

Pet Store 1311

Chapter 1311 Rising to Fame (2)

Fortunately, it wouldn't take too long.

Right now, I need time to cultivate. Once I decipher the 108 natural Dao Glyphs in my body, I will master the real power of this bloodline and become a qualified descendant of the Primitive Chaos Clan.

Su Ping quickly asked Elder Chan to let him cultivate in his universe again.

Chan Gong didn't decline his request. Seeing that the boy was still cultivating impatiently after just winning the Dao Child title, he said, "You may cultivate for now. The Dao Child succession ritual will be held in ten days. Everyone in the institute will watch you be crowned, and all the races in the world will know your name!

"The Rain Clan's hunting order will be canceled. We will send someone to talk to them."

Su Ping asked, "What if they refuse?"

"Then we'll talk to them again. I'm sure they'll change their mind," said Chan Gong with a smile.

Su Ping felt rather touched, feeling the confidence in the elder's words. He felt the charm of power again. He also felt relieved; the trouble caused to humankind in that world was resolved for now.

He had never helped the local humans, and he didn't want to add to their troubles.

Time flew.

Su Ping was cultivating wholeheartedly in Chan Gong's universe.

News that Su Ping had defeated Chen Xi, thus becoming the new Dao Child of the Heaven Path Institute was spread out in the gods' world.

There were nobles of many clans in the Heaven Path Institute, so it was impossible to keep the matter a secret. Dao Children received the attention of all the clans; they were the unparalleled geniuses at the top of the Chaos Talents Rank.

Naturally, many forces sent offers to such existences.

Although the Heaven Path Institute was also an organization, it wasn't really tied to the students and was just a place for teaching and learning. Once the students graduated, they would be free to join any organization. Even the students could join some forces; however, they would have to take care of any trouble caused with those forces, as they couldn't ask for the institute to step in.

With powerful elders supervising them, the students didn't dare abuse the institute's influence; otherwise they would be kicked out if they were ever found out.

In the Rain Clan, on a high mountain

The Rain Emperor, wearing luxurious clothes, sat gracefully at the peak. His robe seemed to hold countless stars, and two ribbons dangled from his chest like star rivers. It was as if he were seated at the center of the world.

His face was solemn and furious at the moment.

“I failed to execute that brat. It was negligent of me.” Emperor Que, one of the seven emperors of the Rain Clan, stood by the cliff with a grim expression. He learned of the news that Su Ping, against all odds, had become a prince of the Heaven Path Institute. He also realized that he probably wouldn’t have another chance to kill the guy.

Su Ping was under the institute’s protection. The clan would have to pay dearly if he died.

Even though a dead genius would no longer be a genius, the Heaven Path Institute would always seek justice for any deceased students!

For killing a Dao Child, the Heaven Path Institute would very likely ask for the life of an emperor in return! Such deterrence was the reason why the institute’s Dao Children were lofty and admirable.

Considering Su Ping’s potential—if he simply kept growing without disruptions, he would surely become a God Emperor, and a very tricky one at that!

“It’s not your fault. There’s something wrong with that guy.” The Rain Emperor was gloomy. He trusted Emperor Que. If the man said he killed Su Ping, he must have done so.

Besides, the brat wasn’t even a God King, and yet he could teleport across continents in the blink of an eye. Not even God Kings were capable of doing that.

“That brat carries many great secrets. We must figure out a way to kill him. Later, I will ask Elder Tian of the Witch Mountain to curse him. He will have to go through the Heavenly Tribulation to become a God King. That will be our last chance to kill him,” said the Rain Emperor.

“You want to hire someone from Witch Mountain?”

Emperor Que’s expression changed somewhat. The Witch Mountain was almost a taboo in the gods’ world.

There weren’t many people on Witch Mountain, but they were all unparalleled experts.

It was a place with a long history, said to own several heritages dating back to the age of chaos. They were good at using curse power; nobody would want to mess with them.

There were strange undetectable curses. The curse recipient would never find a trace, while the attack would work in full.

“We’ll probably have to pay a high price, right?” asked Emperor Que in a low voice.

“It’s worth it,” said the Rain Clan solemnly, “He will definitely become a God Warrior. Any price will be worth it to exterminate him while he is still in the cradle. If humankind aspires to become a high-ranked clan through him, they too will be placing all their hopes and resources on him. There’s also his talent... We must get rid of him as soon as possible!”

Emperor Que was dazed. He couldn’t help but glance at him in shock. Even the Rain Emperor sounded vaguely scared of the lad. Would the brat work a miracle and become an Ancestral God?

He couldn’t help but recall the battle against Su Ping, and immediately his face became solemn.

He knew it was extremely difficult to rise to the ultimate Ancestral God State, but he had to admit that the human did have a slim chance of accomplishing such a grand feat!

That sliver of a chance could be destructive for the Rain Clan!

In the human clan-Ember Palace.

“Ha, ha, ha...”

Emperor Xin and all the human emperors were there. They were excited after receiving the news.

Su Ping, who had strangely gone missing, went to the Heaven Path Institute and became a Dao Child. What a great surprise!

“Dao Child... A human Dao Child!”

“I heard he defeated Chen Xi, the famous prince from one of the seven greatest clans, and took his place!”

“Are humans truly going to rise? We’ve finally seen the light of dawn after hundreds of thousands of years in the dark!”

Some were excited, while others clenched their fists with moist eyes.

The Dao Child identity was essentially a protective badge!

Having the institute’s protection, Su Ping would become a God Emperor even if he were unlucky!

Very few Dao Children had died by accident, except for those who risked their lives exploring forbidden areas.

Other Dao Children would resign after becoming God Emperors.

Some of the elders in the Heaven Path Institute had been Dao Children in their younger days. They stayed in the institute and repaid the favor.

“The resources we invested in him weren’t useless. We even offended the Rain Clan for his sake. But it was totally worth it!” said one of the people present.

Reality was cruel. If another human would have offended the Rain Clan, they might not have had the courage to fight the Rain Clan!

It wasn’t because they didn’t have backbones, but because they had to accept the harsh reality!

Everybody wanted to act freely.

However, reality seemed to always strike them in the head, telling them to keep a low profile!

They had seen too many fellow humans be wrongly killed. Some geniuses were brutally executed for offending inferior members of high-ranked clans... but they couldn’t do anything about it.

This time, they had weighed the pros and cons and decided to bet on Su Ping. Little did they expect that they would really win!

“He’s currently cultivating in the Heaven Path Institute. Considering his new identity, he’s bound to receive endless resources; there’s no need to worry about him anymore,” said Emperor Xin in comfort after the initial delight.

The others nodded. Even though Su Ping was still weak and God Warriors could kill him, they didn’t have to worry about him anymore.

“The Rain Clan provoked us relentlessly, even allying themselves with other high-ranked clans to impose pressure on us. Now we have the confidence of uniting with the Divine Wind Clan and defending our territory. We can no longer stand being insulted. As for our rise, let’s wait for him to grow. It probably won’t take but a few thousand years...”

Emperor Xin said with glittering eyes, “We should keep a low profile in the meantime and hide our edge.”

“We’ve endured hundreds of thousands of years. A few thousand years more is nothing for us.”

Someone stepped up and spoke enthusiastically, “It’s said that there are treasures from the age of chaos in the relics found in the desert. We’re the only people who know of the relics right now. I’m willing to lead a team to explore it. We will later have resources when this Su Ping becomes a God Emperor and graduates from the Heaven Path Institute; this way we can help him ascend to the supreme Ancestral God state!”

Emperor Xin nodded, agreeing with the idea. He was also thinking about resources to invest in Su Ping later on. Otherwise, a God Emperor would only be able to slightly improve their status. He would still be incapable of tearing apart the darkness above their heads.

Chapter 1312 Dao Spirit Succession (1)

“Chen Xi lost? To someone from a mere middle-ranked clan?”

“The prince from one of the seven greatest families was defeated by a young human named Su Ping and took his Dao Child title.”

