

Pet Store 941

### **Chapter 941: Infinite Faith**

Mu Shen's voice echoed throughout the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm and the space beyond, announcing the champion of the Universe Geniuses' Contest!

His Celestial cultivation and methods carried his words, making them reach every corner of the universe.

All the people on the Blue Planet and Rhea were stunned.

The champion was Su Ping, from the Planet of Origin in Silvy, part of the Golden Star Zone!

His name and background made everybody in Silvy widen their eyes. Even though they found it hard to believe, the awe-inspiring voice coming from somewhere in space had clearly reassured them that it was not a dream. Su Ping was the true champion!

He was the champion of the universe!

"Isn't the champion from our galaxy named Su Ping?"

"Of course he is. You've forgotten his name already?"

"I haven't. I only wondered if I had misheard it..."

Everybody in Silvy was stunned, but shock was soon replaced by excitement.

"Boss Su has become the champion of the universe?"

"Is this true? Someone, slap me and wake me up... Damn, why did you slap me?"

Everybody on the Blue Planet had fallen into a daze.

They knew that Su Ping was very strong, since he had saved their planet from disaster, but now they were fully integrated with the Interstellar Federation. They had seen a lot of battle pet warriors perform, who were much stronger than their counterparts on the Blue Planet.

Those were just the normal ones.

The geniuses among them could crush any of their peers.

The top geniuses were even more unbelievable.

Su Ping—who had gone out of the secluded Blue Planet—had risen to the top in a competition against those monsters?

Even Qin Duhuang, Xie Jinshui and the others who were familiar with Su Ping found such a fact hard to believe. They would have first thought they were talking about someone else, had they not mentioned his background details.

At the same time—people from other galaxies within the Golden Star Zone were also cheering after waking up from their initial surprise.

They weren't familiar with Su Ping, but he was a fellow member of the Golden Star Zone anyway; they were proud of him!

"He's from the Golden Star Zone?"

On a continent that looked like a high tower in the vast universe, filled with brilliant stars, some people were staring at the distance.

In a certain star zone, a vague shadow gnashed his teeth inside a dark temple. "The champion is with Shen Huang. Damn it. He's going to show off again."

"Hurry up and gather all the information about this Su Ping. Try to make friends with him."

"Another talent has emerged. It won't be long before he becomes a Star Lord and makes a name for himself in the universe!"

Many organizations made note of the name, while many others took action.

From that day forth, Su Ping's name was bound to be spread throughout the entire Federation, all thanks to Mu Shen's announcement!

Although most people had never seen him, nor they knew a thing about him, all of them would remember his name. Even the ordinary people who were currently working on different planets—all of them had also heard the announcement, which also served to learn that the competition had just ended.

Inside the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm—

Mu Shen summoned the top ten players over. The second and third players were given Tier Six Identities.

Such distinction was mainly given to the best Star Lords; it was something they had to strive hard for.

Second place could also pick two treasures from the Heavenly Star Pavilion, and third place could pick one.

As for those from the fourth through the tenth, they were given Tier Five Identities; they would only have a chance to pick Earth-level and Star-level treasures.

Apart from those prizes, the most important was the access to the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm.

All the top ten winners would be given access to explore the Divine Sea, the namesake of the mysterious realm.

There they would gain a deeper understanding of the Ascendant State. Even though they were still too weak to break through to that realm, the experience would become a seed in their hearts.

Once they broke through and became high performing Star Lords, it was possible that the seed would sprout.

Of course, it might also wither, or be buried forever.

Su Ping was really looking forward to it. The road to the Star Lord State was already smooth for him, as he could break through at any time. However, the Ascendant State was a whole different matter.

Only the experts who reached those heights were considered the true bigshots dominating the universe!

It was extremely difficult to become an Ascendant. Not even Celestials could offer guidance, given that everyone's method to break through was unique. That was one of the reasons why Ascendants were so rare.

Mu Shen's image faded after making the announcement; everyone continued whispering with open excitement.

The Universe Geniuses' Contest was finally over. It had been a chance to see the upper limit geniuses in the final battle. The small world of a Fate State cultivator was a source of shock to all the people in the universe!

It would be a source of shame for Star State experts.

As for Fate State warriors... They were probably unable to express what they felt.

*How could any human being be so outstanding?*

It was then that Su Ping heard a gentle and friendly voice spread inside his head. "Well done."

He quickly recognized his master's voice; as a reflex, he turned to look ahead at the palace. Shen Huang seemed to be more than satisfied with his performance.

"Don't be too greedy while you wander in the Divine Sea; you may get in touch with things you can't understand if you press too deeply. You may even collapse if you recklessly encounter them," said Shen Huang telepathically.

Su Ping was stunned for a moment; he then nodded and replied mentally, "Got it."

You Long flew over and said with a smile, "Junior brother, you'll soon be going to the Divine Sea. As the champion, you've earned the right to stay there for seven days. Haha. Given your talent, you will surely find the mysteries of the Ascendant State. Let's travel the universe together once you reach that level!"

Su Ping smiled too and replied, "Junior brother, you flatter me. It's too soon to say that."

"Not at all. It'll be a few hundred years at most. Everything will be easy once you find an opportunity," said You Long, all smiles.

Several hundred years were no different from several days in his eyes.

Therefore, he was already treating Su Ping as a young, future Ascendant State expert.

"Now that you've condensed a small world, you're free to gather the power of faith. Do you know how? You've been granted a Tier Seven Identity, so you now have access to the top secret information gathered by the Federation," You Long said.

Su Ping felt intrigued by this; he immediately searched on his watch.

Very soon, he found that he had been identified once his mind entered the virtual world.

He later found that the previous searcher became much more concise. On the other hand, abundant information would pop up the moment he typed something in.

Su Ping had never read some of the resulting information before.

*It's indeed relevant and comprehensive.* Su Ping quickly read the information, soon realizing how to gather the power of faith. He had also gained a deeper understanding of the Star Lord State.

Star Lords had to grasp a complete path, then create a small world with its own particles, to later establish their own order.

The power of faith came from other creatures, which could be pets, friends, or even believers of different religions.

All of them would generate vague traces of the power of faith if they were fond of the Star Lords; the fonder they were, the stronger the power of faith would be. Pets would always deliver the most power of faith, because they were the closest.

However, the number of pets one could have was limited.

Therefore, he would need a lot of believers to gather the power of faith!

Many Star Lords chose to become masters of complete solar systems, not just because they liked to show off, but because they would be allowed to absorb the inhabitants' power of faith.

Once they were appointed as lords, they could have statues made in their dominions to promote themselves. Most lords would also establish religions to have people worship them as gods.

*Since that's the case, I have to be more famous and inspire more people to admire me in order to accumulate the power of faith.*

Su Ping gradually realized what he had to do. Right then he suddenly detected streams of power that were floating towards him from the depths of space, like grains of sand; they sank and gathered in his small world.

Those glittering particles were soft, sacred and warm.

Su Ping realized it was the power of faith.

However... Where was the power coming from?

*Right, I am the champion; my name must be spreading out. Qin Duhuang and the others are my old customers on the Blue Planet; they must be fond of me, and part of these grains must be coming from them!*

Su Ping began to feel excited.

It was impossible for others to convey the power of faith to him without knowing what he looked like, while the power of faith coming from mere acquaintances was almost zero. Not even a billion of them would amount to what a loyal pet could send him.

Nevertheless, there were too many people in the universe.

*The previous matches were broadcast in all of Silvy; ninety percent of the residents know me. The competition rounds in the Golden Star Zone have yet to spread out, that is why very few people know me there. People from other star zones would probably only know me by name. No matter; the power of faith from Silvy is already enough!*

Su Ping sensed that the warm grains of sand seemed to be infinite; they kept floating to him from deeper spaces, ignoring the distance in between.

He was only able to detect the power of faith after he condensed a small world. Now that it had taken shape, the streams of golden grains were automatically absorbed by his small world.

Aside from the tiny grains of sand, Su Ping also saw spots of light that were as large as sesame seeds.

Those were obviously coming from people who were familiar with him.

There were also spots of light as big as little fingers, which drifted from the void behind Su Ping's back.

Su Ping found that such spots of light were rather familiar. They seemed to originate from his pets.

*The stronger they are, the more power of faith they'll send me. I wonder if my master will give me any power of faith resource. He technically can, but he doesn't seem to be ready to hand me any. After all, the power of faith can't be given away without friendliness and devotion. My master is too proud, Su Ping thought.*

He detected a lot of strangers from the power of faith streaming his way. His master wasn't providing any.

Nor was You Long.

Su Jin'er's aura, on the other hand, was mixed in, but it was as insignificant as the basic grains of sand.

Aside from that, Su Ping also sensed the auras from Joanna, Green Lady, and some others.

There was also Tang Ruyan.

To Su Ping's surprise, Tang Ruyan—who was much weaker than Joanna and Green Lady—was producing as much power of faith as Joanna did, and only a bit less than Green Lady's share.

Su Ping was stunned for a moment as he stared at the spots of light which were as big as fingers; each of them represented the power of faith of millions of people.

After all, the faith of those people was quite vague and fragile; it could easily be blown apart by the wind.

Su Ping automatically learned how to utilize and collect the power of faith the moment he began to detect it.

His search results also produced methods to condense the power of faith so that it could be used.

Su Ping tried condensing it, and found that the vague faith of ten million people could be condensed into a single, larger stream of faith!

As for the power of faith given by Joanna, Tang Ruyan and the Little Skeleton, each could be condensed into single, independent streams!

Green Lady's share was enough to produce two streams!

Su Ping knew that a strong individual acting friendly towards him, could potentially be enough to offer one faith stream.

Said powerhouses would produce two streams after their friendship deepened.

His train of thought made him think about Green Lady, who was as close to him as Joanna was. However, Joanna was only a reincarnation and her power had yet to grow further; on the other hand, Green Lady was an Ascendant, and her power was much greater.

*It seems that I have to become more famous in the universe. I also need to make friends with the terrifying guys in the cultivation sites.* Su Ping's eyes glittered.

The system's cultivation sites undoubtedly had the strongest experts in the universe.

The Ascendant State referee dispelled the void battlefield while Su Ping pondered and condensed the power of faith. The man addressed the top ten finalists, "We're going to the Divine Sea. Follow me."

He pulled Su Ping and the others to him while he spoke. Then, he bowed in the palace's general direction before he dashed away.

## **Chapter 942: Divine Sea**

"The Divine Sea is at the core area of the mysterious realm.

"As you may already know, the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm lies in the depths of the ninth space, which is the deepest space in the universe!"

The Ascendant State expert who was guiding the group to the Divine Sea briefed them about the place as they traveled.

He didn't elaborate on the details; most of the geniuses in the group knew what kind of place the Divine Sea was.

"You are technically too weak to enter the ninth space, but the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm is very special, and its laws have been changed by Celestial masters. That is why you can be here.

"As for the Divine Sea, it is a strange area.

"It is a place where the laws of the ninth space have been altered, but some of them remain. You'll see people and images from the past.

"But leave that for another time; all you need to do is to understand the Divine Mark inside, which is the core of an Ascendant expert. You will need to condense your own Divine Marks in order to become Ascendants!

"Every Divine Mark is unique and indestructible. You practically become immortal when you break through to the Ascendant State, since you'll get to live as long as the universe does!

“The Divine Marks collected have already been processed, so it would be easier to detect their auras. The longer you stay there, the more you’ll understand.”

The Ascendant expert glanced at Su Ping casually while he spoke. He wasn’t as formal since the competition was over, especially in front of Su Ping who was truly amazing.

