Chapter 1431:

Ling Mei'er's Bad Situation

"We are considered adults the moment we generate a self geno core. And once that happens, we are sent away from Dark Spirit Shelter in the expectation we will survive and thrive." There was a glimmer of sadness veiled behind the curtains of her speech, despite her attempt to put on a brave and proud face.

Han Sen thought to himself, "It looks like Dark Spirit controls most of the Underworld. If they didn't have a firm grip on the entire place, they wouldn't let their people come and go freely."

"Hmm... so, how can I lure her to the surface? They surely won't come after us up there, so getting her to go and leave this place is the only struggle." Han Sen wracked his brain for a solution.

And as Han Sen pondered this, his attention was drawn to a voice outside the cave.

"Ling Mei'er, are you in there?"

Ling Mei'er's face completely changed. She hopped onto King Snake's back and yelled at Han Sen, "Come on! We have to go."

"What are you afraid of?" Han Sen asked.

"I'm not afraid..." Before she finished speaking, a dark shadow began entering the cave.

It was a man with cat ears and a tail just like Ling Mei'er. It was clear that he was a family member of hers. He was riding atop a green bug that was the size of a bull.

"Where are you running off to this time? Come, quickly fight with me! And when you lose, come. You know what awaits. Don't try running off." The man's voice took on a threatening tone, and he didn't seem like a nice person at all.

"I'm not running." Ling Mei'er said this and scowled at Han Sen with her kitty fangs on full display. She wasn't happy Han Sen had been so slow.

"Bring forth one of your creatures so that it might fight against my green bug. If you lose, you come back with me, as was the deal." The man hopped off his mount and took a few intimidating steps forward.

The bug followed after its master, looking all smug, as well.

"Your bug is a gold geno core, whereas mine is not even silver! That's not even fair," Ling Mei'er protested.

"One year. That was the deal. You're the one who has wasted their time hiding in this dump for that duration. If you'd prefer, I could always go contact the elder and see what he has to say about this whole situation," the man said.

"Spirit Thirteen, don't be ridiculous!" Ling Mei'er said. She tried to put on a stout voice, but it trembled. She was squirming in her seat.

"Then how about I go and see the elder to ask what he considers to be ridiculous?" Spirit Thirteen turned to leave.

"Fine! We'll fight." Ling Mei'er stopped him from leaving, but she was falling right into his ploy. The saddest part was that she probably knew.

Spirit Thirteen, with the smuggest and most punchable face in the universe, turned back around and told Ling Mei'er, "Choose your best combatant. Any: the choice is yours."

Ling Mei'er looked at the only two mutant creatures she possessed and sighed. One of them was only a baby, after all. Times had indeed been tough for her.

The mutant Jade Rat already had a silver geno core, so that was her best bet. It wasn't much, but that was where her hope would have to lie, she thought. She was still willing to go forward with the proposed fight, but she already believed her fate to be sealed.

But then, Han Sen stepped forward and asked the two, "Hmm, and here I thought you two were related."

Ling Mei'er spoke with much regret, saying, "Yes, we are. But if I lose this fight, I need to return home and produce babies for him."

"What? How could a sick deal like this come about?!" A fire blazed through Han Sen's eyes, and he looked at Spirit Thirteen with much disgust.

The Dark Spirit geno core was able to tame creatures easily. And of course, their geno cores could still fight, as well. Regardless, it was something Han Sen fancied. He didn't want to lose it to that man.

Han Sen thought Ling Mei'er would make a fine secretary for him in the surface world, too. And she seemed to know a lot about the new realm he had just discovered. He wanted her to leave with him, not with Spirit Thirteen.

Now that Spirit Thirteen was taking her away, all for making babies, Han Sen was fuming mad.

The Jade Rat looked nervously at the bug it would soon have to fight. It was facing a gold geno core enemy and it knew it; it didn't fancy its chances, that was for sure.

Classes aside, the rat was tiny compared to the green bug, as well. It didn't stand a snowflake's chance, and everyone in the cave expected a brutal outcome to befall the poor squeaker.

"Come on; let's get this over with," Spirit Thirteen callously said, now with a raised voice.

The green bug summoned a scythe, and it leaped forward, ready to kill the rat within a moment's notice.

"You can do it!" Ling Mei'er hopelessly called out, as if a raised spirit was all the rat needed to even the odds.

The Jade Rat squealed and stood in place, frozen with terror. And just when Han Sen and Ling Mei'er thought the little critter was going to summon its geno core and fight back, it simply scurried away. It ran to the hills.

"Sh*t! Are you serious?" Han Sen shook his head.

Spirit Thirteen laughed out loud, asking her, "What sort of rubbish have you been collecting? The cave is one thing, but... Man, you're embarrassing to watch. Come home and make babies for me. You'll be good for one thing, that way."

"The only thing I'm going to make is a super geno core so I can rip your ears off!" Ling Mei'er rebuked with feistiness.

"Cool your temper. But honestly, I don't see a way out of your predicament. You know the agreement in place, and unless you can pull another creature out of your backside to fight me, you're either leaving here with me for a baby-making future, or you're leaving in a body bag. Do you have another creature that's ready to fight? Yes or no?" Spirit Thirteen gave her his ultimatum.

Jade Rat was her strongest creature, and she nothing else that was willing to fight.

"That's what I thought. Now come along, your daddio is getting impatient." Spirit Thirteen licked his lips with sickening lust.

Ling Mei'er was about to agree, but before she could open her mouth, someone else stepped forward.

Chapter 1432: Strong Physical Power

"Let me fight it." Han Sen walked in front of the green bug, with his speech directed at Spirit Thirteen.

"It's all the same." Spirit Thirteen motioned with his hand for the green bug to take a swing at Han Sen.

Spirit Thirteen was confident that was all it would take. The green bug's attack and defense were balanced, and it was the baby of a sacred-blood creature, too. The mutant Jade Rat wouldn't have been able to compete with the green bug even if it possessed a gold geno core.

Although they were of the same tier, their bases were different.

Spirit Thirteen knew Ling Mei'er was cherished by the elder, so he wouldn't break the bargain they had established if Han Sen beat the opponent.

The elder had given her the black and white King Snake, but it wouldn't kill for her, and neither would it attempt to conquer a shelter on her behalf. She still had to work hard herself.

Ling Mei'er hadn't traveled much, and in this place, it was difficult to find a high-tier creature she could tame and convince to join her roster. Even if she did manage to locate one, she needed resources and time. Those were two things she was in a short supply of.

