

Pet Store 121

Chapter 121 Upgrade Failed

It was almost noon.

There were a few customers outside Su Ping's store. Only some students would show up occasionally.

The warm sun in the early winter shone through the glass door and into the store, driving away the cold in the air.

Since Su Ping was practicing the Solar Bulwark, he wasn't afraid of the cold. At the moment, he was sitting in the store, with legs crossed and shaking his feet.

In front of him was the system's panel showing his energy points.

He had 213,692 energy points!

This was the turnover for the day. To be exact, for that morning!

If converted to astral coins, that would be over 20 million!

That was such a stunning number.

Who could have thought that such a little store could have a turnover of over 20 million Federation's astral coins in one morning?!

The other stores on the same street were envious of the sheer number of customers outside Su Ping's store. Even so, they would have never imagined how much money he had made!

Not even some companies that had gone public could make money that quickly!

All the people who wanted their middle-rank pets trained would pay 100,000 coins.

In that morning alone, around sixty to seventy students had made a transaction.

The majority of those who showed up had brought low-rank pets, and the training rate was 10,000 coins.

After all, amongst all the students, the ones with middle-rank pets were among the most outstanding

To Su Ping, outstanding students were fat lambs... honorable guests! Su Ping felt his heart pounding after seeing so many energy points for the first time. His blood was boiling because of the excitement!

Yet, he knew that he could only regard those energy points as deposits for now. He had to train all the pets to have those energy points in his account.

When he reached the fourth-rank, his spirit grew as well. At the current rate, his dummy trainer could train five pets at a time.

One round would take one hour.

Ten rounds could have 50 pets trained.

Currently, there were over 40 pets in his training space which was almost stuffed.

The nursing pens were fully occupied as well.

He had to train for over 10 hours without any rest to take care of all the pets.

Su Ping was glad that he had the dummy training function. He would have been spent if he had to rely just on himself.

“That is the benefit of having fame. More will come pouring in as long as my services are of high-quality!” Su Ping’s eyes were kindling. At this rate, he could accumulate one million energy points in a few days. With that, he would have a chance to upgrade the Chaos Spirit Pool for Incubation to the fourth level!

A fourth-level Spirit Pool had a relatively high chance to breed beast kings!

If he had a beast king pet, putting it at the door alone could earn him the most popularity; he would catch the attention of all the spheres of influence. By then, the amount of customers could easily wear out his doorstep.

But everything in his store, even broken, would be repaired by the system. That being said, if someone were to vandalize the place, that person would face severe consequences.

“It seems that I also have to improve my abilities as quickly as possible. I am undefeatable inside the store, thanks to the system’s protection. But it’s a whole different thing once I’m outside.” Su Ping blinked. He felt the urgency to enhance his skills.

He was outstanding when you considered people of the same age group. However, he was still lacking when compared to the truly powerful warriors.

Su Ping desired to become more powerful.

Anyone could imagine what would happen to a weak child carrying gold bricks and swaggering across the city.

Su Ping wasn’t that afraid for the time being.

If he messed with some tough people that he couldn’t handle, worst-case scenario, he could hole up in the store with his mother and sister.

He would be able to go out once he grew strong enough thanks to training in cultivation planes.

It was just that life would be tough to endure. It would be better if he could walk outside freely thanks to being strong enough.

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Su Ping was thinking as he stared at those energy points. Should he save them or use them and save more later?

After much deliberation, Su Ping decided that improving his strength was the priority. Upgrading the Spirit Pool was important, but he couldn’t pass away on a chance to enhance his strength.

He pulled up the system's shop. The Original Force Pellet wasn't offered. But he saw two middle-rank beast catching rings and two other peculiar materials.

Su Ping noticed all of a sudden that of the two, one was what he needed.

"Fire Phoenix Feather?" Su Ping looked at this material. The Fire Phoenix seemed to be a beast king. Could this be its feather?

He looked at the price, 35,000 energy points. Su Ping pulled the corner of his mouth.

So expensive.

If it weren't for the fact that he had made enough money that day, he would have skipped over the material given the price.

Su Ping made up his mind and bought it since it would be beneficial to his Solar Bulwark.

No matter how expensive it was, he was just spending energy points. Using this would end up becoming part of his actual strength which was all that mattered.

"I need many rare materials and elixirs to cultivate the Solar Bulwark's second rank. The Fire Phoenix Feather contains a pure fire element, just what I need."

Su Ping blinked. He remembered Ye Chenshan's invitation. If he had another chance to visit the barren area, apart from searching for herbs to cure his mother's illness once and for all, he would surely look for materials useful for his cultivation.

He took a look at the other merchandise. Naturally, he bought the middle-rank beast-catching rings as well. They would always come in handy.

There was nothing else he needed. Su Ping threw a glance at the refresh button at the bottom. He was hesitating.

One hundred energy points per refresh.

Should he do it?

Su Ping's eyes moved up to the energy points he had.

After he bought the middle-rank beast-catching ring and the Fire Phoenix Feather, he had roughly one hundred and seventy thousand energy points left.

The refresh was just one hundred energy points... sure!

He made up his mind and chose to refresh.

The gamble would be worthwhile if he could get the Original Force Pellet!

Soon, the page was refreshed. A mass of mist covered the five slots, and then receded to reveal the new items.

There was no Original Force Pellet.

The middle-rank beast-catching rings that were sold were no longer available, and in their place were low-rank beast-catching rings.

The other items were three low-rank pet foods and some unfamiliar material of no use to him.

Su Ping looked at them, feeling quite distressed. One hundred energy points had been wasted just like that!

That was 10,000 coins!

In the end, Su Ping didn't dare to refresh the store a second time. He had a feeling that he might see some useful items next time... but, given his many years of money spending experience, he knew this feeling was often deceptive.

People say that things will develop in the opposite direction when they become extreme, and out of the depths of misfortune came bliss... Those were just words people used to comfort themselves!

"Never mind. Spending money won't change my fate. This is just a game of luck. I will become a gambler if I become too obsessed..." Su Ping persuaded himself to keep calm.

He took a few deep breaths and closed the shop. Taking a look at the remaining energy points, he decided it was good to spend one hundred thousand on upgrading the store to the third level.

If the store was upgraded to the third level, he could have a larger training space and more nursing pens. More importantly, advanced training and pet sales would become available. In the future, he could put the inferior pets he bred up for sale.

Also, a third-level store could have a test space where pets could display their skills at will without damaging the store at all.

All those benefits demonstrated that spending one hundred thousand energy points was well worth it.

Even though the one hundred thousand energy points were 10 million coins in reality... "Upgrade failed!"

All of a sudden, the system cautioned him, "The host has not completed the prerequisites for upgrading to a third-level store: first, the advanced training service is not completed; second, the store size is not big enough. Please obtain more space for the store (the store size should be expanded to 3,000 square meters.)"

Su Ping was startled.

He almost jumped up when he heard the words "upgrade failed." He hurried to check the energy points.

He felt he could breathe again when he saw the energy points still there. He would have gone ballistic if those energy points had been deducted when the upgrade failed.

"There are prerequisites?" Su Ping frowned. He thought of the advanced training task previously assigned by the system. Was that task set up to prepare himself for the upgrade to a third-level store?

As for the store size...

He looked around his little store. It was small indeed and not enough if he had a built-in test space, even though the system had the ability to transfer the test space to another place, like a cultivation plane.

However, the pets' abilities had to be tested right in their masters' presence. Therefore, the test space had to be built inside the store. "To expand to three thousand square meters, the store will be about the size of six basketball fields. Currently, the store is about 200 square meters. That is to say, I have to buy all the other stores nearby..." Su Ping frowned. This wasn't a difficult task but it was troublesome.

"Although I don't know if the other store owners nearby are willing to rent or transfer their stores, it should be okay as long as I can give them enough money. The problem is that my money is converted into energy points, and there aren't many astral coins of transactions that can't be converted.

"Seems like I have to find a way to make dozens of millions of astral coins first."

To the general public, making money was hard. But to Su Ping, it would just involve wasting some time. He closed the panel and sat in the store, as he brooded about money-making plans.

To make money, he had to rely on his advantages.

Su Ping began to review his advantages.

Soon, he figured out something.

Private tutoring.

Su Ping believed that all his expertise and skill was related to pets.

Exploring the uncultivated lands, while profitable, was too risky. Besides, coming and going was too much work, and it would get in the way of his store's business. Besides that, he remembered he had been hired as a teacher.

Since he could teach students of the Phoenix Peak Academy, naturally, he could teach other people as well.

Having combed through his thoughts, Su Ping went to search for private tutoring websites.

Soon, he found a large number of such websites. However, the rate for private tutoring was too low.

