

Pet Store 951

Chapter 951: Rise to the Star State

Su Ping received a tremendous amount of resources in the following month.

He was given a special training room, which was as great as the holy lands of some major organizations.

He had eaten and drunk special medicines that had been acquired in various planets and relics on a daily basis. His body was quickly built up as a result, and his astral power was purified. He had never had such medicines before; their effectiveness was considerable for that very reason, further boosting his strength.

Su Ping was already nearing his bottleneck. His combat ability could hardly be improved unless he obtained a lot of faith power.

The Eight Nine Astral Painting is taking shape.

Inside the training room—Su Ping was chewing what appeared to be a purple fruit. It contained an abundant amount of astral power, while it could also improve his eyesight. A normal person would be able to see an ant dozens of kilometers away after eating such a fruit.

It was a rare treasure, and yet Su Ping was eating it like a snack.

He had too many resources at the moment. It was only then that Su Ping finally learned of the regular training methods used by top organizations.

It was easy to develop geniuses through investing tremendous amounts of resources and rare medicines.

However, the type of genius trained in such a manner would at most rise to the top ten of their star zone.

They would have to rely on their own abilities, talent, constitution and other factors if they wanted to make further progress.

Earlier on, Su Ping had thought that it would take him a year to condense the Eight Nine Astral Painting; however, it was already taking shape after one month. He felt that he would be able to fully condense it in merely two weeks or so. By then—with the two Astral Paintings in his body—he would have even more astral power and become much stronger.

However, I won't be able to accumulate power of faith until I leave this place. The amount I get here is too little... Su Ping thought.

He needed the power of faith in order to significantly improve his combat ability.

His name had been disseminated and noted by many organizations after he became the champion. He could easily detect the power of faith flowing toward him from every part of the universe; it was leaking into his small world.

However, such an amount of faith was insignificant; it would be better to train a few loyal pets if he were to remain there.

Boom~!

Dull thunder echoed, originating from a place relatively close to Su Ping's training room.

He was slightly surprised, as he sensed the sign of a Heavenly Tribulation.

He left the training room, and then saw dark clouds gathering above a palace several thousand kilometers away, sporting the recently felt tribulation.

"Is someone making a breakthrough?"

A man flew out of the palace while Su Ping observed. He was none other than Diaz.

While shrouded in gray light, he silently looked up at the sky underneath the clouds.

Su Ping detected his aura and immediately realized that he had risen to the Star State.

Such a result was unsurprising; they no longer needed to suppress their cultivation since the competition was over.

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He then thought about breaking through too.

It's time for me to advance too; staying in the Fate State is pointless now. I could still hold until I condense the second Astral Painting and look for the power of faith, but I can still do all those things after I break through to the Star State. I'll only be a stronger Fate State cultivator if I stay at this level."

A lot of people suddenly showed up in the nearby space. All of them were observing Diaz' breakthrough.

Boom!

Moments later, the Heavenly Tribulation arrived with a lightning strike.

Diaz remained casual under the thunderclouds. He waved his hand and shattered the lightning, as if he were only dealing with some dust.

He was so strong that the Heavenly Tribulation for the Star State was but a joke to him. It was just a formality at that point.

Soon, more and more powerful lightning bolts struck down.

However, Diaz resisted those attacks with ease.

"Fifteen, sixteen..."

"It's still not over. Just as I expected, such a genius will attract more than thirty lightning strikes!"

"Thirty? You're underestimating him. There's going to be more than fifty!"

Many people were whispering. Some recognized Diaz and their feelings went awry. The more talented and the more energy one had, the more terrifying the Heavenly Tribulation would be.

Ordinary people could usually attract eight or seven lightning bolts; the tougher ones were able to attract a dozen.

As for geniuses, most of them would attract more than twenty.

Each level of the Heavenly Tribulation for the Star State contained nine or multiple lightning strikes.

The first level contained nine strikes; the second level contained eighteen, and the third contained 27.

Many speculated that Diaz would attract level-six lightning strikes, after seeing him easily crush lightning strikes on the second level, which would have certainly obliterated normal Star State cultivators.

Diaz had to try increasingly harder to deal with the strikes as more of them descended.

He activated his Reincarnation Divine Constitution to dissolve and swallow the lightning when the level-4 lightning strikes arrived.

The level-5 lightning strikes arrived, and Diaz exerted more power of his constitution to deal with the lightning again.

Soon after, more than fifty lightning strikes were about to land, all of which had sixth level might. Their destructive force was much greater.

Diaz merged with his pet and resisted the attack again.

Su Ping observed patiently; he was able to tell that Diaz would at least manage to endure the level-7 lightning strikes.

Soon, sixty-eight lightning bolts were striking altogether. They were already level-7, glowing so brilliantly that the environment was entirely bright. The lethal aura of the Heavenly Tribulation filled the air.

Diaz suddenly brought out a shield engraved with an ugly, crying face. The contorted visage would then wiggle and open up its mouth to swallow all the arriving lightning bolts.

Su Ping remembered that Diaz was given a chance to claim a treasure in the Heavenly Star Pavilion too; he wondered if the shield had been his choice.

Diaz had passed the trial soon after.

The young man was able to endure it all, even though the last part of the tribulation was rather dangerous. He had attracted seventy-three lightning strikes in the end, which were already at the eighth level of the Heavenly Tribulation.

Once the test was over, Diaz closed his eyes and felt the raging power inside his body. He was now a Star State warrior. He was suddenly able to store even more astral power, just as if a certain switch would have been turned on inside his body.

If the power reserve in his body could previously be compared to a lake, it had then turned into an ocean.

Deep breath...

Diaz opened his eyes, fascinated due to the feeling of his surging power.

He felt that he could crush his old self from moments before.

Diaz then saw a familiar person in the distance, realizing that it was none other than Su Ping.

Diaz wore a complicated expression after noticing who it was. He could not hate the man who had defeated him again and again, especially when Su Ping's performance in the last battle had amazed everyone, including those of Celestial level.

Condensing a small world while still in the Fate State had not been something he could achieve.

Whoosh!

Diaz flashed and disappeared. He then reappeared in front of Su Ping.

"I broke through." Diaz snorted.

Su Ping smiled. "I noticed."

"What do you say? Are you up for a spar?" Diaz was itching for a fight since the latter was still in the Fate State.

Su Ping chuckled since he was aware of the other guy's intentions. "Six Lives Buddha's two future selves were both at the peak of the Star State."

"So what?"

"He lost."

Su Ping kept on smiling.

"..."

Diaz stood there in silence. He suddenly realized that—even though he was a lot stronger than before, now that he had advanced—it was still impossible for him to defeat Su Ping who had condensed a small world.

Su Ping's small world was much more powerful than his field of laws; he would be crushed with ease.

He pursed his lips when he pondered over it. All the joy in his heart because of his breakthrough faded away.

What a freak.

Diaz rolled his eyes, then turned around and left.

He secretly gritted his teeth, feeling the desire of condensing a small world. He was unable to do it while he was a Fate State warrior. Could he manage to do so in the Star State?

Su Ping went back to his training room.

He resumed his cultivation after he ate and rested.

He focused only on cultivating and condensing the Eight Nine Astral Painting.

Whoosh!

Inside the training room—Su Ping dashed as quickly as a phantom. If anyone were present, it would have been a shock to see that Su Ping had vanished at one point. The only feedback would be to hear the rustling air.

Su Ping was too fast to the naked eye. He too was absolutely undetectable when he moved. Even if he was indeed seen, his aura was practically nonexistent. Not even his heartbeat or pulse were audible.

Su Ping suddenly came to a halt. Then, he melted like water and stuck his mass to the ground.

He reassembled his body moments later. He looked at his hands and extended his fingers like claws. He then made them look like normal, human hands again.

Am I... still a human being?

Su Ping was dumbfounded.

He believed from the bottom of his heart that he was one.

However, his ability was too special.

He was currently able to morph into any form at the moment, as he had full control over the cells of his body. The Eight Nine Astral Painting had bound all his cells to his mind. He felt that his soul was his body, and that his body was his soul. He could turn into any shape he could imagine.

Lives are just combinations of cells, or to be more precise, a bunch of particles.

Su Ping examined himself carefully. He was then able to feel his components with pinpoint accuracy, and reorganize his organs. The cells in each component had their unique features, and could boost the corresponding organs.

He could build an organ, such as a stomach or a heart, with the cells of his arm.

However, they would never be as perfect as the original stomach and heart.

Nevertheless, they were usable, and healthy!

The books from relics mention ancient mythical creatures that can be reborn with one drop of blood. They must have better versions of such a technique... Su Ping thought.

The cells involved in the two Astral Paintings would then be able to store astral power in them. The Astral Paintings contained special force fields that were invisible but real. Su Ping could store astral power there and make use of that reserve at any time.

However, he soon noticed that the Astral Paintings had a maximum capacity as he stored more and more astral power.

I have twice as much astral power as I did before.

Su Ping examined himself. He could probably punch a planet apart if he were to concentrate all the astral power on his fist!

Star State experts could freely wander throughout space and live in the vacuum.

As for Star Lords, they could easily destroy a planet and dominate a solar system.

“It’s time to make a breakthrough. I’ll check the Divine Lord Rank after I advance, so I can gauge the gap between me and the one in last place.” Su Ping flew out without hesitation.

He then relaxed and removed all the blockages in his body.

Astral power soon began to gush out from all his body parts like veritable springs.

Su Ping activated the Chaos Star Chart simultaneously, and siphoned astral power from nature, which then flooded into his body.

Boom!

Su Ping felt that all the bones in his body were cracking, as if countless hands were massaging him. That was the external astral power squeezing his body parts and perfecting them.

A gale then blew above Su Ping’s head. Clouds seemed to be gathering in space.

“Huh?”

“Someone is about to go through a Heavenly Tribulation?”

“Who’s breaking through this time?”

The people near the palaces detected this and quickly took action. They realized that a Heavenly Tribulation was at hand, once they saw the gathering clouds above Su Ping’s palace.

After all, clouds and rain didn’t manifest naturally in the Celestial Court.

The place was forever sunny!

All the witnesses were surprised and curious after they saw Su Ping. Diaz had almost attracted a level-7 Heavenly Tribulation just recently. They wondered about the unbelievable magnitude Su Ping would cause during his Heavenly Tribulation, given his status as the best of the universe!

Many people stood outside their palaces to watch.

Outside Su Ping’s palace—Elder Yan was lying on a comfort chair. He then narrowed his eyes when he saw the gathering clouds, then slowly sat up. *I thought that kid was going to challenge his limits a bit more, but he obviously ran out of patience. Not bad. Aiming for higher limits is pointless; wasting too much time in the Fate State is not a good thing. Thankfully he listened to my advice in the end.*

He had warned Su Ping about this a few days earlier, but the latter didn’t respond back then.

He has even more energy than before. This amount... is rather unbelievable, isn’t it? Suddenly, Elder Yan’s eyes glittered with surprise.

He felt that Su Ping was like a whale flying in the sky, with an unimaginable amount of astral power stored inside his body.

He had much more astral power than would be expected of a Star State warrior. Not many Star Lords would have as much astral power as he did!

Chapter 952: Path of Destruction

Boom!

Su Ping finally faced his own Heavenly Tribulation while many watched him from the dark.

The first lightning bolt struck down like an axe cutting the sky apart.

Su Ping raised his head and stared in silence.

Bang!

The lightning bolt struck down and enshrouded him, but he quickly absorbed it.

One of the many laws he had mastered had to do with Heavenly Tribulations!

Su Ping had been through too many of them in the Demigod Burial, gaining an unusual amount of experience in the process. He believed that he himself could summon Heavenly Tribulations, or pass them over for someone else, once he had a better control over them!

Soon after, the second lightning bolt landed.

Once again, Su Ping didn't move to resist it. The lightning bolts at the beginning were equally powerful; they would remain the same within each round; he was planning to endure and absorb all of them. After all, Heavenly Tribulations were both punishments and gifts for his body.

More and more lightning bolts came crashing down soon after.

All nine lightning bolts from the first level of the Heavenly Tribulation were swallowed in the blink of an eye.

"Is that what the best Fate State cultivator of the universe should be like?"

"It is ghastly to see how sturdy his body is."

"It's only been the first level of the tribulation, but still, it looked too easy for him to resist."

Many people were secretly amazed; their admiration toward Su Ping grew.

More lightning bolts struck down moments after.

The second level... The third level...

More and more lightning bolts struck down and illuminated the world. Their noise echoed throughout the Celestial Court, a place that was even larger than a sun. It wasn't hard to imagine how massive the coverage of Su Ping's Heavenly Tribulation was.

Su Ping then encountered the sixth level of the Heavenly Tribulation.

He finally took action to face the incoming lightning. It was already hard for him to continue resisting with just the Solar Bulwark and his physical body. A Heavenly Tribulation of such a level was as powerful as an attack from a warrior at the peak of the Star State!

