

Pet Store 961

Chapter 961: Law of Vitality

“You’ve seen a lot of incomplete paths in the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm, but don’t hold on to them. You will never reach the Ascendant State by emulating others. You must condense your own Divine Mark!” Elder Yan warned him again.

He had seen a lot of geniuses who worked on ancient paths, only to end up becoming too fascinated to free themselves. They could not discard what they had already learned by the time they wanted to create their own path.

“Yes.”

Su Ping nodded.

Elder Yan’s introduction made him realize that the paths of normal Ascendants were different from the eternal paths. However, it was really difficult to create an eternal path, which would lay cornerstones on the universe and spread to all living things.

Su Ping gave it some thought and found it impossible. The universe was already laden with eternal paths. He was unable to come up with a path comparable to fire, light, darkness, time, life, and the rest.

Elder Yan glanced at Su Ping and asked, “You’ve just absorbed the Immortal Phoenix’s blood. How do you feel?”

“My body is a lot stronger, and my laws of fire are already perfect. I think I’m understanding their path.”

Elder Yan was stunned for a moment. He sighed and said, “That is both a good and a bad thing. Having an overly deep understanding of the original paths before you create your own will make things much more difficult for you. Even if you grasp the path of fire, you cannot condense a Divine Mark with it.”

“I understand.”

Su Ping nodded.

Ascendants were able to copy other people’s paths, but their imitations would be a lot less powerful than their own paths.

Furthermore, it would require a lot of time and effort to imitate others. Some of the original paths that prevailed till recent days were ready to be grasped by anyone, but nobody could integrate them with their Divine Marks, or bring out the paths’ real power!

“Now that you’ve completed the first ring, let’s continue with the second ring, which will expand your astral ocean and increase your power. The amount of improvement will depend on your potential,” said Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded.

“This is the Astral Soul Pill!”

Elder Yan took out a purple box and continued, "It's made of materials from thirty-six rare Star Lord dragons, which are endangered animals in the Federation these days. Their population is declining despite the care of top trainers. Such pills might not be available a few decades from now."

Su Ping was stunned for a moment. The pill's precious value was more than evident.

Su Ping had already detected a scorching power even before opening the purple box; it seemed to be about to break out.

"The easiest way to absorb the pill is with the help of the three-star Abyssal Ocean Astral Array. Take some rest first; let's wait until you're in your best condition," said Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded and sat down in the training room. He examined his body and became familiar with it after the refinement's results.

The absorption of the Immortal Phoenix's blood had improved his body to a significant degree. His Solar Bulwark had yet to reach the fifth level, but the Golden Crow's power in his body was evidently a lot stronger, and his body became as sturdy as that of a peak Star Lord!

Su Ping realized that he could fight against the Star Lord who was ranked 75th with nothing but his physical strength!

Soon, the aura of the Immortal Phoenix that pervaded the training room was completely absorbed and consolidated within Su Ping's body.

Elder Yan had already set up the astral array for Su Ping. It rose inside the training room, invoking a streak of astral runes that hovered around Su Ping like a swirling dragon.

The elder pointed his finger at the box, and the most dazzling light instantly burst out. The light was too strong for anyone to figure out what the item actually was.

"Open your mouth."

Elder Yan sent the Astral Soul Pill into Su Ping's mouth. Su Ping felt as if he were holding a snowball in his mouth, which was thawing at a fast pace. The warm fluid began to spread along his veins, soon warming up his entire body.

Su Ping felt that astral power was surging in his veins. It soon permeated the veins and entered his internal organs.

Roar!

Su Ping suddenly heard regretful and angry roars inside his head. They expressed pain and intimidation. Anyone with a weak heart would have passed out in fear after taking the pill, and it would be useless for them.

The astral power around Su Ping suddenly reacted when the roars echoed. The dragon made of astral runes swooped down and wrapped itself around Su Ping. The astral runes stuck to Su Ping; they entered his body, echoing with his own astral power and suppressing the scorching astral power of the pill, deep into his elixir field.

In a place near his astral ocean—another astral ocean of the dragon soul was taking shape.

That astral ocean seemed to be quite spacious, which contained dragon power. It was sending out an attraction force. Su Ping had an epiphany, and immediately injected his astral power into the ocean.