He would probably reach the Ascendant State soon, given that he had already condensed a small world.

One of the awards allowed him to stay in the mysterious realm for seven days. If he couldn’t reach the Ascendant State, no one else could.

“So, we’re here to understand the Divine Marks.”

Su Ping then understood.

He asked, “If so, wouldn’t it be better if we stay there for one month? Why aren’t we allowed to stay longer? Wouldn’t more Ascendants emerge if they did so?”

The other nine geniuses were stunned by his remark. Some sneered, thinking that Su Ping was being too greedy, to actually ask for one month instead of settling for the week he had won.

All of them were impressed by Su Ping’s small world, but many were still jealous of him because of the prizes he received.

The Ascendant expert looked at Su Ping, only to find that the latter was calm; his question didn’t seem to have been made due to selfish reasons. He glanced at Su Ping and said, “We certainly want to raise more Ascendants. However, this isn’t a place where you should stay for too long. Seven days is already the maximum according to our tests.

“If you stay longer, you’ll be too deeply influenced by those Divine Marks!

“Just like I mentioned, every Divine Mark is unique, and so is every Ascendant State cultivator. Think of it as having different fingerprints.

“Divine Marks inevitably carry the will of their predecessors. Being too deeply influenced by them would inevitably lead you to walk someone else’s path!

“If that were to happen, you would never be able to reach the Ascendant State!

“Be sure to remember that everybody’s road is unique!

“You were given the chance to see the Divine Marks so you would merely have an idea about what they look like, because you’re expected to walk on a path of your own. You cannot imitate or copy other people’s paths; this would forever bar you from reaching the Ascendant State!”

The others were surprised by his words.

Some had immediately realized why the Ascendant experts from their families were unable to raise more cultivators on par with them.

The knowledge couldn’t be passed on!

They could only offer opportunities to juniors, directly teaching about the Ascendant rank was not possible!

Su Ping realized that he was too ignorant. He already had a key to reach the Star Lord State; now he needed to know more about the Ascendant tier.

He decided to talk to Joanna when he returned.

Very soon, the group arrived at the Divine Sea.

“The Divine Sea has not been as peaceful recently. Focus on meditating and try not to wander about or you may get lost.” The Ascendant expert led them to a golden gate, which was actually just a splendidly made frame. However, there seemed to be some sort of power blocking whatever it was beyond the gate.

“Your star zones chose to speed up the competition because the Divine Sea’s restless condition will soon rise even more. Such turmoil has taken place at fixed periods, with records dating since the recent thousands of years. That is why the contest was hastened; you’ll be able to experience the phenomenon!

“Now, take this and enter the protected area one by one.”

The Ascendant expert presented them with a couple of badges.

The badge with the number seven etched on it was handed to Su Ping.

The others also received their respective badges.

Some badges simply displayed a number one.

This meant that whoever carried them would only be able to stay for one day.

The Ascendant State expert announced indifferently, “The badges have been personally made by the Celestials. They will automatically take you out when the time is up. Don’t try to act smart and drop the badges in order to stay longer; such an act is punishable by maiming, even if you make it out safely. Nobody breaks the Celestial State masters’ rule!”

Someone asked curiously, “Has anyone tried it before?”

“Some idiots have,” said the Ascendant with a casual tone, “But none have ended well. They either got lost and became maniacs, or their cultivation was abolished once they came out.”

Everyone was alarmed.

The people with the briefest “one” badges immediately dropped their shrewd planning.

“I owe you one,” Su Jin’er whispered to Su Ping.

She was also among the top ten, but she had forfeited a fight. She wouldn’t have advanced to the top ten without Su Ping.

“That’s all right. Just don’t forget to gather the materials for me,” said Su Ping telepathically.



Su Jin'er smiled.

The nearby Diaz said to Su Ping in frustration, "I'm going in."

His feelings in regards to his martial brother were all jumbled up. He had never truly been impressed by Su Ping until he saw the small world the latter had revealed in the last battle.

Su Ping was already ahead of them in that aspect.

He had never felt jealous of people stronger than him, because he thought that such an inferior emotion was beneath him.

"Sure."

Su Ping was kind of amused by the young man's expression. It seemed that the guy had stopped going after him for trouble.

The others gave slight nods to Su Ping. All of them were friendly; nobody wanted to make an enemy out of such a genius for no reason. The whole group was composed of geniuses; it would be much better to have more friends.

Su Ping didn't stay long. He offered a nod to Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha, then he also entered the Divine Sea.

Su Ping felt that his senses had been blocked the moment he leaped across the golden gate. He was unable to see whatever it was past the gate; there was nothing but a dark void mixed with floating specks of bright gold light in his eyes.

All of a sudden—Su Ping saw a man in a dark robe dozens of kilometers ahead of him.

The man had his back turned in his direction as he coldly said, "What are you waiting for?"

Su Ping: "?"

"This is a rare opportunity, and yet you hesitate. Are you waiting for her to come back? Just give up. She has her own family. Why would she embark on such a dead-end journey with you?" The black-robed man's tone was even colder in the end.

"..."

"If you're really considering the situation for her sake, just join me as I destroy the heavens and stop their laws from acting in this world. We should be the masters of our own world!" declared the man furiously.

Then, the man gradually disappeared. At the same time—a splendid battlefield appeared in front of Su Ping's eyes. Countless people were holding marvelous weapons above the clouds.

On top of those people's heads was something dim, yet splendid and indescribable.

"Die!!"

Su Ping heard deafening roars and screams.

Everybody was charging at that thing. Then, massive amounts of people died, blood gushing profusely from them.

As the talented warriors soared above the clouds, the dark and indescribable thing was no longer able to endure, and was torn apart.

Very soon, cheers echoed throughout the sky.

It seemed that they had won.

The scene changed. Countless people were standing on a high platform, where a blurred-looking man who was as brilliant as the sun addressed the masses, "I hereby announce that I will master everything in this world!"

That scene disappeared.

Su Ping was back in the dark void. The man in the dark robe was already gone; he had obviously been a figment of the past.

*How strong must a warrior be that not even time itself can erase?* Su Ping wondered. At least, the Ascendant experts he knew were still unable to achieve such a feat.

Only Divine Marks would remain when Ascendants died.

Maybe Celestials were able to do this.

Su Ping could not imagine what kind of power was able to imprint a man's presence in the universe. Even after death, their live's deeds would still be manifested in the deepest parts of the cosmos. They were eternally etched in the fabric of reality, as a testimony for the future generals!

*Did they kill 'heavens' just now?*

*Back on the Blue Planet, the owner of that broken finger in the Valiant Academy seemed to have also been fighting heavens.*

*Are they from the same age, or different ages?*

*Are there plenty of heavens?*

Su Ping felt as if he were tapping into the deepest secrets from ancient times.

Those of Celestial cultivation were already privy to such information, but Su Ping knew that his master wouldn't tell him anything, even if he asked him.

After all, he was still too weak to learn those secrets.

Furthermore, Su Ping didn't think that Shen Huang was capable of fighting the heavens.

While Su Ping pondered, he suddenly felt that he was enshrouded by a majestic power. A vague streak of golden light traveling in the void had inadvertently struck him.

The light stopped in front of Su Ping's chest, which turned out to be a golden, glittering item whose core was invisible.

Su Ping could only speculate that it was one of the Divine Marks.

A magnificent surge of power was being spread by the Divine Mark, giving off a feeling as heavy as mountains.

Su Ping hovered in a trance while he saw countless particles glittering in front of his eyes.

He then saw all kinds of particles separating in front of his eyes. He also saw the expanding manifestations of laws and paths.

Very soon, another golden streak of light flew towards him. It was another Divine Mark.

The aura of the new Divine Mark made Su Ping see things more clearly.

He then saw countless particles constructing a small world, while the small world collapsed and reassembled into something new.

It could be that the new thing was a Divine Mark!

Time flew.

Outside the golden gate—the people with lower rankings had already returned, as they were only given one day. Many of them seemed to be either dazed or in pain after being teleported out; they felt that they would have grasped something of utmost importance had they stayed a few more days.

“I think I saw how a small world should be constructed.

“Unfortunately, I don’t have enough energy to do that. That guy is a true monster!”

“So, the laws are just some sort of particles in the universe. Then, what is the universe made of?”

Some were reflecting their findings with furrowed brows while standing before the golden gate.

All of them snapped back to normal a few days later, sealing their experiences in their hearts. Maybe they would recall that experience at the time they would face the bottleneck right before the Ascendant State. Whether or not they could tear down the obstacle would depend on their talent.

“We will head to the Heavenly Star Pavilion after Su Ping comes out, so that you may claim your respective treasures.

“After that, I believe you will soon become Star Lords. Travel the universe freely after that.”

The Ascendant State expert was all smiles while chatting with the kids.

Those who were eager to leave had finally realized that they were only waiting for Su Ping to exit.

Jealousy was rekindled in many hearts once they were reminded that Su Ping was still inside. Many of them were too proud to be jealous, but they had personally experienced the place; knowing that Su Ping had stayed for a much longer time didn’t sit well with them.

They would have trained a lot harder, had they known more about the effects of that place.

“I will not lose again.” Someone gnashed his teeth.

Luo Ying glanced at Dragon Shepard, who had just spoken, but chose to remain silent. He simply gazed at an indeterminate point in space, looking forward to future battles against Su Ping. Once he left the Heavenly Star Pavilion, he would return to his family's estate and cultivate to become a Star Lord.

His family had prepared a great road for him; abundant faith was already awaiting him.

### **Chapter 943: Goddess Nuwa**

Seven days passed in the blink of an eye.

A man drifted out of the golden gate with eyes closed. He was none other than Su Ping.

"He's out."

Everybody had solemn expressions after they saw Su Ping exit.

"Huh?"

The Ascendant expert had a fleeting sensation when he saw Su Ping. For a moment he almost thought that Su Ping had the power and aura of an Ascendant...

That seemed to be the illusion of the Ascendant State!

*Was he too devoted to one of the Divine Marks, that he unconsciously emulated it?*

*Am I hallucinating?*

Soon, the feeling was gone; the Ascendant gazed at Su Ping with a frown.

Simultaneously—Su Ping woke up from his brush with a world close to the true essence of the universe. He understood that he was outside after seeing everyone else around him.

He soon closed his eyes again, to carefully examine all the things he had seen.

After a long, long time passed—

No one made a noise, nor caused any disturbance. They knew that Su Ping was trying to remember his experiences in the Divine Sea; he would not take kindly to anyone interrupting him at the moment!

It only lasted a moment, but his eyes had a strange glitter when he reopened them. He appeared to have seen through all things.

Su Ping soon got back to normal; he looked at everybody present with a smile. "Sorry for the long wait."

"That's all right. We're not in a rush," Su Jin'er rushed to answer.

Luo Ying chuckled and said, "Brother Su, you surely understood a lot of things while you were inside; I felt I was deeply enlightened even though I merely stayed for five days. I really do hope that we'll fight again when we become Star Lords or Ascendants!"

Su Ping looked at him and said with a smile, "Okay. Better seize the day or you'll get beaten up."

"Ha, ha..."

Luo Ying couldn't help but burst into laughter, as it wasn't easy for him to meet someone who was even more arrogant than him. However, he was neither angry nor offended, because Su Ping had earned the right to make such a declaration!

"I'm also looking forward to it," said Six Lives Buddha with a gentle tone, but his eyes belied his competitive edge.

Having lost to Su Ping despite summoning two future selves, he was eager to find out whether or not he could summon his Ascendant State self when he became a Star Lord.

If he could, would Su Ping be able to take him on?

He knew that Su Ping had also mastered the path of time and space, but there were other things involved when summoning future selves!

