

Astral Pet Store

Chapter 21: First Main Quest

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

“Really?”

Su Ping twitched his eyebrows in surprise when he heard the sound alert of money received. He didn't expect this boy to be so swift in action.

The 20,000 coins entered his account and that could be converted to 200 points of energy.

With the 200 points of energy, he could buy a bottle of “Awakening Potion” at once, which could make him a battle pet warrior.

While he was delighted, Su Ping kept a calm look. At the same time, he felt reluctant to sell it. After all, the Colored Buddha Leaves were more valuable than what the price indicated. If it weren't for the fact that money made outside the store could not be converted to energy points, he would have tried to sell the Colored Buddha Leaves elsewhere so he could name the price at will.

“System, can we not increase the price?” Su Ping asked in his mind, unwilling to sell it at this price.

“The system's pricing is reasonable. There's no need to change the price,” the system replied.

4Su Ping felt he was choking on his own blood. His face darkened.

The siblings were baffled as they saw this anguished look on Su Ping's face. Others would be unhappy when a deal fell through. Why would this owner pull a long face when a deal came through? What a weirdo.

1“Here.”

Su Ping handed the plant to Fan Yujing.

Fan Xiaoyu took it over for her brother. “How do you eat this?” She was curious.

“How?” Su Ping said indifferently, “Chew it up so you don't choke.”

3Fan Xiaoyu was on the verge of spitting out blood in anguish. Taunted by his words, she stood there, at a loss, and could not come up with anything else to say.

Fan Yujing didn't mind seeing his sister being humiliated. "Sir, how many pieces of Scarlet Stone Fruits are left? I will take them all," said Fan Yujing.

Su Ping's expression softened a bit as another order was being placed. He turned around and picked up the bottle with Scarlet Stone Fruits to count the number. "One piece of fruit is 130 and there are 22 left. Altogether, it would be 2860 coins."

"Is that 130 for one piece of fruit?" Fan Xiaoyu came back to her senses, only to be stunned again. "You are selling on a per fruit basis?"

"Should I sell them in slices?" Su Ping glared at her.

8Fan Xiaoyu: "..."

Fan Yujing had already noticed that his grandpa didn't have many Scarlet Stone Fruits left. He had been prepared for the price so he didn't comment further. At least, for the moment, the Scarlet Stone Fruit was the only thing the Vermilion Bird would eat. The price was still acceptable even though it was high.

Fan Yujing paid up and collected his merchandise. He darted a glance to the other items on the counter but was no longer in the mood to probe. "Let's go," he said to his sister.

Fan Xiaoyu was in low spirits. She carried the food and left the store with her brother. When they got into their car, she snorted angrily. "This person is despicable. I am furious!"

6Su Ping lashed out on her several times. She had been grinding her teeth in wrath. She would have come forward to fight back if it weren't for the fact that Su Ping had displayed a horrifying strength.

Fan Yujing didn't share her view. "It is us that have been careless. I didn't know that we could meet such a person in this kind of small place. This person has the strength and is young, yet he is willing to spend his days in comfort here. I cannot figure him out."

"Hmm, he is just purposely making a mystery out of simple things. Maybe he's a bastard from some big family and is homeless, so he has to come here and sell some family belongings just to make some money for food!" Fan Xiaoyu conjured up the meanest assumption. With this said, she couldn't help but grin. The cloud over her mood had vanished into smoke.

4Fan Yujing was speechless after seeing how his sister was cheering herself up. “All right now. You drive. Let’s go to a good hospital to bind up this wound. Later, I will contact my friend and have him treat me,” he said, grumpily.

Fan Xiaoyu threw a look at his twisted arm. That grin was soon substituted by a frown. Her look became solemn.

This person was far stronger than she was, to be able to hurt her brother this badly. She was sure that she was one of the best amongst her peers at school. She could never imagine that she could meet someone stronger in that remote and backward place.

“So mean!”

She bit her teeth in hatred again as she remembered how detached that person was.

9Buzzing, buzzing!

The car was like a beast that had gone mad. The exhaust growled.

Somehow, Fan Yujing felt something was wrong. In the next second, the car was launched forward.

“No...!”

...

...

Hearing the car rushing away, Su Ping knew that the siblings were finally gone. He thought they had to be in a rush considering how fierce the exhaust sounded.