Su Ping grabbed and squeezed the lightning bolts as they struck, just like nabbing a mere cluster of flames. The bolts struggled in his hands, but then died out eventually. He melded them into his understanding of Heavenly Tribulations.

Diaz was standing in midair, above one of the palaces.

His face seemed troubled while he witnessed Su Ping make the lightning bolts collapse. *The day arrived... That monster finally advanced and became a Star State warrior too.*

He had barely been able to fight against Su Ping back when he was only in the Fate State. Their difference in strength had further widened after the latter's breakthrough, even though his combat ability had been improved due to his own recent breakthrough.

His own advance was considerable once he rose to the next level. Su Ping, on the other hand, would pick up a lot of things too after breaking through. Their improvement would be proportionately similar.

He had to figure out another way to surpass Su Ping with other opportunities!

Bang!

Something seemed to be roaring in the thunderclouds, threatening to tear apart the mortal down below.

The tribulation was raining eighth-level lightning; seventy-nine of them were crashing down.

A stream of dark air surfaced on Su Ping's body. It was the Sorcerer's Constitution, which prevented others in the outside world from seeing him. The lightning bolts vanished in his field as they were about to hit him; only dull explosions could be heard.

The thunderclouds above Su Ping's head were still lingering, which meant that he had blocked the lightning.

"It's already the ninth level..."

"This is unbelievable. Is that the true limit of the Fate State?"

"Tsk, tsk. It's been so many years since I saw such an extreme tribulation. His talent is truly unparalleled!"

All the observers were amazed. Most of them were Star Lords; some were even Ascendants. All of them knew that Lord Supreme's young disciple had a good chance of rising to the Ascendant level and become a Heavenly Lord as long as he didn't accidentally die.

He would definitely dominate the Divine Lord Rank when he became a Star Lord!

Boom!

The lightning strikes continued.

All the eighty-one lightning bolts of the ninth level struck down; the thunderclouds remained and roiled, breeding even more horrifying lightning.

Everybody present was shocked. *The ninth level of the Heavenly Tribulation isn't the end?*

Lightning reappeared soon after. This time, it wasn't like any of the previous bolts; it pressed down from the clouds like a finger, as if about to crumble something.

Inside the field—Su Ping suddenly opened his eyes as he detected the destructive aura.

The path of destruction was hidden in the depths of the Heavenly Tribulation above his head!

Su Ping suddenly had an epiphany. He felt delighted, choosing not to dodge in order to fully seize the opportunity. He endured the lightning strike yet again. He was going to tap into and absorb the path of destruction.

He would then master Time and Destruction, two of the supreme laws!

Boom!

Lightning hit Su Ping's body; he felt as if his body were being torn apart, just like being hit by a train. His bones cracked and his cells were dismembered, but they were immediately regenerated, all thanks to the Golden Crow traits.

The Golden Crows' instincts allowed Su Ping's body to be recreated and destroyed at the same time.

He was soaked in blood, but the energy inside his body was like a long river, gradually becoming more abundant. He became a lot sturdier as he activated the two Astral Paintings in his body.

Bang!

The second lightning bolt quickly pressed down again like a finger.

Such a scene was quite appalling, even from a distance. The glowing lightning bolt descended from the clouds in the shape of a finger, which inevitably made people wonder whether or not tribulations were true punishments of the heavens!

Su Ping closed his eyes and focused his bodily strength on defense and absorption.

"Is this the Heavenly Tribulation after crossing the limits?"

"Why do I feel that some sort of creature is looking down from those clouds?"

"I also have this feeling of being watched by a horrifying being. Are there really such things as heavens in this world?"

"Stop overthinking. It's just an illusion. This is just like the clouds on some planets that happen to have the shape of humans. It's just a natural phenomenon, pure coincidence."

Many people were in heated discussions. It was the first time they had seen a level-9 Heavenly Tribulation and beyond; they could brag about what they were seeing for the rest of their lives.

Not everybody was able to see such a wonder. Diaz—who had the Reincarnation Constitution—had only attracted an eighth level tribulation. It wasn't hard to imagine how difficult the ninth level and beyond were.

"This guy..."

A gloomy-faced Diaz hovered above a palace. He clenched his fists, feeling angry and helpless again. He had expected that the gap between him and Su Ping would become wider, but not to such a degree. He felt like an ordinary person when compared to Su Ping.

I can condense a small world too!

He swore to himself that he would condense a small world in the Star State, and then catch up with Su Ping!

Time flew.

Su Ping endured another round of lightning bolts after the ninth level, which meant that he had passed the tenth level of the Heavenly Tribulation!

The clouds above Su Ping's head finally stopped roiling after ninety lightning bolts struck down; they seemed to be about to disperse.

Su Ping was no longer a human at the moment; he was but a pulp of flesh while immersed in his dark field. However, starry light radiated from the flesh after the clouds dispersed, quickly wriggling and transforming back into the shape of a human.

Once he recovered his original appearance, Su Ping's skin was radiating a golden light. It was the power inside his cells, still in the process of being absorbed. There were also glittering arcs of electricity on the surface of his body.

He partially opened his eyes; there was lightning in them too. They were clearer and deeper than ever, as if they would enable him to see through any matter.

He didn't feel old or sophisticated. Rather, he seemed tranquil like a deep lake, which could reflect or swallow everything.

"Is this the gift bestowed when you surpass the limits? The path of destruction is hidden in the Heavenly Tribulation..." Su Ping mumbled to himself.

It was very hard for ordinary people to get in touch with the four supreme laws.

Apart from the path of destruction—which was invisible but could be felt by all—the other three paths, namely destruction, vitality and chaos, only existed in rumors and remained intangible. It was hard for a human being to grasp them.

The destructive aura, deep in the source of the tribulation was an opportunity.

The continuous strikes had allowed him to grasp part of the aura. The path of destruction was already taking shape inside his body.

He would be able to perfect it as long as he attained a deeper understanding.

Su Ping immediately sensed and gauged the strength of the Star State as he examined his own body. He had twice as much astral power as before; there was an even greater space in his cells and his body had also mutated. He could live without oxygen, water and other substances critical for carbon-based creatures.

I would be abusing kids if I were to participate in the competition right now, Su Ping thought.

He was already a lot stronger than in the past battle after only a few days passed.

Still, that didn't make him act arrogantly. He believed that the strength of Luo Ying, Six Lives Buddha and the others would surely grow considerably once they broke through.

Six Lives Buddha in particular, he could very likely summon his Star Lord future self after reaching the Star State.

It would be like cheating if he could. Su Ping was incapable of dealing with a Star Lord genius; after all, his small world didn't have any advantages against Star Lords.

I have to strengthen my small world by integrating the paths of time and destruction into it. Once the path of destruction is perfected, my small world will probably become much more resistant with two supreme laws as foundation, even more so than that of a normal Star Lord, Su Ping thought.

He then sensed that a lot of people were watching him. He immediately snapped out of his deep pondering and returned to his palace.

Once back in the training room, Su Ping explored the third Astral Painting and replenished his astral power.

Now I should check the Divine Lord Rank. It's not like I can strengthen my small world or absorb the power of faith any time soon.

Su Ping went back to his devoted training.

The third Astral Painting was named Mystic Star Astral Painting. Su Ping had yet to comprehend it.

In the blink of an eye—

A month after Su Ping advanced to the Star State.

Su Ping left his palace and talked to Elder Yan.

"You want to challenge the Divine Lord Rank?" Elder Yan looked at Su Ping in shock, not expecting him to be that crazy, wanting to challenge the Star Lord geniuses after merely breaking through recently to the Star State.

It was hardly possible for him to defeat normal Star Lords, let alone the exceptional sort listed on the Divine Lord Rank.

"I simply want to practice with them and find out how I can catch up," said Su Ping.

Elder Yan was stunned for a moment; he recalled Su Ping's conversation with Shen Huang, then realized Su Ping's objective. He said with a bitter smile, "I don't get it! Others would dream about staying and cultivating here, yet you want to leave? Do you want to return to the outside world that badly? You have everything you need here!"

"But my friends are in the outside world," said Su Ping.

Elder Yan was stunned for a moment.

Friends...

He chewed on the world for a moment and glanced at Su Ping without saying a word.

Resources were replaceable, but friends weren't.

"Fine. I'll take you there. Seeing how strong they are will serve you as training motivation," said Elder Yan, who then took him away.

They reappeared on the other side of the Celestial Court.

The place was an enormous city; there were a thousand such cities in the Celestial Court. That one focused on combat.

Arenas and virtual battlefields were everywhere.

"There are virtual battlefields here. You can make fighting appointments there. After all, the ranked Star Lords are geniuses without time to spare whenever a challenger shows up. Besides, even if they do come, you would only end up beaten up; you can start by challenging their virtual versions.

"I'll ask them to fight you in real life once you manage to defeat them in the virtual battlefield," said Elder Yan.

Su Ping was surprised by this. He asked, "Can all of my combat abilities be represented in the virtual world?"

"The virtual world used here is based on the Federation's central supercomputer. All the constitutions and genetic information recorded will be simulated to perfection. It's much better than the virtual arenas out there. Of course, using it is much more expensive in comparison."

Elder Yan glanced at Su Ping and added, "According to Master, you have an unknown constitution which will put you at a disadvantage in the virtual battlefield, since you won't be able to use it in the fights. However, it won't be long before a Federation representative pays you a visit to register your constitution.

"There's no need to be reluctant. Being the provider, such information would be generously rewarded.

"So... Do you want to challenge them right now, or wait until your constitution is recorded?"

Su Ping thought for a moment and said, "Let me try my luck first."

Although he couldn't use his constitution, it was just one part of his strength, not his main power.

"Okay," Elder Yan simply replied. Every challenge would cost an astronomical amount of astral coins, but the sum was not worth mentioning if it was to be spent on a genius such as Su Ping.

Chapter 953: Three Minutes

Elder Yan made a fighting appointment for Su Ping to take place soon after.

Every challenge appointment would cost a billion astral coins, half of which would be transferred to the Star Lord being challenged.

Although it was a huge number, it wasn't that much for a Star Lord, given that characters of such stature, masters of solar systems, were able to rake in trillions from a prosperous planet every year.

Elder Yan led Su Ping to a hall in the middle of the city.

The place was filled with people who were devoted to the simulation equipment. Su Ping and Elder Yan simply went to a VIP private room with a large equipment set up.

"Put on the helmet. Your opponent has been arranged; he's Clowe, the hundredth on the Divine Lord Rank!" Elder Yan said.

Su Ping nodded. "Many thanks."

He put on a helmet—which looked like a biker's, except that it had glittering spots of light on the surface—which was in front of the equipment. Then, he entered a vivid virtual world.

"Would you like to enter the virtual battlefield?"

"Yes."

"The current IP has an appointment. Would you like to fight the opponent you've made an appointment with?"

"Yes."

"Hold on. Extracting data..."

A tremendous amount of purple and red rays of light shot from the equipment and scanned Su Ping from head to toe. Then, it displayed a thirty seconds timer.

Once the countdown was over, the earset part of the helmet flashed in red and Su Ping received another notification. "Data extracted. Please log into the battlefield."

"Logging in."

Right upon seeing the recent pop-up menu, Su Ping simply chose "Confirm."

A new world was opened before his eyes after he confirmed; he was pulled into a desolate and boundless battlefield.

It was a place with forests, mountains, lakes and other environments.

The smell of plants was vivid in the air, which was also filled with all kinds of elements. That was the most normal challenge scene; a comprehensive battlefield.

Based on the information, the battlefield was simulating the surface of the White Withered Planet.

Its gravity was on level 9.8, and its astral power density was MP5. Both indexes were quite high.

Su Ping realized that the set gravity was twenty to twenty-five times that of the Blue Planet. A normal Star State cultivator would have felt heavy and sticky, as if negotiation through seawater.

However, his strength was above that of the average Star State warrior, so he easily adapted to the environment. The stats showed that there were seven deep spaces altogether in that environment.

As for the deeper spaces, they were even harder to simulate.

I can only enter the sixth space by trying my best with my current strength. The seventh space is too dangerous; I can only get there by finding an opening in the sixth space.

Su Ping slightly shook his head; he was too weak to explore the truth of the universe yet.

A countdown then appeared on the menu.

His opponent would arrive at the battlefield in thirty seconds.

Su Ping took a soft breath, suddenly realizing that he could move, but only within a small range. That seemed to have the purpose of preventing him from setting up traps.

Thirty seconds passed quickly; a virtual white-haired young man showed up several thousand meters away. He had indifferent yet beautiful silver eyes, which made him look exceptionally graceful.

Su Ping nodded his head. Even the last guy on the Divine Lord Rank looked like the main character of a novel, extraordinary and eye-catching.

While Su Ping observed Clowe, the latter had already launched an attack.