At the same time, the requirement for private tutors was low. Middle-rank battle pet warriors would suffice. Usually, they would teach kids of middle-class families, and the rate was calculated by the hour. Generally speaking, the rate for one hour would be over 1000 coins or two to three thousand coins for the more expensive private tutors.

This was already expensive for middle-class families. Many of those families couldn't even afford this.

But for Su Ping, this price was way too low.

His lecture at the Phoenix Peak Academy was one hour per session. He was given teachers' points for his lectures, but those points were worth more than a few thousand coins.

Su Ping searched on. All of a sudden, he remembered his identity as an explorer. He thought of an idea. He logged into the explorers' website and used the explorer's official search engine to look for information.

Soon, he saw many private tutoring websites he had not seen before.

Su Ping clicked into the most popular one.

On the front page was the recommendation of tutors and requirements from students. Under the tutors' introduction, there was the information about their rates as well:

XX Wang (Profile Picture): senior seventh-rank advanced battle pet warrior.

120000/hour.

Chapter 122 Longjiang Cool Dude

"A hundred and twenty... thousand?" Su Ping read the digits in surprise. Such a rate was pretty good for hiring a mere seventh-rank battle pet warrior. Above this one, there were also famous specialists of the eighth-rank who had pretty colorful frames around their pictures. Of course, their prices were higher. The cheapest among them could be hired for 350,000 an hour.

Su Ping picked several random names to check. Each page showed him related information of said instructors, such as achievements, how many students had been taught in their careers, and how well these students performed afterward.

Putting all the seemingly glorious achievements aside, Su Ping didn't find the results to be so impressive. He could definitely do the same.

Apart from specialists, there were 12 highlighted private tutors who were titled as ninth-rank battle pet warriors.

Su Ping scrolled down to check their pricing. A million, at least. And this wasn't set by the hour. It was for each lesson. In other words, each of these guys could easily earn ten million just by paying their student ten visits.

Their records suggested that most of them had provided a few hundred lessons during their careers.

A few hundred million sounded nice, but it was actually not such a big sum for titled battle pet warriors, who were only one rank below legendary pet warriors. Someone as famous and influential as them could find cooperators from far and wide and enjoy constant stock revenue without doing any work. Teaching students in private was only an added bonus.

As far as Su Ping knew, there was one such titled battle pet warrior in Longjiang with a personal net worth of 50 billion.

As for the effectiveness of the lessons provided by titled battle pet warriors... It was pretty impressive. Most students gained a notable rise in their capabilities, such as obtaining a new skill, attaining a higher level of astral power control or new ways to command their pets.

Again, Su Ping read the reviews and found it just as possible to do the same himself.

Without waiting further, he immediately went ahead to get registered.

It seemed only battle pet warriors of the seventh rank or higher were allowed to become private tutors. To pass the review, Su Ping also needed the ID number of his teacher's certificate. Thankfully, Dong Mingsong had already helped him get one.

He found the file provided by the Education Bureau, copied the required serial number, typed in a proper nickname for himself before choosing the rank to be registered at, which was the ninth rank.

With this done, he could start earning money as a titled ninth-rank battle pet warrior, even though he wasn't recognized as one yet.

After pressing OK, he received a message that he had to provide the correct information according to his strength. Should he fail the future review, he would be permanently banned from becoming a private tutor again. He was allowed to accept students before the result of the review came out. However, if he was sued by a customer during this period, he would face a very severe punishment. In such a case, he would lose his privilege as a professor and be placed on the blacklist of the Education Bureau, which meant he would be barred from teaching in any school in Longjiang City. The penalty was usually enough to discourage most people from promising more than what they were capable of. Still, Su Ping didn't think too much about it, since he never intended to be a dedicated teacher. Besides, he was confident that he could instruct people as effectively as the introduced battle pet warriors. His customers should only care about the final results, not his rank.

A list of recommended students showed up after the registration was submitted. For now, he would look for people who owned Undead-type pets because he was more familiar with this category.

At this moment, Xu Kuang was looking for a private teacher on the Internet, so he could improve as much as he could before the Elite League commenced.

The weekends were favored by common students who loved slacking off. To a hard worker like him, however, it was "garbage time" when he couldn't get the lessons he wanted from the academy.

"Teachers who know about the Undead-type... Damn it, there's so few of them!" Xu Kuang scowled when he reached the end of the page without finding many choices he could use.

He possessed several Undead-type Astral Pets. They all looked miserable on the outside, but they fought well. It wasn't like he had an odd taste for these pets. It was just that, he liked being unique. It made him look cool. At least he thought so.

Furthermore, rarely-seen pets had another advantage over other battle pet warriors who knew little about them.

The biggest problem was that raising Undead-type pets took a lot of time and work. And it wasn't helpful at all when all of his classmates and even his teacher always gave him weird looks.

Xu Kuang couldn't care less about what others thought about him, but he was greatly bothered by the fact that it was extremely difficult to find relevant knowledge to train his pets. He had to constantly visit

teachers in private to learn something useful, because they didn't usually teach anything about the Undead during scheduled lessons.

Xu Kuang was noting down several specialists who claimed to be experienced in Undead-type pets, when the website suddenly showed him an alert.

[Titled tutor "Longjiang Cool Dude" has sent you a message.]

Chapter 123 Special Evolution

Xu Kuang frowned as he read the message.

Longjiang Cool Dude? What kind of name is that? A titled private tutor?

He widened his eyes in joy. A titled battle pet warrior wants to help me?? The message took him to a temporary chat window, where the name "Longjiang Cool Dude" was enclosed in a golden frame only available to titled tutors.

Xu Kuang carefully typed his greeting so he didn't offend someone so important.

(Xu Kuang: Good day to you, Mister! /shy)

Su Ping's response soon came:

[Long Jiang Cool Dude: I just saw you looking for a tutor who can teach you about Undead pets. I'm available right now. A million for each lesson. Do you need me?]

He wants to teach me?? Xu Kuang couldn't believe what he saw.

The website employed a total of 12 titled battle pet warriors to expand their business. Despite being tutors, these people didn't usually accept jobs. If a student wanted to get their help, they had to seek help via other connections.

Man. Did someone finally see the hidden talent in me? Nah. Maybe this tutor is just feeling bored.

Either way, Xu Kuang would cherish such an opportunity. A million sounded to be a lot, but it was worthwhile if he was going to be instructed by a titled battle pet warrior.

[Xu Kuang: Of course, of course! It is an honor to study with you, sir.] [Longjiang Cool Dude: Good. When are you available?]

(Xu Kuang: Anytime! /grin) [Longjiang Cool Dude: We'll meet up at seven tonight then. Send me your address.] (Xu Kuang: All right! Here it is...) (Longjiang Cool Dude: Cool.) [Xu Kuang: I will wait for your arrival. There's no need to hurry on the road, sir! / smile /heart] The window grayed out, which meant the tutor had gone offline.

Xu Kuang breathed a sigh of relief and checked the clock. Six hours, and he would see a titled battle pet warrior in person. This would be an exclusive moment dreamed by everyone in this city. Titled warriors were rare on this planet, and they rarely showed up in public. The academy also had a few senior professors who were titled warriors, but they had not given any lessons in ages.

“Oh, right, I need to prepare and look good. Maybe he’ll recognize me and accept me as his personal disciple!” Xu Kuang’s eyes brimmed with joy.

He found his best coat and headed off to a stadium nearby to get himself in top condition.

Su Ping typed the final response and closed the chat window.

“Good, new business.”

The private lesson was only a detour before heading home in the evening. Easy money.

It was almost time for another group of Dummy Trainees to come out. He went to the pet room just at the right time to see five pets who were booted out of their respective cultivation planes.

The creatures briefly checked their new footing and calmed down.

Su Ping made sure that all five pets had grown enough to satisfy the orders, before tossing them into the Nursing Space. Next, he gathered another group of pets to be trained.

He didn’t see any customers in the shop for half an hour, so he simply locked the door and took the Managarm, the Inferno Dragon and the Purple Python into the dragon king’s heritage ground again.

Without Little Skeleton, he could only reach the fifth floor of the dragon pillar before having to quit. The three pets he took were pretty much useless at that level, which meant he had to fight his way forward himself. Since he was already an intermediate fourth-rank battle pet warrior, the “dragon shadows” in the tower also grew stronger according to his level. As he presumed, the enemy waiting at the ninth floor should be a Beast King at this rate.

After leaving the tower, he continued to cleanse the “dragon scale lands” by ordering his pets to deal with enemies at the front.

Apart from enemies, those landscapes also had all kinds of valuable herbs and treasures hidden everywhere. Sadly, he couldn’t take them away since none of them were real.

