

Chapter 2261

Blood Kirin's Movement

Han Sen spent another two weeks in the White Bone Hell. The blood kirin came down from its mountain to absorb blood bone air every day, and during such times, Han Sen got to interact with it very closely.

The blood kirin had initially seemed like a cruel beast, but it wasn't showing any animosity toward Han Sen now, which made him curious. The most probable cause for the blood kirin's change in behavior, he figured, was the blood kirin having tasted his blood.

That had only transpired once, though. The blood kirin had consumed Han Sen's old blood as he leveled up, but he had no plans to feed the beast with his blood again.

The Blood-Pulse Sutra had become Duke, and Han Sen continued to fuse his blood with the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum. His connection with the Drum progressed by leaps and bounds. Now, he was able to use the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum without Bao'er's help. That made things quite a bit easier.

That day, after the blood kirin absorbed more of the blood bone air, it roared at Han Sen. Then, it turned around and returned to the lotus mountain. When it saw that Han Sen wasn't following, the beast turned around and roared at him again.

Han Sen realized the blood kirin was inviting him to the lotus mountain. Han Sen followed after the creature without hesitation. If he was being invited to enter the blood kirin's lair, it might signify that the blood kirin was growing more comfortable with him.

He followed the blood kirin to the lotus mountaintop. Most of the blood rain had drained off of the peak, but some of the runoff had collected into a small pond. Vines lay in tangles around the pond, and Han Sen spotted blood pears hanging off of them.

The blood kirin jumped into the blood pond and made a grunting noise at Han Sen, inviting him to enter.

Han Sen hesitated this time, but he still followed the blood kirin in. Based on his experience with his other pets, he had learned that showering with a pet was a great way to strengthen his bond with them.

Han Sen was planning to begin scrubbing the blood kirin's scales, but the blood kirin did something instead. It put its head in the water and dived in deep.

Han Sen stared after the creature in surprise. It was obvious now that the blood kirin hadn't just invited him in for a simple shower. He quickly used his Dongxuan Aura to follow the blood kirin.

Upon seeing Han Sen trailing along behind, the blood kirin dived in deeper.

The blood pond was only a thousand meters deep.

They both reached the bottom fairly quickly, where the blood kirin disappeared into a tunnel that had been dug through the white bones.

Han Sen continued to follow the creature. He was curious, not knowing exactly what the blood kirin wanted.

The blood kirin led the way. It followed the white bone tunnel and soon splashed out of the blood water.

As his head broke the surface of the blood water, Han Sen noticed that they had emerged into a giant white bone cave. Before him lay the corpse of a giant, black xenogeneic.

The black kirin was as big as a mountain. However, its head had been sundered, and its belly had been split open. It had been dead for many years, and while the body might not have rotted, the air had dried it into a husk.

“This must be the blood kirin’s mother. It doesn’t look very much like the blood kirin, though. Perhaps the blood bone air it has absorbed has simply changed its genes dramatically,” Han Sen thought to himself.

The blood kirin leaped onto the mountain-sized body of the black kirin. It then grunted at Han Sen, as if it was asking him to join it.

Han Sen flew in the air, but he didn’t dare set his feet upon the back of the black kirin. Although the blood kirin had called him up, stepping on its mother’s corpse didn’t seem like an appropriate thing to do.

When Han Sen saw the corpse from above, he noticed something glinting in the black flesh. There was a weapon embedded in the black kirin’s back.

He couldn’t get a good look at the weapon, as only the handle was protruding from the body. The rest of it was lodged deep within the corpse of the black kirin.

Fox Queen had said that the blood kirin belonged to a no-name race, but seeing that black kirin, Han Sen didn’t think that was true.

The other creatures had all turned into bones. Some of the bones had decayed into little more than dust, but that black kirin’s body was still mostly complete. This point alone made it seem like something special.

And the curious xenogeneic still had a weapon lodged inside it. It certainly added to the dead creature’s mystique.

Han Sen carefully examined what he could see of the weapon. The handle was only two feet long, which was definitely too small for a greatsword. But for a smaller sword, the handle would probably have been too long.

The handle gleamed silver, and there was a weird symbol engraved across it. Han Sen was unsure what the symbol meant, but he hypothesized that it could be a meaningless adornment.

All he knew for certain was that the weapon hadn't belonged to General Ghost Bone. The weapon lacked the aura and presence that General Ghost Bone carried with him.

The blood kirin made some barking noises at Han Sen.

Han Sen frowned, unsure what the blood kirin wanted.

The blood kirin, seeing Han Sen's lack of understanding, tried to grasp the weapon with its claws. But when it touched the silver handle, silver lightning arced around the handle and into the blood kirin. With a blinding flash, the blood kirin's body was electrified and blasted down onto the ground.

Han Sen was frozen. The blood kirin was a force to be reckoned with. It was a powerful half-deified xenogeneic, the son of White Bone Big Hell. If it had been tossed back so simply, then the power of the weapon must have been unimaginable.

The blood kirin picked itself up off the ground. It didn't look particularly injured, but its legs moved a little shakily from the shock it had just received.

The blood kirin leaped back atop the black kirin. Then it made that barking noise at Han Sen again.

Now Han Sen knew what it was suggesting. "You want me to help you remove that weapon?"

The blood kirin nodded. It then made more encouraging noises to Han Sen.

Han Sen didn't have a good feeling about this. Despite its power, the blood kirin had just been sorely electrified by the lodged armament. Han Sen was just a Duke, so there was a chance that the electricity might kill him.

Han Sen gritted his teeth and approached the weapon embedded in the black kirin's back. He wasn't confident in his ability to pull the weapon out, but if he didn't at least try, then all the time he had spent building a relationship with the blood kirin would go to waste.

"Even if it doesn't work, I have to give it a shot. Getting shocked is better than making the blood kirin mad," Han Sen thought to himself. He summoned his King class Galaxy Lobster armor.

Han Sen didn't want to be killed by lightning that not even the blood kirin could withstand.

Landing on the black kirin's back, Han Sen gazed at the silver handle. Then, he looked back at the blood kirin. The blood kirin looked very excited. Han Sen took a deep breath and slowly reached for the silver handle.

Chapter 2262 The Power of Science

Han Sen's fingers brushed the silver handle, and before he moved to grip it completely, silver lightning leaped out at his fingers.

A vibration moved through Han Sen's body, and then he felt as if he had lost control of his own consciousness. There was a sharp cracking noise, and Han Sen was sent rocketing away. His flight ended when he crashed into a white bone wall.

Fortunately, Han Sen was wearing his King class Galaxy Lobster armor, so the hit didn't hurt too much. But his entire body ached, as if cramps were twisting him from the top of his head down to his toes. He convulsed slightly on the ground.

"Well, that was scary. The lightning might not have done too much damage, but the soreness afterward is pretty terrifying!" Han Sen mustered every ounce of his strength to get up. He crawled across the ground as white bubbles frothed from his mouth. He pulled himself into a sitting position, but he still felt extremely weak. He wasn't able to stand up just yet, so he sat very still as his head spun.

The blood kirin leaped off of the black kirin's back. It circled Han Sen, making a low keening sound. It was as if it was saying, "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. What kind of lightning is that, though? It is so weird. My King class armor did nothing to repel it." Han Sen understood now why the lightning had been able to hurt the blood kirin, despite the beast's strength. That lightning bypassed all forms of defense and zapped right into a person's body.

The blood kirin was unable to answer his question, but Han Sen could tell that the creature was disappointed. It was sad that Han Sen was unable to pull out the weapon.

"Don't worry; I will find a way to pull it out." Han Sen thought this was still a good opportunity. He looked into the blood kirin's face, and he knew that the creature would be incredibly happy if Han Sen managed to retrieve the weapon. Perhaps he could even tame it at that point.

Thinking of how cool it would look to ride the blood kirin, Han Sen thought he should give it another try.

The blood kirin didn't seem particularly excited by the prospect of another attempt, though. It clearly didn't believe Han Sen had what it took to remove the weapon from the corpse.