“Are they rushing to the hospital?” Su Ping raised his eyebrows. He didn’t think about it too much; soon after, he shifted his focus on his account.

1He did the calculation. His eyes were filled with passionate feelings.

$8700+20000+2860=31560$ coins.

Altogether, that was over 30,000 coins!

That would be 315.6 energy points when converted!

2“Finally, I’m out of poverty...” Su Ping teared up. He pulled up the system’s shop and bought that “Awakening Potion” worth a hundred energy points without further ado.

-100.

When the points of energy were deducted, Su Ping felt his pocket suddenly become heavy with an extra item added.

He took it out. It was that bottle of Awakening Potion sold in the shop.

Su Ping's eyes glowed. He asked at once, "System, how do I take this?"

5"The Awakening Potion is made from an ancient underground spring. Take it orally," the system gave a simple reply.

3Su Ping was about to drink it at once when he suddenly remembered something. He left the counter, turned around, and closed the door. Then, he stepped into the back room. He opened the lid and poured the Awakening Potion into his mouth.

2It didn't feel like a flow of liquid; it was more like a mist.

"So warm..."

4As soon as he took it, Su Ping felt this warm mist spreading across his body through his veins. His arms, legs, and back turned warmer at once.

1At the same time, his body seemed to be lighter until he felt he weighed nothing, as if he could just float when he stood on his tiptoes.

Feeling this warmth, Su Ping could faintly hear some cracking sounds all over his body. That was a special sound that brought a marvelous feeling. It was as if every cell in him was sprouting and cracking, with new things bursting forth.

This kind of disputing and revitalizing feeling was not exclusive to his physical body. He felt his brain was going through the same thing. He could hear a constant subtle cracking sound until it completely occupied his mind.

1After a long, long time.

When everything quieted down, Su Ping opened his eyes again.

A world that was distinct and in focus was revealed in front of his eyes.

To his surprise, Su Ping realized that the darkroom and everything around could be seen vividly, including the protruding particles painted on the white walls.

He heard the system's even tone, "Congratulations to the host on becoming a battle pet warrior. The main quest is initiated.

1“Main quest: the host is to breed a pet of his own within one week. The aptitude of the pet shall not be lower than upper-middle.”

10Su Ping was astounded.

The main quest?

But there were strings attached.

He had to have a pet with an upper-middle level in aptitude.

10When he was training the Lightning Rat, Su Ping already had an idea about how strict the system was. A Lightning Rat that could be regarded as the best was only rated as “below average” by the system.

He could hardly imagine how outstanding a pet that was rated at the upper-middle level would be!

Chapter 22: Antiquity Pet Contract

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Su Ping inspected the status of his body attentively. He had just become a battle pet warrior.

He also had to admit that battle pet warriors and average people were worlds apart. Just on the front of antiquity alone, Su Ping had detected a great difference.

5He had become lissome and his sight, hearing, and the rest of the five senses had become two times as acute as before!

5“In the Federation, battle pet warriors are divided into nine ranks.

“Those from the first to the third ranks are elementary battle pet warriors; from the fourth to the sixth are intermediate battle pet warriors. The ones at the seventh rank are advanced battle pet warriors and those at the eighth rank are battle pet masters who enjoy a high status and can be qualified as professors in famous academies.

“As for the ninth rank battle pet warriors, the highest rank, they have titles conferred upon them and are admired by the public!”

“Beyond that rank are the legendary Beast King battle pet warriors. Each of such people is a legend. Their life experiences are adapted to movies and novels, so that their stories and exploits can be disseminated through the generations. People will still remember them even after a hundred years of their passing!”

“Just now, the original core talent has just awakened in me. I haven’t started the battle pet warrior’s training and there’s no astral power in me at all. I cannot even qualify as a first-rank battle pet warrior.

“Cultivation as a battle pet warrior...”

Cultivation had posed a conundrum for Su Ping.

He was no longer able to get admitted to Astral Pet academies given his age. After all, he had passed the age limit. That is, unless he was admitted via special recruitment due to an outstanding performance.

The main knowledge source on cultivation for elementary battle pet warriors were the various Astral Pet academies.

While there were some cultivation methods of battle pet warriors posted online, they were superficial. There were no examples for practical applications.

“Do I have to... ask my sister for advice?”

Su Ping dismissed the idea as soon as it popped up, at the thought of her arrogant face.