“A human? Who is it? Never heard of the fellow.”

“Young Master, you’ve never left the continent; it’s only natural that you wouldn’t know anything about him. Humans aren’t active on this continent; their clan is barely middle-ranked.”

News of the Dao Child was spread across the world, receiving the attention of many forces and clans.

“I really want to find out what the guy who defeated Chen Xi looks like,” whispered a prince from one of the seven greatest clans.

“Su Ping? The person wanted by the Rain Clan a while back?”

“Humans are on a roll!”

As word was spread out, Su Ping and humans as a whole gained popularity throughout the world.

There were a billion races in the Archean Divinity, and hundreds of thousands of middle-ranked clans. Humans didn't stand out much among them; they were just one of the many vassal clans to a high-ranked clan. Many gods had yet to know about them.

Toad Fish Palace—Heaven Path Institute.

A person emerged from the side palace and slowly opened his eyes. He was none other than Su Ping, who had just been woken up in the middle of his cultivation.

Time flew. In the proverbial blink of an eye, he cultivated for more than a year in Chan Gong's universe and deciphered another one and half natural Dao Glyphs. His combat ability had significantly increased yet again.

Once seeing Chan Gong nearby, Su Ping instantly realized why he was summoned.

"It's been ten days; the succession ritual will be held today. Aside from the students, several important figures from many organizations will also attend."

Chan Gong added with a smile, "They're partly here to take a look at you, and partly to present you with some offers. The institute allows for students to join other organizations, as long as they don't embarrass their alma mater."

He glanced at Su Ping and said, "Considering your potential, I personally suggest that you don't bind yourself to those forces. You may want to consider if any of them grants you privileges without restricting you too much; after all, you'll have more training resources and your progress will be faster."

Su Ping had seen it coming, and was slightly intrigued. He couldn't stay in the Archean Divinity forever; he probably could ask one of those forces to look out for humanity if he joined any.

"I'll consider it," said Su Ping.

Chan Gong nodded and led Su Ping out of the side palace. They went to the institute's main hall.

The place was on the peak of the Three Gods Mountain, which looked like three fingers. They were, in fact, three fingers. Legend had it that they were the severed fingers of an Ancestral God. The mighty expert never healed the injury, all for some sort of promise; he left his fingers there.

With time, they eventually became the Three Gods Mountain from the Heaven Path Institute.

The mountain was extremely high and majestic, large enough to accommodate all the students in the academy. The building had overlapping and chaotic spaces; anyone sneaking in without any direction would end up getting lost; even God Kings would be helpless.

Many figures were gathered in the main hall; they were the students of many races in the Heaven Path Institute.

Besides them, there were also a lot of powerful auras moving along with the elders of the institute. They were important figures from various forces.

Chan Gong and Su Ping attracted a lot of attention once they arrived. Everyone fixed their gazes upon Su Ping right then.

The young human seemed unfazed by the myriad of eyes on him, including the intimidating sight of some God Emperors. He quietly landed on the ceremonial platform with Elder Chan.

It was a lofty ceremonial platform which carried an ancient vibe. There were even Dao Glyphs engraved on the stone.

“He’s indeed young and extraordinary!”

“Quite poised. His vitality... And he’s only lived a hundred years?”

Someone probed in secret; they were shocked by Su Ping’s vitality.

The man became a Dao Child in a hundred years?

Such talent was rare, even within the whole scope of the godly world.

Many were quick to conclude that the trip was well worth it, and they hoped to talk about cooperating, since he would definitely be a future star.

It was easier and more valuable to impress geniuses early in the game.

After all, some favors were considered priceless.

On the ceremonial platform-Su Ping found Chen Xi in a certain direction.

The man was at the moment wearing a black robe adorned with rare materials mixed with Dao Glyphs and divine arrays. It wasn’t just beautiful, but also a powerful weapon.

He was also wearing a crown. Based on the style, both items appeared to be a set.

The two of them looked at each other. Chen Xi gave Su Ping a slight nod, keeping a peaceful expression.

He thought it was fair to have been defeated by Su Ping

He had been reflecting during the past ten days. There would always be a hint of instinctual fear in his heart every time he thought of Su Ping.

He didn’t know the reason. He searched through his memories and couldn’t find the answer; he had to ask a God Emperor of his clan to help him get rid of the trauma.

He was again able to keep a cool and emotionless demeanor when he met Su Ping again.

Su Ping had no personal grudges against Chen Xi. Once they exchanged greetings he looked at the other two people who were also wearing divine robes. One of them was tall; half of his hair was black while the other was white. Likewise, his eyes were black and white respectively. He was emitting a hazy and mysterious aura.

Chapter 1313 Dao Spirit Succession (2)

The other person was graceful, looking ordinary at first glance. However, the longer one looked at her, the more beautiful she would appear to be; she carried a soul-stirring beauty.

“They are Shen Mo and Qian Hong,” said Elder Chan via telepathy, after noticing where Su Ping was looking.

The two Dao Children were also gazing at Su Ping.

Their eyes were filled with wariness as they looked at the human who defeated and replaced Chen Xi. It was a rare Dao Child from a middle-ranked clan.

“Now that everyone is here, let’s start the succession ritual.”

An elder stepped up and announced, “This is Su Ping, the new Dao Child of the Heaven Path Institute! Now, we ask the mountain to open its eyes and bless him!”

A light then darted out of the depths of the Heaven Path Institute, splitting the sky above them.

The split sky was like the opening of an eye. There was dazzling light coming from within the crack, while mind-blowing and enlightening music was playing all over the world.

The holy light quickly descended and enshrouded Su Ping.

He instantly felt that he was covered in abundant divine power, which contained ten Dao Glyphs that were directly transmitted into his consciousness.

That was the gift for a Dao Child.

Even though he had to parse and grasp the ten Dao Glyphs on his own, every Dao Child would have the talent to do that.

“Bring the robe!” said the elder.

A glitter shimmered in the void, and then an auspicious beast that looked like a mixture of a dragon and a tiger moving in an intimidating gait.

The beast landed in front of the platform, lowered its head and opened its mouth, from which a robe and a crown flew out. Both items were the same as what the other Dao Children were wearing, except for the emblems at the collar and the sleeves.

On the left sleeve was humankind’s emblem.

On the right sleeve was Su Ping’s name.

Su Ping accepted the robe with both hands. He heard the elder’s voice asking him to claim and wear the robe.

Su Ping immediately complied. Soon, the robe transformed into light, condensing on his body and changing to match his body figure until it fit like a glove. Even if he revealed his Primitive Chaos Clan body, the robe’s size would also change accordingly.

It’s truly a great item!

Once the robe was claimed, he realized its functions. There was a spirit embedded in the robe that had the appearance of a kid; it told Su Ping that it had just been tailor-made for him.

“Please give me a hand.” Su Ping liked the robe’s spirit. It was the first time for him to have an item with a spirit that belonged to him. It felt just like getting a pet for the first time.

The elder's voice resounded again. "We ask the Dao Spirit to relocate!"

Chen Xi stepped up and stood in front of Su Ping. A purple light flew out from one of his robe's shoulders and entered Su Ping's clothes.

The latter instantly felt the change in his robe. Meanwhile, the spirit also cheered excitedly; Su Ping asked for the reason and learned that the robe spirit had absorbed the Dao Spirit and was significantly enhanced; all its abilities had been greatly improved.

If it was a rare artifact before, it had just become an ultimate artifact.

A purple Dao Glyph was added to one shoulder of the robe.

Su Ping noticed the same Dao Glyph on the shoulders of Qian Hong and Shen Mo's robes, while the one on Chen Xi's robe had disappeared.

The ritual was basically over after taking that last step; the identity badge and everything else could be handed over later.

The elder explained to those attending why Dao Children were picked in the beginning and what their purpose was. Then, he announced the conclusion of the ritual.