Han Sen wasn't confident, either, truthfully. But if he was being attacked with lightning, perhaps he could wrap the handle with some sort of insulating material before pulling the weapon out.

Han Sen pulled a bunch of insulated gloves from Destiny's Tower. He put on several layers of gloves to make sure he wouldn't get shocked. Then, he flew back onto the black kirin's back. He looked back at the blood kirin and thought, "Although you are a King class xenogeneic that might one day become deified, you're still so dumb. You don't know anything about a little thing called science, do you? Well, big brother will show you how humans make use of their intelligence to solve problems such as this. Get ready to be amazed and compelled to obedience by the power of your big brother San Mu!"

After that, Han Sen reached out and grabbed the silver handle. Based on his first experience, Han Sen knew that the lightning was scary, but it wouldn't be powerful enough to kill him. That reassurance made Han Sen feel a lot safer.

Han Sen confidently wrapped his hands around the silver handle and tried to pull it out. Then, silver lightning was discharged.

The insulating gloves did not work. The lightning wreathed his entire body before blasting him away. He crashed into a big bone wall, his armored body cracking its surface. Many extra bones were shaken down on top of him.

Now Han Sen could only think, "F*cking science. I actually thought science would apply to this world. I am too naive. This is madness! My brain hurts."

Because Han Sen had gripped the handle more firmly, the shock of the electricity was magnified. It took Han Sen half an hour to regain full consciousness, and he didn't try to move as he recovered. When he started feeling better, he lifted his head to look around. He realized that the blood kirin had actually dragged him away from the white bones.

Luckily, the blood kirin wasn't hostile towards him. He had been inside the blood kirin's mouth, but despite that, the creature hadn't injured him in any way.

"Well, sh*t. How did that even happen?" Han Sen thought gloomily. He rested a little bit more, as his body was on the precipice of a complete recovery.

The blood kirin looked at Han Sen as if he was a naughty child. That gaze of disdain made Han Sen feel embarrassed.

"I can't pull a weapon out of a dead body? I won't accept that!" Han Sen stood up and stared at the handle with rage. When he thought back to the ache that had suffused his entire body, though, he gave up on the idea of trying to grab it again.

"Hmph. I couldn't make it work, but at least I'm not alone. I have help, so what is there to be afraid of?" Han Sen thought. Then, he released Bao'er from Destiny's Tower.

"Bao'er, do you see that weapon sticking out of the kirin's back? It is protected by very powerful lightning, and so I cannot take it out. Do you think you can take it out for me?" Han Sen smiled at Bao'er as he spoke.

Bao'er's eyes opened wide when she looked at the weapon. She thought for a moment, then shook her head. "No."

"No way! You cannot pull it out, either?" Han Sen was surprised. This was the first time he had heard Bao'er admit so plainly that she couldn't do something.

Bao'er blinked and said, "There's something wrong with that weapon. Its soul is very messy. It would not be very nice to touch it. I would be electrified if I went up to it."

Han Sen's heart sank. Not even Bao'er could take the weapon. There really was no hope for pulling it out.

But then Bao'er went on. "You can let Little Silver try. He is attuned with lightning, so he might have a way to do it."

“How did I forget Little Silver!” Han Sen slapped himself on the head. The lightning must have rattled his brain and made him forget Little Silver for a bit.

Han Sen quickly summoned Little Silver. As soon as Little Silver appeared, he hugged the fox tightly to his chest. Then he flew up to the black kirin’s back.

“Little Silver, that weapon has lightning power. I cannot move it, though. Do you think you can pull it out?” Han Sen asked, pointing at the silver handle.

Little Silver leaped down from Han Sen’s arms. It walked elegantly around the silver handle, its silver eyes peering keenly at the metal.

Suddenly, Little Silver stopped. Its body crackled with silver lightning. That lightning spread fast, and the fox’s body began to swell and transform. Ten tails of lightning rose behind the fox, swaying like the heads of a hydra.

The next second, that ethereal, lightning form of a fox opened its mouth. It grabbed the silver handle and tried to pull it out of the black kirin.

The silver handle fired its own lightning in response to the fox, and the bolts of power collided in a display of eye-searing brilliance. It seemed as if the two powers were exploding when they touched each other.

The lightning didn’t send Little Silver flying like it had Han Sen and the blood kirin. The fox held onto the handle firmly, and slowly, it began to pull the handle up and away from the back of the black kirin.

Within that storm of silver lightning, Little Silver slowly pulled at the handle, and the weapon slowly began to slide into sight. Han Sen could see triangles across the weapon, and there was a strange symbol within every triangle. Lightning arced and jumped around the symbols.

Chapter 2263 Thunder God Spike

As the sword-like weapon was slowly removed, the mysterious symbols on its surface began to leap and dance like mad. It looked as if countless fairies of silver thunder were dancing across it.

The silver lightning still crackled out of the sword. It was like there was a silver dragon now flying around the cavern.

Because the lightning was too strong, Han Sen had to fall back and away from the black kirin’s corpse. Even the blood kirin itself stumbled back.

The blood kirin was looking very excited. It kept retreating, but its eyes never left the black kirin’s body.

Little Silver’s lightning was growing to frightening strength. The hilt of the sword was firmly in the grip of its maw. It forced the sword completely out of the black kirin’s body.

The sword was only one and a half meters long, but its shape was very strange. The blade was split into three sections, and each of its points was sharp. It looked like an army spear.

As he watched the lightning springing from the blade, Han Sen could immediately tell that the weapon was profoundly special. It might have been a deified weapon.

Dong! Dong!

Little Silver leaped off of the black kirin's back. It loosened its grip on the handle and let the silver sword clatter to the ground. Then Little Silver let its powerful lightning fox form dissipate.

Although Little Silver didn't seem to be injured, it did look exhausted.

Han Sen quickly picked up Little Silver and offered him one of the blood pears. Little Silver shook his head at the fruit and lay down on Han Sen's chest instead. It closed its eyes, looking very, very tired.

Upon seeing the silver sword come free of the dead creature, the blood kirin leaped towards the black kirin's corpse with exuberant joy.

"What a sweet creature. All it wanted was for its mother to rest in peace. It's rare that I get to see something this touching." Han Sen sighed.

The next second, Han Sen's eyes opened wide. The blood kirin ran over to the black kirin's body and used its teeth to rip off a chunk. The blood kirin tore into the corpse, eating ravenously.

The blood kirin used its claws to tear the body apart, and viscera and gore flew everywhere as it feasted.

Han Sen froze for a while, his face growing a little pale. His initial assumption seemed to have been very wrong. He didn't know anymore if the black kirin was indeed the blood kirin's mother. If it was, the blood kirin really was a monster.

But that sort of made sense. The blood kirin was born from a dead body. It had spent its life consuming the White Bone Hell's blood bone air. Its very existence had come from death and cruelty. Eating the corpse of its own mother to gain strength wasn't out of the realm of possibility.

It was still an incredibly heartless act, though.

Han Sen was planning to put Bao'er and Little Silver back inside Destiny's Tower. If the blood kirin went mad after consuming the black kirin, they would have to run.

Before he could grab her, Bao'er ran over to the silver sword. She reached her hand out to grab it before Han Sen could shout a warning.

When Bao'er's came down upon it, the blade no longer released that silver lightning. Bao'er dragged the sword back over to Han Sen.

“Dad! This sword is awesome. We should take it with us.” Bao’er held the sword out to Han Sen as she spoke.

Han Sen didn’t dare take the sword, though. Just because Bao’er hadn’t been electrified, that didn’t guarantee that Han Sen wouldn’t get shocked.

“Don’t be afraid, Dad! It is fine now. The blade isn’t dangerous anymore.” Bao’er winked.

“Pfft, why would Dad be afraid? I’m not scared; I’m just cautious. This is the behavior of a mature man.” Han Sen blushed. He reached out to take the silver sword.

Just as Bao’er had told him, the sword didn’t crackle with lightning when he touched it. It really did behave like an ordinary weapon now.