No matter which way he looked at it, the chances of his sister being willing to teach him would be... zero. No, actually, below zero. He would be mercilessly mocked by her as well!

Su Ping shook his head. Anyways, he had become a battle pet warrior. He had to make a contract with a pet first.

Su Ping knew the basics of making a contract with a pet. This was no secret. Anyone with some fundamental understanding of pets would know.

“The number of pets a battle pet warrior can make a contract with is directly linked to spiritual power. The stronger the spiritual power is, the more pets can be contracted and the pets will be stronger as well!”

“Usually, a battle pet warrior cannot establish a contract with a pet that is two ranks higher than him/herself. Otherwise, the pressure on the spirit would hinder the mind, to descend into insanity until one became mentally retarded!”

Su Ping was not even a first rank battle pet warrior. The kinds of pets that he could make contracts with were few and far between. Lucky for him, there was one in the store.

Remembering that Little Skeleton, Su Ping began to have second thoughts.

That little thing was of practically no value and it would take up a spot if he were to build a contract with it.

The more pets were contracted, the higher the pressure on the master's mind would be.

“If I were to buy other pets when my strength could be improved over time, I would tie them down and their development would be suffocated because most pets with advanced bloodlines would stay in the first rank for a very short time.”

Su Ping frowned. As such, there was not much of a choice for him. He had to go with the low-rank pets.

Fortunately, he could remove the contract once he became more powerful in the future. Removing the contract would add a burden to his mind as well. Within three days, he would lose his combat abilities. That being said, with the protection of the pet store, such side effects could be ignored.

Having made up his mind, Su Ping stopped worrying. He went back to the lobby.

Slap!

The Little Skeleton seemed to be scared by Su Ping. It rolled down from the chair by the counter, then it fell to the ground, turning into a pile of bones that slowly reassembled.

1Su Ping was speechless. This Little Skeleton appeared to be timid. This was rarely seen among pets of the demon family.

“Little guy, you will be my pet from now on.”

1Su Ping moved closer. He picked up the Little Skeleton from the ground and placed it on the counter.

The Little Skeleton sat there silently, staring at Su Ping blankly with its hollowed eye sockets.

Su Ping was happy that the Little Skeleton was behaving. The only benefit of a timid pet was the fact that they could be tamed easily.

1He was about to make the contract when, suddenly, he heard the system's message, “Does the host want to purchase an Antiquity Pet Contract?”

“Antiquity Pet Contract?”

Su Ping did not understand.

“The Antiquity Pet Contract is a form of Astral Pet contract and is equipped with all the features of the current Astral Pet contracts. The only difference is that the pet’s emotions can be sensed via the Antiquity Pet Contract. Also, within a specific range, the pet can be called back to the pet space at any time, provided that the pet is not constrained or sealed in any way,” the system explained, with particular patience.

Su Ping was left staring, open-mouthed.

Different effects could come from varied contracts?

In his memory, there was only one form of Astral Pet contracts. Nobody knew that there could be other contracts apart from this common Astral Pet contract!

Besides, wasn’t this Antiquity Pet Contract a bit too fabulous to be able to summon the pet back at any time?

Being the case, once the pet sensed danger, it could be summoned back to avoid a sacrifice. For battle pet warriors, this was a master skill!

Su Ping became alerted as his mind wandered to his point. “How much energy does it cost?”

“One hundred points of energy will do,” the system replied.

Su Ping was amazed.

Just one hundred energy points?

Why would such an excellent article be sold at such a cheap price?

Even the elementary beast catching ring would cost a hundred energy points in this shop!

“Consider this contract somewhat like a gift from the system. The actual price is far dearer than this.” The system sounded casual.

“Really?” Su Ping was skeptical. Could it be that this was a complimentary offering to begin with, and the system was ripping him off?

“Warning. First profanity alert!”

“Hmm. Did you just admit it?” Su Ping wore a sardonic grin.

The system remained silent.

Su Ping went through some unspoken criticism in his heart. While he hated to part with his energy points, he did make up his mind and purchased it.

4For the moment, the contract might not be of great help to him. That being said, beyond all question, this Antiquity Pet Contract was valuable. Furthermore, this contract was not a disposable item. It could be used repeatedly and with all his pets. He could use it for a long time to come.