The pets visibly improved by the end of the exploration, with the Managarm being the champion of all, who successfully evolved when battling against a demon-type monster.

Rather, it wasn’t a common evolution but some sort of metamorphosis. Usually, a Managarm could turn into a fourth-rank Silver Moon Hound with enough training and growth. In Su Ping’s case, however, it became a Dark Dragon Hound instead. A Dark Dragon Hound was no longer a common canine; it had turned into a demon-type Astral Pet. It was a positive transformation, because a Dark Dragon Hound had the potential of reaching the sixth rank.

The hound had grown bigger than an adult lion at the moment. If Su Ping wanted, he could ride it on the streets.

Only a small part of the silver fur of the original Managarm remained, which was intermingled with a pitch-black, glossy coat, giving the creature a rather strange style.

Also, the roar of the Dark Dragon Hound then carried the might of a real dragon, probably because it learned such a thing when surviving inside the dragon tower. The Inferno Dragon and the Purple Python

grew in size and strength, especially the Inferno Dragon, who had almost reached teenagehood when it had only existed in this world for a few days. Moreover, such growth was not the result of hasty work. All the excessive training and battle experience helped the Inferno Dragon become better than pets of the same rank.

The dragon was currently at the third rank. Still, it was strong enough to confront something of the upper fourth rank. Or it could use its dragon roar to briefly stun fifth-rank opponents. As for the Purple Python, it had gotten sturdy enough to strangle something of its own size to death with its scaled body.

That day's exploration helped them cleanse several more dragon scales. With the work done, Su Ping planned to rest in the shop and perhaps receive some customers before the end of the day. He did welcome two students before closing the shop, both of whom came by following the rumors. By training their low-rank pets, Su Ping secured another 200 energy points in his pocket. The day was darkening. After calling several customers to pick up their pets the following day (while ignoring their queries), he left the shop and found a taxi to head to his student's place.

As soon as he departed, a figure appeared behind a tree next to the shop.

Su Lingyue had been keeping an eye on the shop for the whole day. She wanted to find out where so many pets ended up at, or where that "master trainer" was. But no matter how she looked, she only saw Su Ping and Su Ping alone tending to the shop.

She could have gone closer to peek through the door but didn't do it, since Su Ping was good enough to detect her.

Where the hell is he going at such an hour?

She bit her lips and decided to follow the taxi.

Chapter 124 Ares Academy

The taxi drove out of the lower city and entered the downtown area where most commercial resources and rich people gathered.

It was rare for Su Ping to come to this place where everything looked clean and tidy. He couldn't help but look at all the random passersby, all of whom seemed to be millionaires with tender and smooth skin who never partook in physical labor. Though he was sure that being a millionaire meant nothing there. Instead, it was an entry-level requirement for being called a downtown citizen.

Then he thought about his home with a grim mood. It couldn't be denied that people were born different, while most of them would stay at the same level for the rest of their lives.

He didn't care though. As someone who knew how death felt like, that superficial stuff meant little to him.

A moment later, the driver parked the vehicle at the entrance of a quiet community district. It was one of the most costly housing areas because the design helped the residents enjoy peaceful lifestyles, even though some of the busiest streets were around.

The taxi fare was 1,802 Yuan, which was... pretty crazy by normal standards. Though it couldn't be helped since the drive involved going through several expensive highway toll checkpoints before entering the city center.

Su Ping checked the name of the community before going inside, but he was stopped by several guards.

"What do you want?" a middle-aged security man asked him while tilting his head slightly away, as if Su Ping carried some kind of unpleasant smell. The guards recognized him as a "scum" the moment he stepped off the car.

Su Ping didn't look filthy as far as his looks were concerned. Though it was written at the core of "rich citizens" that they should discriminate against lower civilians.

Su Ping wasn't pleased to receive such treatment though he wasn't going to waste his time arguing. He simply told the guards that someone had invited him.

While doubting his words, the guards verified his claim and phoned his customer, who immediately told them to let Su Ping inside, much to their confusion. As they believed, only the richest people or their families could live there.

After hanging up, Xu Kuang immediately went to the entrance of the building to wait for his tutor. He would have gone to the gate to greet Su Ping himself if not for the size of this district.

Excited, he saw the guards coming, and was astounded to see who was being escorted.

That can't be my tutor, can it? Maybe that's his assistant or something.

That would be so disappointing. But it couldn't be helped. Many titled tutors tended to get busy all of a sudden and asked their helpers to do their jobs.

"Here we are," a guard politely showed Su Ping the way. "Mister Xu, this is the gentleman who asked to see you."

Xu Kuang forced up a smile and sent the guards away, before addressing Su Ping as politely as he could. "Are you his student

or...?"

"I am 'Longjiang Cool Dude'." Su Ping smiled back and bowed slightly.

Xu Kuang was too shocked to speak for a moment.

"You're—that-wait, what? Longjiang Cool Dude, sir?"

"Yeah. Xu Kuang, is it? I read your info and how you use a bunch of Undead-type Astral Pets. It just so happens that I'm kind of an expert about these creatures, so here I am."

Xu Kuang's cheeks turned red with rage. "Is this some kind of a joke?? Teach me? You? How the fu*k did you get past registration? Oh I know, you weren't screened yet! Well, I'll report you right now!"

Su Ping knew that his young look would get him into some kind of trouble, but not to such an extent.

"You can't say for sure until we try, can you? You're free to report me if my lesson doesn't work out."

“Try? Try what?? Do you know who I am? I’m a top-class student from the Ares Academy. Who the heck are you? Huh?!”

Just like his name, Xu Kuang was always an overconfident elite who always considered himself to be better than his peers(1). He still respected those who were worthy of his recognition, such as champions of the Elite League. As for other people, he didn’t give a sh*t about them, let alone Su Ping, who looked more common than a commoner.

This bastard wants to teach me?? I wonder if he can last five seconds in a fight! And... and I called him “sir”! I used cute emotes! Arrrgh I’m gonna kill—

Su Ping interrupted Xu Kuang’s thoughts. “Careful with you words, my friend.”

“Well, you can do nothing about it!” Xu Kuang took out his phone. “I’ll spare you the beating, loser! I will simply report this matter to the site-“

Boom!

His phone exploded, sending several fragments of the screen flying toward his face.

Before Xu Kuang could recover from the shock, he felt his body being lifted off the ground; it was a powerful force that grabbed him by the collar.

The seemingly useless young man in front of him just lifted him up with one hand.

Xu Kuang wanted to resist, but as soon as he saw the merciless killing intent shown in Su Ping’s eyes, he felt his entire body freeze due to fear.

He never felt so close to death before. Something told him that this man would kill him without a second thought.

No matter how he tried, he couldn’t pry the vice grip at his neck by an inch. He wanted to summon his pets, but his body felt too cold to do so.

“Are top-class students from the best academy of this city all like you?” Su Ping questioned in a cold voice.

Xu Kuang’s entire face grew red again due to both rage and suffocation.

When Su Ping let him go, Xu Kuang managed to stumble back to balance without falling. He shook some cold sweat off his arm and looked at Su Ping again, only to be reminded of the terrifying experience from a few years back, when he encountered an Undead-type Astral Pet for the first time.

It was as if he were looking at another Undead. An awfully strong one.

“Come. I don’t have much time to waste. If the lesson fails, you can report me all you want. But if you file a false report, I’ll beat you to a pulp.”

Su Ping meant those words, and Xu Kuang knew it.

Xu Kuang suddenly remembered that a teacher at least needed a certificate to get registered at the website, which meant Su Ping was indeed a teacher. Yet he still felt bad that this “titled battle pet

warrior” looked younger than himself. What was worse, he was the one spending money, and he almost got pummeled.

He considered and decided to play it safe for the moment. Maybe he couldn’t fight this “Longjiang Cool Dude” directly, but he could always ask for help later.

“Fine... Come with me.” Xu Kuang rubbed his sore throat and led the way.

Su Ping was a bit embarrassed because the beginning of their private lesson almost looked like a robbery. Not his fault, though.

A moment later, they arrived at a well-supplied and well-equipped stadium facility at the center of the district. This was another privilege people could enjoy in this expensive commune.

There were two young men and a woman chatting while resting on a bench; they greeted Xu Kuang as they saw him arrive.

Xu Kuang saw his schoolmates and answered back. “Working out again?”

One of the students said, “Of course. The league will begin soon. Who doesn’t want to give it a try?” [1] Kuang “SI”, arrogant

Chapter 125 Su Ping’s Dragon Roar

“Xu Kuang, who is this with you?” the girl who was drinking juice asked in surprise when she noticed Su Ping standing behind Xu Kuang.

Those were familiar with each other since all of them studied at the Ares Academy and happened to live in the same community.

