.

Also of note, the tree appeared to have been chopped in half. It must have been cut by some fearsome weapon.

"I wonder what sort of weapon would be able to cut through this tree?" Han Sen asked himself, as he examined the tree.

After noticing the tree was hollow, Han Sen decided to check it out. The space inside was about as wide as a basketball court.

Looking inside, Han Sen noticed a golden feather inside the trunk. It was there in plain sight.

The two-meter-long feather was shining gold, much like starlight. It was hot, too, even for Han Sen who was exceptionally talented when it came to dealing with fire.

It felt like metal when Han Sen touched it. And he tried lifting the feather by its hard tip.

Unfortunately, despite using all his strength, he could not move it. It was frighteningly heavy.

Chapter 1034: The Phoenix Descends and the Emperor Dies

Han Sen was shocked. He was a strong man, and he could lift even the heaviest of items. This feather, though, would require a heft far beyond his capabilities.

It was heavier than any metal he had ever known. But not wanting to give up, Han Sen flexed and prepared to give it another go.

"Is this metal? Or is it the actual feather of some bird? Hmm, but if it did belong to a bird, how could such a creature possibly fly with a wing full of them?" As he thought, Han Sen tried dragging it from left to right.

The feather was almost like a hiltless sword. It made for a supremely sharp blade.

Han Sen brought out a z-steel stone and ran it against the feather. With remarkable ease, the z-steel stone was split in two as if it were made of butter.

Even with Taia, he had to use much strength to cut through things.

When Taia was in Han Sen's hands, it could be used to slay super creatures in the Third God's Sanctuary.

If Taia had been wielded by a mere evolver, its use would mean a struggle to kill a measly creature of even the First God's Sanctuary.

But without much effort, weight, or force, the feather effortlessly cut the z-steel stone in two. It was like magic.

Perhaps its weight correlated to its strength, and that was why? Either way, it was remarkable.

Looking at the edge of the feather, Han Sen had a sickly feeling. It looked so thin.

Giving the feather another wiggle, he did so with greater care. It was almost frightening how sharp the feather was. It felt as if it had the power to tear through the fabric of space and time.

"This is quite the prize. Since I found this thing up here, on Phoenix Mountain, I will call it the Phoenix Sword." Han Sen had never been proficient when it came to naming things.

Han Sen brought out his Taia sword. Their lengths were different, but they would make a fine duo. With them, he could practice Double Fly.

"I need to practice Double Fly. If I don't, it would be a waste of two good swords," Han Sen told himself.

If he left the area now, with Phoenix Sword, he'd have been satisfied. He didn't even care much for finding a way into the shelter, anymore.

But he had initially ventured to this place in the hopes of rescuing Brother Seven from a callous spirit.

Han Sen left the tree with a renewed vigor for finding an entrance into Phoenix Shelter.

All of a sudden, though, he was hit with a strange sensation. It felt as if the mountain had been missing something.

God Mountain's peaks were like petals, but from where he now stood, he could see that there was something amiss.

He only noticed what was missing because he was at the highest point. Han Sen did not know much about Feng Shui, so if he had been farther down, he never would have noticed it.

Han Sen packaged the Phoenix Sword, picked up Bao'er, and went towards a parcel of the mountain that lacked the distinct features to have it fit in with the lotus-petal-collage.

It was situated at around the halfway point of the mountain. Not needing to fly, he just slid his way down.

He came to a stop on a stone platform, and he turned to look at a copper wall that skirted the back of it.

It had been dressed in a variety of vines, ones which Han Sen promptly removed, in the hopes the copper wall would be another metaphysical doorframe.

Unfortunately, after pressing against the copper in every way he could, nothing was revealed. It was solid.

He was stubborn, though. And he kept on feeling the copper wall, determined to find something. Eventually, his hands ran across a strange indent.

It was like a little slot, and around as thin as Bao'er's arm.

He brushed away more of the vines to reveal it as a written character. Removing more of these vines exposed a number of different words that were written in a language Han Sen was unfamiliar with.

Han Sen summoned Thorn Baron, to ask her if it was a language of the spirits.

Her answer was, "Yes, these are spirits words."

"What do they say?" Han Sen asked.