Clowe summoned his battle pets without wasting time with words; they were nine Star Lord beasts. One of them merged with him, and the other eight formed a lineup that began to cast all kinds of enhancement skills. Clowe was a lot stronger; his white hair was fluttering as he prepared to attack.

Su Ping didn't hold back upon seeing all this; he summoned the Little Skeleton and other pets, then charged to counter the enemy.

The Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon merged with Su Ping, while the Dark Dragon Hound simply charged at Clowe's pet lineup.

They were vivid representations based on Su Ping's memories. Their abilities were the same as in real life, except that none of them could talk and they somehow looked dumb.

Rampant strength surged in his body after the dual fusion. Su Ping no longer hid his strength. Since he had recently broken through after a long time training, he also wanted to test his own limits!

Path of time!

Sword of Laws!

Heavenly Fall, the fifth move of the Divine Sword Path!

Su Ping dashed forward and performed his most powerful techniques. The sword suffused by countless laws slashed down like a lightning bolt parting the skies. But then it slowed down when it approached Clowe, as if it would have fallen into mud. Its power quickly started to fade too.

Su Ping narrowed his pupils; he immediately detected a special, invisible force field several hundred meters away from Clowe.

To be more precise, it was a special world.

That was the small world Clowe had created.

The pressure and power of a small world were ten times greater than that of a field. It reduced 90% of his attack, while the remaining 10% was easily crumbled inside the small world too.

Just as I expected, the small world's level strongly affects the battles against Star Lords. Laws aren't good enough!

Once he saw that, Su Ping unleashed the power of his small world. He threw himself at his opponent like a desolate stone egg. The next moment, he felt an excruciating pain, as if about to be torn apart; his small world was quaking too, as if it were falling. A lot of faith power was knocked away from his small world.

My small world isn't powerful enough...

Su Ping grimly sensed the gap between them.

He could tell that his small world had yet to fully collapse because the paths of time and destruction were still holding it in one piece. The two supreme laws were much more supportive than laws. Just like two solid pillars, they held the small world together.

Otherwise, he would have been torn to pieces in the previous collision, like an egg hitting a rock.

Is the gap between us that wide?

Su Ping found it hard to accept. His opponent was on the 100th place of the Divine Lord Rank. He would have to first make it to the top ten so he could fulfill his condition to leave the Celestial Court. The room for improvement was still massive!

Right, a God Warrior in the Demigod Burial told me that the small world is the strengthened and ultimate version of a field, which can also be strengthened with mental power!

Su Ping suddenly remembered that conversation from a long time before. He was still very weak back then, but the guy still answered his question about higher levels.

The conversation flashed in his head right then, and Su Ping's eyes glittered. The next moment, a horrifying aura emerged behind his back; the dark and intimidating Force Field appeared.

The Force Field was the manifestation of one's mind. Su Ping merged it with his small world.

An unbelievable scene then took place.

The dark Force Field shook violently like boiled water, as if something were trying to break out.

The horrifying shadows that flew at the rear of the Force Field were suddenly gone, leaving the dark Force Field shaking.

Su Ping felt terrified all of a sudden, right when the Force Field was completely fused with the small world. He sensed that a cold air was rising from his chest to his head. He then saw an opening in the desolate small world, and a sharp and scary claw was extending out.

The claw was enormous; its skin was dry and hideous.

It was almost thirty meters wide, which seemed to belong to a gigantic beast.

Su Ping instantly felt that his small world became heavy after the claw appeared. He was stunned for a moment, feeling that the claw belonged to a terrifying creature he had seen in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead.

Did it manifest in my small world?

Su Ping was suddenly eager to try. He wasn't afraid of failure anyway, being in a virtual world, so he gritted his teeth and pushed his small world into Clowe's.

The strange law in Su Ping's small world was extended forward to stab into Clowe's small world.

The attack created an opening for Su Ping. The next moment, his small world managed to hit the opening and blocked Clowe's small world. Two small worlds were in balance for a moment.

Su Ping was taken aback by the weird scene; he noted it down and decided to investigate it later. While suppressing his opponent's small world with the sharp claw, Su Ping charged at Clowe through the channel in his small world.

Clowe silently took action by quickly moving his fingers and pointing them forward. A giant arm stretched forth from deeper spaces; the arm had purple and black spots as if it belonged to a zombie. It then slashed at Su Ping.

Su Ping was astonished by the tactic; he hadn't really seen such a method earlier.

The training partners he had met in the cultivation sites were mostly Star State warriors; Star Lords would have killed him too fast and easily to serve as an effective training experience that would help him improve.

Su Ping counterattacked with the Fist of Exorcist. His dazzling golden fists were mighty and unstoppable.

The Fist of Exorcist seemed to be suppressing the strange arm in a way. Once they made contact, the arm sizzled as if about to be burnt up. However, the terrifying force it carried was able to shatter the Fist of Exorcist and knock Su Ping back.

Su Ping was determined to fight. He roared and waved his fist again.

This time, he made use of all of his astral power and cells.

Boom!

The power of the two Astral Paintings were concentrated on his arms; they seemed on the verge of tearing the world apart. It had a dozen collisions with the purple and black arm.

The purple and black arm had been beaten back to the deep space.

Su Ping took a deep breath, wondering where Clowe had picked up such a horrifying technique. Star Lord geniuses indeed had something special about them.

The battle continued. Su Ping's astral power surged like tides as he kept punching and slashing.

Clowe, however, had plenty of methods. He sometimes counterattacked with his sword, and sometimes by flinging his finger.

Hum!

Light was gathered all of a sudden, then condensed into a dazzling sword in Clowe's hands.

This is so unfair...

Su Ping's lips began to contort once he saw the intense power of faith inside the sword, as it was a thousand times greater than his own!

The same light was also gathering close to the sword in his hand, but the sword wasn't nearly as powerful as Clowe's. Su Ping was still too weak in terms of faith power.

"Huh?"

Su Ping suddenly saw thick streams of light rising from the depths of his small world right then. Pure white power of faith was entering his small world, particularly from the dark and obscure area behind the claw's wrist.

It's coming... from my Force Field?

Su Ping was definitely surprised.

What is going on?

The power of faith is coming from my own Force Field?

The light sword in Su Ping's hand dazzled with brilliance as the power of faith was integrated. Such power made him feel as if he were being worshiped by a billion people, while also being surrounded by a great and sacred power.

Su Ping opened his eyes all of a sudden; he then slashed with the sword again.

Bang!

The two blades made of faith power collided, and mesmerizing light burst out in the process. Su Ping was flung back the next moment, leaving him with excruciating pain.

He tried to open his eyes and look ahead, only to find that Clowe was flying back and vomiting blood too.

Whoosh.

The world flashed before his eyes all of a sudden.

The battlefield was gone. Su Ping opened his eyes, to find that he was back inside the palace.

"What happened?" Su Ping was stunned.

Elder Yan's voice came from nearby. "When you lose, or when your virtual body is 90% wounded, the battle will be discontinued to prevent you from receiving mental wounds.

"I thought you would endure thirty seconds at most, but you actually persisted for three whole minutes. Good for you; as expected of Lord Supreme's disciple." Elder Yan was truly amazed by Su Ping.

He merely was a Star State warrior, yet he endured three minutes against Clowe. It was definitely an unbelievable achievement.

Su Ping put on a bitter smile. He had already managed to hurt the guy; he thought he had a chance of winning if he continued fighting.

However, there were a lot of things about the battle which confused him.

"Elder Yan, can you draw faith power from your mind?" asked Su Ping curiously, remembering how the power of faith had flown out of his Force Field.

Chapter 954: Golden Crow's Fourth Level

"Power of faith?"

Elder Yan was slightly stunned; he immediately realized that Su Ping had probably lost due to the gap in faith power. He chuckled and said, "Of course, you can acquire faith power from your mind. To be more precise, your power of faith is someone else's mental power. However, you can only ask them to give it to you; you cannot rob them of it.

"There are exceptions, though. Some of the strange techniques in ancient times could rob other people of their faith, but the final result wasn't as satisfactory. Such techniques are forbidden in the Federation. Besides, you're too talented to consider them."

"Rob..."

Su Ping became worried upon hearing that.

The power of faith coming from his Force Field was too weird. *Did I rob someone unconsciously?*

"Elder Yan, what's the mechanism of a Force Field?" asked Su Ping quickly.

Elder Yan was a bit jolted by the unexpected and quick topic change. Still, he explained, "A Force Field is the manifestation of your mental power and your 'aura', which depends on your spirit. You can hardly intimidate your opponent if you don't have a strong mind.

"You're able to build a Force Field when you accumulate enough mental power. It's just a mental field, similar to the field of laws."

"A mental field?"

With glittering eyes, Su Ping then asked, "Then, can the creatures inside the Force Field provide faith power?"

"Huh?" Elder Yan looked back at the young man, visibly surprised. He replied to that sophisticated question, "Force Field scholars have asked the same question. After having gone through a lot of experimenting, they found that the Force Field manifestations are just virtual.

“Virtual things aren’t real entities, which cannot transmit the power of faith.

“Faith power can only be provided by living creatures!

“That being said...” Elder Yan paused for a moment, then said with a weird expression, “Their findings are not absolute. There’s still a theoretical scenario where the Force Field manifestations have a foundation on super creatures able to ignore time and space. Such creatures may provide you with faith power, even if they’re billions of light years away as soon as they detect you.”

Su Ping was surprised.

Existences able to ignore time and space?

In other words, the power of faith from his Force Field was provided by such existences?

Why?

He was stunned, while an even bigger question popped-up in his mind.

He had only glanced at those creatures earlier, merely taking note about how they looked. Nothing more; why were they providing faith power to him?

It was critical for the power of faith to be provided while being friendly!

Su Ping had only looked at those creatures from a distance; they probably didn’t even notice him. Even if they did, why would they like him?

Seeing that Su Ping was pondering, Elder Yan smiled and said, “You have a lot of ideas for someone who has barely gotten in touch with the power of faith. As expected of a creative genius, unlike the stupid mortals.”

Su Ping snapped out of his reverie and looked at Elder Yan; he suddenly realized that it was better not to divulge the strange scenes in his Fate State to anyone else. After all, what the man had described as a theoretical scenario was a reality to him; that could be even scarier than condensing a small world while still being in the Fate State.

He would have drawn a lot of unnecessary attention if he did.

“Why were those terrifying creatures from the field willing to give power of faith to me...” Su Ping mumbled to himself, baffled.

A long time passed; Su Ping then thought of something and asked, “Elder Yan, what level do you think the existences able to ignore time and space are in?”

Elder Yan was unsurprised by Su Ping’s curiosity. He replied with a smile, “They only need to reach the Celestial State. They’re practically ever-lasting when they become True Immortals, unless they want to kill themselves.”

The Celestial State...

Su Ping was slightly stunned, but the news wasn’t too surprising.

Su Ping had visited the Chaotic Realm of the Undead and the Golden Crows' nest; he knew there would be higher levels above the Celestial State; as the Celestial level was just the beginning.

Some of the horrifying creatures he had seen in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead were even more dreadful than Celestials.

Su Ping didn't think any further as he shook his head. He could not figure out why the projections in his Force Field would give him faith power.

However, he was beyond certain that his amount of faith power would reach a horrifying level.

Maybe I only need to meet those existences, but I'll need to visit the Chaotic Realm of the Undead to do that. I met them earlier by accident; I might not be able to see them again, considering the vastness of the Chaotic Realm of the Undead...

Su Ping's eyes glittered as he temporarily dropped the idea.

His primary task at the moment was to reach the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank, so that he could be freed and later return to his store.

He thanked Elder Yan and went back to his training room. He used the time to consolidate his astral power and perfected his small world, filling it with pillars of laws.

Su Ping unleashed his Force Field while he cultivated, merging it with the small world. He immediately detected a horrifying aura that began to spread out of the small world along with thick and abundant power of faith.

One hint of that faith power was already as massive as a mountain, about to make his small world collapse.

They're really giving me faith power.

Su Ping was shocked by this. The scene in the virtual world happened again in reality, so he went ahead and absorbed the power without hesitation. He then discovered that the mist-like power was much heavier than it looked.

A small fraction of the incoming power of faith was as much as all the faith he had previously absorbed!

Su Ping was already a celebrity across the universe by then; countless people knew and worshiped him. However, their power of faith, together with what his pets provided, couldn't amount to a tiny part of the faith coming from the Force Field!

Su Ping struggled to digest that strand of faith, which needed him to use half of his astral power. It would have been impossible to digest even if he exhausted all his reserves had he not broken through to the Star State.

He replenished his astral power by absorbing stones. The astral array in the training room was also suffusing astral power into his body; such a top astral array was quite effective. Even an ordinary person would have been cleansed and modified by it, offering a chance to embark on the path of cultivation.

Nevertheless, they would not be as talented as regular cultivators.

Time flew.