On the other side, Lilian—gracing them with her alluring body—said in a low voice, "What a shame... We didn't have a chance to fight. Maybe next time."

She looked at Su Ping with great interest on her pretty face.

"Okay." Su Ping accepted all their challenges. All of them were technically rivals, but he somehow felt they had become friends after the fights.

Others were also interested in making appointments to challenge him in the future, but they were too timid to say it out loud. After all, they currently were much too weak in comparison.

The ever proud Dragon Shepard had also remained silent. He simply gritted his teeth, telling himself he had to become ten times, even a hundred times stronger!

"Let's head back now, since you've already learned something. The spaceship bound to the Heavenly Star Pavilion should be ready. Some Heavenly Lords will protect you on the way; I don't think anyone would dare to attack you," said the Ascendant with a smile.

He looked at them, feeling that they were geniuses who would change the universe someday.

How many Ascendants would emerge among the top ten would remain to be seen.

He wasn't worried about the top three. The rest didn't have a 100% guarantee to break through.

The Ascendant soon took everyone back to the palace where the Celestials dwelled.

The warships and other vessels in space had already disappeared by then. Since the competition had already ended, some had left on their own, while others were driven away.

The vast mysterious realm seemed cold and lonely for a moment.

Some of the Celestials had also left. Only three remained.

"Your two precious disciples are back," Mu Shen said with a smile while his gaze was able to see through the palace walls.

Shen Huang laughed and said, "They are two treasures indeed. It won't be long before they distinguish themselves as Star Lords; maybe they'll rise to the Ascendant State in five hundred years!"

Mu Shen smiled. Reaching the Ascendant State was a remarkable milestone, but considering the situation experienced at the frontiers of the Federation, and compared to their own level, Ascendant cultivators were basically ants; maybe the Heavenly Lords were the only ones able to put up some resistance.

A female Celestial looked at Mu Shen and asked, "Many reincarnators participated in this competition. You're not going to punish them?"

Mu Shen said casually, "They weren't too outrageous as they went about it. They simply were reincarnations of ordinary Ascendants, and none of them try to take any of the top three spots. They probably were just trying to find enlightenment so they can break through to the Celestial State, accumulating experiences through their reincarnations. It's an understandable approach. It would be great to have more Celestial State companions."

"You're truly generous."

The female Celestial smiled and said, "Their plan was not bad in itself. Unfortunately, they adopted the wrong approach, as the road to the Celestial State isn't that simple. How can you reach the Celestial State without enduring hundreds of disasters? They don't know the first thing about what being a celestial means..."

Shen Huang chuckled. No longer planning to continue with the chat, he said, "I'll be taking my leave now that the competition finally came to an end. I'll make arrangements on my end to handle the overlapping of the universe."

Then, he faded away from the temple.

"He didn't leave until he saw his disciples; he does seem to cherish them," said the female Celestial, pursing her lips.

Mu Shen smiled, not thinking much of it.

...

Outside the palace.

Su Ping, having just arrived, heard Shen Huang's voice. In the meantime, a torrent of information about plenty of treasures flooded into his head. There were 89 treasures in total!

"This is a list of the rare heaven-level treasures in the Heavenly Star Pavilion; you can pick three of them. I suggest you choose 'Goddess Nuwa', which will help you advance to the Celestial State smoothly."

Slightly stunned by the comprehensive briefing, Su Ping quickly thanked his master via telepathy.

"I'll be leaving now. Someone will come and pick you up after your visit to the Heavenly Star Pavilion. See you in the Celestial Court." Shen Huang's voice faded after that.

"As you wish."

Once Shen Huang left, Su Ping immediately devoted himself to examining the information about the treasures that was recently added to his memories.

However, right before he could read them carefully, the Ascendant expert said, "This will be your carrier. Off you go. Your protectors will introduce the treasures in the Heavenly Star Pavilion during the trip."

Everyone raised their heads and saw a dragon-like spaceship. It was a splendid, golden craft with multiple floors and a dragon's head.

All the geniuses were surprised to find that the dragon head was actually real; it was not a mere decoration.

They stared at the spaceship intently, while they were able to sense a powerful aura coming from it. A few men flew out; one of them was the handsome and indifferent sort, who was wearing black colored clothes. He gave a casual once over at the group and said, "Kids, hop on."

Everybody was nervous.

The other three guys next to the man in black were also Ascendants, but they were obviously acting reverently.

It was clear that the man was a Heavenly Lord!

The geniuses wasted no time boarding the vessel.

"Your protectors are also on board. No need to feel nervous."

On the spaceship—one or two representatives from the organizations behind Luo Ying and Dragon Shepard had been invited over to act as escort on their way to the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

The one tasked with looking after Su Ping on the spaceship was not You Long, but one of his pets.

However, the pet was in the Ascendant State, and was already able to transform freely. It was currently using the appearance of a pretty girl. She introduced herself to Su Ping with a smile, "Master asked me to take care of you. You must be the super genius who condensed a small world while still being a Fate State warrior. Tsk, tsk. Human beings do have unimaginable upper limits... Well, lower limits too."

Su Ping was lost for words. The girl obviously had a charming skill; he would have been affected if he hadn't been hardened in the cultivation sites.

However, the others reacted less naturally.

"What about me? You're here to protect me too, right?" Diaz squeezed forward and asked passionately.

The girl glanced at him and said with the same smile, "Of course."

...*That is so insincere.* Diaz instantly sensed the discrimination and felt bummed. He then glanced at Su Ping and made up his mind to study better and develop his constitution.

He had heard that the Reincarnation Divine Constitution would only show its powerful potential until the Star Lord State!

That would be the moment of his comeback!

“There are quarters for rest, entertainment, pet training, cultivation and everything else you currently may need,” introduced one of the Ascendants next to the young man in black. “The trip to the Heavenly Star Pavilion will take five days. You may take a good rest after this exhausting battle.”

Nobody added a single thing, as if offering a silent agreement.

However, many of them went to the cultivation quarters after they dispersed.

*Rest?*

How could they rest when Su Ping, Luo Ying, Six Lives Buddha and other geniuses were around them?

They received much fewer prizes because they had fallen behind, and they would lose even more if they fell behind again!

One step behind, all steps behind!

Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha were no exception. Both of them went to the cultivation area; they had no time to rest or have fun.

Su Ping had originally planned to take a break, but seeing how diligent the others were, he no longer dared to relax. After all, he had condensed a small world, but he had yet to make significant progress on the second Astral Painting, even though he already had enough power to draw the third Astral Painting.

Su Ping soon after went to the cultivation quarters in order to train in seclusion.

The protectors on the spaceship were lost for words after seeing how hardworking the kids were. They had a lot of mixed feelings because of it; after all, diligence was always the most reliable path to success.

It was a fair path for everybody.

Talent, by comparison, was unfair.

Unfortunately, everyone pursued such an unfair factor, neglecting the fair starting line already within their reach.

In the cultivation quarters—

Su Ping was going over the information his master had left him while training in seclusion.

*All the 89 treasures are actual items selected by my master; all the other heaven-level treasures have been filtered out.*

*My master recommended Goddess Nuwa. What kind of thing is that?*

Su Ping found the information about Goddess Nuwa. It was supposed to be some sort of puppet and substitute. In the event of Su Ping dying, his soul would regenerate on the item through the contract.

To put it simply, it was a second life!

The only shortcoming was that some rare constitutions could not be transferred onto the Goddess Nuwa artifact.



However, the item itself would generate random constitutions that were usually powerful. They would be top-tier, rare constitutions, if not for the existence of top divine constitutions!

*It seems that my master really fears that I might die. It means that I will reach the Ascendant State sooner or later, as long as I cultivate dutifully. He's only worried about things happening to me before I reach that point. Of course, I'd be absolutely safe as long as I stay in my store. I wouldn't need such a thing...*

*I can stay inside my store and wait until I reach the Ascendant State before I come out!*

*Cultivating there would be faster anyway...*

Su Ping shook his head and abandoned his master's recommendation.

Then, he examined the other treasures.

They were real eye openers; all of them were rare and extremely powerful.

Goddess Nuwa, which granted a second life, was only one among the mediocre treasures.

*One of the treasures can even cast curses on Divine Marks? Sadly, it can only be used to curse people of the same cultivation realm. It wouldn't be effective if ordinary Ascendants were to curse Heavenly Lords with this, as the effect may trigger dark energy in the universe. Once cursed, even the Heavenly Lords could suffer from misfortune...*

Su Ping was truly astonished by the strange treasures.

#### **Chapter 944: The Prime Sky Mirror**

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

Su Ping had also made significant progress in his cultivation, aside from considering what treasures to select. The core of the second Astral Painting was taking shape, all thanks to the abundant astral power in the training room.

Even an ordinary battle pet warrior would advance quickly in such an environment. Still, Su Ping and the other geniuses were actually suppressing and consolidating their power.

"We're here: Heavenly Star Pavilion."

Everybody walked out of the cultivation quarters and gathered while the ship was in the process of docking. One of the people on the vessel immediately sensed that two of the geniuses had risen to the Star State!

Their appearance looked as deep as the oceans. They had already reached the peak of the Star State the moment they had broken through!

*They seem to have failed in suppressing their cultivation. Or rather, they didn't try to. After all, the competition is already over, and they're free to advance, someone thought.*

Luo Ying, Dragon Shepard, Six Lives Buddha and the others were still in the Fate State. Five days of training was nothing special to them; they only consolidated themselves and reflected upon their failures to find things that could help in improving.

The environments where they usually cultivated had as much astral power as that place did; they would progress faster in only a couple of days.

Besides, having seen a monster such as Su Ping, all of them were trying to condense a small world while still being in the Fate State!

Even so, they weren't really trying their best. Their cultivation careers could be ruined if they lingered for too long without breaking through.

"This is the Heavenly Star Pavilion? I hear that a special array protects it, covering an area with a radius of a hundred thousand light years. Even Heavenly Lords would have a hard time trying to break in!" said one of the geniuses.

Luo Ying smiled casually and said, "The master of the Heavenly Star Pavilion is a mysterious expert in the Federation. Rumor has it that he is as strong as a Celestial. Who would dare to rob him?"

While standing outside the spaceship, Su Ping saw a splendid building in an area that radiated a sacred and strange light in space, further ahead!

It was a truly eye-catching sight, contrasting with the dark space.

The building was surrounded by moons, which were gathered around it like a river.

The building was unimaginably massive.

It was as large as a sun!

When observed from the outside world, it could be seen that the building had five floors.

Its cornices and tiles were glowing, making it look exquisite and magnificent.

"People say that the Heavenly Star Pavilion itself is a super treasure!"

"Is that so? I heard that the pavilion is an ancient prison used to confine horrifying things."

"There are all kinds of rumors; no one knows if any of them are true. However, the place is undoubtedly the most heavily guarded in the Federation. It would seem that only a few guards are visible. Whoever causes trouble will be immediately killed; they even kill Ascendants!"

All the geniuses were discussing openly.

The Ascendant experts escorting them were also acting with solemnity and awe.

"Senior Xing Ling, I am Mo Tianhua."

On the spaceship—the man in black stepped up and cupped his hands before he said, "By the order of Lord Supreme, I'm escorting the geniuses this year so that they may safely claim their treasures."

He took out a badge as he spoke.

It was a Heavenly Star Badge!

Only Celestials had such badges. It had been lent to him to be allowed entrance to the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

A moment passed after Mo Tianhua made the first approach; an unemotional voice that sounded like an ancient god was then heard, seemingly coming from a distant space. "Come in according to the rules."

A bridge was extended from the river of planets and reached them.