The two young men noticed Su Ping as well. Su Ping seemed around their age. Was he a new resident there? Was he a student from the Ares Academy?

Xu Kuang seemed to be embarrassed when they asked about Su Ping. He couldn’t tell them directly that Su Ping was a private tutor he found online.

If he spelled out this fact, his glamorous days at school would come to an end. He would be the laughing stock for all the students at the academy.

“He’s a friend of mine who came to visit.” Xu Kuang made up such an excuse to fool them. He didn’t mention that he had been threatened by Su Ping, either. It would be more shameful if people knew that he had found a private tutor of his same age and that he had been beaten by the latter.

“Oh...”

Knowing that Su Ping was not a new resident, those present lost their interest.

They operated in a small circle as well. Anyone that wanted to join in had to be of the same strength and background.

“Why don’t you go and have some rest? Let me and my friend have a try here,” Xu Kuang didn’t want to stay there any longer.

“Sure.”

“See you later.”

Then they shifted back to their previous conversation.

Su Ping was happy since Xu Kuang was sensible enough to spare him the nonsense. He followed Xu Kuang to a battle venue.

This was a battle venue with a diversity of scenes, including ponds, a small lava section, grass, woods, etc., quite suitable for the training of most pets.

After Su Ping stepped into the venue, Xu Kuang plugged his card in the metal slot behind the door and typed in the password to close the door.

Then, he stepped to the center of the venue and summoned his pets at the same time.

As several of his main pets were summoned, he felt more secure. He turned around, pulled a long face, and said to Su Ping who was standing by the door, “Didn’t you say that you were going to teach me? Now, teach me!”

Looking at the resentment written all over Xu Kuang’s face, Su Ping raised his eyebrows, “What? You’re still unconvinced?”

Xu Kuang didn’t waste another second with Su Ping. He groaned and mentally ordered his pets to attack him!

He had been overwhelmed by Su Ping’s physical strength but that was nothing special. Using pets to fight was the key. After all, they were battle pet warriors, not martial art warriors.

Roar!

The Soul Feasting Beast was the first to come to Su Ping. This pet had reached the fifth rank and was a pet of the undead family skilled at spiritual attacks. This pet feasted on dead souls and it looked like a ball of murky grey mist. From the ball of mist came out miserable cries that would freeze your blood.

This strange and terrifying appearance was enough to scare many people away. Behind the Soul Feasting Beast was a Swamp Creeper, a pet with a bloodline of the sixth rank. At the moment, this pet had almost reached the peak of its strength, currently at the upper position of the fifth rank!

The Swamp Creeper appeared to be even more hideous. It was covered with what looked like rotting mud, but it wasn’t real mud. The mud-like tissue was part of its body, which was at the moment moving rapidly on the ground, like a gigantic human, but put together with the hands and feet of some monsters.

The Swamp Creeper left a foul-smelling stain wherever it touched. This was why undead pets were disgusting.

While the two fifth-rank pets started their attacks, another pet stayed with Xu Kuang and observed.

“Let’s see how you can keep your arrogance!” Profound killing intent glistened in Xu Kuang’s eyes. He didn’t mean to actually kill Su Ping but that intention was thriving in his heart.

It was unlikely that he would remain unaffected by the pets of the undead family after being with them for so long.

His mood swings were more intense when compared to normal people.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows as he watched those two adorable pets coming at him, making threatening gestures.

He shook his head and commented, “Soul Feasting Beasts are good at spiritual attacks but you made it move forward. Given its current rank, the range of its spiritual attacks is 50 meters. It should have stayed with you to remain protected. Are you planning on using it to threaten your opponents by risking it?”

He shook his head again as he saw the Swamp Creeper that had reached him. He couldn’t help but heave a sigh. “Swamp Creeper, its name indicates what kind of environment is more suitable to it. Even without a swamp available, you shouldn’t have sent the Swamp Creeper out when you’re standing on sand. The dried and hard sand grains on the ground will slow the Swamp Creeper down by a large margin.

“Besides, the part under its stomach and the countless mud tendrils under its four claws will be damaged by the dry sand as well. This is detrimental to the Swamp Creeper.”

As he made those remarks, he made a move and dodged the Swamp Creeper’s tongue and claws.

The Swamp Creeper kept going after him. Having no other choice, he grabbed the Swamp Creeper’s slim, long, mud-covered arm and made a turn. Leveraging the tremendous strength on his arms, Su Ping hurled the four-meter Swamp Creeper away.

But he didn’t do so to harm the Swamp Creeper. He threw it to a pond so that the Swamp Creeper could have some rest.

At the same time, that Soul Feast Beast had enveloped Su Ping. The dreary cries and screams were enough to make anyone collapse, especially girls.

Roar!

Su Ping’s throat grew in size slightly and he opened his mouth.

He let out a Dragon’s Roar!

That wasn’t a simple roar. It contained astral powers, sonic waves, and some deterrence effects.

The Soul Feast Beast’s mist-like body tumbled, like tides. It moved away from Su Ping at once and kept a distance of over a dozen meters. The dreary cries and screams in the mist quieted down as well. The Soul Feast Beast was definitely scared.

Su Ping had listened to enough roars at the Dragon King’s Heritage Ground. Even the Managram had picked up the Dragon’s Roar, not to mention Su Ping himself.

Though given the structure of humans' throats, his Dragon's Roar was not the real one; he did try to adjust it with astral powers and alter his throat at the cultivation sites. During the many attempts, he even strangled himself to death once.

Later on, he came across a method. He just needed to adjust his Adam's apple; by doing this, he could protect his throat.

Usually, it would be difficult for battle pet warriors to do this with their throats. However, since he studied the Solar Bulwark, he wasn't any weaker than the average dragons when it came to physical strength. The same was true for the strength of his throat.

This roar didn't only deter the Soul Feast Beast, but it also shocked Xu Kuang.

What did he hear?

Was that Dragon's Roar?

How could a human roar like a dragon?!

"Time to stop messing around." Having scared away the Soul Feast Beast, Su Ping frowned and shouted to Xu Kuang at the distance.

In the meantime, he stepped toward Xu Kuang.

Xu Kuang came back to his senses. Su Ping was walking closer and closer. Xu Kuang couldn't help but revisit the images of Su Ping's terrifying and cold looks in his mind. Goosebumps burst out all over Xu Kuang's skin. He regretted locking the door. If Su Ping meant him any harm, Xu Kuang would have no way out.

"I, I am sorry." Xu Kuang's voice was trembling.

That killing intent in his heart had vanished. He had seen reality.

Su Ping had subdued two of his pets by only relying on his strength. Only advanced battle pet warriors could have done this.

Xu Kuang found it hard to believe that an advanced battle pet warrior could be this young. That being said, he would never dare to offend Su Ping again.

Chapter 126 Instructing

Su Ping noticed how his student began to fear him from the bottom of his heart.

All right, that was enough of a scare for him.

"If you're sorry, try your best to learn. You can't blame me if you fail."

"I know..."

When they argued outside, Xu Kuang thought he had been too careless and Su Ping took the opportunity to ambush him. But after he saw his own pets being subdued by Su Ping, he had fully realized the unsurpassable gap between them.

“As required by our lesson, I will show you one thing you would like to learn.” Su Ping moved closer to Xu Kuang while ignoring the horrendous pet gawking at him nearby. “So what will it be? Astral power control? Or something about your pets?”

Xu Kuang lowered his head. “I—I’m pretty good at my astral power, sir. So... you can teach me about pets, yeah. But please, don’t just tell me about them. I want to get stronger, and if I can make my pets get stronger... I don’t know how to put it.”

Su Ping nodded. “I see. I will show you how to maximize your strength and the capabilities of your pets in battles then. Be aware that I’m not going to help you or your pets reach a higher rank. But you will know how to do better in the league.”

Xu Kuang looked up in surprise. “Do you mean I haven’t shown my full strength, sir?”

“Yeah. You were doing a pretty bad job by sending your little partners upon me back there. I mean, did your academy teach you how to give commands like that?”

Xu Kuang was briefly stunned when he heard Su Ping referring to his horrid-looking pets as “little partners”. Xu Kuang was used to being around them, though he was aware of their intimidating looks which were effective weapons by themselves, especially against women.

Still, Su Ping had just brushed this off.

Xu Kuang responded as his face blushed in embarrassment. “I just wanted to... fight back. I didn’t think too much about my actions.”

“That’s the problem,” Su Ping responded with a deadpan face, “You want to scare me. Your pets know what you want, so they both came at me. Yet you never figured out whether that was a fight you could win. In your mind, you expected a victory when you knew nothing about me. That was pure foolishness.”