Su Ping consumed even more stones and refined the power of faith. Su Ping finally digested the twenty-three streams of faith power from his Force Field half a month later.

The power of faith floated in his small world like a gentle and soft cluster of clouds.

I wonder how good my power of faith is compared to the Star Lords'... Su Ping opened his eyes, eager to fight Clowe again.

Right when he was about to take action, he suddenly remembered the materials needed for the Solar Bulwark, wondering if they were ready.

He left the palace and saw Elder Yan who was playing with a few kids outside. All the kids screamed and turned into scurrying little animals.

Su Ping was astonished by the sight; those animals were only in the Star State, but they could already transform.

“You want to challenge him again?”

Elder Yan turned around, then chuckled as he looked at Su Ping. They had only met recently, but he already had an idea about Su Ping’s personality.

The young man would either train or challenge; he always liked such battle maniacs. Being of beastly origin—even though he had lived countless years in the Federation with Lord Supreme—he believed in strength from the bottom of his heart. Nobody could survive without having enough strength.

“Hold on for a second.”

Su Ping crossed his hands and asked, “Senior, I wonder if you’ve found the materials I mentioned earlier.”

“Oh?”

Elder Yan remembered the matter. He had instructed someone to collect the materials as fast as possible; they should be ready by then, as long as they weren’t too rare.

“Let me ask.”

Elder Yan then closed his eyes. A few minutes passed, then he opened his eyes again and said, “You’re quite lucky, the materials are ready. Two of them are extremely rare, but Lord Supreme has connections. You would have never found them in this lifetime had you looked for them on your own.”

Su Ping’s eyes glowed with delight. “Thank you, senior.”

“Do you want them now?”

“Yes!”

Elder Yan closed his eyes again. He took out a couple of boxes several minutes later; each box contained a rare medicine.

All the materials were for the fourth level of the Solar Bulwark!

His body would be as hard as those of the Star Lords once he attained that level, and he would be able to awaken the natural-born skills of the Golden Crows!

Su Ping was itching to open the boxes immediately; a dazzling light burst out the moment they were opened. One of the boxes had a glowing medicine that looked like a heart.

Su Ping knew it was called Blood Phoenix Crystal, which was part of the remains of ancient Blood Phoenixes when they died under special circumstances.

Su Ping examined the rest of the materials, finding that they were exactly what he needed.

As expected of Lord Supreme. He had asked Su Jin'er to help in looking for the materials, but she only managed to find two of them; the rest were gathered in only a few days.

It had to be noted that Su Jin'er was an Ascendant.

Su Ping took a deep breath, then put away the materials and thanked Elder Yan again. He thought of something else and presented the illustrations and descriptions of the materials needed for the Solar Bulwark's fifth level. He said, "Senior, could you please look for these materials too?"

Elder Yan raised his eyebrows; he read the information and became more and more surprised. "These materials are extremely rare. Even Ascendants would have a hard time gathering them. I don't think Master will be able to collect them all."

"I know, but anything is better than nothing," said Su Ping.

The materials for the fifth level were even rarer. Su Ping was only hoping to get as many of them as possible; he could work on finding the rest on his own.

His body would be as hard as that of an Ascendant if he gathered enough materials to reach the fifth level.

"Okay," Elder Yan promised him.

Su Ping was not one who enjoyed dallying. He returned to his training room.

He took out all the materials he had obtained with an excited mood. He calmed himself down, then began to refine, absorb and digest the materials.

Half a day later—

A dull noise echoed in the training room, which had turned into a scorching red, as having been set ablaze. The temperature inside was surprisingly high too; it would have been burnt down to ashes had it not been for the top astral array.

Even so, the astral array seemed to be burning and cracking at the moment.

The red light inside the training room originated from Su Ping.

His body was entirely red at the moment, covered in bloody sweat.

Bones were cracking inside his body, and all his cells were being torn apart and reassembled, giving him greater strength and special powers in the process.

Su Ping opened his eyes all of a sudden. A sharp, golden light that almost felt substantial was darting out of his eyes, seemingly able to peer into the void.

Flames jumped in his pupils, but they quickly died down.

The heat in the training room was quickly vented and absorbed by Su Ping as his skin turned from crimson to scarlet.

Void Flames!

A layer of flames appeared on Su Ping's skin, burning right next to his body and twisting the air.

This type of divine Golden Crow flame was able to burn anything, including space and time. The laws of time would be nullified upon contact!

Even without his mastering of the laws of time, he could still free himself from time-based shackles by obliterating them with Void Flames.

Whoosh!

Su Ping left the training room; he then saw Elder Yan taking a nap on the swing in the courtyard.

The elder sensed his approach; his eyes opened and glittered when he saw Su Ping. "You seem to have gotten stronger."

Su Ping said with a smile, "I couldn't have done it without the training materials you found for me."

Elder Yan observed him carefully and added, "There's a scary aura coming from your body. Master said that your bloodline traces back to the Golden Crows from primordial times. Those were intimidating creatures; I feel threatened even though your level is still low."

Chapter 955: Challenge

Su Ping simply smiled.

His Golden Crow bloodline was no longer a secret; it was pointless to deny it. He was quite eager to find out how strong he had become.

"You're going to issue a challenge again?" asked Elder Yan, as if having read Su Ping's mind.

Noticing Su Ping's surprise, Elder Yan smiled and said, "All kids are the same. You always want to have a try after a breakthrough. It's nothing bad; in fact, I really envy you. People like us haven't made much progress in a long time."

Su Ping was momentarily lost for words.

Is this some kind of high-level showing off?

Choosing not to comment on that, Su Ping went on to say, "I'd really like to challenge the rankers again."

“Okay. You’re free to go anywhere you want. I’ll cover the cost of the challenges for you.” Elder Yan accepted his request and then thought of something else. “Do you want to record your constitution before the challenge?”

“Okay.”

Su Ping nodded.

Even though his constitution could be exposed after being recorded in the database, he was already the disciple of a Celestial expert who would definitely prevent any leaking of information.

Also...

As long as he grew fast enough, exposure wouldn’t be an issue.

Elder Yan summoned a couple of scientists to collect Su Ping’s blood and scan his body from every perspective with their equipment.

The registration process was soon concluded.

“Let’s go. The data has already been uploaded. It’s time to try it out,” said Elder Yan with a smile.

Su Ping nodded.

The two of them went to the city where the simulation equipment was located; it was quite crowded at the moment. Elder Yan casually explained, “A virtual contest is taking place. Those with high ranking will be awarded. You can have some fun there if you’re interested.”

“A virtual contest?”

Su Ping asked curiously, “Are there any restrictions?”

“As long as you’re not above the Ascendant State,” replied Elder Yan with a smile.

Su Ping got it. Not bothering to ask about the awards, he said, “I’ll participate if I have time.”

The two of them flew above the city and reached the building they had previously gone to.

The virtual equipment was only available to Su Ping at the moment.

Su Ping was already familiar with the process. He simply activated the device and entered the virtual battlefield.

It was another randomly simulated map.

Clowe showed up before Su Ping. He first glanced at the latter with his beautiful silver eyes and then summoned his pets.

Everything was the same as the last time.

Su Ping didn’t waste his time. He summoned his pets and merged with them. Then, he fully unleashed his small world, sending out sword auras through it.

Bang!

His small world collided with Clowe's and caused an opening. The sword auras dashed out, about to cut off Clowe's head.

However, Clowe was quick to act. The holy light in his small world turned into a round shield that blocked the sword auras; it then darted towards Su Ping like a sharp dagger.

"Void Flames!"

Su Ping's body shivered, and the temperature around him soared. Golden flames erupted from his pores and covered his skin. A mass of the flames flew out with the snap of his fingers, burning space apart and crashed into his opponent's small world.

A shocking scene happened. Clowe's small world was softened and soon burnt through by the Void Flames!

A lot of holy light was gathered as an attempt to stop the flames. However, the flames collided with the power of faith creating dull noises, just like a heavy hammer smashing mud.

The flames moved several dozen meters more, until they were stopped by a greater power of faith.

While amazed by the overwhelming power of the flames, Su Ping didn't dawdle. He stepped up and punched his opponent's small world with brutal force.

Bang!!

Space trembled, and the deeper spaces began to crack. There were ripples on the secondary and tertiary spaces.

Clowe's small world was instantly broken. It was knocked through by Su Ping's fist!

Su Ping roared and broke into the small world. He simultaneously gathered the power of faith he had refined from his Force Field, turning it into a light sword!

Slay!

Su Ping brandished his sword, unleashing an unstoppable sword aura that cut apart Clowe's small world and struck him at dozens of times the speed of sound.

Clowe trembled, then his head and body fell apart.

The world before Su Ping's eyes slowed down; even the dust seemed to be frozen. Then, he saw a couple of words: Challenge Successful!

Su Ping found himself standing in front of the equipment right after, seemingly taken out of the battlefield.

Did I win? Su Ping was surprised and delighted.

He knew he had gotten a lot stronger after cultivating the fourth level of the Golden Crow constitution, but he didn't expect the victory to be that easy to attain.

My fist penetrated through his small world, which means that my body is definitely at the peak of the Star Lord State, Su Ping thought.

He reviewed all actions during the previous battle.

He was aware that, besides his physical strength, the power of faith he had refined played a critical role in his victory.

His power of faith had crushed his opponent's. As a result, his opponent didn't have enough power of faith to resist his sword aura.

Those twenty streams of faith power that Su Ping gathered in his body had surpassed what some of the top Star Lords had!

I didn't use the Sorcerer's Constitution... It seems that my limits are even higher. Su Ping's eyes glittered. He was already able to crush average Star Lords!

He could even beat them up with nothing but his physical strength.

"You're out already?" The nearby Elder Yan was surprised to see him open his eyes, as it had only been two minutes since his session began.

Why did Su Ping endure less than last time when he's already made a breakthrough?

"Did you have an epiphany?" asked Elder Yan.

It would be understandable to stop the fight whenever a moment of enlightenment arrived.

Although challenges were costly, they represented an insignificant proportion when considering all the resources that would be invested on Su Ping.

"No," Su Ping shook his head and said, "I was kicked out because I defeated him."

"You... defeated him?"

Elder Yan blinked, disconcerted.

What did I just hear?

Soon, his eyes widened. He stared at Su Ping as if he were a ghost. "You defeated him?"

"Yes."

"You defeated the 100th person on the Divine Lord Rank?"

"Yes."

Elder Yan was silent. He realized that the last question was meaningless the moment he asked it, because he had been the one who had arranged the appointment for Su Ping.

There was no way the equipment could fail!

But...

How long has it been since the end of the contest?

No more than three months!

Su Ping had just risen to the Star State, too!

And yet, he defeated a Star Lord genius, one who was 100th place on the Divine Lord Rank?

Doesn't this mean that Su Ping could practically crush any regular Star Lord?

Elder Yan gave Su Ping a weird look; he had not been as surprised in years. The elder had seen all sorts of extraordinary human beings over the years, but none were as monstrous as Su Ping.

Is he an example of humanity's infinite potential?

Elder Yan glanced at Su Ping and said, "I'll report your progress to Master. The training resources for you will be further upgraded in the future. Judging from the circumstances, you will also be a leading figure in the Star State!"

Su Ping said politely, "I couldn't have achieved it without your training materials."

"You're too kind. You didn't ask for anything else anyway. Besides, you didn't waste any of the materials. They were all too effective!" said Elder Yan.

He ascribed Su Ping's change to the rare training materials he had procured. Had he known how much the boy would improve, he wouldn't have spared a moment to get them.

Looks like I need to work harder to get the new batch of materials he needs; I need to appoint more men to widen the search. It won't be long before this kid becomes an invincible Star Lord that only Ascendants can subdue. Still, no Ascendant would even try without good reason.

Elder Yan was laden with mixed feelings. He stared at Su Ping as if looking at a rising star that would illuminate the entire universe!

"I'd like to continue challenging others," said Su Ping to Elder Yan.

The elder snapped out of his pondering and smiled. "Okay, no problem! Who do you want to challenge? I'll make an appointment for you."

"How about the 90th?" asked Su Ping.

He didn't want to challenge each and every one of them; it would be better to skip a few. Even if he failed, the only thing lost would be the appointment cost.

"Okay." Elder Yan was not planning on stopping him.

None of the geniuses of that level could be stupid. He didn't need to offer any suggestion unless it was about cultivation.

Soon after, the appointment was made.

Su Ping continued challenging.

...

Somewhere, far away in space—

On a gigantic planet in the middle of a prosperous galaxy.

“Huh?”

Inside a luxurious palace—located in a forbidden land of the planet—a white-haired young man was cultivating. He suddenly opened his eyes and a notification was displayed.

“Sir, the projection you left on the virtual Divine Lord Rank has just been defeated. Please get ready for a challenger,” said a beautiful female voice.

“Humph. Boring.”