It wasn't until then that Su Ping realized that the institute nurtured Dao Children in the hopes of raising new Ancestral Gods.

No wonder Dao Children have so many privileges; they can even ask questions to God Emperors whenever they want. Not even the princes of the seven greatest clans have such a privilege.

Su Ping was rather curious. He wondered if any of the Dao Children in the past had ever achieved the main goal of becoming an Ancestral God.

Once the ritual was over, Chen Xi nodded at Su Ping and left without a word.

"Congratulations. I hope you won't slack off and survive the next Dao Child challenge," said Qian Hong, who was pretty and enjoyable. Her voice was neutral; her mood was a mystery. "Let's practice sometime; I want to see how you defeated that guy," said Shen Mo, the Dao Child with black and white hair, showing great interest. He wasn't just being courteous; it was an invitation for battle.

"Sure." Su Ping nodded slightly. The two Dao Children silently left the platform and disappeared in the crowd.

"The ritual is over. Follow me to the palace; everybody is waiting for you there," said Elder Chan to Su Ping.

Noticing that more than half of the God Emperors in the crowd were gone, he knew where they had gone. He asked Elder Chan telepathically, "Senior, did any of the Dao Children advance to become an Ancestral God?"

Although dazed for a moment, Elder Chan said while leading Su Ping onward, "There was one. He was the sixth Dao Child elected in this institute, and also the strongest one in his time. To this day he is considered the strongest Dao Child ever!"

Su Ping was surprised. There truly is an Ancestral God?

The Heaven Path Institute's education was truly unbelievable.

No wonder the clans would send their princes and princesses to study. Who would refuse the chance to become another Ancestral God?

"The feats of Ancestral God Tian Wen have always been seen as legends in this institute. If you're interested, you may go to the library to find detailed records. He was the Ancestral God who created a small universe with seven small worlds," said Elder Chan.

Su Ping felt rather surprised, not expecting that the Ancestral God mentioned by the young mentor earlier on used to be a Dao Child.

"Ancestral God Tian Wen's talent is unparalleled. He killed a God Emperor while still being a God King and was already unstoppable while in that realm. He made it to the top of the Chaos Talents Rank. The people his age were even terrified of being on the ranking, because anyone on the listing would be challenged by him," said Elder Chan.

Su Ping could totally imagine what an amazing genius the man was.

"You might change the Chaos Talents Rank like Ancestral God Tian Wen did when you become a God King. Even so, better not go crazy and challenge all the nobles; after all, Ancestral God Tian Wen belongs to a high-ranked clan. That's the reason why he dared to challenge others without worrying about retaliation," Elder Chan reminded Su Ping.

The latter nodded. He didn't have the time for that either; he was only cultivating to get stronger. He didn't have to challenge others just to be famous or to prove himself.

Those nobles weren't necessary if he was truly looking for sparring partners; there were much better fighters out there.

Soon after, they arrived at the main palace.

Powerful auras were gathered in that place, like the abyss and the ocean; they belonged to the God Emperors. God Kings were hardly noticeable there.

Su Ping entered the main palace along with Elder Chan. He then saw the other elders from the institute and the God Emperors of other clans.

Everyone laid eyes on him as soon as he entered.

A normal God King would have felt nervous and uncomfortable under the gazes of that many God Emperors.

However, Su Ping had spent time with existences like the Chaos Perception Dragon and was already used to similar encounters. Besides, such pressure wasn't even as powerful as that of the Golden Crow elder.

The Golden Crow elder must be an Ancestral God too. As for the ancestor that he mentioned... Su Ping's eyes glittered. He had never been able to tell the exact level of the Golden Crows' Chief Elder, but he

could now, by comparing pressures. He was quite shocked; that mythical clan from the age of chaos was indeed terrifying.

Chapter 1314 Arrogance (1)

While Su Ping pondered about the Golden Crows, many people in the palace noticed his absentmindedness when everybody was looking at him.

He wasn't losing his cool because of nervousness; rather, he was too relaxed.

"Interesting." A God Emperor smiled. The human genius became increasingly mysterious and strange to him.

Some mentors of the institute approached Elder Chan and Su Ping to lead the way.

The pair moved to the front of the hall where nine elders were seated. Aside from the five who had monitored the Dao Child challenge, there were four more. The rest of the elders were either training in seclusion or otherwise occupied.

"Give him the identity badge," said the elder who hosted the ritual in a low voice.

His voice was gentle, and yet was able to reach every corner of the hall.

A crack in midair was formed, and a pair of fair and slender hands reached out from within. The hands were incredibly beautiful. Once open, they revealed a purple identity badge.

Su Ping accepted the badge and soon discovered that it was also an artifact.

The elders then presented him with gifts, one after the other.

There were blades, defensive equipment, boats, rare medicines, and many more. They seemed to have discussed between themselves to prevent the type of gift from overlapping.

Su Ping was surprised, not expecting to receive all those goodies just because he became a Dao Child.

Each of those treasures would have caused endless conflicts outside. After all, the elders were all God Emperors. None of them were stingy when it came to treating Su Ping, a Dao Child. Their gifts were quite rare.

Su Ping offered thanks to each and every one of them. He also made some mental notes about those elders' faces, as he was determined to return the favor later on.

After the gift giving stage, Su Ping learned more about Dao Children from the elders. He also received a special divine mountain to use for his cultivation.

Although he had never been to the divine mountain, he could speculate that it was certainly a top cultivation land.

Once the ceremony proceeded, Su Ping gradually realized how precious Dao Children were. Almost all the resources of the Heavenly Path Institute were offered to him for free, and had access to all the mysterious realms and libraries. He was free to pick from the ultimate beasts domesticated by the institute. He couldn't take them all, but they could definitely meet his demands.

Once the elders finished, Su Ping could clearly sense that the eyes of all the mentors in the palace became passionate.

Dao Children enjoyed a higher security clearance than the mentors.

All the outstanding students had a chance to become mentors, but much fewer were Dao Children.

Once the ritual had finally concluded, those present in the palace could bear it no longer. They all started talking.

One of the God Emperors stood up and offered a sincere invitation, "I'm from the Baichuan Clan of the Tianmu Continent. Are you interested in joining the Heavenly Radiance Palace of my clan as deputy leader? You'll have access to all the palace resources!" Su Ping was surprised. He also realized that his identity had changed.

The attitude of those God Emperors was different because they thought he too would become a God Emperor.

Making proposals to a would-be God Emperor was much less costly then, compared to when he truly became one.

Besides, the real God Emperors had their own clans which they needed to serve.

However, unlike the other Dao Children, Su Ping's own clan was too weak. Even if he wanted to serve his clan, it was impossible for humankind to keep him fed while he was growing. Even if the clan was able to, his growth would be better if he received resources from another clan.

"The Heavenly Radiance Palace is just a second-rate organization. It's nothing remarkable, even if you have access to all their resources." An alluring woman stood up. Flames formed a domain around her, isolated her from the palace. She seemed to be there, but she was actually in another time and space.

"Dao Child, I'm the master of the Red Dome Realm of the Beicang Continent. If you're willing, you can become the deputy of the Red Dome Realm, a position that is only second to me. You will also receive the special Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire of the Red Dome Realm!"

"The Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire?" Su Ping looked at Elder Chan curiously.

The latter understood the cue and said telepathically, "It's one of the best fires for refining, unique in the Red Dome Realm. It's a remnant from the age of chaos which can refine both items and the body. A rare treasure even for God Emperors."

Su Ping was stunned, not thinking he would be offered such a treasure. The master of the Red Dome Realm was truly generous.

The other God Emperors were also shocked by the woman, and weren't as eager to step in as before. It was obvious, unless Su Ping were stupid, that he would surely choose the Red Dome Realm's offer.

"Human Dao Child, I belong to the Liluo Clan," said a tall and graceful God Emperor at a slow and serene pace, then ending with a smile, "If you're willing, you can be the deputy leader of the Thousand Shadows Hall of my clan. Humans may also become a core vassal race of my clan. All your people may cultivate in our holy land and enjoy the resources and privileges of the tier-3 folk of our clan."