Xu Kuang’s expression twisted as he listened to Su Ping’s words. He knew Su Ping was right about everything.

Could I have done something different if I was more serious?

Such a thought only lasted for a second, when Xu Kuang suddenly remembered how Su Ping tossed a Swamp Creeper a few meters away with one hand and how he unleashed a Dragon Roar using the body of a human.

Is this guy even human??

“When was your most recent loss?” asked Su Ping. “Who was your opponent?”

“Oh, ahem! No offense sir, but I’ve never had any losses these days. I’m always in the top ten at the Ares Academy!”

Su Ping gave him a doubtful look.

“I’m serious!”

Xu Kuang was speaking the truth. Even if he did lose a fight, he’d train day and night to recover his stranding. Until he met Su Ping, that is.

“You sound so confident. Then why aren’t you the number one in your school?”

“I—”

That hit the nail.

“Tell me about your failed matches so I know how to help.”

Defeated, Xu Kuang began explaining the fight he went through several months past. He was going up against the No.2 on the ranking list that day.

Su Ping listened to the story with an odd look because Xu Kuang could have definitely won that match.

“Did you just say that, you told your sixth-rank Rotting Bone to fight against a sixth-rank Blazing Wing up close? Are you missing a screw in your brain?”

Xu Kuang would have cursed out loudly if someone spoke to him like this, though he couldn’t do that at the moment.

“Come on! My Rotting Bone sealed off the sky so his Blazing Wing had to fight it on the ground. Did I do wrong?? It wasn’t my fault that the bird had an elemental advantage!”

“Pipe down, don’t act like a kid. Do you know every skill your pet can use?”

“Yeah. Bone Prison, Corroding Vapor, Bone Spike, Bone Armor and Blood Spirit Conversion.” “Do you know how to use Corroding Vapor?”

“Of course I do. It creates some kind of mist in the field to block the enemy’s vision. But it’s useless against a Blazing Wing, right? The bird can easily clear a way out with its fire.”

Su Ping sighed in disappointment. “Who told you it’s all about blocking sight? The vapor is corrosive. It’s written in its name! Do you know what happens if you breathe in that thing? Your body weakens until you die. Corroding Vapor works well when combined with Blood Spirit Conversion. Both pets are of the sixth rank, surely your Rotting Bone can leave a cut or two on the Blazing Wing, right? As long as there’s an open wound, your Rotting Bone can draw the life force of the Blazing Wing through the vapor to sustain itself. It can even keep a group of enemies busy this way. More targets, more energy stolen.”

Xu Kuang’s jaw dropped open.

“You also used the Bone Prison the wrong way. It’s more than a crowd control skill, your pet can use the prison as a cover. Like staying behind a castle wall, the Rotting Bone is free to launch Bone Spikes across the prison shield, whereas the Blazing Wing can’t hit back. If your pet grows further, it would be able to maintain three or four Bone Prison barriers at once, until the Blazing Wing has nowhere else to move.

“See? You have more than one way to deal with the Blazing Wing. If what you told me is right, that bird didn’t know any skills to use the field to its advantage, while your Rotting Bone knows a handy crowd control move.”

Meanwhile, Xu Kuang failed to understand any of what he just heard. Blood Spirit Conversion worked across Corroding Vapor? Using Bone Prison as defense? Cast multiple Bone Prisons?

He knew Su Ping was totally correct, if his Rotting Bone would have used such techniques during that fight. But he had yet to prove whether these methods could work.

Su Ping saw through his mind and said, “Just test it out. This field is big enough.”

Xu Kuang nodded with a serious look. He ordered his Rotting Bone to prepare Corroding Vapor and summoned another low-rank pet so there was some blood in the environment.

The result was surprisingly satisfying; the Rotting Bone was indeed absorbing the life force of the weaker pet remotely. This was completely new to Xu Kuang, who always believed that Corroding Vapor was a simple means of confusing enemies. Xu Kuang didn’t try the other theory, which was about “overlapping Bone Prisons,” because he knew it was probably true. Su Ping just helped him open up another brand new way of solving problems.

“Um, sir, what if the Blazing Wing uses Flame Flood? The Bone Prison won’t work against that.”

“Your Rotting Bone can use Bone Armor, right?” Su Ping lost patience. “That will help it last longer. The Blazing Wing will slow down when using Flame Flood. That’s when you can land a sure shot at it.”

Xu Kuang nodded in acknowledgment. That meant hitting the Blazing Wing in its weak spot and turning the tide of the battle, as long as his Rotting Bone lasted longer behind cover.

He suddenly felt overwhelmed by the new wisdom he could use to win more fights.

Mister Su is right... I shouldn’t have lost that one!

Chapter 127 Xu Yingxue

Su Ping offered several more battle examples, after which he realized that his student had more problems than he thought.

He couldn’t believe that Xu Kuang was an elite student of the Ares Academy. If so, that place was definitely beyond lame.

He had no idea what kind of lessons Xu Kuang usually had. But as far as he could see right then, this guy was bad. And this was bad news for him, because he’d have trouble earning his money. If Xu Kuang proved to be a slow learner who needed more time than necessary to get things done, then one million wouldn’t be worth his time.

Xu Kuang on the other hand, gladly listened to all the ingenious tactics provided by his teacher, since they brought him out of the box. Meanwhile, he was impressed by the fact that Su Ping knew so much about Undead-type Astral Pets.

Xu Kuang no longer considered Su Ping as his peer or rival. A small part of him even believed that Su Ping was, in fact, an old monster who somewhat kept that young look by using a forbidden art.

Under Su Ping's instruction, Xu Kuang practiced several new techniques in the stadium and made his pets fight several times more efficiently than before. He couldn't help but feel proud of his aptitude that allowed him to learn that fast.

"Mister-I mean, Professor Su?" He checked Su Ping's face again and decided not to call him "mister."
"Can I hire you for lessons again in the future?"

"Huh?" Su Ping was slightly startled by it because he had decided not to waste time with this guy again.
"Well... if I have time."

"I understand, professor! Please forgive me for what I did earlier." "It's okay." "Can I have your phone number?" "Let's use the website."

er

"Aw. Alright!"

"Well, I've told you more than what I should in one lesson." Su Ping checked the time and sighed. "Gods, it's almost three hours. I really should leave. Your payment?"

"Eh? Oh!" Xu Kuang quickly took out his backup phone and paid the fee. He found it weird that someone as strong as Su Ping needed part-time jobs like this. But again, it was normal. Even heroes needed to feed themselves.

"Professor, I'll show you the way out. May I?"

"Good. Lead the way."

They went to the door and saw the woman still resting outside, whereas her male partners had already left.

"Staying so late?" she asked Xu Kuang with a surprised look. "I've already done my exercise. Didn't think you'd still be inside."

Xu Kuang scratched his head. "Something got me occupied. Did those guys leave already?"

"They're still fighting in there."

Xu Kuang nodded and continued showing Su Ping the way out, as politely as he could.

The resting girl was puzzled when she saw such an unusual behavior from Su Kuang, though she didn't have the chance to ask what happened because they were soon gone.

Xu Kuang accompanied Su Ping all the way to the main gate of the district before bidding farewell to him.

Before heading home, he glanced back and saw Su Ping calling a taxi.

He doesn't have his own car, huh? Well, I guess big shots don't care. That rich dad of mine even attends parties with slippers on... Wait, I should have helped him get a ride! Sh*t.

Using the taxi application in his phone, he could have found out where Su Ping lived. But it was too late for that now.

Xu Kuang sighed and walked back to his apartment.

Across the door, he heard his father discussing with his sister, about some recent events in barren areas.

He always dreamed of going there after graduation! “Hey sis, you’re back!” He quickly found his slippers and ran inside.

The woman sitting in the living room in a beautiful qipao with peony flowers sewn all over was Xu Yingxue, his respected elder sister, who always worked with other settlers in barren expeditions.

“It’s you!” Xu Yingxue smiled at him. “Why did your school day end so late?” Xu Kuang hopped to a seat beside her and chuckled. “Get your calendar working, sis! It’s the weekend.”

Xu Yingxue face-palmed. “You’re right. All the time I spent in the barrens confused me for good. You know, I can only tell the month now. Monsters don’t care about weekends anyway.”

“Heh heh. So what brought you back?”

“There’s a big mission coming. They gave us several days off before we start.”

“Nice!”

Xu Kuang appeared to be an obedient and loving child when his sister was around. If any of his friends saw him like this, they’d question reality itself.

“So... What were you doing at such an hour if there are no lessons at school?” asked Xu Yingxue.

“Oh, I was at the stadium. Training.” Xu Kuang couldn’t help but smile when thinking about what he had just gained. “You won’t believe it, sis. I hired a titled battle pet warrior as my personal coach today. Man it was good! Next week, I’ll go straight to the ranking match and go for second place. Then I’ll challenge the champion!”