If in the future, this contract could enable him to save the life of an advanced pet, then the 100 energy points would be well spent!

-100.

“Purchase success. The Antiquity Pet Contract has arrived. Please check,” the system reminded him.

Before Su Ping had the time to cry over his lost energy points, he found a complicated mark emerging in his mind. The mark, seemingly made up of many lines, was drawn in his memory stroke by stroke, until it could not be forgotten and he would remember it to the end of his days.

2“Lead with blood and engrave with an array?”

2Su Ping came back to his senses, still quite confused and stupefied. He focused his mind and the contract method of this Antiquity Pet Contract emerged once more, shocking him again.

This contract was not made with astral powers. His blood would be the medium and the content was the array depicted with complex and mysterious lines. Such a contract would be firm and would not be cut off unless the master removed the contract by his own accord.

“Apart from being able to summon the Astral Pet back, this contract is similar to the ones built with astral powers, including removing the contract. I would lose combat abilities for three days.” Su Ping took a closer look. The system did not lie to him.

Chapter 23: Mutation

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Su Ping shifted his focus back to the Little Skeleton. According to the process described in the Antiquity Pet Contract, he bit his finger and slowly painted the Little Skeleton’s forehead with his blood.

The Little Skeleton was still sitting there, absent-minded. It seemed to be oblivious of everything around it, but then the Little Skeleton reacted to the smell of blood on Su Ping's finger; a faint scarlet color appeared in its hollowed eye sockets.

The Little Skeleton slowly lifted its arm to reach toward Su Ping's hand, although the latter retracted his hand right after he finished painting the contract.

An intricate blood pattern was engraved on the Little Skeleton's forehead.

As Su Ping lowered his hand, the blood pattern disappeared bit by bit as if the Little Skeleton had absorbed it.

In the next moment, Su Ping felt an additional line in his consciousness that was linked to an external consciousness.

The second was a quite feeble consciousness, like a flickering candlelight that could die out at any time.

From the weak consciousness, Su Ping felt some faint hints of fear and confusion.

"Is this the Little Skeleton's consciousness?" Su Ping looked at the Little Skeleton. With the power granted to him by the contract, he could vividly sense the changes in the Little Skeleton's emotions.

The Little Skeleton looked up, staring blankly at Su Ping. It was still puzzled about the recent changes it was going through.

Su Ping patted its little head. After all, the Little Skeleton had just come into being. There was no legacy nor memory in it. It was only natural that the Little Skeleton would be muddleheaded about everything.

Su Ping went to open the door. As the sunlight flooded the store, he abruptly sensed fear coming from the Little Skeleton's mind.

He turned around, only to see the Little Skeleton who had fallen from the counter. The bones scattered around slowly moved into the shades at a corner by the counter. The Little Skeleton reassembled itself. It was hugging its knees, curled up, shivering from fear.

"Is it afraid of sunlight?"

Su Ping was surprised. He realized that he had been ignorant. The majority of pets of the demon family preferred a dark environment. A fraction of them were so afraid of sunlight that they could only stay in darkness.

Su Ping came back at once and carried the trembling Little Skeleton to the pet room at the back.

There was an empty nursing pen. Su Ping placed the Little Skeleton in the stalagmite array.

“System, this complimentary nursing pen costs 10 coins per hour. What can it do?” Su Ping asked out of curiosity.

It was not a cheap price to hire the pet boarding service at 10 coins per hour.

“The free nursing pens are built with scrap spirit stones. The remaining spirit energy and the complex and confusing radiations from the scrap minerals can be of aid in the pet’s growth. There is a high chance that the pets can mutate,” The system explained.

“Mutate?”

Su Ping was startled.

Apart from evolution, with the difference in the living environment, there was a small chance that pets could mutate.

As for mutation, it implied that the pet would become an entirely different species.

Maybe it could become a new and more powerful species, or it could degenerate into a failed species.

Some war zones with extremely harsh environments, filled with devastation and technological waste, were the most likely places to breed mutant beasts.

Most of the mutant beasts would carry agents with unknown diseases, which would very likely cause plagues or form a large-scale virus attack.

Such cases could be lethal to the general public. As such, in most cases, “mutated pets” were words that could instill panic.

At the same time, in scientific pet studies, people never stopped inducing mutations in pets. Many famous ninth rank pets in the Federation had been the result of mutations by scientific methods. Those pets were proficient in battles; they had also been successfully bred as new species!