“In addition, you will receive a special accolade from our clan. You will have the same status as our princes!

“Are you willing to accept?”

He looked at Su Ping with a confident smile.

Many were surprised by such favorable conditions.

Considering the reactions from those present, Su Ping realized that those terms were extraordinary. He looked askance at Elder Chan.

Elder Chan calmly replied, “The Liluo Clan is one of the seven greatest clans. They have two Ancestral Gods, making them stronger than other high-ranked clans, including the Rain Clan currently hunting you! I don’t think they would dare continue the chase if you join the Liluo Clan. Of course, even if you don’t, they would no longer dare mess with you from this point on!

“As for the Thousand Shadows Hall, it’s a major organization of assassins under the Liluo Clan’s command. It’s full of high-tier assassins.

“If you take the deputy position, your connections, your income, and the forces at your disposal will be terrifying threats.” Su Ping nodded. He didn’t know it was one of the seven greatest clans. The previous reaction from the people present made more sense.

Su Ping looked at the elder and directly asked, “Senior, are there other benefits?”

Many were surprised by the question, but his status warranted such an easy going attitude.

The other Dao Children would also have a solid attitude in the presence of God Emperors.

“What else do you want?” asked the God Emperor of the Liluo Clan with a smile.

“Training resources,” said Su Ping, “The Thousand Shadows Hall is great, but I don’t have many enemies, except for the Rain Clan. It is clear to me that the organization would not go all out and eliminate the Rain Clan for me; at most it would only cause them some pain. So, I need resources to raise my level. For instance, the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire mentioned by the master of the Red Dome Realm is very tempting.”

The sexy master of that clan raised her eyebrows; there was delight and pride in her eyes.

The Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire he had control over was indeed a treasure that everybody wanted.

Su Ping’s request caused many strange expressions. The grudge between Su Ping and the Rain Clan was no longer a real secret, but none of them expected him to speak about that matter as openly. It was like a public announcement, claiming that the Rain Clan was his enemy. After all, it was a high-ranked clan!

In any case, considering all their clashes thus far, it made no difference whether or not he said it aloud.

“The Thousand Shadows Hall is not the most precious thing for you.” The God Emperor of the Liluo Clan gazed at Su Ping, his smile gone. “We don’t have the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire; it’s unique in this world. However, the identity of a prince and the privileges of a core vassal race can’t be traded with any treasures.”

Su Ping finally understood. He wasn't angered by the answer; rather, he felt really disappointed.

According to that guy's standpoint, giving him a princely identity and the privileges of a vassal race was already a competitive enough proposal when compared to that of the woman who offered him the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire.

How arrogant was that!

He had experienced the same arrogance from the Rain Clan and some of the other clans. He didn't expect to find the same mindset in one of the seven greatest clans.

Su Ping finally understood that the Rain Clan wasn't special, and the entire world of gods was no different.

Even while studying in the Heaven Path Institute—where all races lived and studied competitively—he had also detected the arrogance radiated by students from the high-ranked clans, mainly because of their superior bloodline. The attitude was less obvious, though.

"Sorry. I think I need to think about it." Su Ping wasn't angry. He simply chose to courteously decline.

He discovered that he would no longer fall prey to anger because of the gods' arrogance.

The God Emperor of the Liluo Clan slightly changed his expression after the answer, clearly not expecting such an outcome. He deemed it impossible for Su Ping to turn down the offer. Someone in his clan had proposed a marriage between a princess and Su Ping, even suggesting that they could help Su Ping alter his bloodline and turn him into a member of the Liluo Clan. But the idea wasn't approved.

They considered it humiliating to go as far as changing his bloodline and offer such privileges just because he was a Dao Child.

"Then, are you willing to join the Red Dome Realm?" asked the beautiful lady with glittering eyes.

She had been truly worried for a moment that he would accept the Liluo Clan's offer.

After all, there were a billion clans in the world, but only seven were at the peak of the pyramid.

Countless races and lives had dreamt to even become remotely related to the seven clans.

Even some people of the high-ranked clans had considered changing their bloodlines and turning into members of the seven greatest clans. It seemed to be some sort of obsession caused by their obsessively hierarchical society.

Su Ping turning down the Liluo Clan's offer caused her both relief and delight.

Chapter 1315 One Man's Race (1)

Su Ping looked at the master of the Red Dome Realm. Instead of replying in a hurry, he remained deep in thought.

Before too long, other God Emperors stepped up, trying to rope Su Ping in with abundant privileges.

"Are these the privileges of a Dao Child?"

“He’s so brilliant. If I could have a moment like this in my life, I would die without regrets!”

“The Divine Barbarian Clan is really trying to impress the Dao Child!”

The mentors in the hall were all excited as they saw the God Emperors offer their terms. Some of the conditions were so attractive that even they, mere onlookers at the moment, felt greatly jealous. They were deeply amazed by Dao Child’s glamor; unfortunately, they knew it was impossible for them to ever become Dao Children.

Su Ping silently remembered those God Emperors’ terms. Some even offered treasures that were comparable to the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire.

Some clans were willing to marry off their princesses to him. They also promised that if Su Ping wanted to, they could alter his bloodline to make him part of the clan.

In addition, not only did some clans promise that humankind would become their core vassal race, but they also promised they would protect humankind three times against high-ranked clans.

All the terms expressed their sincerity.

However, there were also some God Emperors who were relatively arrogant and didn’t offer a lot. They made subtle threats, seeing that Su Ping was uninterested, but he calmly ignored them.

He didn’t think they would find trouble with humans for such a matter. Even if they did, thanks to the protection of the Heaven Path Institute and his fame, he could help humankind seek the protection of other high-ranked clans.

Besides, humans were already a vassal race of a high-ranked clan. Thanks to his new identity, the high-ranked clan would certainly take action if humankind was humiliated.

After receiving all the offers, Su Ping considered for a moment and narrowed them down to three.

He told Elder Chan his thoughts. He first wished to speak to the master of the Red Dome Realm.

Soon after, the two of them entered another time and space in the hall with Elder Chan’s help.

“Are you willing to join the Red Dome Realm? I promise you won’t be disappointed.” The master of the Red Dome Realm was quite delighted. Su Ping had received lots of offers, but decided to speak to her alone, which meant that he was intrigued.

He remained calm; not much excitement was shown on his face. He said in an inscrutable manner, “Senior, you heard the offers made by the other seniors. I appreciate them very much; they’re all very attractive and I find them hard to refuse. After much deliberation, I’ve picked three, and yours is one of them.”

“Three?”

The master of the Red Dome Realm raised her eyebrows. She simply ignored Su Ping’s formalities, which could be skipped over; what mattered was the content of the offer.

“I’m interested in your Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire. But by comparison, the other two seniors’ offers are just as interesting. If you can accept three more requests, I’ll simply pick you,” said Su Ping.

“Just tell me.” The woman went straight to the chase, knowing that Su Ping was only negotiating.

“First, I want humans to be treated equally, like your own folk,” said Su Ping, “They should also be allowed to cultivate in the Red Dome Realm.”

She raised her eyebrows and said, “The people in my clan are stratified in three tiers. The people of a core vassal race can compare to the tier-3 folk. I can only promise you that the talented humans who pass a simple test of my clan will be given the tier-3 identity and be allowed to cultivate there.”

Su Ping gave her a slight frown, but then he remembered the Liluo Clan’s offer, and knew it was already a high-ranked clan’s greatest concession.

“Second, I hope you can protect humankind three times.”

“That’s too many. Twice, at most,” the master of the Red Dome Realm calmed down and said, “But I promise that if a high-ranked clan were to wage war on humankind, we would surely help and prevent them from being annihilated.”

Su Ping nodded and said, “Lastly, I want frequent trade and communication between humankind and the Red Dome Realm. Hopefully, my race will become a true ally of the Red Dome Realm.”