Soon, the space expanded at a visible speed. The astral ocean gradually turned from deep blue to a brighter blue, almost becoming transparent in the end.

Su Ping knew that the new astral ocean had currently been expanded to its limits; it would explode with the slightest addition of astral power.

The Astral Soul Pill can create a second astral ocean inside one's body. Even an ordinary battle pet warrior would turn into a genius if they took it. After all, it can double their astral power!

Su Ping was definitely delighted. Even though the new astral ocean didn't accommodate as much astral power as his own body did, there was still a 50% increase of his reserves!

The reason for this was that Su Ping's own astral ocean was storing only half of his total astral power.

The other half was evenly distributed in his countless cells.

A long while later—

Su Ping gradually stabilized the new astral ocean and tightly combined it with his body. His astral power flowed between the two oceans smoothly.

Outside—the astral array had already disappeared, and the training room was back to normal. Elder Yan looked at Su Ping with glittering eyes. He didn't examine Su Ping with his ability, choosing only to ask politely, "How was it?"

Su Ping opened his eyes and replied, "I've already absorbed it."

"You've established a second astral ocean? Attack me with the astral power reserved in it," said Elder Yan with a smile.

Su Ping nodded. Knowing that he was too weak to hurt him, he summoned the power in the second astral ocean and pushed it towards Elder Yan using his arms.

There seemed to be an invisible obstacle in front of Elder Yan, blocking the power. He stood still, but he showed astonishment as he watched the astral power becoming increasingly denser. "Are you sure you only used the astral power in your second astral ocean?"

"Yes." Su Ping nodded.

All glittery-eyed, Elder Yan nodded. "Continue. Try your best!"

"Sure."

Su Ping released all the power in the second astral ocean, which almost drowned the training room. There was so much astral power in the room that the air became sticky.

Su Ping didn't relax his arms until he ran out of power. Then, all the power gradually returned to his body.

“You have as much astral power as forty advanced Star Lords do!” Elder Yan was shocked by the Astral Soul Pill’s effect, having created such a massive astral ocean. It was absolutely worth it!

Su Ping examined himself. It was just as what Elder Yan had speculated.

Back when he was a Fate State warrior, he had already been capable of storing as much astral power as five Star State cultivators did. Now that he was a Star State warrior himself, he had even more power, and the pill brought him a 50% improvement. It was tantamount to a major breakthrough!

“Looks like it’s going to be really easy for you to make it to the top fifty of the Divine Lord Rank after you’re done with the training sessions,” remarked Elder Yan. Su Ping’s training was surprisingly effective. It was also an indicator that Su Ping had not eaten a lot of rare materials in the past; that was why his body had shown no resistance to any of them.

The improvement of the Astral Soul Pill and the blood of the Immortal Phoenix would have been less effective if he would have binged on materials in the past.

“Maybe.” Su Ping was quite hopeful too.

He had noticed his soaring combat ability after the first rings were completed. His master had surely worked hard on the program.

Elder Yan nodded and said, “You’ve absorbed enough today. Rest for a few days; we’ll go through one ring per week!”

“Sure.”

Su Ping nodded.

Su Ping continued training after Elder Yan left, since he was intent on adapting himself to his new bodily conditions.

I think I can condense the third Astral Painting with the amount of astral power I have, Su Ping thought.

He immediately gathered his astral power and illuminated his cells. There had to be enough astral power inside the cells to transform them from biological cells to pure astral cells, or the stars described in the technique!

Then, the stars would have to be connected to make an Astral Painting in order to generate a special force field!

His star-gathering speed was evidently becoming much faster as the astral power flooded in Su Ping.

Time moved on.

A month passed in the blink of an eye.

Su Ping continued the training for the remaining fourth rings, namely willpower, secret techniques, laws, and faith!

Su Ping had an unparalleled willpower to begin with, so his improvement wasn’t as obvious. In regards to the secret technique training, Elder Yan had taught him a sword technique named Thousand Rain!

There were altogether three moves in the technique.

Thanks to Elder Yan's interpretation, it only took Su Ping a week to grasp the first move; he soon began to get the hang of it.

