Chapter 2241

Leveling up to Duke

Ice Blue Knight King reached his hand out and pulled Han Sen's frozen form through the sky toward him.

Seeing that Han Sen was about to get sucked into Ice Blue Knight King's hands, the previously-frozen Bao'er suddenly moved. She pounded the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum repeatedly.

A shockwave shot out to batter Ice Blue Knight King's head. They were at extremely close range, and Ice Blue Knight King had relaxed his defenses. The Knight King's face didn't change, though. His body flashed blue and deflected the sonic forces that came against him.

When Han Sen saw the acoustic force of the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum fail to make a dent, he immediately flapped his wings to get the hell out of there. He cast Jadeskin first, then made use of Break Space Flash.

Other powers might have been able to trap Han Sen, but luckily, the Knight King had attempted to trap him with cold. A power like that didn't stand a chance of holding Han Sen against his will.

He had spent a long time practicing Jadeskin near that jade toad. Even deified cold powers couldn't harm Han Sen in the least. Ice Blue Knight King had a fierce cold power, but he wasn't in the same league as the jade toad. He was unable to trap Han Sen in that wintery grip.

Han Sen had planned to slip away from the Knight King after Bao'er dazed him, but he hadn't expected the sonic forces to fail when employed at such a close distance.

Ice Blue Knight King looked very surprised that a Marquise was able to block his Ice Blue powers, though. That was completely unexpected.

Han Sen kept teleporting, but Break Space Flash came from the dragon wing gene. He didn't have the ability himself, so there were limits to his use of the skill. He would show up somewhere and then teleport away again. Even so, he was incredibly fast. Ordinary Dukes couldn't keep up with Han Sen if they were moving at full speed, that much was certain. But against someone like Ice Blue Knight King, that speed wasn't enough to maintain a lead.

Ice Blue Knight King smiled. "You truly are Knife's student. You can escape my Ice Blue power. In that case, try to repel my Deep Blue Abyss."

After that, Ice Blue Knight King moved. The Ice Blue colors suddenly deepened to a navy blue. It was like a demon that could swallow the earth was now coming for Han Sen.

Han Sen kept teleporting around, but he still couldn't escape that rapidly approaching navy blue color. As he rose high into the air, the power condensed into a navy blue crystal around him.

Ice Blue Knight King moved slowly toward the frozen Han Sen. "For Knife's sake, I won't kill you. But you will have to hand the item over. If you give it back, then I will pretend nothing happened. And the reward you are owed will still be yours to claim."

Ice Blue Knight King moved close enough to touch the blue crystal. Just as he reached out his hand, however, his face warped.

A jade power was spreading inside that blue crystal, and the crystal itself was starting to crack.

Ice Blue Knight King was shocked. His blue powers weren't just cold powers; they also had sealing effects. But it looked like even those powers couldn't trap Han Sen.

Han Sen's body was running Jadeskin at full strength. His Jadeskin had been on the verge of becoming Duke, and under the pressure of the Deep Blue power, it finally achieved the breakthrough it needed.

Jadeskin power spread all across Han Sen's body. His flesh had been red because of the Blood-Pulse Sutra, but it suddenly changed to look like ocean ice. Han Sen's entire body seemed like it had been made from crystal.

It was so pure and elegant; he didn't look human at all.

The angelic power he received from Little Angel had imbued Han Sen with a pure energy. It changed along with Han Sen's breakthrough and was transferred into Jadeskin energy. It pushed Han Sen's body to become Duke.

Marquises could develop skills for the element they were associated with. When they became Dukes, those skills would change. Dukes combined more completely with their element, which allowed them to use it more fully.

That pure element touched the edge of the rule. It wasn't quite like the power of a King, which could be used to directly affect an enemy without the activation of a skill. It did, however, provide a nice power increase.

Han Sen didn't know what element Jadeskin belonged to. It might have possessed some icy powers, but it wasn't completely ice-bound.

Boom!

Defying the sealing powers placed on him, Han Sen moved. The blue crystal that had trapped him cracked. Han Sen flapped his wings and teleported again. This time, he did so much faster.

Ice Blue Knight King was stunned. He waved his hand and sent more of that Deep Blue power after Han Sen. The Knight King tried to drown Han Sen with it as he attempted to flee.

The next second, Han Sen was rushing out of the blue. He shrugged off the sealing powers without difficulty.

"Ice Blue Knight King's Deep Blue power was unable to seal him. It looks like his elemental associations are strong, and he has a high resistance to sealing powers." Edward's gaze was disturbingly intense.

When Han Sen was trapped by the Deep Blue power, Edward had planned to help Han Sen escape.

But Han Sen had managed to get out by himself before Edward could take action. Han Sen had broken Ice Blue Knight King's Deep Blue power using his own strength.

"Ice Blue Knight King has struck twice now, and still, he hasn't been able to stop Han Sen. No wonder Night River King failed to kill this maniac. You are right. He is a scary guy!" The Ice Blue Knight seemed unsettled.

The Knight King continued his attack, but Han Sen kept sliding out from under that Deep Blue Abyss. The Deep Blue powers couldn't stop him.

Han Sen felt as if his body had been crystallized. He couldn't release any energy, but the powers launched against him couldn't penetrate his body, either.

It felt very weird, and it reminded him of a time before he started practicing geno arts. He could only use his own physical strength, and he was unable to unleash energy.

But his body was stronger than ever; that much was certain. It gave him the illusion that he could break everything in front of him with his raw strength.

Ice Blue Knight King, watching Han Sen slide effortlessly out from under the Deep Blue Abyss, felt powerless and frustrated. He moved forward to catch up with Han Sen, gathering a frightening power as he went.

This wasn't just an icy sealing power. This one possessed great destructive strength. Ice Blue Knight King looked serious, and Han Sen could see in his eyes that he had given up on the prospect of simply sealing him.

Dong!

Ice Blue Knight King's power came slashing down on Han Sen, but a ghostly shield suddenly appeared to block his attack.

It was Han Sen's only undamaged Demon Bug King Bai Sema: the one he had taken from Han Yan.

Chapter 2242 Escape

With the Demon Bug King Bai Sema's protection, Han Sen quickly escaped to an unexplored area of Planet Ice Blue.

Ice Blue Knight King teleported after Han Sen with a fist brimming with power, and he thrust it forward against the Demon Bug King Bai Sema. The Bai Sema vibrated, but it showed no sign of cracking.

"The shield can block Ice Blue Knight King's attacks. It really is powerful, but it cannot last forever. We should get ready to show ourselves soon," Edward said. He snuck out of the base and went after Han Sen.

Edward had nothing to be afraid of. Ice Blue Knight King had disobeyed orders when he attacked Han Sen, and Edward technically had nothing to do with this. He would simply help the Knight King capture Han Sen and ensure his safety.

As Ice Blue Knight King pounded the Demon Bug King Bai Sema, Han Sen heard the shield groan as if it was going to shatter. It was like glass that had been strained to the breaking point. He frowned. "It looks like the Demon Bug King Bai Sema can block half-deified attacks, but not forever. It's a shame those other Demon Bug King Bai Semas are currently damaged. If I had those in play, the tri-colored Demon Bug King Bai Sema would definitely be able to block Ice Blue Knight King's attacks."

Han Sen kept flying, trying to think of a way that he could shake off his pursuer. He knew simple speed wouldn't aid him in the long run. He had to find a way to escape before the Bai Sema broke.

"If I can slip out of Ice Blue Knight King's vision and hide my presence, I can use Little Invisible to help me escape the rest of the way. But right now, doing that is too difficult," Han Sen thought to himself.