“Huh?” She was slightly puzzled, and could not help but ask, “All three requests are for humankind. None is for yourself; are you

sure?”

“I am sure. If you accept them, I won’t have to meet the other two seniors,” said Su Ping.

The master of the Red Dome Realm pondered for a moment and said, “All right, no problem. You want humankind to be truly seen and respected by high-ranked clans, and you want it to develop in every way; that’s a good thought. However, humankind is just a middle-rank clan as it is... For it to be truly respected, an Ancestral God must be born.”

She stared at Su Ping and continued, “You’re too attached to your clan. Maybe you will never detach from it. I hope you can understand that when you’re strong enough, you will be your own race!”

“I will be my own race?”

Su Ping’s eyes trembled. He could understand the confidence in her words, but he didn’t explain. He was helping humans only because he owed them a favor. He had cultivated his Ascendant body in the Ember Palace, and countless humans were killed by the Rain Clan because of him.

He always considered it righteous to return favors.

“From now on, you’ll be a member of the Red Dome Realm; this is the deputy master’s badge. You’re a new Dao Child though, and you’ll probably cultivate in the Heaven Path Institute for the time being. I’ll wait for you in the Red Dome Realm.”

The master of the Red Dome Realm threw a crimson badge to Su Ping. There was a fire totem inscribed.

“You even prepared the badge in advance...” Su Ping accepted it and felt her sincerity. He asked, “What about the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire...”

“It’s unique in the Red Dome Realm. You’ll have it when you go to the Red Dome Realm. Here’s part of the fire I’ve harvested.” She waved a hand again, and the temperature began to rise quickly. Even the void seemed to be melting

There was a purple flame burning on her palm; every element that formed it seemed to be depicting some sort of meaning.

Su Ping was dazed.

It wasn’t a flame in his eyes, but a rich, Great Dao that was interweaving and circulating!

The fire was formed by a myriad of Dao Glyphs. Su Ping wasn’t able to determine their exact number, but there were plenty.

The master of the Red Dome Realm pushed a book onto Su Ping. “This describes the most usages of the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire, including battle usages, refining usages, array usages, etc. I will teach you all of them; you can make use of it however you wish, but I suggest that you use it to refine your body. You’ve never been polished by the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire; there’s still room for your body to improve.

Su Ping accepted the book, and the latter instantly transformed into a burst of infinite information that went into his head.

He waited for a moment and finally digested all the information, instantly realizing how extraordinary the Nine-Flavored Heavenly Fire was.

“Store it carefully. If the flame explodes, it would be as powerful as a God Emperor’s strike!” said the master of the Red Dome Realm solemnly.

Su Ping was still too weak to survive a God Warrior’s strike; she was worried that he would accidentally kill himself. The odds for that to happen were quite low, but that mystic fire was extremely dangerous.

The warning surprised him. While feeling that his body was about to melt, he understood that she wasn’t lying. He released his universe of chaos and absorbed the flame.

What an intense aura of chaos...

She could not help but glance at Su Ping. That brief revelation had already made her realize how unusual his universe was.

Hardly had he absorbed the fire when he felt that waves of scorching heat were spreading inside his universe, which seemed to have turned into a furnace.

Su Ping immediately used the fire-taming method she had just taught him to control and compress the fire in a part of the universe.

Even so, the power that the fire was releasing constantly was still polishing his universe of chaos nonstop

Chapter 1316 Return (1)

It’s indeed marvelous!

Su Ping found the fire increasingly wondrous as he felt that his universe of chaos was becoming stronger. As expected of something born from the Original Dao; it had a fair deal of usages.

“Dao Child, you may call me Xuan Ji in the future; it’s my divine title. I’m a member of the Shi Clan, which is famous for its population full of beautiful girls. If you’re interested, come and take a look; you may find your love.” The master of the Red Dome Realm chuckled.

She was in a great mood after convincing Su Ping to accept her offer.

“I’m not interested in little girls. However, if it’s you...” Su Ping looked at the master of the Red Dome Realm who had an alluring body figure.

She was taken aback for a moment. Instead of flying into a fit of rage, she put on a playful smile and said, “You’re rather greedy. However, I’m only interested in those who are strong. You’ll only be a boy in my eyes until you become a God Warrior.” “I’ll try my best.” Su Ping opened his hands.

His new master of the Red Dome Realm smiled and said, “I think highly of your potential.”

Su Ping nodded and said, “I hope you can take care of humankind, senior.”

“Humankind is too important for you.”

Xuan Ji frowned. Even though she had reminded Su Ping, he still couldn’t stop talking about humankind. Binding himself to his race meant that, even if she convinced the elders of her clan to change Su Ping’s bloodline and turn him into a member of the Shi Clan, it would be unlikely that he would accept.

“My race is where I’m rooted; I cannot abandon it easily.” Su Ping chuckled and dropped the subject. He said, “How should I contact you if I want to go to the Red Dome Realm?!”

“Don’t worry. There’s a teleportation array on your deputy master’s badge; it can teleport you from anywhere in this world to the Red Dome Realm, as long as you’re not in forbidden lands,” said Xuan Ji proudly.

Su Ping realized it was similar to the Heaven Path Institute’s student badge, except it was more effective. After all, it was intended for a deputy master; such effect was to be expected. Su Ping bid her farewell and then exited that isolated void. He returned to the hall along with the master of the Red Dome Realm.

At that moment, in the hall— less than one minute had passed since they vanished.

“How did it go?” asked Elder Chan telepathically. He didn’t participate in the meeting between Su Ping and the master of the Red Dome Realm; after all, it was Su Ping’s private business. He was only responsible for hooking them up.

“I’ve chosen her,” said Su Ping. At the same time, he thought he should probably throw something out.

Elder Chan was rather surprised, not expecting for him to reach a decision after a single negotiation. He asked, “Aren’t you going to consider the other two parties? They’re both sincere and generous.”

Su Ping shook his head.

Elder Chan noticed his resolution and stopped persuading him. A genius such as Su Ping was not a child; he didn't require his advice on anything. "Guys, the Dao Child has decided to join the Red Dome Realm. He is now the deputy master of the Red Dome Realm and honorable guest of the Shi Clan. He's equivalent to a prince of my clan!"

Xuan Ji suddenly opened her mouth, her clear voice echoing in the hall. "I hope that you'll take care of the Dao Child when you see him in the future. The Shi Clan will appreciate you for that!"

She was talking about appreciation, but it was a veiled threat in other people's ears. She was declaring her ownership of Su Ping!

That result was all too sudden; many people were surprised. They didn't expect Su Ping to strike a deal with the master of the Red Dome Realm so quickly.

Nearby—a few more God Emperors frowned and glanced at Su Ping in disappointment. They didn't know what Su Ping and the master of the Red Dome Realm talked about, but they still thought they could offer something better if Su Ping had given them a chance.

While feeling sorry for themselves, they also felt sorry for Su Ping, who was too young to make the best use of his advantage.

Some of the God Emperors cupped their hands, said goodbye to the elders of the Heaven Path Institute they were familiar with, and escaped into the void.

They had shown up for Su Ping. Since the boy had struck a deal with the Red Dome Realm, staying longer would be a waste of time.

"It seems that the master of the Red Dome Realm likes you very much," Elder Chan said to Su Ping, "She rooted for you. But what she said might sound offensive to some people."

"I like her a lot too," Su Ping chuckled and said, "She's neat and decisive. We had a pleasant negotiation."

Stunned, Elder Chan looked at Su Ping with a strange expression. "By like, you mean...?"

"I also like you, senior," said Su Ping.

Elder Chan felt relaxed after such an answer; he flashed a bitter smile. "Likewise."

Several days later.

The Dao Child's ritual was already over, and the Heaven Path Institute finally calmed down after the heated gathering of God Emperors. However, everybody had been talking about Su Ping and his feats in the recent news.