“Are the pets mutated in the slots good or bad?” Su Ping consulted the system.

The system gave a brief answer, “Half and half. It is advisable for the host to upgrade the nursing pens into elementary nursing pens, to avoid damaging the store’s reputation.”

Su Ping curled his lips.

Fortunately, he thought of asking this question.

He already had a bad feeling when the system mentioned radiation of scrap minerals. The cheap buyer takes bad meat.

“Go ahead and upgrade it.”

Without hesitation, Su Ping made the decision.

First of all, after the upgrade, the rent would be 10 times higher and other benefits would ensue. Second, he couldn't afford to face the possibilities of failed mutations.

Harming his customer's pets and having a fall-out with them would be detrimental to the store's reputation. The system was not giving him a free nursing pen. The system was planting a sinister bomb!

Lucky for him, he had just made some quick cash. Other than that, the business hadn't been good in the past couple of days. Nothing had happened.

-20 points of energy.

Suddenly, a hazy white light glowed over the two aged stalagmite arrays. When the white light was dispersed, he found that the stalagmite arrays had a brand-new appearance. The arrays were practically the same; they used the same sharp stones but the color of each stalagmite was completely different from before.

Previously, it was as if the slots had been built with rough rocks in dim and dreary colors. But then, the stalagmites were like ivories, full of life.

“Now we are talking.”

Su Ping was satisfied.

His heart began to ache though, since he remembered that this elementary nursing pen would cost him one energy point for maintenance every day.

It was burning a hole in his pocket.

In a blink, less than 100 energy points remained from the original 315.

“I have to make the most of the time available to earn energy points. I still need to upgrade the Chaos Spirit Pool.”

Su Ping was filled with anticipation at the thought of the effects that a third rank Chaos Spirit Pool could bring. If he could breed a pet with a Beast King's bloodline, the mere action of displaying the pet in the store could attract a large group of customers!

"Is anyone in?" someone was shouting from outside the store.

Su Ping found the voice familiar. He rushed out from the pet room in the back.

Two beautifully-dressed girls were standing by the door, looking around quite carefully.

"What?"

Su Ping immediately recognized one of the girls when he laid eyes on her. It was the girl that came for the Lightning Rat.

...

"Is the owner here?" asked Su Yanying by the door. She looked into the store, confused.

"Yingying, are you sure this is the place?"

Lan Lele, who was wearing a gauzy skirt, had tagged along. After looking at such an obscure and disgraceful little store, Lan Lele found it hard to believe that this genius Lightning Rat had been trained here.

"This is the place!"

Su Yanying was certain. "This place must have something to do with the changes in my Lightning Rat!"

She gradually had a better understanding after the preliminary contests; there was indeed something way off about her Lightning Rat.

After being visited and questioned by her teachers and the class advisor, she realized to a large extent how freakishly strong her Lightning Rat was!

It could be regarded as a coincidence if the Lightning Rat only learned one advanced pet skill. But nobody would think this after seeing how the Lightning Rat could use two of such skills.

She threw her teachers off the scent; after all, she wasn't really sure. And yet, she did know that this might have something to do with the pet store where she left her Lightning Rat for temporary boarding.

Before that, the Lightning Rat had been quite ordinary and it had never come into contact with anything else before the stay at the pet store. With such analysis, she believed the only variable in the equation was the pet store!

Chapter 24: What Did You Do to It?

2

“The owner is here.”

Su Yanying’s eyes’ brightened slightly when she saw Su Ping coming out from the back. She stepped forward right then, dragging her friend with her.

“Hi, what can I do for you?”

Su Ping moved to the counter and his eyebrows were knitted together.

His heart was in extreme pain as he thought about the mere 108 coins he received for that outstanding Lightning Rat.

Su Yanying noticed that Su Ping’s expression appeared to be unnatural. While she found it bizarre, she did not pry further. “Sir, do you remember the Lightning Rat I picked up?” She threw out her question in a hasty manner.

Rip.

It was the sound of the scar in his heart being torn open.

Su Ping curled his lips and his face darkened. “What is wrong with it?”

“There is nothing wrong with it. I’m only asking if you did anything to it.” Su Yanying couldn’t hold back from asking this question.