The first move was already as powerful as the fourth move of Su Ping's own creation, Path of the Divine Sword, and was only second to Heavenly Fall, his ultimate skill!

According to Elder Yan, he would be able to easily annihilate Star Lords when he grasped the second move, which was more complex; it involved laws and the power of faith. The third move was similarly intricate.

The law that was taught in the fifth ring was rather surprising to Su Ping. The law taught was Vitality, one of the four supreme laws!

The mysterious supreme law was taught to him, just like that. He didn't see it coming, at all.

"While the four supreme laws are rare, they aren't as precious for Ascendants. Everybody is focused on creating their own paths. While supreme laws are powerful, they're just laws, which are not that important to Ascendant cultivators."

Elder Yan continued to expound, "However, ordinary Ascendants aren't able to fully grasp the four supreme laws. But Celestials are different; laws are just like building blocks to them."

Su Ping knew that the law of vitality wasn't a big deal to Ascendants, but it was very significant by anyone below their level. Six Lives Buddha—who mastered the path of time and space—could easily beat anyone in his level, which showed the influence of the four supreme laws.

Elder Yan's teachings helped Su Ping to gradually learn the law of vitality. His small world was further hardened and broadened thanks to this new law.

The last thing was the power of faith.

It was a simple gift.

A tremendous amount of power of faith surged into Su Ping's world. According to Elder Yan, it was Lord Supreme's special gift for Su Ping.

"Can the power of faith be given away?"

Su Ping was shocked and puzzled.

"Usually, no, but it's not a big deal for Celestials," said Elder Yan with a smile, "The power of faith doesn't come from Master's believers, but from lives he created. They're worshipping you!"

"Lives he created?"

Su Ping was surprised.

Elder Yan chuckled. "Of course. That's their special ability. Why else do you think they're called True Gods? They have all the abilities you hear in the myths. They can easily create lives from nothingness. As

for the power of faith you need, they only need to create a batch of creatures and have them worship you, so that you can reap faith power from them.”

Su Ping was truly astonished. *Could they really do that?*

If they could create lives that easily, they could almost be called Creators!

“So to speak, I have a batch of believers at my master’s place? Are they different from us?” Su Ping couldn’t help but ask.

Elder Yan shook his head and said, “Basically, no. The only difference is that the lives Celestials create hardly become geniuses. Even if they create with the power of laws, the lives they produce would only have a limited potential. The best they can achieve is beings with Star Lord State potential. It’s a long shot for them to reach the Ascendant State!

“You wouldn’t understand the reason even if I explained it to you. As for your believers, don’t bother thinking about it. They were only created to provide faith power for you. They will eventually die of old age, or end up as food for the ferocious creatures in Master’s world, or dispersed as original energy.”

Chapter 962: Fourth Senior Sister

“...”

Su Ping was silent.

He sensed the cruelty of the creator from Elder Yan’s words.

Lives were created just for their faith. Then, they were randomly abandoned.

Maybe Celestials regarded the lives they created as pure energy entities.

If human beings had also been created, would their destiny be the same?

If that were the case, was it significant, or meaningful, for human beings to exist?

Su Ping gave a slight head shake. He already had an answer: he knew that it wasn’t about correctness, but about stance.

The strong had always preyed on the weak.

There were many childish and pathetic individuals, too obsessed with morals to remember their own stance. It was as if they didn’t know what was in their best interest.

“Do you find it cruel?” Elder Yan suddenly asked, noticing Su Ping’s expression.

Su Ping glanced back and then shook his head. “It’s just how things run in nature. No big deal.”

Elder Yan nodded and said, “People’s opinions change as their level and experiences change. Maybe it’ll be the same for you when you reach the Celestial State; you can’t really understand them until you reach their level. Many misunderstandings in this world are because you can’t really empathize with a different group.”

Su Ping nodded, choosing not to dwell on the matter. In any case, it was a generous gift from his master.

The tremendous amount of power of faith—after being refined and absorbed—was condensed into eighteen streams of faith power inside the Force Field. Counting his already condensed twenty-three streams, he now had forty-one streams of faith power, making him several times stronger than before!