Mo Tianhua stored the badge and urged the spaceship navigator to sail forth to the bridge.

The spaceship glistened the moment it reached the bridge. The universe around it was torn apart into countless spots of light, since the vessel began to move faster than the speed of light without the use of a space jump.

Soon after, thanks to the acceleration of the bridge, the spaceship was able to bypass the planets and reach the building.

The group was only able to see a dazzling, golden brilliance as they got closer to their destination. They couldn't even see the bottom-level cornices.

Three men flew out of the building at that moment. The white-haired old man in the lead smiled at Mo Tianhua and said, "It's you again. Does your master have no other choices to pick from?"

"Why? Do you have a problem with my master?" said Mo Tianhua indifferently.

"I wouldn't dare." The old man looked at the passengers aboard the spaceship and smiled. "I heard that a kid condensed a small world while still being a Fate State warrior. Let me guess. Is it him?"

He turned his head and looked at Su Ping while he said that.

Su Ping was slightly surprised at first; he soon calmed down, as it wasn't strange for the man to detect the small world inside his body.

Mo Tianhua was obviously bored. He rolled his eyes and said, "Let's get this over with."

The white-haired old man, however, ignored him and smiled at Su Ping. "Kid, are you interested in being a guest of the Loulan family? You don't need to do anything except to give us a hand when our family is in trouble."

Su Ping had finally realized that the old man was trying to do some persuading so he would work for his family.

"He's from the Loulan family?"

"Which Loulan family?"

"THE Loulan family, one of the seven most powerful families of the Federation! It's said that the family has companies throughout the universe. Many people only get to see and use things created by the Loulan family during their whole lives."

"Well..."

“One of the seven most powerful families of the Federation is inviting Brother Su as a guest? This is unbelievable!”

“Indeed. Brother Su is only a Fate State warrior right now, but he will surely reach the Celestial State someday; he’ll become a Heavenly Lord when he does. They’re making friends with a future Heavenly Lord in advance!”

All the others realized the old man’s plan; they looked at Su Ping in a passionate way.

Su Ping’s competitors’ feelings were strange. They had always been glowing figures able to eclipse those around him. However, they were the ones eclipsed when they stood next to Su Ping.

The latter was also surprised. He had just learned that the old man was part of a powerful family, which was probably led by a Celestial. Even if it wasn’t, it probably had close contact with multiple Celestial State experts.

Otherwise, how could it rise to become that powerful?

However, instead of accepting the invitation in a hurry, he simply said, “Thank you, senior, but I have to ask my master first.”

“You do?” The old man was stunned for a moment, but then realized Su Ping’s plan. He smiled and said, “Your master is Shen Huang, right? Don’t worry; he’s been very close to the Loulan family. Here’s my communication badge... Just contact me when you make a decision.”

“If you become one of our family’s guests, you will receive everything you need!”

Su Ping felt tempted. *Everything I need?* Would that mean that he would never have to worry about materials?

If that were the case, he would only need to cultivate constantly. Once the Solar Bulwark was cultivated to the peak, it would probably give him a power on par with that of the Celestial State.

After all, he was already able to crush Star State experts, and was practically invulnerable before normal Star State enemies. Only the exceptional geniuses who had special ancient techniques would have a chance to hurt him.

“Sure.”

Su Ping accepted the guy’s communication badge and thanked him.

Mo Tianhua watched in silence, without a need to butt in or act impatiently. Once the two were done, he finally said, “May we enter now? These ones earned star-level awards, while they earned the access to the earth-level, and those are to head to the heaven-level area...”

He pointed at the passengers and reported their levels, as well as the number of prizes they were entitled to.

The old man was already aware of the information. He smiled and took out badges that were similar to the Heavenly Star Badge. He then approached Su Ping first and handed him three of them. “These are three Heavenly-Level Divine Weapon Orders. Detailed information about the treasures will appear if you

use them to observe them. If you want to make a selection, just place a badge on the bubble that covers the item.”

Su Ping nodded at the friendly old man and said, “Many thanks.”

The old man smiled, then gave the rest of the badges to Luo Ying, Six Lives Buddha and Lilian. But he didn’t illustrate further.

The others were speechless due to such discrimination. The trio was further reassured that they had to work harder.

*I’ll be the best Star Lord!* Luo Ying thought.

He considered his current misfortune as a low point in his life.

The same idea crossed the minds of Six Lives Buddha, Lilian, Dragon Shepard and the others.

“Can I go in first?”

Su Ping asked Mo Tianhua after seeing that the others weren’t moving.

Mo Tianhua put on a smile, like a warm sun during winter. He said, “Enter, and choose treasures suitable to you.”

Su Ping nodded. He found that the guy was rather friendly.

The people surrounding a successful man would usually become friendly.

That was the truth.

Soon after, Su Ping was teleported into the Heavenly Star Pavilion by the old man.

Inside the heaven-level level area—

Su Ping found himself in the middle of a boundless space. It was more like a universe than a floor; spacious, and filled with starry light.

However, the starry light originated from rare treasures.

Some of them were as massive as mountains and planets.

On the other hand, some treasures were as tiny as sesame seeds. However, they were also shining brightly, and the bubbles covering them were also quite eye-catching.

Every treasure was enshrouded in the aforementioned bubbles, floating in the void.

Su Ping flew towards the treasures.

Su Ping quickly found Goddess Nuwa, previously recommended by Shen Huang.

Goddess Nuwa resembled a statue as it lay inside a bubble. Relevant information popped up when Su Ping approached it.

The item was from the primordial times; it was said to have been created by a real god. It contained a horrifying law which could grant a second life.

Considering that he already had the system's store, Su Ping chose to shift his attention to other treasures.

He examined the treasures one after the other.

There were a few he had noted down before he got there.

*The Prime Sky Mirror allows me to travel across different spaces. It may reflect all attacks within ten times the strength of its holder (three times, when the owner was an Ascendant.) It doesn't protect against Celestial attacks.*

*In addition, it would allow me to create a clone. I can benefit when my clone cultivates, since I would receive twice as much cultivation and understanding. This will double my cultivation speed!*

The mirror was the first treasure chosen by Su Ping.

In short, it was a supportive treasure that could be used as an escape measure, for defense, as well as cultivation.

He had picked the treasure because he was concerned about his safety. He would indeed be safe in his store, but he would have to go outside when he became a Star Lord, or later when he reached the Ascendant State.

Su Ping had detected threats from higher level beings when he was in the Divine Sea and during his visit to the Twilight Deity King's world.

The universe wasn't peaceful.

He had merely been too weak to sense the dangers, which had in turn been fended off by the top experts. Any of those dangers could have annihilated people like him.

Su Ping believed that he had to be prepared to face those kinds of things in the future, after seeing the soldiers and generals fighting on the void battlefield.

*I won't be caught even if I'm chased by Ascendants while I have this mirror. I'll be able to cut into any of the deeper spaces in the universe without leaving any traces behind!*

That was why the Prime Sky Mirror was so powerful.

It was a great life-saving treasure. Duplicating oneself to train or fight was just an ancillary feature. Still, it was a horrifying ability in its own right.

Leaving such an item in the hands of an ordinary person, would give the latter a chance to grow and become a rare genius.

Su Ping placed one of the badges on the bubble enveloping the Prime Sky Mirror.

Soon after, the bubble secured the badge. Then, the Prime Sky Mirror inside the bubble began to glitter; it was then ejected and sent Su Ping's way.

The treasure discovered in an ancient relic was simply glittering and rolling in front of Su Ping.

## **Chapter 945: Chaos Egg**

Su Ping instantly imprinted the Prime Sky Mirror with his mind the moment he got it, all to secure his claim over it.

A vague connection was soon established between him and the mirror. It was a strange feeling, as if he had an additional organ outside his body.

Such a feeling was heightened when he concentrated.

Su Ping stored the mirror in his mind. It was an ancient treasure built with something that wasn't a basic substance. Therefore, it could be kept inside Su Ping's mind.

Then, Su Ping looked for the second treasure.

Suddenly, he saw a bubble with an egg inside.

"Unknown Egg!"

That was the name displayed in the description. The rest of the information was simple too; it had been found in an ancient relic, but neither the equipment nor the top trainers of the Federation had been able to tell what creature the egg belonged to. No relevant genetic information could be found.

Not even extinct creatures had a similar aura.

More than seventy thousand years had passed ever since the egg entered the Heavenly Star Pavilion. Many master trainers had tried to hatch it, but none had managed to succeed.

Due to its special conditions, it was listed as a heaven-level treasure.

After all, a treasure whose background was completely unknown in the universe deserved to be known as a heaven-level treasure.

However, the egg had never been picked because it could be neither identified nor hatched, and the other treasures had mostly been picked and replaced by new ones as soon as they were presented to the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

Su Ping was truly surprised once he saw the egg.

Su Ping found the egg's information through the Illustrated Book for All Pets that the system had given him. There was a path beast inside!

What were path beasts?

They had rarely appeared, even considering the long history of the entire universe, mainly because it was hard to procreate!

That was the most ancient beast!

It was a life born at the beginning of the universe, with thousands of paths inside its body. It was the evolution and manifestation of paths!

The creature was known as the Chaos Beast during ancient times!

It was born in the age of chaos, right when the universe was established at first!

Some said that the beast was immeasurably strong, able to master thousands of paths. To top it off, it was beyond rare to find one!

*It's the egg of a path beast. Am I mistaken, or are my eyes deceiving me?* Su Ping was greatly shocked. He knew that the ancient Chaos Beast was a hundred times more rare and terrifying than the Golden Crows.

Even the grandmasters during primordial times had actually craved to tame giants such as the Chaos Beast!

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the beast ranked in the top five among all pets in existence!

It might not be the very best, but it was still remarkable to be among the top five. Any path beast and above would be enough to shock the Federation if it emerged. Even Celestials would be stupefied.

Only Su Ping—who had been shocked by the system again and again—was able to take in the information in stride.

"This is unbelievable. Oh my god..." Su Ping exclaimed with a pounding heart.

The egg of a path beast, which ranked in the top five of all creatures since the beginning of the universe, was right before his eyes.

More importantly, he knew how to hatch it!

It had to be noted that he was a trainer taught by the all-reaching system!

He knew why nobody had been able to hatch the egg. None of them had been able to find Chaos aura!

The beast had been brought forth by chaos; it could not grow without absorbing Chaos aura, which was the very thing Su Ping used to hatch pets in his store!

This meant that the beast would be hatched the moment it was thrown into the Chaos Spirit Pool for Incubation!

*The authorities of the Federation would have never placed the egg in the Heavenly Star Pavilion if they knew what it was. Not even the whole bunch of treasures held here would amount to what this egg is worth!*

Su Ping was really excited. He felt fortunate to have seen the egg before having chosen his three treasures, or he wouldn't have been able to take it away, even if he saw it later on. It would be practically impossible to get another chance to visit the pavilion to take it.

He was about to take the egg away, but then he suddenly remembered that Mo Tianhua had talked to a spirit in the building. This meant that the spirit was certainly keeping an eye on him.

It would be seen as abnormal for him to act passionately before the egg.

Su Ping instantly suppressed his enthusiasm. It was fortunate that he had already become more sophisticated after years of fighting. His emotions weren't too evident, despite his shocked heart.

He currently wandered around the egg, observing it as if intrigued.



A long time of hesitating passed before he finally placed a badge on the egg.

The hibernation bubble cracked soon after, and the egg floated in front of Su Ping.

The Federation's equipment had detected signs of life. It had not perished, even after seventy thousand years had passed. Su Ping also knew that it was barely possible for such an egg to be broken. Even an Ascendant would have to work hard to break the shell!