Han Sen flew above a nearby mountain. Wherever they went, the creatures fled. The skies were filled with xenogeneics racing away in fear, and that surprised Han Sen.

Ice Blue Knight King's superior speed had allowed him to catch up quickly. Han Sen had a few ideas on what he could do, but he couldn't find a good opportunity to make any of them work.

The Bai Sema took more and more damage, and it looked likely to break. Ice Blue Knight King punched with increasing ferocity, but suddenly, a roar rang out from the mountain beneath them.

Boom!

A white light shot out from deep in the mountains. Its target was Ice Blue Knight King.

Ice Blue Knight King turned to block the incoming light, and there was a blinding collision of blue and white lights in the sky. Its force ended up destroying everything around them. Part of the backlash washed over the mountain, and then, a giant beast that was around a hundred meters long emerged. It sent more of that white power towards Ice Blue Knight King.

"Even God is helping me!" Han Sen grinned and shot off into the mountains. The beast kept Ice Blue Knight King engaged, unintentionally stopping him from following Han Sen. The Knight King kept punching with more and more power, as if it was the only thing that could stop the annihilation of the world.

The entire mountain range shook as mountaintops and peaks fell from their lofts. The grounds were sundered while creatures fled.

Han Sen rushed into a mountain and threw Bao'er into Destiny's Tower. Then he dropped onto the ground and turned himself into a Stone Cow. He thundered towards a nearby crowd of xenogeneics.

Han Sen was blending into the stampede of xenogeneics when he suddenly saw a shadow circle the mountain. It was Inspector Edward.

Edward's eyes roved over the ground. It seemed as if he was on the prowl for Han Sen, too.

Han Sen didn't look at Edward, hoping that the man wouldn't see through his disguise. He followed the xenogeneics deeper into the mountains.

"Weird. Where did he go?" Edward frowned. He had seen Han Sen land in that area, but Edward's quarry had now vanished into thin air.

"Maybe he's turned himself invisible? Even if he did, he still wouldn't be able to escape my eyesight. The mountain isn't too damaged, and there are no secret escape tunnels. His only option would be to walk out. So, the things that are currently leaving..." Edward's green eyes looked all around. After a while, he raced towards the group of fleeing xenogeneics.

Edward looked very excited. His eyes brightened, and he spoke to himself, "A powerful guy! He can even shapeshift. If he was also half-deified, I don't think I would be able to defeat him!"

Without hesitation, Edward raced after the xenogeneics that were fleeing the area. He hovered right above them.

He looked down on the thousand xenogeneics, and the irises of his eyes turned to crystal as he examined them.

Edward took one look and made a mental note of each and every animal that was there. In just a second, he noticed the problem.

"That Stone Cow has disappeared."

But Edward didn't keep following the group of xenogeneics. Instead, he looked back the way he had come.

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When Han Sen escaped Edward's vision, he used Little Invisible to leave the group of xenogeneics. He didn't go too far, though. He circled around and went back to where Ice Blue Knight King and that goliath were fighting.

Without hesitation, Han Sen headed straight into the deep hole that the beast had emerged from.

Han Sen didn't believe that the monster's intervention was truly coincidental, but now, he was looking for a way to escape. There was a strong xenogeneic blocking Ice Blue Knight King, and he was going to take advantage of that.

It looked as if the fight between Han Sen and Ice Blue Knight King had disturbed the beast, but instead of coming after them both, the monster had decided to ignore Han Sen and go straight for Ice Blue Knight King. That seemed strange to Han Sen.

He ran into the abyss it had emerged from to have a look around, and he immediately noticed that the cavern wasn't the beast's home.

It looked very similar, but under the clarity gifted to him by the Dongxuan Aura, Han Sen could see the molecular traces of the beast. It had come to the cave recently, and it had only been there for a short time. It couldn't have been there any longer than two days.

The cave did house a powerful xenogeneic nest, but the molecular traces of the cave's original inhabitants were different. They didn't belong to the beast that had saved him.

"It looks like Edward was willing to help me escape from Ice Blue Knight King." Han Sen ran deeper into the nest without hesitation.

Han Sen was certain that all the creatures that should've been living there were now dead. The beast must have had some kind of relationship with Edward.

But if Edward had sent the creature, then Han Sen sneaking into the lair of the dangerous beast should be the last thing he would expect.

"Edward's mind is pretty scary. He will come here sooner or later. I need to get out of here quickly," Han Sen thought to himself as he observed the nest.

After entering the giant nest, Han Sen saw some large bones strewn about the cavern.

Most people would have assumed that those bones were the remains of the beast's prey, but Han Sen could tell their true origin from the molecular traces. The bones belonged to the xenogeneics that originally lived there.

"I don't know if this nest has another exit." Han Sen confirmed there were no other xenogeneics present, then decided to explore a little deeper into the nest.

Chapter 2243 Meeting Underground

Han Sen looked around the cave, but he couldn't find another exit. He wasn't in much of a rush, though. He released Little Star from Destiny's Tower.

"Little Star, let's see how you do here." Han Sen leaped atop Little Star.

"Ookini Ookini!" Little Star bellowed. Starlight began to glow softly from its form as its body—and Han Sen's—started to become transparent. Then, it raced into the stone.

Little Star had only been gone for ten minutes when Edward appeared in the mouth of the cave. After he entered, he had a look around.

"Not here?" Edward frowned. He was confident in the logical process that had led him there. It took him by surprise when Han Sen was nowhere to be found.

"This guy is a lot of trouble to deal with. Every creature leaves traces of their presence, even if it is only a couple of molecules. He hasn't left behind anything, however. How has he managed to do something like that?" Edward frowned as he continued poking around.

Although he hadn't found Han Sen, Edward felt certain that his quarry had indeed entered this cave.

"My lead comes to a dead-end here. It looks as if I will have to find him by another means," Edward observed to himself, looking around the nest. He looked at one of the walls and then took his leave.

With Little Star's help, Han Sen had traveled directly through the stone. Together, they must have gone at least a few hundred miles before reaching another underground cave.

Han Sen let Little Star rest for a bit while he went to look around the cave.

"I don't think Edward will be able to find me anytime soon, but regardless, I cannot emerge just yet. I need to find out what is so special about that stone plate." Han Sen looked around. That cavern they had found was a segment of a complicated subterranean complex.

That area was devoid of xenogeneics, so Han Sen settled in to rest for a while. As he leaned back against a comfortable outcropping of stone, he thought about how he might proceed.

"The stone plate seems to be something of tremendous value, and very few people know what powers it holds. Some of the upper-echelon of the Extreme King might know, but at the very least, King Bai doesn't seem to be aware of it. If he was, Ice Blue Knight King wouldn't have risked disobeying his orders. Sending me back to the Extreme King means giving the stone plate to King Bai." Han Sen was deep in thought when he suddenly heard a sound coming from deeper within the stone cave. It sounded as if something was crawling around.

Han Sen peered into the cave with his Dongxuan Aura activated. He detected a lifeforce was getting closer to his position.

The lifeforce didn't seem to be very strong, though, and that helped settle Han Sen's nerves.

The noise was getting closer, and a few minutes later, Han Sen saw a weird xenogeneic appear in the cave.

A body covered in sleek black fur appeared. It looked startlingly smooth, and its fur glistened. It was about the size of a cat, and its eyes were huge, like shiny pieces of black jewelry. It looked like a big-eyed thief.

Han Sen looked at the xenogeneic, and the xenogeneic looked back at him. They both stared at each other for a while.