“You’ve completed the six rings training for the Star State, and you’re now approaching the limits of the realm; further improvement will depend on your potential and luck. Right now you’re definitely among the top three Star State cultivators in the entire Federation. There’s a good chance you may rise to the top fifty of the Divine Lord Rank,” said Elder Yan.

“Let’s have a try,” said Su Ping.

He wanted to confirm the guess.

He too wanted to find out how strong he had become.

Elder Yan nodded. The two of them soon returned to the city with virtual arenas. The air suddenly crackled when they were heading to the plaza, and a tall and unusually cold woman with long purple hair appeared.

However, the coldness on her face was thawed when she saw Elder Yan; she then put on a warm and friendly smile. “Senior Yan.”

Being slightly surprised, Elder Yan chuckled and said, “Xueqing, it’s you. Have you recovered?”

“Almost,” said the woman gently. She then glanced and noticed Su Ping. “Is he one of my new junior brothers? I heard that one of them has the Reincarnation Constitution, and the other is a descendant of the ancient Golden Crows. Which of the two is he?”

“He is Su Ping, who carries the bloodline of the Golden Crows.”

Elder Yan smiled and turned to Su Ping. “She is Ji Xueqing, your fourth senior sister. Master admitted her as a disciple when he was only a Heavenly Lord. Master is already a Celestial now, while she’s a Heavenly Lord.”

Su Ping observed her with great interest. He didn’t expect that he would run into an honorable Heavenly Lord that easily.

“It’s an honor to meet you, senior sister.” Su Ping paid his respects.

“I didn’t prepare any gifts for you, except this set of armor. It can resist all the attacks of normal Star Lords.” Ji Xueqing casually took out a piece of colorful armor and threw it to Su Ping.

Su Ping was somewhat stunned. He thanked her and accepted it.

Elder Yan chuckled at the sight. “Xueqing, you’re too petty; that armor is useless for him. His body is already as sturdy as your armor.”

“Huh?”

Ji Xueqing felt dazed by the elder’s revelation. She asked, “Isn’t he a Star State warrior?”

“Yes, he is. However, he condensed a small world when he was still in the Fate State, and he’s already on the Divine Lord Rank right now,” said Elder Yan with a smile.

Su Ping’s senior sister looked at him solemnly and said, “So to speak, Master has admitted an incredible junior brother this time. He’s almost as talented as Qin Wenxian.”

“More or less,” said Elder Yan, all smiles.

Ji Xueqing looked at Su Ping, and suddenly took out another piece of red armor. “This Blood Sucking Armor is yours. It’ll be useful when you reach the Ascendant State.”

Su Ping quickly said, “Senior sister, no need to do that. Senior Yan was just kidding. This gift is too precious.”

“Humph, just take it!” Ji Xueqing was not to be refused.

Su Ping had no choice but to accept it and thank her.

“Cultivate harder and try to reach the Ascendant State in a thousand years, so that you can confront the catastrophe of the universe.” Ji Xueqing resumed her coldness and bowed at Elder Yan before she vanished.

“Catastrophe of the universe?”

Su Ping watched Ji Xueqing leave, then looked at Elder Yan in confusion.

Elder Yan shook his head. “That’s still too far away for you; you’ll understand everything when you reach the Ascendant State. For now, just focus on cultivating. Master is out there dealing with it, as well as your senior sisters and brothers.”

Seeing that he refused to answer, Su Ping could only ask curiously, “Senior Sister Xueqing seems to be very close to you, doesn’t she?”

Elder Yan chuckled and said, “Of course. I was the one who personally taught her after Master took her in as a disciple. Technically speaking, I am half a master to her.”

Su Ping was greatly enlightened; no wonder his senior sister was that cold toward him, but overly friendly to Elder Yan.

“Let’s go and take the test,” said Elder Yan, even more earnestly than Su Ping.

Su Ping also smiled with hope.

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At the plaza of virtual arenas—

“Make an appointment with the ranker at the 50th spot,” said Su Ping directly.

Elder Yan asked, “The 50th? Are you planning on skipping the 60th? You have indeed become stronger, and you have a chance of winning; it’s better to do things one step at a time.”

“I’ll just consider it as practice if I fail,” said Su Ping.