Su Ping held the egg in his hand and observed it for a moment, then placed it in his storage.

He was caught in a dilemma at the moment.

He would have to abandon one of the other two treasures he had laid eyes on.

Su Ping decided after pondering for a moment.

He didn't go to see the treasures he had pre-selected; instead he kept on wandering in the pavilion's space.

The egg wasn't included on the list with 89 treasures Shen Huang had given him, so he didn't know about it earlier. He then thought that there might be more interesting treasures to see.

However, his luck seemed to have run out, as he spent a whole day examining the place. He didn't find anything surprising.

He did find some rare treasures that had not been included in his master's list, but none could compare to the egg.

In the end, he chose one of the treasures that he had picked in advance.

He had to admit that the 89 treasures Shen Huang had listed were indeed the most rare and suitable for him.

Some of the other treasures he found were also very powerful, but most had harsh requirements; they wouldn't be too useful for him.

"Blood Cloud Sword!"

Unlike the Prime Sky Mirror which was for supportive purposes, the sword was an ultimate weapon!

The mirror could be used to keep himself safe, so he still thought that he could use a good sword.

As for the rest of the stuff, the system could later provide it.

The Blood Cloud Sword was the weapon of a devil who had lived in the age of the Twilight Deity King. It was entirely red, with dark, bloody stripes on its surface. Those stripes were actually part of the wood grain!

The sword was made of wood!

However, that was perhaps the hardest wooden sword in the world!

The weapon had been made of wood taken from the world tree. It was said that the bloody stripes had been caused by an unknown type of blood from ancient times. It had kept such an appearance ever since the devil obtained it.

The sword was able to store an extraordinary amount of faith and divine powers. It could rip apart many fields and destroy many materials.

It could be used to neutralize spells, as well as to kill or suppress enemies!

The only shortcoming was that the wielder would be constantly affected by the unholy power within the sword, who could eventually end up becoming mentally deranged. It was said that the devil who acquired the sword used to be a deity.

The tale was recorded in a journal, right where the sword was found.

*I've been using the Little Skeleton's bone saber. It's indeed sturdy, but it's not destructive enough. This sword can increase my damage output, and I'll be able to resist Ascendant-level attacks if it can store divine power. Of course, I would only resist one strike,* Su Ping thought.

The heaven-level treasures were truly powerful.

Su Ping was done, as he could not select more than the three treasures he already had. However, right before leaving he openly sighed in regret as he looked at one of the floating treasures. He took out the egg as if wavering, but then he sighed again and left the Heavenly Star Pavilion while carrying the egg.

Whether or not the spirit was observing him, he decided to act it out as an attempt to fool it.

...

He saw that the others were waiting for him as soon as he got out.

All of them had jealous eyes when they saw him.

It wasn't until after they saw the treasures inside the pavilion that they realized how precious Su Ping's privilege was!

However, they didn't lose control because of jealousy, nor did they think of robbing him; they weren't idiots. Considering how strong he was at the moment, considering the treasures he had just picked and Shen Huang's protection, he would be technically unkillable once he became a Star Lord!

Of course, there were destructive weapons in the Federation that could even annihilate Star Lords. However, such weapons were highly restricted, and their sources could be tracked down.

*I feel that the gap between us is even greater.* It was the thought of many, who sighed and moaned.

Su Ping was already the champion of the universe.

He had surely become even stronger than them after getting more treasures.

They would need a fair deal of luck if they were to catch up with him.

"Have you picked your treasures? We'll be heading back soon," said Mo Tianhua, glancing at Su Ping.

Su Ping nodded. "I have."

"Let's go."

Mo Tianhua instantly took them away.

"Young brother, keep in touch!" cried out the white-haired old man.

Su Ping looked back at the latter and smiled.

The spaceship sailed away right after.

The vessel passed through the spatial blockade through the long bridge, finally entering the area where it could fly freely.

"We'll be taking you to the Gamma Space Station. You can head home from there," Mo Tianhua said to the whole group.

The Gamma Space Station was a super massive, interstellar teleportation station that could enable anyone to jump to any galaxy within a billion light years.

No one disagreed. It was indeed time for them to say goodbye.

Luo Ying turned around and said to Su Ping solemnly, "I'll catch up and be on par with you next time we meet!"

"Me too," said Six Lives Buddha with a smile, eagerness showing in his eyes.

"I hope we'll have a chance to fight," Lilian also chimed in.

Su Ping smiled after hearing them. "I'm also looking forward to our next encounter."

The others wore complicated expressions, while being all sighs; they were too weak to issue a challenge like the others.

Inside the spaceship—Su Ping entered the virtual world via his phone.

He soon found Tang Ruyan among his contacts and reached out to her.

"Gamma Space Station." Su Ping reported the name of the place and asked them to wait there.

Several days later...

Gamma Space Station—

Rushing spaceships were everywhere, moving to and fro in the galaxy nearby. Most were cruises for travelers, while some were business spaceships.

Right at the center of that swarm of spaceships was a splendid and beautiful space station.

The Gamma Space Station had quite the luxurious appearance. Most new visitors would be amazed by its grandeur; after all, not many were as large.

Su Ping noticed a planet relatively close to the space station when they arrived.

Obviously, the planet was much bigger and conspicuous when compared to any of the spaceships.

Su Ping's lips curved up. He somehow remembered O'Neil's frustrated face.

"Why is a planet here?"

"Weird. I've been to the Gamma Space Station before. There shouldn't be a planet here."

Aboard the spaceship—many people noticed the planet.

A genius's protector looked at the planet and remarked, frowning, "An Ascendant brought the planet over."

Even though Ascendants had many privileges in the universe, it was still rare for them to do something like this.

"The planet is not hindering any teleportation; the local garrison would have taken action by now if it were the case," said someone amongst the group.

Su Ping looked at Mo Tianhua and coughed. "Senior, can I go to that planet? My friend is waiting for me there."

Mo Tianhua: "?"

The latter was speechless as his eyes shifted from the planet to Su Ping. He could not believe that the planet was there because of him.

The others were also surprised by Su Ping's request. Then, they found it understandable.

Mo Tianhua remained silent. He waved his hand, and the spaceship approached the planet.

The rest of the geniuses could only look at each other in silence after seeing how accommodating Mo Tianhua was towards Su Ping. Even a Heavenly Lord was being extra friendly as he interacted with the genius who had condensed a small world in the Fate State.

None of them would have gotten such a treatment had they tried.

#### **Chapter 946: Abusing Kids**

Soon, the spaceship arrived on Rhea.

"Huh?"

Mo Tianhua scanned the planet indifferently; he felt surprised, as his senses had been locked somewhere, as he swepted everything with his senses.

The entire planet had been dismantled to the core. Nothing could be hidden.

All the residents on the planet were similarly visible.

No secrets could be hidden!

However... that one particular area was beyond his detection, like a black spot.

He chose not to investigate further, as he realized that it was probably a place where an Ascendant expert lived.

"I need to send you to the space station. Say goodbye to your friend, but leave the chatting for later, after you meet your master," Mo Tianhua said to Su Ping.

He would rather not let Su Ping alight on the spot, lest anything happened to him.

He wasn't afraid of being blamed by Lord Supreme; he merely thought it would be a great loss for humankind if such a talented kid were to die young.

"Sure."

Su Ping nodded.

The spaceship landed on Rhea, above Woffett's sky.

"Is this where your friend lives? The store over there looks mysterious," Su Jin'er asked Su Ping curiously.

The others had also noticed the store. After all, they could detect all the places in the nearby region of the universe, except for the store.

"This is a pet store. Is your friend a trainer? They must be among the best trainers in the Federation if it's an Ascendant!"

All the group was shocked after seeing the name of the store.

Trainers were not known for their own strength, but if they had such lofty cultivation, their training expertise would undoubtedly be the best!

It somehow made sense that a genius such as Su Ping would have the help of a top trainer!

Mo Tianhua's eyes glittered. A top trainer was very attractive, even to Ascendants, even an honorable guest to Celestials.

"This is my store." Su Ping smiled. He was eager to attract and impress his potential customers. "Feel free to visit if you want to train your pets. I can train Star State pets as well as the top trainers of the Federation can."

He was very confident.

He wasn't blindly confident in himself or the system. He had seen the geniuses' pets during the Universe Geniuses' Contest; all of them were all rare and powerful.

However, Su Ping had no doubt that they would have been even more powerful if he would have trained them!

Su Ping believed that those geniuses had surely sought the help of master trainers. Although he was unable to train pets whose levels were too high, he believed he was the best in his level!

"Your shop?"

Everyone was astonished by Su Ping's remark; they looked at him in shock.

A stunned Luo Ying asked, "You're also capable of training pets?"

"Yes."

Su Ping smiled. "Training pets is actually my forte."

"..."

Everybody was lost for words.

*His main job is pet training?*

*What about fighting? Is it just for fun?*

Everybody had weird looks, feeling that Su Ping was being snobbish.

Only an idiot would believe that the best fighting genius throughout the universe would truly be an expert trainer.

All of them thought that it was merely a hobby for him. He was just like some of the rich guys who claimed that they weren't interested in money.

"Why do you only use Fate State pets if you own a pet store?" asked Su Jin'er curiously.

Everybody was pondering along the same lines. Su Ping had not summoned any Star State pets in the contest, which was quite surprising. The others thought that he had other pets, but nobody was able to force his hand and make him use his truly powerful pets.

"I've been too busy with the competition to focus on training them. The battles would have been a lot easier had they been in the Star State."

Luo Ying was astonished. "You're already capable of training Star State pets?"

It required a lot of time to train Star State pets; even a simple training could be severely time-consuming.

Time was essential for people like him; none of them would spare a second if they could.

"More or less." Su Ping nodded. "So, feel free to pay a visit if you have pets you want to train."

"I will," someone in the group said courteously.

A girl emerged from the back of the store right then. Golden hair dangled from her shoulders like a waterfall; her figure was alluring, and her face was as flawless as a piece of artwork. She was none other than Joanna.

"You're finally back."

As for the Green Lady, she hid herself the moment she detected Ascendant State visitors.

After all, she could be lethally attractive to those of their level—

Eating her would allow any of them to rise to the Celestial State!

“Huh?”

Everybody was dazed by Joanna’s appearance. Even the Ascendants who were protecting the geniuses had glittering eyes, amazed by what they saw.

She was exquisite.

“Amitabha, Amitabha...” Six Lives Buddha suddenly recited sutras, as if trying to keep his cool, but he couldn’t stop gazing at Joanna.

Su Jin’er and Lilian were also amazed, even from their girl perspective. Su Jin’er in particular, felt satisfied with her recent, personally built reincarnation. However, the blonde girl was prettier than she could have ever imagined; she could not believe that any girl could be as extraordinary.

“Brother Su, who is she?” Luo Ying turned his head and looked at Su Ping.

Su Ping said, “Joanna, my employee and friend.”

“Employee?”

Everybody was surprised. *Was such a beautiful woman only a minor employee?*

However, Su Ping seemed to be implying that she was mainly his friend, and was only working for him because it was a good reason to keep him company.

“She seems to be in the Fate State too, with a refined and magnificent divine power. She certainly is a genius too... Why didn’t she participate in the competition?” asked Luo Ying curiously.

For obvious reasons, Su Ping couldn’t tell them the truth. He simply said, “She wasn’t interested.”

“Huh? Not interested?”

Su Ping’s excuse had stunned the others, who narrowed their eyes as they observed the girl. She had no interest in a contest where they competed fiercely. Wasn’t that arrogance?