Thorn Baron had a curious, almost perplexed look on her face, and she said, "The phoenix descended on God Mountain and the emperor died."

Han Sen didn't really understand, and so he asked Thorn Baron if she understood.

She told him, "Well, I can read it, but even I am not sure what it all means."

"Does it say anything else?" There was very little to go on, so he thought there had to be more.

Thorn Baron frowned and just said, "The words are strange. They don't have meaning."

Thorn Baron continued reading the inscribed words, but they made little sense. There was no cohesion or form to what was written. It was all mumbo-jumbo.

Thorn Baron then said, "I know what each word means, but it's all jumbled up like nonsense. There is no meaning to what comes past the first line."

As they discussed this, the platform trembled as if an earthquake had just begun.

Chapter 1035: The Pilgrimage of a Thousand Birds

The platform lowered. It descended slowly, until it came to a stop before a stone door.

"Is this the entrance to Phoenix Shelter?" Han Sen was delighted, thinking he might have found it.

He looked at the many vines that draped the doorframe. They looked undisturbed, which told him Holy-Sword Emperor had not yet arrived. Or, if he had, the spirit had not come this way.

Han Sen summoned Sword-Furnace spirit. Treachery and danger might have lurked ahead, so he thought the spirit could make a fine decoy.

At Han Sen's command, Sword-Furnace pushed the door open. Nothing out-of-the-ordinary occurred, it just opened like any average door might.

Beyond the door rested a stone staircase that descended a very long way down. Eventually, the stairs took a turn. What lurked at the bottom, Han Sen could not yet tell.

Along with Bao'er, Han Sen stepped inside. Sword-Furnace led the way, and after some time venturing down, they arrived before a palace.

Surprisingly, there had been no danger, and nothing inherently peculiar stood out to them. Even the door of the palace seemed normal.

The door was ajar, and from what he could see from where he stood, there were many copper items inside. There was a furnace, a ding, and a number of statues; all wrought from copper.

Going inside, he noticed statues on either side of the entrance hall. They all depicted birds. There was a peacock, a crane, a

sparrow, and even one of bees.

The walls had mosaics and plaques, with themes and designs all revolving around birds. Across the ceiling, there was a painting of a grand purple peacock. Across the tiled floor, there were many illustrations of cranes.

It was like a museum, dedicated to birds and birds alone. An image of a bird adorned everywhere that Han Sen looked, and even the pillars of the hall were decorated with pictures or carvings of them.

Han Sen wandered around the palace for some time, but strangely, he did not come across a single image of a phoenix.

"Is it because Phoenix Emperor resembled a phoenix, anyway?" Han Sen guessed.

Aside from the statues and the other bird-based decorations, there did not seem to be anything of value. The only thing of note was the throne.

"Phoenix Emperor must have sat right there. But why do only paintings and statues remain here?" Thinking of this, Han Sen then told Sword-Furnace to examine the throne more closely.

The throne was engraved with a number of bird illustrations, just like everything else in the palace. After Sword-Furnace had finished investigating the seat, Han Sen decided to sit on it.

After Han Sen sat down on the throne, it suddenly seemed as if the statues before him were alive. It seemed as if they were there, ready to obey him.

"This Phoenix Emperor dude had taste," Han Sen thought.

It was strange, to imagine Phoenix Emperor spending so much time and effort to merely be able to sit there and enjoy the artwork and the feelings they elicited.

It was a unique sensation, but it was only achievable by sitting

down on the throne.

With Phoenix Emperor's power, he could have most certainly gathered a flock of genuine birds. It was weird to see such focus and time given to the creation of fake ones.

Han Sen continued sitting on that throne, observing the birds in a new light. Eventually, though, his face turned dim.

Following a tingling sensation, the birds did indeed start to look more and more alive. Eventually, he was stricken with the feeling that the birds were about to fly towards him.

Everything seemed so real. They may have actually been statues, but they were shaped, sculpted, and built in a way that was as convincing as a real bird.

And what's more, no bird looked alike. They each had a personality, despite being constructed objects. Many might have appeared rather similar, but there were minor variations to make even those stand out from their inanimate peers.