Elder Yan realized it made sense, so he helped Su Ping make an appointment.

Soon, the appointment was made. Su Ping put on the helmet and entered the virtual battlefield.

To Su Ping's surprise, his opponent was a plump woman who wore white armor and a cape. She looked quite pretty, and her breasts were as heavy as two mountains.

The countdown clicked as it was reducing, while Su Ping observed her.

Su Ping withdrew his gaze and summoned the Dark Dragon Hound and the Little Skeleton. He was still when the battle began.

Boom!

Su Ping directly unleashed his small world. The air around him immediately collapsed and fell into darkness. It was the world that Su Ping had established, which was purely black given his constitution.

The pure black world, like a black hole, crashed into the woman's small world as Su Ping pressed on.

Her small world was sunny and warm, with hills and rivers. However, they shook violently after the collision. The laws in the small world were manifested and spread with every exhalation. They were almost falling apart.

"Thousand Rain!"

Su Ping slashed with his sword, launching a storm of sword auras that could penetrate anything.

There was a boom, and then his opponent's small world cracked. The holy sword made of forty-one streams of faith power—carrying an enormous force—was able to cut down with the surging astral power from Su Ping's body.

Bang!

Many laws were launched, but then they were shattered by the sword aura. The woman suddenly split up into three and formed a triangle. They laid their swords upon each other's, as if she were using some sort of array. A streak of holy light rose to the sky at the center of the array. they trembled violently

A giant arm suddenly flew out of the holy light. It held a sword and slashed towards Su Ping.

"A summoning technique?" Su Ping was alarmed. There were some evil techniques that could summon unknown creatures. Such creatures aren't pets. They might have already died. However, they were still very strong."

"Path of the Divine Sword, Heavenly Punishment!"

Su Ping suddenly waved his sword, which was bursting with the power of faith and cutting apart the flow of time. The world around him seemed to be frozen; then, his sword aura was able to cut the weird giant arm apart.

Bang!

The arm exploded. Su Ping quickly flashed and paused time and space.

Time was truly frozen for a moment, given how that astral power had surged out, and his sword had been able to cut apart the plump woman at that moment.

The virtual world faded away, and Su Ping found himself back where the equipment was. He took a breath, then felt delighted.

Although he used the same methods he did earlier, they are much more destructive at the moment.

“Did you win? Or did you lose?” asked Elder Yan right away.

Chapter 963: The Mystic Star Astral Painting

“I won,” said Su Ping.

Although relieved, Elder Yan remarked with a somewhat troubled tone, “I thought you had lost that one. You were there for only two minutes. I knew you had a good chance to succeed, but victory came too fast...”

He was truly amazed by Su Ping’s performance; he was surprised by it every time.

“Do you want to continue issuing challenges?”

“Yes, I want to challenge the 40th spot,” said Su Ping.

“Sure.”

Elder Yan accepted his request immediately.

Five minutes later, Su Ping exited the virtual battlefield again. The elder immediately asked, “What about this time? Did you win?”

“I won...”

Su Ping continued, “Make an appointment with the 30th for me, please.”

“The 30th...” Elder Yan was in a trance. *Su Ping is already capable of fighting the 30th place holder of the Divine Lord Rank? How long has he been in the Star State?*

“Sure,” Elder Yan snapped out of it and accepted the request.

Soon after, the battle started.

This time, it took eight minutes for Su Ping to open his eyes again. Elder Yan quickly asked, “Did you win?”

“I lost.” Su Ping shook his head and pondered over the previous battle.

He had made use of all the skills and powers he had in his arsenal.

Still, he was defeated in the end.

His opponent used an odd secret technique able to corrupt his small world and deactivate his power of faith for a brief moment. Even half his astral power was suppressed.

I can accumulate more power in my body. My constitution can be further improved, and so are my secret techniques... Su Ping realized his shortcomings after the battle. Without it he would have still been under the illusion that he was invincible with his newfound power.

Shortcomings cannot be ascertained without failure.

“It’s understandable.” Elder Yan wasn’t surprised, as failure was to be expected. It would have been surprising to see Su Ping win again.

