

Pet Store 861

### **Chapter 861: The 99th Floor**

Everybody on the hill became excited after hearing what the Star Lord said.

“It’s finally begun!”

“Hurry up. My pet can’t wait any longer!”

“It must be eager to mate. What are you doing here?”

“The Sword Deity Academy will still be the academy with the most points. You’ll see what the best academy is capable of!”

“I’d like to call you bulls\*\*t!”

“Since when is the Sword Deity Academy the best academy? Do you have no respect for the Dragon Tomb Academy?”

“Stop arguing, clowns. The Hugh Mia Academy is the unquestionable best one of all!”

“The Holy Oriole Academy is like ‘You think we’re dead? Why, yes. We are dead.’”

The students on the hill had kept on taunting and mocking each other before the challenge started.

The four best academies were equally matched, but they always loved competing in every contest.

Such a competitive drive had been extended to that Illusionary God Monument Mysterious Realm.

Up on the hilltop—Su Ping and the other seven people woke up from their meditation and listened to the rules.

Su Ping was still reflecting on his cultivation; he felt he would have understood a new rule had he kept on cultivating a while longer.

He had gained a strange meta understanding of “law” itself after having grasped a hundred laws.

Still, the understanding was still vague; Su Ping felt that his combat ability might rise to a new level once he broke through that vague barrier and fully understood laws.

After introducing the rules, the Star Lord waved his hand and moved the monuments to hover above the hill. “Go and pick one.”

“Humph!”

Still within the circle of light, Dragon Emperor rose majestically as if he were holding up the sky. He was the first to reach an enormous monument, showing his determination to reclaim the glory that his academy had lost during the competition for seats had taken place.

He focused his attention on the monument; a simple briefing about the enemies inside the monument appeared soon after. Knowing he had chosen the right one, he decidedly stepped in.

The rough surface of the monument rippled as the Dragon Emperor entered and disappeared within.

Everybody was astonished by this, but none of them were too shocked since they had paid attention to the rules mentioned by the Star Lord.

Monuments could be selected twice; the person who entered an already selected monument would not meet the one who had entered earlier. Both would be teleported to different areas.

The circumstances of each monument were different; some enemies were good at mental attacks, some were good at pet deployment, some were exclusively dragons, and others were mixed.

“The Dragon Tomb Academy has indeed picked the dragon monument.”

“It’s a challenging monument that has nothing but dragons. It’s only a bit less difficult than the all-class monument!”

“He’s rather confident. I hope he won’t get slapped in the face.”

“Are you kidding me? You think Dragon Emperor will get slapped in the face? You clowns don’t know he has a full lineup of high-quality dragon pets, do you?”

All the students listening in on the conversation showed varied expressions. It was very expensive to develop a full lineup of dragons, unless they were of mediocre stock; but such lineups were pointless.

No wonder Dragon Emperor had become the top student of the Dragon Tomb Academy. Many people were too scared of him.

The young man who carried a wooden sword also rose and walked to a monument after Dragon Emperor entered the monument.

“It’s a sword class monument. Does he plan to hone his sword techniques there?”

“All the people from the Sword Deity Academy will probably pick that one.”

All the remaining participants took action moments after.

The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady, who was on Su Ping’s left side, opened her mouth curiously and said, “Which one will you pick?”

Su Ping glanced across the monuments and said casually, “The all-class one. The point coefficient there is higher.”

Every monument had a different point coefficient; the all-class monument was the most difficult of all, and would of course have the highest coefficient. Su Ping had met all sorts of monsters in cultivation sites, and that was why he was confident of defeating all of them.

“All class?”

While stunned for a moment, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady gave a weird glance at Su Ping and said, “Even though the point coefficient of the all-class monument is high, you may encounter all kinds of enemies inside. You should go to the dragon-class or the element-class monuments since your pet is outstanding.”

“Okay.” Su Ping nodded.

The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady was relieved. However, she then discovered to her astonishment that Su Ping had flown straight towards the all-class monument the next moment.

*Did the guy not hear what she just said?*

Everybody looked at Su Ping when he stood before the all-class monument. Oasis Dragon King heard the exclamations when he was about to set foot in his monument. He then narrowed his eyes as he saw Su Ping's choice.

The all-class monument was at the very peak of all the monuments. Su Ping was currently the only person standing in front of it.

"That guy..."

Oasis Dragon King showed a slightly changed expression. Then, he saw Su Ping set foot in the monument.

"He really went in!"

"You're no woman. Do you have to shriek?"

"Damn, he entered an all-class monument? How confident is he?"

"Confident? I think he's stupid. While the point coefficient for the all-class monument is high, 99% of the challengers lose when they go there."

"Indeed, you have to choose the most suitable monument for you to get the most points. That coefficient is just a lethal temptation!"

The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady was also at a loss for words. Obviously, Su Ping didn't follow her advice even though he nodded when she spoke with him. She sneered; it was the first time she had ever given a piece of friendly advice, yet she was ignored. She was eager to see Su Ping's frustration after failing.

No longer giving it much thought, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady found the most suitable monument and flew straight in.

Those at the middle of the hill also chose their own monuments as the people on the hilltop entered their own.

Most candidates from the Sword Deity Academy were picking the monument the young man with a wooden sword did.

Those from the Dragon Tomb Academy were picking the dragon-class monument.

The students from the Hugh Mia Academy and the Amir Royal Academy chose different monuments.

The graceful woman encouraged Yuan Linglu, "Lulu, keep it up. The academy has given you a recommendation so that you can grow stronger. Seize the opportunity!"

She was there to watch over Yuan Linglu, who had a lightning constitution that was one of the best in its class.

The constitution was so powerful that if fully activated, it would be possible to grasp lightning laws directly and reach the Star State.

Thanks to the constitution, she would also be able to perceive laws of lightning quickly!

To put it simply, Yuan Linglu could become the next Goddess of Light from the Holy Oriole Academy with ease!

The Goddess of Light ranked second in the Holy Oriole Academy, and could also rank among the top three in the Hugh Mia Academy. Although she merely had an elemental constitution, it was among the top ten in the Federation, which could compete with some of the powerful divine constitutions!

“Yes, I will.”

Yuan Linglu nodded quickly. She knew that the academy had high hopes for her; she had been sent there so she could gain more experience. She never thought that she could distinguish herself in the Universe Geniuses’ Contest.

She had learned from her seniors that those who distinguished themselves in the Universe Geniuses’ Contest would mostly be geniuses with powerful backgrounds or strong experts protecting them.

“Let’s get inside too,” said the graceful woman.

Yuan Linglu looked at the all-class monument that Su Ping had just entered. She was quite frustrated to see Su Ping defeat Dragon Devil; she had become significantly stronger while training in the Hugh Mia Academy. She had thought she could already crush Su Ping with ease.

However, Su Ping was growing faster than she had expected.

*I need to earn more points and exchange them for an opportunity to train my pet!* Yuan Linglu flew towards a monument with determination after setting a goal for herself.

...

Inside the all-class monument—

Hardly had Su Ping entered the place when he felt as if he were in space. Very soon, he felt as if something was directing his consciousness to a vortex in front of him.

He remembered the rules that the Star Lord had mentioned, so he didn’t protect himself; he merely allowed his consciousness to fly into the vortex.

Phew!

Su Ping found himself in a vast plain after his consciousness entered the monument.

He knew he was inside a mental domain.

He would only suffer mental damages if he died there, and death wouldn’t be real.

“The Star Lord mentioned that every monument has 99 floors. The Ascendant State expert who acquired this mysterious realm challenged all floors and gained control over it.

“Unfortunately, I won’t get the mysterious realm even if I overcome all floors.”

“Has it begun?” Su Ping mumbled, then three black clusters of mist appeared on the plain and turned into three gigantic wolves. They were almost fifty meters long, with sharp claws that could easily tear diamonds apart.

*They’re indeed in the Fate State...*

*It’s true that the monument creates illusions based on the challenger’s level.*

Su Ping detected the three wolves’ level and chuckled. Three Fate State beasts had shown up at the very beginning; a regular Fate State warrior would have to summon pets to fight them.

That first floor wasn’t too difficult.

Most people would usually pass it.

Roar!

The three wolves roared and charged at him, releasing tearing skills.

Su Ping stood still and waited for them to approach. He then snapped his fingers and shot three streams of compressed astral power to their heads.

The three wolves perished.

The astral power that Su Ping used was a tenth of what a regular Fate State person would, all thanks to his battle expertise.

The scene changed again, and he found himself in a jungle.

Six Fate State beasts appeared in one go; they were six poisonous lizards this time.

Su Ping raised his hand and easily killed them again.

Then, the third floor, the fourth floor... The scenes on every floor changed, and so did the enemies he encountered; some of them were of the combat-type and elemental beasts, while others were humanoid monsters.

He challenged beasts all the way to the tenth floor.

Su Ping encountered only one monster when he reached the eleventh floor, which was a demon pet with four black wings; it looked like a giant bird man with sharp talons, and pointy hooks stretched out of its chest. It was a creature still in the Fate State.

However, the monster showed an extraordinary speed, much higher than that of normal Fate State beings.

Bang.

Su Ping waved his fist and killed it with one punch as if it were a mosquito.

Although it was strong, it was just in the Fate State, which wouldn’t be challenging enough for Su Ping.

The monster wouldn't have hurt him even if he would have simply stood there. After all, his body was as hard as that of some of the top Star State beasts!

The scene changed. Then, it was the twelfth floor...

...

The instructors from the five academies and the two managing Star Lords watched quietly on the hill after all their representatives entered the monuments.

"Have the points come out?"

"They're being refreshed every ten minutes. Ten minutes haven't passed yet."

"We're almost there."

One of the Star Lord managers waved his hand and summoned a monument, which looked slightly different from the rest. It had been crafted by the current Ascendant State owner of that mysterious realm and was connected to other monuments.

"The points are out."

Golden light surfaced on the monument; projections and rankings began to show up.

The monument was extremely high; even if the projections of other monuments were ranked instead of using names, they were still easy to read.

The projection ranking at the top belonged to Dragon Emperor!

He was on the 16th floor!

He had amassed 4,290 points thus far!

The young man with a wooden sword ranked second; he was on the 16th floor too, and had 3,820 points!

The point coefficient of the sword-class monument was lower than that of the dragon-class. Still, it was quite remarkable for him to reach the 16th floor that quickly.

"It's been only ten minutes, and they've already reached the 16th level."

"The one who's ranked third has reached the 14th floor."

"The others are somewhere around the thirteenth floor too."

"One minute for each floor? What a horrifying speed!"

"It seems that all the candidates from the five academies are good; they're better than the previous candidates."

The two Star Lord managers had mixed feelings.

The instructors from the five academies were excited as they examined their students.

They knew about the results from the previous contestants; the current year's average performance seemed to be better.

"The one challenging the all-class monument is in sixth place. Not bad."

"He's reached the twelfth floor. He's quite fast. I think he entered the monument later than the others, right?"

"He's only the twelfth floor, but his points are catching up to those of the top three."

"Judging from their speed, it is possible that multiple little geniuses can surpass the fiftieth floor this year, right?"

### **Chapter 862: First Echelon**

Ten minutes passed quickly while the Star Lords discussed.

The golden light surfaced on the score monument again, erasing the previous rankings and replacing them with new ones.

This time, the young man who carried a wooden sword ranked first!

He was on the 28th floor of the monument!

Dragon Emperor ranked second, he was currently on the 24th floor. However, his points were only slightly fewer than those of the young man who carried a wooden sword thanks to the coefficient of the dragon-class monument.

The difficulty of the dragon-class monument lowered his speed. He reached the 16th floor in the first ten minutes, but he only advanced eight more floors ten minutes after; that was within the Star Lords' expectation.

The young man carrying a wooden sword was more astonishing; he was only slightly slower than before since he had still been able to climb twelve additional floors in ten minutes. He was soaring!

"I heard that he's a disciple of the North Sea's Sword God. Seems to be a good seed!"

"Judging from his speed, he has probably finished the battles on every floor in five rounds. A normal person in the Fate State would have been defeated in the range between the third and fifth floors. He's so much stronger than them!"

"His sword techniques aren't really suppressing the sword-class monument. I think he chose that monument to hone his techniques."

"... Is that kid polishing himself and rising to the top of the rank as he goes?"

The Star Lords looked at each other; they then realized who the best genius of the five academes was. The young man would probably be a star in the following phases of the contest. After all, most people on that stage had powerful backgrounds.

"Holy King ranks third. He's challenging the element-class monument and his points are increasing fast; it seems that he didn't go all out earlier on."

“Oasis Dragon King ranks fourth. Not bad.”

“The one who is challenging the all-class monument is stuck on the eighteenth floor. That’s the most difficult monument; if you’re unlucky, you may run into a random enemy that you’re vulnerable to.”

“He’s obviously slowed down. He shouldn’t have been so confident!” the Star Lord of the Dragon Tomb Academy sneered; he had seen too many arrogant geniuses of the like, and none of them had ended well.