Those of Dark Spirit could read lifeforces with great clarity, but Spirit Thirteen was unable to lift much from Han Sen's suppressed lifeforce. Because of this, he didn't exercise much caution when engaging him.

Seeing the insect's scythe bearing down on him, Han Sen swiftly let out a punch towards it.

"No!" Ling Mei'er screamed, seeing Han Sen willingly do that.

She thought Han Sen was the heir of a super creature, but at the end of the day, a demi-god creature's power was still kept in check by the geno core they possessed. Han Sen had only just been born, so there was no guarantee he even had a geno core, and if he did, it'd be a measly bronze one. He could only do combat with a creature with a silver geno core, at best.

Fighting a gold geno core would be a trying task for any individual.

Now that Han Sen was bringing his fist against the scythe, she believed it was highly likely he did not possess a geno core. He might be hurt a lot by the gold geno core.

"This is suicide!" Spirit Thirteen cackled coldly.

The moment Han Sen's fist came into contact with the scythe, however, it reversed everyone's expression into one of shock. The big green scythe, after coming down on Han Sen's brutal fist, shattered into glitter like a flurry of stars.

After Han Sen broke the creature's geno core, he then moved to bring that lightning-fast fist down on the green bug's shell. The carapace was immediately destroyed, and the bug swiftly died.

"Sacred-Blood Creature Green Crystal Bug killed. No beast soul gained. The geno core was shattered. The flesh is edible. Consume its flesh to earn zero to ten sacred geno points randomly."

That was purely an exercise of Han Sen's simple physical power, and he did not even use Super Spank.

Han Sen had maxed out his ordinary, primitive, mutant, and sacred geno point tallies. Green Crystal Bug would have needed a gemstone geno core to challenge him properly. Now that Han Sen could kill the likes of that with his plain physical power, there was no need to exert much effort and trouble himself.

But this punch had shocked the other two completely. What Han Sen had just done so simply would have required a gemstone geno core sacred-blood creature.

Even Dark Spirit's super creature heirs required a gold geno core to perform the feat he had.

Ling Mei'er thought Han Sen had just been born, and if that was true, it was a frightening thought that he already had such strength.

Spirit Thirteen looked ill, and he said, "I can't believe you were able to tame something so wretchedly strong! But I'll be back."

Spirit Thirteen flew away after that. King Snake was there guarding her, so he couldn't do anything bad to her even if he tried to.

"Dollar! You are so good. You must be a baby of the mightiest of super creatures! Was your parent a berserk super creature, I wonder? You're better than me, even. My parents have sacred-blood genes in them; they weren't pure super creatures." Ling Mei'er had run right up to Han Sen to say her piece.

"I guess," Han Sen said.

Ling Mei'er was the heir of a super creature, but she still only had a bronze geno core. She also lacked social skills, which made her a very easy person for Han Sen to trick. Now, Han Sen was too lazy to even make up a story.

After Han Sen killed Green Crystal Bug, Ling Mei'er really wanted Han Sen to stick around. Unfortunately for her, she didn't think she had anything that would make him desire to stay with her, especially when she had already started eating his food.

"Mei'er, did you say there was a gold shelter nearby that was unclaimed? Let's go take it," Han Sen said.

Ling Mei'er was no longer feeling like much of a master, but she found herself surprisingly happy. She asked Han Sen, "Yes, which one?"

"There's a few of them?" She did not know anything, so Han Sen would have to do the claiming himself. He proceeded to ask her a few questions, and then he went off to get her a safer place to live in.

Han Sen needed to use a teleporter to return to the Alliance, too. He had to check-in whenever he could, because the family would worry if he was absent for too long.

Inside a shelter in that underground realm, Spirit Thirteen looked horrible. He was getting told off by a Dark Spirit that looked just like him.

"I tamed that Green Crystal Bug for you! How could you lose to Ling Mei'er?" The Dark Spirit man spoke harshly.

"Dad, she somehow found an extremely strong creature that shattered the gold geno core and one-hit killed the bug." Spirit Thirteen was speaking with a bitter tone.

The Dark Spirit man looked dim, and he replied, "How old is Ling Mei'er? How was it possible for her to tame a creature such as that?"

"Father, what I'm telling you is true. I witnessed it with my own eyes." Spirit Thirteen was swearing profusely.

"If it is indeed true, it must be because the elder is helping her explicitly."

Spirit Thirteen heard the remark with shock, and he said, "Do you think the elder gifted her the creature?"

The Dark Spirit man laughed coldly and responded, "Ling Mei'er is as average as they come. The blood of her parents is only half super blood, but she earned all the benefits such genes could provide her. The elder must think she could become a super geno core; otherwise, he wouldn't have given her his mount Snake King."

"If the elder is protecting her, then that means I have no chance." Spirit Thirteen frowned.

"The elder should not be able to break his own law. I will help you get Ling Mei'er to improve our own lineage." The Dark Spirit man coldly laughed.

Chapter 1433: Gold Mask

Han Sen and Ling Mei'er were on their way to a gold shelter. The Underworld was a sprawling labyrinth that featured all sorts of places.

Creeping across many of the rocks were thick, hardy vines.

"Are these vines geno plants, by any chance?" Han Sen asked Ling Mei'er, pointing at the vine. The vines looked familiar to him.

The vines were not strong like the Aqua Vine, and more than anything, they almost looked like the ordinary, garden variety.

"This is the Underworld's Holy Vine. They support the entire world; we down here are its protectors. When we finally acquire a gemstone geno core, we are allowed to return to Dark Spirit Shelter. That is the place that houses the primary vine," Ling Mei'er explained.

"Can the Holy Vines produce fruit, and if so, are they beneficial?" Han Sen asked with much curiosity.

Ling Mei'er smiled and said, "It can produce fruit, yes. But the elder says it has only ever produced one. As for when it next might mature, none can tell. The elder never leaves the shelter due to the terms of the Hundred Tribe Deal, but he also remains there to safeguard the vine."

"If your elder wants to protect it that much, it must be something quite powerful," Han Sen said.

Ling Mei'er receded into thought for a moment, before saying, "There is one fruit currently on the vine, but it has yet to mature. He hasn't told me what it does, but I recall when I was small, he let me sit next to it and touch it. I don't remember it being anything particularly special."

Ling Mei'er described the fruit's shape and size and then said, "But I'm not sure how all the vines can only produce one small fruit like that."

Han Sen was shocked to hear Ling Mei'er describe it, because he realized she was talking about a gourd. And learning this, it was like a lightning bolt struck his brain. He knew now why the vine looked so familiar to him.

