

Pet Store 871

Chapter 871: The Fifth Region

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Some contestants from other planetary systems were transported over soon after Su Ping's arrival.

Those who had performed remarkably were garnering a lot of attention from the moment they showed up.

More than a hundred thousand people were gathered in the square outside of the temple; each of them was an expert able to crush those of their same level!

Tons of contestants had been picked mainly because Silvy was immense. Even if they considered limiting the quota to only ten thousand people from each planetary system, there would still be plenty of them.

Su Ping could see the countdown to the game via the Lord Badge.

Countless citizens of the Federation were already waiting for the game to start while on the Internet.

Highlights of the planetary system winners were being played back on Silvy's official streaming platform; it also showed a countdown, which was nearing zero at the moment.

The audience from various planets were already arguing heatedly on the streaming platform and cheering for the players from their hometowns.

There were even open bets on some of the popular platforms.

Apart from the bets, there were also many brands who had released commercials with player endorsements.

There were also a lot of relevant entertainment activities. There were even special VR games for the audience to better engage.

Su Ping wandered around and found that all the news he had seen had to do with that contest. All of Silvy's planets were actively taking part; a lot of corporations had invested in that contest, hoping to make a fortune out of it.

It was an exciting gala that involved everyone!

No wonder so many people want to participate and become famous here!

Once they make it big, they'll be able to earn plenty of money, even if they don't do a thing for the rest of their lives!

Fate State warriors can be seen as more precious than those in the Star State in that competition; their income could be a hundred times higher than that of the Star State! Su Ping thought.

It wasn't true that those who had higher levels would always make more money.

Many people who weren't battle pet warriors had made a fortune through smart investments.

Some business geniuses were ordinary people, but they were capable of hiring Star State warriors; after all, even though battle pet warriors were strong, an economic system depended on business wisdom. Ordinary people had their own set of values which couldn't be neglected!

The money they make here is enough for them to purchase more rare training resources, which will make them even stronger!

1

The experts are never afraid of any challenge!

More and more contestants arrived while Su Ping traveled in the virtual universe. Some of them were alone, while others had formed teams.

They were also observing the other contestants' highlights being played as their references.

Time flew.

Finally!

The Silvy-wide part of the Universe Geniuses' Contest began!

Once the countdown in the virtual world had ended, a few Star Lords stepped forward and offered encouraging speeches, as well as an introduction to the contestants.

After all, the contest had been organized by a Celestial; they had to appreciate the significance of that contest. The event's organizers claimed that they could select the future pillars of humankind.

The time for drawing lots came after the soul-stirring speech was over.

The ten regions would hold matches at the same time.

In the high sky—a Star Lord took out a giant metal ball, which spun and shot blue rays of light which enshrouded all the contestants. Then, everybody's irises and genetic data were scanned and saved.

Their identities were instantly registered. Then came the lot drawing.

The drawing process was also done by means of technology. Some places used unpredictable pets to draw lots, all in order to ensure fairness.

However, pets could be tamed or manipulated; such an option might not be absolutely fair.

While the AI that would draw the lots could be hacked, preventative measures had been taken. Besides, no hackers would have the courage to hack that top match-up system.

The metal ball projected a square area where pictures and names rolled quickly, like coding; contestants were being matched up randomly.

All the people in the continent were holding their breaths; the entire galaxy was doing the same.

Soon, the first match-ups were revealed.

The names inside the projection were frozen in two rows. Everybody's opponents in the first round had been decided.

The contestants quickly searched and found their own names and pictures.

A detailed list was produced in the virtual universe being streamed. It was prepared in a way that it was possible to search for names, plus their corresponding region and opponent.

This sorting criteria by name was quite convenient for the contestants' supporters and compatriots.

A Rhine native?

Su Ping saw that his opponent was a Rhine native who had brown skin and a slim body; their race was typically tall and long-limbed.

The hosting Star Lord announced, "Everybody, please go to the waiting area of your respective regions, then step up when you hear your name."

Oasis Dragon King found his name and said indifferently, "I'm in the seventh region. I'm leaving." He quickly left without bothering to talk to anyone.

Claesabe shrugged and said, "I'm in the second region. Why am I the second?"

"I'm in the fourth region. I'm leaving too," said Apocalypse casually; she had not smiled once ever since her failure in the mysterious realm.

"I'm in the fifth region. See you." Su Ping smiled and bid them farewell.

After all, he had traveled with those people, and most of them were nice.

Ten Star Lords stood in a row outside the temple.

They were standing in front of ten vortices that were as dark as black holes. There were numbers illustrated with astral power on said vortices.

Those ten portals led to the ten regions.

That continent was so vast that even Fate State warriors had to spend a lot of time reaching their region. Besides, flashing in deeper spaces also consumed astral power, so the regions that were further away from the temple were unfairly difficult.

The contestants flew over to the ten swirls one after the other and entered their respective regions.

Su Ping flew into the fifth vortex. There were a lot of people around him; all of them dashed into the abyss like a swarm of moths.

The familiar feeling of space teleportation was gone, and Su Ping found himself in the fifth region, which was a vast land with forests, lakes, plateaus and areas with special magnetic fields.

The land was even bigger than Rhea, allowing them to give chase and fight without being restricted.

The waiting area was a temple in midair; the contestants of the fifth region were arriving at the moment.

A Star Lord and a Star State warrior received them.

Star Lords were common there—while they were usually hard to come across in other places and would be actual dominators of planetary systems in the universe.

“He is Tian Qing, the Mad Swordsman!”

“It’s him? I looked into him before. He was ranked within the top hundred in the last galactic match and fought on behalf of the Golden Star Zone!”

“He’s already in the Star State now, and he’s on par with that Star Lord!”

Some of the contestants recognized the Star State young man who was next to the Star Lord. They were quite astonished, as he was a contestant from the past match; they didn’t expect him to be there, acting as host along with a Star Lord.

Many people were excited to see that he was talking to the Star Lord on equal terms.

Maybe, they could do the same very soon!

The Star Lord host chuckled and said, “I heard that there are plenty of geniuses this year. They’re stronger than the ones who participated along with you back then.”

Tian Qing smiled casually and said, “Maybe. It is said that geniuses will always be better than the previous ones.”

“Haha.”

The Star Lord smiled and said, “I heard that your junior brother is also here. Unfortunately, he’s been allocated to the seventh region.”

Tian Qing narrowed his eyes and replied, “This is just an internal selection within our galaxy. You’ll have to wait until we go to the Golden Star Zone if you want to see what he’s capable of.”

“Oh?”

The Star Lord’s interest was piqued. “Are you saying that your junior brother can’t display his real capabilities in this part of the competition?”

“Not exactly. It’s just that no one can make him draw his sword.” Tian Qing smiled casually. “My junior brother is a rare genius like none I’ve ever seen. He’s so gifted in sword techniques that I wouldn’t endure five minutes if I ran into him during the contest!”

The Star Lord was stunned; then he said with glittering eyes, “I heard that the Sword God is capable of cutting stars, moons, skies and seas with his sword; I wonder how much has your junior brother learned.”

“Not a lot, but I believe ten percent is enough.” Tian Qing chuckled, with admiration in his eyes.

1

The contestants of the fifth region arrived while they talked.

Once he saw that, the Star Lord stepped up and gave a hint to the Star State assistant to summon the first group of contestants according to the list.

Two men dashed out soon after and looked at each other, then flew towards the land ahead of them.

The land was instantly closed.

There was an announcement echoing throughout the continent and the battle of the fifth region began.

The other regions also started their matches.

The ten arenas were streamed to all places; it was possible to watch the ten regions at the same time, or watch any of them in full screen.

Everybody was excited by the performances in the ten regions; countless people were watching the battles.

They were all thrilled to see the contestants summon rare pets.

Some contestants even summoned multiple Star State pets, making the Fate State warriors in the audience feel jealous.

“Are they what geniuses should be like?”

“Our planet is truly underdeveloped!”

“No wonder the top performer of our planet was eliminated; there’s no way he can compare to those monsters. How can you fight a Fate State expert who has plenty of Star State pets?”

“Why is it so easy for them to tear into deep spaces?”

The audience watching on many planets were attracted to the intense battles, which were vastly different from the Fate State bouts they would usually see.

Ancient secret techniques and rare advanced arts were used; strategy and wisdom was displayed in evenly-matched fights. The games were truly entertaining.

“This is just the beginning.”

“Everybody has to win ten rounds to make it to the top ten thousand. That’s how they can become famous in our galaxy!”

“The real matches will come when it’s time for the top hundred competitions; this is just an appetizer.”

A lot of relaxed-looking geniuses were lounging in the waiting area; they obviously knew that they didn’t have to try their best in battle just yet.

Of course, if they showed their full strength from the very beginning, it would mean that they were too weak and would probably be unable to make it to the top ten thousand.

While he sat in midair, Su Ping heard the whispers and raised his eyebrows; he had studied the rules online and knew he had to win ten rounds in order to advance.

It’s going to be a long process, Su Ping thought.

He watched the ongoing battle; two contestants were currently fighting in the tertiary space, but their fight was still streamed with vivid detail.

There was equipment installed in both the secondary and the tertiary spaces to transmit the potential imaging of any fight.

Su Ping didn't know how such equipment worked.

Very soon, the battle in the fifth region had ended.

Many people looked solemn in the waiting area, since both contestants were as strong as Star State warriors.

The first group came out, then the second group took their place.

There were about twenty thousand people in the fifth region, which meant that ten thousand groups would have to fight.

Su Ping knew he had to wait for a long time; he was quite patient about it. He entered the virtual universe via the Lord Badge and watched battles from other regions in Silvy's official channel.

The other battles were just as splendid, but some of them were definitely unremarkable, making the audience choose to watch other battles instead.

Some of the competitions were marvelous. Many activities related to the contest were also being held outside of the arenas.

"Your junior brother is indeed not bad."

The Star Lord who was responsible for the fifth region was watching other arenas in the virtual universe. He saw that a young man carrying a wooden sword had defeated his opponent in the third region without even drawing his sword.

Such a neat victory raised a round of exclamations in the third region. After all, all the contestants were geniuses, and most battles were evenly-matched; such domination was rare.

His performance instantly turned him into the main center of attention; many considered him as one who would reach the finals.

2

Chapter 872: Sing and Charge

"That guy is truly strong!"

"He looks like a sword cultivator, doesn't he? But he didn't even draw his sword!"

"It's almost humiliating. His opponent was crushed too easily!"

"Isn't he the Sword God's heir? He does know what he's doing. I wish I won't run into him; I don't want to expose my trump cards just yet."

All the contestants in the third region were more or less wary of the young man carrying a wooden sword.

They prayed that they wouldn't run into him, since he had secured a victory all too easily.

Above the continent—a palace was floating underneath a glass dome. Two men were seated in a pavilion outside the temple next to a table with dishes. What the dishes were made of was unclear, but they smelled delicious.

All the servants present were slim and pretty women clad in beautiful clothing; all of them were gulping in secret after seeing the wonderful food on the table.

Not only did the food taste delicious, it could also strengthen them.

“Is he the Sword God’s new disciple?”

“He’s been studying for eighty years, capturing the essence of his master’s sword technique.”

Hai Tuo and You Ying were eating and drinking while they looked down at the continent down below; nothing escaped their attention.

“Why didn’t you let your disciple come?” Hai Tuo smiled and said after having a cup of wine.

You Ying rolled his eyes and replied, “It’s been a long time since I recruited new disciples. My old disciples are too strong for this contest. If it’s fine with you, I wouldn’t mind letting them come here and crush all contestants.”

Hai Tuo laughed and said, “It’s great that you’re here then. I definitely won’t compete if you find any of those contestants promising.”

“Humph!” You Ying snorted and said, “It remains to be seen whether I’ll become interested in anyone. They’ll have to at least force that young man to draw his sword. I don’t want to teach stupid students!”

Hai Tuo smiled and said, “It’s going to be hard, then. I’m sure someone is capable of doing that, but they must already have Ascendant State teachers. If they don’t, you might still have a chance.”

You Ying raised his eyebrows but refrained from replying. Instead, he had another mouthful of wine.

...

Time flew by.

The battles in all regions were even more intense. Some of them were quite eye-catching; several geniuses showed a dominating strength and grabbed a lot of attention.

“I was just watching the stream. I heard that there’s a couple of tricky guys in the seventh and ninth regions.”

“The third region, too. Just look at the popularity rank.”

“There’s already a popularity rank and a pet rank, including the highlights of the top thousand contestants. We can use that to analyze them.”

“As I expected, the guys that I’m most interested in are all on the ranking list, but their places aren’t as high as I thought. Are the ones above them that much stronger?”

The geniuses in the waiting areas—while watching the battles in their region—checked updates related to the other regions; they clearly were concerned about the popularity rank.

A lot of people watching from their planets throughout the galaxy were enthusiastic about the popularity rank too, which partly depended on their votes.

The popularity rank changed constantly as the battles progressed; more astonishing geniuses appeared every couple of minutes, replacing the old ones.

However, the top ten of the ranking list remained the same, all due to the outstanding strength they had displayed.