“Humph!”

The instructor snorted and ignored him; he was more concerned and anxious about Oasis Dragon King’s ranking. He had expected him to compete with Dragon Emperor, if not with Sword God’s heir. And yet, even Holy King had surpassed him, which was beyond the instructor’s expectation.

...

On the nineteenth floor of the all-class monument—

Su Ping was flying in a desert while chased by ten gargantuan beasts that were raising a sandstorm; they were rock beasts that were adapted to deserts.

*There’s indeed a boundary in this illusionary world.*

*I wonder what lies beyond...*

Su Ping suddenly stopped. The vast desert stretched to the horizon in his eyes, but he could sense a barrier that blocked his senses hundreds of meters ahead of him.

Whoosh!

He raised his hand and threw a stone.

The stone struck the invisible barrier he had detected, which then fell apart upon impact.

At the same time, the ten rock beasts roared and charged at him. Su Ping didn’t look back; he merely waved his hand, causing a series of explosions.

The ten beasts exploded one after the other. Su Ping seized the last one remaining with a hand made of astral power and then observed the barricade in his way; he tried punching it by gathering the power of thirty laws.

The punch was so powerful that the sand in his way was knocked away; the nearby space and soil collapsed, and the place turned into a purely dark area.

Bang!

The horrifying punch disappeared after a dull noise was heard, and yet the barricade remained intact. The aftershock was spread out, blowing back the sand in a range of thousands of meters and producing a huge pit.

Su Ping moved his fist back and took a deep breath; the barricade was truly impenetrable.



Although he didn't try his best, the barricade was still absolutely undamaged; he probably wouldn't have shaken it even if he would have tried his best.

*Maybe I can break free from the monument if I destroy the barricade. That way I'll be able to observe the monument from another dimension,* Su Ping thought. Unfortunately, he couldn't confirm that speculation. Maybe the barricade had been built by the Ascendant State owner, or maybe it was part of the whole.

He had tested multiple barricades as he moved along, but he hadn't found any flaw yet.

*Never mind. I should just stack up more points. It'll be for the best if I can exchange them for materials needed for the fourth level of the Solar Bulwark.* Su Ping shook his head and squeezed with the astral power hand, making the struggling beast explode.

Very soon, Su Ping set foot on the twentieth floor.

The twentieth floor was a beautiful mountain; however, a human being in green clothes suddenly jumped out.

The human was a girl who approached Su Ping with a marvelous body movement technique. She drew her sword and slashed at him.

Su Ping calmly raised his fist.

Bang!

The woman's body exploded; she was killed before she could even unleash her sword techniques.

*There's even a swordsman here. Indeed, you can meet any sort of enemy here; it's unpredictable,* Su Ping thought and then found himself on the 21st floor.

Bang!

Su Ping punched again and blew up the enemy.

No longer probing the monument's boundaries, Su Ping dashed even faster and passed every floor with one punch.

...

Ten minutes had passed in the outside world.

The golden light surfaced on the score monument again. The instructor from the Sword Deity Academy looked at the top of the rank again with glittering eyes. Then, the light in his eyes was gone; he was completely shocked.

The young man who carried a wooden sword was no longer there, nor was Dragon Emperor. Instead, it was an unknown person.

*The little guy who challenged the all-class monument?*

The other Star Lords saw this too and were rather stunned.

“What’s going on? The Sword God’s heir has been pushed to second place?”

“Damn, look, is he on the 42nd floor?”

“...”

“Well...”

All seven Star Lords were stunned.

The number forty-two was extremely obvious next to Su Ping’s name, and the points that followed were even more unbelievable. His points were 50% more than those of the young man with the wooden sword, thanks to the coefficient of the all-class monument!

He was only on the 18th floor and was ranked ninth before, but then he soared to the top and reached the 42nd floor?

Didn’t that mean that he had passed twenty-four floors in only ten minutes?

That was unreasonable; the higher the floors were, the more difficult they would be. The enemies after the thirtieth floor would be Fate State illusions that had a preliminary control of laws; it would be the same as fighting enemies in the Star State!

The illusions would already be familiar with laws from the fortieth floor and above.

Even so, Su Ping was still charging at a high speed under such circumstances?

“Did something go wrong?”

“Twenty-four floors in ten minutes? It feels like he’s been jumping. How’s it possible?”

“Even if he’s as strong as a Star State warrior, his resolve will wear out as he fights inside the monument. He would weaken once his resolve wears out; I’ve only seen two men who were able to pass forty floors in half an hour.”

“So have I. They’re both geniuses from other galaxies and became Star Lords when they were very young; they are very likely to reach the Ascendant State.”

All the Star Lords were shocked, not knowing what to do.

The situation was too weird.

He had moved the twelfth floor to the eighteenth in ten minutes earlier on, but then he rose to the 42nd floor in the same amount of time. That was abnormal!

Was he not serious in the beginning?

The Star Lords preferred to believe that something had gone wrong with the monument.

A Star Lord manager realized what was going on and changed his expression. He left a remark and quickly ran off. “I’ll ask the lord to take a look.”

The instructors from the five academies looked at each other in bewilderment, not knowing what was going on. However, it seemed that the monument had most likely malfunctioned.

“The Sword God’s heir is still the second. He’s slowing down, considering his rise from the 28th floor to the 26th, but his speed is still astonishing.”

“Indeed. He’ll surely appear above the fortieth floor on the next refresh!”

“Dragon Emperor is also giving chase. He’s on the 33rd floor; the dragon-class monument is indeed very difficult.”

“Oasis Dragon King has surpassed Holy King. It seems that this Oasis Gray is indeed something. He deserves to be a Gray!”

Taking Su Ping aside, who was shockingly at the top, the other people on the ranking were mostly the same; their rankings were occasionally swapped, but then there were times when they swapped back.

Generally speaking, their rankings were already fixed.

The young man with the wooden sword and Dragon Emperor had hope of rising to the top. Then, there was the second echelon, which included Oasis Dragon King, Holy King, Queen of the Seas, Thousand Leaves Holy Lady, etc.

All of them had claimed seats on the hilltop.

Although their rankings weren’t the same, their points were quite close.

There were other geniuses trailing behind them; the gap between them and those at the top wasn’t too big either. After all, the ground floors were relatively easy to pass.

Their difference wouldn’t be highlighted until they reached higher floors.

The Star Lord who had bolted earlier returned with a complicated expression; he looked at the projection on the top of the rank in shock.

The instructor from the Sword Deity Academy asked angrily, “What did he say?” He knew that something had gone wrong, but it was rather uncomfortable to have the top spot stolen.

Everybody else was also looking curious. For many years, the monuments had never failed; they could only wonder about what was amiss.

“The lord said that everything is in order,” said Star Lord with complicated feelings.

What the Ascendant State lord had said still echoed in his head: There is nothing wrong with the monuments, nothing whatsoever. Everything is real. I did notice the little guy; he’s interesting.

The Star Lord was left in shock when he heard that.

He knew that his lord always trained in seclusion and meditated without having the slightest interest in the challengers. Many geniuses with remarkable performances had entered the mysterious realm in the past, but none had ever attracted his attention.

After all, Ascendants were solely interested in the great goal of reaching the Celestial State.

Geniuses meant nothing to them, unless they were on the lookout for heirs. Even if those geniuses were to grow up, they would only rise to the Ascendant State at best, and there was no need for such experts to curry their favor.

“Everything is normal?”

Everybody was stupefied after hearing that response.

*You call rising from the 18th level to the 42nd in ten minutes normal?*

All of them felt muddleheaded. However, it could only be true since the Ascendant expert had said it. Nobody would dare to question such a powerhouse!

“Well, if it’s true... Isn’t he too much of a genius?”

“Does it mean that he’s been fooling around this whole time?”

“...”

The Star Lords were completely shocked, not knowing what to do.

“Genius” and “monster” were apt terms to describe the young man who carried a wooden sword and Dragon Emperor. But that guy was completely on another level.

He was alone in the first echelon!

“It’s probably a breeze for him to rise to the 50th floor, and he’s in the all-class monument...” said a Star Lord with twitching lips. He had previously attempted to teach the guy’s pet a lesson, but he didn’t expect that the latter would be a genius of such caliber, who easily dwarfed the Sword God’s heir.

Not for a second did he believe that such a guy didn’t have an Ascendant State backer.

No matter how talented a man was, he couldn’t go far without resources or a good teacher!

Otherwise, why would the major families accumulate vast resources for numerous generations to come?

“It seems that the guy only asked his pet to attack not because he’s a pure controller, but because Dragon Devil didn’t deserve his attacks!”

“He couldn’t have reached the 42nd floor that easily if he were only counting on his pet.”

The Star Lords realized the core of the matter and looked at each other. The instructor from the Amir Royal Academy, however, glowed with excitement.

Su Ping was participating in the contest thanks to the Amir Royal Academy’s recommendation. If he became famous, so would the academy!

Taking into account his performance thus far, he would definitely distinguish himself in the next phases of the contest!

He was like a treasure that had fallen from the sky, right in front of his academy!

A female Star Lord from the Holy Oriole Academy narrowed her eyes and remarked, "Look, the rank was refreshed again."

### **Chapter 863: Sure Winner**

Golden light was glittering on the score monument and rearranged the projections in a new order as the female Star Lord spoke.

Su Ping's projection was still at the top, and the number next to it was... 58!

All the Star Lords were lost for words.

From the 42nd floor to the 58th... He had crossed sixteen floors in only ten minutes!

He was still soaring at a high speed after passing the 40th floor. That was horrifying!

The young man carrying a wooden sword was still in second; he had managed to reach the 48th floor.

He was only two floors away from the 50th; everyone believed that he would go beyond the 50th floor before the next scoring update, which would only be the fourth refresh; that meant that only forty minutes would have passed!

Very few contestants had ever reached the 50th floor in an hour throughout the history of the Illusionary God Monument Mysterious Realm!

Dragon Emperor was right behind the wooden sword guy; his points remained in third place. He was merely on the 44th floor, four floors below the young man with a wooden sword.

Despite that, the point gap between them wasn't large; he could still catch up with the young man. After all, the dragon-class monument's point coefficient was higher!

Further behind, there was Oasis Dragon King, Holy King, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady, Queen of the Seas, Sword Maniac, and the rest.

"He's ten floors higher than the one in second place!"

"He's also tackling the all-class monument, which is the most challenging of all!"

"His point coefficient is almost twice that of the second place!"

"Will he be able to rise to the 90th floor eventually?"

"..."

All the Star Lords focused their eyes on the man at the top of the rank after glancing across all the rankings; nobody had paid much attention to Su Ping when he fought on the island, except for the Star Lord from the Dragon Tomb Academy.

However, all of them could tell that the young man was definitely a new rising star that would glow and spread his name far and wide after the Universe Geniuses' Contest!

"They aren't on the same level, at all. The Sword God's heir is already unbelievable enough, and still he's being eclipsed!"

“He will definitely go beyond the 60th floor by the next refresh!”

“All the others have started to slow down. After all, their mental projection inside the monument should be close to exhausted after having passed so many floors.”

“It seems that the monuments are functioning properly...”

The ranking refresh confirmed what the Star Lord said; after all, it couldn't have erred twice in a row.

...

Time flew.

On the 65th floor inside the monument—Su Ping looked at the five beasts in front of him, which were a dragon, a demon, two elemental creatures, and one subgod.

He concluded that it was a subgod because he had seen many of them in the Demigod Burial.

The subgods carried some of the gods' physical features, but they also had human or other animal parts...

That indicated the gods' considerable open mindedness.

*The higher I go, the weirder the enemies are. Even a subgod has appeared... Will there be real gods? This guy is rather intelligent and good at fighting.*

Su Ping observed them while avoiding their attacks.

He also began to feel weary as he sprinted consecutively. He had no time to replenish his astral power; new enemies and battles would come instantly after clearing a round. There was no time for rest.

There was also the fact that there was no astral power to absorb in the environment, either.

This meant that the exhaustion was continuous; he would become weaker and weaker, while his enemies would become stronger and stronger!

He couldn't aspire to a complete recovery unless he left the monument and reentered it.

*I have to use my astral power wisely, or I might not be able to reach the end; there's no telling how strong the upcoming enemies will be. They can't be Star Lords, can they?*

Su Ping's enemies already knew a couple of laws when he reached the 65th floor; they also had an advanced Star State combat ability!

Different species would appear, which were adept at assorted techniques; some were good swordsmen, some were great assassins, and others had sturdy bodies.

The higher he went, the trickier the enemies were. They were also working in teams and protected each other; it was hard to deal with them.

Su Ping could have suffered some setbacks, were it not for his encounters with all kinds of strange enemies in the cultivation sites.

The other monuments would show the same enemies, except that they would become stronger and have new abilities. Rising to higher floors was possible as long as the participants had enough expertise on that specific path.

Whoosh!