The vines that gave birth to Bao'er looked exactly like this. The only difference was that the vines he had seen long ago were rotten, and that's why his mind didn't immediately make the connection.

After hearing what she had to say, he realized now that the Holy Vine was what those vines would have looked like if they weren't all dried out.

Han Sen drew the shape of a gourd on the ground and asked, "Did the fruit look like this?"

"Yes; have you seen it before?" Ling Mei'er patted her own head then, and went on to say, "Wait, you've only just been born. There's no way you've seen it before."

Han Sen was shocked. The gourd he drew was exactly the same one that Bao'er came out of. Did that mean Bao'er would have a connection to the Holy Vine?

Han Sen had mulled this over a lot in the past, and he was always interested in learning more about where Bao'er came from. Only humans or creatures with human blood could travel between the sanctuaries and the Alliance.

Bao'er was from the gourd, so it was unlikely she had human genes. But then again, if that was so, how was she able to travel between the two?

If Han Sen was able to find out more about the Holy Vine, there was a chance he could discover more about Bao'er's origins.

But Ling Mei'er's knowledge of the vine was lacking, and it was highly likely only the elder knew much about it.

Han Sen really wanted to examine the Holy Fruit now, to see whether or not it was Bao'er's gourd. But Ling Mei'er required a gemstone geno core before she would be allowed to return to the shelter.

Ling Mei'er was not weak, but she was young and had not yet grown up. Without Snake King, she might have already been killed. It was difficult to tell when she'd earn a gemstone geno core.

"After taking this shelter, I will bring Bao'er and let her take a look at the vine." Han Sen decided to help Ling Mei'er take over a gold shelter.

Shelters of the Underworld were hewn from the stone of the realm itself. They came before a stone gate, which Han Sen inspected keenly.

There was a lock on it that had not yet been opened. It was unclaimed.

The black and white Snake King had found this shelter before, but he was prohibited from helping Ling Mei'er take it down.

Observing the large construct, Han Sen noticed the presence of many creepy mask symbols adorning the stonework. Usually, the symbols that adorned the gate of a shelter were in some way connected to the shelter's power. What this indicated, however, Han Sen could not quite tell.

Judging from the size of the gate, Han Sen did not believe the shelter would be particularly big. It was either a silver or gold shelter.

"This is it." Han Sen broke the lock and opened her up.

Han Sen and Ling Mei'er entered the lobby of that place, while the Snake King stayed behind.

"Can we really take this place for ourselves?" Ling Mei'er looked uneasy and unsure.

The lobby was host to a stone table and a number of stone chairs. On the furthest wall from them, there was a large depiction of a gold mask. The mask was the same as what he had seen on the gate to the shelter, but this work was far prettier than the cruder exhibits outside.

Before they approached it, however, the gold mask suddenly came to life and raced towards them.

They weren't given much of a chance to retrieve their geno cores to respond to the threat, and what was coming to them looked like a gold geno core. Swiftly, Han Sen responded by firing a coin at it.

The coin planted itself firmly on the gold mask's forehead, but it did not stop the mask as it came right for Han Sen.

Han Sen frowned. The single coin could have been too weak, so he then fired a barrage of coins at it.

Chapter 1434: A Geno Core That Can Evolve

The coins landed on the gold mask, but the phantom did not relent at all.

With his fist, Han Sen moved forward to punch the gold mask, and when his fist was about to meet with it, his hand went right through it. It was like an ethereal object.

The next second, the gold mask planted itself neatly on Han Sen's face. And the moment that occurred, Han Sen felt a weird power surge through his brain.

"Slave; adhere to my commands and I will grant thee power!" the gold mask roared with a booming voice, with a speech that tried to invade Han Sen's mind.

Han Sen's brain had been fortified by the crystallizers, however. He tried to grab the gold mask on his face, and he noticed his fingers were now able to touch it. It had become a physical object.

Han Sen ripped it off of his face and held it in his hands.

The gold mask squirmed and struggled. It was an incredibly weak thing after becoming solid.

Just as Han Sen was going to destroy it with a punch, the gold mask pleaded, "Don't hit me! Don't hit me! I'll swear allegiance to you!"

Han Sen did not expect the thing to be able to talk out loud like that. But it was audible all the same, even if the mask's facial features did not move.

"What is your geno core level? What does it do?" Han Sen wanted to grill it for information before he agreed to its plight.

"I am the gold geno core Gold Mask. I can attach myself to the face of anyone and then control them. Please don't destroy me!" Gold Mask spoke with a creepy, unsettling voice.

"That sounds useless," Han Sen said.

"It's useful!" Gold Mask remarked, in shock. It quickly went on to say, "Master, you are just too strong. That is why I might appear useless right now. I can easily control normal creatures, even of sacred-blood strength. And what's more, I can evolve to become a gemstone geno core and even a super geno core!"

"Are you kidding me? I've never heard of a geno core that was capable of evolving," Han Sen coldly rebutted.

"But I'm not kidding! I really can evolve. Take me with you, and you'll see it first-hand. If I am unable to do this, you have my full permission to destroy me." Gold Mask was scrambling to spit his words out.

"Okay." Han Sen didn't really want the mask, even still.

Gold Mask hastily gave Han Sen his mark, and then went straight into his Sea of Soul. Han Sen checked out the information it came with, and it did indeed say that it was able to evolve.

Gold Mask: Spirit-Type Geno Core (Evolvable)

Han Sen was more than surprised. Geno cores required living things to evolve, and he had no clue a geno core could evolve by itself. Han Sen had only seen Little Angel and Golden Growler evolve by themselves, but they were beast souls.

The Gold Mask would save Han Sen a lot of trouble, though. He didn't require a spirit to control the shelter, as the Gold Mask could do it for him.

"Is that it?" Ling Mei'er couldn't believe it was already over.

"Yeah, this is your shelter now." Han Sen smiled.

It was Ling Mei'er's shelter, technically, but Han Sen was its true master and controller.

"I finally have a shelter to call my own!" Ling Mei'er happily swung the gate open to invite Snake King and the rest of her creatures inside.

Han Sen found his chance now to sneak back to the Alliance and retrieve Bao'er, so she could check out the Holy Vine.

But when he returned home, Han Sen was in for a surprise.

Luo Lan had gone to visit Han Yan in the military school a few days ago, while Mister and Missus Ji had gone away to resolve a few matters of their own.

There was a problem with Ji Yanran's business, so only Bao'er had been left behind to look after Littleflower while the rest were absent.