The young man who carried a wooden sword of the third region was ranked seventh!

As for the top three of the ranking, they had fought very neatly. The top was a woman wearing a hood; she didn't do anything in her battle, but then her opponent directly fell down.

Nobody saw her attack!

She was strange and mysterious!

Such action instantly turned her into a super genius that countless people admired. After all, her performance was absolutely dominating.

The second of the rank fought quite fearsomely too; he knocked away all his opponents' skills and pets with a single punch, imbued with unparalleled strength.

The third on the ranking was Dragon Emperor.

He didn't summon his pet. He made his opponent kneel and tremble with one snort.

He was almost as scary as the top ranker.

The others had won very easily too; they crushed their opponents with one punch or one roar.

Some of their opponents had also shown remarkable performances in the earlier phases.

As an example, the one fighting against the top ranker had performed remarkably earlier on. He had mastered five laws and there were four Star State pets in his arsenal.

Still, he lost to the woman without putting up any resistance.

It seems that there's plenty of geniuses out there. The five academies don't have all of them.

Su Ping saw that no one except Dragon Emperor and the young man with a wooden sword were in the top ten of the rankings; all the others were below the tenth.

However, the candidates who received recommendations were excellent in general; most were within the top hundred.

This is just the beginning. I won't be able to find out how strong the others are until the ten rounds are done. Su Ping squeezed his nose and took a breath, then patiently waited for his turn.

He stopped paying attention to the rankings because the listing was changing constantly; it didn't mean a thing just yet.

Very soon, it was Su Ping's turn.

Su Ping's opponent was a Rhine native, who had green skin and hair.

"Just surrender. You can't win."

He gazed at Su Ping coldly and added, "I don't want to waste my strength on you. There are still nine rounds waiting for me; my goal is to enter the Golden Star Zone!"

"..."

Su Ping was speechless for a few seconds, then he said, "My goal is to win the championship."

"Humph!"

His opponent sneered. Silvy's champion? It was even harder than entering the Golden Star Zone. After all, he only needed to make it to the top hundred to make it into the Golden Star Zone, but he still didn't know whether he could win the championship!

"I have to wake you up since you're still dreaming."

The Rhine native sneered and warmed up his arms; he also summoned his pet.

Seeing how slow he was, Su Ping was silent for another two seconds before he threw a punch.

Bang!

A golden fist aura was pushed out like a heavy mountain, causing a strong wind.

The smile on that Rhine native's face was frozen; his pupils were also contracted.

...

Unsurprisingly, Su Ping won again.

The Rhine native vomited blood due to the punch; his armor was shattered, and he fell on the ground in a weird posture.

Su Ping shook his head and walked away.

You're just a nobody. Why do you feel so good about yourself?

Back in the waiting area, many geniuses looked at Su Ping with solemn faces; it was known that the Rhine native had been outstanding back in his hometown.

All natives of planet Rhine were natural-born warriors, yet the man had been defeated without being completely unable to resist. Su Ping's punch was truly scary.

"Another tricky guy."

"He's as tricky as the guys before. I hope I don't run into him."

"I only want to make it to the top ten thousand and leave my name on the Astral Peak. Why do I have to see this?"

"He's good at fist techniques too? Interesting. I hope I can meet him."

Su Ping returned to the waiting area under everyone's eyes, then closed his own to take a break, not caring about what others thought of him.

There were still nine rounds left to go anyway. So far, the battles had just been appetizers; the real show had yet to begin.

...

On the Blue Planet, Longjiang Base City—

"It's Mr. Su!"

"Boss Su is truly participating in the match. He's in the fifth region!"

"Where is he? The fifth region? Damn, I was watching the seventh region. I'll switch the channel immediately!"

"Boss Su is as domineering as always. He knocked out his opponent easily, even though they were both geniuses!"

"I've watched the Rhine native fight before. He's not a weak one, at all, but he still looked awfully weak in front of Boss Su!"

"Our lord has won!"

Cheers burst out in the entire Longjiang Base City and the rest of the Blue Planet the moment Su Ping showed up.

Those who knew Su Ping were really excited. However, none of them was too surprised by his performance, especially after having seen him chase all the Star State intruders near the divine tree.

As for the rest, their awe was even greater.

"I didn't expect that the once little guy would grow to such magnitude..." Ji Yuanfeng felt conflicted. He had been confident of fighting and even defeating Su Ping back then, but he currently wasn't even able to resist one of Su Ping's fingers!

In the Qin family estate—Qin Shaotian, who was next to Qin Duhuang, also wore a complicated expression. He said with a bittersweet smile, "Such a man was born in Longjiang. He must have been blessed with the luck of the entire Blue Planet, right?"

Qin Duhuang smiled and replied, "Not just the entire planet, an entire galaxy. Look at his strength. All the geniuses he has defeated are top fighters in their planetary systems, but they are simply not a match for Boss Su. After all, he has chased and killed advanced Star State enemies before!"

Qin Shaotian felt so troubled that he didn't know what to say.

...

On a certain planet—

There was a giant mountain that rose to the sky like a sharp sword. A lot of people dwelled on the mountain, which was a great cultivation land on that planet; all of them were currently watching the streaming of the matches.

Ten regions were being streamed on the same screen.

In the crowd, a girl suddenly shivered in surprise. "Brother..."

She didn't expect to see Su Ping there.

He's participating, and is winning that easily?

"What did you say?" asked a girl next to her curiously, "Is your brother there?"

The girl came back to herself and slightly shook her head. "It's nothing," she said, dodging the question.

She hoped to catch up with Su Ping on her own!

...

Natives of the Blue Planet who had immigrated to other planets were also watching the competition. All of them were shocked when they saw Su Ping.

None of them expected that Su Ping, being the Lord of the Blue Planet, could still shine that brilliantly after entering the vast Federation stage!

On the continent floating in the void—

The first round of matches was finally over. Most people who had been to the mysterious realm had passed to the next round, except the unlucky ones who had run into super geniuses. However, those people still had a chance to advance as long as they secured ten victories!

Very soon, the second round began.

Su Ping was matched up with another guy he didn't know. He was too lazy to check if the guy was on the popularity rank; the easiest was to simply crush them.

The second round began moments after. This time, the battles were obviously more intense.

The popularity rank changed again. The young man who carried a wooden sword rose from the seventh to the fifth; his opponent was a very strong contender in the first round, but he defeated him easily without needing to draw his sword.

In addition, Holy King, Queen of the Seas and the others who ranked below the tenth were also on the rise. They were very strong, but their opponents in the first round didn't deserve their full strength, so they had kept a low profile until then.

However, they were actually really tricky and tough opponents in other people's eyes.

In the high sky, outside of the palace.

You Ying was leaning against the chair. He had finished his food; after all, the first round had taken quite some time. At the moment he was petting a little black snake in his hand, which had gem-like scales and beautiful eyes; it was gently nuzzling against his wrist.

Hai Tuo looked at the snake every now and then and smiled. "What do you think? Are you interested in any of them?"

"Not yet. All those little guys are holding back," You Ying replied casually.

"That's fine. It's still too early to decide," said Hai Tuo with a smile.

The fighting was still in progress.

The whole competition was indeed lengthy. Picking the top ten thousand from the planetary system geniuses would take a week, without much rest in between.

Stamina was also a factor in the test.

The real elimination rounds would begin after the top ten thousand were decided. A hundred from that batch would be selected to fight in the Golden Star Zone on behalf of Silvy.

The specialists on every planet were making professional analysis of the guys listed on the polarity rank to garner attention.

Su Ping, Dragon Emperor and almost all the others who came from the mysterious realm had won the ten rounds easily, without encountering a single failure.

Su Ping's consecutive one-punch victories earned him a spot in the popularity rank, too. He was the ninth.

Chapter 873: Ten Battles, Ten Victories

"Who's the guy that defeats all his opponents with one punch? I've never seen him before!"

"It seems that the Amir Royal Academy recommended him to participate."

"As expected of one of the best academies. It does have a lot of geniuses."

"My husband is the best!"

"Hey, wake up. You really think you can marry him?"

Su Ping received a terrifying amount of attention for being ninth place in the popularity ranking. Not just the ninth, even the hundredth place had caught a lot of attention too.

As for the top ten, billions of viewers were watching them.

One had to consider that the stream was being transmitted throughout Silvy, which was extremely vast; there were hundreds of planetary systems and ten thousand prosperous planets.

As for the underdeveloped desolate planets, they did have inhabitants, but they didn't even have the technology to watch the live stream; such planets were considered primitive.

...

Everybody on the Blue Planet was excited.

“Boss Su is getting popular!”

“Oh my god, he’s the ninth on the popularity ranking! The ninth!”

“Boss Su is unstoppable, even in a competition against geniuses from all the galaxy. What kind of genius was born on our planet?”

“I feel honored to have been born on the same planet as Boss Su was!”

“Do the Blue Planet’s people actually carry superior bloodlines we don’t know of?”

“Boss Su is so freaking strong. Have you noticed that he’s not even trying his best? He crushed all his opponents with one punch. It’s been seven victories already!”

“Seven battles, and seven victories. He has the highest success rate!”

Not just in the Longjiang Base City; residents from other cities on the Blue Planet were also thrilled; it was an honor for the entire planet!

Many natives of the Blue Planet felt a lot of pressure when they saw the advanced technology, techniques and Star State experts of the Federation when their planet was further connected to it.

They gradually lost confidence in themselves and felt that the Blue Planet was inferior to any of the other planets!

It was inferior in every aspect, including technology, secret techniques, combat ability, infrastructure, and many more.

Even so, Su Ping—who had been born from that poor planet—had risen to the sky and reached the frontier of the galaxy!

Such an achievement filled them with pride!

“The people of the Blue Planet don’t have bad bloodlines!”

“Since Boss Su can make it, we should also feel proud of ourselves if we manage to be one-ten-thousandth as strong as him!”

Everybody on the Blue Planet felt thrilled and encouraged after witnessing Su Ping’s feats.

...

Everybody had the opportunity to fight fifteen rounds during the screening phase on the void continent.

Ten victories would allow them to advance.

Therefore, their winning rate only needed to be at around 67%.

However, it was easier said than done; all the contestants were geniuses. It was very hard to keep a 50% winning rate, let alone 67%.

Su Ping had stayed for a long time in the fifth region.

He believed that close to seven days had passed.

However, there was a permanent sun outside of the continent, and it was always bright.

Once the fights ended, everybody was matched up with new opponents for the next round. The battles were quite brutal.

Many people were energetic at first, but the longer they fought, the more exhausted they became. They had recovery treasures to help them, but they couldn't be fully recovered if they were too badly hurt in battle.

Su Ping's opponent was already heavily wounded in the sixth round; he had even lost three of his pets and could hardly fight.

Su Ping defeated him with ease, not sparing any courtesy.

Most competitors have an early Star State combat ability, instead of the expected peak Fate State. Plus, they all have strange secret techniques. I'm sure that the competitors in the top hundred phase will be as strong as the mid Star State warriors.

Su Ping had been observing the battles and recording the data during those days.

He felt some pressure; not about winning in that stage, but about the finals and the championship.

To be noticed in all of Silvy, he would have to boast a combat ability between mid and advanced Star State. Going by that estimation, he would need a peak Star State combat ability to stand out in the Golden Star Zone.

In the finals... there might be geniuses as strong as the best Star State cultivators!

After all, the contestants originated from places in the entire known universe.

There were too many civilizations and an impossibly large population. It was a given that all kinds of geniuses could be born.

He did have a unique system, but the other geniuses also had their own special resources; some of them might have even been raised by Celestial State cultivators.

In any case, I have to rise to the Ascendant State sooner or later. Even if I can't become the champion, I have to make it to the top ten, so that I can go to the SSS mysterious realm, Su Ping thought.

The game went on.

It was time for the tenth round in the blink of an eye.

The battles were even more intense. The geniuses who had been keeping a low profile tried their best and used methods they hadn't used before.

As the battles escalated to a more heated level, the first person to advance had appeared in the virtual world!

His appearance received the attention of all the viewers in the galaxy.

He had won all the ten rounds, already advancing to the next phase of the competition!

His odds of making it to the top hundred were undoubtedly high, considering his strength.

“He’s Holy King from the Hugh Mia Academy, the one who ranked eighth on the popularity ranking earlier!”

“Holy King? That’s an awesome name!”

“It’s him? I’ve been observing him since the beginning. He came here with a recommendation and he definitely deserves it. I believe he’ll be the next champion!”

“Ten battles and ten victories. That’s so horrifying. The others had to fight five more rounds, but he’s already managed to advance today.”

“I wonder if he’ll try to win all fifteen rounds.”

“I don’t think so. He won’t get anything from that; that would only make him expose his abilities and give his future opponents a chance.”

Everybody on the Internet was discussing the genius named Holy King.

Meantime, the Hugh Mia Academy was pushed to loftier heights too, being seen and respected as the best academy.

Everybody was cheering excitedly back in the Hugh Mia Academy’s headquarters.

The students and teachers were trembling due to the attention they were receiving!