"Was this his study room, maybe?" Han Sen felt as if he had learned something, through this idle observation.

Han Sen had once learned Heavenly Go and Seven Twist, which he later combined into Aero. This technique was associated with birds.

After watching the birds for a while longer, he felt as if they were somehow related to the self-taught Aero talent.

By simply watching the birds before him, he felt as if he was given a greater understanding of Aero. He was learning a lot about birds, all by simply watching them. He realized there were many things about birds he had never seen or even considered before, and it was like his mind had breached a veil, and he'd now be operating on a higher plane of existence. He was in a different world now.

"I didn't know I could do that," Han Sen thought, considering the

new options that were opening before him.

Han Sen then focused his attention and examined every bird individually. They weren't alive, but every time he looked back to a bird he had previously looked at, it would seem different.

Han Sen stood up to take a better look.

Before Han Sen sat on the throne, he hadn't noticed anything peculiar about the hall. After sitting on the throne and standing up again, his perception of everything had changed.

It was like a 3D picture. At first, the image of the hall was plain and meaningless.

But now, looking closely, it was as if a lock had been broken. He could see things differently, from a multitude of different angles.

The hall, of course, had been designed better than any 3D image ever could. Its depth was unparalleled, and you'd discover and learn a number of new things, depending on where you stood.

Everyone had a different personality, and everyone saw things differently.

The birds were this way, as well. They all looked unique, and when he looked at them from different angles, he felt differently about them.

Han Sen did not know how others felt, but he felt as if he had just entered a treasury. It was a treasury of knowledge, and what he had learned about Aero there was different than anything he could ever learn from reading a book.

Chapter 1036: Alu-Alu

Somehow, Han Sen's Aero activated. He felt incredibly light, as if he could shoot off into the skies at any given moment.

As Han Sen continued his observation of the birds, he suddenly heard a rumble. He turned around and saw a wall on the left side of the hall rise up. Inside, there was a room.

A three-meter-tall spirit was standing inside, and just a mere glance was all it took to recognize how monstrously powerful he was.

He possessed three eyes, all of which gleamed silver like the spirit's hair. They looked alive and dripped with excitement.

"A hundred-thousand-years. I, Xie Qing, am free once more!" He wasted no time, calling out at the top of his lungs. He was oozing a fever-like excitement.

Han Sen watched the spirit with great surprise.

When he arrived there, his Dongxuan Aura had been unavailable. As such, he had been unable to detect the presence of the spirit.

If the spirit had been trapped there for such a long period of time, there must have been something special about him.

Han Sen wasn't afraid, though. And he wouldn't be, even if the spirit was a king spirit. He could always use his super king spirit mode, after all.

"What are you looking at? Get over here and bow before me!" The spirit, who proclaimed himself to be Xie Qing, commanded.

"Are you talking to me?" Han Sen asked, in shock.

He had mistaken Han Sen, a human, for a spirit. That was quite the error of judgment, not something likely to be done by a king spirit.

Han Sen believed, if he had indeed been trapped down there for a

hundred-thousand-years, the spirit would still believe humans to be primitive wildlings. Perhaps such a mistake was warranted, and maybe he didn't even know anything about humanity occupying the shelters at all yet.

"Are you a creature?" Xie Qing frowned. Perhaps he had been trapped in there too long.

"No; I'm a spirit. I'm just special." Han Sen held his fist as he talked, and he continued, "I am San Mu, my king."

"You are just a royal spirit, aren't you? What is so special about you, exactly?" Xie Qing eyed Han Sen with suspicion. Still, there was a glimmer of a certain satisfaction, having heard Han Sen refer to him as a king.

"Did you open my cell and free me?" Xie Qing King asked Han Sen.

"I was simply walking around here, admiring the place. The wall opened up of its own volition," Han Sen explained.

Xie Qing King looked at the room and said, "That cheap turkey! He used me to clear the invaders of this place. He played me like a d*mn fiddle, and I waltzed right into his trap!" Xie Qing King said, as he looked at Han Sen. "You said your name is San Mu? Follow me! When I claim the treasure, left behind by that turkey, I'll give you a small portion as a reward."

"Thanks." Han Sen bowed.