Bao'er may have looked small, but she was capable of taking care of Littleflower for quite some time. There were a bunch of AI droids in the house, as well, which helped. They were all well-behaved.

Bao'er was staring at Littleflower while suckling a milk bottle. Littleflower was doing the same, but with a smile. Bao'er placed a gentle hand on his jaw and suddenly got up, ran to Ji Yanran's room, and unearthed a few makeup products.

"Don't move, Littleflower. Let me make you prettier." Bao'er grabbed a tube of lipstick and some eyeliner with an evil smile creeping across her face.

Littleflower was smiling happily at Bao'er with an unchanging expression, as Bao'er drew across his face, occasionally pausing in admiration of the work she had done upon her human canvas.

As she had fun doing this, she stopped. She sensed someone had entered the house.

Han Sen's house was in an old town. It wasn't a very fancy or expensive neighborhood, and neither did the house have much in the way of valuables. Every generation of the family had lived there, though, and because Luo Lan did not want to move away from there, that was where they all stayed.

A man opened the door and entered the house stealthily, closing the door as discreetly as he could.

"I thought the Alliance's first super aristocrat would have a fancier house than this. I am a master thief; this place is far too easy for the likes of me to break into." A man was speaking to himself.

The man looked around and then pulled out a gadget. He pressed a bunch of buttons and all the alarm systems were disabled. Not even the robots functioned after that.

"This really is too easy. I thought this would be challenging. A super aristocrat, the president's son-inlaw, has chosen to live in this dump with hardly any security? Pah!" The man walked straight into the next room.

When he walked in there, he saw Bao'er and Littleflower.

"It must be the smaller one; but why would that guy pay so much money for him?" The man knew no one was home, and his target was Littleflower.

Chapter 1435: Good Uncle

Tang Rubei's nickname was Ghost Hand. He called himself the best thief, and through the employ of state-of-the-art technology, he hadn't once botched a job in over sixty years.

Someone had paid him a high price to steal Han Sen's son Littleflower, and that was why he was on Planet Roca. He waited until everyone was gone before breaking in to complete his objective.

"People these days are way too naive. They rely on robots to do everything for them. Even a rookie thief could get this job done without breaking a sweat." Tang Rubei was speaking out loud to himself, as he stepped towards Littleflower.

"Do you want some ice cream, little girl?" Smiling warmly, Tang Rubei offered a Blue Gemstone ice cream.

The client had informed him that Bao'er was not a real human, just a pet beast soul. It didn't fight, and it loved nothing more than ice cream.

"Uncle, you're a good man," Bao'er told him, gleefully accepting the ice cream.

Tang Rubei thought to himself, "This is what you call true talent. If I admit I am the second-best thief in the universe, no one would be the first."

As Bao'er licked away at her ice cream, Tang Rubei gently moved to pick up Littleflower and said, "Little Baby, let me take you someplace fun."

But before he could lay his fingers on the baby, he felt something touch his clothes with the zap of an electrical current. He promptly turned around to see what the issue was.

His senses were excellent, and he had not detected the presence of anyone else in the house. But strangely, his clothes were still being pulled. He had not been caught once across all the years he'd been active, and if he was to fail now, his image and reputation would be forever tarnished.

After turning around, he noticed Bao'er was staring at him intently.

"Pah! I knew no one would have gotten home that soon." Tang Rubei sighed, seeing no one else there. His heart had almost leaped out of his chest.

"You continue eating your ice cream, kiddo." Tang Rubei smiled at Bao'er and went to pick up Littleflower again.

His clothing was tugged again, and when he turned to take a look, Bao'er told him, "I finished my ice cream. I want some more."

Tang Rubei felt a headache coming on. Although Han Sen would not know what the pet beast soul was up to or how she was treated, if Tang Rubei attacked her, there was a chance Han Sen might realize something was up no matter where he was.

To avoid Han Sen's wrath, Tang Rubei thought it was best not to attack Bao'er.

Bao'er was not technically his beast soul, anyway. The chances he'd find out were low, regardless.

"It is true that the rich are selfish. I'd let such a cute humanoid pet eat whatever she desired. Han Sen's family has no doubt been cheap on her," Tang Rubei thought. He then opened the mini fridge attached to his waist and gave her two more ice creams.

Tang Rubei liked being prepared, so he had brought three ice cream bars with him, just in case. He gave the remaining two to her and said, "Go eat."

In a flash, Bao'er gobbled up the ice cream bars and immediately proclaimed, "Uncle, I want more!"

"Won't you get sick, eating that much ice cream?" Tang Rubei had only brought three and had no more to give her. "I have run out of ice cream, I am sorry. If you stay here, I'll go and bring you some more later." Tang Rubei was reaching down to pick up Littleflower as he said this.

"Uncle, take me to get some now." Bao'er tugged at his clothes.

Tang Rubei wished to ignore her, but he realized his hand was incapable of reaching any further to pick up Littleflower.

He turned around and was in shock. Bao'er had latched onto him, and she was so strong, he found himself incapable of moving.

"Is she a high-class pet beast soul that's in battle mode? This was not mentioned in the mission dossier at all!" Tang Rubei was in shock. Fortunately, he was very experienced, so he smiled and told Bao'er, "I'll go buy them now, then. Let's bring your brother along for the ride. We'll all go together, okay?"

"Okay! You really are a nice man," Bao'er happily told him.

"Let's go now. If we don't hurry, the shops will close." Tang Rubei turned back around to pick up Littleflower, but again, he was stopped by Bao'er.

"Uncle, I can't go." Bao'er looked rather bitter this time.

"Why not? Do you not want ice cream?" Tang Rubei rushed his dialogue.

"I do want it, but if I don't finish my homework, my parents will yell at me." Bao'er had her finger pointed at the books in front of her.

Han Sen wanted Bao'er to learn about the Alliance. He wanted her to live there instead of the sanctuary, as civilization seemed to suit her a lot more.

"Parents these days are ridiculous! They even get their pets to do homework? Sheesh. Let me help you." What Tang Rubei said was in support of Bao'er, but inside, he thought to himself, "If I wait for you to finish, Ji Yanran will be back."

"Uncle, you are a good man." Bao'er was touched.

"Yes, I am." Tang Rubei picked up the book and pen and said, "In the farm, there are sixty-seven animals. There are twice as many ducks as there are chickens..."

Tang Rubei scrawled a bunch of non-sensical answers, planning to leave swiftly.

"Good uncle, this is wrong." Bao'er pointed down to the answers he had made up.