“...” Su Ping remained silent for a long time before he said, “What do you think I would do to a rat?”

“Well...”

Su Yanying realized that her question was phrased oddly. Her cheeks blushed as she went on in a low voice, “Sir, that’s not what I meant. I’m only wondering if it was trained here.” She uttered those words with prudence and respect.

If the Lightning Rat had been trained there, then there had to be master trainers working in this place. Even battle pet warriors with titles would have to treat such master trainers with respect and politeness. Of course, she also had to do the same.

“Oh?”

Su Ping was intrigued. He understood the intention of their visit, based on the information he heard from his sister Su Lingyue.

This girl saw that little rat in action, so she returned to find out the reason for its growth.

There was one thing, though.

This matter involved the pet store’s secret and the system, things that he could not expose.

Su Ping made up a random answer, “If taking it for a walk can count as training, then yes, I did train it for a couple of days.”

Su Yanying did not see this coming. “Walks?”

“Of course I have to take it outside for a walk after a good meal,” Su Ping said off the top of his head. He was about to be convinced by his own words.

2Su Yanying was losing patience with Su Ping playing with her. “Sir, I’m being serious. Did you not train it at all?” she asked in a hurry.

Su Ping frowned a bit. She was persistent. “What does it have to do with you if it was trained here or not? I can compensate you if you think there is something wrong with it, or you can return it and I will buy it. If you find it in good shape, then I will be okay if you want to give me more money. Other than that, please leave if you have nothing else to do here. Don’t interrupt my business.”

5Su Yanying never expected that the store owner would tell them to leave so directly. She recovered from her shock soon and hurried to explain, “Sir, this is not what I’m saying. I am merely seeking confirmation. If you have trained it for me, please let me know, all right?”

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. “If so, then yes. Are you happy now?”

Su Yanying found it hard to find words.

“Hey you, we’re not here to look for trouble. If you trained Lightning Rat, then tell us. We’re not going to hurt you,” Lan Lele said, unsatisfied by Su Ping’s attitude.

1Su Ping kept a straight face. “I already said it. I trained the Lightning Rat. But if you want to know the process and methods, then I will have to say sorry.”

Su Yanying finally found the root of their misunderstanding. She shook her head at once. "Sir, I have no desire to look into the methods and process of your training. I'm just very grateful to you for training my pet."

"Oh, I see..." Su Ping put away his cold face and said, "If you want to say thank you, then give me some more money."

1"What?"

Su Yanying was stunned.

Money?

As far as she could tell, a person able to train the Lightning Rat to such a degree had to be a hermit who would not care about such worldly items.

1"You don't have money?" Su Ping's eyebrows were knitted together. Coldness returned to his face again.

4Looking at how Su Ping changed his face, Su Yanying had the feeling that she had made a mistake since the very beginning. Was her Lightning Rat trained elsewhere?

"I finally understand what it means when people say that before gold, even kings take off their hats!"

Lan Lele couldn't help but complain about Su Ping's reaction. She grabbed Su Yanying's hand and said, "Yingying, you must have made a mistake. There's no way that your Lightning Rat was trained in such a place. That little thing had an epiphany or something else happened. Let's go back and discuss it."

Su Yanying came back to her senses and shook her head. "Since the owner has admitted that there was some training, I believe the change happened here. Anyways, I must thank the owner for taking care of the Lightning Rat."

With that said, Su Yanying noticed that Su Ping's expression was the same as before and was unmoved by her words. She realized something. She took out her phone and transferred one thousand. "Sir, this is a thank you."

Su Ping didn't expect that the girl would pay the extra money, and she was quite generous at that. After a moment of surprise, he nodded and said, "Good, good. I would appreciate it if you can give me more."

4Su Yanying did not know how to respond to that. Of course, she wasn't going to give him more money.

"What kind of person is he?" Lan Lele almost burst into flames after hearing Su Ping's reply. At that moment, she just caught a glimpse of the many pet foods behind the counter. Her eyes were wide open in astonishment. "300 for a plant? Such ridiculous pricing!"

She grabbed Su Yanying's arm at once. "Let's go, this is not a legitimate store. He's ripping us off!"

Alerted by her cries, Su Yanying became dazed for a second. Then, she cast a look at the pet food behind Su Ping. She, as well, was startled by what she saw.

Still, she remained on the spot. Lan Lele failed to drag her away.