Then, the xenogeneic just ignored him. It turned to saunter down another stone path. Its butt wiggled as it walked, waving its tail in a slow rhythm.

Han Sen raised an eyebrow, as the creature's tail seemed to be holding an item that looked like a bracelet.

It was odd to see the piece of platinum attached to the creature's tail, rather than being held in the creature's claws. It looked like the item had been deliberately placed there, though.

Han Sen used his Purple-Eye Butterfly to take a closer look, and he noticed there were a few words inscribed across the item.

"Sacred General Ghost Bone." Han Sen's eyes widened, and he made the decision to follow that little critter.

"Is that thing related to General Ghost Bone, by any chance? It doesn't seem nearly strong enough. At the very most, that thing is no greater than a Viscount. If General Ghost Bone wanted a pet, I doubt he would select something that was so weak." Han Sen wasn't in a rush to take down the little beast, and so he just trailed after it.

The little beast showed no sign that it was afraid of him. Without pausing, it meandered its way down a series of caves. It wasn't in a hurry, and its pace was quite lackadaisical.

Han Sen followed it patiently down the tunnels. And the whole time, he had many thoughts going through his mind. "That ancient city was called Ghost Bone Town, but the Ghost Bone statue there was just like a guard for the gate. Inside the hall of the palace, there was a statue of that Human King. The top of the Human King Statue is what pedestaled the stone plate. What does that mean, I wonder?"

After the beast had been traveling for about an hour, it reached a hidden river. It crouched down on its stomach so it could drink some water.

"This guy has walked so far. Surely he didn't come all this way for a drink of water," Han Sen thought in agitation.

Eventually, the beast seemed to have drunk its fill. Without any warning, it leaped into the dark river. It lay on its back in the water like an otter, floating down with the stream.

Han Sen put Little Star away and followed after it.

But soon, the underground river sank into the ground. The creature sank into it, as well. Han Sen gritted his teeth and jumped into the water. He used his Purple-Eye Butterfly as he followed after the creature.

The underground water was fast-flowing, and it was fortunate that Han Sen didn't encounter any water element xenogeneics. Han Sen followed it for a few hundred miles, but there seemed to be no end in sight.

After an interminable time in the water, the floating beast suddenly swam towards a wall.

Han Sen looked towards it, and there, he saw a small tunnel leading through the stone wall. The hole was around the size of a melon, and the creature wriggled its way in without much trouble.

Han Sen was too big, so he couldn't follow it in. He summoned Little Star to carry him inside.

Han Sen soon discovered that the hole hadn't formed naturally. It was actually a metal pipe.

"Why is there a man-made metal pipe here?" Han Sen was surprised.

The little beast drifted down the metal pipe, and Han Sen pursued it atop Little Star. They traveled a couple of miles before the tunnel brightened and Little Star emerged from the wall.

As he looked around, Han Sen found himself gaping in surprise. That place was an underground palace. The metal pipe he had followed brought him out via the mouth of a giant fish statue. Water flowed continuously out of the tube, creating a small waterfall down into a pool.

The pool was made of jade-like stone. The water was very clear, and Han Sen could see all the way to the bottom.

But when Han Sen looked closer, he froze. Inside the pool, there was a black-and-white eye staring back at him.

Han Sen gazed into that stony stare, and his breath caught in his chest.

2244 Woman in the Palace

Peering into the pool that looked to have been made of white jade, you could see a woman in knitted clothing. The white yarn of her threads in the water looked transparent, and you could almost see every aspect of her body.

Han Sen had seen many beautiful women in his time, but very few ever attracted him. This woman, however, was so attractive. It was the first time he had felt this way.

Any man who laid eyes on that woman would love nothing more than to breed with her.

The little creature he had been following swam up to the woman. Then, the woman held it up and stroked it. It looked as if it was enjoying it, but that just made onlookers want to kick the animal away so they themselves could be caressed by her boobs.

"Come." The woman's clear eyes spoke. She had not said a word, but a signal and invitation was most certainly issued.

Han Sen's heart jumped. He froze in the sky and looked at her nervously.

"I did not mean to accidentally access this place. Please forgive my intrusion. I will be leaving now." Han Sen said that, and proceeded to make an effort to leave with Little Star.

"But since you are here, why be in such a rush to go?" The woman finally spoke. Her voice was very seductively toned, and hearing her speak made Han Sen's entire body shiver.

Han Sen did not dare stay, though. He went atop Little Star and readied himself to run. Little Star activated Starsea Travel to go through the walls, but then, Han Sen heard a pang as they started to run. Little Star hit a wall and so did Han Sen. It resulted in Han Sen's nose bleeding.

Little Star was not feeling too good after that, either. It used its claws to clutch its nose, as tears began to roll from its eyes.

The woman laughed and said, "Where do you think this place is? Do you think this is somewhere you can freely come and go?"

"I have not offended you, so why not go a little easy on me?" Han Sen stared at her and frowned.

The woman coldly laughed, "When did I not go easy on you? Leave if you want, for I will not stop you."

"If you are not going to stop me, then turn off the boundaries of these walls." Han Sen frowned.

The woman laughed so hard; her body started to shake. Her boobs in the water made people's hearts jump and stare at intensely.

"Did I say something funny?" Han Sen coldly said.

"If I could break the boundaries, why would I still be here?" After that, the woman walked out of the pool.

Han Sen was shocked. He could see that the woman's neck, wrists, and ankles were shackled with metal chains. At the end of the chain was a lock that was as small as a hair. The lock went all the way to the bottom of the pool. There were a few holes, and each chain went through each. Where they went, none could guess.

The woman walked away from the pool and went to lie on a jade bed. She held her neck and looked at Han Sen seductively. "When you came in, I tried my best to break the locks. You would not have been able to get in, had I not."

"In that case, please help us again by letting us out." Han Sen looked depressed.

Han Sen thought the woman had released that creature on purpose, in a deliberate attempt to lure them to her.

But looking at her face, it did not seem as if she was in cahoots with Edward. But that just made her identity even more of a mystery.

"No. I have not seen anyone else in a long time. It is rare to have a visitor here, so I cannot let you go so soon." The woman smiled as she looked at him. "I used all my power to only just about open the boundaries. Now I don't have strength to do the same again, even if I did want to help you. So, just stay here with me."

Han Sen could see that the woman had a hairy white tail. It made him think and then ask, "You are a shapeshifting fox?"

The woman smiled. "You can call me Fox Queen."

"What?" Han Sen did not understand what the woman said.

"Fox Fox. Queen Queen." Fox Queen stroked the creature in her arms as she spoke.

"Which king's queen are you?" Han Sen's face changed. Judging from the races that wished to live alone, Extreme King had to be the most famous one.

Fox Queen smiled. "I am the queen that belongs to Ghost Bone King."

"One of ten generals of Sacred? General Ghost Bone?" Han Sen thought, and he knew exactly who she was talking about.

Everyone called General Ghost Bone and the others the top ten generals. This one's name was General Ghost Bone. Han Sen hadn't guessed his name was actually Ghost Bone King. Han Sen gleaned this from what she had said.

"Nice. You are familiar with my husband?" Fox Queen smiled and look at Han Sen as she asked.

"No. I only know his name. If you are his wife, then why are you locked here? Did General Ghost Bone not make an effort to save you?" Han Sen looked at the palace as he asked.

He did not know if General Ghost Bone was still alive or not, but if his wife was still alive, there was every chance that General Ghost Bone was not dead as presumed.

"He locked me up here. Why would he come and save me?" Fox Queen laughed. It was as if she was saying it was not any of his business.