"I deliberately wrote it incorrectly, just so I could test you. Very good!" Tang Rubei was getting glum, realizing he might have to do the homework for real.

"What is this? I'm a master thief! I shouldn't be reduced to doing baby mathematics." Tang Rubei's facial expressions turned bitter as he resumed doing the math.

Chapter 1436: Tang Rubei

His heart sank even lower when he realized there were some questions not even he was able to answer.

He had studied many of these subjects many long decades ago, but by now, he had forgotten everything. He had no clue on how to come up with the solutions for the more complicated questions.

"This is horrible! How can they allow a kid to trudge through something so hard and brain-melting? This is sure to ruin their childhood! Whoever created this textbook should be executed," Tang Rubei angrily proclaimed.

Bao'er tried to comfort him in his distress, saying, "You are right. You should execute my father. But you still need to do this."

"Why don't we take a break and go get some ice cream? If something occurs, I'll get your back and cover for you." Tang Rubei patted his chest.

Bao'er shook her head and said, "No, we have to do it now. If I don't finish this before he gets back, he'll destroy me with his belt again!"

After that, Bao'er's eyes began to well up with tears.

"What an animal! How can such a young kid be subject to such horrible treatment? I should really go to see Child Services and take him to court." Tang Rubei felt genuinely angry, seeing how frightened and fearful Bao'er was becoming at the thought of her father.

Bao'er looked like a nice and cute child. To think of her getting her hide whipped by a belt would make anyone mad.

When Tang Rubei learned the art of theft, his master often brought out his whip if he failed to conduct his practices with the precision expected. He knew exactly how Bao'er felt, and he could empathize with her.

"Don't worry. I will complete these exercises for you. I won't allow you to get hit anymore." Tang Rubei had no choice but to complete her homework for her. He couldn't leave and let her be subject to that—not now.

Tang Rubei turned on his computer and allowed the PC to complete what he was unable to do. It took the machine an hour to finish it all.

"Good Man Uncle! You are smart. You can do anything!" Bao'er looked at him in profound admiration. He had completed the entire week's worth of homework her parents had given her to do.

Tang Rubei felt cocky and proud of himself, too. And in this arrogance, he said, "Oh, it was nothing. I've dealt with worse. We should go and get that ice cream now, shouldn't we? If we don't get going soon, all the shops will close."

Tang Rubei reached over to Littleflower then, prompting Bao'er to yell, "Good Uncle! Don't touch him."

"Why? What is it?" Tang Rubei was dealt a heart-stopping shock, thinking she might have discovered he was in fact a bad man. But still, he played it cool.

Bao'er came clean, honestly telling him, "Good Uncle, my parents are afraid someone will try and steal my brother. So, they had a machine planted on him. If someone unfamiliar touches my brother, it will trigger an alarm. If my parents and grandparents learn it was me who allowed a stranger to come in and take my brother, I'd be so screwed. They'd kill me for merely letting you in!"

Tang Rubei breathed a sigh of relief, knowing his cover had not been blown. "I knew a super aristocrat and the son-in-law of the president wouldn't really employ such cheap and crappy security. But I've never heard of this before. Was this device placed inside the child?"

If Tang Rubei was unable to steal the baby, how was he going to accomplish his mission?

While he wracked his mind for an idea of what to do, Bao'er ran off into her room. She came back out holding a remote, which she promptly handed over to him. Then, she said, "Good Uncle! I know you are a good man, so you will need to push that button to disable the security and its alarm for a brief period of time."

Tang Rubei accepted the remote and felt rather touched by the help he had been given, and he said, "Bao'er, you are so nice. I will buy you ten... no, twenty ice cream bars!"

"Thanks! And yes, you have to aim it at his face." Bao'er looked very excited.

"The device was injected into his brain?" Tang Rubei used the remote on Littleflower, and a light flashed across his face.

Littleflower was looking at Tang Rubei the entire time, but the light gave him quite the unexpected shock. Littleflower's mouth turned crooked, and tears began to drown his eyes. He was on the precipice of crying up a storm.

"You need to comfort him, quick! If you don't, my parents will beat me." Bao'er hurried Tang Rubei into action.

Tang Rubei was also worried the crying would draw attention to him, so he swiftly picked up Littleflower.

Tang Rubei held Littleflower, but now that he was being hugged by a stranger, that was when the real waterworks turned on.

"Don't cry! Ah!" Just as Tang Rubei was about to comfort the baby, a strange force came out of Littleflower. He was blown away, and the entire room they were standing in was destroyed. He was sent flying outside into the pond.

Fortunately, Tang Rubei was a surpasser. His body was tough enough that the blast did not outright kill him then and there.

Tang Rubei dragged himself out of the pond and walked back into the house dripping wet. He looked at the children with a fire in his eyes.

Bao'er was holding Littleflower who had, by now, stopped crying.

"I'm sorry! I forgot to tell you he has an intruder-explosive device, too. But don't worry, I've turned it off now. Let's go!" Bao'er said, looking at him.

Tang Rubei grew suspicious of Bao'er, then. He stood there soaking wet, his hair black and smoldering. He was seemed to be in a horrible state. He'd look like a dubious individual if he brought the children out onto the streets now.

"Good Uncle! If people see us on the streets, they will tell my parents. And then, they'll hit me again. Use this!" Bao'er pulled out a big suitcase-on-wheels and climbed into it with Littleflower.

Tang Rubei's suspicions died down a little, after that. All he wanted to do next was close the suitcase and get out of there.

But with Bao'er in there, the suitcase wouldn't close. He tried to push her head down, to make her fit. And then suddenly, Han Sen walked in.

Chapter 1437: Quite Familiar

Han Sen saw a big hole in the side of his house, and an old man anxiously pushing Bao'er's head into a suitcase.

Bao'er herself was holding onto Littleflower, whose face was flushed the color red as if he'd been bleeding.

"What... are... you... doing?" Han Sen looked at the man with such anger, he hissed the words through clenched teeth. He swiftly looked like a demon that had emerged from the fiery pits of hell.

Tang Rubei stayed where he was, but turned to look at Han Sen. He jumped up and said, "Please, don't! Let me explain. This isn't how it looks!"

"Dad, he is a thief! He wants to take Littleflower away," Bao'er proclaimed loudly.

"You can explain in hell!" Han Sen's power erupted like a volcano, as he leaped forward to deliver the man a flurry of punches.

Katcha! Katcha! Argh!

Tang Rubei was suspended in mid-air, as a geyser of punches sprayed him from above and below like heavy rain.