Su Ping's train of thought was interrupted when he suddenly saw a weakness, so he quickly approached the subgod. He launched a needle of divine power mixed with multiple laws, which went through the subgod's shield and then stabbed its shoulder. It exploded.

The subgod was instantly killed. With their commander gone, Su Ping quickly flew towards the two elemental beasts and executed them.

Soon, the 65th floor was cleared; Su Ping found himself in the depths of the sea under great pressure.

Su Ping nearly drowned as he was caught unaware; fortunately, he held his breath in time. He unconsciously tried to push the seawater away with astral power, but then decided to resist the pressure with his body alone, considering the astral power expenditure.

The astral power could be used up, but his body could withstand the pressure indefinitely.

A few behemoths then appeared in the distance like a few mountains; their limbs became more and more terrifying as they made their approach...

...

The seventh ranking refresh!

The seven Star Lords gathered in front of the monument's rank display and found Su Ping at the top just like before. He was so ahead of the second spot that no one would catch up even if he stayed unmoving for several rounds.

"He's on the 81st floor..."

"He's reached the 80th floor in only seventy minutes. He spent less than a minute on every floor!"

"His speed is scary when he gets serious. Does he have a peak Star State combat ability?"

"He's only in the Fate State, yet his combat ability is on par with a peak Star State warrior?"

"As far as I recall, even the little genius girl from Amir wasn't as good as him."

"She was ahead of all the others that year, but her advantage wasn't as obvious. After all, a genius also emerged from the Dragon Tomb Academy that year."

"Sword God's heir is merely on the 65th floor. Did I just say 'merely'?"

"Dragon Emperor has just reached the 60th floor..."

"Taking that monster out of the picture, there are certainly plenty of geniuses this year. Seven of them have surpassed the 50th floor! The rest are weaker; the last one has only made it to the 32nd floor. What's he doing here?"

The Star Lords smiled bitterly; all the other geniuses seemed “ordinary” when compared to Su Ping, the top ranker.

If it were a different occasion, the Sword God’s heir would have shocked everyone by rising to the 65th floor, but it was nothing remarkable when the person above him was so much better.

One of the monuments glittered at that moment, and a person stepped out.

He was a young man from the Hugh Mia Academy. He shook his head with a pale face, and didn’t come around until a long time passed. He saw no one other than the seven Star Lords when he finally raised his head and looked around.

That meant that he was the first quitter.

The young man wore a bitter smile with a tinge of embarrassment, then flew to the score monument, hoping to see his ranking.

*I hope I’m not the last,* he prayed.

Another monument glittered just as he was flying over, and then a second person showed up.

The young man’s eyes glittered; he had quit only a bit earlier than the last guy; it wasn’t too embarrassing.

He would have felt tremendously awkward, enough to think about killing himself if he would have had to wait for an hour with the seven Star Lords before anyone else came out.

Very soon, more and more people returned from the monuments.

They looked around and were happy to find that they weren’t alone. Still, they were also angry when they realized that nobody from those on the hilltop had quit yet.

They quickly gathered in front of the score monument.

Su Ping—who ranked first on the monument—was instantly seen.

All of them gasped and exclaimed uncontrollably after they saw the number of his points and the floors he had covered.

“How is it possible?”

“81? Are my eyes deceiving me? Or should I read it from right to left?”

“I only climbed 41 floors, and that guy is on the 81st?”

“How is it possible? Mr. Linghu from my academy is only in second place?”

“Dragon Emperor ranks third? That’s impossible!”

“All of this has to be rigged!”

All the students were shocked; they saw the outcome as unacceptable. None of the top experts from their respective academies—people who had left a deep impression on them—had secured the top of the rank.



Instead, Su Ping was at the top; he had won with the help of his pet earlier.

Even more horrifyingly, he was challenging the all-class monument, and had already reached the 81st floor. It was unreasonable!

Even the Sword God's heir who challenged the sword-class monument had only reached the 65th floor. It was as difficult to reach the 81st floor of the all-class monument as to reach the 90th floor of the sword-class monument!

Didn't that mean that the guy was at least 25 floors stronger than the Sword God's heir?

The Star Lords remained calm and vaguely disdainful upon hearing the students' exclamations, as if they were laughing at the students' ignorance.

Exclamations were bursting out every now and then as more and more students were exiting the monuments.

Soon after, the rank was refreshed for the eighth time, and Su Ping was still at the top; he had already reached the 88th floor!

The 90th floor was near at hand. Even the seven Star Lords changed their expressions at that point!

That floor was a threshold; all those who passed the 90th floor were geniuses among geniuses, leaving their name in the history of the Illusionary God Monument Mysterious Realm!

"Taking his speed into account, it's almost certain that he'll climb a place beyond the 90th floor!"

"Besides, he has been there the whole time; never has he come out!"

"His storage is terrifying."

"He definitely has the combat ability at the peak of the Star State!"

All the seven Star States looked solemn; such a genius would probably become even more invincible if he advanced to the Star State!

The students were silent at the moment.

Someone had previously thought that the rank had gone wrong, but the refresh slapped them in the face.

The young man carrying a wooden sword had passed the 70th floor at that moment, which would have been a massive accomplishment in other years, but it seemed unremarkable when compared to the number 88...

Then, the rank was refreshed for the eighth time.

As expected, Su Ping had indeed arrived at the 90th floor!

The young man who carried a wooden sword then reached the 73rd floor. Climbing three floors in ten minutes was actually good progress.

The seven Star Lords remained silent; they would look at the ranking monument occasion, wondering when the young man would decide to come out.

Time flew.

The rank was refreshed every ten minutes.

Su Ping's position would rise higher after every refreshment.

His speed dropped significantly after the 90th floor; he then climbed one floor after each refreshment

Even so, the people on the outside were still shocked. After all, the 90th floor was already unimaginably difficult. It remained unknown whether or not they could hold on for ten minutes in there, not to mention defeating the enemies!

The young man who carried a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor and the other top rankers also slowed down. They rose by one floor every time Su Ping did.

All the students from the five academies became silent when they saw the comparison.

Su Ping was rising one floor at a time in the nineties, whereas the others felt a similar difficulty when facing the seventies.

Everybody knew about the devastating twenty-floor gap!

Suddenly, one of the monuments glittered.

The tall and strong Dragon Devil appeared. He seemed exhausted; a recovery wasn't seen until he noticed that many people had gathered in front of the score monument.

Goddess of Light emerged from a monument nearby as soon after he came out.

She gave a glimpse at Dragon Devil and snorted coldly; she then flew straight towards the score monument.

They approached the monument and instantly saw the rankings. Their eyes were immediately peeled open while showing disbelief.

...

On the 78th floor, in the sword-class monument—

A demon beast with sickle-like arms was blinking. There was also a white-haired old man who held a long sword, but the man had an eagle face. He was a beast man!

His claw waved the sword, as he launched various auras.

A young man before him was moving quickly; it was exactly the young man who carried a wooden sword.

The wooden sword on his back was gone, though; he was holding a glittering golden sword that radiated divine power and a fearsome aura!

The young man was heavily wounded, his casual smiles long gone. His eyes were trained on the white-haired swordsman as he performed extraordinary sword techniques.

Bang!

The white-haired swordsman moved unpredictably, just like a ghost. He and the sickle-armed creature were forcing the young man to retreat.

Bang!

The white-haired swordsman suddenly spun his sword and launched the most dazzling sword aura, which compressed all his energy and pushed the young man.

The latter narrowed his eyes and quickly counterattacked. But the next moment, his body and sword were overwhelmed.

His consciousness' connection was lost.

The young man suddenly woke up; he felt he had been dreaming. He was at the moment in the void found within the monument.

He could still remember the spectacular attack the enemy launched at him; it was absolutely domineering.

*Unfortunately, I had already used up too much of my strength...* The young man looked at his arm with regret; spectacular as the attack might have been, it wasn't outside his means, but he had simply felt too exhausted to defend himself.

He thought for a moment and then put on a smile. *78 floors. That's not bad...*

He had been completely devoted to the battle, so he hadn't been paying much attention to the floor number. He was passionate about sword techniques; he decided to challenge that monument in order to improve his swordsmanship. He had no time to care about anything else.

Fame and fortune were secondary. Only his sword was eternal!

### **Chapter 864: Domination**

Ripples were spread on the sword-class monument, and the young man who carried a wooden sword stepped out.

The wooden sword remained on his back; he seemed quite relaxed and harmless. He instantly received the attention of the seven Star Lords the moment he got out.

He remained casual, as if being the center of attention was a matter of course wherever he went, as it had been since birth.

He had already gotten used to it.

Whoosh!

Another man stepped out of a monument right then. He was tall and majestic, none other than Dragon Emperor.

There had been tiredness in his eyes, but he quickly hid this before he stepped out of the monument, for an emperor would never show weakness. He indifferently glanced around and saw the young man who carried a wooden sword in front of the sword-class monument. Then, he became relaxed.

*The guy came out at the same time as I did?*

*So, we probably climbed a similar number of floors.*

However, the dragon-class monument was more difficult, and had a higher point coefficient!

It meant that he had accumulated more points than that guy!

*So much for the Sword God's heir.*

The young man with a wooden sword frowned when he saw Dragon Emperor. His thoughts moved along the exact same lines as the latter's did, and began to question himself. *Am I really weaker than that guy?*

He had tried his best while going through the monument's challenges.

After all, he wouldn't be exposed even if he used his trump cards there.

He was unwilling to believe he had gotten that result.

Several other people stepped out of their monuments while that pair were still gazing and measuring each other; they were Holy King, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady, Queen of the Seas and the rest.

A cold and indifferent voice was heard coming from Dragon Emperor's back. "Move away."

The surface of the dragon-class monument rippled and Oasis Dragon King stepped out. His hair dangled casually; he looked down at everybody else as majestically as Dragon Emperor had.

Everybody gazed at him as he stepped out; nobody underestimated the best student of the Amir Royal Academy.

Dragon Emperor narrowed his eyes and looked at him dangerously after hearing that cold demand.

The people in front of the score monument immediately took notice of them when they left the monument. However, they didn't seem excited; there was disappointment instead.

The young man carrying a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor and the others sensed their crestfallen attitude; it was somewhat puzzling. Not bothering to ask, they simply flew towards the score monument.

All of them were eager to find out who was the one who had won first place.

None of the best geniuses of the five academies would be willing to give in to someone else. Still, it was obvious that they wouldn't try their very best in that place. Their final stage would be the upcoming Universe Geniuses' Contest.

Nevertheless, they could gauge their gaps in strength from that monument testing.

"I'm going to be at the top!"

Holy King chuckled and flew away proudly.

The young man with a wooden sword also flew over with a calm mood.

Dragon Emperor laughed when he heard Holy King's claim. He didn't say anything, but despise and disdain were obvious on his face.

"They're all out."

"What a shame. It's truly hopeless now."

"We can't compare to that monster, but we'll definitely get second place!"

"Humph, weren't the top two geniuses of the Huge Mia College arrogant? Have you seen your ranking?"

The geniuses in front of the ranking display wore complicated expressions; although they were regretting having lost the chance of rising to the top, they were still arguing amongst themselves about their rankings.

"Huh?"

The young man with a wooden sword was shocked by the whispers he heard.

He then gazed at the top of the magnificent score monument, only to see that he wasn't there; Dragon Emperor wasn't there, either, nor Oasis Dragon King. Instead, it was a surprising person.

*Him?*

The young master was stunned, just like being struck by lightning; disbelief and fright appeared in his eyes.

*95 floors?*

He was stupefied. His head went blank when he saw the horrifying point coefficient and the type of monument the man had challenged.

*95 floors in the all-class monument!*

*Did something go wrong?*

Dragon Emperor, Oasis Dragon King, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and the others saw the point monument right then. All of them looked at the top of the rank.

Each of them had thought there was hope of securing the top, but then they were similarly shocked to see the person who was really at the top.

The number of floors and the points achieved by Su Ping were mind boggling.

Those numbers exceeded their imagination!

They might have had a chance to reach a similar result if they were to train in the Illusionary God Monument Mysterious Realm for months. And yet, someone had reached the 95th floor on the first try?

To top it off, he had challenged the most difficult all-class monument!

"H—Him...?"

Oasis Dragon King was left in a daze when he saw who it was. He lost control of his face and openly displayed the shock he was feeling.

The person who had claimed the top was Su Ping, the man who had traveled on the same spaceship as he had.

*Is the guy that strong?*

He suddenly remembered the time when he had challenged Su Ping to a duel and the latter declined...

His lips twitched. He had originally taken Su Ping as a coward, but the results made it obvious; the man thought of him as Koro, who was too weak to compete with him.

But, could Koro compare to him?

He could easily defeat Koro with a single hand!

However, it seemed that they were the same in Su Ping's eyes. That was so humiliating!

Koro: ???

Suddenly, a furious exclamation burst out. "I can't believe this!"