"Are you not his wife? Why did he lock you up here?" Han Sen looked at Fox Queen with much surprise, and he couldn't understand why this might have happened.

"It was because he feared me." Fox Queen's squinted with her eyes.

"He was scared of you?" Han Sen checked her out. It was difficult to imagine this woman might have been stronger than Ghost Bone General.

"Yes. He was scared of me, and that is why he locked me up here. He wouldn't let anyone come and pay me a visit, either." Fox Queen smiled, and she then went on to say, "You know I am a shapeshifting fox, yes? And you know I can turn into any creature I desire to? I can turn into any pretty woman of any race. So, it is possible for me to seduce any man that lays their eyes on me. If you were my husband, would you be afraid?"

"Yes, I would be." Han Sen gave a wry smile.

"Haha, at least you are honest." Fox Queen looked at Han Sen. "Are you one of the crystallizers or one of the Extreme King?"

"I am one of the crystallizers. Do you earnestly think I look like the Extreme King?" Han Sen looked surprised.

"My race is very good at gene shaping. I can tell your body has some Extreme King genes in it. Perhaps I am mistaken, but the Extreme King shouldn't be breeding with ones of a lower race such as the crystallizers," Fox Queen said after a think.

What Fox Queen said made Han Sen flinch. "Humans are a hybrid of the crystallizers and another race? Are the Extreme King included in that equation? It seems like it is a possibility. The structure of an Extreme King does look an awful lot like a human."

"Since you cannot leave, would you like to see something fun?" Fox Queen suddenly winked at Han Sen

2245 Fun Place

"What fun thing are you referring to?" Han Sen asked the Fox Queen worriedly.

"It's so cold here, with nothing but stone walls and icy water. How many forms of entertainment do you think are available here? Of course, you must know what I'm referring to..." Fox Queen's eyes smoldered as her voice drifted off. She salaciously licked her red lips, then moved one hand into her white gown. The other hand started to drift across her boobs.

Han Sen's eyes couldn't help but follow her hands. He mumbled in his heart, "Being horny is bad. It doesn't mean anything. At the end of the day, we're just skeletons."

Although Fox Queen sounded very seductive, Han Sen doubted that her intentions were as simple as she pretended. She had to be a King class elite, at the very least. God only knew what she was up to.

Han Sen didn't believe she would lure him all the way there just for a little cuddle time.

She was a King class elite, so she could be planning anything. She was the wife of General Ghost Bone, and Han Sen didn't even know if the man was dead or alive. If he was still alive, and he caught his wife cheating with Han Sen, things would turn out very poorly for Han Sen.

Fox Queen winked at Han Sen. She brought her hand away from her boobs, revealing the black bone key she had been retrieving. She displayed it in her hand.

The key had hung like a pendant from a necklace made of white jade.

"This will be very fun. Follow me." Fox Queen winked at Han Sen again. She kept the necklace in her hands as she walked towards the palace.

"What a tease. She sure likes to torture people." Han Sen watched her walk away, and he couldn't help but sigh. Still, he followed her.

That palace was elegant. Han Sen had originally thought that it was made of jade, but when he examined the place more closely, he could see that the palace's doors and pillars were all built from bone.

The bones were semi-transparent like jade, and they glinted beautifully when the light caught them. He didn't know what creature left bones like that, though.

The bone palace had a primary hall, winged by two lesser halls on either side. The place wasn't large, and it was mostly decorated with bone adornments. Even the pool was made out of bone, not jade-like stone, as Han Sen had assumed.

The chains that bound Fox Queen were very thin. When she walked, the chains rose from the bottom of the pool. Evidently, they didn't restrain her movement.

Fox Queen was walking smoothly to the lesser left hall. Han Sen followed after her, and he saw there were many special treasures there.

There was an array of weaponry, sets of armor, jewels of all kinds, herbs, and all sorts of different treasures. Han Sen's breath caught in his chest as he looked at the place, and he desperately wished all of those goodies belonged to him and only him.

Seeing Han Sen eyeing those treasures with such greed, Fox Queen smiled. She looked directly at him and said, "If you will agree to be my lover, all of this can belong to you. You can take whatever you please. How does that sound?"

Han Sen stopped looking at the treasures and turned his gaze to her. "Did you bring me here just for that?"

Fox Queen gave him a look of disdain. "Of course not. What is the meaning of possessing all that useless stuff?"

After that, Fox Queen walked in front of a wall that housed an enormous mural. Countless demonic faces had been drawn across it.

Han Sen didn't recognize what kind of demons they were, but it looked like the gates of hell had been swung wide open. Many ghostly forces were trying to crawl out of a dark pit to unleash havoc on an unsuspecting world.

The faces held chilling expressions of greed and blood-lust. As Han Sen looked at the artwork, it seemed like the demons were about to leap to life and start devouring people.

Fox Queen stood on the left side of the mural, in front of the gate to hell. The closed gate was shaped like an enormous skeleton, and it was wreathed in wicked hellfire.

Fox Queen placed the black bone key into the skeleton's right eye. She twisted the key, and a loud clacking noise came from the mural.

The hellish, skeletal gate opened. The painted gate had become a real gate, which now opened into darkness on the other side of the wall. It was pitch black, like a black hole. A faint wailing noise came from that lightless pit, and hearing it gave Han Sen a chill.

"The fun thing is in there. Do you dare enter?" Fox Queen still stood next to the open door, smiling at Han Sen.

"No." Han Sen shook his head.

Fox Queen didn't seem to mind the refusal. "It's okay. I will ensure your protection. Follow me and I will lead you on a trip to hell."

After that, Fox Queen stepped towards the hellish skeleton gate.

Han Sen was thinking to himself, "You can go, but I sure as hell am not setting foot in there. God only knows what sort of trap is awaiting me."

Han Sen was quite resolute in his decision, but he swiftly realized that his body wasn't obeying him. He was headed into the hellish skeleton, too. He had no control of his limbs, like he was a puppet on strings.

Han Sen looked at Fox Queen in fear. Half of her body was through the gate by this point, but she looked back and gave Han Sen another one of her smiles. She lifted a hand, and it was as if an invisible cord jerked Han Sen towards her.

Han Sen cast his Dongxuan Aura and used the Purple-Eye Butterfly. He could see that Fox Queen was tugging on a chain made of some invisible substance. The chain was looped around Han Sen, allowing her to pull him along easily.

Han Sen frowned. He didn't know when he had fallen into this trap of hers. He tried casting various powers to see if he could escape from the chains, but it was all to no avail. Nothing he tried worked.

"She managed to tie me up, and I didn't even notice. This Fox Queen is stronger than I presumed. Maybe she's actually deified?" Han Sen used a few more powers, but they didn't work, either. That gave him a big shock.

He couldn't free himself from the restraints, so he decided to stop fighting them. He allowed Fox Queen to lead him towards the hellish gate.

"I cannot escape if she wishes to kill me with her talents. I would rather walk in there calmly than be dragged in like some dog," Han Sen thought. And truth be told, he was rather curious about the skeletal gate. Of course, if he had the choice, he wouldn't be walking inside just to satisfy his curiosity.

Fox Queen smiled. She walked through the gate with Han Sen following.

When Han Sen stepped inside, he felt a sudden force of suction drag his body forward. A bright light shone around him, and he was transported somewhere else in the space of a second.

Chapter 2246 White Bone Hell

When Han Sen's vision returned to him, a very disturbing sight greeted his eyes.

White bones were everywhere. In one place, they had been piled up to form a small mountain. It was difficult to fathom how many lives had been lost there.

The earth there was full of the essence of death. The skies were blood red, and the rains that fell from the sky were crimson.