“Weird. Why has the sword become normal after leaving the black kirin’s body?” Han Sen looked at the blood kirin still gorging on the black kirin. He then thought of something. “Maybe the black kirin’s body triggered the power of the sword? Maybe that is why it remained active. The electricity kept the blood kirin from eating the black kirin. It had to have the sword removed first.”

Han Sen didn’t know if his guesses were correct, but it didn’t matter anymore. Han Sen went to check out the sword. The symbols of thunder across it were delightful to see. They made the sword look absolutely beautiful. It didn’t even look like a weapon; it looked like an art-piece wrought in silver.

After witnessing its power, Han Sen agreed with Bao’er. He couldn’t tell what level it was, but he was fairly sure that it had to be a deified weapon.

When he looked at the blade more closely, he noticed that a few words were engraved on the back of the sword. He was able to read them. It was of the common language in the geno universe, and it said, “Thunder God Spike.”

“I think that must be its real name.” Han Sen raised the weapon carefully in front of him. He tried to put his own power into the Thunder God Spike, in order to trigger the weapon’s power. Unfortunately, he could not get it to work.

No matter what power or skill he used, nothing could trigger the lightning of the Thunder God Spike.

Han Sen decided to use the Dongxuan Sutra to simulate Little Silver’s lightning power, then he focused that power on the Thunder God Spike. The lightning symbols of the Thunder God Spike began to move. They were like silver snakes running up and down the blade.

But Han Sen’s Dongxuan Sutra was merely Marquise class, so the lightning power he could simulate wouldn’t be that strong. Only a small amount of the Thunder God Spike’s power was summoned, but even so, it was already very strong. It was stronger than if Han Sen used all of his power with Jadeskin.

“This thing is definitely a deified weapon!” Han Sen felt so happy. The Thunder God Spike didn’t hurt him when he activated it, either. That meant he could use the weapon in combat.

Han Sen put the Thunder God Spike into Destiny’s Tower, and thankfully, it didn’t resist like the Jade Drum had. The Jade Drum was a living creature, but the Thunder God Spike was just a weapon.

Han Sen was very lucky to have found the weapon, but it would be dangerous for him to carry a deified treasure in plain view. Unless it was direly necessary, Han Sen planned to keep the weapon hidden from anyone who might want to steal it.

Han Sen put Bao'er and Little Silver back into Destiny's Tower. The blood kirin was still eating the black kirin's body. It was a small creature, but its stomach was large. The black kirin's body was like a mountain, but a big chunk of it had already disappeared.

The blood kirin ate its fill and grunted in satisfaction. Then it moved back and made a rumbling noise to get Han Sen's attention. It tossed its head at the black kirin's body, as if it was inviting Han Sen to eat.

"It's fine. You can eat it." Han Sen shook his head. His body was already filled with unprocessed Ghost Bone power, so it didn't matter what he ate right now.

But the blood kirin's invitation was still reassuring. The beast didn't seem like it was ever going to be hostile to him.

Chapter 2264 Forced Entry

When the blood kirin saw that Han Sen wasn't eating anything, it turned around to continue consuming the corpse by itself. It looked as if it wasn't going to stop until every last morsel of the black kirin had been consumed.

Han Sen had no interest in watching the beast eat, so he decided to leave the cave. He leaped into the blood water and swam back the way he had come. The cave had no other exits, so he had to leave via the same blood pond.

After he crawled out of the pond, Han Sen picked a few blood pears to give to Little Silver. The fox had retrieved the Thunder God Spike for him, but in doing so, it had been injured.

Both the fox and the weapon were of the lightning element, but the Thunder God Spike was clearly far more powerful than Little Silver. If Little Silver's Lightning Fox Body hadn't possessed full immunity to lightning, then the little creature might not have been able to pull the Thunder God Spike out.

"Now that I've helped the blood kirin, it won't mind if I take more blood pears and give them to Little Silver, right? I'm sure the blood kirin wouldn't care," Han Sen thought to himself as he collected the fruit. He lobbed them into Destiny's Tower for Little Silver. But when he glanced inside the tower, he found Little Silver curled up to rest. Its tail was wrapped around the Thunder God Spike, and the Thunder God Spike was crackling as silver lightning arced around it. The bolts would occasionally jump to touch Little Silver's fur, but the fox didn't seem to mind. It just continued to rest.

Han Sen used his Purple-Eye Butterfly to get a better look. When the Thunder God Spike's lightning landed on Little Silver, the small fox was absorbing its power. The lightning blended into Little Silver's powers, slowly changing them as the fox rested.

Han Sen walked over and gently set one of the blood pears beside Little Silver. Then, he exited the tower and left the lotus mountain.

When he made it down from the lotus mountain, he found Fox Queen standing directly in front of the hellish skeletal gate. She was looking at him.

Fox Queen's eyebrows rose as Han Sen approached.

Her chains wouldn't let her move far from the gate. Otherwise, she would have explored the distant mountain range for herself long ago.

"You killed the blood kirin?" Fox Queen asked in a disturbed tone of voice.

Han Sen shook his head. "No. I can't defeat a foe like that. But I've been here for a while, and we've gotten to know each other a bit. It hasn't been hostile to me at all."

Fox Queen looked at Han Sen with a veiled expression. She thought Han Sen's explanation had to be utter nonsense.

The blood kirin was a beast of particular savagery, and it had been locked up in White Bone Hell all its life. If it ever escaped the White Bone Hell, few would survive an encounter with it. That thing was a King class demon.

If the blood kirin had grown comfortable with Han Sen simply because he had spent time with it, she wondered why the same had not occurred between the monster and herself. She had spent far more time with it, and she had even watched it grow up. Yet, there wasn't even a faint semblance of closeness between her and the beast.

"Who are you?" Fox Queen stared at Han Sen. She had found his behavior suspicious for a long time, and it made her wary of him. Perhaps Han Sen really had been taken by General Ghost Bone, and he had just been pretending ever since.

"I told you; I am a member of the Ice Blue Knights." Han Sen said, a little reproachfully.

Fox Queen started to respond, but all of a sudden, her face changed. "Someone forced open the palace's door."

"No way!" Han Sen was shocked. That palace had been built by General Ghost Bone. Not even a deified elite should have been able to open it. And there was no way Edward or the others could have gotten through the entrance.

"They have only breached the first line. They are coming in via the primary entrance. Huh. It seems that they have a death wish." Fox Queen narrowed her eyes and walked back through the hellish skeletal gate.

Han Sen felt sick. He didn't think Edward and the others would make it inside, but now they had. Han Sen's identity would soon be exposed.

Realizing this, Han Sen quickly followed Fox Queen. But he then rushed out of the side hall ahead of her.

Just as Fox Queen had said, there was an opening in the gate of the main hall. Edward and the others were now coming in.

"Han Sen, where are you going to run this time?" shouted a King class Ice Blue Knight. Then, he ran at Han Sen.

"Shut up! This isn't a place that you can just smash your way into!" Han Sen shouted as he quickly retreated. He fell back to Fox Queen, who had just appeared. Ice Blue Knight King's power was headed for Fox Queen.

Fox Queen's face drew into a smile, but her eyes glimmered with the fire of murder. She didn't even have to move her hand as a cord of power shot out of her and wrapped around the Ice Blue Knight.

"Careful!" Ice Blue Knight King shouted. He moved to help the King class Ice Blue Knight, but it was too late.

The cord of power tightened, and the Ice Blue Knight's body was torn apart. It was horrifying to watch. The warrior was murdered before he even had a chance to defend himself.

Han Sen's scalp felt numb. A King class elite had been oh-so-easily killed. The demonstration of Fox Queen's power confirmed Han Sen's belief that she was deified. It was fortunate she had wanted to keep Han Sen with her instead of killing him. Han Sen would have been very dead if things had turned out differently.

The faces of the other intruders turned white. They turned to leave the palace, but the opening they created to enter had already disappeared. And that was because of Fox Queen.

Edward and the others attacked the palace's gate, but their efforts were futile.