“A titled pet warrior? Really? You were using my account, right? You had some luck today.” Their father chipped in. “Did you try befriending him? You’ll benefit us all if that teacher acknowledges you as his disciple.”

“I did!” Xu Kuang nodded proudly. “He said he’ll teach me again when he has the time for *it*.”

If Xu Kuang could get the constant help of a titled pet warrior, he’d soon surpass his sister. They were all aware of what this meant to the family.

Chapter 128 Going with You

Su Ping hailed a taxi to leave the upper town area.

However, the driver was only willing to leave him at the border of the upper town and simply would not enter the lower town area. Su Ping had to take another taxi.

Leaving the upper town area was just as difficult as entering.

Su Ping didn't go back home directly. He stopped by the store first.

There were many training orders piled up. Su Ping had to have the pets trained when he was free.

He was wondering if he should tell his mother that he was thinking about living in the store.

A bit over 10 batches of pets could be trained using the dummy. Afterward, more spaces would be opened up for more business. That day, the private tutoring had cost him four to five hours. Su Ping felt his heart aching. Using this time, he could have four to five batches of pets trained and the money made would not be any less than doing private tutorings.

Besides, money made at the store could be converted to energy points.

"I believe I must rethink the whole private tutoring thing," Su Ping said to himself.

Once the dummy training was initiated, Su Ping left the store and rode home on his bike.

He saw his mother watching TV and waiting for him back at home.

"You're back." Li Qingru lost interest in the TV show after Su Ping's return. "I will warm up your meal."

Su Ping greeted his mother and went to wash his hands.

When he sat down by the dinner table to wait for his meal, he heard footsteps coming down from upstairs. It was Su Lingyue. She came down, holding her cup as if she was trying to get some water downstairs.

Su Lingyue threw a look at Su Ping and walked over with the cup in her hands. "How's business doing? Why would you come back so late every day?" She sounded too casual, as if this was nothing more than a random question.

Su Ping gave an equally casual answer, "It's doing okay."

Su Lingyue curled her lips. Just okay? If it weren't for what she witnessed that day, she wouldn't have believed the adjective Su Ping used.

She cast another glare at him. After 7:00 p.m., Su Ping left the store. She rode her scooter to follow him, only to find Su Ping calling a taxi that went to the upper town area.

She didn't have a residence permit for the upper town area and had little money with her. So, she was stopped at the security check. She had no other choice but to go back home with a bitter mind.

Su Ping came back at such a late hour. What did he do during all that time?

She was dying to find out and yet she could not show it. After some thought, she threw out another question, "How much money did the store make today?"

Su Ping tried to fool her. "Not much. Just a little bit."

Lies!

Su Lingyue was burning with rage.

There were so many people lining up at the store that day. How could Su Ping claim he had made little money?

Was he trying to privately keep it all for himself?

Su Lingyue clenched her teeth. The cup in her hands was enduring all the additional strength as well. On the surface, she still kept composed as she replied, "Is that so? It just so happens that I am free tomorrow. Take me to the store to have a look then."

"Free?" Su Ping was surprised. Then, he remembered it was the weekend.

No wonder the store was doing well.

He suddenly understood. He looked at this sister of his. Something came to his mind. This fella... Did she go to the store today?

Otherwise, why would she care about the turnover of the store at all?

Su Ping was certain of this speculation. He was able to remain calm. "Suit yourself."

Why would the store's business and how much he made be of her concern? It was due to the concerted efforts made by him and the system that they had made those accomplishments. He didn't feel guilty for the family even if the money had entered his pocket. He had nothing to worry about even if Su Lingyue were to find out the actual income of the store.

He had made money.

He had taken it all.

So what?

Su Lingyue was surprised that Su Ping appeared to be that confident. She was enraged since she couldn't get any information out of that guy.

Angry as she was, there was nothing she could do. After all, the store was left to Su Ping to operate. Making money was all because of Su Ping. Of course, losing money was also his responsibility. She was just furious that Su Ping was taking the money for himself.

Should she tell mom about this?

But Su Lingyue dismissed this idea soon.

Su Ping defeated that Wing Beast while he still wasn't admitted as an advanced teacher in their academy... To have such strength, he couldn't have just relied on cultivation. He must have spent a huge fortune!

The money Su Ping put into his pocket was most likely used to increase his strength.

That was a righteous cause.

Did he buy the Inferno Dragon with the money he made? Su Lingyue was frightened by this idea. Considering the power of the Inferno Dragon, people would be unable to buy one even if they had the

money. Even if an Inferno Dragon was on sale, the price would be whopping high. Given the money made in that store, they would be unable to afford one Inferno Dragon even after a hundred years.

She stared at Su Ping. She found him unfamiliar since there were so many hidden secrets in him.

At this time, Li Qingru returned with Su Ping's meal.

She was surprised to see Su Lingyue there as well. "What are you doing downstairs?"

Su Lingyue made up an answer, "I came down to get some hot water."

"Didn't you have a bottle of hot water in your room?"

Su Lingyue didn't expect that it was her mother, not Su Ping, who had seen her through

She could feel the detestable looks directed at her from the side. She turned around, sneered and said, "I drank up all the hot water in my room." With that said, she stood up and went back upstairs.

Li Qingru was still confused. "You drank it all? But I just poured you an entire bottle."

Dong, dong, dong!

Su Lingyue walked even faster!

Su Ping looked at how Su Lingyue escaped. He immediately had the certainty that she already knew about his store. But there was something she didn't know. Su Lingyue only knew how well the business was doing, but she had no idea of the actual turnover.

Su Ping shook his head. He didn't want to waste brain cells on such matters. It didn't matter if she knew or not. He had no intention to hide from the very beginning because the truth would be hard to conceal anyways.

They saved him many dishes that day. Su Ping finished his dinner quickly and went upstairs.

He went back to his room and continued cultivating as before.

While cultivating, Su Ping was thinking, I have to finish the recent quest to unlock the advanced training. I have been training pets at middle-level cultivation planes. Should I... go ahead and try my luck in a top-tier cultivation plane?

The middle-level cultivation planes would cost less but it would take a longer time. He could only fulfill the requirements after many training rounds.

On the other hand, top-tier cultivation planes would cost more money but time could be saved. He could fulfill the requirements in one go.

This was a difficult choice. He would naturally go with middle-level cultivation planes if he was back in the poorer days. However, the store's business had been going very well. His time had become more valuable.

Su Ping gradually fell asleep while he was still pondering

The next morning.

Su Ping woke up. He saw Su Lingyue there when he went down for breakfast.

No wonder I didn't see her yesterday at breakfast. She must have tailed me. Ever since Su Ping realized that this was the weekend, he had seen Su Lingyue right through.

Su Ping ate some congee, took a steamed bun with him, and left.

"I'll go with you." Su Lingyue went after him at once.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. She meant what she said.

"Whatever." Su Ping didn't want to waste time with her. If he were to stop her, she would become more curious. Anyways, she couldn't even enter the pet room without his permission, so she would be unable to see a thing

Su Lingyue just wanted to find out if the business was as good as the day before by tagging along that day. The two of them headed out.

Su Lingyue rode the scooter her mother used for grocery shopping and followed Su Ping.

Before arriving, Su Ping could already see a long line at the door from a distance. There seemed to be more customers than the day prior.

He frowned. Not many pets had been trained the other day. He was afraid that not enough training space would be freed.

Su Lingyue was surprised to see that long line. Business was still doing good. So, the day before was not an exception.

When Su Ping arrived, the crowd saw him at once and approached him.

Su Ping had become used to this scene. He locked up his bike, took out his keys, and opened the door while surrounded by this massive crowd. Before he bent over to pull up the shutter door, someone had already done that for him.

Su Ping looked at that person. This one was familiar; it was the same person that helped him before.

Su Ping nodded as a token of appreciation.

Su Ping went inside, turned around, and said to the crowd, "Same as before, make a line. This time, those coming to pick up their pets, line up on the left and those that come to train pets, stand on the right."

The crowd split into two lines at once.

There were fewer people on the left. Apart from those with previous experience, most of the people standing on the left seemed confused.

When they were informed by Su Ping to come and pick up their pets, they thought they had heard it wrong. How could Su Ping claim that he had finished the training after merely one day?

Could training be carried out so quickly?

They felt they had been deceived. If it weren't for the fact that many students were there and Su Ping was an advanced teacher, they would have argued with him.

"Those who come to pick up pets will go first to free up more space. People on the right, please wait for a moment," Su Ping said. Those waiting to have their pets trained showed understanding when Su Ping said he was trying to free up more space first. They all said that they weren't in a hurry.