Clowe snorted. For his projection to be challenged meant that someone was interested in entering the Divine Lord Rankings. However, the guy wasn't very strong, since he chose the last on the ranking as his opponent.

On the other hand, the projection he had left was from decades earlier. The new contender was in for a lesson he would never forget if he thought he could win in reality after having defeated the projection.

...

Inside the Celestial Court—

In a building from the city of virtual arenas.

Su Ping suddenly opened his eyes. He breathed heavily, while looking pale and exhausted.

“You endured for five minutes. Not bad.” Elder Yan could not help but smile after seeing Su Ping's appearance. “You almost skipped ten rankers. It would be normal to see stronger fighters in adjacent rankings, but a skip of ten rankings is too much. You've endured long enough; you can probably crush average Star Lords.”

It took Su Ping quite a while to catch his breath. He nodded and said, “Indeed. He was much stronger. I almost lost.”

“That's understandable... Wait, what?”

The bewildered senior looked at Su Ping. “You almost lost? You mean that you won?”

Su Ping nodded. “Narrowly.”

Elder Yan was astonished. *Seriously? The man defeated the 90th place on the Divine Lord Rank after having just broken through to the Star State?* Su Ping was actually capable of defeating those below the 90th place!

Projections were generally weaker than their real-life counterparts, but the difference wasn't too big.

This meant that Su Ping could already change the Divine Lord Rank if he were to challenge them in real life!

He could already appear on the Divine Lord Rank!

It was the ranking for Star Lords, while Su Ping was still at the Star State. It was incredible!

"I'm still too weak." Su Ping heaved a sigh with undisguised regret. The last battle was much more difficult than the one against Clowe. His opponent had less power of faith, but he had still been unable to crush the guy. Aside from that, his opponent had other secret techniques, and an invulnerable small world.

He didn't use the Sorcerer's Constitution in the battle against Clowe, but he did in the last battle, and almost lost.

"I need to accumulate more astral power and power of faith..." Su Ping took a deep breath, then thought about going back to cultivate.

Elder Yan's eyes twitched after hearing what Su Ping said. He replied with, "It's already remarkable how far you've gone in your current level. You've only been in the Star State for two months. Just consolidate your power. Besides, your pets are still in the Fate State. There's still a lot of room for improvement!"

"Yes."

Su Ping nodded and smiled bitterly. It was hard for his pets to rise to the Star State when he wasn't in his store.

Suddenly, he slapped his head. Why would he be forced to train them in his store?

All sorts of resources were available there. He was a trainer too. Wasn't he like a chef that had all ingredients with him?

I need to promote my pets to the Star State first. My combat ability will then be multiplied if I merge with them; their boost will be even greater if they become Star Lords...

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He became solemn and earnest for a moment.

"Elder Yan, do you have a place where I can train pets?" asked Su Ping right away.

Seeing the young man's enthusiasm, the elder smiled and said, "Of course. There are always extraordinary two-star trainers here; all of them would be capable of training Star Lord pets."

Chapter 956: Training

Su Ping knew that the extraordinary two-star trainers were considered to be on par with Ascendant State experts.

They could train Star Lord pets, and were known to develop a wide range of connections. Even Ascendants would think twice before affronting them. After all, their friends and associations could someday need their help.

"Are they willing to help? I mainly want to borrow some materials from them," said Su Ping.

Elder Yan didn't think deeply about Su Ping's question. He said with a smile, "You certainly can. Your status is equal to that of an Ascendant by merely being Master's disciple. Even the normal Ascendants would serve and help if you need any resources during your cultivation."

Su Ping was surprised by this revelation; he knew that he was receiving a lot of attention, but he didn't know he would become as popular.

"I will definitely return Master's favor someday," Su Ping said to Elder Yan.

Not considering it a big deal, Elder Yan chuckled. "Do you want to go there right now?"

"Yes."

Elder Yan grabbed Su Ping by the shoulder. Then, they flashed and reappeared above a palace.

The place was built like a temple, with a majestic statue by its gate; all kinds of oil paintings were hanging in its corridor. A white robed middle-aged man was at the moment feeding a rabbit, which was as big as an elephant, on the lawn.

"Bernie," Elder Yan called out to him.

The middle-aged man turned his head and was astonished when he saw who the visitor was. He moved so quickly to greet him that his thighs and chest were exposed to the air by accident, indicating that he wasn't wearing anything underneath.

"Lord Yan," Bernie hurriedly paid respects to Elder Yan.

Being Lord Supreme's pet, Elder Yan was known by everyone in the Celestial Court.

"Do you have time to train pets right now?" asked Elder Yan casually.

Bernie was obviously smart. He only hesitated for a moment before he said, "If you need my help, Lord Yan, I definitely have time."

Elder Yan smiled and replied, "This is Lord Supreme's new disciple. He has a few pets in need of your training. Please try your best!"

Bernie was stunned by the announcement. He looked at Su Ping and asked, "Is he the best genius of the universe under the Star State?"

The news of Shen Huang taking Su Ping as a disciple caused furor in the entire Celestial Court. After all, the young genius would become another strong warrior, if not a Heavenly Lord when he grew up!

Su Ping looked at the trainer, then corrected what Elder Yan had said, "Sir, I hope I could borrow your training facility, as well as some pet food and special materials. Would that be possible?"

Bernie nodded with a smile. "No problem. I saw your matches and observed your pets closely. To be honest, your pets were extremely gifted, to have unleashed that amount of strength when they were only Fate State creatures! Aside from that, I didn't find their information on the encyclopedias collected from many planets, but I'm certain that they're not pets with rare bloodlines. Am I right?"

Su Ping was stunned, not expecting such an extraordinary figure to have paid attention to his matches. He knew he was already famous, but he didn't know exactly how famous he was until that moment.

Many people he would need to look up to already knew and paid attention to him.

However, Su Ping wasn't really flattered because of this. After all, he had seen too many great beings to feel shocked. He also didn't think he would be weaker than anyone with the system's help.

“Indeed. Their bloodlines are unremarkable compared to other pets.” Su Ping nodded and acknowledged the elder’s statement.

Even the Little Skeleton’s bloodline was only mediocre.

Its bloodline was obviously much inferior when compared to the other pets in the past competition.

As for the Dark Dragon Hound and the Inferno Dragon, their bloodlines had indeed mutated, but they were still below average.

They couldn’t have competed with other pets without Su Ping’s cruel training.

“Just as I expected...” Bernie nodded, happy that his conclusion was confirmed. He then asked curiously, “Are they your main pets?”

“Humph!”

Elder Yan suddenly snorted.

That question was a breach into Su Ping’s privacy. A growing genius like Su Ping would need to keep his trump cards a secret.

Bernie was slightly dazed by the reaction. He shook his head and said, “Sorry for being presumptuous by asking. Forget it. Would you like to train your pets right now?”

“Yes.” Su Ping nodded.

“Give them to me. You can fetch them half a year from now. I guarantee you’ll be satisfied,” said Bernie with a smile.

Su Ping thought, *Why would it take so long?*

He said, “Senior, I plan to train them on my own. You only need to lend me some materials.”

“You’re going to train them on your own?”

Both Bernie and Elder Yan were stunned. The elder soon remembered something and immediately said to Su Ping, “Training pets is an important matter. I don’t know where you usually train yours, but Bernie is quite skilled, even among the extraordinary trainers.

“He is the perfect choice if you want to train your pets.”

Bernie gave Su Ping a puzzled look.

After thinking for a moment, Su Ping could only speak the truth. “It’s not that I don’t trust you, senior, but I’m used to training my pets personally. They’re used to following me, and they’ve never left me. I can’t let them leave me either. So, sorry.”

Bernie looked at him in shock and asked, “You’re a trainer too? You’ve trained all your pets? How is that possible? Your pets are obviously extraordinary. Some skills couldn’t have been trained by anyone, unless they were born with exceptional talent...”

He had observed Su Ping's pets carefully during the competition; his trainer eye allowed him to discover a lot of things that normal people couldn't. He knew they had certainly received an unusual training, or they wouldn't have been so formidable; similarly Su Ping wouldn't have been confident enough to use them.

Considering Su Ping's fame before the finals, he could have easily gotten hold of a few rare and superb Star State pets if he wanted.

As long as he said the word, many organizations that wanted to rope him in would have offered him pets.

Elder Yan was also stunned. He knew that Su Ping had a pet store, thinking it was just a hobby of his. However, Bernie was obviously implying that there was something more to it.

Bernie thought of something and asked Su Ping, "Are you a certified trainer? How many stars do you have?"

"I am not." Su Ping shook his head; he wasn't certified, but he had his share of skills. His training, with the help of his store, was more effective than that of a trainer with any number of stars.

However, he wasn't in his store, so he was temporarily without access to the cultivation sites. He could only help his pets advance with the trainers' skills he had grasped.

Fortunately, Su Ping had mastered multiple trainers' skills. He also knew his pets well after such a long time training together.

After overcoming his surprise, Bernie heaved a sigh in regret. "If you trained all your pets, you are at least a four-star trainer. I would still recommend that you leave your pets in my care, for your own good."

Su Ping didn't care about the number of stars he could attain. He shook his head and said, "I appreciate your kindness, sir, but I would rather keep them around. Let me handle it."

Bernie was rendered speechless after such a lousy excuse. All pets would usually stay in the contract space, not around as the young man mentioned.

However, he no longer tried to persuade since Su Ping insisted. After all, he was more accustomed to others begging him to train their pets, not the other way around.

Elder Yan also heaved a sigh after hearing Su Ping's response. It would be pointless to press further since the lad had made up his mind. Fortunately, he already had a backup plan. He could still ask Bernie for help if Su Ping's training wasn't satisfactory; Su Ping's pets could also be replaced by better, rare pets if they suffered permanent damage during training.

Bernie looked at Elder Yan for confirmation. Seeing that the latter was silent, he said to Su Ping, "Fine. What do you need? I'll provide it if I can."

Su Ping felt relieved, and was quick to thank him. He then listed the materials the Little Skeleton, the Dark Dragon Hound and the Inferno Dragon required.

Bernie was slightly surprised by the materials that Su Ping had listed. He nodded and remarked, "Now I'm convinced that you're capable of training them well. I had already prepared those materials when I thought that you might come here. Among all those materials, the Abyssal Bones and the Blood Hatred Pearl are of the highest quality; they are the best materials to help undead pets advance."

Su Ping smiled and said, "Thank you very much, senior."

"Sure."

Bernie immediately led Su Ping and Elder Yan to his treasure vault, where a myriad of pet materials were stored. Many of them were rare pet foods, while others were rare materials used for advancement and treasures that could improve pets' bloodlines.

Su Ping's eyes glittered as he watched. He felt the urge of looting the place, but he held back and picked only what he needed.

The Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon had already reached the ceiling of the Fate State; they could step into the Star State at any moment. Su Ping had stopped them from breaking through, mainly because he didn't find a good opportunity for them to unleash their greatest potential. Now that he had those rare materials, he could finally let them go all out.

"These are the Bloody Path Seeds!"

Bernie pointed at a few red spheres and said, "Some rare skills are sealed within them. I can give them to you if you want. Just feed them to your pets; they will digest and grasp the skills on their own. These seeds are extremely rare; they have long gone extinct in their former habitat. I personally developed them."

Su Ping glanced at the offering. Those were obviously expensive consumables, but he didn't refuse them; he already owed the man a big favor as things stood.

"Thank you."

Su Ping accepted the seeds and placed them in his storage.

He then picked a few more of the rare pet food items and left the treasury.

"I need a place to train my pets."

"You got it. I'll spare the biggest room for you. It should be spacious enough to accommodate your pets," said Bernie.

The places for training pets were similar to those where human beings would cultivate, except that they would usually be bigger. Pets had to appear in their real forms to ensure the effectiveness of the training, and human rooms were usually too small for them.

Bernie relocated two dragons, both a thousand meters tall, that were originally in that room. Two Star Lords had requested Bernie to train them, but they would have to wait now.

"Is there anything I can help you with?" asked Bernie.

Su Ping shook his head; he could take care of everything from that point on.

Bernie didn't insist. He said, "Call me if you need anything."

"Sure."

Elder Yan remained silent; he left with Bernie after Su Ping was done talking with the latter.

Above a palace thousands of meters away from the training place, Bernie remarked, "I didn't know that the invincible genius under the Star State was also a trainer. It's terrifying enough, even though he's only a four-star trainer."

It required a tremendous amount of effort to become a four-star trainer. Su Ping could have been even stronger, had he solely devoted his time to his personal cultivation.

Elder Yan glanced at him and said indifferently, "You'll need to fix the situation if anything goes wrong with his training."

Bernie was stunned by this. He cried, "Lord Yan, he asked to train his pets on his own. It can't be my fault if anything goes wrong."

"You should have insisted."

Bernie: "..."

Inside the training place—

Su Ping summoned the Little Skeleton, the Dark Dragon Hound and the Inferno Dragon. As for Little White and the Purple Python, they had yet to reach the Fate State bottleneck; their breakthrough could wait.