After all, wasn’t it perfectly normal for a Star State cultivator to lose to the 30th spot holder of the Divine Lord Rank?

“You’re still new to the Star State. Even though Master’s special training for you has ended, there’s still a lot of room for improvement. Challenge them again after cultivating for a few years,” said Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded. Not wishing to linger, he returned with Elder Yan to continue his training.

Inside the training room—

Su Ping concentrated his astral power and condensed stars inside his body. The third Astral Painting was his goal.

The second Astral Painting had brought him infinite strength, and the third Astral Painting could further strengthen his defense!

Such protection was not just physical; it also involved many other aspects, such as willpower and astral power.

Part of his astral power was brittle; it would shatter or be restrained by a greater power. Taking his previous battle as an example, half of Su Ping’s astral power had been suppressed by his opponent’s mystifying technique.

However, had his astral power been sturdier, it would have been more useful in such scenarios!

Astral runes were rising and rippling inside the training room. They were so effective that people would be able to cultivate automatically, even if they only slept there. Conscious cultivating would produce even more shocking results.

There were also shelves of rare herbs besides the astral rune array. Some of them could activate a person’s veins and accelerate the speed of astral power absorption. Others could set a fire in one’s body to refine astral power. All those medications ready and available for Su Ping to take.

Su Ping condensed twenty-seven stars in just two months. He was able to make good progress on developing the third Astral Painting!

Several days passed, and the third Astral Painting was finally condensed.

The Mystic Star Astral Painting!

Su Ping activated his astral power, and a special energy surged out of the third Astral Painting located within his body. His mind, eyes and ears were then sharpened.

All the geniuses on the Divine Lord Rank have aimed at my neck, heart and other vitals in earlier battles, since they could hardly make a dent in my other body parts. I wonder if they can still cut my neck, now that I've been fortified by the Mystic Star Astral Painting...

Su Ping left the training room while deep in thought.

Elder Yan was surprised to find that Su Ping wanted to challenge the Divine Lord Rank again, because he hadn't taken any special training recently. He had surely made significant progress in two months, but not to a large degree.

However, he didn't advise Su Ping against it, as he deemed it as an opportunity to practice.

He didn't go with Su Ping this time. He simply told him how to make appointments and gave him an account with enough money to pay for the appointments.

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Su Ping arrived at the plaza alone; he went and made an appointment as Elder Yan had instructed, then wore the virtual helmet and waited for the battle.

Soon, his opponent appeared—the cultivator in 30th place of the Divine Lord Rank. It was a handsome young man.

Once the battle began, Su Ping dual-merged with his pets and had a head on clash with his opponent, just like before.

However, Su Ping didn't dodge or resist this time, merely standing silently in place.

Bang!

His opponent's spear stabbed at his throat; weirdly enough, it was unable to pierce him. The spear left a tiny red spot on his skin after bouncing back, which soon disappeared, as if nothing had happened.

Just as I expected...

Su Ping was rather delighted; his opponent was quite strong, with a spear that was very likely a powerful secret treasure. However, he was too sturdy at the moment. His Golden Crow body was already as hard as a Star Lord's, and it had been further activated by both the Immortal Phoenix's blood and the Mystic Star Astral Painting. He would probably remain safe even if he was attacked by hundreds of Star Lords!

The only people who could hurt him would be the exceptional geniuses.

While the might of such gifted fighters was still below that of Ascendant experts, they had indeed surpassed the limits of the Star Lord State. The ones at the top of the list in the Divine Lord Ranking for instance; they could easily annihilate any advanced Star Lord.

Bang!

Su Ping slashed his sword. He no longer tried to defend himself as he attacked in full force.

The handsome young man soon performed the same weird technique, which began to corrode Su Ping's small world. However, the corrosion rate was much slower this time. A hole had been produced in only one minute when they first fought, but now his small world wouldn't crack until several minutes later.

A few minutes were more than enough for Su Ping to act.

He did not believe that his opponent would be able to use such a powerful technique for minutes. He would be a real monster if he could.

Aside from his small world, the astral power inside Su Ping's body was no longer as suppressed as before. He was still being affected, but he kept control over most of his astral power.

A minute later, his opponent's weird technique was dispelled, and Su Ping instantly felt that he had been fortified. He executed the guy in merely ten seconds.