Han Sen preferred peace. There was no need for him to create any more enemies if he could avoid it.

Plus, the king spirit had not shown an ounce of hostility. Therefore, there didn't seem to be any particular need to kill him.

"Is that a baby?" Xie Qing King asked, as he looked at Bao'er.

"Yes, it is my daughter. Her name is Bao'er," Han Sen said.

Xie Qing King responded, "You are so weak. Why would you even

waste time having a baby?"

Han Sen thought it obnoxious. Powerful people always felt like only they should have babies.

Xie Qing King observed the hall as they went, seemingly lost in thought.

Xie Qing King walked across the hall to its other side and said, "This way. It's high-time we checked out the turkey's treasury."

Han Sen guessed the turkey he was referring to was Phoenix Emperor. Believing that the spirit indeed knew the way there, he saw no problem following him.

But in the next second, Xie Qing King's fist blazed with a silver light. Then, he broke a wall that had been decorated with a number of avian symbols.

"Alu-Alu-Alu!" Xie Qing King shouted, as he continued to punch the wall. He punched through a meter-thick wall of solid stone.

Han Sen was shocked, at what the spirit had just suddenly managed to do.

Earlier, he had tested it himself with his new Phoenix Sword. With a strike, he could only plunge it a single inch into the wall.

Furthermore, Han Sen had been afraid of traps, so he had spent most of his time in the shelter with much care. This spirit seemed to be a little on the reckless side.

"What are you doing over there? Come here and stay close." Xie Qing King frowned, and then he went on to mumble, "I can't believe I brought a dumb*ss with me."

Han Sen did not pay much heed to the insult he had been given, and he just followed as the spirit wanted him to.

After exiting the hall, they came to a branching corridor.

Han Sen wondered which way the spirit might decide to go, but again, he just started to chant "Alu-Alu." Then he smashed the wall

ahead of them with his fist.

In this way, they went on for some time. Han Sen stayed close behind, as Xie Qing King broke down wall after wall. He imagined the spirit would eventually get tired of doing that, but he never seemed to. He just kept on going, wall after wall.

"He's pretty cool," Han Sen said to himself.

Chapter 1037: Petrified

Xie Qing King must have broken down a dozen walls, each one a shortcut through what had to be some manner of maze. There were countless branching pathways, each guided by thick walls that were around one meter tall. It was in this wall-breaking way that they proceeded.

Alu-Alu!

Another wall was smashed through. Beyond it, something new greeted their eyes. It was another palace, just smaller in size than the previous one. It did, however, have a pool at its center and a tree in the middle of that.

The tree was strange. It was two meters tall and it only had two leaves to its name.

Between the leaves was a sole grey fruit. It was hefty-looking—around the same size as a football—but it looked slimy and sickly.

"Holy-Jade Fruit." Xie Qing King looked at the fruit with much excitement. He reached out and tried to grab it.

But before he could, the fruit broke. From within its sticky interior, a juice oozed out.

Xie Qing King's face suddenly became ghastly, and so he punched the fruit away.

The ooze of the fruit splashed across the tiled copper floor, and after a moment's rest, started to violently corrode the copper surface.

Han Sen was well-aware how solid that copper was, so it was frightening to see the potency of that juice. If it touched a human, Han Sen couldn't imagine the pain that would befall its victim.

Xie Qing King's hand suffered a couple drops of that corrosive liquid, and it had damaged his hand a good deal; it gushed blood.

The juice was no joke, if it had also managed to pierce and ravage his hand while it was still ablaze with the powerful silver light.

All Han Sen could think was how thankful he was, to have decided to hang several meters behind Xie Qing King. If he was any closer, he could very well have been sprayed by that horrendous fluid.

"King-Corpse Juice; that d*mned turkey. It is only fortunate I have trained in the ways of combatting evil. A splash of this stuff is all it takes to fell even the most powerful spirit." After explaining, Xie Qing King punched the tree and snapped it in two.

When it broke, a grey mist seeped from the two broken ends. Suddenly, he was petrified and rendered unable to move.

Han Sen was shocked, seeing another trap immediately spring out to get Xie Qing King.