Su Ping's main pets were still those first three.

"These are for you." Su Ping gave each of them a couple of the Blood Path Seeds.

The Little Skeleton weighed them in its hand curiously and then chewed them. Once chewed, the seeds somehow melted, turning into crimson energy which was spread from its jaw to the rest of its body, dyeing its bones pink.

The same happened to the Dark Dragon Hound and the Inferno Dragon; both grasped the rare skills inside the Blood Path Seeds.

Each of the rare skills had the chance of including laws and paths.

Some of the skills could even be traced back to the four supreme laws...

Such skills were extremely rare throughout the cultivation world. They were quite extraordinary.

Chapter 957: Advancement

Su Ping could have gone to the cultivation sites if he were at his store, to let his pets grasp unusual secret techniques through harsh training. However, the Blood Path Seeds accelerated the process, simply delivering the secret techniques to them; that was the privilege of a top genius.

Once the Little Skeleton and other pets digested the seeds and grasped the skills, Su Ping continued feeding them rare materials.

He could have collected the same materials in the cultivation sites, but it would have taken a lot of time. He was free to use any of them in the training site.

Roar!!

The Inferno Dragon bellowed; purple lightning and dark flames were surging from its skin. It had just swallowed the soul crystal of a ten-thousand-year Dark Devil Dragon, whose power transformed its body and darkened its scales, adding a terrifying aura to the creature.

“Use your willpower to hold back!” roared Su Ping, upon seeing that the Inferno Dragon was about to break through.

His words helped the dragon to snap out from a raging fit. It was soon able to suppress its urge to advance.

The torrent of power inside its body was also being constantly compressed and refined.

Su Ping wasn’t planning on letting them advance as easily. There were too many rare materials available; it would be a huge waste if they were left unabsorbed.

“Keep eating!”

Su Ping threw the rare materials at them. Normal pets could only eat tonics that matched their stats. Eating random stuff could be detrimental, possibly conflicting with their own power and weakening them. Sometimes, it wasn’t quantity but quality that mattered!

However, Su Ping’s pets were different.

They had become highly adaptive after having traveled and trained in many cultivation sites, thus mastering assorted secret techniques. The Dark Dragon Hound for instance, had mastered defense skills of all classes. The Little Skeleton, an undead creature, could even use holy light.

However, all of them had their favorite skills, given their unique personalities, although they had grasped a lot of things. The Dark Dragon Hound loved defense-type skills. It also knew a lot of offensive techniques, but it rarely used them.

The Little Skeleton was the same; it knew many types of skills, but loved slashing with its saber.

They were handed herbs that could strengthen their bodies and improve their power of understanding, which they ate nonstop.

“Eat, eat. Eat them all.”

“Burp. Eat...” the Inferno Dragon burped and replied to Su Ping with a silly voice while it swallowed the materials. Energy was bursting out of its body, seemingly about to explode at any time.

Su Ping monitored his pets closely through the contracts; he would refine their energy and stabilize the ceiling again whenever they were about to break through the bottleneck.

Outside the training room—

Elder Yan and Bernie were both waiting and watching.

“What is going on? I feel that something’s wrong with the energy of the three pets being trained.” Bernie frowned. Being an Ascendant expert, he had the ability to sense the energy outburst clearly, and even suspected that Su Ping’s pets were currently going through a Heavenly Tribulation. Still, there were no clouds to be seen.

While observing carefully, Elder Yan suddenly asked, “Did he ask for the right materials?”

Stunned for a moment, Bernie nodded. “Yes. Some of the materials don’t seem appropriate, but they’re generally fine. His pets need them. However...”

“However, what?”

Bernie replied weirdly, “However, he seems to be wanting a few more materials...”

Elder Yan was silent for a moment. He stared at the training room, with vortices appearing in his eyes, allowing him to see what was going on inside the training room.

Just a little bit more?

Inside the training room—Su Ping continued helping his three pets suppress their energy after they had their fill of materials. They took a brief pause, then continued eating.

After almost ten rounds of eating and suppressing, Su Ping finally felt it was impossible to contain their energy any further.

The Dark Dragon Hound was the second to get out of control; it had changed tremendously. It had previously received the Dragon King’s heritage and obtained the Star State bloodline. The bloodline was further optimized with herbs from cultivation sites. Its body then mutated again thanks to the rare materials, and its fur turned from golden to silver.

Underneath its silver coat were thick scales, as big as palms; they looked like turtle shells with weird patterns covering them.

The only thing that confused Su Ping was that the pet’s lazy eyes were now glittering and energetic.

They seemed intimidating at first look, but Su Ping knew that the Dark Dragon Hound was a timid dog; it shouldn’t be that aggressive.

“It’s impossible to suppress it any longer. Go ahead and break through.”

Su Ping stopped restraining the Dark Dragon Hound, allowing it to leave the training room.

The hound was finally freed from the pain; it immediately rushed out of the room. All the power stored in his body was combined, to then burst out, allowing it to break the ceiling with ease. It later created a new world inside its body.

Boom!

In the sky up above—clouds were gathering in all directions, coming from the depths of the void.

“It’s begun.”

At a distance, both Bernie and Elder Yan narrowed their eyes when they saw the signs up above.

The Dark Dragon Hound was flying high in the sky, with its silver mane fluttering in the wind. It looked impressive as it roared at the thunderclouds, seemingly warning them.

Inside the training room—Su Ping rolled his eyes after seeing that gesture. *What a stupid dog.*

He knew what the dog meant. It was saying... ‘Don’t come any closer, please!’

It can pass the test easily. Why is it so scared? Has it sensed the will of the heavens deep inside the clouds? Su Ping’s eyes flashed. He had already noticed that someone appeared to be controlling the clouds and staring from a place behind them.

He had the same feeling when he experienced other people’s Heavenly Tribulations. He didn’t know whether it was an illusion, or if there really was a creature named Heavens.

Soon, the first lightning bolt struck down.

The Dark Dragon Hound roared and covered itself with third-tier defense skills.

However, the first lightning strike had been dispersed before it broke through the outermost defense skill.

Su Ping’s lips twitched. *This dog is too prudent for its own good.*

The second lightning strike arrived soon after. The Dark Dragon Hound roared, as if terrified. It chose to cast thirty more defensive skills on top of the previous thirty it had cast.

However, the defense skill on the surface remained intact.

Farther away—Bernie looked at the scene in shock and suspicion. “What’s that dog doing?”

Elder Yan was also puzzled. Wasn’t it a waste of energy to cast so many skills at the beginning of a Heavenly Tribulation? However, the number and categories of the skills did surprise him. *Is the dog an all-class pet?*

It wasn’t too difficult to grasp elements of all classes. Many dragons could do that, but not all of them could reach the top.

The lightning bolts kept striking down, and the Dark Dragon Hound kept roaring in shock and fury. A shocking number of skills began to gradually envelop it.

The hound had more than 250 defense skills by the time the first level of the tribulation was over; they glowed so brilliantly that the dog had already been eclipsed by them.

Oddly enough, the skill cast at the very beginning was still intact.

Bernie and Elder Yan were both lost for words when they noticed that.

Su Ping knew his pet fully well, so he simply waited for it to pass the test.

Time flew.

The hound's Heavenly Tribulation was soon over, altogether having nine levels. The two seniors were shocked by the gifted pet.

They knew that Diaz—who was one of the top ten geniuses—had only gone through nine levels.

A dog had accomplished more than Diaz did? Did it mean that the pet was even more talented?

They could not help but look at each other. Diaz would probably go crazy if he learned of this.

Su Ping, however, wasn't too surprised. The Dark Dragon Hound didn't have a great bloodline, but it wasn't at all weak, which displayed its great talent. It had also been taught the paths of time and destruction; his pets knew all the laws he knew.

Similarly, he too could learn the secret techniques his pets had grasped.

Apart from Solar Bulwark and the Sorcerer's Constitution that were based on his body, Su Ping had taught them everything he could.

Most people—unless their pets had Ascendant State bloodlines—would not bother teaching laws to their pets. After all, the majority of pets could only accompany them for a short period of time. They would get new pets once they rose to new levels.

But Su Ping wasn't intending to replace any of his pets; that is why he never hesitated to train them.

Besides, normal people were unable to teach their pets, even if they wanted to. Su Ping had imparted his skills to them with the Energy Transmission Technique that the system had given him. Others had to conform themselves with lesser methods.

Roar!

The Dark Dragon Hound finally relaxed after the thunderclouds dispersed. After waiting for a few minutes, it canceled all defense skills and frolicked in the sky.

The hound felt much stronger after having risen to the Star State. The dragon's inheritance in particular; the power previously suppressed by Su Ping had burst out, creating a new world inside its body which allowed it to accommodate even more astral power.

Su Ping ignored the relishing Dark Dragon Hound and continued feeding the Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon.

Soon after, the Inferno Dragon reached its limits too and began its Heavenly Tribulation.

The dragon was obviously different when compared to the Dark Dragon Hound. It didn't do a thing when the first lightning struck.

The pet didn't react either when the next lightning came crashing down.

It wasn't until the thirtieth lightning strike that the Inferno Dragon began to take action. It simply sneezed and snuffed out the lightning strike.

The dragon soon passed the nine tribulation levels too.

Bernie and Elder Yan fell silent again; they didn't expect Su Ping's second pet to be as talented too. *No wonder Su Ping took them to the arena when they were only in the Fate State.*

"That dragon doesn't have a great bloodline, and yet it's incredibly gifted. The breath it just released contained laws of destruction..." Bernie was stunned.

Being a battle pet expert, he could easily tell that the Inferno Dragon had a poor build. Its bloodline had mutated, but not to a great extent. However, it released a horrifying amount of power of laws a moment earlier. He almost thought his eyes were deceiving him.

Elder Yan remained silent.

He noticed that the laws both of the pets had released were all Su Ping's. He could not help but think of a possibility.

Just as they pondered, Su Ping didn't waste any time and gave the rest of the materials to the Little Skeleton.

Right before all the materials were consumed, the Little Skeleton also reached its limits. Su Ping immediately allowed it to go through the Heavenly Tribulation.

The Little Skeleton stopped suppressing itself and flew to the high sky, attracting a huge number of thunderclouds.

The three consecutive Heavenly Tribulations caught a lot of attention; many people were watching from a distance.

The pet skeleton's resistance was even simpler. It didn't budge, unless the lightning strikes became threatening. If that were the case, it would cut them apart.

Soon after, the Little Skeleton also passed nine Heavenly Tribulation levels.

Even though it was the same number of levels, it took five more lightning strikes after the standard 81.

"It seems that he's really good at training pets..." Bernie heaved a sigh full of conflicting feelings. He didn't think that the young man had personally raised his pets to that degree. Furthermore, it would be a lifetime achievement that any trainer would be proud of.

Bernie found it hard to understand why a genius such as Su Ping could also be such an expert trainer.

Elder Yan was as silent as a tomb.

He was one of Shen Huang's pets and knew trainers fully well; he understood the implications of having trained those three formidable pets.

"I would ask him to learn the trade under me if he weren't already Lord Supreme's disciple." Bernie smiled at Elder Yan bitterly.

Elder Yan only gave him a glance, still silent. *Learn after you? Do you really think you can teach him?*

He could almost swear that Su Ping already had a training teacher.

His master had mentioned that Su Ping's fate seemed to have been shadowed by someone. It was an entity no weaker than a Celestial.

Chapter 958: Transformation

Everybody had their secrets; geniuses even more so. Apart from talent and hard training, luck would play a critical role for them. Elder Yan wasn't planning to dig into those secrets; he had seen too many geniuses who had astonishing abilities and secrets of their own, while Su Ping was among the most distinguished of them.

"What a shame, what a shame..."

Bernie quickly shook his head. He too had realized that Su Ping probably had a great teacher. It was impossible for him to have reached such a level while being self-taught!

However, Su Ping's talent in pet training was undeniable. Should he choose to take the professional path, he could grow and become a divine-level trainer someday!

Even Heavenly Lords had to be courteous when they met divine-level trainers in the Federation. Celestial also showed them respect; they were welcome everywhere.

Inside the training room—

Su Ping was delighted as he looked at his three pets after the transformation. He met them when he was weak; they had grown up together, and they would distinguish themselves in the universe together!

I will take you to higher places. Inferno Dragon, I promised you that I would make you the strongest dragon in the world. That I vowed to you... Su Ping said in his mind.

He would never forget all the things they had gone through together.

The pain didn't fade away with time; it was deeply etched in his heart.

Su Ping didn't waste any time in the training room. He summoned them back and flew away.

Hardly had he left the training room when he saw Bernie and Elder Yan in the distance. He flew over to meet them and clasped his hands. "Thank you for your materials and the training room, senior."