Dragon Emperor widened his eyes with coldness and fury. He searched the names in the monument and found that he was in third place, right under the Sword God's heir. His heart was aching when he turned to address the seven Star Lords. He asked, "Is there something wrong with this monument?"

The seven Star Lords remained calm. Only the one from the Dragon Tomb Academy had an awkward look, as Dragon Emperor had lost his cool, unlike his usual pride and calmness.

"The score monument never fails," said the instructor from Amir with a cold, yet amused tone. By questioning the point monument, the man was essentially questioning Su Ping, who was representing his academy. How could he not defend him?

"That's right. We went and confirmed this with the master of this place; the score monument is in perfect working order," the Star Lord of the Dragon Tomb Academy quickly added, hoping that Dragon Emperor would stop embarrassing them. He knew that everything was real and even the master of that place had become interested in the top ranker!

"!!"

Dragon Emperor was about to say more, but instantly paused when his instructor stopped him and mentioned the Ascendant State expert. But then his shock intensified.

He had climbed more than seventy floors, and he knew how difficult it was.

Reaching the 80th floor was beyond his abilities, and yet someone had gone all the way to the 95th?

Didn't that mean that the man could easily crush him?

They were both in the Fate State; how could their gap be that wide?

Dragon Emperor found it hard to accept. He felt that he had touched the ceiling of the Fate State, that only the super extraordinary geniuses could compare to him. However, his pride was deflated before the start of his journey in the Universe Geniuses' Contest.

His questioning and the Star Lord's response were heard by a lot of people. The young man carrying a wooden sword, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and the others were silent; their faces showed troubled expressions.

It was true.

The man who had defeated Dragon Devil with his pet was actually so strong it was horrifying.

They had thought that he was a pure controller whose power mainly depended on his pet.

However, he was obviously much stronger; a pure controller couldn't have climbed to the 95th level!

"He hid himself really well!" The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady wore a complicated expression; she remembered how reluctant Su Ping was to answer Dragon Devil's challenge. She had considered his decision as cowardly, but now it seemed that he must have regarded Dragon Devil as nothing more than a mere bug.

No one would be willing to answer the challenge of a bug.

Therefore, he had been reluctant to attack when challenged in public. Although he seemed to be flinching, he wasn't scared of fighting.

After all, Dragon Devil was an ant that he could easily suppress!

They were both in the Fate State, yet their gap was tremendous.

The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady was losing confidence; she was the strongest student of the Holy Oriole Academy. There were high hopes that she could show everybody how powerful their academy was.

But then she started to doubt herself after such a development.

*Am I really as unparalleled and distinguished as my instructors say?*

If she was a rare genius that emerged once in several hundred years, what would that guy be?

Not far from her, the young man who carried a wooden sword fell silent as he gazed at the top of the rank.

He gradually clenched his fists inside his sleeves, dropping the harmless smile on his face; he became as cold and hard as a rock.

On the other side, Holy King and Queen of the Seas—two top geniuses from the Hugh Mia Academy—looked at each other in silence. Their arrogance faded away.

Who would have thought that such a horrifying monster would come along?

*Are all the contestants in the Universe Geniuses' Contest like him?* Goddess of Light seemed confused. Her instructors had told her that she had a good chance of securing a good ranking in the star zone

matches, based on the data from previous Universe Geniuses' Contests. She had felt uncomfortable and underestimated earlier on—

But at the moment... She truly had a glimpse of the boundless universe.

*So, there are truly unreasonable geniuses in the vast territory of the Federation!*

There was a silent person in the crowd.

It was none other than Yuan Linglu.

She had exited the monument a long time before, having only reached the 35th floor, which was among the lowest rankings. It was slightly frustrating for her, even though her instructors had told her to consider this as a chance to gain experience.

She actually agreed with that advice; after all, she had seen how horrifying the two top geniuses were, back in her academy. She was also in the Fate State, but they had left a deep impression on her, making her realize there were much stronger geniuses out there.

For example, the guys who had one of the top ten divine constitutions were able to become real geniuses.

However, she didn't expect that the man born on the same home planet would keep on shining brightly after stealing her legacy and challenging the Tower on the Blue Planet!

He seemed to be even more horrifying than when seen him on the Blue Planet.

Even the two top geniuses had been suppressed by him!

Was it really possible for her to train hard and later seek revenge?

Yuan Linglu felt how the goal in her heart collapsed, as it had become something forever unattainable.

While everyone remained silent, the time for the score monument to be updated had arrived, and the golden light appeared again.

The geniuses, who had been brooding over their failure, couldn't help themselves—they looked at the new rankings, only to be even more devastated. The guy at the very top had gained even more points, and was currently on the 96th floor!

*Is he going to climb all the way to the 99th floor without stopping?*

Someone held their head with both hands, feeling that the world had gone crazy.

Dragon Emperor and the others were silent; their faces looked awful too.

The surface of the all-class monument rippled at that moment, and then a person stepped out. He was none other than Su Ping.

Everybody fixed their eyes upon him just then.

*He's out!*

They felt relief for some reason at the moment.



Dragon Emperor and the young man who carried a wooden sword were obviously more relaxed, but their eyes were filled with solemnity; the new arrival was all they could see at the moment.

“Huh?”

Su Ping was surprised to receive that much attention. He looked around and saw that all the students who were on the hill were all there. *Does this mean that I was the last to come out?*

He realized what had happened, so he flew to check the score monument. He then found that his projection was at the very top.

Su Ping slightly raised his eyebrows, wondering if he had shown off a tad too much...

He wasn't too surprised by the result.

However, Su Ping was quite surprised upon seeing the rankings of the young man who carried a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor and the other geniuses who had claimed a seat on the hilltop.

Those guys seemed to be weaker than he had thought at first.

#### **Chapter 865: Potential of the Ascendant State**

*I was already reaching my limits when I crossed 96 floors in a row. I had other trump cards which would allow me to climb higher, there might be others watching in this mysterious realm.*

*After all, the owner of this mysterious realm probably has absolute control over it.*

*It's better to keep a low profile. I'm very close to the 99th floor anyway. Instead of going up there in one attempt, I might as well try a few more times. I'm not in a rush anyway!*

Su Ping was completely relaxed, but then he saw the rankings behind him and realized that he had kept too high a profile. It probably would have been for the best to take a break long before the 96th floor.

Everybody fixed their eyes upon Su Ping when he dashed close; the geniuses in front of the score monument couldn't help but make way for him.

But Su Ping didn't move closer; he stood behind the crowd, where it was already possible for him to see the points clearly.

High in the sky—the seven Star Lords were also gazing at Su Ping as they thought and measured.

It was the first time for them to observe a Fate State junior that carefully. If things went well, he would probably distinguish himself in Silvy!

Once Su Ping reached the Star State, even those Star Lords would have to treat him equally instead of regarding him as a junior!

That was exactly the potential and deterrence of a super genius!

Su Ping turned around and left without talking to anyone after reading the results in the score monument; he didn't know any of the geniuses present, and there was nothing to talk about.

He was surprised to see Yuan Linglu there. He sensed a well-hidden intent the moment he saw her.

The girl had obviously not let go of the incident when he robbed her of the legacy on Longtai Mountain.

He wouldn't have minded greeting her and giving her a hand if she would have forgiven him by then; after all, they should help each other since they were from the same planet. Besides, his status as the Lord of the Blue Planet gave him a sense of closeness with the people from his home planet.

Unfortunately, she was still holding on to old grudges, that is why he didn't bother talking to her.

Whoosh!

The dead silent atmosphere in front of the score monument thawed a little bit after Su Ping left; everybody became slightly relaxed.

The young man who carried a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and the others wore grave expressions when they saw Su Ping go straight back to his seat on the hill, as he didn't even look at any of them when he came out. He was obviously ignoring all of them.

Being ignored in such a way was a first for all those brilliant geniuses.

"How arrogant!"

Dragon Emperor clenched his fists in a cold and angry mood. He had originally thought he would get first place, and yet he was eclipsed; the gap between them was devastatingly vast.

The young man who carried a wooden sword bit his lips; his gentle face also became sharp. He coldly turned around and walked away.

Oasis Dragon King glanced at Dragon Emperor and snorted; he then returned to his seat on the hill too.

Seeing that they were about to leave, one of the seven Star Lords stepped forward and said, "You're free to enter and challenge the monuments anytime in the following days. I hope that all of you become stronger and develop a deeper understanding from the monuments for the time when the matches begin.

"You'll be given training resources depending on your ranking at the end of the training session. The higher your ranking is, the more benefits you will receive. The top ranker will receive five Deep Red Astral Crystals, five drops of Star Dragon Bone Marrow, and five blades of high-level Five Elements Divine Grass.

"A chance to choose and learn one of eight two-star techniques from different categories will also be granted.

"If you need anything else, you can use your points to exchange for additional items in the treasury; the points spent will be deducted as star coins and won't affect your ranking. To put it simply, one point equals one star coin. Every point is considered a star coin when you make exchanges in the treasury."

Everybody was astonished by the generous rewards after the introduction.

"Five drops of Star Dragon Bone Marrow? That's an extraordinary refining material that even Star Lords would cherish!"

“The high-level Five Elements Divine Grass can increase your resistance to the basic elements. They can be applied to yourself or your pets!”

“I’ve used the Star Dragon Bone Marrow before, but one can never have enough of it! The more you eat it, the stronger you will be; that is, unless you’re already a Star Lord. That guy is bound to be significantly strengthened if he remains at the top in the following months!

“The stronger you are, the stronger you will be; the weaker you are, the more you’ll be left behind...”

All the geniuses were feeling quite jealous; a single drop of Star Dragon Bone Marrow was worth half a tier-5 planet!

Besides, it wasn’t something that could simply be obtained with money. Connections and identity mattered too!

The young man who carried a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor, and the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady simply frowned, barely feeling excited.

All of them had received unimaginable resources in the past, thanks to their top genius status; they would also have access to the materials set as promised rewards via their families or academies. Those rewards were indeed appealing to them, but not enough to elicit amazement.

After all, the master of that mysterious realm had a partnership with the five academies; he didn’t have super rare treasures that the five academies wouldn’t.

“I’ll have to ask my academy or my family to give me those resources if I can’t get them in this mysterious realm.” Dragon Emperor snorted and flew to the hilltop.

For him, training was more important than anything else.

He never even bothered to consider how to obtain resources.

He was more enthusiastic than ever to strengthen himself now that Su Ping had shown up.

The rest felt the same; Su Ping had bruised their pride by surpassing all of them in such a domineering way.

The rest of the participants dispersed and worked on recovering; soon after, some challenged the monuments again to train some more.

Fighting inside the monument would only cause mental injuries at worst; there would be no physical damage. It was an ideal place to practice.

Back on the hilltop, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and Dragon Emperor were soon fully recovered. They glanced at Su Ping who was still inside the circle of light, then they entered the monuments once again with sharp eyes.

The rankings on the score monument changed this time around.

Still, changes were only seen from the second through the tenth; Su Ping remained firmly at the top.

Even though Su Ping had decided to rest inside the circle of light and not continue to challenge the monument, his previous height and points were like an insurmountable mountain.

“That guy probably has a chance to reach the 99th floor!”

“The 99th? I don’t think so! Although he reached the 96th with one attempt, every floor after the 90th is significantly more difficult than the last. He has a combat ability on par with the enemies of the 97th floor, that is why he crushed the enemies on previous floors. But still, it’ll be hard for him to beat enemies beyond his limits!”

“It’s definitely not a problem for him to enter the 97th floor! I bet that he has a good chance of entering the 98th floor, and a 10% chance of making it to the 99th floor!”

“If he does make it to the 99th level, wouldn’t he be as strong as an Ascendant?”

“Who could argue? But it shouldn’t be surprising for such a genius to be as strong as an Ascendant State warrior. My estimate is that he’ll make it to the finals of the Universe Geniuses’ Contest!”

“Maybe, but it’s going to be hard; Ascendants’ disciples are going to participate. There are plenty of guys on par with the Sword God’s heir. Even some disciples of Celestial State experts might come out and join the competition!”

“In any case, he’s undoubtedly one of the top geniuses in Silvy; he’ll definitely be noticed by Ascendant State experts.”

### **Chapter 866: The Last Challenge**

Su Ping received rare training resources every day after securing the top of the rank.

The Deep Red Astral Crystals were usually intended for Star Lords’ training. They were also used as currency amongst this tier of experts.

Such items were so rare in the universe that even those in the Ascendant State would compete for them; although it wouldn’t be for their direct usage, they could give them to their subordinates.

Most Ascendants had their own organization. Few were lone wolves, and even those had their believers too; they would also fight to claim special resources for their sake.

Training with Deep Red Astral Crystals was highly demanding; those who weren’t Star Lords had to have strong willpower.

Su Ping tested his willpower when he received the resources in one of the monuments with a Star Lord.

It was actually just a formality; having climbed 96th floors of the all-class monument in a row was proof enough of his horrifying combat ability and unparalleled mental power.