A river coursed its way through the mountain, and its water was red. He had stepped into a new world, and the whole place was bloody.

Han Sen stood atop the mountain of bones, and he could see that the entire thing was composed of skulls. The hellish skeletal gate stood at the mountain's peak.

Fox Queen stood next to Han Sen, chains still running from her neck and limbs. The chains had followed her through the gate.

"What is this place?" Han Sen asked as he looked around.

If this was all real, it was difficult to imagine just how many creatures must have been killed to form the land they now stood upon.

Fox Queen answered coldly, "Ghost Bone King was the captain of Sacred's Sacred Blood army. He led the Sacred Blood army to kill everything in his path, and in the process, he claimed many territories in the name of Sacred. Many beings died by their hands. These bones are the collected remains of all the creatures and people slain by Ghost Bone King."

"Why amass all of the bones in here?" Han Sen asked.

It would have made sense if Ghost Bone King had used the xenogeneic bones to gain strength, but throwing all the bones in a pile and leaving them there was a waste.

Fox Queen stroked her hair and smiled. "Ghost Bone King was of the Bone. This is the White Bone Hell, the origin place of the Bone. He buried all of his enemies here in order to create more Bone. Things didn't go as he planned, as no more of the Bone were born here, but..."

Fox Queen's voice trailed off.

"But what?" Han Sen asked.

Fox Queen looked at Han Sen and asked, "Have you heard of a general becoming famous by destroying his compatriots?"

Han Sen nodded. He had heard of this when he was in the Alliance, and also during his time in the geno universe.

Fox Queen gave the white bone mountain a mocking look. "The Bone are like that. A long time ago, the Bone were numerous. But the evolution of the Bone is a very bloody thing. Ghost Bone killed the rest of his race, and in so doing, he became the greatest Bone King. While his strength allowed his race to achieve new heights of power, it also destroyed them. He was the only Bone left, when all was said and done. He eventually became very lonely, and he sought to create more of the Bone. But his efforts were in vain, and he failed. His actions benefitted his enemies, more than anything."

Han Sen still didn't really understand.

Fox Queen then went on to say, "Ghost Bone bound me here, so I don't know what became of the outside world. After billions of years, he has yet to return. The bones here were unable to produce more of the Bone. Instead, they have just helped the growth of other beings."

As she spoke, Fox Queen pointed to a place far in the distance. Han Sen turned his gaze to a range of mountains that were positioned like lotus flowers.

"Between those white bone mountains, there is a blood pool. The pool is home to a creature that feeds on the blood bone air. That xenogeneic is quite small, and it is just the heir of some long-forgotten Viscount. It was one of the nameless xenogeneics that General Ghost Bone killed and brought here to rot. This one, however, was pregnant. Unbelievably, the child survived. Nothing should live in White Bone Hell, but the heir of that xenogeneic has managed to. In fact, it had thrived here. It has feasted on the bones here and grown strong." As she spoke of the creature, Fox Queen looked visibly afraid.

She sighed. "This should have nothing to do with me, but that xenogeneic is right on my doorstep. It keeps growing and growing, and above all, it loves death. If it continues to grow, it will one day become deified. And it is sure to find a way to leave White Bone Hell eventually. When it does, you and I will be the first things it kills."

"You tricked me into this place, just so I can kill it for you?" Han Sen now understood what she wanted.

Fox Queen gave Han Sen a bright smile. "If you don't like killing things, then you are welcome to remain here with me. We can wait until it becomes deified, and then it can kill us together!"

Han Sen stared at her for a while before saying, "If I'm not mistaken, aren't you deified? Why don't you go and kill it? With your level of power, such a task should be easy."

Fox Queen rolled her eyes and raised her hands to rattle the chains that bound her wrists. " Ghost Bone trapped me here to watch over White Bone Hell for him. But he was always worried I would ruin his work, so he placed a restriction on my powers that activates when I enter White Bone Hell. I can't even break one of these bones in here, in my current state."

After saying this, Fox Queen picked up a skull from the ground. She flexed her arms to crush the skull, and the chains binding her released a thick black fog. Streams of fog latched onto her like black hands and lifted her up into the air.

Fox Queen's neck looked ready to break. Her body sagged in submission, and after a while, the black fog disappeared. She fell to the ground and coughed.

"As you can see, I am unable to do anything," Fox Queen groaned, gingerly regaining her feet. "You and I are trapped here. If that xenogeneic becomes deified and manages to leave White Bone Hell, we will be unable to escape. By killing it, you won't just be saving me; you'll be saving yourself, too."

Han Sen was quiet for a moment. "What is the xenogeneic's current strength?"

Fox Queen looked quite grim, and she told him, "I have searched for help all these years, but not many creatures were ever able to come here. When it was just a baby, any Baron would have been able to kill it. But now? Now it has reached King class."

"A King class xenogeneic... Do you think that I, having just become a Duke, can kill a monster like that?" Han Sen asked.

"You have to! Unless you really want to die alongside me." Fox Queen laughed and poked his shoulder. "But don't worry; it wasn't easy for me to find a cute guy like you. I have no intention of getting you killed. And furthermore, I have a way to help you."

Chapter 2247 The Xenogeneic Born in the Bone Blood

Han Sen looked at Fox Queen without speaking. Truth be told, he didn't actually believe everything that she had told him.

People say that beautiful women are often liars. Judging from how pretty she was, she had to be an absolutely fantastic liar.

Fox Queen seemed to be aware of Han Sen's thoughts, and she shot him a quick grin. "If you don't believe me, then why don't you wait here for a little while? When you see the xenogeneic, you'll know the truth."

Han Sen didn't speak, and she didn't either. They sat atop the peak together in silence. She had tucked her knees into her chest and wrapped her arms around them, leaving her bare feet visible beyond the edges of her clothes. A drizzle of rain fell upon her hair. Her clear eyes were dazzlingly attractive. If people didn't know her, they would believe she was a delicate and sentimental lady.

"These shapeshifting foxes are really something. They can look both really s*xy and really innocent." Han Sen was amazed by the utility of her powers. With the way she could change, it was impossible to even guess her age. There was no day or night cycle in White Bone Hell. The blood-filled sky continued to wash the land with a light rain, but after a while, it became a heavy downpour.

Fox Queen sat atop the peak, allowing the rain to fall across her. But no drop of rain could actually touch her. Her body glowed with an aura of holiness. She was like a goddess amidst the bloody bones. It was a strangely beautiful sight.

Han Sen's body cast a skill that allowed the rain no closer than an inch from his skin. He sat next to Fox Queen, gazing out at the landscape that was dyed red. As strange as it all was, Han Sen found himself rather impressed by the sight.

The blood seeped and ran between the bones. It was like a bone mountain inside purgatory. The scene was frightening, but also oddly clean.

"I still don't know your name," Fox Queen said quietly, raising her head to glance at Han Sen.

"San Mu," Han Sen said without hesitation. He really didn't want to become well-acquainted with a strange character like Fox Queen. She obviously had a long and complicated history, and it seemed as if further association would only lead to trouble.

If she really did make it out of that place, Han Sen hoped she wouldn't want to follow him.

"San Mu, what a terrible name!" Fox Queen barked a laugh. "That name means 'three wood,' but one wood is boring enough, surely. You have three! My, my. It is no wonder you are such a boring individual."

Han Sen laughed, but he didn't speak. In his experience, no shapeshifting fox was innocent. Many rich men married women like her, only to end up losing something precious.

Just like the Destroyed. If not for a shapeshifting fox, they wouldn't have lost the Destroyed Bible, their most valued treasure.