"It's no big deal," said Bernie with troubled feelings, "I would love to see you start a career as a trainer, if you weren't already Lord Supreme's disciple, with a clear chance to become a Celestial. I don't know how you accomplished it, but all your pets have SSS aptitude!"

Su Ping was stunned by the remark. He was about to say that he was already a trainer—

However, he remembered that Elder Yan was with him, and he would probably nag about him focusing on his own cultivation.

He knew that there were abundant resources at his disposal because his master had high hopes for him, and wanted him to become a Heavenly Lord sooner. All of it would be a worthy investment if he could rise to the Celestial State someday. He had indeed shown potential for it!

"SSS aptitude?"

Su Ping was intrigued. He had yet to check his pets' stats after their breakthrough to the Star State.

However, he wasn't too optimistic about it. After all, the system's standards were much more rigorous.

Su Ping didn't examine them immediately. He thanked Bernie, then returned to his training room with Elder Yan; he wanted to examine his pets before he challenged new opponents.

He found an open space next to the training room, then entered the tertiary space and summoned the three pets; he intended to test their abilities there, in order to not affect the outside world.

Su Ping checked their stats first with the identification skill before examining their performance.

Little Skeleton

Property: Bloody Abyss Skeleton King Family

Rank: Early Star State

Combat ability: 999 (?)

Aptitude: high-high

Talent Abilities: Haste, Acceleration, Mana Absorption

Bloodline Skills: Bone Demon, Eternal Revenant, Descent of the Bone King, Bone Shield, Abyssal Gaze, Bloody Howling

Laws: Time, Destruction, Death, Thunder God, Annihilation, Consolidation, Freezing, Eternal Flames...

Skills: Regeneration, Undead Enslaving, Advanced Saberplay, Puppetry, Demon Whispers, Nightmare Space, Punishment of Sins, Darkness Teleportation, Realm of Death, Holy Light Punishment, Dark Dragon Breath, Hellish Summoning...

There were so many laws and skills that Su Ping was almost dazzled.

Su Ping made a rough count, finding that it had mastered more than 150 laws. Aside from the hundred laws he had imparted at the beginning, a fair part of the rest had been grasped by the Little Skeleton on its own.

Considering Su Ping's current understanding of laws, he could easily grasp more laws if he devoted himself to the elements of a certain class. However, regular laws were of little use to him, unless he grasped a hundred of them to perfection.

It would be more beneficial to spend time on the four supreme laws instead.

Besides laws, there were countless abilities too. The Little Skeleton could easily create skills on its own at the moment, but they wouldn't be as powerful. As for the truly terrifying skills, they depended on the understanding and control of paths.

Paths were the foundation of everything.

All skills boiled down to paths on the deepest level.

Ascendant State experts were expected to create paths of their own!

That was the reason why every Ascendant was unique, and why some of the exceptional geniuses remained stuck before the last step to become Ascendants.

Its combat ability is 999... which is the maximum for the Star State. According to the system, the Star State combat ability ranges from 100 to 999. A thousand is the threshold for the Star Lord State!

The Little Skeleton hasn't yet controlled the power of faith or created its own small world. No matter how much power it accumulates, its combat ability won't go beyond the 999 mark..."

Su Ping was quite satisfied with the Little Skeleton's stats in general. All of it was within his expectations.

After all, the pet skeleton had 500 points of combat ability back when it was only in the Fate State!

After having learned that many laws, plus the countless rare materials it had just eaten, it was unsurprising to see the pet rise to the Star State.

Su Ping also noticed that the Little Skeleton's race had turned from the Skeleton King Family to the Bloody Abyss Skeleton King Family. He remembered that one of the materials he fed the pet was a Star Lord blood crystal, which had probably optimized its bloodline.

The Skeleton King Family it formerly belonged to was powerful in the Star State, but it wasn't worth mentioning when dealing with the Star Lord level. Many creatures in that realm were much stronger.

It was of note that the Skeleton King Family's bloodline potential was limited to the Star State, unless exceptional geniuses emerged in the race and broke through the barriers and became Star Lords.

Even after the bloodline transformation, the Little Skeleton still belonged to its prior family, but its bloodline potential had been improved, making cultivation easier.

Su Ping wasn't too interested in that, as he had never given much importance to bloodlines or levels; combat ability was what truly mattered. Even if the Little Skeleton was forever stuck in the Star State, he would still try to make it as strong as a Star Lord!

Su Ping then checked the Inferno Dragon and the Dark Dragon Hound.

The Inferno Dragon's race had turned into the Purple Polar Divine Prison Dragon, which also carried a Star Lord bloodline.

Its combat ability, same as the Little Skeleton's, became 999.

However, Su Ping believed that the Little Skeleton was the stronger of the two. After all, he had placed more emphasis in the Little Skeleton's training, and it had grasped many abilities on its own. It was definitely stronger than the Inferno Dragon.

This also went to show that the number 999 wasn't an absolute indicator.

As for the Dark Dragon Hound, its race had turned into the Heaven Expansion Dragon Dog.

The pet already carried the Heaven Expansion Dragon's bloodline to begin with, and the newly assimilated materials made the bloodline change further. It now had Ascendant potential!

This meant that, as long as it continued training and growing, it had a high probability of reaching the Ascendant State!

Of course, failure was also possible.

Bloodline potential was merely that, potential; it was only an indicator that a member of the race had once reached that level of cultivation.

Celestial experts had emerged among human beings, and that is why humanity's potential was the Celestial State. However, very few human beings could actually reach that level.

The Dark Dragon Hound's combat ability was also 999, the maximum number for the Star State.

Su Ping didn't know what to make of it, so he decided to test their actual combat abilities.

Explosions soon resounded in the tertiary space as Su Ping fought fiercely against the three pets. They had sparred in cultivation sites many times; they were no longer strangers to it.

Su Ping then became familiar with their fighting power and their new skills.

Once he returned from the deeper space, Su Ping told Elder Yan that he wanted to continue with the challenges.

Elder Yan wasn't surprised, since the former's pets had just advanced.

He was quite eager to find out Su Ping's new ranking after this recent progress, which would give a massive boost to the young man's overall strength.

The two of them went back to the city with virtual arenas soon after.

Hardly had they arrived when Su Ping saw someone familiar.

"Huh? You're here too?"

Diaz was surprised to see Su Ping, but then his eyes were soon filled with delight. He raised his eyebrows and said, "I heard a continuous row of thunder just now. Did your pets advance? Why bother? You're already a Star State warrior. Can't you just switch them for Star Lord pets?"

Su Ping simply rolled his eyes and ignored him after hearing that suggestion.

Diaz was angered after being snubbed by Su Ping. He said, "I admit that it was awesome for you to use Fate State pets in the competition; you could have won the championship even without them. However, that doesn't mean you'll remain a champion forever!"

Elder Yan stood quietly by the side. He had heard a thing or two about the conflicts between them, which were insignificant in his eyes. He even thought it was a good thing, as competitiveness could be a huge catalyst for cultivation.

"In other words, you have new Star Lord pets?" asked Su Ping, raising his eyebrows.

Diaz snorted and said, "Yes. Master just gave me two. Both are dominators in the Star Lord State. I've practiced with them and we do make a great team. Truth be told, I'm already challenging the Divine Lord Rank. I'm able to endure Clowe's attacks for two minutes at the moment!"

There was pride in his eyes as he spoke; that was the source of his delight when he saw his fellow disciple.

He might be the champion, but so what?

Too many young geniuses would lose their brilliance as they grow.

He was left behind for a moment, but he would catch up sooner or later. After all, he had one of the nine greatest constitutions of the universe. For him, the sky was the limit!

“Oh?”

Su Ping could not help but laugh.

“Why? You don’t believe me?” Diaz was triggered by Su Ping’s smile.

Su Ping chuckled. “Of course I do. I simply didn’t know you were that weak.”

“Weak?”

Diaz jumped, like a cat whose tail had been stepped upon. He shouted, “You think I’m weak? Have you even challenged the Divine Lord Rank? Don’t you know that all the rankers are genius Star Lords?”

Su Ping had originally planned to ignore him. Still, seeing how aggressive he was acting, he replied with a casual tone, “I remember the guy you mentioned. He could only withstand my attacks for two minutes.”

“Huh?”

Diaz was stunned. He widened his eyes and asked, “What did you say?”

“Enough. I need to continue my challenges. Goodbye.” Su Ping waved his hand and flew away with Elder Yan in tow.

Lost for words, Elder Yan looked at Diaz sympathetically.

He had also been shaken when he learned that Su Ping had defeated Clowe. It wasn’t unusual to see Diaz was similarly surprised. The guy was truly unlucky, having made a debut in the same competition.

Diaz was more gifted than most of Shen Huang’s disciples. Unfortunately, Su Ping’s talent was among the best.

Chapter 959: Fetal Movement of the Universe

Inside a plaza, in the city with virtual arenas.

Elder Yan quickly set up the equipment for Su Ping and set up an appointment for him. He was to challenge the 90th place on the Divine Lord Rank.

Su Ping grabbed and wore the equipment with practiced familiarity. After listening to pleasant sounding notifications, he entered the virtual battlefield.

His opponent appeared in front of him soon after.

There was a brief period of preparation, and then both parties attacked at the same time.

Su Ping didn't hesitate at all. He simply summoned the Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon to merge with them. Hardly had he fused with them when he sensed an unprecedented and horrifying power rising inside him.

Die!

Laws were gathered and condensed in the bone sword, with the power of faith lining its edge. Su Ping spouted Golden Crow's flames, producing a hole on his opponent's small world. He then activated the path of time and froze the flow of time around him!

Su Ping wasn't strong enough to freeze a Star Lord in the past.

After all, a Star Lord was able to strongly interfere with time and space. It was barely possible for him to freeze them while being a Star State warrior.

However, Su Ping was able to freeze his opponent for a moment after his dual merging with his pets!

A moment being frozen was already fatal enough.

Bang!

His sword aura stormed out, cutting apart his opponent's golden small world and destroying his body!

Whoosh!

The world flashed, and Su Ping found himself back at the plaza.

Elder Yan was shocked to see Su Ping exit that quickly. He asked, "You..."

"You... defeated him?"

"..."

Elder Yan couldn't add more words, nor close his mouth.

He knew that Su Ping was a lot stronger this time. After all, the latter's pets had risen to the Star State.

However, he didn't expect that the battle would end in only one minute.

He was unable to see the battle, but he could imagine how much of a one-sided slaughter it had been!

"Elder Yan, please make another appointment for me," said Su Ping.

Elder Yan snapped out of his stupor, yet he remained troubled. He didn't forget that the kid had just risen to the Star State, and that the gap between the Star State and the Star Lord State was massive, as one could gauge from the future selves Six Lives Buddha had summoned in the recent competition. Even a genius of that stature was unable to fight Star Lords unless he broke through to the Star State, let alone defeating them.

And yet, Su Ping had defeated a genius among Star Lords!

Those rankers were usually geniuses able to defeat opponents above their own level!

However, the higher the level, the bigger the gap in power. It was barely possible to defeat opponents above one's level while in the Star State. Su Ping was just an exception.

Still, such an exception was becoming increasingly horrifying.

"Which one do you want to challenge?" asked Elder Yan. He was getting excited. He hadn't felt like that in many years.

"The 80th," said Su Ping, after thinking for a moment.

Elder Yan smiled bitterly. He knew that Su Ping wouldn't challenge every single ranker, as every genius was there for a reason. He didn't turn Su Ping down; after all, even if he failed the challenge, nothing would be lost except some money. It could simply be considered that as the sparring partner fee.

The appointment was made soon after.

Su Ping wore the virtual equipment once again and entered the virtual battlefield.

...

While Su Ping challenged the Divine Lord Rank—

Shen Huang—clad in a brilliant, golden robe and ensconced in his majestic throne—was before a group of thirty men, all Ascendant experts!

The eight men in the first row were top Ascendant experts. They were Heavenly Lords!

The brawny man standing in the middle of the first row frowned and asked, "Master, are we really in such an emergency?"

He was almost six meters tall, which made him almost a giant. It was his special Divine Tank Constitution, one of the nine divine constitutions of the Universe!

Being Shen Huang's third disciple, he had entered the Ascendant State hundreds of thousands of years before, immediately defeating eight Ascendant State opponents afterwards, earning his name as a Heaven Master!

He had gone through countless battles since then, even trying his hand against Celestials. His skills and abilities allowed him to emerge unscathed even after such high profile experts!

That is, unless several Celestials ganged up on him. But that was a nigh impossible scenario.

"Yes. The universe has just had another fetal movement. Cracks are appearing all over the void. Things that shouldn't exist are appearing again; you need to suppress them."

Shen Huang spoke with a calm, yet intimidating tone.

"Are they the remains from the deeper spaces?" asked someone. If Su Ping were present, he would've recognized the speaker, his senior brother You Long.

Shen Huang shook his head and said, "No. The things they fought against."