Tang Rubei's bones were all broken, and his face had been deformed beyond recognition. When Han Sen delivered his next punch to send him flying, he spiraled through the air with a twisted body. He'd have been killed within a second if Han Sen hadn't wanted to keep him alive.

Tang Rubei's bones were all dislocated. He wished he could commit suicide rather than endure that pain, and he couldn't even speak. All he could emit were a few painful tears from his eyes.

Han Sen picked up Bao'er and Littleflower and realized it wasn't blood that was on his son's face; it was crudely smudged lipstick.

Han Sen didn't think the thief would be able to shove Bao'er into the suitcase, so he asked, "What's going on?"

Bao'er looked at her father with innocence and said, "I wanted to make my brother look pretty, but I have no makeup of my own."

Han Sen did not want to punish Bao'er, so he stroked her head and said, "Are you hurt?"

"Neither of us are hurt. I have been protecting him!" Bao'er spoke with a streak of pride.

Han Sen patted Bao'er on the head and called Ji Yanran and his father-in-law. Ji Ruozhen was furious beyond measure, and he sent for someone to come and arrest their would-be kidnapper.

Han Sen was unable to interrogate the man himself, but Ji Ruozhen had people who could do it for them.

Two days later, Tang Rubei's background had all been dug up.

Unfortunately, Tang Rubei did not know who the client was himself. The bargain was negotiated and struck through an interstellar pirate organization. The pirates were situated in an area that existed between the shura's bubble of space and the human's bubble of space.

Whenever they were chased by humans, they could escape by fleeing to the shura-governed territories. Whenever they were chased by the shura, they could escape by fleeing to the human-governed territories.

Tang Rubei and the client had made their deal by using the pirate organization as the middle-man. They hadn't interacted with each other directly.

Ji Ruozhen was so angry, he made a deal with the shura to send an enclave of ships to shake out the pirates' base of operations. The pirates were caught, but not even they knew who the client was.

"Who would want to kidnap my son? They obviously want to take him for their own ends and not kill him. But why? Maybe it's not that they want Littleflower, but by holding him hostage, they could use him to threaten me. If they only wanted Littleflower, then the likeliest candidates for such a conspiracy would be Luo Haitang and perhaps Blood Legion. But truthfully, I have many enemies. The list of people who might want to threaten me is far too long." Han Sen was in deep thought.

Whatever the case may be, he wight reminded that he had a son who needed much protection.

No one could kidnap Littleflower in the Alliance; otherwise, they wouldn't have asked Tang Rubei. The best way to ensure his safety was to keep Bao'er with him at all times. With Bao'er there, not even a demi-god could kidnap Littleflower.

But there would come a time when Han Sen would need to bring Bao'er to the sanctuary. For those times, he'd call on Zero to look after Littleflower in her stead.

Zero hadn't left the Third God's Sanctuary yet, though. If she did, she'd end up spawning in the Fourth God's Sanctuary alongside Han Sen next time she returned.

With Luo Lan gone for the time being, though, Han Sen had to ask for Zero to come back.

When Ji Yanran finally returned, she complimented and praised Bao'er, and made sure to buy her many gifts.

"I need another thief. That one earned me a lot of ice cream, and he even did my homework for me. And now I'm getting showered in praise and snacks," Bao'er thought to herself, as she scoffed down the food she was given.

Han Sen then brought Bao'er with him back to the sanctuary. He convinced Ling Mei'er to escort Bao'er to see the vine.

"Bao'er, let's see if you have a connection to this thing." Han Sen pointed at the vines they had come to.

Bao'er looked to be in shock when she saw it. She looked at the Holy Vine intensely, and she reached out to touch it.

"Don't touch it! It's dangerous," Ling Mei'er screeched, looking shocked.

But it was too late; Bao'er's hands had already touched the vine. But after she did, nothing extra transpired.

Han Sen felt safe, despite Ling Mei'er's continued expression of surprise. "How is this happening? Only those of us in the Underworld should be able to touch it. If others do, it can dry up and wither their bodies."

"Maybe she's special," Han Sen said.

Bao'er jumped back and returned to Han Sen, and then she turned to stare in the direction of Dark Spirit Shelter.

"Dad, I want to take a look over there. It looks quite familiar, and it may be related to who I am," Bao'er said with seriousness.

Chapter 1438: Corpse-Chewing Maggots

Han Sen wanted to see the Holy Vine and the Holy Fruit, which were in the Dark Spirit Shelter. Many super creatures occupied that place, though, so he knew he couldn't just go there.

"Wait a bit and we will go," Han Sen said. Just as he was about to return to their shelter, he heard an echo coming from a nearby tunnel. It sounded like a rat nibbling wood.

"What was that?" Han Sen frowned.

When Ling Mei'er heard the sound, her face changed. "No! Why are there Corpse-Chewing Maggots here?"

"What is a Corpse-Chewing Maggot?" Han Sen asked her.

"A scary creature that is native to the Underworld. They can eat anything they desire, and wherever they go, things won't grow in their wake. If they head towards us, that will be very unfortunate. It is highly likely the shelter we have just claimed would be lost." Ling Mei'er was speaking in a rush.

"What's their level?" Han Sen asked.

"They are sacred-blood creatures. But they grow quickly, and it's their gemstone geno cores that make them as strong and fearsome as they are. Creatures of the same level would have no chance of breaking their shells, unless they were unnaturally powerful. And if you can't penetrate their shells, you won't be able to kill them." Ling Mei'er's face turned bitter with disdain for them, and she went on to say, "But they've never come this way before. Why are they showing up here now?"

"Can Snake King do something about them?" Han Sen listened to the chewing sound, and as he spoke, he noticed its volume increasing. It was coming closer.

"He will take no part in this. The only thing Snake King will do is take me away to someplace safer. He won't help repel them." Ling Mei'er shook her head.

As they discussed this, one of the bugs appeared around a bend in the distance. It looked like a crab. On its back-shell, there was a white pattern that resembled a face. The claws it wielded were sharp, and so were the fangs that protruded from its rotten mouth.

The creature was built like a little tank, and its overall color was black like obsidian.

When Han Sen scanned its lifeforce, he was able to confirm it was indeed a sacred-blood creature. Han Sen's fitness was definitely at the necessary level to take it down, but his geno cores were still not up to par.

But the Crystal Egg and Bulwark Umbrella's power would at least make the fight a touch easier. Real Blood and the powerful coins were special, too, and Han Sen had a few tricks and techniques he wanted to try out in battle.