The result of the test was exactly as the Star Lord had speculated; Su Ping was able to swiftly pass the test.

He wasn’t trying to shock everyone; passing the test was good enough. After all, he wouldn’t get anything from it.

Su Ping detected a distant and indescribable type of energy besides the pure and magnificent astral power when he absorbed the Deep Red Astral Crystals. The energy surrounded him and guided him like a voice, making his senses much keener than before.

*No wonder they're meant for the Star Lords. I'd be able to grasp laws easily if I train with them for a long time. However, when it comes to the Star Lords themselves, their combat ability wouldn't be significantly improved, even if they grasped one or two new laws.*

This distant energy sounds like the whispers in the fifth space. Those who are not determined will be lost in it; no wonder a strong willpower is required.

The energy inside Su Ping's body reached its limits, given that five crystals were provided for him every day; anyone else in the Fate State would have had to make a breakthrough to absorb the energy...

But Su Ping's Chaos Star Chart showed a great capacity; the cells all over his body absorbed and stored the astral power. Once all of them were full, he attempted to cultivate the Astral Painting State, which was the third major phase!

He connected his cells and drew the first Astral Painting inside his body.

It was a simple Astral Painting, which consisted of three stars making a triangle; there was a strange energy field in the area they enclosed.

Su Ping melded his cells and constructed three enormous cell collections, then he drew the Astral Painting with them.

The drawing was quite strenuous to make and a lot of astral power was required. Su Ping had originally reached his limits and couldn't absorb any more astral power, but as he drew on, not even the magnificent astral power from the Deep Red Astral Crystals seemed enough for him.

*It's true that training the Astral Painting State is more difficult.*

Su Ping wasn't frustrated; he had the Deep Red Astral Crystals anyway, and he could finish the drawing sooner or later.

He was looking forward to finding out how strong he would become by the time he completed the first Astral Painting.

Aside from those crystals, Su Ping's body was also assimilating the Star Dragon Bone Marrow.

It was a pure body-strengthening material. Su Ping had been practicing the Solar Bulwark and was essentially a young Golden Crow, and the Star Dragon Bone Marrow was polishing it further. Su Ping felt as if he wouldn't get hurt even if a Star State expert attacked him with full force.

His body alone was already horrifying enough.

It had to be noted that he was still in the Fate State at that moment!

The blades of Five Element Divine Grass, on the other hand, were currently useless to him. Apart from the five basic elements, his resistance to other elements had been increased to the special grade, too. Such a resource was no longer useful for him.

*I can save them for my sister, or my other friends on the Blue Planet.* Su Lingyue placed them in his storage and thought of Su Lingyue.

All his pets, including the Little Skeleton, also had special-grade resistance, so it wouldn't be useful for them, either.

Time went by quickly.

Su Ping had remained on the hilltop the whole time while absorbing those resources. As for the others, they kept on reentering the monuments to train after they recovered.

Fighting inside the monuments was more effective than sitting around, in their opinion.

After all, they had specifically gone to that mysterious realm because of the monuments; there were multiple places with denser astral power in their academies if the goal was to simply sit and meditate.

Oasis Dragon King, the young man who carried a wooden sword, and the others rose steadily as they continued their challenges.

On the third day, the young man who carried a wooden sword reached the 80th floor.

Dragon Emperor was also inching closer to the 80th floor.

On the seventh day, the young man who carried a wooden sword entered the 83rd floor.

Dragon Emperor stepped into the 80th floor, and was ready to tackle the 81st.

The other geniuses—such as the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and Oasis Dragon King—were only one or two floors behind.

Su Ping was enjoying himself while sitting on the hilltop, crazily absorbing astral power coming from underneath the chair and drawing his first Astral Painting.

Why didn't he try entering the monuments again?

He had been through countless life-and-death exercises in the cultivation sites; such a kind of training was no longer effective for him.

His 96th floor record and the point coefficient of the all-class monument made Su Ping remain on top of everybody else.

Many people would unconsciously look at the hilltop as they got out of the monuments, feeling weird when they saw that Su Ping was still sitting there; they felt both insulted and somewhat relieved.

“Why has the guy been cultivating instead of challenging the monuments?”

“This is a rare opportunity. Isn't it a waste for him to only be sitting and meditating there this whole time?”

The seven Star Lords also felt weird when they saw that.

The man had been given the chance to enter that mysterious realm, yet he wasn't making the most of the opportunity to train inside the monuments. What was the point?

Some speculated that Su Ping had used some sort of secret technique on the first day that caused severe sequela; that was why he had been resting.

Many agreed; they didn't feel as amazed by Su Ping's record anymore.

A month passed in the blink of an eye.

The young man who carried a wooden sword had reached the 88th floor!

He was very close to the 90th floor, but he had been lingering on the 88th since a week earlier, since it had been difficult for him to reach the 89th floor. Obviously, he was reaching his limits.

Dragon Emperor was close behind him; his points were slightly fewer, while he still held onto third place.

Oasis Dragon King ranked fourth; he had also chosen the dragon-class monument, but he was one floor below Dragon Emperor.

The others were slightly behind Oasis Dragon King, but the gap wasn't too wide.

"He's still cultivating..."

The young man who carried a wooden sword walked out of the monument and habitually looked at the hilltop, only to find that Su Ping was still sitting inside the circle of light.

Su Ping never left the hilltop after reaching the 96th floor on his first day.

The young man carrying a wooden sword didn't believe the rumors; his concern was that Su Ping had perceived something during the challenge and had been contemplating about it.

That idea had been weighing down on him ever since it occurred to him.

He had rarely paid attention to anybody else and was fully focused on his sword technique. Still, he was currently paying attention to Su Ping.

*It's been a month, and we haven't even caught up to his performance from the first day...* The young swordsman took a deep breath and returned to the hilltop.

Soon after, Dragon Emperor came out of the monument and also looked at the hilltop. He snorted after seeing Su Ping there, then he flew back to his seat.

Time flew quickly. Given that Su Ping was earnestly cultivating every day, the others gradually lost interest in him and fixed their eyes on Dragon Emperor, the young man who carried a wooden sword, and Oasis Dragon King who were more active; they too were trying hard to polish themselves inside the monuments.

The top of the rank remained steady and unshakable, but those ranging from second to the tenth were competing fiercely. Dragon Emperor surpassed the young man with a wooden sword twice, who later caught up; he was trailing behind the young swordsman most of the time.

However, the two times he was able to surpass him made the Dragon Tomb Academy feel proud in front of the Sword Deity Academy.

“Some visitors will come to this place for observation and training, but they only stay for half a month. Focus on yourselves and don’t bother them.”

One day, a Star Lord of the mysterious realm brought a piece of news back.

The geniuses were slightly surprised, but didn’t consider it a big deal. After all, that mysterious realm was a super rare place that entertained not just them but also geniuses from other parts of the universe.

Interstellar spaceships arrived in the mysterious realm a few days after they were notified; some of them belonged to the five academies and carried distinguished students. Even though they weren’t the cream of the crop, they were also remarkable geniuses who had gone there for training.

However, their training was not as intense as the one prepared for Su Ping and the other contestants.

Other organizations from the galaxy had also sent representatives.

Some of them were either descendants of a Star Lord or future stars of their organizations. All of them were gathered in the mysterious realm.

“Are all the geniuses of the five academies here?”

“I heard that they’ve been here for a long time since they had recommendations. All of them are preparing for the upcoming matches!”

“I wonder how strong they are. It’s a shame that I wasn’t admitted by any of the five academies. I would love to meet them.”

Many newcomers were curious about Su Ping and the geniuses, but they didn’t dare to approach them while under the Star Lords’ watch.

“The score monument is right there!”

“Wow! The top of the rank challenged the all-class monument and reached the 96th floor?”

“Is the 96th floor very difficult?”

“It’s not just difficult; it’s impossible! Do you know Huan Lieshen, owner of this mysterious realm? He challenged the all-class monument and passed all 99 floors. Thanks to that, he was acknowledged as master of this mysterious realm!”

“... Seriously? So to speak, if that guy climbs three more floors, his accomplishment will be as good as Lord Huan Lieshen’s?”

Some of the geniuses who had never been to the mysterious realm were horrified.

Huan Lieshen was an Ascendant expert!

And yet, somewhere before them there was a guy who was as strong as him?

Originally, some weren’t really impressed by the candidates who received the recommendations, but then they were dumbfounded after seeing the rankings on the monument; no matter how confident they were, they didn’t think they could reach the Ascendant State!



The Ascendant State was too distant; it was extremely difficult to become a Star Lord as it was!

“It’s him...”

Koro was stunned in the crowd. He had also been sent there by his academy. He didn’t expect that the top ranker wouldn’t be Oasis Dragon King or a genius from another academy, but the guy who frightened him with one punch.

The guy had dwarfed Oasis Dragon King and suppressed all the other geniuses from the five academies!

He sweated hard and almost slapped himself in the face as he recalled that he almost attacked Su Ping earlier.

“Humph!”

On the hill—some of the geniuses who were training snorted at the newcomers who pointed at them and whispered. They weren’t interested in what they were talking about, at all.

Time flew.

The newcomers didn’t affect the results of Dragon Emperor and the others. Su Ping had been sitting on the hilltop all the time, still opting not to enter the monuments, so the others stopped paying attention to him and focused on their own training.

Three months passed in the blink of an eye.

The screening tests of the Universe Geniuses’ Contest were over; even the elimination rounds in the planetary systems were over too. Silvy’s elimination matches were soon going to be held.

This also meant that the geniuses had to leave this mysterious realm.

The newcomers had left a long time earlier. Only the top students of the five academies remained at the moment.

“He’s on the 91st floor...”

“As expected of the Sword God’s heir. He’s made another breakthrough. His limits must’ve been breached on the 89th floor. It’s incredible enough that he was able to climb two more floors in merely three months!”

“He’s a great learner. No wonder the Sword God taught him personally.”

The young man who carried a wooden sword walked out of the monument, pale and exhausted.

His appearance instantly attracted everybody’s attention.

Dragon Emperor—who was currently cultivating on the hilltop—had a grave expression, as the young man had gained much more points than him.

He rose quickly, ready to challenge the monument again.

However, exactly at that moment, he turned his head and looked at one particular circle of light, only to find that the young man who had been sitting there had walked out.

The young man who carried a wooden sword also noticed when Su Ping left, and so did everybody else. All the eyes that had previously fixed upon the former shifted to Su Ping.

### **Chapter 867: Climbing to the Peak**

*The training here is almost over. I should gather more points while I can.*

Su Ping completed the first Astral Painting in his body after three months of cultivation. The Astral Painting State consisted of nine Astral Paintings; he would be significantly strengthened with every painting added.

Su Ping's plan was simple: he was going to gauge the power of the first Astral Painting, claim all the points he could get before he left that mysterious realm, to then exchange for materials needed to upgrade the Solar Bulwark.

The owner of that mysterious realm might have some of the rare materials that Xingyue Shen'er wouldn't have access to.

Dragon Emperor flew towards Su Ping and remarked coldly, "Are you finally ready to continue?"

Su Ping was stunned by this. He glanced at him, wondering when they had become such good friends.

Su Ping ignored the guy and flew straight to the all-class monument.

"..."

Dragon Emperor nearly choked with anger after being ignored in front of everybody; he couldn't help but blush, even though he had always controlled himself well. He snorted and wore an expression of disdain to defend his pride.

The students of the Dragon Tomb Academy were shocked to see the always arrogant Dragon Emperor be slighted. Mixed feelings was the common denominator; they were angry since it was an affront to their academy, but they also felt somewhat delighted.

The students of other academies, however, focused their eyes on Su Ping until he entered the all-class monument.

"He's indeed challenging the all-class monument!"

"He could have passed all floors if he would have challenged another monument, right?"

"You don't say. He probably would have passed them on the first day."

All the students wore complicated expressions. Dragon Emperor and the young man who carried a wooden sword were among the best students, but they had been lingering around the 90th floor, while Su Ping had the potential to pass all the floors. The gap was truly massive.

"He should at least be able to cross two floors this time, right?"

"The higher you go, the more difficult it'll be. However, I think it won't be a problem for such a genius."

"Can't you be any bolder? I bet he can pass all the floors today!"

“All the floors?”

The students who were discussing became silent for a moment; oddly enough, no one disagreed. After all, Su Ping had worked a miracle on his first day there; he had suppressed the geniuses of the five academies for months. They couldn't surpass him even if they were to train for a year.

After all, even the young swordsman and Dragon Emperor had slowed down; it would have taken them months to pass one floor.

In the crowd—Yuan Linglu bit her lips.

She had made significant progress in the past three months, rising from the 35th floor to the 47th. She was very close to the 50th floor, which was a major threshold; whoever surpassed the 50th floor would be considered a genius in ten planetary systems.

However, the higher she went, the more devastated she became.

She felt the horror as she considered the higher floors. The enemies before the 50th floor were unbelievably strong already. Although they were only in the Fate State, they had the combat ability of an early Star State warrior!