"Okay. Your name and the pet's name?" Su Ping began.

The one at the front of the line was a young man named Nie Zhan.

He came to train his pet in Su Ping's store for the first time the day before. He came from an average family and he had spent a long time saving up the 100,000 coins.

He wouldn't have been so resolute if Su Ping weren't an advanced teacher.

He was confused and frightened when Su Ping called him to pick up his pet. If Su Ping were to fool him about the training, he would have spent the money he saved for a long time for nothing.

He had spent a sleepless night. He crawled up before dawn and went there straight away. That was why he was the first in line.

He struggled inwardly during the past few hours as he waited. His mood worsened during this time. He even felt the urge to shout out abusive words. Later on, more and more students arrived. Otherwise, he would have argued with Su Ping directly to ask for a refund.

"Fourth-rank Rock Mite?" Su Ping found the name of the pet the young man had. He nodded and asked the young man to wait while he went inside to pick up the pet.

Chapter 129 Doubts

Soon, Su Ping found the Rock Mite in the training space and took it out.

Nie Zhan fixed his eyes on the Rock Mite. From the power of their mutual contract, he was sure this was his pet. It was just... no matter how he looked at it, he failed to see any change.

That was understandable.

What change could come out from a day's training?!

Nie Zhan couldn't help but voice his doubts, "Isn't the training here too short?"

He quit addressing him as sir because he was filled with resentment. However, he dared not to display his resentment too obviously for fear of Su Ping's background and strength.

Nie Zhan believed that Su Ping was there to cheat them out of their money by taking advantage of his identity as a teacher!

As Nie Zhan uttered those words, students behind him nodded. They agreed. Someone even said something similar in a low voice. He wasn't happy about this sloppy training.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. He could tell that those people weren't here to make trouble. They were just worried about the effects of this short training.

He had been on the receiving end of such doubts several times before.

He was unwilling to waste time explaining. He simply sent out an order to the Rock Mite that was curled up by its master's feet to demonstrate the new skill.

Having received Su Ping's order, the Rock Mite's grey body suddenly trembled. Out of instinct, the Rock Mite followed the order.

Whoosh, whoosh!

Two flying knives, sharp as willow leaves, flew out of the Rock Mite's back, and cut into the boards on the walls of the store.

Rock Leaf Fly-cutter!

This sudden move shocked the students behind them. They thought this pet had lost control.

Nie Zhan opened his eyes wide in disbelief.

He knew his Rock Mite better than anyone. It had never used the Rock Leaf Fly-cutter before, which was embarrassing because this was the strongest attack skill a Rock Mite should know. Most of the outstanding Rock Mites would use this skill.

However, his Rock Mite had been born lazy. He had trained it many times but his efforts came up empty. This had made him once want to give up on the Rock Mite.

How did the Rock Mite release this skill without his order at this moment?

"Your pet's training is done. Step aside if you have no other needs."

Su Ping's voice pulled Nie Zhan back to reality. He was shocked by Su Ping's words and he kept staring at the latter.

This was the effect of the training?

Su Ping had done in one day something he couldn't accomplish after years?!

"Hey bro, step aside. Mr. Su's training is always a one-day training. You will find this out after you come here a few times more." Zhang Baoxing, who was standing behind Nie Zhan, rushed at him. He arrived at five, just as usual, but he wasn't the first one to get there. Because of that, he was holding some grudge toward this student.

"Right. Not only is the training fast in Mr. Su's store, it is of very high quality as well. Bro, hurry up. There is a long line here!" Lu Pengfei, who was third in place, began to push Nie Zhan as well. He wasn't happy about this dawdling.

Those further behind were surprised and less worried once this famous student had made his comment.

Nie Zhan naturally knew Lu Pengfei. The former came back to his senses and his face blushed. He wished he could cover up his face and run away as he thought about how he offended Su Ping. Lowering his head, Nie Zhan mumbled, "Mr, Mr.Su, I am sorry. Something got into me..."

Su Ping wasn't bothered by his doubts at all. After all, Su Ping had become used to such questions and he was aware that training in his store was much faster than in other pet stores. It was understandable that people would have questions.

"It's okay. Come back when you have more money," Su Ping said casually. Nie Zhan smiled an embarrassing smile, bowed, said thanks many times and then ran out of this pet store with his Rock Mite.

After he was gone, Zhang Baoxing stepped forward at once and said rather quickly, "Sir, I come for the Pyro Canine."

He could tell that Su Ping wasn't a fan of wordy dialogue so he went straight to the point without the slightest hesitation.

Su Ping had become familiar with this person. He remembered the name and the pet. Then, Su Ping told several students behind Zhang Baoxing to come forward together and say their names and pets so that he could take out the pets at the same time.

Apart from Zhang Baoxing and Lu Pengfei, two other students were there the first time. While those two waited, they were filled with tension. They would be much more anxious if Lu Pengfei, this famous student in the academy, were not present.

Soon, Su Ping took out their pets. For the pets with less destructive skills, he had them tested in the store. For pets that could inflict widespread damage, or with AOE skills, he asked the pet masters to take them to a battle venue and test them out there.

Zhang Baoxing and Lu Pengfei were familiar with the effects of the training and they trusted Su Ping. The other student tested his pet's new skills in the store. He was overly glad and thanked Su Ping profusely.

As to the other student, the new skill the pet had learned could only be tested in a battle venue.

That student had to bury the worries he had in his heart for the moment, given how the other three reacted. He took his pet away, still dubious of the training.

After Su Ping had sent away some students that came to pick up their pets, Su Lingyue gradually stepped over from where she had parked the scooter.

She had been watching from a distance without approaching the store. She was the center of attention in the academy and had been used to being the center of attention. That being said, she was still nervous by the thought of standing in the store and attending to the business of so many students present along with Su Ping. Therefore, she stayed on the side.

She watched as the pets were collected. She noticed that she had seen some of the faces the day before. Why did they come back for their pets after merely one day?

Were they here for pets they had left here before?

A young man approached Su Ping, saying his name and the pet's. Su Ping went back inside. He came out with a huge pet that was almost as high as the ceiling.

It was the Wing Beast.

Many students' expressions changed as they saw this Wing Beast. The pressure was massive.

Su Lingyue was stunned. She still remembered the Wing Beast vividly.

At this moment, the Wing Beast was following behind Su Ping with no overwhelming presence at all. The Wing Beast was acting more like a submissive kid. Even if Su Ping turned his back to the Wing Beast, it was afraid to attack.

The young man was astonished to see this Wing Beast being so well-behaved. He found it understandable given how the Wing Beast had been defeated by Su Ping the day before. However, the Wing Beast didn't look fierce at all. It was as if the Wing Beast were weaker, not stronger than before!

The young man found it hard to accept that Su Ping had scammed him and broken his pet even though he knew Su Ping was powerful and most likely had strong connections.

"Sir, what?"

Su Ping didn't say a word. He stepped to the side.

Having received permission from Su Ping, the Wing Beast broke free from its previous listless state. Its spirit was lifted. All of a sudden, the Wing Beast moved and threw itself to its master.

The strong wind that sprang up because of the Wing Beast's action lifted the hair of many students outside the store, even some hats.

Before the young man had realized it, the Wing Beast was standing in front of him. This was too fast.

"It did not learn new skills. It only moved up by one position," Su Ping said calmly.

The young man was still stunned. Soon, he came back to his senses. It was till then that he realized the broken claw had been healed.

The wound healed completely after one day?

This came as another shock to the young man. He looked up at Su Ping. Healing the Wing Beast's broken claw within a day was unbelievable already.

As for the pet's progress Su Ping had mentioned, the young man had not tested yet. He did, however, feel that the Wing Beast had become stronger given the speed the Wing Beast had demonstrated. He had to go to a battle venue to find out if it was one position up indeed.

He remembered the words he heard from the other students.

So.

This was the reason why students of the Phoenix Peak Academy were there.

If this store were near the academy he was in, wouldn't his academy win the championship during the Inter-academy Tournament?

"Sir, thank you," Tang Lang said. Once again, he threw a look at the inside of the store. Still, he was unable to see anything. Without further ado, he left.

He wanted to test and find out the actual change of the Wing Beast. If Su Ping were telling the truth, then the Phoenix Peak Academy could not be the only academy able to enjoy this store's benefits!

Chapter 130 Sold Out

Many of the students waiting to pick up their pets witnessed how the Wing Beast tried to demonstrate violence and how it had been subdued by Su Ping the previous day. Even the training of the Wing Beast was completed within a day.

Such being the case, their pets had most likely finished training as well.

The students waiting there gradually quieted down. They were feeling less nervous and anxious and stood in line in an orderly manner.