And the two women who pulled off that crime were just minor foxes. This was like a grandmaster fox. If Han Sen made her angry, he would end up losing more than just his undies.

Based on the way he behaved, Fox Queen believed Han Sen was a fairly boring guy. She closed her eyes and raised her face, letting the red rain fall across her.

The scene was lovely and artfully arranged, which Han Sen admired. Fox Queen could keep changing her style effortlessly. Any man could find something attractive in a person like her. Her scariness reminded him of Gu Qingcheng.

As Han Sen was losing himself in thought, Fox Queen suddenly pointed towards the mountain range that resembled a lotus and said, "It's coming!"

Han Sen looked in the direction she was pointing, but there was too much rain. A river of blood appeared across the lotus mountain, gushing out like a waterfall.

Han Sen didn't see anything. And as he hesitated to believe her, he heard a cry. Something was coming down the blood waterfall, moving smoothly like it was walking over the blood rather than swimming through it. The creature was out of the mountains now, and it was following the river down.

It was too far away, and the blood rain blocked much of Han Sen's vision. He could see a body, but it was blurry. He decided to summon his Purple-Eye Butterfly to get a better view of the thing.

It was a red kirin. Its scales were like crystals dipped in blood, and a pair of coral-like kirin horns rose from its head.

The creature wasn't quite as large as an adult bull, but it gave off a sense of unleashed violence as it walked. It looked like it was striding across blood clouds.

The beast looked excited.

Although it didn't release any power, Han Sen could sense clearly how strong it was. It was different from other creatures, and aside from its lifeforce, it gave off an aura of death.

"What is it?" Han Sen asked with curiosity.

Fox Queen shook her head. "Ghost Bone led the Sacred Blood army, and they killed billions of creatures. This was just the son of some average Viscount. Who knows what it was?"

"If it was just a member of a smaller race, and its parent was a Viscount, then how could it have become a King? And if it was left here to grow, how could it one day become a deified thing?" Han Sen didn't believe her tale.

Fox Queen didn't bother explaining it. "You'll figure that out later."

Fox Queen didn't say anything more, so Han Sen turned back to watch the creature.

The blood kirin was still surfing along the river. The creature seemed scared. It didn't seem to want to get close to the hellish gate or interfere with Han Sen.

After a while, the rain stopped. The blood clouds faded to reveal a sky that looked as if it had been rinsed clean.

Han Sen had never seen a sky like this before. There was no moon and no stars, only darkness as far as the eye could see.

Suddenly, the blood kirin raced up to stand atop the white bone peak. It shrieked with a voice that boomed and echoed like thunder. It did that for some time.

Han Sen noticed something weird; the blood kirin was glowing red. Its red body seemed to split the space that it walked through. It looked very murderous. A creature with a weak will would piss their pants, if they were to see it.

When the blood kirin released its blood power, its form turned into a bloody swirl.

White Bone Hell's bones and rivers started to rumble. The bone air rose, and the blood river released a blood light. It was headed for the blood swirl.

Everything moved because of that blood kirin. He was intimately connected with this world, like some god demanding sacrifices.

When the bone mountain and blood river power entered its body, the blood kirin's body looked clearer. It was like a blood crystal statue, and it looked murderous.

Chapter 2248 Benefit

Han Sen looked at the blood kirin, and his eyes shone as if he was looking at a giant, delicious piece of cake.

Now he finally understood how the child of a mere Viscount had reached King class after being born amidst the bones.

The creature had learned to absorb the power that resided within flesh and bones. God only knew how many dead bodies had been thrown into this hellish place over the years; the creature was surrounded by mountains of food. The bones could fuel the creature's growth, especially since some of the bones possessed massive amounts of power. In such a unique environment, the creature had more potential as a newborn than most elites from the higher races.

There were so many resources there, and the creature didn't have to compete with anyone to obtain them. Becoming deified was only a matter of time.

Han Sen wasn't focused on the creature's body, though. The blood kirin was a rare being whose essence was defined by blood. It was the same sort of power that underlaid Han Sen's Blood-Pulse Sutra.

If he absorbed the blood kirin's xenogeneic gene or ate its flesh, the ascension of his Blood-Pulse Sutra would accelerate dramatically.

He quickly realized that consuming the blood kirin would benefit him little in the grand scheme of things. If he was able to subjugate the blood kirin, however, he could study its bone and blood powers and practice his Blood-Pulse Sutra in a similar manner. Absorbing the collected strength of the White Bone Hell himself would be far more beneficial than simply slaying and consuming a King class xenogeneic.

But King class xenogeneics were very difficult to tame, and the blood kirin was obviously quite special. Growing up in the White Bone Hell had made it savage and ruthless. It was far stronger than the average King class elite. Han Sen might not even be capable of beating it. Taming it was another matter entirely. Plus, it looked like a murderous fiend. Its eyes were cruel and brutal, and Han Sen wondered if any power could make it obey. Even if it knew it was about to be beaten, it would rather die in battle than submit to the rule of another.

Han Sen watched the blood kirin quietly, his brows furrowed in thought. He waited as it finished absorbing flesh and blood, then returned to the lotus peak where the blood river originated.

"Now you know that I'm not lying. The beast's cruelty and murderous nature frighten me, even though it isn't as strong as me yet. But if it ever becomes deified, it will leave White Bone Hell and slay everyone it encounters. That includes you and me," Fox Queen said.

Han Sen no longer doubted Fox Queen's claims. The blood kirin looked far crueler than an ordinary xenogeneic. Even if it was intelligent, it still wanted to kill; that was just what the beast was.

"I'm just a Duke. How am I supposed to beat it? And how are you supposed to help me?" Han Sen asked, turning back to Fox Queen.

Although Han Sen had a couple of ideas about how he might take the creature down, he still hoped to gain something from Fox Queen for his trouble.

If Fox Queen had asked Han Sen to kill the blood kirin for her, she must have prepared some pretty impressive bribes. Otherwise, there was no way a rationally-minded Duke would ever contemplate going up against a King class xenogeneic.

Han Sen never ignored the prospect of free goodies.

Instead of answering, Fox Queen sauntered back over to the hellish skeletal gate. "Let's go back to the caves for now. You are just a Duke, so you are not yet prepared to kill it. I have waited many years for an opportunity like this to arise. I don't know if someone like you will ever pass by me again, so don't worry. I'm not fond of the possibility of you dying. You might be my last chance."

Han Sen followed Fox Queen back to the palace. She walked to the mound of treasure, collected a few items, and then tossed them to Han Sen.

Han Sen caught the pieces of clothing and examined them. She had tossed him a white silk robe, black leather boots, and transparent gloves.

"Wear these. They are King class items. Although you won't be able to access their full strength, they are bound to be of some use," Fox Queen said lackadaisically.

Han Sen wasn't too concerned with modesty or politeness, so he just donned the robe as quickly as he could. He pulled the gloves onto his hands and laced up the boots on his feet.

When he put on the robe, he felt a channel of power supporting his entire body. He wasn't exerting himself, but even so, he felt as if he could take-off in flight.

The leather boots made him feel as light as a feather. Wind seemed to gather beneath his feet, and it felt as if a single step could send him ninety-thousand miles.

The transparent gloves were invisible once they were on his hands. It was like they had merged into his very skin, and his hands thrummed with a strange power. Han Sen couldn't figure out what the power was or what it did, though.

Han Sen had just received three King class items, so he was quite pleased with that. But he kept his face stern and cold. He looked right at Fox Queen and said, "Fox Queen, you think a few King class items can level the playing field between a Duke and a King class xenogeneic like that monster?"