The maggot then started heading their way without hesitation or restraint; naturally, Han Sen rightfully assumed it was coming for them.

Without time to mull the situation over, he knew he had to spring into action. So, Han Sen took off flying to meet with it. Although Ling Mei'er was the heir of a super creature, her geno core was incredibly weak.

Han Sen took to the subterranean skies like a strange bird in flight. He swooped down just past the bug and delivered a mighty strike to its back.

He didn't use Super Spank. His fitness level, combined with the boosts of super king spirit mode, were no joke and should have been enough.

When Han Sen first became a demi-god, he had eight thousand fitness. Ordinary geno points boosted that figure up an additional two thousand. Primitive gave him a bonus of four thousand. Mutant points gave him an extra eight thousand. Sacred-blood geno points gave him an additional sixteen thousand.

Han Sen's fitness, in total, had reached thirty-eight thousand. He was getting close to forty thousand.

And with super king spirit mode, sacred-blood creatures had no chance of withstanding the devastating blows he could deliver.

But just as Han Sen punched it, the face upon the maggot's backside began to glow brightly. When his fist came into contact with the shell, it was like bringing a fist to steel. He dealt no damage, and only the loud sound of ringing metal could be heard.

Inside a cave, Spirit Thirteen and his father, Spirit Twelve, watched Han Sen fight.

Seeing Han Sen punch it, Spirit Twelve could not help but laugh. "His punch far exceeds that of a sacredblood creature. There is no way Ling Mei'er tamed such a being; the elder must have given it to her."

"He is so strong. What if he manages to kill the Corpse-Chewing Maggot?" Spirit Thirteen asked, with worry.

Spirit Twelve looked disdainful, and he said, "Even if he can kill sacred-blood creatures with ease, he has no hope of defeating a wretch like that. The maggots have a Ghost Armor geno core, which provides incredibly high defense. Unless he is an elite of the highest order, he won't be able to break the geno core."

Han Sen fought with the creature for a while as those two spoke between each other. Try as he might, though, he had found no success in penetrating the shell.

He could tell the shell was its geno core, however, and that the real bug was inside that hardy carapace.

"Do you think this measly armor can stop the likes of me?!" Han Sen used Yin Yang Blast, and with his Yin Force, he drove a fist right into the middle of the creature's belly.

Han Sen was left reeling in shock. Not even that punch worked, and there was a chance the creature itself was just as strong as the shell.

The claws of the bug ground across the rocks as it moved. It had found itself unable to deal with its primary aggressor, Han Sen, and it thought Ling Mei'er would make a far more viable target. It was going for her.

Ling Mei'er went to hide as the maggots scratched marks into the ground scrambling after her. It then went for Mask Shelter.

The shelter's gate was closed tight, and there were defensive wards in place. But this did not deter the maggot; it simply ran up to the gate and began banging on it like a siege engine.

After a big boom, the gates swung open and the warding broke. The creatures Ling Mei'er had collected were all still inside.

The maggot ran in and immediately grabbed a snake creature. Quickly, it began to devour it.

Han Sen frowned and started to gather power in a coin. He fired it at the bug, which made it move slower. The maggot looked as if it was hauling rocks with its new speed.

Han Sen wanted to kill the maggot, but all of a sudden, he saw many more of those same creatures appear. There had to be at least a dozen of them. One of them was even twice as large as the one Han Sen had been dealing with. It was clearly the king of the maggot enclave.

Spirit Thirteen was excited seeing this, and he said, "Father, you are too good! You own this group of maggots!"

Chapter 1439: Collecting Taxes

"These maggots are not mine. If they were, they'd have my scent. My scent would be picked-up by Snake King, and the elder would surely find out it was me behind this," Spirit Twelve said coldly.

"Then how did you make the bugs attack them?" Spirit Thirteen asked, with much shock.

"It wasn't difficult. I had an insect spray the gates of their shelter with a flowery-pheromone. The maggots love it more than anything, and it drew them to the shelter from far away," Spirit Twelve explained.

"Father, you are the smartest Dark Spirit," Spirit Thirteen complimented him.

While they spoke to each other, the maggots were almost all inside Mask Shelter.

"There are too many of them, and even the maggot king has come. We should just give this place up and run!" Ling Mei'er was shouting. She was not afraid of getting killed, as the black and white snake would not let her die.

But the snake was tasked with protecting Ling Mei'er and Ling Mei'er alone. It wouldn't concern itself with Han Sen, and that's why she was worried.

"You take the others and go. I'll stay and see what I can do." Han Sen pointed at each of the maggots, creating bucketing stormclouds of coins above each of them. They were all slowed to a crawl.

But it didn't last. The faces on the maggots would frequently glow, and when they did, all the coins would be shaken away.

"These things are annoying." Han Sen summoned another coin, then. This one looked different.

This coin was bigger and thicker. It was the geno core generated by his super king spirit. Han Sen wanted to see if it was effective against the bugs.

Han Sen took aim at the maggot king and fired it at the fiend.

The maggot king was a berserk sacred-blood creature, and its hide was far tougher than any of the others. Believing itself to be too strong, the creature did not even bother dodging. The coin planted itself tightly to the enemy's shell.

The glowing face started up again, but this time it was unable to shake the coin loose. The coin didn't do much to the maggot, though.

It looked like the suppressing powers of that coin were not as effective as the others Han Sen could make. The coin geno core's power was weaker than the average coin due to its power not being fueled by Han Sen's own might.

The maggot king didn't dwell on the coin it could not shake off, though. It just focused on leading its troops in a conquest of the shelter.

As the maggots continued their march, however, they felt something strange occur. They felt their power begin to get sapped and drain away.

The coin geno core, over time, was getting heavier and heavier on the back of the maggot king. Eventually, the maggot king's movement speed was reduced by a considerable amount.

"Does that really work?" Han Sen was feeling happy.

A bronze geno core could affect berserk sacred-blood creatures was something remarkable, and it was likely something only Han Sen could accomplish. Not even the heirs of super creatures were capable of doing something like this.

Han Sen decided to call this ability "Collecting Taxes," for when the coin showed up, the creatures around would all feel drained. The more creatures there were, the more effective it was.

But due to the coin only being a bronze geno core, its radius-of-effect was only half a mile wide. Still, for the maggots inside its range, it worked very well.

The coin drained a dozen of the bugs of all their power, and all that power gathered up on the maggot king's back, which slowed the creature down considerably. But due to the coin's absorption rate being as slow as it was, it wasn't enough to stop the maggot king entirely.