Su Ping returned their pets one by one and the queue was shortening.

The students that had come with doubts and anxiety were overjoyed to see the amazing changes in their pets. While relaxed, they circled back to the other queue to have their pets trained another time.

Su Lingyue stood by the door, dumbstruck.

She recognized many people, that young man with the Wing Beast in particular. They only came here yesterday. How could the training complete today?

The night before, she saw Su Ping locking up the store and leave without taking anything with him. He spent the night at home...

This was such a short time. In the day, he had to look after the store and attend to the customers. At night, he had done nothing. How did he train those pets?

She was overwhelmed with questions and yet she knew this wasn't a good time to ask. So, she pressed down her curiosity.

At the same time, Su Ping had begun to accept new orders.

Just as before, Su Ping demonstrated no service attitude. Not one bit of his actions pointed at "the customer is king" philosophy.

His expression was cold and his tone was stiff. He just asked for the customers' names and pets and told them to pay.

What kind of business handling is this?!

Su Lingyue was not a businessperson herself. Still, at the very least, she knew one had to smile at the customers!

As for Su Ping, he wore no expression, not so much as a fake smile.

Su Lingyue was dying to go there and remind Su Ping to correct him. The remaining trace of reason in her mind stopped her.

Then, she heard Su Ping announcing the price.

Was it 100,000 coins?

Su Lingyue was startled.

Is he robbing the customers?!

Training a pet costs 100,000 coins?!

What surprised Su Lingyue even more, was that the customer paid up without even so much as a thought.

...Did he just pay 100,000 coins? Su Lingyue was still in a daze. She was wondering if the man was paying with game currency. Since when could people squander away money like this?

How could he give away the 100,000 coins just like that? "Thank you, Mr. Su." The student expressed his gratitude to Su Ping, handed over his pet, and left in buoyant spirits.

Su Lingyue felt her world view was being challenged.

Su Ping sent this shaking pet into the pet room and then returned to record information and collect training fees.

He had been working hard to streamline this process. However, half an hour later, the long queue had not shortened because more people showed up later on.

Su Lingyue had become immune to this scene. During this half an hour she was watching, Su Ping had pocketed several million coins...

Several million!!

That was so much money!

All of her life, Su Lingyue had regarded money as valuable. She would be happy for days when her mom gave her a few hundred coins as pocket money. At the moment, she felt the money was no longer money, but leftovers...

Su Ping was making money faster than a money printing machine!

Was this their family's store at all?

Was this her loser brother?

"You are Su Lingyue, right? Do you want to have your pet trained as well? Why don't you take my spot?"

A boy had been noticing Su Lingyue. She had been standing in front of the door as if she tried to cut the line but lacked the courage to do so. The expressions on her face kept changing. She had been there for a while without asking to cut in line.

The boy thought this was a fantastic chance. When it was about his turn, he immediately went to Su Lingyue's "rescue."

Su Lingyue came back to her senses. The glances darted at her made her flush. She said, "No, thank you."

Then, she made up her mind, worked up the courage and stepped into the store, very natural and poised.

The other students were stunned to see Su Lingyue standing next to Su Ping. Was she cutting in line so brazenly?

Su Ping threw a look at Su Lingyue and said, "Stay away. I'm busy."

Good job, Mr. Su!

Several girls at the head of the queue were delighted to hear Su Ping's words. Su Ping could turn down Su Lingyue the school babe. Indeed, he was a strict and impartial teacher!

Su Lingyue was angered and ashamed because of the strange looks fixed on her. She glared at Su Ping and suggested, "I can collect money for you."

Su Ping rejected calmly, "No need."

And yet, Su Lingyue did remind him. The store's business was doing very well. He was snowed under with work at the moment. He wished he could hire an employee.

The system seemed to have sensed Su Ping's thoughts. "Employees must sign a pet contract with the host."

Su Ping was surprised. In his mind, he asked, "Doesn't that imply that the employees must be pets?"

"That is correct."

The system continued, "Since this is a pet store, only pets are allowed here."

"Oh." Su Ping understood.

He found this explanation acceptable. At the same time, something didn't sound right.

Since there were too many customers present, Su Ping didn't have the time to overthink. He put down the names, collected money, and sent pets into the pet room quickly.

Su Lingyue was provoked by Su Ping's words and many students misunderstood her because of his reply. She felt both embarrassed and furious. She wanted to explain that she was Su Ping's sister but explaining was not in her nature. She swallowed back her words.

She went behind the counter and sat down, panting with rage. She turned around so she didn't have to see those students.

She threw him a glare when Su Ping came back out from the pet room.

Su Ping cast a glance at her. If she wanted to hang out, so be it. He went back to his previous work.

Su Lingyue knew that nothing she could say would change the situation at the moment. She snorted at him. All of a sudden, she noticed the many items on the shelves. When she saw the price tags, she opened her mouth in astonishment.

If this store weren't their family's business, she would have declared it was a gangster shop!

Is Su Ping selling products or robbing people?!

Anything she cast her eyes on had a price of several hundred. Most of the items were priced at several thousand coins and quite a number were sold at over 10,000 coins. There was nothing sold below one hundred! Who are Su Ping's target customers anyway?

She turned around and saw Su Ping still collecting money. All of a sudden, she didn't know what to say.

Their family would have made a great fortune overnight if the business had been conducted as Su Ping did long before!

All of a sudden, she understood. At this rate, in one month, Su Ping would have made more than enough money to buy that Inferno Dragon!

Ten minutes later.

Su Ping came out from the pet room again. There was still a score of people waiting outside. He said to them, "All the spots have been taken. Please come back again tomorrow."

The student who was ready to transfer the money was taken aback. He stared at Su Ping. "Mr... Mr. Su, what do you mean?!"

He never thought there were limited spots available!

Su Ping felt sorry for the student who had to go back home after queuing there for such a long time. However, the training space and the nursing pens had all been stuffed and the system didn't allow for any pets to be retained in the store. He had no option but to repeat, "That is right. Please, come back tomorrow."

Those still waiting looked at each other speechlessly. Since Su Ping had made it clear, they had no choice but to leave.

"Sir, I, it is my turn now..." That student was unwilling to give up.

Su Ping heaved a sigh. "Next time, come earlier."

"..." The student didn't know what to say. He left in frustration since Su Ping didn't leave any room for persuading.

The long line outside the store disappeared gradually. Sitting at the counter, Su Lingyue could not stand this anymore. She went up and yanked Su Ping's sleeve. "Why are you letting them go? All the spots are taken? There is still room here. You can make it work!"

Su Ping darted a glance at her grumpily. "Do you honestly suppose I haven't thought of that? But I have my rules in the store. Okay. You have been here long enough. You can go home now."

“No way. Didn’t you say that there are no more spots available? Show me.”

With that said, Su Lingyue went to pull the door to the pet room. However, the door was incredibly heavy. No matter how she tried, the door would not budge.

“Do not mess up my job. Go back and cultivate,” Su Ping dragged her away and cautioned her.

Su Lingyue never expected that she would be defeated by a door, which had astonished her. Su Ping’s words re-ignited her anger. She pouted and said, “Don’t think that I’m afraid of you just because you can defeat me. I wasn’t paying attention to cultivation in the past because I didn’t have any worthy opponents. From now on, I am going to work hard. Hmm, I will surpass you. Just you wait!”

“Good luck.” Su Ping flashed a false smile. Su Lingyue could sense his ridicule. She bit her teeth and stomped her feet in anger before she left.

Staying there would only be embarrassing for her. She had realized that without violence, she no longer had any other ability to win against her mean brother.

Su Ping was relieved since Su Lingyue had left. Finally, this piece of trouble was gone. He opened the pet room’s door, went inside, and pulled up the cultivation sites. He selected some pets and started the dummy training process.

While the dummy training was ongoing, he went back to the storefront to close the door.

Then, he pulled up the cultivation sites’ window again, selected the dragon king’s heritage ground, and went to explore the dragon scales with the Purple Python, the Inferno Dragon, and the Dark Dragon Hound.

Su Ping left the store closed for the rest of the day. He did nothing but train.

The result turned out to be outstanding.

Each round of the dummy training would last an hour. In total, forty to fifty pets were trained and those were all stored in the training space. Pets staying in the nursing pens were the remaining ones to be trained.

Apart from taking care of the customers’ pets, Su Ping had been staying in the dragon king’s heritage ground all day long. He went there seven or eight times and took a couple of hours rest.

The seven or eight times meant seven to eight days inside the cultivation site.

During those days, Su Ping explored over thirty dragon scale lands. Besides, the three pets went through transformative changes as well. They had all metamorphosed from infancy into youth.