Phoenix Emperor must have known what sort of person he was. Ordinary people wouldn't have punched the tree right after a spoiled harvest, but Xie Qing King did. Knowing he'd react this way, Phoenix Emperor had constructed another surprise trap for when he did.

The King-Corpse Juice was merely a red herring, and it wasn't actually the planned way to stop Xie Qing King. It was not half as efficient as a substance that could petrify. Han Sen had no clue what it was, but it had worked without fault. In an instant, a king spirit was wholly petrified.

As Han Sen inched forward to inspect the tree, Xie Qing King started to shout. "He put Stone-Jade Miasma inside the tree. Pah! Weak. He'll need to do better than that to petrify me. I'm going to dig his corpse up!"

Xie Qing King had managed to regain control of his eyes and mouth, but his body was still frozen stiff.

"What are you looking at? Are you going to help me or what?!"

Xie Qing King yelled.

"How can I help you?" Han Sen asked him. It was no wonder Phoenix Emperor imprisoned him down there.

If he had known about him being locked up, Han Sen would not have helped him out. The spirit may not have been hostile, but he was not the same species and could not 100% be trusted.

Xie Qing King responded, "That sneak knew I'd use my Evil-Breaker Power to smash that tree containing the Stone-Jade Miasma. I have been petrified, yes, but only my exterior has been. Break the stones that encompass me and I will be free."

"But I am so weak," Han Sen pretended.

Xie Qing King said, "But you have to try. Typically, only his Undying Flame can break these stones, but it's worth a shot."

Han Sen looked at Xie Qing King and thought him to be strangely naive. He wondered why the spirit was so sure Han Sen would both be willing and able to save him from his entrapment.

Han Sen then recalled the time he had spent in the spirit base, and how lower-tier spirits would blindly follow one who was superior and provide them spirit geno points.

A real spirit would attempt to save Xie Qing King, no matter what it took.

But Han Sen was just a human, and he felt no obligation to save or truly follow a spirit who may have been superior to him.

"Hurry! The stone is starting to settle inside my flesh, strengthening. If we co-operate, perhaps the combination of our powers will be enough to break this curse," Xie Qing King pleaded.

Han Sen wondered whether or not he should reveal who he truly was. But just as he considered doing so, he heard a wall on the side of that chamber begin to rise.

"Someone is here!" Han Sen looked around, checking to see if

there was someplace he could hide.

Xie Qing King noticed this, as well, and so he stopped talking.

Han Sen saw two men standing behind that risen wall. It was a human and a spirit, and they were both visibly surprised to see Han Sen there. They had obviously entered expecting the place to be empty and free of others.

"Who are you?" the spirit asked, staring at Han Sen. His power looked crushing, as if he could squish him like a bug.

Han Sen thought to himself, "This must be Holy-Sword Emperor. The human next to him must be Brother Seven."

Chapter 1038: The View That Contains a Thousand Birds

"Who are you?" Holy-Sword Emperor asked.

"That is of no concern to you," Han Sen said.

Holy-Sword Emperor balked and pulled out his sword. Without delay, he thrust forward, taking aim at Han Sen's forehead.

Han Sen leapt away like a bird, evading the attack with ease.

Holy-Sword Emperor raised his arm and pointed with his fingers. Suddenly, they all took on a life of their own, each one becoming a free-thinking sword. The index finger was thin like a rapier, whereas the middle finger was hefty like a greatsword. The thumb was like a plump dagger.

The five fingers became five different swords, and swiftly, they went after Han Sen.

Holding Bao'er, Han Sen rode the air and dodged every finger that wished to skewer him. Despite the spirit's grand display of power, none of his attacks found their target.

Holy-Sword Emperor was wielding ten swords, one for each finger. Each one weaved between each other, striking with an unbelievable amount of precision and speed. Han Sen did not believe any other spirit he had come across could have managed to achieve such finesse with a weapon.

As Han Sen danced through the air, his mind recalled the birds in the palace.

As the swords launched towards him, his mind flashed back to a movement he had witnessed off one bird. He applied it to Aero and evaded whichever sword came for him, alternating through the vast array of different movements he had learned.

Han Sen was incredibly happy at what he was able to achieve. He

had only opened eight gene locks and had eighteen hundred fitness—figures which made him weaker than king spirits—but that did not matter.