"If the coin becomes super, I can't imagine how wide its radius might be. It'd be great if it could encompass the entirety of the Fourth God's Sanctuary," Han Sen thought evilly. But he'd have to shelve such thoughts for a later time, as it wasn't anywhere near that powerful yet. It slowed down the advancing creatures, but it didn't stop them completely. Han Sen didn't expect the coin geno core would stop them, though. And slowing them down was enough for him right now.

Seeing the maggots in front of the shelter, Han Sen summoned a geno core and threw it towards the bug king.

Something gold landed on its head; it was the Gold Mask that Han Sen had just obtained.

Gold Mask was one tier weaker than the foe, but it did tell Han Sen it could control sacred-blood creatures.

It was floating towards the creature slowly, though, and Han Sen imagined the average creature could dodge it with ease. That was why Han Sen had to use the coin to slow down the maggot king. He wanted to see if the mask was effective enough to control sacred-blood creatures.

Again, the maggot king did not dodge. The mask fell upon its face and molded to its shape for a perfect fit.

The bug king squealed and shook its head violently, as if undergoing some mental battle.

The other maggots took notice of this and moved towards it to help, but the closer they went to the maggot king, the more their power was drained.

The bug king used its pincers to try to rip the mask off its face, but it kept moving up and down shakily. The mask was probably fighting for the control of its claws.

After a while, the coin geno core had amassed a ludicrous amount of power, and it was enough for the Gold Mask to ensure full control of the king.

Before long, the bug king ceased its resistance. It screamed, and then, the entire enclave of maggots came over to Han Sen. They stood in front of him like an army awaiting his command. Spirit Thirteen and Spirit Twelve could not believe their eyes.

Chapter 1440: The Grateful Shelter Master

Han Sen returned the coin geno core that was still atop the maggot king, and as soon as it was removed, the creatures all had their powers returned.

Perhaps that was one con of the geno core. It had to be stuck on a creature to collect power, but once it was removed from that creature, the power returned to any creatures it had been absorbed from, and the negative effects that plagued the conduit-creature were removed.

But for now, Han Sen did not need this power. The Gold Mask had already taken control of the maggot king, and by extension of their leader, the smaller maggots too. Now, they all bowed before Han Sen.

"Please, issue me a command," the Gold Mask said, while controlling the maggot king.

It was only a gold geno core, so the coin must have helped it out a great deal in allowing it to triumph and possess a berserk sacred-blood creature. It didn't just possess the bug king, though. It could absorb and feed off the trapped creature's power and make itself stronger.

Han Sen looked happily at the forty maggots in front of him. It appeared that he had just earned himself a legion of hardy meatshields.

Spirit Twelve, on the other hand, looked ill. It had been a difficult task for him to lure them there, and the last thing he expected was Han Sen being able to tame them and bring them to heel. He felt as if he had gifted forty powerful sacred-blood creatures to his enemy by mistake.

If he wasn't afraid of Snake King, Spirit Twelve would have gone over to kill Han Sen right then and there.

"Dad, what do we do? This guy is too strong. He even managed to tame the maggot king. And what is that gold mask he has?" Spirit Thirteen asked in shock.

"I cannot believe the elder favors her that much, and was willing to provide her with such powerful creatures." Spirit Twelve looked dim.

"Does that mean I won't be able to have her?" Spirit Thirteen looked sad.

Spirit Twelve looked green, and he answered, "She will join our family eventually. Her blood may not be pure, but she has all the worthy benefits you require. If you can have s*x with her, you'll be granted a powerful baby, I assure you."

Dark Spirit was comprised of intelligent people, but they still had an instinct for creating a pure lineage with good blood. They weren't too different from humans, in that way. They chased beautiful people, subconsciously wanting good genes.

"But the maggots were unable to beat him, and he tamed them instead! What else can we do? Can you do something?" Spirit Thirteen asked.

Spirit Twelve laughed and said, "We will think of something, but for now, let's go back."

Ling Mei'er watched Han Sen return to the shelter with the maggots in tow, and she believed herself to be dreaming. She could not believe a berserk sacred-blood maggot king had suddenly become a member of her shelter.

Han Sen asked Gold Mask, "Why did the maggots come to our shelter?"

Gold Mask, who had its proverbial fingers in the maggot king's mind, said, "They love the smell of Zheluo Flowers. They followed its powder here."

"Zheluo Flowers?" Han Sen frowned.

Gold Mask brought the maggot king over to the gate and gave it a sniff. "This is the scent."

Han Sen scanned it with Dongxuan Aura and picked up traces of a powdery substance on the ground.

Han Sen scanned the area around and picked up a trail that led through the gates and beyond the shelter.

"Someone is behind this. It must be Spirit Thirteen," Han Sen thought to himself.

"Dollar, I am the master of this shelter... Should I do something?" Ling Mei'er asked, with a shy and awkward look.

She was supposed to be the master of the shelter, but Han Sen had done everything on her behalf. She felt rather embarrassed every now and again.

"Can you give a good massage?" Han Sen smiled.

"What is that?" Ling Mei'er shook her head, having never heard the word "massage" before.

Han Sen put on a look of sincerity and explained to her, "Giving a massage is an ability every great shelter master should have. It can make subordinates very happy and ensure they fight the best they can, when the time comes. Do that, and there's a chance we'll end up procuring more shelters."

Before Han Sen had even finished talking, she said, "Can you teach me how?! I want to be a great shelter master."

"I can teach you some techniques, but it still depends on whether you have a natural talent or knack for it." Han Sen checked her out.

Her body was petite, but her boobs were big. At least D-cup.

"The elder said I'm good. Teach me what you know and I'll start practicing right away!" Ling Mei'er was ecstatic and rushed in her speech.

"Okay; I'll teach you a few massaging techniques. But this is my legacy. You cannot teach others this, not even your elder. Promise me you won't mention any of this to anyone else." Han Sen looked at her seriously.

Ling Mei'er was dismayed to hear she could not inform her elder of this, but more than anything, she wanted to be a great shelter master. "I swear I won't tell a single soul—not even the elder!"

"Very good, then. Now, I will teach you all about massages." Han Sen clicked his fingers and looked at her, up and down.

A few hours later, Han Sen was lying down on an airbed. Ling Mei'er was on her knees, tapping his body repeatedly.

Ling Mei'er looked rather confused, and she asked, "Does this massage really work?"

"Yeah, I feel my power increasing already. Go lower and it'll go even higher... Yeah... Harder here... Master, you are so good at this."