The first person to secure ten victories was Holy King, a student of their academy!

The Star Lord who was Holy King’s instructor was smiling so widely that his face was on the verge of falling apart. After all, even Star Lords could have hardly attained such a feat!

“That guy is the first?”

“Damn it, why is it still not my turn?”

“Why am I so unlucky? He only got to fight first. I would’ve won ten victories too if I had fought in the first group today!”

At the same time—in other regions of the void continent—the contestants with nine victories felt awful. They weren’t any weaker than Holy King, but he had been able to fight earlier than all of them.

They had missed their chance because of this; the second person to secure ten victories would be less notorious.

They were furious!

“Humph!” a brawny man snorted in one of those regions; he was third on the popularity ranking and above Holy King. He had watched the battles of the top fifty from the list and remembered Holy King’s performance. In his eyes, he would’ve ended the guy’s winning streak if they had run into each other.

“They beat us to it.”

The people from the other four academies were angry.

All of them had students who had nine victories under their belts; it simply was not their turn to fight yet.

Dragon Emperor, the young man carrying a wooden sword, the Thousand Leaves Holy Lady and Goddess of Light also secured nine consecutive victories!

Even Claesabe, who was slightly weaker, had nine victories too!

Dragon Devil, whom Su Ping had defeated before, only had eight victories. Unfortunately, one of his battles was against the mysterious woman who was first place on the popularity ranking, and was easily crushed.

In the fifth region—Su Ping saw the excitement online too, but didn't consider it a big deal. While fame could be transformed into fortune, it couldn't be spent in his store, so it wasn't attractive to him.

After Holy King won ten victories and advanced, the second and third contestants with ten victories showed up.

Very soon, more and more contestants were qualified; a special list was displayed to keep a record of the advancing contestants.

They would surely advance even if they forfeited all the following rounds.

It was Su Ping's turn, soon after.

His opponent was somewhat mediocre; the man was among the top five from a small planetary system with a mid Star State combat ability.

However, Su Ping could unleash advanced Star State power with the Fist of Exorcist alone.

There was an ocean of astral power in his body. Adding the magnificent power of laws, he could destroy the enemy's laws and overwhelm him with astral power.

Victory was a cinch.

Su Ping returned to the waiting area once the battle was over.

Just like before, he only punched once but his punch was even fiercer, which garnered a lot of attention.

It didn't take long for Su Ping to make it to the ten-victory list, too.

However, he ranked in the thirties on the list because his turn came later.

In another waiting area, a young man noticed the name on the ten-victory list and remarked, "He has indeed advanced."

The young man carrying a wooden sword glanced at him and said casually, "For him to advance is not surprising; he has a good chance of winning the championship of this galaxy."

The first young man was a student of the Sword Deity Academy, and had been allotted to the same region as the young man who carried a wooden sword. He heaved a sigh and said, "You would have been the champion if he wasn't here. The rewards for the champion are quite lavish..."

The young man carrying a wooden sword said indifferently, "He's stronger than me. He deserves it."

His companion was shocked. That was the first time he had seen that proud young man admit defeat before the battle even started.

However, he fell silent upon remembering Su Ping's performance in the mysterious realm.

...

In the sky above the void continent—

Hai Tuo and You Ying were seated in the garden to enjoy the flowers while they watched the battles.

"It seems that the ten-victory title is attractive after all. Some of the little guys are doing their best."

"There are indeed a few talented students."

Both Hai Tuo and You Ying were relaxed as they watched. While the battles of those little guys were simple and childish, they had to admit that they were definitely outstanding in their level.

"Why? Do you want to recruit any of them as a disciple?" said Hai Tuo to tease the latter.

You Ying replied casually, "Let's watch for a while longer. I hope to see something new."

"I think the subgod who used a forbidden secret technique isn't bad. Has his family decided to rise again?" said Hai Tuo with a smile; there was a weird light in his eyes.

You Ying glanced at him and said, "I can't teach him. His family won't let an outsider teach him, either."

"That's true. It's a family with an ancient heritage anyway. They're proud as descendants of gods." Hai Tuo smiled.

"The Sword God's young disciple is not bad. He's not too big of an embarrassment," observed You Ying.

"Don't you know how picky the Sword God is when it comes to disciples? That little guy is obviously not trying his best. He hasn't even drawn his sword yet," said Hai Tuo with great interest, "What about the guy from the Gray family? He's not bad either."

"His astral power storage is too unremarkable." You Ying shook his head.

"What about the guy from the Dragon Tomb Academy?"

"He has abundant astral power, but his way of fighting is too simple and brainless."

"... That can be improved. What about the little guy who won ten victories first?"

"He has good tricks, but his strength isn't good enough."

"... What about the guy who punches all his opponents?"

“His punching technique isn’t bad. It seems to be some sort of lost technique. However, he’s obviously from the Heavenly Fist Mountain. The Old Boxer won’t give him away.”

“I don’t think so. It won’t hurt to ask. I heard that Amir recommended him to come here. The Heavenly Fist Mountain has its own recommendations, don’t they?”

“Never mind. I don’t like to deal with simpletons that only know how to punch. Fighting is an art; you need to be strong and to have full control over yourself, just like a sculptor.”

“... You’re too picky.”

Hai Tuo was lost for words. *You’re even pickier than the Sword God. Will you ever find a disciple?*

You Ying replied coldly, “I’m fond of engraving good jade, not rotten wood.”

“...”

Hai Tuo found it impossible to continue talking about that subject. Suddenly, he turned his head and looked up at the sky in surprise. “A friend is here.”

“Huh?” You Ying, however, narrowed his eyes and looked at a place in space.

Chapter 874: Arrival of Ascendant State Experts

In space, outside the void continent—

An unremarkable vortex appeared in the vast space, but then attracted everyone’s attention in the nearby warships and cruises when a person stepped out of it.

All of them exclaimed in shock when they clearly saw who the newcomers were.

Huan Lieshen!

Another Ascendant State cultivator had shown up!

The keen media nearby had already focused their cameras on him to stream on their planets.

Wow!

All the people watching the Internet streams throughout the galaxy were excited.

While the consecutive matches were splendid, they could become boring as time went on. However, the newcomer woke everyone up like a nuclear bomb.

It was hard to meet Ascendant State experts. They were the superior leaders, only second to Celestial experts!

“He left his home; he’s out instead of sleeping there?” Hai Tuo put on a smile upon seeing Huan Lieshen.

You Ying snorted, but didn’t offer any comments.

Huan Lieshen then glanced at the continent and then disappeared, to later reappear next to Hai Tuo.

“My lord, it’s been a while,” Huan Lieshen greeted him casually.

Hai Tuo smiled and said, "Have a seat. What brings you here?"

"No reason," said Huan Lieshen, choosing not to confess the truth to prevent that pair from competing with him.

Hai Tuo seemed to have seen through him. He asked thoughtfully, "Did one of them attract your attention?"

Huan Lieshen laughed and said, "How would that be possible?"

Hai Tuo glanced at him and chuckled, but he didn't ask further.

You Ying frowned every so slightly. He wasn't familiar with Huan Lieshen; they had even fought in the past. He speculated that the only reason the man would be willing to show up was because one of the contestants had caught his fancy.

At the same time—after Huan Lieshen's arrival—the atmosphere in the ten regions became even more heated.

The contestants also learned of the Ascendant's arrival through the announcement on the Internet. They knew he was a strong expert who had mastered an S-rated mysterious realm.

However, all the students of the five academies had weird expressions when they learned of his arrival. They thought of Su Ping at the same time.

Is Lord Huan Lieshen here for Su Ping?

Their hearts began to beat faster once they recalled that Su Ping had indirectly declined Huan Lieshen's invitation; they wouldn't have hesitated to accept such an invitation if given the chance.

After all, it was the invitation of an Ascendant State cultivator!

No matter how arrogant they were, their ultimate goal was to become great beings like him.

"Huan Lieshen is here! I feel that there's still hope for me!"

"Another Ascendant State expert is here! The odds of me being picked are now higher! I'm doing fine!"

"I must rise to the top hundred! I cannot admit defeat easily!"

The matches became even more intense.

Very soon, the tenth round was over, and 639 contestants secured ten victories!

It wasn't a bad thing for that many people to get ten victories out of hundreds of thousands of geniuses.

"The top hundred will probably be among them."

"The error margin will be within ten!"

"Five hundred of them will be eliminated. The odds of winning are one sixth. The top hundred are geniuses among geniuses!"

"I wonder if anyone will have a go at winning all the fifteen battles."

“That would be pointless. The lord didn’t promise any rewards to discourage them. After all, fifteen consecutive victories are dozens of times more difficult than ten consecutive victories!”

“Every consecutive victory means double the difficulty!”

“Trying my best for fifteen victories is pointless. It would only expose my trump cards and may result in me losing afterwards!”

There were discussions everywhere on the Internet once the ten rounds were over.

The Star State battle pet warriors and tamers emerged and analyzed the 639 winners; there was already a prediction of the top hundred on the Internet.

“Dragon Emperor, are you going to participate in the following rounds?”

In a certain region—two students of the Dragon Tomb Academy were gathered around Dragon Emperor. They happened to have been assigned to the same region.

Dragon Emperor snorted and said, “Of course not. It’s pointless. I would have considered striving for fifteen victories in other years, but not this time. I don’t want to run into that guy!”

Both students became gloomy as they thought of the same person.

Indeed; that man was capable enough to deserve Dragon Emperor’s wariness.

In the fifth region—

Su Ping took a break in the waiting area after his ten victories. He didn’t bother to take part in the following rounds; after all, he wouldn’t earn anything except popularity. He preferred to use the time to cultivate.

Exactly at that moment—Su Ping sensed something and looked up at space.

Green Lady is drawing close.

A gargantuan blue planet was rushing close like a meteorite; as fast as a warship, with a glittering tail behind it.

It instantly attracted the attention of a lot of people.

Above the continent—Hai Tuo and the others noticed it too and looked up in surprise.

“An imbalanced planet? Wait, there’s Ascendant State power covering it.” You Ying had keen senses, so he slightly narrowed his eyes.

Hai Tuo also raised his eyebrows. *An Ascendant pushed a planet over? Who is it?*

Huan Lieshen also looked at it. None of the Ascendants he knew had such a style. Only the Old Boxer had a similar quirk, but he only pushed the Heavenly Fist Mountain in space.

Whoosh!

Hai Tuo suddenly disappeared and then reappeared outside of the void continent. He knew that the newcomer would probably stop, but he wanted to be safe.

Very soon, the rushing planet entered the scope of all the media. Then, it quickly decelerated until it stopped above the void continent. A magnificent power was spread out, pushing the nearby warships away to create a channel.

The enormous planet stopped in the middle of the channel in front of Hai Tuo.

“Who are you? Why are you here?” Hai Tuo gazed at the planet with great interest and quickly focused his eyes on a store located on one of the planet’s continents.

He had scanned the entire planet; even the dust and the worms could be seen with clarity. However, only the store remained impenetrable.

The Ascendant State stranger had to be living there.

“I’m here for a friend. It’s none of your business.” A cold thought came from the planet.

Hai Tuo frowned a bit. *For a friend? Which friend? Huan Lieshen or You Ying?*

He turned back, only to find that You Ying and Huan Lieshen were still back there in the temple. He was puzzled; they would have approached to welcome her if they were acquainted.

Is her friend someone else?

He suddenly thought of the contestants on the continent.

Is it possible that this Ascendant’s friend is one of the little guys competing?

He was quite shocked by the thought; a Fate State cultivator could hardly be their student, not to mention a friend. *Does one of the contestants have a powerful background, to have forged a friendship with this Ascendant State expert?*

Or was this friendship beyond level and rank?

That was not uncommon. Some Ascendants would make good friends with ordinary people during their travels.

“I don’t think you’re from this galaxy, are you?” asked Hai Tuo curiously.

He knew all the local Ascendant State experts; most of them were his friends.

They wouldn’t have stayed there if they weren’t.

“Why? I can’t come here if I’m not a local?” said Green Lady with a cold tone; still, her voice was distant and beautiful. It sounded more enjoyable than music.

After having traveled to many worlds along with the Deity King, she had never concerned herself with peer Ascendant experts. All of them had to kneel before the Deity King.

However, things had changed. Each Ascendant could fight as a group with their battle pets, which made her feel wary.

Still, she wouldn't be caught if she was determined to run. Besides, she was fearless while staying in Su Ping's strange shop; if it was preventing her from going out, it could also stop other Ascendants from breaking in.

Furthermore, she vaguely felt as if she would be annihilated by an imaginable power if she actually left the store!

Going by the same logic, if anyone broke into the shop, they would also be annihilated!

That was why she wasn't scared of any Ascendant State experts.

"You certainly can." Hai Tuo narrowed his eyes, but he didn't burst out in fury. Being the lord of the galaxy would entail having pride, but also forgiveness. His position as lord would never be steady if he regarded anyone who was unfriendly as an enemy.

"If you're here for a friend, why don't you join us for a drink? We have a better view here," Hai Tuo invited her with a smile.