A moment later, she came back to her senses. She took a look at Su Ping who was still composed. There was no trace of shame in him.

Su Ping could tell from Su Yanying's looks that she was deliberating. After a moment of hesitation, Su Yanying asked, "Sir, can I leave a few more pets here? Is that okay?"

Naturally, Su Ping was glad when there was business. "Yes, of course. For how long?" He nodded at once.

"Three days." Su Yanying replied after some thought.

Su Ping nodded slightly. He took out an old fashioned calculator and pushed the buttons rapidly. "For three days, that is three by 24. Well, each pet will cost you 7200 coins. How many do you want to leave here?"

"Three pets..." Halfway through her sentence, Su Yanying glared at Su Ping in utter astonishment. "How, how much is that?"

"Is there something wrong with my ears?" By her side, Lan Lele was perplexed as well.

"One pet, 7200 coins." Su Ping raised his eyebrows when he saw how the two girls reacted.

"7200 coins?" Su Yanying repeated the numbers. She was still questioning the possibility of her hearing acting up. "7200 coins for one pet? Sir, I just want to leave them in your care for three days only!"

Su Ping nodded. "I know. This is the price for a three-day stay. The charge is 100 per hour. So, the result comes as 7200 for three days, no more, no less."

"One hundred per hour?" Lan Lele sized Su Ping up and down as if he were a monster.

Chapter 25: Initiating Training Quest

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“This person must be in dire need of money, right?”

1Lan Lele was pissed off.

Even at the flagship stores—under master trainer’s names that provided all-round care and could be counted among the best locally—pet boarding charges would never go as high as this.

But.

“What the hell is wrong with this shabby store?”

“Look at the environment. It’s clean but the storefront is narrow, small and worn-out. Its location is completely out of the way. The monthly rent might not even go beyond 3000. How could this store compare with the famous flagship stores?”

Lan Lele believed that this owner had decided either to not do business, or to make one deal happen and then close down for years. He was trying to milk money from them!

“Wishful thinking!”

“Yingying, let’s go. This owner is a dirty profiteer. A master able to train this Lightning Rat is surely someone who would never have anything to do with him!” Lan Lele glared at Su Ping, her mouth virtually foaming. She didn’t hesitate to urge Su Yanying to leave.

But Su Yanying did otherwise. She asked Su Ping, puzzled, “Sir, the service was not this expensive the last time I came here.”

“The care system has been upgraded. Naturally, the price has to go up,” Su Ping said, calmly.

1“The care system has been upgraded?” Su Yanying stood stunned for a moment. Then, a glow came to her eyes as she said, gladly, “The pet boarding treatment is better than before? Doesn’t this mean that the pet can learn more advanced pet skills?”

“Of course not,” Su Ping said without thinking.

“What?” Su Yanying’s face was covered in question marks.

“I just trained that little guy for some time while I was at it. Its change was a complete surprise.” Su Ping kept a straight face. “Now, of course, I no longer have such luxury of

free time. If you want to leave your pets for boarding, then that is it. No training is included.”

Su Yanying understood. “Sir, you finally admitted it. It is you that helped train my Lightning Rat!” she said, giggling.

“I did admit it before,” Su Ping pointed it out.

“This is not the same.” Su Yanying gloated. Staying was the right decision. She hurried to the next question, “Well, sir, what benefits can come with the current pet boarding?”

1She believed that there had to be some reasons to account for the high price.

Su Ping remained neither hostile nor friendly. “Only an improvement on the pet’s constitution and power of understanding. If the pet itself is quite qualified, then there is a low chance of evolution but nothing else. If you want the pets to learn pet skills from this foster care, you will only be disappointed.”

1He was telling the truth. After all, the benefits that came with the nursing pens alone would be worthy enough for the price charged. If he had to throw in the training, he would be losing money as it was.

1Su Yanying said oh. She was let down but not so upset.

After all, she managed to confirm that her Lightning Rat had received training in this very store. This fact alone was enough to make her happy. At least, she had found the origin of the change in her pet, saving her from that muddle-headed situation.

“Only an improvement in its power of understanding and constitution?” Lan Lele gazed at Su Ping skeptically.

While Su Ping had admitted that the Lightning Rat’s change was related to this store, she still found it hard to believe. Once Su Ping revealed the benefits of the pet boarding service, her skepticism was increasing even more.