"Didn't you know? You can't just come and go from this palace as you please." Fox Queen's cords of power began to move again, heading for Edward and all the others.

Edward, Ice Blue Knight King, and Crime managed to block the attacks, but the other King class elites were all captured.

"Deified powers are scary!" Han Sen's scalp felt numb. It seemed like Fox Queen was no longer being hampered by the palace. She was able to use her full deified powers without limit or restriction.

Han Sen looked closer and realized what was going on. Edward and the others had managed to break the restrictions of the palace. Their actions had triggered the prison's defense systems, allowing Fox Queen to use her full powers to annihilate the invaders. Now that Fox Queen had all her deified power back, she was a totally different being than she had been when Han Sen met her.

"I'm so sorry! We accidentally wandered into this place. We meant you no harm. Please forgive us..." Before Edward could finish his apology, a cord of power wrapped around him.

Not long after, the last of the intruders were bound by Fox Queen's cords. None of them could fight back.

When Fox Queen turned back to Han Sen, he quickly said, "Big Sis, you are so good! You are so intelligent, beautiful, and powerful!"

"I think I heard them refer to you by the name of Han Sen." Fox Queen stared at Han Sen and gave him a predatory smile.

Chapter 2265 Fight

"Please don't tell me Han Sen is your fake name," Fox Queen said, smiling at Han Sen.

"My name is Han Sen. San Mu is just a nickname. Only close family and my bestest friends call me by that name," Han Sen said shyly.

Fox Queen rolled her eyes, but she wasn't going to push the subject any further. She looked back at Edward and the others and asked, "And who are you people, exactly?"

Ice Blue Knight King told her, "We are Ice Blue Knights of the Extreme King. Please do not misunderstand our intent, for we are only here to apprehend the criminal traitor known as Han Sen. We didn't mean to offend you!"

"What did he do to incite your wrath?" Fox Queen asked with curiosity. "This is quite the hunting party you've assembled."

Ice Blue Knight King and Edward frowned. They had told her they were Extreme King deliberately, knowing that the name was feared all across the universe.

But when they looked at Fox Queen's face, they saw no hint of fear or trepidation. Their attempted name-drop had failed quite spectacularly.

The Shapeshifting Foxes weren't one of the top races, and even a deified fox should have been afraid of the Extreme King. However, Fox Queen seemed entirely unperturbed.

What they didn't know was that the Extreme King only rose to prominence after Fox Queen had been incarcerated in the palace. Their name meant little to her, as they were a minor race back in her heyday.

"He is a traitor in the Ice Blue Knights. It was difficult for us to locate him. Being the slithering, tricky little snake that he is, he managed to escape. He eluded us for a while, but we traced him all the way to this place. It was never our intention to offend you," Edward went on to say. His face was straining under the weight of his forced sincerity.

Han Sen and Fox Queen had only exchanged a few words in front of Edward, but he could tell that the relationship between them wasn't very warm. So, he didn't mention the relic he sought.

Han Sen had to be keeping the relic somewhere on his person. That meant they had a chance. If Edward mentioned the relic, and it was claimed by a deified being, they stood no chance of reclaiming it.

Fox Queen's face looked like stone. She held a cord of power and used it like a whip to lash Edward, who was still hanging in the air upside-down. His face was gashed as the whip tore so deeply into his flesh that it exposed the bone of his skull. Blood began to dribble through his hair.

Everyone was shocked. Fox Queen did not say a word as she continued the whipping. A short time later, Edward was covered in open wounds and dripping blood.

"I was lying to people before your great-grandmother was even born. And you think you can deceive me? Do you want to die?" Fox Queen's gaze was hard as she looked at the blood-soaked Edward. "Let me ask you again: why are you chasing him?"

"He stole something very important from us! That is why we have been chasing him," Edward said.

"And what is this thing?" Fox Queen frowned, but she stopped hitting Edward.

"We don't know what it is!" As Fox Queen started to move her hand, he immediately said, "We discovered an ancient city in the desert. Han Sen snuck in and stole an item from that city, although we're not sure what it was. If you would like to know what he stole, then you will have to ask him."

Fox Queen looked carefully at Edward and the others, then she turned to Han Sen. With a smile, she said, "My good brother San Mu, it looks like you've already retrieved the item from that city you mentioned. Very good."

"I did take something from that old city." Han Sen nodded.

"Where is it?" Fox Queen's eyes looked sharp. Even to her, any item that had belonged to the Sacred Leader would be quite tempting.

Han Sen smiled. He had no intention of revealing the stone plate to anyone. He merely said, "Sister, which you would prefer: this item or your freedom?"

"I am very greedy. I want freedom and the item." Fox Queen's cord of power suddenly moved. It was headed for Han Sen.

Han Sen shot off to the side hall, wanting to race right into the hellish skeletal gate.

As soon as Han Sen appeared in the side hall, Fox Queen's cord of power was already on him. But suddenly, a bird's nest appeared in Han Sen's hand. Inside it, there was a red egg.

The cord of power could bind a half-deified elite easily, but when it touched the bird's nest, it snapped like dry twine.

As the attack dissipated, Han Sen flapped his wings and escaped through a slither-of-a-gap between the substance chains coming for him. Then he leaped straight through the hellish skeletal gate.

Fox Queen was shocked. When she entered the White Bone Hell after him, Han Sen was already gone. She had limited power and mobility in that place, so she could only stand atop the skeleton mountain and glower after Han Sen. She couldn't chase him any further.

"Han Sen, do you want to grow old and die inside the White Bone Hell?" Fox Queen squinted as she looked around.

"There are worse ways to die than in the company of a pretty lady like you." Han Sen stood far away atop a distant peak and smiled at Fox Queen.

Fox Queen didn't say another word. She returned to the palace.

Back inside the palace, Fox Queen looked at Edward and the others. She waved her hand, tossing everyone other than Mister White through the hellish skeletal gate.

"Bring Han Sen and the item back to me, or die here," Fox Queen commanded. Edward and the others were then tossed into the hellish skeletal gate.

As the others shakily stood up and began moving off into the White Bone Hell, Fox Queen turned back to Mister White. "You know how to break the restrictions of this place?"

"I know a little." Mister White nodded.

"Breaking the front gate... That was no easy task." Fox Queen raised her lips in a slight smile.

When Han Sen saw Edward and the others fly into the White Bone Hell face first, he knew exactly what was going on. He immediately retreated to the blood kirin's lotus mountain.

Edward and the others stared mutely at the white bone world around them. They were just as stunned as Han Sen had been when he first entered that place.

Crime concentrated as he activated a special power. In a few seconds, he detected Han Sen sneaking his way over to the lotus mountains. "He's over there!"

"Let's go!" Ice Blue Knight King barked the command, and they all took off in pursuit of Han Sen.

The White Bone Hell was so large that it would be difficult to find Han Sen again if he got too far away from them.

And because of Fox Queen's implied threat, they now had even more motivation for retrieving that relic.

Ice Blue Knight King was the fastest of the bunch, so he arrived at the lotus mountain first. Just as he was about to enter, however, he suddenly felt a blood air rise from the lotus mountaintop.

He had been sprinting forward at full speed, and his momentum kept him from changing direction quickly. He gathered up his strength and sent a wave of deep blue power against the tide of red.

Boom!

The blood air ripped straight through Ice Blue Knight King's deep blue power. The attack tore through the armor on his chest without even slowing down, and blood began to spurt from his chest with unnatural speed. It was as if some power was sucking the blood out of him.

Chapter 2266 Beating a Half-Deified

Han Sen stood on the lotus mountain, watching with great delight as the blood kirin entered the fray. Han Sen guessed that the creature had finished consuming the black kirin, because it was now half-deified. On top of that, it was still inside the White Bone Hell. The ferocity of its attack sent Edward and Ice Blue Knight King reeling back.

After mere seconds had passed, the blood kirin had already torn two King class Ice Blue Knights to shreds. Joy sparked in Han Sen's chest as he saw the wretchedly wild face of the creature.