"That will be unnecessary." The Green Lady harshly turned him down.

Hai Tuo raised his eyebrows, feeling that she was too arrogant; she was showing no respect for any of the three Ascendants present. Was she confident of defeating all of them at once?

Or maybe, was she born with such a temper?

Or was she a Celestial's student from another galaxy?

Hai Tuo didn't try to find the truth. He didn't want to infuriate such an arrogant Ascendant State cultivator, but he wouldn't suck up to her, either.

Whoosh!

Hai Tuo returned to his seat in the garden.

"It seems that not everybody has respect for a lord," You Ying chuckled and said.

Hai Tuo glanced at him. The other two had also heard their conversation but neither got angry. Obviously, they were also wary.

After all, most people who were arrogant in this world had enough reason to.

"Do you think I don't have enough trouble? Why don't you deal with her?" snapped Hai Tuo.

You Ying chuckled but didn't press on the matter.

Huan Lieshen, however, thought quickly. He remembered that the little guy named Su Ping was from the Planet of Origin, a planet that was thought to be barren and abandoned, but still had living creatures.

He had no background, yet he had risen unimaginably on such a poor planet; there had to be someone backing him.

Did this unknown Ascendant come here because of him?

The more Huan Lieshen thought about it, the more likely it seemed. If she were Su Ping's master, then things would become tricky; but if they were just friends, he would still have a chance to get a disciple.

He has an Ascendant State expert as a friend. No wonder he turned down my offer so casually. Huan Lieshen was further reassured.

Su Ping behaved as if he would have met Ascendants on a frequent basis when they met.

Another round of exclamations was spread on the Internet when Green Lady arrived.

Another Ascendant State expert showed up after Huan Lieshen did, and she brought a planet over!

Because of a friend? Who is her friend?

Someone had soon concluded that her friend was neither You Ying nor Huan Lieshen, so it could only be one of the contestants.

Such a guess was both shocking and exciting.

For a Fate State warrior to call an Ascendant a friend was like a beggar calling an emperor brother. It was unbelievable!

"My planet..."

On a certain planet—a brawny middle-aged man couldn't help but moan. He didn't expect that his planet would actually travel all the way to the void continent.

"Haha. Rhea is really going to be famous this time."

"I never would have thought that the Ascendant State expert would be this loyal to Brother Heaven Destroyer. Brother Heaven Destroyer is truly extraordinary!"

"As expected of Brother Heaven Destroyer. No mere mortal could have come up with such an awesome nickname."

"Brother Heaven Destroyer truly has the power to destroy heaven. He's already a friend of an Ascendant State expert. What will he become?"

On the planet—members of the Alliance of Stars were gathered to watch Su Ping's battles.

Xingyue Shen'er was seated at the center with a weird expression. She had always been bold because she had her father to back her; she didn't know that Su Ping had such an intimate Ascendant State supporter too.

At this moment, a Star State member received a message. Delighted, he quickly said to Xingyue Shen'er, "Leader, I've found the last material."

Xingyue Shen'er's eyes glittered. She put on a smile and said, "Not bad. I'll remember your contribution, and I will also let him know."

"How are we going to send the materials to Brother Heaven Destroyer? He's still in the middle of the matches."

“We have to wait until the matches are over.”

“These are cultivation materials. Brother Heaven Destroyer can easily win all of Silvy’s matches. He doesn’t need the materials badly,” all the others said.

Chapter 875: Leaving Names on the Astral Peak

In the fifth region.

Su Ping looked up at the giant planet above his head. Although Rhea was not even as big as a region in the void continent, he was still able to see everything clearly thanks to the short distance.

He was more or less relieved to see that Green Lady didn’t pick up a fight with the local Ascendant State experts. If she had, he would have had no choice but to ask her to leave. After all, those Ascendant State experts couldn’t possibly break into the store, or they would end up getting killed...

Su Ping continued his cultivation without any worries.

He no longer participated in the matches even if his name was announced. He was considered to have lost by default when the time was up.

Su Ping summoned the Little Skeleton and merged with it.

The Little Skeleton was small, so it wouldn’t draw much attention to itself; after all, it didn’t have a threatening vibe.

Su Ping devoted himself to cultivating while being protected by his pet.

I’ve drawn the first Astral Painting, which is about war and conquest and gives my astral power a destructive nature. This power can damage regular laws even if I’m not using any. It seems that my astral power contains some sort of energy that is even more horrifying than the power of laws.

The second Astral Painting is the Eight Nine Astral Painting.

Su Ping was fully focused as he meditated. The Chaos Star Chart was the first technique that the system had given him; it was also his foundation, which was something not to be easily changed.

Since the system was grooming him, he believed that the technique was probably better than he thought.

Su Ping had already realized that the technique wasn’t simple. He was able to store dozens of times more astral power in his body after having grasped the first Astral Painting, thus rising higher in the Fate State. In terms of astral power storage, he believed he was one of the best of his level in the entire universe.

He felt that his combat ability would be doubled if he could grasp the second Astral Painting, if not further improved. By then, he would have the courage to even face Star Lords!

No matter the high level they had, he was still confident putting up a fight!

Boom!

Su Ping established an astral power barrier around him to block all probing; he sat inside and cultivated.

The cells in his body revolved like stars and unleashed great power, which slowly brought the Astral Painting under his control.

However, the drawing process was extremely slow; there was a strong repelling force in the Astral Painting, and he needed to understand the balance between cells instead of simply rearranging them. The Astral Painting would remain steady even without his maintenance once he reached that balance.

The competition continued while Su Ping cultivated.

Once the eleventh round began, more people secured ten victories for the ticket to the next phase. Dozens among the 639 players who got ten victories first were able to win, standing out from everyone else.

“He’s indeed not pressing on.”

In one of the regions—the young man who carried a wooden sword looked at Su Ping’s match and saw that his name was dim, which meant he had lost.

However, he knew that Su Ping would never lose; it was very likely that he had forfeited the match.

After all, Su Ping’s opponent was only a guy with eight victories. The young swordsman’s estimation told him that the former could have easily won.

It was impossible for that man to beat Su Ping.

“He doesn’t want fifteen victories?”

The other students of the five academies also noticed Su Ping’s actions and guessed what was on his mind; they sighed in regret.

They were eager to see Su Ping winning fifteen matches; they believed he was capable of achieving that, unless he was unlucky and ran into all the best geniuses.

After all, if a man with the potential to reach the Ascendant State couldn’t win in fifteen rounds, who could?

Is he saving his strength for the championship later? The idea occurred to some people; the more they thought about it, the more likely it sounded.

Su Ping was saving his strength for the galactic championship, which had interesting rewards.

Those rewards were substantial; fifteen victories didn’t really mean anything.

“Maybe he simply doesn’t want too much publicity, don’t you agree?” Someone speculated about Su Ping’s train of thought; They didn’t think that a man who refused Huan Lieshen’s invitation would be blinded by fame or fortune.

While the students of the five academies were focusing on Su Ping, the other geniuses were fighting each other and gathering information on each other.

They were indeed proud geniuses, but they weren’t idiots.

Besides, there were Ascendant State experts above their heads. They might not win their appreciation if they showed nothing but their strengths. The greatest enemy for any genius was not danger, but arrogance!

Time flew.

The fifteen rounds ended in the blink of an eye.

There were 32 contestants who secured fifteen victories; many speculated that they would emerge among the top ten later.

The young man carrying a wooden sword, Dragon Emperor and the others weren't among them.

All of them lost interest when Su Ping stopped fighting, as if the title would have lost all its value.

"It was so close. I almost lost."

In the fifth region—a girl had a pale face at the moment; she had struggled to secure ten victories and win the qualification for the next phase.

She turned her head and looked at one place where a nest of astral power was floating; she knew who was in there.

He won ten rounds easily, while I was almost eliminated. It's almost hopeless for me to make it to the top hundred. Is he really that much stronger than me?

Yuan Linglu was terribly bitter. Right after leaving the Blue Planet, she was found to have a special constitution of the lightning class; she was being carefully trained because of it.

Her instructor had told her that she was only expected to gain experience in that contest; it would be much better if she could advance, but it wouldn't matter if she couldn't. After all, they would not consider this as a lifelong failure.

But she still didn't want to lose.

She had wasted too much time on the Blue Planet when compared to the geniuses in her academy!

However, she was still stronger than many peer geniuses from her academy, which had made her feel proud.

But all her pride collapsed the moment she saw Su Ping.

Both had grown up on the barren Blue Planet, and Su Ping had wasted a lot of time too. But once he reached outer space he had managed to reach a tantalizing height that she could only look up to.

It wasn't until then that she finally realized that geniuses, or monsters, couldn't be restricted by the environment.

That man was a real monstrous genius that emerged once in ten thousand years!

I can't compare myself to him, but I can leave my name here anyway... Yuan Linglu's eyes glittered for a moment; then, she withdrew her gaze. She had already dropped the idea of competing with Su Ping; the

only thing that made her feel better was that she was still better than most, and that she had exceeded her instructor's expectations.

The fifteen rounds were over.

The fierce competitions in the ten regions reached a temporary end. Next up, those who had qualified would fight each other for the top hundred.

The top hundred would receive copious rewards and become famous throughout Silvy, all because they would later fight other top geniuses on behalf of their galaxy.

They would have a chance to fight in the finals if they distinguished themselves in the end; everyone in the Federation would be watching!

Even if they only showed up momentarily and only one percent of the audience remembered them, those watching would still be billions of people.

That was a horrifying popularity; no matter the era, popularity could be transformed into wealth.

If enough wealth was gathered, hiring and directing experts to fight for them was possible, including Star Lords!

After all, Star Lords also needed cultivation resources; wealth could be exchanged for rare resources. Even if a lot of money might be wasted, it wouldn't be a concern for those who were already rich enough.

If all the wealth in the Federation was gathered, it could even be used to hire an assassin and command him to kill an Ascendant State expert!

So, the first test in the upcoming match will be a survival test?

Su Ping woke up from his cultivation. He had been studying the second Astral Painting during his seclusion. He did learn a thing or two, but it was impossible for him to draw it out just yet.

Su Ping learned of the rules in the following match after browsing across the Internet.

At that moment—

A man appeared in the sky above the void continent; he was as dazzling as the sun and attracted everybody's attention.

He seemed to have a special charm that made everyone unconsciously look at him.

"First of all, congratulations to all the winners. Your performance was excellent; none of you disappointed me."

Standing to the right, Hai Tuo smiled and said, "The following selection will be held in three days. To ensure fairness, you can't leave this continent; use this time to take a good rest for the next three days."

A lot of people were in awe when they listened to the dominator of the galaxy.

They were already familiar with the rules; many of them weren't even listening.

They were only excited because they had the chance to look up at an Ascendant State expert.

“Now, the winners will leave their names on the Astral Peak; Your names will be sung over in Silvy!”

“Your legends will continue as long as the Astral Peak stands!”

Hai Tuo pointed his finger and a gap appeared on the land. A magnificent mountain slowly emerged.

The mountain was so high that it looked like a pyramid that pierced into the sky.

Names had been engraved on the smooth wall of the peak. Every name contained special power that could display their picture when scanned.

All the contestants had glittering eyes when they saw the mountain that recorded countless geniuses.

Those who failed could only look at them with jealous eyes.

Those who had only managed to get nine victories, however, were moaning in regret.

“Let’s begin.”

Hai Tuo gently pushed the Astral Peak to the center of the continent. The boundaries between regions were loosened at this moment, and the winners could fly out freely.

Those who had failed could also fly out, but nobody dared to leave their names on the Astral Peak.

They didn’t have the guts to cheat right under the nose of an Ascendant State expert.

Su Ping wasn’t really interested in the ceremony, but it was normal that such a gala had a celebration ritual. He then flew towards the Astral Peak.

Countless people in Silvy had dreamed about leaving their names on the Astral Peak. They were thrilled to watch the winners carve their names, as if they were somehow them.

There were portals in every region to teleport the contestants to the Astral Peak.

Su Ping engraved his name on a random wall on the mountain; he felt that the Astral Peak contained Ascendant State power.

Chances are that the mountain was immortal. Or rather, it was some sort of secret treasure.

Su Ping returned to his region and continued his cultivation after that.

The others weren’t as calm as Su Ping. They were excited as they searched for the best spots to leave their names; even Oasis Dragon King and Dragon Emperor were smiling and glittery-eyed after the deed.

The Astral Peak glowed after everyone carved their names and was eventually put away by Hai Tuo.

There was a three-day rest afterwards.

The three days were counted according to the federal calendar, Although the void continent remained bright, although the void continent remained bright throughout.

The audience outside could only watch the highlights of the winners during the three days.

On the other hand, many platforms were inferring and analyzing to propose who was going to be the next champion.

Su Ping wasn't interested in any of that. He only wanted to return to his own store and train, but the continent was blocked, so he had to stay in his region for the time being.

The rest of the contestants—both winners and losers—were mostly gathered in groups talking to each other.

Some were tending to their wounds.

“It's finally over. I failed, but now I feel that a load was taken off my shoulders.”