Joanna remained as indifferent as before while she stood by the entrance of the store. She glanced at Luo Ying and the others casually with her bright, golden eyes and said, “I heard that you became the champion. Did you fight them?”

Su Ping nodded as he replied, “Thank you for watching over the store for me.”

“You’re welcome. The business has been thriving recently,” said Joanna.

She knew what Su Ping truly cared about.

“Brother Su, can we visit your store?” Six Lives Buddha asked.

Their interest in Su Ping’s store was high, since they had chosen to tag along. All of them were curious, wondering what the store of the best genius of the universe, who also called himself a trainer, was like.

“Of course,” said Su Ping with a smile.

Mo Tianhua frowned a bit, but didn't move to stop them. He merely looked at Joanna thoughtfully. He had detected that the divine power within the girl wasn't just abundant; it seemed to have corrupted her body, turning her into something beyond human.

Everybody left the spaceship and entered Su Ping's store while people on the street watched them.

The Ascendant protectors behind them could only keep them company.

"Huh?"

Lilian suddenly turned her head and looked at one of the statues by the entrance.

There was a fat, purple-haired mouse at the bottom of the great art piece.

The Lightning Rat then opened its eyes and also saw Lilian.

*It's so cute!* thought Lilian. Thanks to the environment she had grown up in, she always favored strange pets, such as rats, snakes and insects, which most people would find unsavory. After all, such pets were usually ugly and disgusting.

*Unfortunately, it's too weak and untalented.*

Lilian examined it from a distance, immediately finding that the purple-haired rat didn't have an owner.

She looked at Su Ping and asked, "Hey, is that rat a pet from your store?"

Su Ping paused and nodded at her. "Yes. Why did you ask?"

"Can you sell it to me?" asked Lilian quickly.

Su Ping was stunned for a moment. It was the very first time anyone would propose to buy the Lightning Rat.

It had lingered close to the store entrance all this time. None of the customers had ever shown any interest, as it clearly didn't have an advanced bloodline.

He didn't expect that a top genius such as Lilian would show interest.

"Are you planning to take it as a pet? You still have an opening?" asked Su Ping.

Lilian smiled and said, "Of course I do. I have it handy in case I can sign a contract with an extremely rare pet if I ever encounter one. But I'm mainly buying this rat for fun; it's too weak to have it help me in battle."

*For fun?*

Slightly dazed, Su Ping shook his head and said, "The pets I sell can only be used in battle, they're not for fun. This rat is indeed weak right now, but I believe it will be able to catch up with you if it's well trained. It would even turn out to be stronger than you think."

Stunned for a moment, Lilian dropped her smile and said, "Never mind, then."

She did like the Lightning Rat, but she wasn't so crazy about it that she would give one of her few pet openings to a lowly rat.



Her eyes were keen enough to tell that the rat was merely in the Ocean State, no better than an ant in her eyes. None of the top trainers of the Federation would train it so that it would catch up with her. After all, she was a genius; few pets could grow as fast as her.

Su Ping chose not to speak further, seeing that she had abandoned the idea. He merely looked back at the Lightning Rat.

Everybody followed Su Ping and entered the store after that.

“There’s a virtual arena.” Someone said while observing the store’s amenities. Some of the rooms were closed, but the rest of the place wasn’t surprising; after all, they had seen a fair share of even more luxurious pet stores.

“That’s a pet examination room? Don’t you usually need an independent place for that? What if the pet blows this place up while testing skills?” asked someone in the group.

Before Su Ping answered, someone else had already stepped in. “Do you even need to ask? This place must be heavily protected. It wouldn’t be destroyed that easily.”

Tang Ruyan came from the back of the store while the little tour was in progress. She was awed by the visitors, especially the Ascendant State ones.

Joanna glanced at Mo Tianhua and remained as indifferent as usual, as if completely uninterested.

“Monk, care for another fight?” said Dragon Shepard to Six Lives Buddha in front of the virtual combat equipment.

Slightly dazed, the monk saw the equipment, then shook his head and replied, “You’ll only fail again. My path of time and space would still work in the virtual world.”

Dragon Shepard said coldly, “I simply want to find out if I can defeat you by sacrificing all my pets.”

“What’s the point?” Six Lives Buddha shook his head and said, “A real expert would not use such a method as a last resort. It’s too wasteful, and is brutal for your pets!”

Dragon Shepard’s face looked somewhat contorted. He was still regretting not having sacrificed all his pets during their last battle, especially after the trip to the Heavenly Star Pavilion. He thought he would have been victorious had he tried his best without caring about the cost.

That in itself would prove that he was worthy of fighting against Su Ping, and even get to defeat the latter!

He had never tried sacrificing all his pets. He had yet to learn his true limits.

The others glanced at Dragon Shepard, knowing that he had still not gotten over the failure, which was long overdue in their opinion.

Lilian looked at the equipment and said to Su Ping, “Should give it a try? It’s a shame that we didn’t get to fight each other.”

Su Ping was momentarily dazed. He shook his head and said, "We can't use our full combat abilities in the virtual arena. Some of the special constitutions are not recorded in the equipment, which would make things unfair. Let's fight after we become Star Lords, or when we reach the Ascendant State."

Lilian frowned ever so slightly. Still, she knew that Su Ping had a point, so she didn't insist.

A person in the group then looked at Joanna and said, "You must be a reincarnation too, aren't you?"

Joanna—who had been standing quietly—looked at the young man who just asked, then replied indifferently, "Why? Can't I be one?"

"Of course you can. I was simply thinking that you would have made it to the top ten had you chosen to participate in the contest. Why abandon such an opportunity?" asked the young man curiously.

Most Ascendant State reincarnations had grasped perfect laws and would certainly have a good chance of rising to the top ten, let alone Joanna's abundant divine power and her seemingly strong abilities.

"Would have?" Joanna glanced at him and then the rest of the group, before she said, "Wouldn't it be seen as me abusing kids had I taken part?"

#### **Chapter 947: The Combat Ability of the Goddess of War**

*Abusing... kids?*

Joanna's casual declaration left everyone in shock, but they soon calmed down and looked at Su Ping. They would not let her get away easily if he didn't step in, regardless of her being a friend of his.

"Well..."

Su Ping didn't expect Joanna to say that, either. *Does she not have any EQ at all? Why does she have to mock this many people?*

However, he was also a bit shocked by what Joanna said. He knew that she would never lie or brag. After all, she probably wasn't even interested in doing so in front of the people present.

It seemed that he had still underestimated her combat ability.

"Sorry. As always, my friend is overly blunt. Please don't take it to heart." Su Ping could only apologize on her behalf.

There was a slight change in everyone's expressions, as Su Ping's apology was somehow insincere.

*She's always this blunt?*

*What gives her the confidence to be this way?*

"Interesting. If you don't mind, I'd like to find out how abusive you can be," said Dragon Shepard with a sneer.

He wanted to vent his fury after being declined by Six Lives Buddha and then spurned by someone else.

The others also had angry looks. Even Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha remained silent. Although they had lost to Su Ping, they were both proud and would rather not be insulted.

“Not interested,” Joanna said indifferently.

She sounded lazy and casual, as if she didn't really consider Dragon Shepard's challenge a big deal.

Dragon Shepard was so angry that he laughed and asked, “Not interested? Are you scared? There's still time for you to apologize if you are!”

“Scared?”

Joanna chewed on the word for a while, as if searching for a strange and arcane concept in her memories. She raised her head and dropped the indifference on her face. “As you wish then.”

The Goddess of War had fought for countless years in the Demigod Burial and seen countless enemies trembling with fear in front of her. Would she ever be scared?

“Okay. Let's fight in the sky.” Dragon Shepard snorted and turned around, just about to leave the store.

The Ascendant escorting Dragon Shepard didn't want them to fight, but he knew it was impossible to stop the young man; the latter's future cultivation would be affected.

Although Joanna looked gorgeous, she had left a bad impression on a lot of people.

“Let's do it here,” said Joanna.

She was unable to leave the store, so they could only fight inside.

“Here?”

Dragon Shepard paused and looked at her. “Are you not afraid that Brother Su's store will be torn apart?”

“You're too weak to tear it apart,” said Joanna without thinking. Her original self was not strong enough to destroy the store, not even a Superior God could.

“You!”

There it was, yet another insulting statement aimed at Dragon Shepard.

He grimly stared at Su Ping, obviously asking for his opinion.

Seeing those eyes, Su Ping knew it was impossible to persuade him to give up. He said with a bitter smile, “You can fight in the test room. It has strong barriers.”

“Okay.” Dragon Shepard quickly accepted the arrangement.

He had nothing to worry about if Su Ping gave approval.

Joanna, on the other hand, kept her aloof and unconcerned stance as she simply walked toward the test room.

The others could only follow her. They wanted to find out whether this person who seemed close to Su Ping was truly capable, or if she was just being pretentious.

Hardly had they entered the test room when they found that it was a strange place, with a much greater space than they thought.

They also noticed when Su Ping adjusted the room to make mountains and rivers appear to create a battlefield.

The Ascendants, including Mo Tianhua, had surprised looks, as the technology of the Federation was not yet able to do that. It seemed to be the work of some unusual treasure.

Dragon Shepard glanced at the battlefield, then said to Joanna, "Let's get prepared."

Joanna stood on the battlefield; she looked at Dragon Shepard, but she didn't seem interested in talking to him. An ancient spear with a crescent blade on one end appeared in her hand. It looked extraordinary.

*That weapon...*

Mo Tianhua and the others narrowed their eyes upon seeing the spear. The weapon seemed to be marvelous in their eyes. The way it had been manifested was also intriguing; she didn't take it out of a space, as it seemed to have been condensed with divine power.

However, the spear was clearly a real artifact.

It seemed to be the way people summoned their personal weapons in ancient civilizations.

The Dragon Shepard summoned his full lineup of dragons while Joanna drew her spear. A lot of horrifying dragons roared as they appeared behind him. Some were massive, looking down from the sky with abyss-like eyes, while others were as tiny as flying butterflies.

"There's still time for you to admit defeat," said Dragon Shepard with indifference.

Joanna glanced at the dragons behind him and said softly, "Are those all your pets? You've picked such a bunch of slaves as your pets? What gives you the courage act with such confidence?"

"..."

All the people in the room were stunned. *Slaves?* All those dragons were rare, yet the woman was describing them as if they were humble beings.

Su Ping put on a bitter smile. He knew that Joanna wasn't being deliberately derisive; long before she had told him that dragons had been enslaved by the gods in ancient times.

Afterwards, some of the powerful dragon gods established an independent realm to ensure the safety of their species.

However, dragons were promiscuous by nature and had a lot of descendants. Some of their weak descendants had been tamed and turned into mounts by powerful beings.

"I was planning to let go of you, but you went and insulted my pets. I won't show you any mercy!" Dragon Shepard declared coldly to Joanna and Su Ping.

"Human beings are indeed an ignorant and stupid race."

Joanna slightly shook her head. It had been a long time since she had heard such a hilarious declaration.

“Roar!!”

Dragon Shepard merged with his pet and let out a furious roar.

The roar echoed in the room like a nuclear explosion. Many of the people present felt a slight headache and were shocked by such development. They weren't the dragons' main target, or their heads would have gone blank, which could have been fatal in such a battle.

In the next moment, Dragon Shepard charged at Joanna who had yet to make a move.

He waved his hands and punched heavily with sharp fingernails.

He brutally unleashed strength from his furnace-like body, determined to teach the beautiful woman a good lesson and tear down her indifferent expression.

However, the next moment, the most dazzling golden light radiated in the area!