She could hardly imagine what the 90th floor implied. The others mentioned that every floor after the 90th was much more difficult than the last one; she could not imagine what they were like either.

*Our gap wasn't this big when we fought for the legacy...*

Yuan Linglu watched Su Ping's back with despair and frustration in her eyes. Although Su Ping had surpassed her during the competition on Mount Longtai, she was still able to fight him back then; but now she had been completely eclipsed.

...

Inside the all-class monument—

Su Ping entered the 97th floor; he had chosen to quit without much resistance the previous time. However, he was at the moment planning to pass.

*It shouldn't be too eye-catching if I pass the remaining three floors, right?*

Su Ping focused his attention as he gazed at random scenes and enemies, then summoned his Vast Sky Thunderous Dragon.

Su Ping had to fight with his pets after passing the 95th floor. After all, all the enemies would have top Star State combat ability; several of them appeared at the same time.

The knees of any other Fate State practitioner would have buckled, and they would have straight off surrendered at the sight of their enemies, because it was impossible to win.

Even the proud young men such as Dragon Emperor and the young swordsman would reflect a reaction in their faces. After all, the leap in difficulty was completely unreasonable!

*It's the same line up; it seems that the all-class monument remembers me. I have to pass this floor in order to meet a different lineup of enemies. It's impossible to try different enemies by quitting and reentering the monument.*

Su Ping smiled in a relaxed manner. He had failed to beat them before; this time, he could find out how much stronger he had become.

He no longer hesitated and unleashed the power of the first Astral Painting inside his body.

The three round stars on the Astral Painting revolved like glittering suns, infusing a power boost throughout Su Ping's body and making it run like a river.

Boom!

Su Ping punched; his fist dazzled his enemies with a sharp aura. The unleashed astral power had spikes; this was due to the aggressive nature of the triangular Astral Painting in his body.

His astral power carried new features; it contained the horrifying aggressiveness of the triangular Astral Painting!

...

A man who had been sleeping inside a palace deep inside the mysterious realm suddenly opened his eyes when Su Ping challenged the monument.

Two lightning bolts seemed to have instantly darted out of the palace through the void.

"This little guy is truly patient.

"He must be trying to challenge my record. I wonder if he can break it," the man mumbled with a smile.

A vortex appeared in front of his eyes and displayed a feed of Su Ping's battle. He had already entered the 97th floor and was about to fight the enemies.

Bang!

Su Ping unleashed an invincible aura on the battlefield. Three balls of lightning were constricting and shining in his stomach. They were obvious even from the outside, and they look like pearls.

Su Ping gathered his strength, as he charged forward and killed one of the illusions with one punch!

"Huh?"

The man who was leaning on the side suddenly sat straight after such a surprise. *Could a guy in the Fate State really have that much astral power?*

Soon, the man realized that Su Ping's technique wasn't as simple as he thought; it allowed him to absorb that much astral power and stopped him from making a breakthrough. *His cultivation technique is definitely strange...*

Su Ping quickly finished off all enemies on the 97th floor and entered the 98th floor.

*I thought they would hold him behind for a while...*

The man looked at Su Ping's speed and put on a smile; he found that his previous worries were hilarious. Just as he expected, Su Ping instantly killed all the enemies again with his horrifying astral power and his many laws on the 98th floor.

He reached the 99th floor in the blink of an eye!

That was the top floor in every monument, where the enemies were the strongest!

The man knew that the monuments had been left by that realm's creator as a test; he had passed the test, proving that he was qualified to inherit the mantle and become the new master of the mysterious realm.

The real benefits of that mysterious realm weren't limited to those monuments...

"If I hadn't claimed this in the past, this mysterious realm would have definitely fallen into his hands," mumbled the man before he shook his head with mixed feelings.

He was practically immortal, given his Ascendant State cultivation, and his greatest entertainment was to witness the rising stars in the universe.

"His name will probably spread to the ears of those people very soon; I need to take action immediately," said the man to himself and quickly left.

At the moment, on the 99th floor of the all-class monument—

Noises burst out consecutively, and the environment was extremely harsh; illusions were changing nonstop on that floor. Su Ping found himself in a forest for a second, to later appear in a sea right after; his enemies were also changing constantly.

There were dragons at one moment and elemental beasts at another. They were also transforming from archers to assassins and tanks with solid shells every now and then, making it impossible for him to react.

*Are you testing my responsiveness?*

Su Ping suffered a few injuries and was becoming quite infuriated. The enemies on the 99th floor were very tricky; some had mastered multiple laws, while others had almost fully grasped a single law.

They would have been quite the challenge for top Star State geniuses in the outside world.

*Are you forcing me to use my dual merge?*

*No, I won't!*

The more Su Ping fought, the angrier he became; he seized a moment to put away the white-scaled Vast Sky Thunderous Dragon and then summoned his Inferno Dragon.

The latter was stronger in terms of combat ability when compared to Little White.

The stronger a pet was, the more enhancement it could provide after merging.

He didn't summon the Dark Dragon Hound or his other pets to help; they were too weak in comparison to the enemies he was facing.

Although they were strong and talented, they weren't strong enough to fight those at the top of the Star State, and they would only be burdens.

Summoning many pets in a battle was only suitable for the general battle pet warriors; geniuses such as him had to count on themselves.

Even though their pets could be one rank higher than themselves, it didn't matter much to the true geniuses who also entered the fray; their pets would only work as support.

However, pets were better suited to the general public. They could also become horrifying when they reached the Ascendant State!

Any Ascendant would have to kneel before a person who managed to establish a contract with a Celestial State pet.

The higher they reached, the more difficult it was to make a breakthrough!

"Merge!"

Su Ping quickly merged with the Inferno Dragon. Very soon, there was a surge of a daunting aura, which was thirty percent more powerful than when he merged with Little White; he dodged the incoming attack and punched the man who ambushed him, forcing him to retreat.

Then, Su Ping gathered his astral power to form a sword entwined with thirty laws; the weapon's aura made the surrounding space collapse.

Boom!

...

"The 98th floor!"

"Damn! He's only been there for ten minutes, and he managed to pass two floors?"

"I thought it would take him multiple attempts to reach the 97th floor. I was wrong!"

The geniuses were in shock as they looked at the refreshed score monument.

The students who came out of the monuments started to gather around to watch instead of recuperating after coming out of the monuments.

Dragon Emperor and the young man who carried a wooden sword didn't cultivate on the hilltop either, as they were too disturbed to do that.

The young swordsman pursed his lips and heaved a sigh, knowing that he hadn't reached the unemotional level his master had asked him to reach.

He saw that—while Su Ping remained on the top of the rank—the number of floors behind the latter's name turned from 96 to 98. Such a change came as a shock to all.

It was too fast!

Two floors in ten minutes!

Even geniuses such as Dragon Emperor and the young swordsman had to fight for hours to pass a floor close to the 90th.

They had also failed most of their attempts; winning hadn't been easy for them!

Considering Su Ping's speed... He had undoubtedly dominated all of the enemies that appeared!

"It seems that he's really going to reach the 99th floor..."

Someone sighed, his mood sorrowful.

"He's truly as strong as an Ascendant. A future Ascendant State expert is right next to us..." The others wore complicated expressions too, thinking they were about to compete with an Ascendant State expert barely starting to grow.

But in the end, some were even vaguely proud in a way.

It wasn't humiliating to have been beaten by such a genius, was it?

Maybe years later, when Su Ping did reach the Ascendant State, they could talk about this incident; it would be a story they could brag about.

Some people were distracted; Dragon Emperor and the young man who carried a wooden sword fell silent.

### **Chapter 868: The Ascendant State and the Beginning of the Match**

Su Ping stepped out of the all-class monument moments after; there was sweat on his cheeks, but he wasn't as exhausted as everybody expected.

Everybody was stunned. Why did he come out so quickly? Did he fail the challenge on the 99th floor?

The score monument was then refreshed. Once the golden light disappeared... the floor number underneath Su Ping's ranking changed from 98 to 99!

Everybody in front of the score monument fell silent right then.

After only two updates, in just twenty minutes, Su Ping passed three floors and reached the 99th floor!

He had undoubtedly evinced the potential of the Ascendant State!

Everybody looked at the young man. A horrifying idea suddenly occurred to them: since the battle was over so quickly, did the guy not try his best, at all?

The thought made the young swordsman and Dragon Emperor look awful. They had planned to compete with Su Ping; after all, all of them were Fate State warriors and unparalleled geniuses. How strong could he be? But they ended up devastated.

They clearly weren't on the same level; the height of 99 floor was beyond their imagination.

Still, someone else had already achieved what they couldn't even dream about. So, all that remained was despair.

Su Ping took a deep breath. He was lost for words when everybody gazed at him. He wasn't an idiot; he knew the significance of reaching the 99th floor. He could tell its difficulty from the performance of the top students of the five academies.

He didn't want to maintain such a high profile, but he needed the points.

*Just as I expected, the last three floors gave the most points. The points from each of those floors are as many as those I made with forty or so floors down below!*

Su Ping was satisfied as he looked at the record on the monument. He only needed to talk to the Star Lord manager and exchange the points for resources.

The wind in the realm was suddenly frozen when he was about to move out, then a glimmering man stepped out of the void.

He seemed to be the center of the entire world.

The frozen currents began to circulate again.

The troubled Star Lords narrowed their eyes upon seeing the stranger. The two managing the mysterious realm quickly flew over and said respectfully, "Master."

The Star Lords from the five academies quickly followed suit and paid their respects. They were quite shocked; some looked at Su Ping in the distance; he was the only reason why Huan Lieshen had arrived.

The young swordsman, Dragon Emperor, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and the others in front of the score monument were equally stunned.

All of them were top geniuses; it wasn't the first time they had seen an Ascendant State expert. However, they would still feel awe every time they saw one.

That was the pressure of the Ascendant State; even extraordinary beings such as the Star Lords would inevitably feel scared.

"Little guy, I'm the owner of this mysterious realm. Are you interested in learning after me as my disciple?" said Huan Lieshen with a smile, as he sent out an invitation.

He was reluctant to give away such a promising student.

It would be idiotic for him not to try and claim him.

Would it be demeaning for him to show up and invite the young man? He didn't think so.

Would anyone present dare to think such action was demeaning? No. Being an Ascendant, he could pretty much do anything he wanted without caring about how others felt.

"Well..."

Su Ping was stunned for a moment. He found a strong similarity between the vibe of the newcomer and Green Lady's, as well as that of the three Ascendant State experts he had seen in the divine residence.



*He's as strong as Joanna's original self...*

An idea flashed in Su Ping's head. He asked, "What can I get as your disciple?"

"!!"

The seven Star Lords were so shocked that they almost bit their tongues off. They thought that something had gone wrong with their ears.

The young man with a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor and the other students looked at Su Ping in shock, too. After being invited by an Ascendant, instead of being grateful, the man was asking what he could get?

The silver-robed Huan Lieshen, was slightly surprised too. But then he laughed and said, "Interesting, very interesting. You can get a lot of things. For example, you may train here for as long as you wish. You've shown great potential; with enough luck, you can reach the Ascendant State too.

"Apart from training here, I will be teaching you personally. You'll become my seventh personal disciple!

"Your combat ability will definitely be further improved with my training!"

Huan Lieshen added in earnest, "Think about it. You'll be my personal disciple, not just a regular student."

Su Ping instantly hesitated, not because he wondered if he should accept the invitation, but because he didn't know how to refuse it.

Huan Lieshen's promise was obviously unsatisfactory to him.

*Training in this mysterious realm?* He could always train himself in the cultivation sites!

*Further improve my combat ability?* That was just an empty promise. Besides, he could make good progress too as long as he obtained materials for the Solar Bulwark, and he would not need the guy, at all.

The only appealing thing the guy could offer was his identity as an Ascendant State expert.

He would have swaggering rights if he had an Ascendant State master.

But there was also a down side. He would inevitably expose his secrets if he became his disciple and he couldn't explain away Green Lady's existence.

Su Ping believed that Green Lady was more reliable than him in terms of guidance.

"Sorry, senior, but I need more time to consider," said Su Ping, to subtly avoid giving a straight no. He also couldn't find an excuse to refuse him, unless he claimed he already had an Ascendant State master. However, he would lose the chance to study under a Celestial master if he played that card, if one did show interest in him.

Why did Su Ping think that a Celestial State would show interest?

The reason was simple. How could anyone not be interested in a guy as handsome as him?

Huan Lieshen frowned upon hearing Su Ping's reply. *Is this an indirect no?* Unwilling to let him go that easily, he asked, "Do you have a master already? Or do you need to ask the opinion of seniors in your family?"

Su Ping wasn't a natural born genius as he saw it; he must have been taught by an expert. It wouldn't be surprising if he was part of an Ascendant State family.

It was just that he had never heard of any Ascendant State peers having such a distinguished descendant.