“Were you pressured, at all? You only got five victories. Didn't you already know that you were going to be eliminated?”

“I wonder who's going to become the champion. Let's place bets already. My gut feel is that the guys from our region have a huge potential. None of them showed their real strength. They were even forgotten in the popularity ranking.”

“We can only be part of the audience in the following match.”

The contestants who failed to pass were then teleported away from the void continent by the respective Star Lords in charge of their regions.

All of them returned to their groups.

Only the winners were left behind in the void continent.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye. On the third day, Hai Tuo soared in the continent's sky, raised his hand and waved it. The entire continent immediately began to shake, just like an earthquake.

Su Ping stopped cultivating and looked outside. He instantly noticed that the fifth region underneath his feet was moving!

Chapter 876: Wariness

Boom!

The entire continent was trembling. A magnificent power relocated the ten vast regions to combine them.

Outside of the continent was a boundless sea.

The audience witnessing this was shocked. The Ascendant State power was truly horrifying!

It seemed that Ascendants could easily change a world or destroy it!

“This is the Ascendant State!”

“No wonder it’s called the Ascendant State. They have indeed ascended!”

“Aren’t they just like the mythical gods? Gods once said ‘let there be light,’ and there was light. Gods said ‘let there be continents,’ and continents came to be...”

“Unimaginable...”

Not just the ordinary people, all the Star Lords were both awed and respectful.

It was the level they craved to achieve!

A new round of challenges began after the ten regions were combined.

According to the rules and information previously released by the authorities, everybody knew that the previous winners would fight each other on that merged continent!

This time, ninety percent of them would be eliminated!

A thousand winners would be left in the end to compete for the top hundred!

This was a cruel and harsh elimination. The previous fifteen rounds were fair and ordered in comparison. A chaotic battle would ensue!

Even the strong geniuses would be knocked out in advance if they were attacked collectively!

Not just the combat ability, but also the connections, the ability to hide, and other comprehensive abilities would be tested!

After all, the geniuses that would emerge victorious couldn’t simply be strong individuals. They were expected to travel the universe and explore dangerous mysterious realms later on.

Would there be fairness in those places?

They wouldn't get to survive if they weren't able to fend for themselves!

A Star Lord stepped up and recited the rules. Many more Star Lords emerged in front of the winners, followed by Star State assistants who held boxes of badges.

"Everybody is given an identity badge in the survival battle; you can rob others of their identity badges. Every badge equals one point. You'll pass the test if you're still alive in the end with at least ten points!

"The duration of this test will be 180 federal hours!

"Everybody, please line up and accept your identity badge."

"As I expected, nine thousand people will be eliminated this time!"

"Maybe more, if the contestants are tough enough."

Nobody disagreed with the rules, which had been in practice for many years.

The audience watching the stream were quite anxious; some had even placed bets on their favorite players. The contestants could be strong during the individual matches, but anything could happen in that chaotic battle.

"Finally, we're getting serious!"

"It's time to clear the garbage."

Some of the geniuses stretched their arms with a cold demeanor in the waiting area; they were satisfied with the rules.

Everybody claimed their identity badges soon after.

The badges were silver colored; each with the name of the contestant. They were made of special materials and covered with a special power.

Su Ping, however, detected the power of faith in his badge.

However, the pattern of that power seemed to have been slightly altered; it protected the badge so well that he probably couldn't damage it even if he punched it.

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Su Ping didn’t say anything else after their response, simply entering the same channel together.

Somewhere farther away, a few students of the Amir Royal Academy had gathered around Oasis Dragon King too. All of them looked at Oasis Gray after they saw Su Ping enter.

“Let’s get in there too.”

Oasis Gray’s eyes flashed. He flew to another channel; even though the continent had been obscured by the fog, he unconsciously hoped to keep a distance from Su Ping.

Although reluctant to admit his weakness, he didn’t want to lose in that important match.

Somewhere else, the young man who carried a wooden sword also noticed the channel that Su Ping had used. He frowned, then chose to enter through another channel.

At the same time—Holy King and Queen of the Seas, with another group of students of their academy, hesitated for a moment after seeing Su Ping’s direction and also chose another channel.

“We could join hands and fight him, but it’s not like we have to,” whispered Queen of the Seas.

“Let’s leave him to the end,” agreed Holy King.

He could crush anyone else in the contest if he joined hands with his nemesis Queen of the Seas this time; they could even take care of

Dragon Emperor and the Sword God's heir. However, it would be better to not fight a guy with Ascendant State potential.

"Humph!"

Far in the distance, Dragon Emperor noticed the movements done by Su Ping and the others. He snorted and led the students of the Dragon Tomb Academy to another direction.

Some among the audience noticed the different directions taken by the five academies but ignored Su Ping altogether. They thought that the five academies had chosen to keep a safe distance from each other because of mutual wariness.

Such a strategy provoked a heated discussion afterwards.

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There were also many Star State beasts which had been added to the mix.

Those beasts were currently running amok on the continent. They had just been uncaged, so they were obviously excited after seeing the vast plains.

“So many Star State beasts! They’re horrifying!”

“This is not a contest, it’s a slaughter!”

“It’s challenging enough to fight those beasts, and they have to resist attacks from the other contestants too. This truly is a demanding test!”

The audience watching the stream was worried and excited.

Su Ping and his companions stood in midair in a certain part of the continent. He scanned the environment once the fog was lifted; it had the ability to block his senses.

He expanded his perception scope and found that his senses were also being limited. The fog was already gone, but his detection scope had been reduced by dozens of times; he could barely detect anything further than what his naked eye could see.

Of course, it was partly because he had a much better eyesight than other people in his level did.

Of course, this sensory limitation was not normal.

“Just as I expected, our senses are being restricted.”

“They want us to fight each other blindfolded!”

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna tried spreading out their senses; they couldn’t help but look around, as they couldn’t detect anything in the far distance.

“We don’t have a lot of time. Let’s find the others,” said Su Ping.

Since some people were bound to be eliminated; it would be for the best if he was the one doing it.

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“I saw a lot of people teaming up before we entered; some teams have a hundred members. They want to finish off the other contestants before they fight each other.”

“Even if we stay here, we would still meet them sooner or later. We can always run if we can’t beat them,” said Su Ping.

Claesabe was rendered speechless and could only give Su Ping a bitter smile.

Ibetaluna said, “I agree. Competition is inevitable. Even if we hide until the end, we will still fail if we don’t have enough points; we can always escape if we run into a large gang.”

Claesabe chose to keep silent after hearing that. He also knew that Su Ping had the final say among the three of them.

“Let’s go then,” said Su Ping.

If he had to run for their lives, he believed that he was faster than most people, so he wasn’t afraid.

Once they were about to move, Su Ping suddenly saw a few men dashing over. He stopped and said, “Someone’s coming. Prepare to rob them.”

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna were astonished; they looked at the place where Su Ping was looking. They soon saw other contestants. Both of them were shocked, as they spotted the targets almost two seconds after Su Ping did.

Considering the targets’ speed, Su Ping’s range of perception was obviously much larger!

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He couldn't be eclipsed by a woman anyway.

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“He really is! We're truly unlucky!”

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The strangers who were ready to fight looked awful when they saw that Su Ping was standing still.

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“Come on out.”•

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The dragon roared and tore the void apart with law-covered claws.

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Boom!

Claesabe and Ibetaluna seized the opportunity to defeat the targets while leveraging the Inferno Dragon's deterrence. But then, right when they were about to launch deadly attacks, a mysterious power transported those contestants away; their identity badges were left floating in midair.

“They've been eliminated.”

Claesabe knew the rules; he looked at the high sky where the Ascendant State experts were watching.

The continent was covered with the power of the Ascendant State. Contestants would be relocated when death was certain. At the same time, they would lose their identity badge and qualification.

Su Ping wasn't surprised by the battle ending that quickly, but then he suddenly frowned and looked at a certain corner.

“Someone else is coming.”

Boom!

The entire continent was trembling. A magnificent power relocated the ten vast regions to combine them.

Outside of the continent was a boundless sea.

The audience witnessing this was shocked. The Ascendant State power was truly horrifying!

It seemed that Ascendants could easily change a world or destroy it!

“This is the Ascendant State!”

“No wonder it’s called the Ascendant State. They have indeed ascended!”

“Aren’t they just like the mythical gods? Gods once said ‘let there be light,’ and there was light. Gods said ‘let there be continents,’ and continents came to be...”

“Unimaginable...”

Not just the ordinary people, all the Star Lords were both awed and respectful.

It was the level they craved to achieve!

A new round of challenges began after the ten regions were combined.

According to the rules and information previously released by the authorities, everybody knew that the previous winners would fight each other on that merged continent!

This time, ninety percent of them would be eliminated!

A thousand winners would be left in the end to compete for the top hundred!

This was a cruel and harsh elimination. The previous fifteen rounds were fair and ordered in comparison. A chaotic battle would ensue!

Even the strong geniuses would be knocked out in advance if they were attacked collectively!

Not just the combat ability, but also the connections, the ability to hide, and other comprehensive abilities would be tested!

After all, the geniuses that would emerge victorious couldn’t simply be strong individuals. They were expected to travel the universe and explore dangerous mysterious realms later on.

Would there be fairness in those places?

They wouldn’t get to survive if they weren’t able to fend for themselves!

A Star Lord stepped up and recited the rules. Many more Star Lords emerged in front of the winners, followed by Star State assistants who held boxes of badges.

“Everybody is given an identity badge in the survival battle; you can rob others of their identity badges. Every badge equals one point. You’ll pass the test if you’re still alive in the end with at least ten points!

“The duration of this test will be 180 federal hours!

“Everybody, please line up and accept your identity badge.”

“As I expected, nine thousand people will be eliminated this time!”

“Maybe more, if the contestants are tough enough.”

Nobody disagreed with the rules, which had been in practice for many years.

The audience watching the stream were quite anxious; some had even placed bets on their favorite players. The contestants could be strong during the individual matches, but anything could happen in that chaotic battle.

“Finally, we’re getting serious!”

“It’s time to clear the garbage.”

Some of the geniuses stretched their arms with a cold demeanor in the waiting area; they were satisfied with the rules.

Everybody claimed their identity badges soon after.

The badges were silver colored; each with the name of the contestant. They were made of special materials and covered with a special power.

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Chapter 877: The Forbidden Mountain

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna—who had just finished their battles—were shocked after hearing what Su Ping said, instantly seeing that eight men were rushing at them!

"Crap!"

"We need to replenish ourselves!"

Their expressions changed; they quickly took healing drugs after seeing the newcomers.

Once the two had recovered, they flew back to join Su Ping.

“It’s Heller!”

“He’s shown remarkable performances, and is the twelfth on the popularity rank. A tough guy!”

Claesabe’s expression changed once more; she was going to ask Su Ping about the strategy to adopt when the latter simply issued a command.

“Rob them!”

Roar!!

An intimidating roar was heard; the Inferno Dragon flew over, its body blocking the sky. Lightning bolts were slithering on its purple body and golden scales, making it look extremely daunting.

“Well...”

Both of them were stunned. *He’s going to rob them without saying a word?*

Ibetaluna also took action. Being the strongest heir from the Knight King family, she always acted in a manly fashion even though she was a woman. She drew her spear and roared, “Kill them!”

Several demonic pets appeared next to her. Her family had ancient techniques to subdue demonic beasts, that was the reason why it was easy for them to domesticate such beasts.

After merging with a pet, she marched out first emitting a demonic vibe.

Claesabe was stunned for a second. Then, he also became solemn and summoned his pets to catch up with the Inferno Dragon.

“Huh?”

On their opposite side—Heller was leading seven men forward, until they heard the unexpected roar.

Two strangers were already moving toward them when they realized what was going on.

“Are they... students from the Amir Royal Academy?”

“Indeed. He’s Claesabe, third place on the Royal Rank, and one of the first guys to secure ten victories!”

Heller—standing in the middle—wasn’t at all panicked. He said coldly, “Let me handle him. You guys take care of that woman and the dragon. There’s another observer farther away that I can’t see clearly, but it doesn’t matter. He’s probably too scared to attack.”

“Great!”

All his companions were relieved to hear that and accepted the task.

It should be easy for the rest of them to beat the woman and the dragon if Claesabe, whom they were most afraid of, was kept occupied by Heller.

Heller was the acting leader, but they weren’t his lackeys. They had also secured ten victories anyway; none of them was a random contestant at this point.

If all of them were to fight against the same target, not even Heller himself would have a chance to beat them!

A battle soon broke out. Heller merged with his dragon and charged at Claesabe.

The other seven people directly went after Ibetaluna and the dragon. It was exactly then that a resounding dragon roar seemed to be coming from a deep abyss.

A majestic vibe arose and suppressed everything.

Heller, who was charging at Claesabe, changed his expression. There was a momentary surge of fear in his eyes.

The other seven people were even more stunned.

They had been intimidated only briefly, but Ibetaluna seized the chance and beat one of them. The man was relocated when her spear was about to pierce through the opponent's body, only leaving his identity badge behind.

The shock sobered them up, not expecting the dragon to be that horrifying.