All the experts present narrowed their eyes after such a revelation.

They knew how horrifying the remains were, as they couldn't be worn out by time. The things they had fought against had appeared before, causing disasters with every manifestation!

"The Sages have speculated that our universe is bearing too many things. Right now, I'm planning to remove part of the timeline in our universe and erase certain things for good with the help of the other Celestials!" Coldness glittered in Shen Huang's eyes. "My original self is currently deep inside the universe. You can only take care of the cracks on your own."

"Master, don't worry. We're on it."

"The Golden Star Zone will be safe. We will defend it!"

Everybody made similar declarations.

The Golden Star Zone was Shen Huang's territory; his disciples had the responsibility to defend it. No one objected.

"Be careful. I don't want any of you to come to harm," said Shen Huang solemnly.

He had more than sixty disciples at the beginning, but only forty of them remained. Some of them were currently trapped in other places or on missions, and were thus unable to attend.

"Master, don't worry!"

Everybody smiled; they knew it was a dangerous task, but nobody flinched.

Having no more to say, Shen Huang asked everyone to retreat.

"It seems that the universe hasn't been very peaceful as of late."

Once they left the palace, several men walked together, while You Long sighed as he walked at the center. "I hope that the Age of Darkness from 300,000 years ago won't happen again. It would be a catastrophe!"

"Master said that the universe will merge before long. All kinds of disasters are bound to occur. We'll be able to protect ourselves if we can become Heavenly Lords like Brother You," said a plump young man after heaving a sigh.

You Long gave a slight head shake. "Heavenly Lords aren't invincible. They also die in real cataclysms. You must be very careful while on mission. I heard that a lot of already extinct ferocious animals flew out of relics in one of the galaxies. Fourth Senior Sister went there to suppress them, and she came back nursing heavy wounds."

Chapter 960: Six Rings of the Star State

"Even Senior Sister Xueqing was wounded?"

Everybody was alarmed. Their fourth senior sister was a Heavenly Lord, invincible in the Ascendant State; even Celestials would have a hard time beating her. And yet, she had been wounded!

"Are things really that terrible right now?" mumbled a white-haired young man.

The others also had grim looks.

...

In the virtual arenas' plaza.

Phew!

Su Ping took off his helmet and relaxed his body.

"Five minutes. That went beyond my expectations. Not bad," remarked Elder Yan with mixed feelings, "Although the 80th and the 90th are both peak Star Lords, the 80th is at least 50% stronger than the one in the 90th spot!"

Even a tiny gap between two top experts could be the deciding factor in a battle, let alone such a massive difference!

"You've just entered the Star State, and so have your pets. The training program Master prepared for you has yet to be initiated, and still you've already set a foot on the Divine Lord Rank. You'll have a chance of making it to the top three rankings once the program is completed," Elder Yan said.

He thought highly of Su Ping.

He had helped train many of Shen Huang's students, but none were as talented as Su Ping. So, he was also looking forward to Su Ping's future performance.

"Let's hope so," said Su Ping after nodding, "Make another appointment for me, please."

"Another appointment?" Elder Yan was stunned. Then, he thought that the young man could be reluctant to admit his current shortcomings. He nodded. "No problem. More battles, more experience."

Su Ping knew that the elder had misunderstood him. He shook his head and said, "I already won. My last opponent was much stronger than the 90th; I almost lost. Please make an appointment with the 75th. I'd like to have a sense of where my limits are."

Elder Yan gazed at him with widened eyes. "Did you just say you won this recent challenge?"

He was stunned, seeing how calm Su Ping was.

Having just defeated the 90th, he also managed to defeat the one in the 80th place?

Did the advancement of his pets boost his combat ability to such a degree?

The elder fell silent upon remembering the level-9 Heavenly Tribulation that Su Ping's pets had invoked. He looked at Su Ping thoughtfully and said, "Master predicted that you would make it to the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank in a century, but I think it'll only take twenty years at most. You'll be a brilliant Heavenly Lord if you create a path of your own and reach the Ascendant State!"

"A path of my own?"

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He hadn't thought much about that yet, and he preferred not to waste time overthinking. *One step at a time.* He could work on it once he became a Star Lord.

Soon after, Elder Yan made a new fighting appointment.

Su Ping entered the virtual battlefield once again.

Ten minutes passed. Su Ping then put down the equipment, clearly exhausted. Even though the battle had only lasted that long, it had been fiercer than he had previously imagined. He ended up failing in the end.

I'm not strong enough...

I thought I had inexhaustible power, but then I found it wasn't enough when I needed it...

Su Ping pondered about the battle and concluded why he had failed. He barely made any mistakes; he was also sufficiently confident about his experience and reactions. He might still be a Star State warrior, but he had been through countless dangerous battles in the cultivation sites.

The only thing that he had been short of was the amount of power.

His opponent had been a genius Star Lord, who had much more power than he did.

He's only at the 75th spot; I wonder how strong the top ten are, including the one at the very top. Every Star Lord is different. Clowe, the one in the 100th place, is very likely unable to resist even for a short while. As for the normal Star Lords, they would have been killed instantly!

Su Ping remained silent.

Every level was the same. There were normal guys, excellent guys, top guys, and monstrous guys.

One could extrapolate with ordinary people; there were those who tried to make ends meet, and those who lived as elites.

"Did you win? Or did you lose?" Elder Yan didn't interrupt Su Ping's contemplation. He asked when he saw that Su Ping was once again alert.

This time, he didn't assume that Su Ping had failed, lest he was slapped in the face again.

"I lost," said Su Ping.

Elder Yan was somehow relieved; he could live with that. He would have suspected that something was wrong with him if Su Ping won again. Everybody in the universe would have been shocked if a newcomer to the Star State defeated that many people from the Divine Lord Rank.

"Your training program will be officially activated. You will be strengthened each day, to make a huge progress before long," said Elder Yan.

Su Ping asked curiously, "What kind of training program is it?"

"Master has made it for you. There are six rings in the Star State. You will improve significantly with every ring you attain. Normally speaking, you'll become strong as a peak Star State warrior, above the 70th holder on the Divine Lord Rank, by the end of the six rings!

"However, considering your circumstances, you'll probably make it to the top fifty by the end of the six rings!"

Elder Yan added with a smile, "The program was tailor-made for you, including the faith power absorption. Master has also prepared a gift for you!"

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He didn't expect that he would receive a special training program on top of unlimited resources. Was that the privilege of a top genius?

That explained why the big organizations were never short of geniuses. Even the ordinary stock could grow and turn into distinguished "geniuses" with that many resources!

It was just like being standing at the height that most people couldn't reach after a lifetime of hard work since the moment they were born!

"The first part of the training program is to refine your body!"

Elder Yan continued, "Master has bestowed upon you the blood of the Immortal Phoenix to reshape your body. He said that you carry the bloodline of the Golden Crows, which were ferocious creatures in the primordial times. The blood of the Immortal Phoenix can very likely activate your bloodline, further awakening its power and hardening your body!"

Su Ping became somewhat solemn. He didn't expect that his master would consider that much for his benefit.

"I'll remember Master's favor for the rest of my life!" declared Su Ping solemnly.

Elder Yan smiled and said, "His favor will be returned as long as you create your own path and reach the Ascendant State."

Su Ping was indeed extremely gifted, with a chance to later become a Celestial State, but the Ascendant State was still a huge test and divider. He was worried that Su Ping could fail to overcome such a step.

Su Ping nodded. That goal was too far away from him at the moment, and he couldn't make any promises. He also knew it was difficult to reach the Ascendant State. There were countless Star Lords in the universe, and only Ascendants were treasured and respected in every galaxy.

Elder Yan then led Su Ping back to his appointed special training room.

Thanks to being Lord Supreme's disciple, Su Ping had as splendid a residence as the other disciples did. However, those who were Heavenly Lords had even more magnificent abodes.

"This is the blood of the Immortal Phoenix. There's a three-star Holy Fire Furnace in your room, which is perfect for absorbing such a material. It'll help in accelerating the absorption and digestion process. Are you ready?"

Inside the training room—Elder Yan turned his hand upside down, showing a handful of glowing and fiery blood in his hand. Its brilliance had almost made its red hue nonexistent; the substance had a mist-like appearance.

"Yes." Su Ping nodded with hope.

He knew his Solar Bulwark was different from what his master had imagined. His Golden Crows bloodline had been obtained elsewhere. Besides, he had already become a young Golden Crow after cultivating the fourth level of the Solar Bulwark, and could transform into one at any time.

Being an ancient, mythical species, Golden Crows were already extremely horrifying at a young age. They were as sturdy as Star Lords, and their flames could burn through Star Lords' small worlds.

The Divine Lord rankers Su Ping had challenged were top geniuses. He could have crushed them had they been normal Star Lords!

Soon, the astral array inside the room was activated.

The temperature instantly rose. Astral runes appeared and were interconnected, surrounding Su Ping like a furnace.

Elder Yan then pushed the blood of the Immortal Phoenix over to Su Ping. The blood covered him and crawled into his pores in a frenzy, the moment it touched him.

Su Ping instantly sensed the tearing and corruption taking place. Then he heard Elder Yan say, "Focus and erase the remains in the blood, so that it belongs to you!"

Su Ping closed his eyes and concentrated on refining it.

The astral runes around him shook and rippled, turning into a scorching red.

Su Ping was practically invisible as he basked in the brilliance; all that could be seen was a glowing figure. However, as the refining progressed, the luminosity on Su Ping's body was absorbed, and thus he was revealed again.

He sat gracefully at the center of the astral array; just like an unparalleled Heavenly Lord, shrouded in dazzling light.

A long while later—

The divine brilliance on Su Ping's body was completely gone, and the red symbols on the array surrounding him turned blue again. Su Ping opened his eyes; they had a golden color, while his pupils were black and vertical. Two streaks of golden light darted out like two spears.

Soon, the light was gone, and Su Ping's pupils were back to normal.

The black vertical eyes were Su Ping's Sorcerer Constitution, and the golden color was the manifestation of the Golden Crows' bloodline.

"Fire..."

Su Ping raised his hand. Flames manifested in his palm and burned the immediate space. The astral array around him was also melting like a candle too. The entire training room was heated to such an extent that even the sun would have evaporated!

Su Ping saw some vague images during the absorption and purging; some depicted the Golden Crows, while others involved the Immortal Phoenix. The most vivid recollections were related to the flames of each species.

The flames seemed to be burning eternally, as if they could never be put out.

Su Ping also detected a sense of pride in them. That was the fire's will!

"This seems to be... the path of flames!

"Are the Ascendant State experts expected to create such a path?

"However, the normal Ascendants are probably unable to create such an everlasting path," Su Ping mumbled to himself.

There were many paths in the world. Laws were the will and features derived from the paths.

Some paths disappeared with the passage of time, but the central and most powerful paths remained.

Elements of all classes were born from the paths.

Without the path of flames, there would be no fire in the universe!

Without the path of light, there would be no light in the universe!

Without the path of darkness, darkness would not exist in the universe; only the void would be seen!

Su Ping knew that the paths upon which the universe was founded had been created by the most brilliant and greatest beings in the ancient times.

"Elder Yan."

Su Ping extinguished the flames in his hand, then looked at Elder Yan to ask, "I'd like to know more about the Ascendant paths. Can you name some?"

"The Ascendant paths?" Elder Yan was stunned. *Su Ping is already delving into matters of the Ascendant State?*

It was still too early for Su Ping's current level.

He remembered what he said earlier. *Did I provoke Su Ping, making him desperately want to reach the Ascendant State?*

Elder Yan shook his head and said, "It's too early for you to consider that. Don't aim too high. You are talented, but you shouldn't waste your time on things you can't achieve."

"But I only want to know more about it," Su Ping insisted.

Once he saw the determination in Su Ping's eyes, Elder Yan frowned and said, "Fine, but just listen, don't do anything yet."

After that reminder, he continued, "Let me tell you about your senior brother's paths. Lan Ruotian, who holds the 49th spot, has the path named 'Divine Ruler'. He's invincible in the space he has measured!"

"Is he a Heavenly Lord?"

"No." Elder Yan shook his head. "His path is powerful, but it's obviously flawed and can be dealt with."

Su Ping nodded.

Elder Yan continued, "Your 36th senior brother Kalo has the path named 'Round Wood'. It's still too complicated for you to understand. Unfortunately, it is also flawed, so he can't become a Heavenly Lord. Still, he's unparalleled in the Ascendant State."

"Round Wood?"

Su Ping frowned. Indeed, it was hard for him to understand what it entailed.

Elder Yan introduced a few more. After listening to all of them, Su Ping asked, "What path does Senior Brother You Long have?"

"His path is named Edge of the World, which focuses on speed and has only a few shortcomings," said Elder Yan. "Actually, that applies to most Heavenly Lords' paths. They're extremely comprehensive, or unparalleled in a certain aspect, which makes up for any shortcomings."