The spear in Joanna's hand was activated. It moved like a dragon, illuminating the battlefield with eternal fire. Her eyes were no longer casual at the moment; she looked like a queen looking down at her subjects!

She was the toughest queen!

Her hair fluttered, and her body was covered in golden light. Her spear pressed forward with unstoppable momentum.

Bang!!

Dragon Shepard was flung back. His enormous fist was blown to pieces by the spear; even his arm exploded. He was knocked heavily into the ground, sliding for dozens of meters. The wound was already severe!

No one made a sound.

Everybody looked at the scene in shock, finding it hard to believe.

Dragon Shepard had been seriously wounded by a single attack!

The aura just unleashed by Joanna was unparalleled; she seemed absolutely invincible. Everybody was awed by her glorious halo at that moment. None of them thought she was a weak woman—she was a queen that dominated the world!

The golden light moved closer with immense pressure, like a small sun. The golden light faded, to reveal the point of the spear, which was right in front of Dragon Shepard's forehead.

“It's over,” said Joanna indifferently. The sharpness in her eyes was already gone, as if none of her actions would have been brutal.

Dragon Shepard was stunned.

He even forgot the excruciating pain caused by his mauled arm for a moment. His head was ringing; the situation left him shocked and confused.

*How did I fail?*

*I tried to dodge the spear. Why did I fail?*

Next to one of the walls of the room, Six Lives Buddha remarked solemnly, "The path of time and space?"

Moments earlier, he had detected that the woman had paused Dragon Shepard's body with the path of time and space.

He wasn't the only one who detected that. The Ascendant experts also realized that and shock was reflected on their faces. That unknown woman had mastered the supreme law of time and defeated Dragon Shepard, who had a chance to enter the top three of the prior competition. It was indeed horrifying!

Su Ping was rendered speechless. He knew that Joanna was very strong, but she turned out to be even more horrifying than he thought. It was true that she had never used her real abilities.

"Excellent performance, madam. I would also like to be graced with your teachings," said Six Lives Buddha as he stepped forward. He then added, "Brother Su, I'm just intrigued; that is why I want to practice with her. I'm not angry or anything."

"Well..."

Su Ping saw sincerity in his eyes, and knew he wasn't trying to challenge Joanna because of her bold statement. He immediately said to Joanna, "Be careful and don't hurt him."

"..." Six Lives Buddha's lips cramped.

The others looked at Su Ping, lost for words. Six Lives Buddha had almost become the champion. His two future selves could crush anyone in his level, unless that woman could do the same.

Joanna turned her head, still silent. She simply waved her spear, asking her opponent to prepare.

Six Lives Buddha didn't underestimate her. She was definitely strong, since she had defeated Dragon Shepard with one attack, even though the latter had not detonated his pets.

He simply summoned his two future selves.

He had already exposed that skill; it would be pointless to keep it a secret anymore.

Joanna seemed to be slightly surprised. She nodded and remarked, "Not bad."

After that, she glowed again and charged at the Six Lives Buddhas with her spear in hand.

Her attack seemed simple and straightforward. However, she carried as much pressure as an approaching planet that would crush anything in its way.

The last thing that Six Lives Buddha was scared of was a head-on clash. Only fast opponents like Luo Ying were tricky in his eyes.

As they rushed to an imminent clash, the two Six Lives Buddhas grabbed each other's hands and combined their strength. Countless laws and infinite astral power were condensed as they waved their daggers and slashed with an ancient secret technique!

Joanna, on the other hand, was still stabbing forward with her spear.

However, the tip of her spear shined brightly!

"Oh no!"

A few of the Ascendants changed their expressions.

Mo Tianhua was one of them. He tried to intervene; to his surprise he discovered that he couldn't launch divine power in that room.

He wanted to interrupt the battle with his small world, but that was also blocked.

The two people had already collided during the pause.

Bang!!

A terrifying explosion burst out, and energy collapsed. Two men were suddenly flung out and sent to the ground, vomiting blood. They were none other than the two Six Lives Buddhas.

Everyone saw and found it hard to believe. They felt as if their souls were leaving their bodies.

They immediately focused on the place where the core of the explosion took place, as they tried to find out how wounded the contender was.

However, they saw that a woman covered in golden light walked out of the blast area in an invincible manner, still carrying her spear.

It was none other than Joanna!

Everyone was wide eyed once the aftermath was clear, since the woman had gone through the clash completely unscathed!

"The skills of the mortals are too primitive," commented Joanna indifferently.

Six Lives Buddha felt like his chest had been torn apart. He looked up at Joanna, who was standing tall in the golden light, too shocked to speak.

He had failed in a pure competition of strength!

*Impossible!*

*She's merely a Fate State warrior. How could she be strong enough to suppress my two Star State instances from the future?*

Su Ping wasn't too surprised, given that Joanna's reincarnation had a Titan Constitution from the god race. He didn't know which level it would be in the Federation, but it carried a lot of divine power.

*I didn't know laws could be used in such a way...*

The spear seemed to merely be stabbing forward a moment earlier, but Su Ping saw how different powers had been delicately condensed in that attack.

The number of laws it contained was astounding.

Outside the battlefield—Luo Ying's eyes glittered. He flashed to where Joanna stood. "Let me have a try too."

He simply activated his constitution without hesitating and charged toward Joanna.

She looked back at him, then suddenly moved.

A weird scene happened: both Joanna and Luo Ying disappeared from the battlefield.

Chapter 948: Failure

"So fast!"

Both of them were so fast that none of the onlookers could see them clearly. Only the Ascendant experts could see their actions. They were similarly shocked.

Not only had the girl defeated Six Lives Buddha... she was also as fast as Luo Ying?

Apart from the Ascendants, the other geniuses were observing with narrowed eyes, hoping to track her down.

Su Ping's eyes turned golden as he watched carefully.

All of a sudden—

Bang!

A person had heavily smashed into the ground. The momentum didn't stop until after sliding for dozens of meters.

Everybody saw that it was Luo Ying, seemingly frustrated while vomiting blood. There was an obvious footprint on his chest; his ribs had been broken and were currently pressing inwards.

A person flashed and appeared where Luo Ying fell. She was none other than Joanna, who looked down at him while pointing her spear at his forehead.

A powerful golden brilliance was condensed on the spear tip. She could kill the second best genius of the universe at any time!

The Ascendant escorting Luo Ying was shocked and about to take action.

The others were somewhat dazed by the outcome.

Luo Ying failed too?

His failure had also been awfully fast. It was tantamount to a slaughter!

Luo Ying, who was currently lying on the ground, found it hard to believe she was as fast as him while seemingly not trying her best, at all. Is she really a Fate State warrior? What kind of monster is she?



Joanna indifferently dematerialized her spear. The golden brilliance was dispersed, which then flowed back into her body. She had lost all interest in continuing the fight.

She truly is unbelievably strong. Even I wouldn't guarantee that I'm able to defeat her, Su Ping thought after witnessing the exchange.

Even though he had condensed a small world, Joanna was too strong in every aspect. She was stronger than Six Lives Buddha and faster than Luo Ying. Her every other aspect was probably maxed out!

He couldn't defeat her without using his small world.

The Ascendant escort stepped up and said politely, with cold sweat on his forehead, "Thank you for going easy on him, miss."

Joanna seemed to merely be a Fate State junior, but that was only a reincarnation; her original self very likely a Heavenly Lord!

Normal Ascendants would hardly be able to develop such a horrifying reincarnation.

Joanna glanced at him and nodded casually, not saying a word.

The others woke up from their stupor. Dragon Shepard, who had lost earlier, had a confused and awful look. He could not figure out why such a horrifying being was living in such a normal store.

She could have won the championship had she participated.

Many looked at Su Ping and thought the same; they wondered about who was the strongest between the two.

Considering how easily Joanna had defeated the two geniuses, she seemed to be even more terrifying and invincible than Su Ping!

Mo Tianhua suddenly praised and looked at Joanna thoughtfully at that moment, "Great skills! I think I know why you didn't participate in the contest. It would have been boring to compete with those kids."

Luo Ying and the others had embarrassed looks after hearing that.

Joanna had previously claimed that fighting them would be like abusing kids, and that was exactly what happened.

However, all of them had already reached the final bottleneck before the breakthrough. How could anyone be that much stronger within their level?

The other Ascendant State experts were further convinced that Joanna's original self was a Heavenly Lord, considering Mo Tianhua's attitude, and thus their attitudes became much gentler. Even those protecting Dragon Shepard and Six Lives Buddha had quenched their anger. After all, Heavenly Lords were unrestrained beings.

Nobody would be willing to piss off their ilk.

Joanna silently glanced at Mo Tianhua. Defeating Luo Ying and the others was nothing to her; it couldn't even be listed on her resume. All the opponents she had defeated were extraordinary talents, some of whom had survived for hundreds of thousands of years.

"Damn..."

In the crowd—Diaz was dumbfounded and lost for words.

He didn't know that even one of Su Ping's aides was that horrifying.

The girl is undoubtedly the best genius in the universe aside from Su Ping, and still she's willing to work as a clerk for him? There has to be something going on between them! Diaz felt even sadder after thinking that. Why is that guy's girl so awesome too? How can I possibly defeat him?

Su Jin'er's eyes glittered with complicated feelings. She had been planning to get closer to Su Ping as his partner, but he already had such an excellent girl next to him. He might not have the least bit of interest in her.

Suddenly, an Ascendant State expert stepped up and asked in earnest, "Madam, would you like to be a guest of the He family?"

Before he continued pitching his offer, Joanna indifferently said, "No."

Her refusal was short, and straight to the point.

The Ascendant expert almost choked, but he didn't show any dissatisfaction; he only wore an awkward smile.

As a matter of fact, he was only trying his luck. After all, the girl's original self was an Ascendant State expert, one that would surely have her own organization already.

All the others abandoned their own plans after seeing their peer be shot down.

Mo Tianhua was further reassured that Joanna's original self was probably as extraordinary as him, considering her behavior. He was quite impressed; after all, it would be extremely difficult, if it were even possible, for him to develop a reincarnation to such a level.

For her to defeat Six Lives Buddha was understandable.

However, it was rather terrifying to see her defeat Luo Ying easily as well.

After such a setback, everybody observed her with curious eyes, wondering whether or not she was stronger than Su Ping.

It didn't take long for someone to ask the question.

Su Ping smiled and said, "We've never fought before, but we're probably close."

None of them pressed on the matter after he gave such a vague answer.

The group dispersed and returned to their respective spaceships after having a look around at the store. Su Ping asked Mo Tianhua to wait for him. He then placed the Chaos Egg he had fetched from the Heavenly Star Pavilion in the Chaos Spirit Pool.

Even though he could hatch it immediately, he would have to tend to it afterwards. He still had to report to his master first.

“This egg...”

Hardly had he brought out the egg when Joanna narrowed her eyes and asked Su Ping sternly, “Where did you get this? It seems to belong to a very ancient creature.”

“Indeed. I’ve also detected the aura of an ancient power,” said Green Lady via telepathy from the rear of the store. She had never appeared before the recent visitors, but she had been paying close attention to Su Ping.

### **Chapter 949: Divine Lord Rank**

Su Ping wasn’t worried that Green Lady could be exposed, as all probing methods were blocked inside the store. No one could detect her existence; nobody, not even a Heavenly Lord such as Mo Tianhua, unless she expressly showed up in public.

“I claimed it from a treasury building. It’s one of the prizes I won in the competition. It’s the egg of a path beast called Chaos, left from the primordial age when the universe was just established. I’m going to hatch it here,” said Su Ping, then added, “Take care of the store while I’m away. I’ll be back soon.”

“A path beast?!”