All of them had the impression of seeing a mountain of bodies and a giant dragon that eclipsed the sun, although briefly. The roar was the dragon's mental attack that was able to deter inferior creatures.

"As expected of Brother Su's best pet!"

"That is horrifying!"

Claesabe and Ibetaluna were also shocked by the dragon's strength, but they quickly became excited. They could fight without worries since Su Ping was watching their backs.

They knew that the Inferno Dragon was as strong as Dragon Devil!

The latter was one of the best contestants at the moment, only second to the top geniuses such as Dragon Emperor and the Sword God's heir.

"What a strong dragon!"

"Is it Fist King's pet?"

"I thought he would personally take action, but he only sent out his pet."

A lot of the people watching the stream saw this; they were surprised and excited.

On the Blue Planet—

Ji Yuanfeng, Qin Duhuang, Xie Jinshui and the others were thrilled to see the Inferno Dragon.

All of them had watched that dragon grow up.

It used to act as mascot and watchdog in Su Ping's shop.

To think it would grow up in the vast Federation with the power to awe the monstrous geniuses!

“It's grown so much by Boss Su's side, even though it only has a ninth-rank bloodline!”

“Boss Su never replaced it with another pet. They share a strong bond, wouldn't you say?”

“Boss Su owns a pet store. Have you noticed that Boss Su has been using the same pets all this time?”

“His pets aren't restricted by their bloodlines? Someone told me that if a pet is close enough to its master, it can go through special evolutions that would allow them to exceed their bloodline restrictions!”

Everybody was excited as they learned something new about pets.

The Inferno Dragon was a local pet of the Blue Planet that only had a ninth-rank bloodline; it wasn't worth mentioning, at all. Those of Legend rank weren't interested in such pets... And yet, Su Ping was making it fight in a universal contest, letting it shine.

Battles were taking place everywhere on the void continent.

Su Ping's battle had only attracted some of the audience's attention, but their total number was still fairly large. After all, everybody across the galaxy was watching the competition; only the adventurers who were busy exploring treasure troves had no time to spare for this.

A few minutes later—

Heller, who was still fighting against Claesabe, roared and unleashed a ball of divine power that pushed him away. He looked at his faltering companions and declared angrily, "You will answer for this!"

He turned around and fled without hesitation as he made that declaration.

It was pointless for him to stay. The woman was not to be underestimated; she was only a tad weaker than Claesabe. The dragon was even more terrifying!

Claesabe changed his expression and roared, "Stop!"

He wanted to chase after Heller, but the latter had already dashed into the tertiary space.

"Freeze!"

Exactly at that moment, as if time were frozen, Heller's movement was paused in the tertiary space. His eyes widened with fear.

In the meantime, a person appeared in front of him and gently laid his hand on his face.

The hand contained such a horrifying power that it seemed about to destroy his body. That was the aura of laws!

Heller's heart pounded. He almost shrieked in fear, feeling that his own laws were being thawed and suppressed!

He was going to die! For real!

It was the only thing he could think of!

However, he was unable to move. The space around him had been solidified by a law of space extremely hard to grasp!

Heller was relocated the next moment. His body disappeared right after Su Ping's hand touched him; his identity badge was left behind.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows and returned to the outside world with the badge.

“What happened?”

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna were shocked. They only saw that the space had been caged and then Heller was relocated, which meant that the Ascendant State power that was enshrouding the continent had determined that he was doomed!

Is he so strong that I can't even understand his power? Claesabe was stupefied; Su Ping was becoming more intimidating in his heart.

“Let's go and keep looking.”

Su Ping raised his hand and collected the badges. His total badges were ten, counting the one he had at the beginning.

Therefore, he would qualify as long as he looted nine badges.

However, his two companions had been following him and done him a favor; Su Ping decided to help them gather enough identity badges too.

Claesabe snapped out of his shock and quickly followed his instructions.

He no longer dared to question Su Ping's requests. To think that Heller, who had fought hundreds of rounds with him, couldn't even flee from this guy.

He was definitely the toughest figure present!

He was definitely what someone with Ascendant State potential should be like!

...

Countless people saw Su Ping finishing off Heller and were thrilled by the outcome. It was unfortunate that others were distracted by other fights.

Heller had performed remarkably, having earned a place in the popularity rank, but he was helpless before Su Ping. The gap between them was too wide!

Many realized that Su Ping had not thrown any punches this time. Instead, he used a power that they couldn't understand.

A Star Lord concluded that Su Ping had made use of a law of space he had a good grasp of, preventing Heller from running and suppressing him.

Su Ping's name appeared on the champion prediction listing when the fight ended, right in eighth place!

He had previously shown his massive strength by defeating all his opponents with one punch. He then displayed his potential to become the overall champion when he used that law of space!

Still, he was quickly pushed to the eleventh spot soon after.

In other places on the continent—several fierce battles were taking place, which attracted most people's attention.

The contestants who won the earlier battles had easily shown new powers during that survival match. Two experts who were both high on the popularity rank had used impressive pets and secret techniques in one of the battles, which quickly improved their positioning on the champion prediction ranking.

The outbursts here and there were thrilling to the audience.

Time flew.

Su Ping and his team met five waves of enemies in the following hour. One of them was a lone wolf as strong as Heller, but he only had the option to flee due to the collective onslaught of attacks, ultimately being knocked out of the competition when Su Ping took action.

The man definitely had a chance of rising to the top hundred when merely considering combat ability.

Even if he was unlucky, he could at least make it to the top two hundred.

Still, he had been eliminated in only an hour after the survival battle started.

“You have enough identity badges too.”

Both Claesabe and Ibetaluna had also managed to gather ten identity badges after several robberies. The three of them had met the requirement; all they needed to do was to endure the rest of the 180 federal hours.

Both of them were excited as they nodded to Su Ping.

Although exhausted and having been mildly hurt in the previous battles, none of them had ever been in any real danger, given that Su Ping had offered a hand as needed; they had nothing to worry about.

The pair was quite happy, since they had collected enough identity badges in only an hour.

Heller and the proud lone wolf were as strong as Claesabe, but both of them had been thrown out in advance; Su Ping’s teammates were happy for having chosen to follow him.

Even though they were reasonably strong, they could have run into other tough figures, eventually being kicked out.

In particular, Dragon Emperor, the Sword God’s heir, and Holy King of the Hugh Mia Academy were hostile to Amir’s participants. They would not go easy on them.

“Let’s find a place to take a break,” said Su Ping.

He saw a hill that was only five hundred meters high, fairly steep and covered in plants. He flew towards it.

Su Ping reached the hilltop and then waved his hand like a blade to clear the weeds at the top, revealing the smooth rocks underneath.

Su Ping then descended and sat down to take a rest.

Claesabe and Ibetaluna looked at each other in surprise, not expecting that Su Ping would choose to take a break there.

Considering his strength, Su Ping could end up gathering a hundred identity badges!

Is he saving his strength for the championship?

Both of them speculated; they looked at each other and then followed Su Ping's lead.

They had gathered enough identity badges anyway; they would only need to wait.

"Brother Su, since we're taking a break, would you like some wine and food?" Seeing that the hilltop was desolate, Claesabe took out comfortable cushions and chairs, as well as barbecue and wine.

Su Ping looked at them and smiled. "You seem to be well prepared. Why not?"

Given his willingness, Claesabe's smile showed even more delight as he quickly offered a bottle of wine he cherished.

Ibetaluna, on the other hand, raised her brows too and said, "I brought some delicious wine made by the seasoned brewers in my family. It tastes great. I wonder if Brother Su would care to sample it."

She then waved her hand, and an exquisite bottle of wine flew out.

Chapter 878: A Hill of Badges

Su Ping opened the bottle of wine and filled the cups of his companions.

“So delicious!”

Claesabe drank the wine and enjoyed it.

Ibetaluna, however, looked at Su Ping; her smile became even brighter when she saw the satisfaction on his face.

The audience who saw them via the live stream were dumbfounded to see them enjoying the food and wine on the hill.

It was a survival battle. Even if that trio had gathered enough badges, they should still hide themselves carefully!

“Do they consider themselves sure winners?”

“They’re too bold. Look, someone is moving towards them from the east. They haven’t noticed it yet!”

“Someone’s on the west side too. They’ll be meeting them soon!”

The audience had a general view of the entire void continent; they were able to see that Su Ping’s team was about to be caught in danger. And yet, they were still unaware, and merely focused on talking and laughing. The audience was worried about them.

“Huh?”

Su Ping raised his eyebrows and looked at his west side, only to see a dozen men running in his direction. Two of them seemed wounded; they had obviously just gotten out of a fight.

“Enemies!”

Claesabe and Ibetaluna quickly drew their weapons and looked at the west warily.

The strangers then saw Su Ping’s team, too; one of them recognized Su Ping and quickly waved his hand to stop his companions.

“That guy is Fist King, from the popularity rank!”

“I didn’t expect to run into a bada** here. Boss, what do we do?”

“They’re outnumbered. No need to fear if we have to fight!”

“Look! They’re having a picnic! Who are the other two guys? Do they have a death wish?”

“They’re too arrogant. Those who only have brawn but no brains like them die very quickly in this survival battle!”

The dozen strangers gazed at Su Ping’s team coldly; some were vigilant, while others were eager to fight them.

The young man leading the team frowned and thought for a moment, then shook his head. “Don’t bother. The survival match has just begun. Those guys definitely have trump cards, or they wouldn’t be eating and drinking there. It wouldn’t be worth the effort to get their badges!”

“Indeed.”

“Even if we beat them, we’d only get three badges. That’s too few.”

The others considered and quickly agreed with what the young man said.

They preferred to look for easier targets, instead of fighting against Fist King who was on the popularity rank. Nobody had seen his real strength in the earlier matches. It wasn’t wise to rob such a guy.

The dozen men turned around and flew in another direction after their discussion.

This came as a shock to the audience; none of them had expected that the team would back out when they had the advantage in numbers!

Wow!

Fist King’s newfound fans—attracted to him because of his impressive performances—were letting out cheers of excitement.

That was exactly the intimidation mustered by Fist King!

Very soon, some people flew over from the east side; they also saw and recognized Su Ping.

All the contestants remembered the faces of the top ten of the popularity rank, and regarded them as their greatest enemies.

“That’s Fist King!”

“He’s so arrogant, to be eating and drinking here!”

“Have they gathered enough identity badges?”

“Probably. Otherwise, they would’ve attacked us the moment they saw us. So to speak, each of them is carrying at least ten identity badges...”

“Let’s rob them!”

“Whether or not he’s Fist King, we outnumber them and we’re all Fate State warriors. I don’t believe that we’re any weaker than them!”

Soon after, the team of thirty men coming from the east side marched toward Su Ping.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows and swallowed the succulent dragon meat in his mouth, before he said, “We have a problem.”

Claesabe and Ibetaluna saw the strangers in the east too and stood up nervously. Their hearts were heavy when they heard the word “problem.” They wondered if they had been too careless.

“Stay here. Don’t let the dust get on the food,” Su Ping said to Claesabe.

Claesabe, who was about to ask if they should run away, was stunned. He asked, “I—I’m going to stay here?”

I’m being asked to defend the food and drinks in such an emergency?

“I’ll be right back,” said Su Ping.

He didn't want to act. After all, he had gathered enough identity badges, and he wouldn't get any bonuses from the additional ones he could gather.

But, since there was a problem, he had to take care of it.

Roar!!

The Inferno Dragon rushed out of the vortex next to Su Ping and roared.

The power of laws surfaced on its body, forming shields and golden scales to protect it.

The defensive laws had been cast by the Dark Dragon Hound that had stepped out of a vortex right after the dragon.

Su Ping summoned the Vast Sky Thunderous Dragon and merged with it, then charged at the strangers.

Su Ping already had much more astral power than any other Fate State being after condensing the first Astral Painting. The astral power's force field gave him a rough idea about how strong those people were.

The astral power of those thirty opponents combined couldn't compare to his.

That was the ghastly evolution brought forth by the Astral Painting!

"Sword!"

Su Ping stepped out and broke into the fourth space. Torrents instantly surged toward him, but they seemed to have been deviated by spatial powers, brushing past him when they approached him.

Su Ping rushed to the strangers after only one instant in the fourth space.

He broke out of the fourth space and slashed with a sword made of astral power and the power of laws.

Bang!!

The sword aura swept out and eclipsed the sun. The daunting power of laws flooded out, tearing space apart and causing lightning, tornadoes and holy light. Twenty laws had been combined in the attack!

One move and ghosts cried!

The strangers were going to attack. They were caught unprepared when Su Ping suddenly emerged in front of them and drew his sword.

The man known as Fist King is actually a swordsman?

When his sword slashed out, the eight men in the lead instantly had the premonition of death. With hair standing on end, their blood seemed to be frozen. They were completely unable to react.

Whoosh!

Following the sword's wake, the air was cut apart and the fourth space was revealed; streaming cameras had also been set up there.

It could be seen that the wandering spatial power in the fourth space had been destroyed, and a dark vacuum was left in the place where the sword had cut.