If they did, they would have shown him off long before.

The seven Star Lords and the students were stupefied. *Su Ping turned down the invitation?* Countless people dreamed of such an opportunity!

The Thousand Leaves Holy Lady, Oasis Dragon King and Dragon Emperor seemed just as envious.

Queen of the Seas, Sword Maniac, and Dragon Devil were obviously jealous, too. They would rarely have a chance to meet an Ascendant State expert. Still, Su Ping needed time to consider the precious opportunity of learning under him?

"Both..." Su Ping hesitated and said, not being too direct.

After staring at Su Ping for a moment, Huan Lieshen said, "That's fine. Just think about it. You're welcome in my place anytime. Until then, here's a little something to show my sincerity."

He raised his hand and pointed his finger. Golden light appeared and spun in midair, which then formed a golden sphere.

"This is a battle pattern that I've drawn with Ascendant State power," said Huan Lieshen, "I was planning to rebuild and cleanse your body, but your body seems very pure to me. Someone must have done this for you in the past."

*The Heavenly Tribulations did,* thought Su Ping.

He looked at the battle pattern curiously; he wasn't going to turn it down.

Su Ping was still clueless about the Ascendant State power. Although he had met similar and even stronger creatures in the cultivation sites, he had only observed their appearances; he didn't know how they utilized their power. He only knew that it was something beyond laws and worlds!

"Thank you, sir."

Huan Lieshen smiled after seeing that Su Ping was willing to accept it; the golden battle pattern was pushed into his body.

Su Ping instantly felt a special power that felt like a thin mist permeating his body. There seemed to be abundant energy that could burst out of the special battle pattern at any time.

All the onlookers showed envious eyes, as it wasn't usual to receive power from an Ascendant State expert.

The young man who carried a wooden sword narrowed his eyes after seeing this happen.

Once his gift was received, Huan Lieshen said his goodbyes to Su Ping and left.

Although he thought highly of Su Ping and was willing to take him in, he would not go further and beg. After all, the potential to break through to the Ascendant State was still just that, pure potential!

It was just a reference, until it translated into real power; the future was always unpredictable. Some people with great potential had died young and nobody remembered them.

It wasn't an uncommon occurrence in the universe.

Su Ping then returned to the hilltop to continue his training.

Su Ping occasionally went to the 99th floor of the monument in the following days, all to test the power of the Ascendant State battle pattern.

Su Ping was able to find that it was a power that was attached to himself. It didn't seem to merely be pure astral power or some sort of energy; it was something which felt beyond the Star State, like the power of faith.

He had originally been able to pass the 99th floor by merging with the Inferno Dragon, but then he could achieve this by merging with Little White after activating the battle pattern!

If I have this battle pattern, geniuses under other Ascendants will probably have something like this...

Su Ping wasn't happy. Instead, his heart was quite heavy; he was rather scared after personally experiencing the power.

Soon enough, the training in the mysterious realm had ended.

One day, someone went there to report that the screening tests of the Universe Geniuses' Contest had also concluded and the galactic matches were about to begin. Su Ping and the others who had received recommendations would then leave the mysterious realm to participate.

Those who won the matches would fight other star zones as representatives of the Golden Star Zone; the top 100 of every star zone would enter the finals.

"We have to go now?"

"I don't think I'm ready yet. Damn it, I thought I was fully prepared, but then I realized I'm still far from the limits of the Fate State after seeing all these monsters!"

"It shouldn't be a problem for the Dragon Tomb Academy to enter the Golden Star Zone, should it?"

"Sword God's heir is truly incredible. He managed to suppress Dragon Emperor."

All the students were reluctant to leave, but they were excited about the upcoming battles too.

They complied with the Star Lords' summons from each academy, boarding on their respective spaceships bound for the arenas.

Huan Lieshen appeared again before Su Ping left. He said, "I'll be there to watch your battles. Keep it up."

Everybody was shocked and envious to see Huan Lieshen seeing Su Ping off; even if Su Ping was eliminated, he could always come back to Huan Lieshen and learn from him.

"Thank you, sir," replied Su Ping with a proper show of courtesy.

Su Ping suddenly remembered Green Lady after he boarded the spaceship; she must have been waiting for him with a planet outside the mysterious realm...

It seemed that she would have to travel once again while dragging a planet.

Su Ping thought for a moment... There were no Celestials in Silvy; only Ascendants would watch the competitions. They would probably avoid offending her as long as she wasn't too outrageous.

"Let's just go to the arena," said the instructor on the spaceship and urged the pilot to set off.

The spaceships of the five academies took off one after the other; their engines emanated dazzling rays of light before they blasted away.

Su Ping was finally able to see Rhea when they left the mysterious realm. Green Lady had indeed tagged along with a planet.

"Where is this planet from?"

"It's probably Lord Huan Lieshen's work."

"Are we going to the old arena?"

"Amir is going to become famous!"

On the spaceship—everybody was excited, looking forward to the upcoming battles.

"This time, a battlefield has been constructed in the void. It's very spacious; you won't feel restricted in the slightest. But don't be careless, even if you're strong. Remember that there's always someone stronger out there," said their instructor solemnly.

Everybody unconsciously looked at Su Ping.

That guy was undoubtedly 'the stronger person out there.'

## **Chapter 869: Galactic Streaming**

"Humph!"

Oasis Dragon King snorted with mixed feelings. He had previously been the center of attention, but everybody had been eclipsed by Su Ping.

Still, he curbed his budding jealousy because his pride forbade him to.

Jealousy was a negative feeling for weaklings. A man as proud as Oasis Gray would never allow himself to have something that only the weaklings had.

“How long will it take for us to reach the place?” Su Ping asked the instructor curiously.

The instructor replied with a smile, “Half a day. You can take a break; you deserve it after training for so long. Matches will begin the moment we get there, so you should try to get prepared by then.”

He was speaking to all the candidates.

Su Ping felt relieved; Green Lady would have it easier if the journey was short.

He said goodbye to the instructor and nodded at Claesabe and Ibetaluna before he left for the rest area.

Everybody took Su Ping’s cue and dispersed to also take a break.

Oasis Dragon King gloomily returned to the rest area, but he chose to continue cultivating and meditating instead of resting.

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna were delighted to see that Su Ping had only nodded at them; it meant that they had left a good impression on him after all.

It would have been taken as brown nosing if they had waited until Su Ping showed his talent.

The universe was a vast place, and the Federation had a boundless territory. It was divided into twelve star zones.

Each star zone contained multiple galaxies.

Every galaxy had dozens if not hundreds of planetary systems such as Zeruprun.

There were generally a dozen planets in every planetary system. The larger ones had dozens of planets.

The Silvy Galaxy consisted of dozens of planetary systems.

Once the Universe Geniuses’ Contest started, screening tests were conducted on every planet.

The geniuses selected from cities, states and planets would fight on behalf of their own planets in the planetary system matches—

If they distinguished themselves in their planetary systems, they would participate in galactic matches, which was the next level of competition Su Ping and the others were heading to.

If they advanced again, they would go to the Golden Star Zone on behalf of Silvy.

At that moment—in Auro, a tier-1 planetary system in Silvy, there were three tier-1 planets. They were extremely large, with prosperous urbanized continents as well as those assigned for hunting.

Rhea and the Blue Planet were like beans when compared to them; their economies were much poorer, too!

The economy of a continent on Auro was already greater than that of planet Rhea, not to mention the Blue Planet which was even more underdeveloped.

The benefits of a tier-1 planet were the excellent atmosphere and its facilities. For instance, the astral power concentration was ten times higher than that on regular planets; training there would be much faster. It was also the reason why the more advanced a planet was, the more top experts it would have.

In addition, the bleeding-edge equipment of the Federation would mostly be found on tier-1 planets. They were the best in terms of entertainment, fashion, technology, combat, secret techniques and more.

The three massive planets were currently attracted to each other thanks to the control of Ascendant State experts. There was a vast continent in the void, right in the juncture of their gravity fields!

The back of the continent was soil that floated like islands with energy shields on the surface.

Ten regions had been drawn out in that continent; every region had its own energy boundaries. The whole place was an actual battlefield!

There were currently a lot of people found in those regions; they were media representatives from various planetary systems who were setting up their equipment.

That was Silvy's elimination matches, which would be streamed to all the planetary systems and their respective planets!

"Dear audience, the continent in front of our eyes will be the battlefield where the winners of our planetary systems will fight!

"This entire continent will be the battlefield. The ten regions will hold matches at the same time!"

"Which planetary system will be the one with the geniuses able to distinguish themselves and leave their names on the Divine Star Planet as part of the top ten thousand?"

Many spaceships, warships and cruises had gathered around the continent in the void.

They carried reporters from various media outlets as well as members of the audience who had made the trip to watch the game.

"Every planetary system has presented many brilliant geniuses in the screening phase. Join us as we watch their awesome performances during the games."

The matches hadn't started yet; the organizers were replaying highlights from the screening phase at the moment.

Players with different faces and hair colors showed up and demonstrated great combat abilities.

"He's physically resisting the strength of a dragon?"

"He killed a Star State dragon with one sword attack. Is he really in the Fate State?"

"I'm in the Fate State too. I feel unworthy in front of him..."

"I heard that the top geniuses of the four best academies haven't shown up yet. They've been training in a S-rated mysterious realm until the matches begin."

"This can't be real. He killed a Star State opponent. I have every reason to believe that he cheated!"

"Cheated? This is the Universe Geniuses' Contest, hosted by Celestials. Who would dare to cheat?"

"What a stupid accusation."

Countless planets in Silvy were rebroadcasting Silvy's official feed. The blood of all the viewers started boiling as they watched the highlights.

Someone in the Fate State killed a Star State pet!

Many people thought that only those below the Ocean State could beat enemies above their level; the gap between the Fate State and the Star State was too wide!

However, the older audience who had watched previous championships were calmer.

Even so, they also became passionate as they were being influenced by the exciting atmosphere. After all, such geniuses were extremely rare to encounter in real life.

The audiences on some of the underdeveloped planets were amazed by the highlights; not even their experts thought they were as good.

Far away, on the Blue Planet—

“Damn it, they're all Fate State warriors. This is unbelievable!”

“The Federation is truly too big of a place. I thought that geniuses like Boss Su should be rare, but they don't seem as rare now.”

“You're exaggerating. Boss Su is able to crush Star State warriors. Few of the guys participating can pull that off. Boss Su would have definitely been an eye-catching star had he competed against them!”

“Tsk, Boss Su is truly awesome. He was born and raised on the Blue Planet, yet he can fight with geniuses who grew up in the Federation!”

“Exactly. Those geniuses are never short of resources or techniques in the Federation; our planet is like a poor underdeveloped village in comparison. It's already good enough that we're catching up with other battle pet warriors in the Federation; we can hardly surpass them!”

On the Blue Planet—the video was being streamed to all the base cities.

The Blue Planet had applied for a signal rebroadcast from the planetary system authorities to watch the game since the earlier screening phase.

Several experts had been selected from the Blue Planet too.

Those in the Fate State were Ji Yuanfeng and Yuan Tianchen.

The rest were in the Void State, such as Qin Duhuang and Venerable the Blade.

Yuan Tianchen was originally in the Void State, but he had managed to reach the Fate State; their warriors had been leveling up much faster ever since the Blue Planet was better connected to the Federation. Venerable the Blade had risen from the Ocean State to the Void State too.

Unfortunately, all of them had been eliminated in the first round of the screening test, except for Ji Yuanfeng who managed to make it to the second round.

Qin Duhuang and Venerable the Blade were even mocked; after all, almost all the contestants were in the Fate State.

Those who were below that level would barely have a chance to distinguish themselves in that contest.

Sadly, the Blue Planet was so underdeveloped that it had few Fate State experts.

Once all the Blue Planet's experts were eliminated, they further realized the gap between them and the other planets in the Federation!

"Boss Su is truly extraordinary."

Ji Yuanfeng, Qin Duhuang and the others were all in the Longjiang Base City, which was the biggest city in the world. It was destined to become the heart of the planet since it was their Lord's hometown.

"Who can argue with that?"

Qin Duhuang had a lot of mixed feelings too as he drank tea with Ji Yuanfeng.

Nie Huofeng glanced at them and rolled his eyes. *These guys are drinking tea as if it were liquor. What is that all about?*

"I don't think I saw Boss Su in the screening phase!" Liu Tianzong remarked in confusion. He had also become a Legend and was qualified to sit with the others.

"The matches we watched were only limited to our planetary system; we don't know what happened elsewhere. Boss Su must have participated in another planetary system. I'm sure he'll appear among the highlights being replayed," said Qin Shujian.

The latter had also become a Legend, and was equal to Liu Tianzong. The Qin family already had four Legendary warriors at this point!

Qin Shaotian, who had succeeded as the family leader, was already at the peak of the Titled State, and was about to become a Legend!

"It does make sense."

Everybody else nodded and watched patiently.