They didn't know much about Su Ping, except that he had killed a prince of the Rain Clan and survived the clan's retaliation.

"He really succeeded in the challenge..." On a certain platform, deep inside the institute-Tan Xiangyun looked at the two people sitting at the bottom of the monument. One of them was Su Ping and the other was Chen Xi. They were talking about Dao.

"I just received a piece of news. Do you want to listen?" said the mysterious genius of the Divine Elephant Clan, who was another Dao Child candidate.

"Just spit it out." Zhan Wushuang's face was cold. He had been feeling awful in recent days, as Su Ping had truly become a Dao Child; all that he could hear as of late were Su Ping and the Rain Clan.

According to all the versions of the story told in campus, the Rain Clan was the villain that Su Ping had slapped and stepped upon.

Chapter 1317 Return (2)

The genius of the Divine Elephant Clan coldly glanced at him. "If you're angry, just go to him. Why are you yelling at me? Do you think I'm scared of you?"

"Just ignore him. He's mentally ill." Another Dao Child candidate glanced at Zhan Wushuang. All the rumors in the institute and the reports they received about Su Ping involved the Rain Clan in an undignified way. He thought much less of the Rain Clan at the moment.

Zhan Wushuang almost burst into fury after seeing all the Dao Child candidates' cold looks. He solemnly clenched his fists as he stomached the humiliation.

There were high-ranked clans behind each of the Dao Child candidates; he couldn't afford offending all of them.

"Humph!" Noticing that Zhan Wushuang fell silent, the genius of the Divine Elephant Clan snorted and said to the group, "I just received news from the elder. How many small worlds do you think this human Dao Child has cultivated?"

Seeing his mysterious expression, everybody was deep in thought. Tan Xiangyun ventured, "Could it be... six?"

The elephant-faced genius of the Divine Elephant Clan raised his head with a smile. He didn't reply.

Everybody was surprised. Even Zhan Wushuang changed his expression ever so slightly. Qing Mu narrowed his eyes and asked, "Seven? That's the potential of an Ancestral God!"

The genius of the Divine Elephant Clan's eyes were burning. While witnessing their shock, he couldn't help but exclaim, "It's eight! Eight small worlds!"

The revelation came upon them like a lightning bolt. They were dumbfounded.

Zhan Wushuang narrowed his eyes. All that he could think of was what the guy had just said. Eight... Eight...

"How is it possible?"

A moment later, Tan Xiangyun sobered up and asked, "Eight small worlds? Are you sure? The record set in the history of our Heaven Path Institute is seven small worlds, which was set by our Ancestral God. Has he broken the record?"

Everybody was thinking the same, still shaken.

“One of the elders told me. It’s still a secret right now; it won’t be publicized until he becomes a God Emperor, so that other gods won’t scheme against him...” The genius of the Divine Elephant Clan was quite proud and excited; his reaction was similar to when he just learned it.

His reaction made the others discard the idea of it being a lie. The news was truly shocking.

Qing Mu was dazed for a moment. Then, he suddenly remembered something. “But you just divulged the secret to us, didn’t you?”

Dazed for a moment, the elephant-faced genius scratched his head. “Just don’t tell anyone else.”

“Of course we won’t. We’re fellow students...” said Tan Xiangyun, then suddenly glanced at Zhan Wushuang.

Others looked at him too.

“Why are you staring at me?” Zhan Wushuang snapped out of the shock, but was then angered by their glances. “I am indeed a member of the Rain Clan, but I’m also a member of the Heaven Path Institute. He’s one of the Dao Children of this institute. I’ll never sell him out.”

Tan Xiangyun gazed at him and said, “I sure hope so. We’re fellow students anyway; we belong to different clans, but we are a team here. Don’t forget our director’s teachings.”

“That’s right. Regardless of which race we belong to, we’re fellow students and comrades on the battlefield. We must not betray each other,” said the genius of the Heavenly Bear Clan.

“The only person who might spread the secret is you. Better not leak anything; you should know the consequences of betraying the institute!” The genius of the Divine Elephant Clan stared at Zhan Wushuang coldly. He never liked the guy and they competed a lot, but that was just friendly competition.

If the man divulged the secret, it would be deemed as betrayal.

It would be unacceptable.

While they discussed—Su Ping and Chen Xi were having a nice conversation.

“So, it’s the path of Heavenly Tribulations; I didn’t realize you could comprehend them. I think you should call it Heavenly Path,” said Chen Xi with mixed feelings.

They had been exchanging knowledge. He wanted Su Ping to teach him how to cut Qing Mu’s world tree, and Su Ping wanted him to teach him how to physically invade someone else’s consciousness. To Chen Xi’s surprise, the other didn’t hold back at all. That human was much more open-minded than he expected.

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“For humans, the Heavenly Path is supreme, and the path of Heavenly Tribulations isn’t that high. But, that may be part of the Heavenly Path...” said Su Ping with a smile.

“Humans are truly lucky to have an amazing genius such as yourself,” said Chen Xi. It wasn’t until he talked with Su Ping that he realized how knowledgeable the latter was. His bias against humankind had changed.

“You’re quite remarkable yourself. Your physical invasion into the enemy’s consciousness is based on fusion. If you make better use of it, you might be able to rise higher,” said Su Ping. Chen Xi shook his head. “It’s easier said than done. It’s extremely difficult to make better use of it.”

“Maybe you can change your mindset. Instead of insisting on fusing with other people, maybe you can fuse your own spirit and your flesh, as well as your universe. Maybe a miracle will happen if you combine them through your special method,” said Su Ping.

Chen Xi’s eyes glittered. “I thought about it before, but I never really studied it. Now that you’ve put it that way, maybe I should try it. I’ve already hit the bottleneck anyway.”

Su Ping nodded.

“Thank you. I had a lovely conversation with you. Come to my mountain if you have time; I’ll offer you some of the delicious wine of my clan,” said Chen Xi with a smile.

“All right. I will take a sampling of specialties from humankind.” Su Ping smiled.

They were competitors at first; Su Ping had even robbed him of his position. But now they admired and appreciated each other after their conversation.

“You may experience bigger improvements after you reach the Ancestral God’s Mysterious Realm. Better prepare yourself fully before you go there; accessing the Ancestral God’s Mysterious Realm is a rare opportunity, even for the Dao Children,” Chen Xi reminded him.

Su Ping had heard Elder Chan mention the fact. He nodded slightly.

Being a Dao Child, he had a chance to go to the Ancestral God’s Mysterious Realm and listen to the Ancestral God’s teachings.

It would be an opportunity to significantly improve his combat ability.

There was also a chance for him to break his bottleneck.

Opportunities were so rare that even the elders didn’t often get one. Dao Children were only given a chance right after being promoted; then they would be given a chance every 50,000 years.

Chen Xi rose and said goodbye to Su Ping.

After the barriers were removed, Su Ping saw the Dao Child candidates who were cultivating outside and nodded at them. He had talked to them before he spoke to Chen Xi. They used to be competitors, but the competition had been settled, so they had a nice conversation. Su Ping didn’t feel any hostility or killing intent from them, except for Zhan Wushuang.

Once he was reminded of that, Su Ping glanced at Zhan Wushuang. Expressionless, he waved at them and then returned to his mountain.

Time moved on.

Su Ping didn't return to his store after cultivating for two more weeks.

During that period, Su Ping asked Elder Chan a lot about the universe's secret techniques. He had a better control of the power contained in his universe; many of the questions that puzzled him had been solved. Although he was still in the Ascendant State, he was as strong as a fighter at the peak of the Celestial State.

Unfortunately, there isn't a Dao Heart in my universe. Without it, all of the Dao in my universe is just loose sand condensed by force. That's the difference when I'm compared to a God Emperor..."

Su Ping felt stuck again. He had previously been stuck before advancing to the Ascendant State. He was now clueless as he wondered how to condense a Dao Heart.

How could he give wisdom to the Dao?