Green Lady was stunned for a moment. She then asked in shock, “Is it the legendary path beast that knows thousands of paths in the universe from the moment it’s born? Do such creatures really exist?”

“That is correct.”

Su Ping nodded.

“Aren’t you talking about the divine essence beast?” Joanna was also dazed.

She narrowed her eyes; that was the sole expression she had shown after defeating the previous visitors. “The creatures born with thousands of paths only lived in the primordial times and have long gone extinct. That was an actual prize in the competition?”

She was truly dumbfounded.

*The prize for defeating those kids was that precious?*

She knew that there were other worlds aside from the Demigod Burial. Still, Su Ping’s world was terrifying!

Even such extinct creatures from the primordial times had been given away for free!

Joanna’s dazed expression made Su Ping find her cute all of a sudden. She didn’t have her usual, indifferent God of War look.

He smiled and said, “Don’t overthink. I only got it because nobody else knew what it was. Don’t expose it.”

Both of them realized what had happened.

Joanna seemed to have been enlightened; such an answer was the only plausible explanation. Treasures of that magnitude would have never been given away easily, not even in the Archean Divinity.

Furthermore, it had been quite easy to claim the prize.

"I would have tried my luck if I knew this. Unfortunately..." Joanna felt a pang of regret. It was the very first time she was sorry and angry due to her inability to leave the store.

Su Ping remained silent, only offering a smile and bidding farewell.

"I'll be away for a couple of months, or even one or two years. Please take care of my store while I'm away," said Su Ping.

Although professional training would be unavailable while he was away, his Dummy Trainer could handle the normal training on his behalf.

"That long?"

The three women frowned. Green Lady didn't consider it a big deal, but Tang Ruyan showed reluctance; she was only in her twenties, and one year was a very long time for her. On the other hand, Joanna and Green Lady considered it like the blink of an eye.

"I'll try my best to come back sooner," said Su Ping.

He left after giving them some instructions.

Everybody was waiting for him on the spaceship. Su Ping offered apologies, then went to the portal under Mo Tianhua's lead.

The latter had the spaceship send out VIP signals. A special channel was immediately opened, allowing the vessel to pass in advance.

A lot of spaceships nearby were waiting in line to be teleported.

"Guys, this is where we must say goodbye. Take care of yourselves during the remaining part of the journey," said Mo Tianhua to everyone at the portal.

All the Ascendant experts thanked him, then stepped into the portal with the geniuses they were protecting.

Luo Ying gazed at Su Ping and made a pact with him. "Let's fight again next time we meet!"

Su Ping accepted the challenge with a smile.

"Don't relax just because you're the champion; we'll catch up with you soon. I hope we have a chance to fight next time," said Lilian, winking at the end.

Six Lives Buddha said with a gentle smile, "Be prepared to fight three of my future selves next time we meet!"

Su Ping said with a helpless smile, "I won't even dare to rest if you keep talking like that."

"Haha."

Luo Ying laughed and waved goodbye.

Lilian also smiled and left with her Ascendant State protector.

The others bid farewell too, one after the other.

Su Ping stepped into the portal right after everyone left, then selected the Celestial Court.

...

Celestial Court, Golden Star Zone—

The splendid Celestial Court, like a glowing temple, radiated a light even brighter than that of stars, illuminating the quiet and dark space.

In one of the Celestial Court's palaces.

"Master, I'm back," said Su Ping respectfully, head lowered while he stood before his master.

Shen Huang, wearing a luxurious and fashionable robe, had a gentle and approachable look as he sat on the throne. He chuckled and said, "Diaz just came back and told me you would surely return without issues. Your performance during the competition was great. No more than a hundred people have ever condensed a small world while still in the Fate State."

"A hundred?" Su Ping was stunned. He had at first thought that it had been an impossibly difficult task, yet his master was implying that plenty others had achieved the feat.

"No need to feel surprised. After all, there are too many geniuses in this vast universe. However, some of them have either died young or lost their brilliance due to several different reasons, later being unable to continue their rise and distinguishing themselves further," said Shen Huang with a smile.

Su Ping gave a slight nod as his mindset also changed.

"You can break through and reach the Star State at any moment, but I do hope you stay put until you become a Star Lord. Until that happens, just cultivate in the Celestial Court. All the resources you need are here," said Shen Huang.

Even though he was prepared, Su Ping could not help but ask in a low voice, "Master, do I have to wait until I become a Star Lord?"

"Yes. Considering your talent, few people will be able to hurt you if you become a Star Lord. They won't be able to kill you even if they surround you and use secret treasures. I will also give you life-saving treasures; you'll be safe unless an Ascendant attacks you."

"All Ascendant experts are famous for years. It is easy for us to track down whoever is behind them if any of them attack you," Shen Huang smiled and said, "You now have the added prestige of being my disciple, but it's still possible that others will scheme against you. I have my own share of enemies; some of them would not dare to challenge me in the open, while others could be complete strangers to me. They are blaming me for mistakes done by people under my command."

"You must bear as much hostility as the attention you receive. So, avoid relaxing at all costs."

Su Ping also understood the reason. He smiled bitterly.

Shen Huang was amused to see Su Ping's expression. Others would have dreamed to cultivate with him, but Su Ping seemed to be quite reluctant.

He thought for a moment, then said, "You're allowed to leave in advance if you really want to. I'll set you free if you make it to the top of the Divine Lord Rank."

"The Divine Lord Rank?" Su Ping was stunned.

Shen Huang smiled and replied, "Yes. The Divine Lord Rank is where the top hundred of all the Star Lords in the Golden Star Zone are listed. It's a very famous ranking list. All the Star Lords on the listing are the best ones in their level."

"The top ten are easily able to crush opponents of their same level. Given your talent, you should be able to make it to the top hundred, and even the top ten soon after you become a Star Lord."

He glanced at Su Ping and said, "You're the best genius of the universe at the moment; it doesn't mean that you'll always be. Some people are late bloomers, but that was fast. So, you must not relax in any phase, or you may easily be surpassed."

"I understand."

Su Ping nodded.

### **Chapter 950: The Eight Nine Astral Painting**

"No need to worry, you should be able to cultivate fast enough to become a Star Lord and emerge on the Divine Lord Rank, given your talent," said Shen Huang with a smile, "You can indeed become a Star Lord right now, but it would be better if you consolidate your Star State cultivation first; don't waste your great foundation."

"Yes."

Su Ping nodded.

He wasn't planning on becoming a Star Lord yet. He wanted to postpone that advancement until he reached the limits of every level, all to maximize his combat ability.

*A hundred years...*

Su Ping trusted his master's wisdom. He curled his lips. Once a hundred years passed, his store would have probably earned enough energy to perform consecutive level-ups.

After all, not many years had passed since he opened the store.

The place was teeming with customers every day, although normal training was the only available service when he was out and about, there were still plenty of customers every day!

*A hundred years is too long. I should leave early; after all, training in cultivation sites is much more effective than there,* Su Ping thought.

The best resources and environment were provided there. Still, Su Ping preferred to earn energy and polish himself in real battles while visiting the cultivation sites.

Furthermore...

He had promised Joanna to take her to the Archean Divinity; she had been waiting for far too long.

“What did you pick in the Heavenly Star Pavilion?” asked Shen Huang.

Su Ping replied honestly, “The Prime Sky Mirror, the Blood Cloud Sword, and an unknown egg.”

“An unknown egg?”

Shen Huang was slightly stunned. He wasn’t surprised to see that Su Ping had chosen the Prime Sky Mirror and the Blood Cloud Sword, which were both very useful to him. But why the unknown egg?

He did recall that there was indeed such an egg in the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

The egg was an amazing item; not even Star Lords can destroy it. It was hard to imagine what kind of horrifying creature it would yield.

Unfortunately, none of the top trainers in the Federation could possibly hatch the egg.

They attempted several things so that the egg would hatch. All to no avail.

They couldn’t even find out the origin of the egg, based from the ancient classics.

Nobody wanted the egg anymore in the end.

After all, it was truly a waste to use the privilege for a egg that couldn’t be hatched.

“I saw that the egg was extraordinary, so I grabbed it,” said Su Ping awkwardly.

Lost for words, Shen Huang said after a moment of silence, “Did you know that it’s practically impossible to hatch the egg?”

“It can’t be hatched?” Su Ping pretended to be shocked.

Shen Huang glanced at him and said, “That’s right. All the trainers and scientists in the Federation have tried it, but none have succeeded. The egg can’t be hatched; it’s just a stone...”

He could not help but heave a sigh; he blamed himself for not warning Su Ping earlier about certain things if he were to stay there..

He wasn’t blaming Su Ping, as it would be pointless to blame him. He shook his head, choosing not to say anything else.

Su Ping seemed dumbfounded and anxious. He looked at the other carefully.

Shen Huang, seeing how nervous Su Ping was, gave a light shake of his head and said, “Fine. Just forget you had that privilege. You’re bound to find more treasures in the future, so don’t regret this choice and focus on your cultivation. I’ll have Xiao Yan teach you; he’ll guide you whenever you need help.”

“Xiao Yan?”

A summoning vortex appeared in front of Shen Huang while the young man puzzled over the name, and then an old man wearing a golden robe stepped out. He looked gentle and graceful.

Su Ping immediately understood that the old man was his master's pet, and was likely a Celestial State creature, or at least a Heavenly Lord.

"You may call him Uncle Yan," said Shen Huang, "My disciples are mostly taught by him. He's memorized at least a hundred thousand cultivation techniques from the human race; there are no questions he can't answer."

Su Ping was slightly surprised, not expecting that the pet to be as outstanding.

He suddenly remembered the Little Skeleton and his other pets. Maybe they could later become his future helpers, not just in battle; they could help him in daily life situations too.

"Uncle Yan, it's an honor to meet you." Su Ping greeted the old man respectfully.

The old man smiled and said, "No need to be so courteous. I was starting to feel bored; it's been a long time since His Highness recruited a disciple. You're the champion this year, right? I'll help you with your cultivation; you will surely become the strongest in the Star State and the Star Lord State. You'll reach the top of the Divine Lord Rank in a hundred years!"

Su Ping smiled and thanked him again after seeing how confident and daunting the man was.

Shen Huang then allowed Su Ping and Xiao Yan to leave.

Elder Yan took Su Ping to his residence first; he showed him around after learning that the latter wasn't familiar with the Celestial Court yet.

The Celestial Court was so splendid that even the sun seemed insignificant. They visited a lot of places during the day.

In the end, all kinds of delicacies were delivered to Su Ping's palace when he returned. All of them were amazing treasures able to strengthen him and condense his astral power.

Su Ping recognized two of them; they were expensive herbs in the outside world, while they were provided for free there. Also, according to Uncle Yan, they were served on a daily basis.

Su Ping had a bundle of mixed feelings. *Is this how the top forces train juniors?*

Even a pig could easily become a Star Lord after eating like that every day, and would later become a genius among peers.

Su Ping didn't hesitate to wolf down all the food. He immediately sensed an intense astral power accumulating in his body, so he skipped rest and went straight back to cultivating. He redirected the astral power to the second Astral Painting.

This one was named the Eight Nine Astral Painting.

Once fully grasped would allow him to disguise himself better, and become even more unpredictable when in battle.



Su Ping unleashed even more starry light as astral power surged in.

*If things go on like this, I'm going to fully condense my second Astral Painting and work on the third one next. I wonder how strong I'll become when my nine Astral Paintings are gathered. I'll be as strong as a Celestial, according to the technique's introduction...* Su Ping thought and his eagerness grew.

Time flew.

In a fleeting blink of an eye—Su Ping had already cultivated for a month in the Celestial Court.