The dozen men on the two sides of the sword aura disappeared; they weren't killed, only relocated, leaving a dozen jittering identity badges behind.

"Well..."

"W-What the heck?"

The remaining strangers were in shock, eyes almost popping out. *That single attack had the power to kill a dozen people?*

His one attack could have instantly killed a dozen of the top geniuses who had secured ten victories!

That level of geniuses would have been popular in any organization in the outside world. They were destined to become Star Lords someday!

“!!”

Ibetaluna—who had been gritting her teeth at the moment—was so shocked at what she saw that she had no idea what to say.

Am I hallucinating because of a mental attack from the enemy?

She was stunned, suspecting that her mind had been invaded.

In the outside world—the billions of stream viewers fell quiet.

They knew that Su Ping was very strong. He had defeated his opponents and secured ten victories while using no weapons, only one mysterious fist technique.

They didn't expect that Su Ping's sword would actually be even more terrifying!

Or maybe, is he actually a swordsman?

“Huh?”

Above the void continent—Hai Tuo turned his head to one particular direction and was surprised by what he saw. “That sword attack was quite good!”

“Indeed. Although the combination of laws was riddled with flaws, it's quite impressive that he managed to grasp and combine that many rules when he's only in the Fate State!”

Nearby, the taciturn You Ying narrowed his eyes solemnly and looked in the same direction.

They hadn't been paying attention to that place, but Ascendants had extremely keen senses, so they noticed Su Ping's outburst the moment he launched it.

You Ying had just realized his judgement oversight.

However, it wasn't exactly his fault; it was only because that brat had hidden himself all too well.

Compared to his sword arts, his fist techniques were obviously secondary.

"We can rule out that he's the Old Boxer's student."

"The Old Boxer would never allow his students to be distracted. He would have killed them if he found that they were practicing sword or saber techniques."

"I didn't expect to see such an interesting little guy. He has the potential to rank at the top in the Golden Star Zone."

Both Hai Tuo and You Ying were praising Su Ping's performance.

It was a remarkable accomplishment for a Fate State warrior. If taught well, he could grow into a strong Star Lord. With any luck, he might even reach the Ascendant State!

Next to them, Huan Lieshen frowned ever so slightly, although he tried to remain calm. He secretly heaved a sigh, knowing it was impossible to keep the secret forever. That little guy was so brilliant that he would garner a lot of attention even by merely showing some of his strength.

He flashed a smile upon hearing Hai Tuo's and You Ying's praises. If those two guys ever found out that the kid was much more capable than that, would they run to him right away to make him a disciple?

No, I need to promise him something better. Right, I heard that he was collecting some sort of cultivation materials... Huan Lieshen's eyes flashed as the idea popped up.

In the meantime...

On the void continent—Su Ping slashed with his sword and stepped forward again.

He moved swiftly as he waded through laws. He approached a young man in a brutal manner and crushed his laws, then slashed again, now going for the young man's head.

The young man narrowed his eyes, not even having the time to summon his pets. He also thought that it would be pointless to summon them. The pressure he felt was such that he thought he was facing a peak Star State expert!

Whoosh!

The young man disappeared, leaving an identity badge behind.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows but didn't think much about it. He moved on to the next target.

The others were terrified. They had every reason to feel that way after seeing him eliminate a dozen of their companions with one attack.

Still, they were top geniuses anyway, not only strong but also determined. Someone roared, "We can't run! Let's attack together and kill him!"

The others reached the same conclusion. Failure would be much more brutal if they chose to retreat at that point. They had to fight!

Their only hope is that Su Ping's previous attack was his ultimate skill, a move he couldn't use again in a while.

But they fell into despair. Su Ping waved his sword; the weapon shone like golden flames and a sky-piercing lightning bolt, illuminating the sky within a radius of a hundred kilometers.

Eight more men were relocated after the flash, leaving their identity badges behind.

The Inferno Dragon and the Dark Dragon Hound moved closer to him at that moment. Su Ping then marched onward with them.

"Run!"

The rest of the strangers collapsed and fled in panic, each running in different directions.

Su Ping casually stepped into the fourth space, which was deeper and darker. After walking dozens of meters, he stepped out and appeared in front of a young man who had dashed for hundreds of meters in the tertiary space.

Seeing Su Ping emerging from a deeper space, the young man begged desperately, "I'm willing to surrender. I'll fight for you until the match is over. Please spare me..."

"I don't need you."

Su Ping simply turned him down and his sword slash fell.

The young man was gone, a shaking identity badge was the only item left behind.

Su Ping took the identity badge out of the tertiary space and continued the hunt.

Soon, the others were finished off one after the other.

With the Inferno Dragon, the Dark Dragon Hound and Ibetaluna stopping them, none of them was able to flee.

The team collapsed in only five minutes, leaving no survivors. Su Ping waved his hand and gathered their identity badges, being thirty-two in total.

Su Ping looked at them and tossed them to the foot of the hill casually.

"Let's head back to the party," Su Ping said and retrieved the Dark Dragon Hound and the Inferno Dragon.

Ibetaluna was completely stunned. She couldn't help but ask as she looked at the identity badges, which had been stabbed to the foot of the hill like nails, "You're not keeping those?"

“Haven’t we already gathered enough?”

“Well...”

Ibetaluna didn’t know what to say. Indeed, they had gathered enough. *But wouldn’t it be a sign of his strength if he gathered more identity badges?*

Chapter 879: Over

Claesabe was shocked to see Su Ping back.

A team of more than thirty people had been single handedly destroyed by Su Ping in a manner of minutes?

Su Ping had also used a sword, not his fists, as everybody thought that was his forte...

Who could say that Su Ping’s best techniques were fist-related at the moment?

Claesabe came up with a bitter guess. *Is it possible that he used his fist only because his opponents were too weak?* Both of them were geniuses with the same cultivation level. *Is the gap between us truly this massive?*

The audience focusing on the live feed thought the same.

Su Ping’s performance had attracted the attention of many more people once the battle started. He then quickly rose to the top of the champion prediction rank in the end!

So strong!

He destroyed a team of thirty men. Everybody was also able to tell that he wasn’t even trying his best!

“Boss Su is truly as horrifying as usual!”

“Our lord is invincible!”

All the viewers on the Blue Planet were excited to see that. Even Ji Yuanfeng and Qin Duhuang were thrilled; their eyes were bloodshot due to the excitement.

“Fist King? I think he should be called Sword King!”

“What Sword King? Didn’t you see that his sword was made of astral power? It means that he wasn’t carrying any sword!”

“Damn, who knows what he’s really good at?”

Those who had noticed Su Ping’s actions were discussing more heatedly than ever.

A Star Lord stepped up and said during their discussion, “His attack contained the power of twenty laws, and yet the twenty laws were combined quite neatly. It means that he hasn’t reached his limits yet; I believe he’ll become a Star Lord shortly after he reaches the Star State!”

Everybody was shocked to hear that.

They knew that the geniuses who had advanced with ten victories had mostly reached the limits of the Fate State—

They only needed an emerging thought to make a breakthrough to the Star State, but they had held themselves back to avoid breaking through to higher levels.

The Star Lord was implying that Su Ping could soon reach the limits of the Star State as soon as he stopped containing himself, and even become a Star Lord soon after!

Even the Star State was still very far away for the other Fate State warriors, not to mention the Star Lord State; the gap between them was too wide!

“Are all the geniuses that have emerged from countless planets like him?”

“It’s true that I don’t live in the same universe as those monsters.”

“I’m a Star State expert. I have to admit that I can’t defeat him...”

Su Ping received a lot of attention because of his overwhelming strength, and tons of new fans. Strength was revered on every planet of the Federation; Su Ping’s dominant approach had won the admiration of many people.

If Su Ping were to advertise any product, it would be sold out immediately!

On the hilltop, Claesabe swallowed and said carefully, “B-Brother Su, why did you drop those identity badges?”

Su Ping said casually, “We don’t need them. If anyone passes by and needs them, they can consider this as a gift from us.”

Claesabe was lost for words; he would have kept all of the identity badges, so that he would shock anyone at the end of the challenge.

“Come on. Let’s keep drinking,” Su Ping replied with a smile.

Claesabe and Ibetaluna looked at each other and sat down awkwardly with Su Ping. The place was open and dangerous; they would be relatively safe in Su Ping’s company as long as the guys on the popularity rank didn’t attack them together.

Claesabe took a mouthful of wine and remarked, “Brother Su, you’re truly much stronger than us.”

Ibetaluna gazed at Su Ping with a weird light in her eyes. She had always been proud as a descendant of the Knight King family, never lowering her head, not even before Oasis Dragon King. However, she was deeply impressed by Su Ping’s strength, and she began to have thoughts.

“Just train harder. You’ll be as strong as me,” Su Ping encouraged him.

Claesabe gave a bitter smile and chose not to continue. If training meant everything, everybody could be a genius.

He had always been the one who comforted others. And yet, he was the one being comforted on that day.

Time flew by.

Soon, another person moved over the mountain, then noticed Su Ping and the others.

Someone ran off in fear after seeing Fist King; still, some intended to surround him with their advantage in numbers.

More and more identity badges were piled at the foot of the hill like nails.

The contestants on the continent had lost access to the Internet and were unable to communicate amongst themselves, my impression of Su Ping was outdated.

However, the people watching the stream were shocked.

A hill of identity badges had been heaped underneath Su Ping.

There had been more than five hundred of them!

After all, almost eight groups had shown up to attack Su Ping; the largest of them had more than eighty members. This includes a couple of remarkable geniuses and three people who had made it to the top twenty on the popularity rank. Such a lineup could have been enough to defeat a lot of lone wolves and smaller groups in the survival test.

However, they were soon defeated by Su Ping; the outcome was to be expected, not suspenseful, at all.

Just like before, he annihilated all of them with his sword, and both his dragon and dog.

On the hilltop—Su Ping kept eating, drinking and chatting with his teammates. The interesting events they talked about gave Su Ping a deeper level of understanding of the Federation.

“There’s 120 hours to go. We’ve just endured a third of the total.”

Claesabe checked his watch and said, “Fewer people are coming this way. They must have learned to hide.”

“Indeed. It’s been five hours since anybody stopped by.”

Ibetaluna nodded; many people had encountered them. Most of them chose to back off after seeing Su Ping. The rest took advantage of their numbers and attacked. All of them had paid a gory price for their decision.

Many of them were strong enough to make it to the top hundred, yet they were knocked out by Su Ping.

“They could have picked up the identity badges at the foot of the hill, yet they had to go and try to rob us.” Su Ping shook his head. He had told those people to pick the badges at the foot of the hill, but they thought it was a trap so they chose to attack him. He had to react.

Claesabe smiled bitterly. Those contestants had no idea that Su Ping had no interest in those badges. Some of them also wanted to become famous by defeating Su Ping the Fist King. This resulted in them losing everything.

While they talked, a young man wearing a purple robe was moving with three other people. They were only a team of four, yet they swaggered in the high sky fearlessly.

“What a shame. I haven’t seen him yet.”

The young man looked around regretfully. He was trying to find Oasis Gray.

He had defeated the guy before; he was planning on knocking him out again during that match. He despised the guy for acting snobbish in his presence even after having being defeated in the past.

Suddenly, a woman in the team said, "Someone's up there."

The woman had golden pupils and another pair of vertical pupils within them, which was quite weird.

After hearing what the woman said, the young man asked quickly, "How many? Do we know them?"

"Three. One of them is the one called Fist King from the popularity ranking. The other two are among the top hundred too," replied the woman quickly.

"Fist King?"

"Isn't he the guy who finishes off his opponents with one punch? My master told me he's from the Heavenly Fist Mountain."

"He's a tough guy, but we should be able to take him down if we work together, right?"

All three of them were deep in thought, just about to fight them.

However, the woman came to a sudden halt exactly at that moment.

"What's the matter?"

The young man in the lead was stunned; he also decided to stop.

"D-Don't go there." The woman changed her expression in shock.

"There's something wrong with them. There's a lot of identity badges near their hill."

"A lot of identity badges?" The young man in the lead was stunned.

"Aren't they what we need? Let's take them all. We already have enough, but the more we have, the better we'll prove that we're the best Fate State cultivators in the galaxy!"

“There’s hundreds of them...”

The woman could barely speak. Her pupils contracted right then, as she put on an expression of disbelief and fright. Her hazy golden eyes noticed that the young man who was drinking on the hill suddenly turned his head and locked eyes with her, in a casual and cold manner; it was as if he were right next to her. He looked her dead in the eye from that distance!

The guy noticed me!

How is that possible?

The golden light in the woman’s eyes was gone, and they turned brown. She urged in shock, “Let’s go! Something is seriously wrong with that guy!”

She was the first to turn around and flee after that.

Her teammates were definitely surprised; they had never seen her frightened like that.

They had no chance to ask, so they quickly followed her. It wasn’t until they were hundreds of kilometers away that the leader finally asked, “What did you see?”

The woman stopped and breathed heavily. She looked back with golden pupils and saw nobody was chasing them. She finally took a breath of relief. “Fist King is terrifying!”

“What?”