Su Ping didn't think it was a problem he could solve anytime soon.

Chapter 1318 War Invasion (1)

Su Ping transferred the maid serving him in his old temple to the Dao Child's mountain. Then, he returned to his store under the pretext of training in seclusion.

After the teleportation-Su Ping found himself in the pet room when he opened his eyes.

Su Ping took out the customers' pets he had trained during his trip. He looked at the nursing pens, but saw no sign of Joanna. He immediately spread out his senses and detected her presence in the store.

"She's made a breakthrough..."

Su Ping smiled upon sensing the change in Joanna's aura. She was a strong God King, even in the Archean Divinity; she would be considered a pillar even by the major forces

After all, God Emperors—who were on a higher level—were extremely rare, even among the high-ranked clans. He had received a lot of offers as a Dao Child, mainly because there was a good chance he would become a God Emperor, which made him someone worth investing in. Even more people would have vied for him if he would have distinguished himself as a God Emperor. After all, even the most talented genius could find an untimely death.

He opened the door and went to the lobby; it happened to be business hours. The bright sunlight was coming in through the windows and doors at noon; many people were waiting in an orderly fashion.

Both Joanna and Green Lady looked at him; they nodded in greeting.

At the counter, Su Ping asked Joanna telepathically, "How did it go?"

Joanna registered a pet and the proper payment for one of the customers, and then smiled. "It was smooth in general. I'm already in the Celestial State. I can handle Celestials even if they were to cause trouble here. However, I heard that something huge has happened."

"I'll take care of that," said Su Ping, "I'm glad that you've broken through successfully. I just returned from the Archean Divinity and asked an elder for his help. Unfortunately, he couldn't detect the Demigod Burial. There are only two ways for you to return to the Archean Divinity."

“Not even the elders can?” Joanna was dazed. Back when she studied in the Heavenly Path State, she had learned that the elders were all God Emperors.

Even after her breakthrough, she couldn’t even resist a finger attack from any of those elders.

“What are the ways?”

“Either you wait until I become an Ancestral God and I carry everything, or you gather all your people and pack them into my universe, so that I can carry you over,” said Su Ping.

Dazed for a moment, Joanna pondered for a moment and said, “It’s decided then. Let’s carry them over. I’ll help you.” “Aren’t you worried that they might refuse?” Su Ping couldn’t help but smile.

“If they dare refuse, I’ll beat them until they change their mind,” said Joanna with ruthlessness in her eyes. “I’ve just broken through and I haven’t fought them yet. They used to suppress me because their level was higher, but it’s different now; I feel I can win even though I’ve just broken through!”

Su Ping smiled and said, “You seem a lot more arrogant than before.”

“This is not arrogance, but confidence!” Joanna slightly craned her head.

“You’re a lot chattier than before too,” added Su Ping with a smile.

Joanna rolled her eyes and then glanced at him. She squinted and was silent for a moment, before she said, “You seem stronger. Can you beat them right now?”

“That’s easy,” replied Su Ping with a smile.

Joanna gasped. She knew that he always did the unexpected, but she was still shocked by his cultivation speed. The ant she could have easily crumbled had caught up to her and even surpassed her in the blink of an eye!

“Is it really this terrifying to be the heir of the magic store?” Joanna couldn’t help but mumble.

Su Ping chuckled. “Haven’t you already experienced it? I can travel across different worlds and fight local experts. How can I not grow up fast?”

Joanna couldn’t help but say, “That being said, your progress speed is still too extraordinary, even though you have so many sparring partners. After all, the godly nobles are never short of sparring partners or training resources.”

Unable to refute, Su Ping thought for a moment. “Maybe it’s just because they’re dumb.”

Lost for words, Joanna couldn’t help but roll her eyes again. The princes and princesses who distinguish themselves from amongst countless peers are dumb?

The only explanation was that Su Ping was unreasonably talented!

What Joanna said gave Su Ping a hint. He thought that the greatest difference between him and the nobles was his cultivation technique.

Although he could find opponents in cultivation sites and challenge them by resurrecting several times, it was nothing for the princes and princesses, who could also resurrect in the God Emperors' universes and polish themselves with life and death bouts, challenging opponents too strong for them.

However, according to Su Ping's experience, there was a limit to the deadly pressure and what the stimulation could bring forth.

Everyone's potential was limited.

What was potential?

Bloodline, power of understanding, luck and many other factors constituted potential.

Naturally, all the princes and princesses had the best bloodline; their power of understanding differed, but not too greatly. Luck only played a secondary role, unless some of them found some unbelievable treasures.

After having traveled in so many worlds, Su Ping discovered that his greatest treasure was the cultivation technique the system had offered him.

Chapter 1319 War Invasion (2)

Resources and bloodline are my own belongings. The cultivation technique counts as the teacher; no matter how smart a student is, they need good teachers to guide them. Su Ping found the Chaos Star Chart increasingly more powerful after Elder Chan explained more about the differences amongst God Emperors.

The Dao Heart State. Alas, the actual cultivation method is not mentioned; there's only a brief summary. I must comprehend the world and look within myself. But there's no specific method to follow...

Su Ping shook his head. He couldn't ask for anyone's help, as the elders couldn't teach him how to comprehend it; they could only share with him their own experiences of advancement.

He learned about some of the experts' advancement experiences through Elder Chan. Besides grasping enough paths, they had to find their own Dao.

The Oceanic Universe of Clouds for instance, was a simulation of observed constellations.

Its main attribute was infinite vastness and smallness.

Once the expert harnessed the power of said universe, he would be able to crush Su Ping's own—which had yet to attain an attribute into an infinitely small grain of sand that could be destroyed easily.

That was the difference between a God King and a God Emperor.

Once they condense their own Dao Heart and give attributes to their universes, it becomes easy for them to crush Celestial State universes without attributes. The gap is even larger than the one between the Celestial State and the Star Lord State. Su Ping's eyes glittered. He thought it was because he hadn't comprehended enough Dao Glyphs, so he couldn't accomplish a qualitative change.

Maybe I'll be able to grasp the Dao Heart when I crack enough Dao Glyphs...

Once he learned about Joanna's situation, he left her at the counter and told her that professional training would always be available in the store as long as he was there. He needed to save as many energy points as possible to upgrade the store to level 9 and unlock all of the system's abilities.

Considering the store's daily revenue, it wouldn't be long for him to achieve that goal, his estimate being from one to two hundred years at most.

That was a mere blink for an Ascendant State expert.

"Has my master and the others visited me lately?" Su Ping asked Green Lady telepathically.

"Your master came to see you once, when you were training in seclusion. He's on this street right now; you can go find him," replied Green Lady.

He had already sensed that Shen Huang and Chi Huo were on the street. There was another Celestial State aura aside from theirs, which belonged to Xu Kong, their ally from back then.

Su Ping found a few familiar auras at the place where Xu Kong lived, including the one that belonged to Qing Hongyue, who competed with him over Ye Chen's relics.

"Master, I heard that you were looking for me," Su Ping said to his master telepathically.

Shen Huang, who seemed concerned while in his room, heard Su Ping's voice and felt refreshed. He said quickly, "Your training is complete? I'll head over to your place."

"Is it about the crack in the universe?" asked Su Ping.

Shen Huang nodded. "Yes. The drones and explorers we deployed were stationed outside the Mayhem Star Zone; however, only some remain to monitor the situation. That place is already an ocean of blood; all the criminals who failed to escape in time are dead."

Su Ping slightly changed his expression and felt a heavy heart. "Because of the things beyond the crack in the universe?"

"That's right. The crack is even wider than before. Countless worms are coming out to invade our side. Some creatures that cannot be detected seem to be mixed amongst them; they must be the aliens living beyond the crack," said Shen Huang solemnly, "We too found the ancient corpse, but all mangled and torn apart. Only some parts remain!

"Our computers ran simulations to recreate the scenes that caused the corpse to end up like that, finding that the ancient corpse went through a terrifying battle until it was torn apart by the aliens. The remaining pieces are still outside of the universe's crack."