Those words were practically used in all the pet stores’ advertisements!

3At the end of the day, there was something.

Power of understanding and constitution could not be measured or tested, unless the scope of improvement was large. Otherwise, who could tell if the pet’s constitution and power of understanding had been enhanced or not?

“Sir, can I ask you to train my pets for me again?” Su Yanying looked at Su Ping with anticipation. As for the pet boarding, she wasn’t that interested after Su Ping had made the introduction.

Usually, people would only leave their pets at a boarding service when they had too many pets to take care of. At the moment, she was free and she could feed them herself; she could also train their battle skills.

“Train them?”

Su Ping was about to refuse when he heard the system’s voice.

“Detecting customers in need of pet training. [Pet Training] service has become available in advance.”

1“The host can accept orders according to the price set for pet training services.”

Following the prompt message was a price list, like a menu, with the charge related to different levels of training services.

For pets from the first to the third rank, the training fee was 10,000 coins.

For pets from the fourth to the sixth rank, the training fee was 100,000 coins.

For pets from the seventh to the ninth rank, the training fee was a million coins.

For beast kings... the training fee was 10 million!

The items for pets from the fourth rank and above were greyed out, meaning that Su Ping could not accept such orders. He could only train low-rank pets from the first to the third rank for the moment.

“The condition for unlocking the next training tier is to train a low-rank pet with an aptitude rated as above average.”

Su Ping didn’t know what to say when he saw the unlocking requirement. This was harder than making a million coins. That being said, this unlocking requirement fell within the scope of his main quest. That was to say, when he finished the main quest, he could unlock the second-class training service while he was at it!

“Sir?”

Su Yanying called him when she noticed his mind was elsewhere.

Su Ping came back to his senses and nodded to her. “Training, right? Currently, the store only accepts low rank pets from the first to the third rank and the training fee is 10,000 for one session.”

“Ten thousand?”

Su Yanjing did the math. The price was a bit high but it seemed much normal than the nursing pen rate. After all, the training service in itself was the highest charging service of them all. There was no upper limit established!

As to whether the money would be well spent, she would have to see the effect after the training.

With the precedent of the Lightning Rat, Su Yanying had faith in this store. Even an inferior pet like the Lightning Rat, if a second Lightning Rat could not be trained, it would be more than worthwhile!

“Then I will have the Lightning Rat trained again.” Su Yanjing made a decision after some consideration.

Lan Lele was surprised by this. “Yingying, you want to train that little guy again? It is excellent as it is. I don’t think it can progress any further with more training. Besides, the second round of matches will start in a few days. This little guy is your ace card now. You will be screwed if the training goes wrong.”

Su Yanying shook her head. “I don’t plan on sending out the Lightning Rat for the second round of matches. It has already outdone itself. For the second round, the players are decided by lucky draws. My opponent will make the best of these days to find ways to target my Lightning Rat. To send it out there again won’t be of much use. Besides, my other pets will have recovered by then. They are more than enough to get me past the second round!”

“But...” For a time, Lan Lele was at a loss for words. She just felt uneasy.

Su Ping cast a glance to Lan Lele and then asked the girl in front of him, “Have you decided?”

Su Yanying nodded and said resolutely, “The Lightning Rat!”

“Sure. Pay the charge first.” Su Ping nodded.

The system suddenly jumped out with the prompt message. “The host has triggered a side quest: receive a pet training order. Collect or not?”

Su Ping was taken aback. This quest was a surprise. Immediately, he collected it in his mind.

“Successful!”

“Quest introduction: compete the first pet training order perfectly and get a good review from the customer.”

“Quest requirement: any service provided by the store must be the best of the best! The host must train the pet and double the original combat strength data!”

“Training time limit: the customer has no such requirement.”

“Completed quest reward: three elementary ‘Force Pellets’.”

Su Ping was speechless once he read the requirements.

To double the pet’s combat strength?

The Lightning Rat’s combat strength was rated 3.6 already. To double it, the combat strength would have to be 7.2, right?

That would be a pet that could compare to a seventh ranker!

Seventh rank pets were advanced pets and they were few and far between. The ones that could control advanced pets were advanced battle pet warriors who were considered outstanding among pioneering rangers.

Presently, was he supposed to train a low-rank Lightning Rat to that degree?

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