"Boss Su is different from us. He's a real genius!" Nie Huofeng remarked with mixed feelings as he watched the feed from the other planetary systems.

He had a jumble of conflicting emotions when he thought about Su Ping. The astral power he had saved up for a thousand years was looted by Su Ping, but the latter had also saved the planet in the Battle of the Deep Caves and averted the impending catastrophe, something he had failed to do.

Aside from that, Su Ping chose not to kill him after the battle. That was the main reason why ceded the lord's position to him.

He currently was willingly managing the planet as Su Ping's aide.

He didn't expect that such an astonishing genius would grow up right under his nose on the Blue Planet!

That young man was a genius who was destined to glow even in the Federation, a place that had tons of planets!



“That is correct.”

Everybody else nodded in agreement and raised their cups to toast.

A vortex appeared in space hundreds of thousands of kilometers away from the void continent while the audience on the Blue Planet was watching the live stream. Then, a spaceship jumped out and maintained a quick speed.

Soon, a few more spaceships jumped out and flew towards the void continent.

All the people on the spacecraft carriers and the cruisers got all excited once the first spaceship emerged.

Some recognized that one of the spaceships belonged to the Dragon Tomb Academy!

“The people of the Dragon Tomb Academy are here!”

“That spaceship looks like the personal spaceship of the Dragon Tomb Academy’s president!”

“Are they using it to carry their top geniuses? Tsk, tsk!”

“Look, the Hugh Mia Academy is here, too.”

The students of the five academies had left the mysterious realm at the same time, and their spaceships were equally fast; all the audience was thrilled by their arrival.

“Is this the battlefield?”

The spaceship of the Amir Royal Academy had also arrived; Su Ping and the others observed the scenes from their ship’s point of view; they were focusing on the void continent behind the spacecraft carriers and warships.

They couldn’t even see the edge of the continent. It was truly vast.

Su Ping was amazed; that galaxy had constructed an arena that was much bigger than the whole Blue Planet, just for the contest!

The stadiums built on planets for the matches were truly lame in comparison.

Some receptionists instantly arrived and directed them to land; there was an airborne hall above the continent where all the contestants could rest.

Most of the contestants had arrived at the moment.

The hall was immense. The contestants who had arrived earlier were looking at the new arrivals from the five academies.

“The five academies? Interesting.”

In a square—a young man who wore a pair of glasses narrowed his eyes and smiled.

All the other geniuses were also looking at the five academies’ spaceships curiously.

They knew those ships were carrying high ranking geniuses who had received recommendations; the five academies were famous for their education, but not all the top geniuses in Silvy were trained by them.

Many geniuses had grown up under the secret training of their families.

Some had masters teaching them in their own organizations.

Some of the other geniuses were too proud to go to the five academies; they had preferred to stand out by emerging from academies with a lesser ranking.

### **Chapter 870: Ascendant Hai Tuo**

“This is Auro!”

“It’s the biggest planetary system in Silvy. I don’t think the trajectories of the three planets should be like this. Have they been rearranged by Ascendant State experts?”

“Of course. The three planets are now forming the auditorium.”

In the spaceship—Oasis Gray, Claesabe and the others were observing in detail.

They could easily see the three giant planets around them from their vantage point in the void continent. Obviously, the planets would be the best auditorium in the upcoming matches.

The instructor was standing at the exit of the cabin as he looked at Su Ping and the others. His eyes briefly lingered on Oasis Gray and Su Ping, before he said with a smile, “You need to take care of yourselves from here on out.”

Su Ping nodded with a smile of his own.

Oasis Gray seemed cold; he remained silent, then directly flew out of the spaceship.

The contestants who had arrived earlier looked at the new arrivals and whispered as they made their way over.

“Look at the guy carrying a wooden sword. I heard that he’s the Sword God’s heir!”

“Indeed. I’ve bought information about him from the Comet Organization. He’s a tricky guy; he slew a Star State expert once!”

“A Star State expert? What was his level? In any case, he must be in the top tier among us!”

“Dragon Emperor, the top ranker in the Dragon Tomb Academy, is a rare genius who was born with a rare demonic constitution!”

“A rare demonic constitution? I’m raring to find out how powerful it is.”

The students of the five academies also sized up the gossipers. They had learned a thing or two about the screening matches in the planetary systems and made note of the contestants with remarkable performances during their trip to the competition.

“They’re all monsters!” a young man behind Su Ping said with mixed feelings.

He had also gotten one of Amir's recommendations, but his performance wasn't even as good as Ibeta Luna's, not to mention Su Ping's. He felt troubled as he checked out the other competitors present.

Each person could be a brilliant star in the outside world, even the brightest individual of an entire planet.

However, they were just common and unremarkable when gathered in that place.

Guys like Oasis Gray, Dragon Emperor and Su Ping, however, were still at the top among that many geniuses.

Several Star Lords flew out of the island and then dismissed all the instructors of the five academies. "Instructors, this is the waiting area for the contestants. Please go back."

After all, they were Star Lords. If for some reason they went on a killing spree, many of the geniuses present could die.

Each of those geniuses was extremely precious. Those who had made it up to that point were almost destined to reach the Star State; they also had a 50% chance of becoming Star Lords!

Half of them would become Star Lords; the best performers could even become experts among Star Lords.

There had been historical cases when Star Lords had entered the waiting area in disguise, causing massive casualties; precautions had been taken since then.

"Sure."

"Keep it up!"

None of the instructors said anything else before they left. The students had only themselves to count on from there onwards. Being the rare geniuses they were, none had to be treated like toddlers, with instructor's taking care of them all the time.

The students of the five academies also flew towards the island after the instructors left.

Whoosh!

Three men flew out from the crowd down below and stood in the way of the Sword Deity Academy's representatives.

"Are you the Sword God's heir? I happen to love swords too. I hope we'll have a chance to fight," said a young man wearing purple armor to the young man carrying a wooden sword.

He was quite handsome, but he had ear piercings with two short swords dangling down. His eyes also looked evil.

The young man carrying a wooden sword looked up at him and said indifferently, "You're too unworthy."

All the contestants began to whisper amongst themselves. The young man in purple was the top representative of a planetary system; he had also unleashed the power of multiple laws during the screening phase. All his victories had been a breeze; nobody knew how strong he really was.

And yet, the Sword God's heir claimed that he was too unworthy to fight him?

That was the arrogance of a genius!

The stronger geniuses were, the more arrogance would be reflected on their faces. They might act in a very friendly way when talking to ordinary people, but they could be exceptionally proud before those with potential to rival them.

"Is that so?"

The young man in purple raised his eyebrows and his smile disappeared. He said with a cold and teasing tone, "I'm eager to find out if the Sword God recruited the wrong disciple!"

"You don't deserve to mention my master's name!" The young man carrying a wooden sword raised his eyes, with coldness shining in them.

The young man in purple sneered. "I certainly wouldn't offend the Sword God. I only hope that you don't embarrass him!"

After that, he turned around and walked away. "I hope you'll be my opponent."

His two companions left with him.

The young man with a wooden sword unleashed a surge of coldness. A person arrived just then and said with a severe tone, "This is the waiting area. You'll be immediately disqualified if you fight here!"

The young swordsman narrowed his eyes and spared a cold glance to the young man in purple. He kept silent and refrained from making any moves.

"Senior brother, no need to get angry over such trash."

"I'll beat him up for you later if I run into him!"

"He wasn't even admitted by our academy, and still he considers himself a swordsman?"

The other students of the Sword Deity Academy surrounded the young man who carried a wooden sword and scorned the purple-armored young man.

Everybody else had also been able to witness the conflict. The atmosphere in the waiting area immediately became exciting; passion began to spread among the contestants.

They were all geniuses; they would only respect someone until they fought.

After all, many of them had hidden their trump cards in the earlier matches, all to distinguish themselves there!

Su Ping and Oasis Gray flew to the temple found below, seeing that the conflict had ended.

Two strangers suddenly flew over after they landed.

“Oasis, it’s been a long time.”

The young man in the lead chuckled. He had golden hair, red eyes, milky skin, and was almost 2.5 meters tall.

A lot of new races had emerged during the colonization efforts, ever since the Federation marched farther into space. The environment of different planets had also caused physical changes too; that young man was a native of Nilan, a tier-1 planet in Silvy.

Oasis Gray showed a slight change of expression and became even colder. He didn’t offer a reply.

The young man laughed and said, “How does it feel to be at the top of the Royal Rank in Amir? I didn’t know that Amir, one of the four best academies, was just so-so.”

It wasn’t until then that Claesabe and the others finally realized that the stranger wasn’t Oasis Gray’s friend; he went there looking for trouble.

“What did you say? Are you doubting the power of our academy?” Claesabe was the first to step up coldly.

The golden-haired young man smiled. “No, no, no. It’s not the academy I’m questioning; I’m simply doubting all of you, since the person I defeated has defeated all of you. I’m very curious... What gives you the guts to participate in this competition?”

*The person he defeated?*

Everybody was shocked; they couldn’t help but look at Oasis Gray.

Oasis Dragon King, who was the de facto dominator in the academy, had been defeated by that guy?

*Who is he?* Nobody had seen or heard about him!

“You were just lucky,” replied a gloomy Oasis Gray, “You wouldn’t stand a chance if I hadn’t been hurt by the spatial waves in the tertiary space!”

“Hehe. Luck is part of your capabilities; I predicted the danger while you failed to do so. Doesn’t that mean something?” said the golden-haired young man with a smile.

Oasis Gray changed his expression and gazed at him in silence.

Claesabe and the others, however, were shocked after seeing that Oasis Gray had admitted it.

“I look forward to meeting you again,” said the golden-haired young man with a smile, “I believe it’ll feel great if I defeat you again while being streamed in the entire galaxy. The best student of the Amir Royal Academy, right under my feet. Ha!”

“I look forward to meeting you again.” Oasis Gray gazed at him too. He had indeed lost to him in the past; there was nothing he could say to defend himself. He simply wanted to wash away his humiliation with blood.

The golden-haired young man smiled and walked away.

The others gave Oasis Gray weird looks, gradually becoming solemn.

Even Oasis Gray had lost to a guy they had never seen before. It was evident that there were too many geniuses in the world!

Not all of them were gathered in the five academies.

For instance, Su Ping didn't belong to any of the five academies; he had completely suppressed them in the mysterious realm. They had an even deeper understanding of the saying "there's always someone stronger than you."

The waiting area became even noisier once the students of the five academies joined in; their acquaintances went over to greet them, and those harboring grudges against them were making war declarations.

Although they might be from places millions of light years away, their world seemed to be really small; many of them knew each other, or had heard about each other.

The cameras on the void continent were being set up while they talked.

At this moment, two men emerged outside of the void continent; they attracted everybody's attention like the sun when they showed up.

Their bodies were like grains of dust in space and were almost negligible, but none of those present would dare ignore them. Not even the three massive tier-1 planets seemed as brilliant as them.

"Hai Tuo is here!"

"So is You Ying!"

"Both of them came as promised!"

"Did the two Ascendants show up to pick students?"

"Damn. I wish I were there, even if only as an observer; it's possible that they could detect my unusual talent while in the crowd!"

"No wonder the tickets for the matches are so expensive. I'm crying!"

The two Ascendant State experts were broadcast to all the planetary systems in Silvy thanks to the cameras from lots of media; countless people saw the two bigshots appear.

Ascendants had the power to destroy planets with ease; they were called Ascendant State experts because they were almost as powerful as the mythical gods!

They could destroy planets, revive the dead, reverse time, and make up laws!

All the audience got excited when the two Ascendants showed up!

"It's quite lively here," Hai Tuo smiled and said to his old friend.

You Ying was indifferent, not offering a reply. He was always taciturn; he wouldn't be there if Hai Tuo hadn't told him that there were a few promising geniuses among the contestants.

Everybody knew that Hai Tuo was Silvy's overlord!

The entire Silvy galaxy was Hai Tuo's territory!

Even the presidents of the five best academies—also Ascendant State masters—had to bow before him!

The upcoming matches were intended to select Silvy's most distinguished geniuses for the matches in the Golden Star Zone. Hai Tuo was there partly to inspire the contestants while he was also keeping an eye out in case he found someone particularly outstanding.

Those in the Ascendant State would spend most of their time training or traveling. They had no time to look for disciples on planets; it was more convenient for them to find disciples in the competition.

They flew and approached the void continent.

The boundaries didn't seem to exist for them. They would have been heavily injured if they were Star Lords and tried to break in.

After all, those boundaries had been set up by Ascendant State experts; they were able to instantly kill Star Lords.

The waiting area began to seethe once they arrived.

Countless people looked at the Ascendant State experts with admiration; some also looked at them with hope and eagerness, as if determined to glow just like them someday.

Hai Tuo smiled and gave an encouraging speech from a place above the waiting area. Then, he went to the special auditorium above the continent with You Ying.

He was an Ascendant State expert. He didn't need to give a long speech; a simple encouragement could be inspiring enough.