Han Sen was able to dodge every single attack that came his way, from a foe that should have been out of his league. What he had learned from the birds was incredible.

Of course, much of what he was doing now was all thanks to Aero. If he didn't have it, even if he was a king spirit without it, he'd have been unable to pull off half the graceful evasions that now came to him effortlessly.

Holy-Sword Emperor's senses had been restricted in this place. Although it did not stifle the power he possessed, it made him unable to determine Han Sen's actual power.

Xie Qing King, on the other hand, had a third eye that enabled him to now see more of who his follower actually was. He could most certainly tell the power Han Sen held. And as he watched with great interest, Holy-Sword Emperor had yet to determine whether the foe he was battling was a human or a spirit.

Han Sen maintained a firm grip on the baby, as he pranced through the air. Continuing to evade with such grace and finesse was a remarkable feat, and a display of fantastic talent. Although he may not have been able to correctly gauge who his enemy was, Holy-Sword Emperor was at least aware Han Sen was a powerful person.

Brother Seven was not aware of who Han Sen was, and he could not determine the level of power he possessed, either. The only thing he could tell was that he was a human. He knew this from the structure of his face and the clothing he wore.

He had heard of humans being able to effectively do battle with royal spirits, but he had never heard of a human being able to compete with a king spirit.

The person was very young, too. It greatly surprised him how brilliant the young man was. Regardless of what was going on or what would happen later, he knew he was witnessing something quite brilliant.

Plus, to top it all off, he was holding a baby. To engage in battle as he was doing, Brother Seven was in immediate adoration.

"Have humans really become this strong?" Brother Seven wondered to himself, in awe.

He knew it was only natural for humans to improve and become stronger and better able to compete with the spirits; it was an inevitability of the passage of time. But this was far beyond his wildest expectations of what was possible, at their current stage in time. Whoever this person battling Holy-Sword Emperor was, he was strangely powerful.

Holy-Sword Emperor, frustrated with his inability to determine who his foe was and how powerful he might have been, decided to up his game. He split his swords into a hundred smaller versions. The stakes had been amped up, and it actually put Han Sen into some degree of danger.

Even though Han Sen was continuing to use Aero, it was difficult and far more trying for him to dodge his aggressor's attacks now.

Three minutes later, he slipped up. A sword nicked his arm and broke the sacred-blood armor there.

"I was almost expecting a challenge. I see the truth now; you are nothing but a wimp. You are a coward that can only flee to and fro, not daring to face me like a proper opponent," Holy-Sword Emperor taunted Han Sen, and then fired a greater number of swords in an attempt to finish him off.

Han Sen knew the odds were lop-sided from the get-go. The only reason he was still alive was due to Blood-Pulse Sutra.

But due to the buffs being unable to increase his fitness level, he

hadn't been able to open more gene locks.

If Han Sen's Blood-Pulse Sutra could go higher than eight, he'd have a power that was equivalent to two thousand fitness.

But Han Sen's base fitness was still only one thousand eight hundred, and because of this, he could not continue this way forever.

And adding to that, the more Han Sen dodged, the more the callous spirit wanted his blood.

Suddenly, Han Sen had an idea. He dive-bombed down with haste, landing directly behind the still-petrified Xie Qing King.

Holy-Sword Emperor had been fixated on Han Sen the entire time, and had initially believed the calcified Xie Qing King to be an inanimate statue. So, he did not relent and simply decided to blast the statue with all his might.

"My Emperor, the time is now!" Han Sen happily proclaimed.

Boom!

The statue shattered, and a man drenched in blood appeared. A silver light encompassed his body, healing his wounds. In the time that it took Xie Qing King to take two steps, he became fully healed.

"Good job; you were smart to save me." Xie Qing King laughed out loud, having come to really like Han Sen.

"Thank you very much; it was my pleasure." Han Sen feigned happiness, but in his heart he thought, "You'd still be a rock if I was able to kill Holy-Sword Emperor with my super king spirit mode."

Holy-Sword Emperor looked upon Xie Qing King with remarkable shock, and he actually exclaimed, "Xie Qing King!"

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