"You guys hold off this beast! I will go after Han Sen," Edward shouted. He rushed across the battlefield, headed for the lotus mountain with the intent of catching Han Sen once and for all.

The blood kirin was in a killing frenzy, and it paid no attention to guarding its flanks. It pressed the attack against Ice Blue Knight King without sparing a glance at Edward.

Han Sen felt depressed. "This thing's intelligence needs to be increased."

Although Fox Queen had whipped Edward and injured him badly in the process, his half-deified body wasn't to be underestimated. He circled the battle and arrived in front of Han Sen in moments. Han Sen knew that trying to outrun the man with simple speed would be impossible.

Han Sen slapped the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum at his waist, sending a burst of scary sonic power toward Edward's forehead. The power flew out like a barrage of toxic needles.

Edward grunted dismissively, and his whole body turned to a golden color. The Blood Scorpion's toxic needles struck the gold body and failed to puncture it.

Edward's golden form shone like a sun, showering the entire lotus mountain in golden light. Han Sen suddenly felt incredibly heavy, as if he was now shouldering the weight of a mountain. He couldn't move much at all.

Han Sen knew that he was struggling under the power of that special gold godlight.

After Dukes became Kings, their elemental prowess increased dramatically. They could use their powers to blanket the land around them, laying claim to a large area. Edward's power was a heavy burden of suppression. It was a little similar to Ice Blue Knight King's deep blue power.

Edward didn't hesitate. He reached out to grab the currently-suppressed Han Sen.

Han Sen tried to fight it off, but the King class suppression of the area was far too strong to compete with. Plus, Edward was half-deified. Although Han Sen's elemental prowess was very good for his level, it didn't have enough raw strength to counter this attack. He couldn't beat the suppressing force that was coming down on him.

Edward's hand had almost reached Han Sen's neck when suddenly, Han Sen's hand lifted a small bird's nest. In his other hand, he raised a big army spear and thrust it toward Edward's chest.

Edward was shocked. He hadn't expected Han Sen to brush off his King class area-of-effect technique. They were too close together for Edward to block Han Sen's, but Edward didn't hesitate. He ignored Han Sen's strike and continued reaching out to grab his prey by the throat.

Han Sen was just a Duke. Even if his weapon was deified, it wouldn't do too much damage to Edward's half-deified body. If he was able to catch Han Sen at the same time, Edward had no qualm with accepting the strike.

At the moment Edward's fingers closed around Han Sen's neck, the Thunder God Spike was plunged into Edward's armor.

The armor stopped the Thunder God Spike dead, with only an inch of the weapon's tip embedding itself in Edward's breastplate.

But the Thunder God Spike's silver lightning completely ignored the defense offered by that armor. When it discharged, it sent a current of electricity directly into Edward's body. Edward shook as the power ran through him, and his electrified body was sent flying away.

Dong!

Han Sen struck the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum again. Edward was still being ravaged by the silver lightning, and he couldn't gather his wits fast enough to summon power and repel the sonic attack. That sonic force was driven right into his forehead.

"Argh!" Even for a half-deified elite, hearing the Blood Scorpion Jade Drum felt like being stabbed in the head. Edward couldn't help but let out a shrill cry.

Han Sen put the bird's nest on his head as he continued to pound the drum. He had no intention of remaining idle, though. He teleported directly in front of Edward and used his Thunder God Spike to strike at Edward once more.

Half-deified warriors deserved their reputation, and despite the dizziness and fierce pain, Edward tried to gather up power to block Han Sen's next attack.

The Thunder God Spike's power wasn't very destructive, but the lightning energy it released could bypass any form of defense. The lightning surged into every single cell of Edward's body. Edward shook under the force.

But Han Sen didn't have enough strength to use more than a tiny fraction of the Thunder God Spike's true power. Edward had only been numbed a little. If the Thunder God Spike was used by someone half-deified, a single hit would have left Edward shaking non-stop for an entire day.

The Blood Scorpion Jade Drum's sonic power swept into Edward in a continuous stream, but Edward was holding strong against the numbness induced by the lightning. He raised his shield again, and the sonic attacks began bouncing off of him.

"I'm too weak! If I was stronger, the silver lightning would have kept Edward from gathering enough power to resist," Han Sen thought to himself. He kept moving, though. Instead of thrusting with his Thunder God Spike, he resorted to beating Edward with it like some rod.

All that electricity had Edward shaking on the ground like he was experiencing a seizure. He was like a normal person being struck by a stun rod.

Ice Blue Knight King and the others, who were still in the midst of combat with the blood kirin, were frozen. The half-deified Edward was curled on the ground as Han Sen beat the pulp out of him. It was difficult to imagine.

They knew the extent of Edward's strength, and a Duke should have had no hope of repelling the golden godlight.

Han Sen didn't seem hindered at all as he pounded Edward. Edward's defenses couldn't withstand the lightning power emitted by the rod, and the man screamed continually and frothed at the mouth. It was too frightening to watch.

"What, you won't treat me with respect unless I unleash my power?" Han Sen kept hitting Edward, wondering how he might kill the man.

The lightning could bypass an opponent's defenses, but it couldn't actually kill anyone. And Han Sen couldn't do the job himself. He was too weak to break the man's armor, so he couldn't kill Edward with his strength alone.

"The blood kirin!" Han Sen thought. Then, he beckoned for the monster.

The blood kirin was still chasing the others, but Ice Blue Knight King and his group didn't dare to engage the beast. They were keeping it busy by baiting it back and forth.

The blood kirin's intelligence was low. They lured it left and right, to and fro, and it hadn't managed to kill any of them.

At the sound of Han Sen's voice, though, the beast turned to look at him. When it saw Han Sen slamming his fists into Edward, a light came into its eyes. It ran over, chomped down on Edward's head, and katcha! The armor was destroyed. Edward's head was bitten off.

Severed arteries in the man's neck sprayed blood all over the blood kirin. It swallowed the head in a single gulp. The sight made Ice Blue Knight King and the others shiver in fear and anger.

Chapter 2267 My Opponent Isn't a Student

Han Sen jumped onto the blood kirin's back. Then, the blood kirin roared and flew towards Ice Blue Knight King and the others.

"Ignore those other guys and kill him first," Han Sen instructed, thrusting his Thunder God Spike toward Ice Blue Knight King.

Instead of answering, the blood kirin simply kept roaring as it headed for Han Sen's target.

"Charge!" Ice Blue Knight King called to the Ice Blue Knights as he swept his greatsword at the blood kirin.

The blood kirin paid no mind to the other Knights, though. The Knights had previously exploited the blood kirin's stupidity to land a few blows, but now that the creature was following Han Sen's commands, they found themselves having to give the creature an even wider berth.

"Han Sen, if you keep this up, you will never be allowed back into the Ice Blue Knights!" Ice Blue Knight King shouted, watching an Ice Blue Knight get torn to shreds by the blood kirin.

"I've already quit the Ice Blue Knights. Do you really think I plan to return after all this? When you guys decided to fight with me, you should have said your prayers and readied yourselves for death!" Han Sen shot back.

Ice Blue Knight King did not speak again. He had treated Han Sen as Yisha's student. He thought of Han Sen as a junior, and he had never thought he would have to take the young man as an enemy.

Even though Han Sen had betrayed the Knights, Ice Blue Knight King only wanted to teach him a lesson as a senior Knight. He wanted to grab Han Sen, take the slate, then haul Han Sen back to his rightful place in the Knights.

It was only now that Ice Blue Knight King realized he had been wrong about Han Sen since the beginning. He never considered Han Sen as an equal, and it never crossed his mind that Han Sen would see him as an opponent. Or a competitor.

Han Sen wasn't a junior who required protection or could be ordered around. Han Sen was a mighty elite who had exactly what it took to survive and thrive in that cruel world. He was holding his own despite the many powerful enemies that wanted him dead.

Ice Blue Knight King's realization might have come too late. If he had considered Han Sen as a real threat in the beginning, he wouldn't have given Han Sen any chance to escape the base. He would have taken Han Sen down as soon as possible, and he wouldn't have chased after Han Sen alone when he first made his escape.