Fox Queen smiled. She squeezed Han Sen's cheek and said, "Don't worry, my darling. I will not allow you to die."

"Follow me." Fox Queen walked out of the lesser palace and headed into the bigger palace.

Fox Queen didn't stop there, though. She kept walking as they passed the second palace.

Han Sen followed without hesitation. It didn't matter whether or not he could kill the blood kirin right now. He just wanted the spoils.

Judging from Fox Queen's wealth, all of her gear would be top tier.

As they walked, Han Sen was already envisioning the treasures that Fox Queen might be about to offer him, but when he entered the next side hall, there was no treasure inside. The place was empty except for the rows of skulls that lined the stone walls.

Upon closer inspection, he realized that the skulls were actually masks. There must have been a hundred of them, and each of them was unique. Some of them were very frightening, and some of them were actually smiling. Some looked utterly evil, whereas others actually looked quite pleasant. Seeing the various expressions side by side was a chilling sight.

Fox Queen was eyeing those creepy masks, and her face looked dark and twisted. When she looked back at Han Sen, she looked all charming again. She gave him another one of her smiles. "These masks belong to Ghost Bone, and they were created by the man himself. Every mask here was crafted from the skull of a half-deified creature. After all their refinements, they looked like this."

After a brief pause, Fox Queen went on to say, "There were a thousand of these Ghost Bone masks, and Ghost Bone used them to practice Ghost Bone Techniques. As he practiced, the masks were destroyed. At this point, only one hundred of them are left. These Ghost Bone masks possess Ghost Bone's power. If you can overwrite them, you can receive Ghost Bone powers when you wear the mask yourself. They will allow you to achieve the power of a half-deified being. With these, killing that xenogeneic shouldn't be difficult."

Chapter 2249 Ghost Bone Mask

"A treasure like this cannot be used by just anyone. Firstly, I'm not one of the Bone. And secondly, I don't know any of the Ghost Bone Techniques. How am I supposed to control one of these Ghost Bone Masks?" Han Sen asked, staring quizzically at the Ghost Bone Masks upon the wall.

Using powers that were beyond his control didn't sound like a very good idea, and the last thing Han Sen wanted to do was take more risks.

"Do not worry; I can teach you Ghost Bone Techniques. As a Duke, you should be able to control these Ghost Bone Masks." Fox Queen went silent for a moment, then said, "But those techniques are some of the strongest skills created by Ghost Bone. They are very difficult to practice. I don't know if you will be able to finish practicing a Ghost Bone Technique before the xenogeneic grows too powerful to beat. If you take too long, it might very well end up as a half-deified creature. Fighting it then would be pointless, even if you did have the Ghost Bone Techniques. While the masks are also half-deified, they'd be far inferior to that monster. After all, the creature is a scion of White Bone Hell itself. It is not a normal being."

"So the Ghost Bone Techniques can be practiced by people who are not Bone themselves?" Han Sen asked with a frown.

"Any race with bones inside their bodies are able to practice these techniques. After they turn their bones into ghost bones, their powers will grow. Furthermore, they develop resistance to dark elements. But..." Fox Queen trailed off.

"But what?" Han Sen asked.

"But when the practitioner's bones become ghost bones, their light element gene powers erode." Fox Queen shook her head slowly. "But you have no choice. If you do not wish to die, then this is the only thing you can do. Any problem that it causes with holy powers is a concern for later."

Han Sen eyed the Ghost Bone Masks, but he did not speak. He hesitated for a minute, then grabbed one of the Ghost Bone Masks.

"Don't touch it!" Fox Queen said, but she didn't actually move to stop him.

Han Sen ignored her as he gathered up power. He grabbed the Ghost Bone Mask and felt a cold power emanating from the thing. A sudden force sent Han Sen flying. He slammed into the wall behind him, and the impact was so powerful that he found himself wheezing.

"I did tell you not to touch it. Until you practice Ghost Bone Techniques, there is no chance that the Ghost Bone Masks will give you their approval. You are lucky that it did not kill you outright," Fox Queen muttered grumpily.

"These things are obscenely strong." Han Sen got back to his feet and looked back at the Ghost Bone Mask with new respect.

"Of course. The masks with poor performance were broken long ago. The ones that remain here are the best of the best." Fox Queen sighed and said, "I hope you can gain the approval of at least one Ghost Bone Mask before that xenogeneic takes any serious steps toward becoming deified. If you don't, then ready yourself to die here with me."

"I can try," Han Sen said quietly.

When Han Sen agreed, Fox Queen began teaching him a Ghost Bone Technique. She was General Ghost Bone's wife, so she was well-versed in his techniques. She had watched him use the techniques for eons, and although she hadn't practiced them herself, she was familiar enough with them to teach Han Sen.

Han Sen wasn't in a rush to practice the new techniques, though. After Fox Queen explained the skill to him, he spent some time investigating it on his own.

He didn't entirely trust Fox Queen, and he was worried that practicing the Ghost Bone Techniques might pose dangers that she hadn't told him about.

As Han Sen researched the skill, he learned that it really would weaken his resistance to light powers. But that was the only risk involved with learning the skill, and it really did make the body much stronger. It wasn't difficult to see why General Ghost Bone created the skills and kept them a secret.

Han Sen didn't think the skill would be dangerous for him, but even so, he didn't plan on practicing it. Instead, he had thought of another way to subjugate the Ghost Bone Masks.

The power of the masks aligned with the power of the Ghost Bone Techniques. If Han Sen could use the Dongxuan Aura to simulate the power of the Ghost Bone Masks, he might be able to trick the masks into believing that he had a Ghost Bone Technique.

Gaining the masks' approval in such a roundabout way might protect him from Fox Queen. If she was planning to use the Ghost Bone Technique against him in some way, then using the Dongxuan Aura to simulate the technique should leave him less vulnerable.

Han Sen remained in the side hall and pretended to practice the Ghost Bone Technique in the way she had instructed. But in reality, he was using the Dongxuan Aura and the Purple-Eye Butterfly to watch the Ghost Bone Masks.

As Han Sen examined the powers of the Ghost Bone Masks, he considered how he might tame that blood kirin. He wanted to own it for himself.

If Fox Queen was telling him the truth, then taming the blood kirin should be easy once he obtained the power of the Ghost Bone Masks. So, Han Sen was in no immediate rush.

The key that unlocked the gate to White Bone Hell was around Fox Queen's neck. Unless she opened the gate personally, no one else could enter.

...

In the base of the Ice Blue Knights, Edward looked gloomy.

Han Sen had disappeared right in front of him. Edward tried to locate Han Sen using every method he could think of, but nothing had worked. For him, this was a major failure.

"He is just a Marquise. Even if he became a Duke, his chances of surviving the wilds of Planet Ice Blue are slim. Perhaps he was killed by a xenogeneic?" an Ice Blue Knight suggested with a frown.

Edward shook his head. "No. If he was eaten by a xenogeneic, it would have left behind evidence that I could pick up. Ice Blue Knight King used the full might of the Ice Blue Knights to search for him, but Han Sen eluded them all. There's more to this guy than we thought."

"Is there no other way to find him?" the Ice Blue Knight asked, quite worried about how things were going.

"Perhaps..." Edward tapped his lower lip and spoke slowly. "If Mister White joined the pursuit, perhaps he could find Han Sen."

"His power is restricted, isn't it? He can only use his strength ten times throughout his entire lifetime, and he has already used his abilities eight times. Only two uses remain. You think he would spend one of those to search for a mere Marquise?" The Ice Blue Knight looked at Edward skeptically.