Her teammates looked at each other in bewilderment.

“Fist King was sitting on that hill where the hundreds of badges were lying around! They were drinking and talking without trying to hide. They were obviously waiting to kill anyone who went after them. Also, the guy noticed my presence when I could hardly see him clearly!” said the woman in haste, as if she couldn’t wait to spill out everything she saw.

Her teammates were stunned by the revelation. The leader frowned and asked, "Are you sure?"

Hundreds of identity badges? Did the guy defeat hundreds of opponents?

Even if he hadn't, it was still quite shocking for him to have gathered that many.

"I am!"

The woman nodded solemnly. "It would have been hard if we did try to challenge them. Even if we could win, we would have to pay a heavy price. Someone might have been knocked out of the match!"

Everybody fell silent after hearing that.

A man who had looted hundreds of identity badges was indeed strong enough to eliminate one of them.

"I didn't know that Fist King was this difficult to deal with. Never mind. Let's just avoid him." The leader frowned angrily, but decided to consider the big picture.

They had robbed everybody they had run into, never backing out from a fight, but they ended up fleeing at the sight of Su Ping in the distance. Those who watched this happen on the stream were in awe of Su Ping.

Time flew by.

Those who were still alive had learned to hide and move prudently.

Su Ping attacked less and less frequently; a lot of people had run away in fear the moment they saw the stack of identity badges near him.

Those badges were like bones buried at the foot of the hill. It was scary.

The survival test was soon coming to an end.

In the last two federal hours—

More people were active at the moment; many of the ones who had been hiding didn't have enough identity badges. They had to take their chances towards the end of the test.

Soon after, someone noticed the identity badges next to Su Ping.

"Two more to go!

"I only need two more badges to advance!"

A young man was hiding in a shadow in the secondary space; the shadow was so hazy that it would be barely noticeable even if someone flew past him.

He was currently peeping at the hill in front of him through a needle-point hole.

There were plenty of badges at the foot of the hill.

He hesitated for a long time as he looked at the hilltop.

The three participants up there were cultivating at the moment; it seemed that nobody had noticed the place.

However, he knew that the badges were probably a trap.

Otherwise, who would have dropped them instead of pocketing them?

The countdown was nearing the fated zero, so the young man couldn't wait any longer; he merged with his pet and activated a forbidden skill he knew.

Whoosh!

He blinked and reached the foot of the hill like a ghost. He grabbed three identity badges and flashed away, breaking into the tertiary space.

He instantly traversed a thousand kilometers!

Once he was at a safe distance, the young man finally returned to the secondary space and covered himself with the fog again.

He looked at the three identity badges in his hand, almost unable to believe he had successfully stolen them.

The tokens carried a special energy; they couldn't be forged.

He scanned the environment and found that the trio didn't make a move to chase after him. He was ecstatic, not expecting that his plan could really work out!

Chapter 880: Gathering of Ascendant State Experts

On the hilltop.

Claesabe had been cultivating. He sensed something and turned to look, only to find that two of the identity badges were missing; he looked at the void in the distance with white flames in his eyes.

“Someone stole two of them? Quite bold I'd say.”

He looked at Su Ping, noticing that he was still deep into his cultivation. So, he simply let the matter go. Su Ping had surely detected the thief too, but he didn't chase after him; this showed that he really didn't care about the additional badges.

Time is almost up. The ones remaining have to take their chances. We shall see who has the courage to come here. Claesabe suddenly thought that the bunch of badges down below represented courage; those who dared to show up would get their badges.

Those who were invested in the stream noticed this too; their surprise triggered discussions.

“Fist King simply ignored him. He didn't notice him?”

“What Fist King? Shouldn't you call him Sword King?”

“Tsk. How do you know he’s a swordsman? Maybe he knows many other techniques.”

“Sword King surely was too into his cultivation to pay it any mind.”

Time passed, and a couple of thieves emerged to steal the identity badges they needed from the base of the hill.

Neither of them dared to steal too many. They were anxious enough as it was, going to that place; they would only take the ones they needed.

The last hour arrived; Su Ping and his teammates woke up from meditation, choosing to simply wait for the test to end.

That was also the most competitive hour.

Some people approached the hill while hiding in the deeper spaces.

“Is that the forbidden mountain?”

“It’s truly incredible. There are badges everywhere. It’s horrifying!”

“All the people who finished getting the quota are now in hiding, while those who dare to swagger around are the top experts. So, the ones without enough badges have to try their luck here.”

“I heard that Dragon Emperor and the Sword God’s heir chose to avoid the place. Can those people really steal those badges from him?”

A lot of people were anxiously peeping at the hill as they considered their odds.

Most of them stopped peeping and abandoned the plan once Su Ping woke up; they simply turned around and went to search in other places.

With any luck, they might find badges elsewhere.

It would be suicide, trying to steal them right from under Su Ping’s nose.

Judging from the number of badges, Su Ping was probably both strong and good at stopping others from running away.

It wouldn't be a smart choice to race that guy!

All the geniuses were wise and vigilant; they retreated after some consideration.

They would have had a go at it if Su Ping were still meditating, but the place had turned into a forbidden land the moment he woke up!

An hour passed by quickly.

Battles and competitions happened everywhere in the continent. Teams all fell apart and their members attacked each other. After all, most of them didn't have enough identity badges for everyone to advance, so they had to resort to pillaging each other.

There was no trust in the temporary teams; they had been established for returns, and thus they were divided for the very same reason.

All the stream viewers felt greatly relieved when the countdown reached zero. They felt they were even more nervous than the actual participants of the game as they watched.

"Game over!"

Boom~!

Several Star Lords appeared, and the entire continent began to tremble. Then, the protective barriers were lifted, and Hai Tuo showed up in the high sky.

He raised his head, and all the contestants who had qualified disappeared; they were relocated to a place in the sky facing him.

The rest of them were left behind on the continent.

Whoosh!

Su Ping felt that his vision became blurred. He was covered by an overwhelming power, completely unshakable.

He felt amazed by such a feeling. That was the power of the Ascendant State; Joanna's original self was on that level.

However, she would be among the top Ascendant State experts!

After all, she was a pure-blood god, one of the most ancient descendants from the Archean Divinity. She had also fought on the Demigod Burial for years, and was undoubtedly stronger than most Ascendants from the Federation.

"582 contestants!"

"Congratulations! You have qualified. The top hundred will be selected from your batch in the final selection match, who will later have the chance to fight in the Golden Star Zone on behalf of this galaxy!"

Hai Tuo looked at the participants who had been lined up in a square. He was acting like a general in the middle of a parade, both majestic and graceful.

Everybody trembled with excitement after hearing that.

The speech would have been boring if it would have been given by someone else.

However, it was truly inspirational since an actual Ascendant State expert had spoken!

It was also a rare opportunity to look at an Ascendant up close for most people!

After all, not everybody had an Ascendant State master as the Sword God's heir did.

Even the Sword God's heir would only have a few chances to meet his master.

Su Ping looked around and saw that only five hundred out of the ten thousand people were left. The survival test was truly brutal.

He had defeated a lot of people; the other geniuses had surely slaughtered their fair share of contestants to get the badges.

Even though the contestants would be relocated before they were really killed, not making the cut for the next round was still a terrible loss.

“Once the identity badges are counted, you’ll be given a chance to take a good rest until the competition, which will take place in three days!”

Hai Tuo smiled and then faded away in front of everybody.

At the same time, several Star Lords approached and calmly counted everyone’s badges.

They waved their hands, and the badges were pulled by a mysterious power, which then piled up above each participant.

Most people had ten identity badges, but some had astonishing amounts above their heads.

A lot of the students of the five academies looked at Su Ping, eager to find out how many the man with Ascendant State potential had acquired.

They were then shocked by what they saw.

Su Ping had precisely obtained ten identity badges!

Claesabe and Ibetaluna, however, observed the others. They slightly changed their expressions when they saw Dragon Emperor and the young man who carried a wooden sword.

Obviously, those two weren’t very friendly; both had gathered almost two hundred identity badges.

Holy King and Queen of the Seas from the Hugh Mia Academy were even more eye-catching. They had gathered almost eight hundred identity badges; their piles were obviously much taller than the others.

“Those two indeed joined hands. They defeated a thousand people!”
Everybody was shocked. Those two were brutal!

There were another pair of people in the crowd who had an even higher amount in comparison.

A list was soon drafted and streamed after the tallying was done.

“Oh my god. First ranker Wuji has 1,292 badges. I saw him chasing others all the time, but I didn’t expect that he would kill that many!”

“The two geniuses of the Hugh Mia Academy are shocking too. They’re almost invincible as a team!”

“Sword King didn’t take out the badges? His name is almost at the end of the list. Damn!”

“Sword King is so cunning. He’s purposely hiding his strength!”

“Can he really hide his strength? Those contestants will know what happened after they watch the replays. He must have been too proud to claim the surplus of badges. Didn’t you notice how he didn’t chase after the thieves?”

“Indeed. Real experts keep a low profile. Maybe a lot of people on the list are as low-key as Sword King!”

Everybody discussed with added fervor once the list came out.

The young man carrying a wooden sword and Dragon Emperor looked at Su Ping and frowned. They suddenly felt that badges above their heads were uncomfortable.

They quickly left after the counting was done.

“Humph, the two geniuses of the Hugh Mia Academy? You can’t fight as a team in the next phase!” In the crowd—a slim young man stared at Holy King and Queen of the Seas coldly. Those two were like brilliant stars amongst them.

The others were also acting vigilant before Holy King and Queen of the Seas, making note of them.

The pair, however, looked at Su Ping, the young man who carried a wooden sword and the others, but didn't say a thing. They left together as if they were indeed a couple.

They were rivals back in the academy.

“Those little guys are interesting.”

At the edge of the crowd—a woman who had ten identity badges above her head rolled her eyes. A thin veil covered her face, but her lovely and alluring eyes were visible; the veil was a secret treasure that could block off scanning.

She looked at the two geniuses, the young man who carried a wooden sword, and a certain woman in the crowd. Then, she chuckled and left without drawing any attention.

In the high sky.

Hai Tuo returned to his temple and remarked, “I thought a thousand contestants would manage to pass. I didn't think they would be that brutal!”

“It was useless to waste strength on getting additional badges just for fame,” said Huan Lieshen indifferently.

He was quite delighted to see that Su Ping had only presented ten badges.

“Heh. That's not something you would usually say. Don't you always love a high profile?” said You Ying scornfully.

Huan Lieshen raised his eyebrows and said coldly, “You do what you can. I'm capable of keeping a high profile. Can they?”

You Ying didn't say anything back. After all, he had always kept a low profile, which was why he disliked Huan Lieshen. He didn't expect to find that they actually shared the same attitude.

"I hope that someone from our galaxy manages to emerge in the universal scope. Being noticed by a Celestial would bring honor to our galaxy," said Hai Tuo to change the subject.

He was satisfied with the survival test in general; some of the contestants had the potential to rise to higher levels in his opinion.

Huan Lieshen said thoughtfully, "Don't be happy just yet. I heard that some old guys had their reincarnations participate in the competition along with the juniors. I believe that the finals will be dominated by them."

You Ying had a drink and narrowed his eyes. "I've heard about this too. It seems to be related to the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm."

Hai Tuo frowned and said, "So have I, but the information is incomplete. It's been blocked by our superiors. Let's not discuss it, or the Celestial lords won't like it. It would be for the best not to spread the rumor."

The other two chose not to reply, but they were slightly surprised. *Judging from Hai Tuo's tone... The rumor is real?*

Space suddenly trembled while they talked.

A magnificent mountain tore an opening in the void and emerged above the void continent, pushing away the spacecraft carriers in an area to take their spot.

Although it was referred to as a mountain, it was actually multiple times bigger than Rhea.

"It's the Old Boxer!"

"He's here? Is his heir among the contestants?"

Both Hai Tuo and Huan Lieshen looked up; the latter frowned.

Hai Tuo flashed toward the mountain and said, “Old Boxer, what brings you here?”

“Lord Hai Tuo, I’m here to pick a disciple. I hope it’s fine with you.” An old and loud voice came from the mountaintop, paired with a projection made with astral power; it was an old man who looked intimidating and untouchable.

Hai Tuo smiled and said, “Of course. You may choose anybody you want.”

“That won’t work.”

A soft voice was then heard from a place in space; the sound was as beautiful as music. Then, space was breached and a phoenix ablaze with black flames flew out of the crack. There was a palace above the phoenix’s head, and a graceful woman in it.

The fiery phoenix was so massive that its wings would have been enough to block one of the regions on the continent.

“The master of the Black Phoenix Palace is here too!”

“Two more Ascendant State experts have arrived!”

“Damn it! I should have bought a ticket!”

The audience was both shocked and excited.

You Ying frowned a bit and became grave after seeing the newcomer.

A stunned Hai Tuo asked with a smile, “Are you here to recruit disciples too, Madam Yan? If memory doesn’t fail me, I remember that the Black Phoenix Palace only accepts students with phoenix blood constitutions, right? I don’t think I’ve seen any woman with that kind of constitution this year.”