The blood kirin chased the group back to the hellish skeletal gate, killing everyone but Ice Blue Knight King, Crime, and one other Ice Blue Knight along the way.

Han Sen and the blood kirin didn't dare draw too close to the gate, though. Han Sen allowed the three survivors to escape. Then, he went back to the lotus mountain where the blood kirin lived.

"I was foolish. I should have treated him like a genuine opponent." Ice Blue Knight King stared at Han Sen, who was riding away atop the blood kirin. His face was expressionless, showing no hint of anger or sadness.

From that moment on, Ice Blue Knight King was going to treat Han Sen like a genuine opponent. To go against a strong opponent, though, he'd need more than the few students he had.

Crime looked grim. "Is that guy really Yisha's student? He seems scarier than Yisha. I fear we may have underestimated him."

"You cannot blame us for that. Who would have assumed that a Marquise could pose such a threat?" asked the other Ice Blue Knight, whose name was Harder.

Harder was feeling rather conflicted at that moment. He and Edward had been very close, so he knew just how terrifying the man had been.

Although Edward was just a hybrid Extreme King and his attack power wasn't too strong when compared to the rest, his powers of observation and his movements were splendid.

Harder again envisioned Edward lying helpless under Han Sen's attack, and the Ice Blue Knight struggled to find words to describe what that horrible sight had done to him.

Although Han Sen was just a Duke, no one dared treat him as a Duke anymore.

Fox Queen met Ice Blue Knight King and the other two at the gate. She frowned and said, "Where are the others?"

Ice Blue Knight King told her what had happened. He spoke plainly and without exaggeration, describing Han Sen and the blood kirin's power. And he did not hide the fact that his group had well and truly failed.

"Interesting. Very interesting. The blood kirin became half-deified that quickly? And Han Sen was riding it in battle?" Fox Queen squinted her eyes.

She didn't blame Ice Blue Knight King. After a moment, she said, "You guys can stay here to aid Mister White in breaking the restrictions of this place. When I break the chains binding me here, I can go and take him down myself."

Back in the blood kirin's valley, Han Sen allowed Bao'er and the others to leave Destiny's Tower and relax for a bit. He also wanted to discuss their game plan for the coming conflict.

Han Sen had used the blood kirin's power to defeat Ice Blue Knight King and the others for the time being, but he didn't think they were safe yet. And that made him even more worried.

Edward and the others had been able to find the palace and bend the restrictions to gain entry. That meant one of them understood the structure of the palace, at least to some degree.

Fox Queen hadn't sent Mister White after them, and that was probably because Mister White knew the most about the palace's composition. If he was able to break Fox Queen's restrictions, then Han Sen would be in big trouble.

Han Sen stood no chance of defeating an unhampered deified elite, even if he had all sorts of deified items to use against her. And now, Han Sen was stuck in the White Bone Hell. The palace was his only means of escape. Unless he wanted to stay there forever, he would have to leave through the skeletal gate.

"But the blood kirin is only half-deified. If I could make it deified, it would be easy to ride it out and slaughter whatever got in our way," Han Sen thought to himself.

Han Sen's team talked for half the day, but they didn't come up with anything that seemed really promising. Han Sen decided to focus his efforts on absorbing all the Ghost Bone power he could. He hoped to get The Story of Genes to Duke class. The more power he had, the better his chances of survival would become.

"Even if Fox Queen really does manage to escape, she won't kill me if she can't find what she wants. That means I might still have a chance." As Han Sen rested, he fidgeted with the stone plate. He kept thinking about how things might play out.

The blood kirin and Han Sen were very comfortable with each other by this point, but only Han Sen could get close to the beast. The creature's presence was too menacing. It looked at everyone else like slabs of meat. The blood kirin looked likely to jump forward and gobble them up at any second.

Han Sen kept practicing with The Story of Genes. A month went by, and The Story of Genes was progressing quite well. It was still a long way away from becoming Duke, though.

Suddenly, the whole of White Bone Hell began to shake, and Han Sen heard Fox Queen's voice coming through the hellish skeletal gate. "My good little brother! Your big sister is coming to find you."

Fox Queen stood in front of the gate, and the metal shackles were still visible on her neck, arms, and ankles. The metal chains that connected to the shackles, however, were gone.

Mister White, Ice Blue Knight King, Crime, and Harder stood behind Fox Queen. It was like they were now her people.

Fox Queen's aura spread across the White Bone Hell, searching for Han Sen. But suddenly, two shadows appeared from the mountains. It was Han Sen and the blood kirin. That surprised her. She had expected Han Sen to try to escape, not come looking for her.

Chapter 2268 Holy Monument

“My good little brother, are you really that naive? Surely you don’t think that the blood kirin’s power is sufficient to challenge someone like me?” Fox Queen smiled at Han Sen and the blood kirin as she stood before the mountain.

“Big sis, you’re far too suspicious. Have you forgotten about the close bond between us? Why would I ever want to attack my big sister? When I realized that you’d been freed, I wanted to come and celebrate the occasion with you. I just thought I would bring along the blood kirin,” Han Sen said.

“If you’ve come here to celebrate with your big sister, you should have brought her a gift, isn’t that correct? Otherwise, your big sister would be made rather angry,” Fox Queen said, maintaining her smarmy smile.

Han Sen knew what gift Fox Queen was referring to. He moved without hesitation, pulling out the item and holding it up. “Of course, this is your big day! As a little brother, I want to give you the best gift I can.”

Fox Queen looked at the item in Han Sen’s hand, and then she looked at Mister White and asked, “What do you guys think of the gift my little brother is offering?”

“We have no idea. Only Edward knew what the item was,” Mister White confessed, looking slightly ill.

Fox Queen held out her hand, and Han Sen placed the item in her palm. Fox Queen looked at the crystal tablet carefully, but there did not appear to be anything special about it.

“Is this really the item you retrieved from Ghost Bone Town?” Fox Queen directed a piercing stare at Han Sen.

“The one and only,” Han Sen assured her.

Fox Queen gave Mister White the stone tablet. “Mister White, what do you make of it?”

After a brief moment of thought, Mister White said, “I don’t know what exactly is special about this item, but I can tell you that it is very old. It must be truly ancient, in fact. Its age alone makes it interesting.”

Mister White was making it clear to Fox Queen that he didn’t know if the tablet was the same item that Han Sen had taken from Ghost Bone Town. It was too old to be a forgery, though.

Han Sen thought to himself, “Of course it is old. I went back to the Alliance and took it from a crystallizer ruin.”

Fox Queen smiled and looked at Han Sen. "Since you've been so nice to your big sister, come and walk alongside me."

"Of course, my big sister." Han Sen smiled.

Fox Queen found it suspicious that Han Sen would give up his prize so easily, and she couldn't be certain if the tablet was genuine. She had to take Han Sen with her to the holy monument. Then, they could find out whether or not it was the real deal.

Fox Queen cast a spell, and one of her cords of power tethered Han Sen and the blood kirin to her. She smiled and said, "Please don't blame me for this precaution. You have been misbehaving recently, my little brother, so I'm afraid I have no choice."

"Oh, I'm so sorry that I've made you worry, big sister." Han Sen smiled coldly.

"What was that bird's nest that I saw you use earlier?" Fox Queen looked Han Sen over, but she saw no sign of the bird's nest. The item had melted her cord of power, which made quite an impression on her.

"I hid it someplace in the White Bone Hell. If you can find it, I can give it to you as a gift." Han Sen smiled. [Read more chapter on vipnovel.com](#)

Fox Queen wasn't in the mood to look. She couldn't find the bird's nest when she searched Han Sen's body, but that was fine by her. Hiding the nest in the White Bone Hell was like lobbing it into her personal warehouse. She would have plenty of time to seek it out later.

Fox Queen led Han Sen and the others out of the White Bone Hell and locked the hellish skeletal gate behind them. Then she ripped down the palace's gate, and the group left the palace.