"He wants the same thing that we do. Otherwise, he wouldn't have come to the systems of chaos in the first place."

"But if we tell Mister White what we're after, things will become even more complicated."

"You think he doesn't already know? When Ice Blue Knight King tried to catch Han Sen, Mr. White must have realized our objective immediately. He just didn't say anything," Edward responded contemptuously.

"Do you think he will try to find Han Sen on his own?" The Ice Blue Knight was shocked.

"He would go alone if he could, but his power isn't well-suited for combat. He can't do much, and thus, he has to depend on Crime. Even if he knew where Han Sen was, he'd still need Ice Blue Knight King or us to fight for him." Edward moaned and said, "We can wait. Ice Blue Knight King will lose his patience eventually, and he will go to Mister White. When that time comes, we just have to follow them."

•••

Inside the palace, Han Sen was looking increasingly ghostly. His flesh had become a bit transparent, and his skeleton had blackened.

Bzzt!

As Han Sen was practicing, he heard the wall tremble and shake. He raised his head and saw a Ghost Bone Mask shivering in small, violent bursts.

"You are better than I thought you would be. It's been less than a month, and you have already gained proficiency with Ghost Bone powers. And furthermore, you have activated the approval process of a Ghost Bone Mask." Fox Queen looked upon Han Sen with some measure of shock.

Chapter 2250 Ghost Bone Arrives

Han Sen looked at the Ghost Bone Mask, and he saw it create a connection with his simulated Ghost Bone power.

"This Ghost Bone Mask is one of the weaker ones, but gaining its allegiance in a single month is excellent progress. We still have time. Practice some more to build confidence with the mask. And..." Fox Queen turned to point at a different mask. "If you can forge a connection with this Ghost Bone Mask instead, killing the xenogeneic should come easy."

Han Sen looked at the mask Fox Queen was indicating. He used his Dongxuan Aura and the Purple-Eye Butterfly to examine it. It was indeed the strongest Ghost Bone Mask there. Its powers surpassed those of the other masks by a substantial margin.

"What makes this Ghost Bone Mask different from the others?" Han Sen asked, pretending he hadn't noticed its strength.

Fox Queen said, "They are all half-deified xenogeneic skulls, but some of the creatures were stronger than others. That Ghost Bone Mask is made from the skull of a demon of hell. Ghost Bone spent a lot of time and effort on that one. And I do mean a lot. Its powers were almost deified. It is the strongest Ghost Bone Mask here."

"Don't worry, it's just a xenogeneic King that I need to kill. No matter how strong it is, the power of something half-deified will surely be enough to kill it. I can just use the mask that I've already claimed." Han Sen raised his hand toward the Ghost Bone Mask he had already established a connection with, and the mask flew over to him. He clutched it in his hands.

Before he had Ghost Bone powers, simply touching the mask had sent Han Sen shooting back into a wall. Now that he could hold the mask freely, he could get a real sense of its overwhelming power.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura and Purple-Eye Butterfly to get a good look at the mask, then he settled it on his face.

As soon as it touched his face, power surged into Han Sen's body. The new energy swelled through Han Sen's Ghost Bone powers, increasing their might dramatically.

Suddenly, Han Sen's face went pale, and worry clenched his stomach. He wanted to take the mask off, but it was now too late to do so. A powerful will roared out of the mask and swept inside Han Sen. It prevented Han Sen from moving a single inch. The Ghost Bone power was like a tsunami rushing through him. Han Sen's body turned black, and a ghostly aura surrounded him.

The will of the mask was demonic, and it felt like everything around them would fall under its spell. It suppressed Han Sen's own will, and it coldly said, "This body isn't the best, but it's not too bad. I suppose I can make use of it."

"You are General Ghost Bone?" Han Sen had realized whose Ghost Bone Mask this was. He wasn't scared, though. He had known there was something off with the item, and he just hadn't been able to determine the precise nature of the issue. At least he knew his feelings hadn't been led astray.

Ghost Bone powers kept pumping into Han Sen's body. General Ghost Bone's will leaned on Han Sen's like a mountain.

General Ghost Bone's soul was inside Han Sen's head. "Yes, I am Ghost Bone King. Thanks to your help, I will now be able to manifest through your body. If you have something you want to do before your death, and it isn't too problematic, I can help you with it."

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Sutra to stop simulating the Ghost Bone power. The Ghost Bone powers that were surging into his body screeched to a halt.

General Ghost Bone seemed surprised. "You didn't practice the Ghost Bone Technique! But even so, you can make use of its power? That is quite tricky."

"My body isn't a Ghost Bone Body, so why do you want to use it?" Han Sen asked emotionlessly.

"You're just a Duke, so I can make your body a Ghost Bone Body with minimal effort. And yes, I am going to make use of your body!" General Ghost Bone growled, his voice hard. He stopped trying to suppress Han Sen's will, but the Ghost Bone power from the Ghost Bone Mask became stronger.

The black Ghost Bone power settled over Han Sen's every cell, and it made his genes look different.

Han Sen cast Jadeskin, and he turned into a jade statue. The Ghost Bone powers sank into him slowly, but they couldn't change the shape of his body.

"You've practiced an invincible body? That is very rare!" General Ghost Bone seemed even more surprised now. His voice sounded greedy, and the Ghost Bone power from the Ghost Bone Mask became even stronger.

Han Sen's Jadeskin body was strong, but it couldn't withstand the power of General Ghost Bone. The power bearing down on him was deified. His Jadeskin body began to transform into bone. He was starting to take on the shape of a black bone statue.

Han Sen couldn't fight off General Ghost Bone's power, but at the same time, General Ghost Bone couldn't overcome and defeat his will.

"General Ghost Bone, do you know anything about a town located in a desert called Ghost Bone Town?" Han Sen asked suddenly.

"You have been there?" General Ghost Bone said.

"The place is called Ghost Bone Town, so why is a statue of you standing guard before a gate? And who does the statue inside the palace belong to? Is that the leader of Sacred?" Han Sen asked.

"You're about to die, and this is what you're spending your energy on?" General Ghost Bone asked in wonder.

"Well, if I am dying, I don't want to leave this mortal plane with unanswered questions," Han Sen said.

"I will tell you; it is where the leader was resting," General Ghost Bone explained as he continued changing Han Sen's body.

"It's a mausoleum of some sort? Whose statue is in the palace? How did he end up there?" Han Sen asked.

General Ghost Bone seemed to sneer coldly. "Maybe he deserved it?"

General Ghost Bone seemed to harbor disdain for the Human King, but he didn't say anything about who he actually was.

"Then who is he? And why is his statue there in the palace?" Han Sen kept asking.

"You are a dead man. You don't need to know so much!" General Ghost Bone didn't want to talk. All he wanted to do was morph Han Sen's body.

Han Sen's body turned from black to white. He became a being of white bone, which looked very strange.

The black bone power was very evil, but now, it turned to white bone. And it didn't seem so evil anymore. There was some sunny air inside him.

"I found a special stone plate inside the palace; do you know what that is?" Han Sen asked. Han Sen had many questions, and it seemed as if only General Ghost Bone could give him the answer he sought.

General Ghost Bone paused. Even the Ghost Bone powers that were changing Han Sen came to a halt. The question had obviously stunned General Ghost Bone.

"You found the relic? Why do you have it?" General Ghost Bone quickly asked.

"I have it with me right now. What is the relic? What does it do?" Han Sen asked.

"Haha! God is helping me right now, for sure. With this relic, I can access the item located inside that holy monument. My Ghost Bone era is on its way." General Ghost Bone laughed like a madman inside Han Sen's brain.