Su Ping felt dazed. The ancient corpse was a God Emperor back when it was alive. Its body had withstood the passage of countless years, and yet, it was torn to pieces?

It was clear that the owner of that mysterious hand coming from a place beyond the universe's crack had to be another God Emperor.

If they did invade, they might be anywhere in their universe at the moment.

Considering the power of a God Emperor, it was very easy for them to cross galaxies.

“Then, what about the situation outside...?” Su Ping’s heart was heavy.

Shen Huang said, “The worms that invaded from outside the universe are infecting all twelve star zones, starting from the Mayhem Star Zone, including the barren areas. The sages of the Planet of Origin have already sent out an announcement, hoping to gather the power of humankind to resist the worms. But no one has truly welcomed their request.”

Su Ping was in a momentary stupor, then his eyes turned cold as he remembered the Saint King he killed.

“The Planet of Origin’s intervention in the Mayhem Star Zone is too disappointing. Right now the Celestials of every star zone are defending their respective territories on their own to fend off the worms.” Shen Huang sighed.

If the Mayhem Star Zone event hadn’t taken place, the announcement from the Planet of Origin could have gathered the willing power of the twelve star zones, significantly reducing casualties.

However, they had lost their old authority; the Interstellar Federation was already gone. To handle the crisis, the twelve Celestials only cared about the trouble in their own jurisdictions.

It would be manageable if the scale of the worms wasn’t too big. But a lot of people would die if it was too much for a star zone to handle.

“What’s the situation with the worms?” asked Su Ping, who had thought of that too.

Shen Huang sighed, “We can still deal with their current numbers. However, according to the drone feeds, more and more worms are flooding in. Chi Huo and I think that we should make alliances with neutral Celestials. We have to rely on ourselves if the Planet of Origin is no longer trustworthy.”

Su Ping nodded. “That works. We must shed all prejudice in times of war.”

Shen Huang said with a bitter smile, “Even a three-year-old knows that. Unfortunately, some of the Celestials are too dumb to think this through!”

“I can go to the battlefield too if I’m needed,” said Su Ping.

Shen Huang quickly dissuaded, “You must not! There’s an unpredictable and well-hidden power moving with the worm tide; I suspect that they have other purposes. We’d be able to manage. Don’t leave the store easily. Given your cultivation speed, you might be able to create a new situation for humankind a few thousand years later. Even if we’re pummeled after dealing with the worms, we’ll be able to recover in time with your help.”

Su Ping was slightly stunned, not expecting his master to place so much hope on him.

Furthermore, it meant that his master was not optimistic about the situation. He was planning to fight a protracted war for thousands of years.

After a moment of silence, Su Ping said, “Master, you can ask the Ascendant cultivators from our star zone to train pets in my store. I can help them strengthen their pets; that’ll be the least I can do.”

“I’ve heard a lot about your pet training expertise, but they all consider their pets as ultimate treasures. Although they think you’re strong and talented, not many of them trust your training. I’ll talk to them and see if I can convince them to come,” said Shen Huang

Su Ping nodded.

“Whatever happens, you must not leave the store’s protection. You are our last hope,” said Shen Huang solemnly.

After taking a deep breath, Su Ping said, “I’ll try to improve as fast as possible.”

The shortage of time became increasingly clear to him. He learned a bit more about the situation outside and then their conversation ended.

Su Ping approached the counter, as he was about to ask Joanna to hand over the pets ready for professional training. He was going to the cultivation sites again.

Exactly at that moment-exclamations burst out from the crowd outside the store. There was a riot

Chapter 1320 Return of the Lightning Rat (1)

Su Ping was surprised by the crowd. His store was like the central hall of the Celestial Court at the moment; nobody dared to cause trouble there.

Su Ping spread out his senses and soon noticed the source of the riot. The crowd was dispersing because of fear. There was a short and fat figure crawling quickly on the ground.

It wasn’t a human being, but a... mouse.

“Lightning Rat?”

Su Ping was surprised to see the Lightning Rat. He didn’t expect to see it again.

He remembered it had been waiting outside his store until it met another girl who took it away. It was very likely her pet now.

He quickly noticed thick blood matting the rat’s purple fur, giving off a strong odor. His heart became heavy and a dreadful thought occurred to him.

The rodent dashed to the store’s opening and disturbing the crowd.

“Whose pet is this? How dare you cause trouble here?” A Star Lord customer stepped up, about to capture the Lightning Rat.

But then Tang Ruyan recognized the Lightning Rat too. She quickly said, “Don’t touch it!” Slightly dazed, the customer could only stop reluctantly. That was Su Ping’s territory; he was only trying to make a good impression by helping capture the little rascal. But since Tang Ruyan, Su Ping’s employee, took action, the pet was probably related to the store.

“Lazy mouse, why are you back?”

Tang Ruyan walked to the Lightning Rat in surprise.

The Lightning Rat didn't stop. Right when they were close, it suddenly flashed past her and entered the store.

The Lightning Rat looked around in the store and found Su Ping who was gazing back at it.

The man and the mouse stared at each other.

Instantly, bloody tears seemed to be rising in the rat's tiny purple eyes. It suddenly lunged at Su Ping

He simply stared, opening his arms as the purple colored bolt rushed at him.

The smooth fur had turned dry and rough. Some parts had made braids of sorts with the caked blood. However, he gently stroked the creature and cleaned the blood stains.

The Lightning Rat was shivering. Su Ping didn't feel fear, but grief.

His heart became heavy as he could somehow guess the situation. It wasn't his pet, but it once belonged to his first customer, and was the very first pet he trained.

Inside the store—the customers looked at the lowly rat in surprise. Su Ping seemed rather intimate as he dealt with that pet; however, they could all tell that the rat's bloodline was mediocre, and could only rise to the Star State at best.

The average strength of the customers in Su Ping's store had significantly improved with time; they were generally between the Star State and the Star Lord State. Most customers below the Star State had sold their turns to those elites for a good price. Su Ping didn't do anything about it since they were mutually consenting deals.

The Lightning Rat gradually calmed down after being caressed for a moment. The next moment, purple light gathered on its body; it craned its head while held close to Su Ping's chest. After that, a purple bolt of lightning was concentrated on its forehead, which was its soul; it was voluntarily offering its soul and trying to make a contract with Su Ping.

Su Ping paused for a moment and stared at the creature in the eye. A moment later, Su Ping released his soul power and established a pet contract.

From that day onward, the Lightning Rat would be Su Ping's pet.

Once the contract was signed, Su Ping's speculation was confirmed.

"Why?"

Su Ping communicated telepathically and tried to figure out what the Lightning Rat was thinking.

was

Very soon, a picture popped up in Su Ping's head. It seemed to be some sort of desolate planet, but it was already a battlefield. Lots of missiles and other hot weapons had been deployed on plains and hills. Many bombs were exploding in the distance. The smoke left by the flying missiles had marked the sky like claw marks.

Countless humans were charging with their pets against swarms of worms.

Su Ping could easily recognize them: they were Void Bugs. Most were green, and some were silver colored.

On the battlefield, there was a figure who was close yet extremely vague, as if blurred on purpose. All the other people and items nearby were clear, except for that slim figure.

His expression changed a bit, knowing it was very likely the Lightning Rat's memory.

The fuzzy figure seemed to be the girl who had recently adopted the little rat.

The pet returned without the signs of a contract. Either it had been abandoned by the girl, or the girl died. Those scenes made the second alternative the most likely.

Su Ping was silent.

The Lightning Rat's first master—the girl named Su Yanying—had died in the war on the Blue Planet.

Its second master had just sacrificed herself in another war.

Once the master died, the contract would break and all memories related to the pet's master would be erased.

The Lightning Rat had waited quietly outside the store, not knowing whom it was waiting for. Finally, a second girl appeared and became its master. However, their lives went permanently in different directions again!