"It has been so long since I've had the chance to breathe fresh air." Fox Queen stood under the sky, looking out at the stars as she spoke.

Han Sen and Mister White stood together, but they didn't speak. Mister White and Ice Blue Knight King weren't in any better of a situation than Han Sen.

Fox Queen's temperament changed with the wind, and there was no telling who she might be ready to kill one hour from then.

"Let's go! We will head for the holy monument. Let's see what the Sacred Leader chose to leave behind," Fox Queen said, looking at Mister White.

"Crime, you lead the way," Mister White ordered.

"Sir..." Crime said, his face pale.

"What are you thinking? Right now, surviving is our priority." Mister White gave a wry smile.

"Mister White, you are very smart. Don't worry, though; I do not like killing. Once I have collected the legacy items of the Sacred Leader, you will all be allowed to return home safe and sound." Fox Queen smiled.

Ice Blue Knight King and the others were too smart to believe Fox Queen's promise to them, but they were in no position to gainsay her decisions. They had to do as Fox Queen told them.

Even if they didn't tell Fox Queen the monument's location, she would find it at some point anyway. Withholding the information would only delay the inevitable.

Harder and Ice Blue Knight King both looked at Mister White. It had taken them a second to realize that Mister White was the only one who knew where the monument was.

Harder thought quickly as he walked. Amidst the people there, he was the only one who knew that Han Sen had stolen a stone tablet from Ghost Bone Town. The crystal stone that Han Sen had presented to Fox Queen wasn't the same item he had taken.

"Han Sen has guts, I'll give him that. He has actually dared to present a fake relic to Fox Queen. It is fake, though; they are sure to find that out once we reach the holy monument. And when that happens, I wonder what he is planning to do. Has he found a way to escape?" Harder looked at Han Sen. If Han Sen behaved strangely, Harder would notice.

Han Sen's chances of running away didn't seem very good. Fox Queen had a cord of power tied around him and the blood kirin, and she was being very careful to keep an eye on him. There was no way he could escape.

With Crime leading, they quickly traveled through the mountains and entered a primal forest. Many xenogeneics wandered across their path, but Ice Blue Knight King and Crime were able to cut them all down quickly. None of their foes were too strong.

They walked through the primal forest for four days. Eventually, Mister White pointed forward and spoke. "Here it is!"

Everyone looked where Mister White was pointing. They all looked shocked, and even Han Sen furrowed his eyebrows in suspicion.

"This is the holy monument?" Fox Queen frowned at the sight.

Mister White was indicating an old tree. The tree was very thick; it would require four people holding hands to encircle it. But other than that, it looked quite ordinary. Not to mention the fact that it was dead. There was not a single leaf on it, and many of its branches were broken. It stood alone in a small clearing in the forest.

In a primal forest like the one they were standing in, such trees must have been a dime a dozen. Mister White told them it was a holy monument, but the unimpressive sight before them made it difficult to believe his claim.

Han Sen used his Dongxuan Aura to scan the tree, and he could discern nothing special about it.

"The Sacred Leader didn't want to put his treasure somewhere obvious. If you look a little closer, though, you are sure to see the truth of this amazing old tree," Mister White said quietly.

Chapter 2269 Fruit Tree

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Fox Queen move closer to get a better look at the tree, but she soon started to frown. "Is there something inside the tree? Is the holy monument inside the tree?"

Mister White stepped forward in alarm. "Please do not touch it!"

"Why?" Fox Queen and Han Sen both looked at Mister White.

Mister White said, "This tree is very sturdy, and it has been infused with a special magnetic force that repels all xenogeneics. Inside the trunk, however, is a Shatter Space Crystal."

"Shatter Space Crystal?" One of Fox Queen's eyebrows rose.

"Yes," Mister White confirmed gravely.

Han Sen asked, "What is a Shatter Space Crystal?"

"It is a material that is used to construct teleportation devices," Harder explained. "Using one of those crystals in a device will greatly extend the device's range. It is the best-known material to use when crafting teleportation devices."

"That means there is a teleportation device inside that tree? We can use it to visit the holy monument?" Han Sen asked, starting to catch on.

"That's the theory," Mister White nodded. "But you must open the tree to gain access to the teleporter that is located inside it."

"With our big sister's power, tearing down the tree to reveal the crystal should be easy, shouldn't it?" Han Sen questioned.

"It's not that simple," Fox Queen replied in a distracted tone. "Shatter Space Crystals are unparalleled in their use for teleportation technology, but they are also very fragile. And the tree and the Shatter Space Crystal have been integrated very carefully. They are one with each other. If we use force to bring down the tree, the Shatter Space Crystal on the inside will be broken. That would completely ruin the device on the inside."

"It fortunate that you have the key, then. You simply need to use the key to open the tree's door," Mister White said.

Han Sen felt worry descend on him. He hadn't known that the stone tablet would be the key required to open that device. The piece of crystal he had given Fox Queen was little more than the makeshift paperweight. It was going to be impossible for her to gain access to that device.

“How do we use it?” Fox Queen looked at the brick in her hands, then back at Mister White.

“If our theory is correct, then there must be a keyhole.” Mister White looked hesitant as he spoke.

“But there is no hole in the tree’s surface that is this big.” Fox Queen looked at Han Sen, the suspicion clearly visible in her eyes. She already thought that Han Sen had given her a fake.

“I really did take that item from Ghost Bone Town. Keep looking; you should be able to use it.” Han Sen pretended to observe the tree, feigning innocence.

“Over there!” Han Sen suddenly pointed to the crown of the tall tree, looking very excited.

Fox Queen and the others looked at where Han Sen was pointing, but they couldn’t see anything special.

As the others were distracted, Han Sen leaped back onto the blood kirin. A bird’s nest appeared in his hand, and he held the nest out to protect himself from Fox Queen’s attacks.

The blood kirin roared and streaked toward the tree.

Fox Queen was the quickest to react. She threw her hands forward, sending countless cords of power chasing after Han Sen.

Han Sen put his hand into the concave part of the bird’s nest, and suddenly it began to grow larger. It became a giant shield that stopped the pursuing cords of power.

As the blood kirin arrived at the old tree, Han Sen brought out the real stone plate. He shoved it into a moon-shaped indent in the surface of the tree, and the stone plate slotted into it perfectly.

Katcha-cha!

The old tree suddenly broke open to reveal a large frame contained within the trunk. A shining orb of twisted space hung in the center of the frame, filled with spiraling, fractallic patterns. It was so bright that it was barely visible through the light.

The blood kirin carried Han Sen into the orb. Space seemed to fold around them for an instant, and then they vanished.

Fox Queen leaped after them. The dimensions of space were twisted, and she too disappeared with Han Sen.

Ice Blue Knight King gritted his teeth and ran inside, as well. Mister White, Crime, and Harder also decided to follow. They didn’t want to give up on claiming the Sacred Leader’s legacy here, after everything they had been through.

Han Sen set the bird’s nest atop his head. When the space around him untwisted and deposited him back in reality, he found himself standing in a palace. The stone tablet was back in his hands. He quickly activated his Purple-Eye Butterfly and looked around.

He was standing in a jade stone palace. There were many strange statues around him, fashioned in the images of animals, gods, and demons of all kinds.

The walls and the ceiling were covered in strange paintings. They didn't look like drawings or precise script, but they did seem to be symbols of some kind. Behind Han Sen, the teleporter began to shift again.

"Run!" Han Sen shouted. It appeared as if someone else was coming. He nudged the blood kirin, urging it to hurry toward the palace gate.

The palace gate was open, and a white light was shining through it. It seemed like the light had been placed there intentionally to block any view of what lay beyond, and not even Han Sen's Purple-Eye Butterfly could pierce that veil.

Han Sen was so desperate to get away from Fox Queen that he ignored the possibility of encountering traps. He and the blood kirin raced through the light.

The blood kirin carried Han Sen through the palace's front gate, and both of them felt space twisting in the same manner it had with the teleporter. When Han Sen's vision returned, he found himself inside another palace. He was standing before its teleporter.

It was different from the first palace, though. This palace didn't have half as many statues or paintings. In the middle of the palace, however, there was a fruit tree.

The fruit tree only stood about two meters high. Its body was like a plum tree, but it was wrought of twisted black steel. The branches seemed crooked and crudely made.

The leaves on the tree were silver, and the fruit hung like egg-sized silver sycees.

Han Sen counted eight silver sycees on the tree. They were all of the same size, and they all looked silver-white. At the bottom of each sycee was a unique pattern that appeared to have been branded into it.

"Silver treasures?" Han Sen had a closer look. Words were woven into the pattern.

"Is this tree manmade?" Han Sen looked at the teleporter behind him. The teleporter remained silent and inactive, which made Han Sen feel uneasy.

With Fox Queen's speed, she should have caught up with him by now. How was it possible that she was not there yet?

"When I traveled through the palace gate, did the light there send me someplace else?" Han Sen thought to himself. Aside from that, he couldn't think of another reason why Fox Queen wouldn't have caught up with him.

He was happy about this turn of events regardless of the reason, though. Without her on his heels, he felt a lot safer. Han Sen decided to look at the silver treasure again.

He hesitated for a moment, then put on his Galactic Lobster armor. He walked directly to the tree and pulled out his knife to cut down one of the silver treasures.

The Ghost Teeth Knife shrieked across the steel surface of the tree. Instead of severing the twig, the knife had only left a light mark upon it. The mark did produce some blood-like sap, though.

“This tree is alive!” Han Sen looked rather surprised. The sap welled with energy.

Han Sen used his Purple-Eye Butterfly to observe the silver treasure fruit tree. He quickly confirmed that it really was a living tree. It had been there for many years, growing from a small sapling to what it was now.

With the Purple-Eye Butterfly, Han Sen was able to observe a timeline that spanned a billion years.

Chapter 2270 Silver Sycee

The steel twig was unexpectedly tough. It took Han Sen a long while to cut through it so he could claim the silver fruit for himself.

When he finally sawed through the twig, the silver fruit dropped from the tree. Han Sen reached out his hand to grab it. But the moment the silver sycee touched his hand, Han Sen’s eyes widened.

His face twisted, and his muscles trembled and shook. His blood surged through his veins like lightning, and his entire body turned to ice jade. He roared. He struggled to raise the hand that was holding the silver sycee, his other hand clutching his waist as if he was about to have a hernia.

Han Sen summoned all the power he could. His hair flew around like mad, and green veins bulged across his head.

Patong!

The silver sycee continued to fall to the ground, taking Han Sen’s hand with it. Han Sen had to half-kneel on the ground.

“What kind of fruit is this? It is so heavy! If I swallowed this, it would tear straight through my stomach!” Han Sen stared at the fruit in disbelief. He wanted to get his hand out from under it, but it was pinning his hand down. He pulled away with all his might, but the fruit wouldn’t budge.

Han Sen took out his knife and hacked away at the silver fruit. The loud shrieking noise of metal on metal assaulted his ears, but the sycee remained completely undamaged. The fruit was harder than the tree it had come from.

After a moment of thought, Han Sen decided to dig into the ground instead. The floor of the palace was also incredibly hard, though. Han Sen’s cuts only left light scrape marks behind.

The blood kirin used its own claws to help dig through the stone near Han Sen’s hand. The creature actually managed to leave a few proper scratch marks, but whenever it pulled its claws away, the scratch marks would disappear.

The blood kirin kept digging, but the floor continued to miraculously recover. Han Sen's hand remained motionless under the silver sycee.

"Grab that fruit and lift it away!" Han Sen barked to the blood kirin when he realized that digging into the floor was a futile endeavor.

The blood kirin, upon hearing Han Sen, locked its jaws around the silver sycee. It yanked upward with all of its might, but the silver sycee remained still.

"What... what is this thing..." Han Sen was frozen. It was just a fruit, but not even a half-deified being could move it. The sycee didn't even twitch.

Even more strangely, Han Sen's hand hadn't been crushed. The sycee was keeping him pinned in place, but if the fruit was really as heavy as it seemed, his hand should have been crushed and broken.

In truth, his hand was only suffering a bit of pressure. It definitely hadn't been injured.

Just as Han Sen was about to use Purple-Eye Butterfly to take a look at the fruit, the teleporter rippled with movement. Someone was coming.

Han Sen looked over as Mister White and Crime emerged. Their presence made him frown.

Although Crime was King class instead of half-deified, Han Sen had witnessed his talents in battle. He was no worse than the half-deified Edward, by Han Sen's estimation.

"Han Sen, what are you doing?" Mister White looked at Han Sen with interest.

The blood kirin interrupted his question with a roar. Then, it leaped towards Mister White and Crime. Its claws wielded a blood air as they slashed as Mister White like blades.

Mister White stepped forward like he was teleporting. He appeared right beside the blood kirin and pressed a hand against the creature's head.

Mister White's hand flashed with a strange symbol. That symbol sank into the scaled forehead of the blood kirin like a brand.

Boom!

The blood kirin's body suddenly became heavier, and the increased weight almost took the creature to its knees.

The symbol glowed gently from the creature's forehead, and the blood kirin seemed to struggle against the encumbrance.

The blood kirin roared and jumped towards Mister White again, but this time, it was far slower. Mister White moved with eerie grace, and every step looked like he was teleporting. His power was similar to Huangfu Jing's. He was far stronger than her, of course.

The blood kirin continued to chase Mister White, all the while roaring in rage. It was angry at being tricked, and even more furious that it was unable to bring harm to Mister White. Mister White had played it for a fool.

“The blood kirin’s intelligence really is quite low.” Han Sen sighed. The beast had plenty of brawn, but it was severely lacking in the brains department.

Mister White lured the blood kirin to a side hall, and Han Sen could do nothing to stop him. Meanwhile, Crime headed for the pinned-down Han Sen. He looked at Han Sen and said, “We have no grudge with you. Give me the stone plate, and we will leave. We will pretend we did not see you.”

“Come and get it, if you have what it takes,” Han Sen replied flatly.

“You are strong, but regrettably, the fruit seems to be holding you in place quite easily. You can’t escape as you are right now. How do you expect to fight me?” Crime drew his knife.

They had paid the price of underestimating Han Sen before, but now, Crime considered him to be an equal opponent. Crime and Mister White were not going to underestimate him anymore because he was a Duke. Even though Han Sen’s hand was held firmly in place, which left him unable to run, Crime was still going to use all his power when he attacked.

Crime’s knife was very creepy, although it was only one foot long. It was made of black metal, and the blade was shorter than the handle. It looked like the blade had been broken.

A ring protruded from the base of the handle, and a chain was attached firmly to the ring. The other end of the chain connected to Crime’s strong arm.

As Crime slashed toward him, Han Sen didn’t speak. He simply tapped the bird’s nest on his head, and it widened to shield Han Sen’s entire body.

The bird’s nest caught Crime’s strike and reflected it in complete silence. No sound was heard, and the nest remained perfectly intact.

Crime was surprised. He gathered up all his power and slashed a few more times. Nothing he tried seemed to work, though.

Han Sen wasn’t worried that Crime would break the bird’s nest. Even Fox Queen hadn’t been able to damage that thing. There was no way Crime could do what she could not.

It was a shame the bird’s nest couldn’t be used offensively. However, he was currently more frustrated by his inability to get the fruit off of his hand.

Han Sen tried a few different powers, but nothing seemed to work. Aside from using his super god spirit body, he didn’t seem to have many options.

Suddenly, Mister White’s voice came from the side hall. “Han Sen, if things continue like this, none of us will benefit. Why don’t we try to cooperate?”

“What do you suggest?” Han Sen asked after a moment.

“Make this blood kirin stop, firstly. At least then we might be able to talk,” Mister White said.

“Okay.” Han Sen called the blood kirin back to his side. Mister White also removed the mark he had placed upon the creature’s forehead.

“How about this: I’ll help you escape, and in return, you’ll give me the stone plate,” Mister White said while looking at Han Sen.