He finally defeated the cultivator in 30th place!

Su Ping was thrilled; he thought he was getting really close to the top ten.

Once he returned to the plaza, Su Ping thought for a moment and decided to challenge the tenth spot holder directly.

The one in tenth place was a woman wearing a black robe. She had an alluring body figure and pale cheeks; her eyes were green and clear.

A minute later—

Su Ping found himself back at the plaza. He blinked and found it hard to believe; he had expected her to be much stronger than the one in 30th place, but she was even stronger than he thought. She was unable to hurt his body, but he did sense some pain, and her ultimate skill had simply severed his head!

She has mastered the path of destruction!

She's much better at the path of destruction than I am. Her power is so destructive that even Star Lords raised by the major organizations would probably not withstand a single attack, Su Ping thought.

He even wondered if the purple bracelet his master had offered him could resist the woman's attack.

I may have to spend more time on the paths of time, destruction and vitality. I'll probably become a true immortal if I gain a deeper understanding on the path of vitality. Even if my head is blown up and my body torn apart, I can still be reborn with just one drop of blood... Su Ping's eyes flashed. He realized that he still had a lot of room for improvement.

He thought for a moment and challenged the one in 20th place.

Several minutes later, Su Ping opened his eyes again. He had failed; even the ranker on the 20th spot was still formidably strong. He currently had a very sturdy complexion, but his opponent had made his body decay with a special poison, defeating him in the end.

I am very resistant to poison, but his poison broke through my small world. How bizarre! Su Ping shook his head.

All the outstanding geniuses had their own share of unusual trump cards. Su Ping had to admit that they were really good.

He didn't stay for too long. He left the plaza and continued his training.

Chapter 964: Three Years

4

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Time zipped by.

Three years passed in the blink of an eye.

Elder Yan saw three years as nothing more than a snap of his fingers. He simply enjoyed tea, gardening, and teaching the young beasts every day.

He barely spent any time overseeing Su Ping's cultivation.

Su Ping had been diligent as he trained in seclusion all this time, only coming out when he challenged the Divine Lord rankers. They rarely discussed any subject, except for the Thousand Rain Sword Technique and things about the original paths.

Elder Yan had learned that besides the path of time, Su Ping had grasped the path of destruction on his own.

Adding the path of vitality his master taught him, Su Ping had already learned three of the four supreme laws.

That was definitely horrifying, even among Star Lords.

Su Ping's understanding of the three supreme laws had soared as those three years passed. He also became capable of summoning his future self, although his future self had his same cultivation.

Having become an expert, Su Ping understood the future-self summoning better. He realized that the technique had its shortcomings, even though it looked terrifying.

For starters, the future self summoned didn't have any pets!

Secondly, the future selves were significantly weakened by the paradoxes that involved the laws of time. For example, they couldn't make use of the law of time on a deeper level.

Therefore, unless he lucked out and managed to summon a future self of a higher level, there would be no chance for the regularly summoned selves to be as strong as the original.

So to speak, although the two future selves that Six Lives Buddha summoned were in the Star State, they didn't represent the real combat ability he would attain in the Star State. Now that he truly advanced and became a Star State warrior, he's definitely much stronger than the two future selves he summoned in our fight...

My understanding of the path of time isn't as deep as his. He must have made significant progress in the past few years. Maybe he's now able to summon his Star Lord self... Su Ping thought.

During those three years—

Su Ping had also made significant progress on the path of destruction, because he had often challenged the black-robed woman who was at the tenth spot of the Divine Lord Rank. He had learned a lot from how she used the path of destruction. We could say that she was a master to Su Ping.

My progress in the path of vitality is the greatest. After all, my master taught me all the knowledge I would need. I'd be able to reconstitute my body from nothingness with my current expertise; even if my body is destroyed, as long as part of my mental power remains. I'm almost as immortal as the Little Skeleton.

Also, the path of vitality doesn't just increase my ability to survive, but also strengthens me. It ensures that my astral power circulates in my body inexhaustibly!

Once he had a good grasp of the laws, Su Ping finally realized how terrifying the four supreme laws were.

Given that such law was focused on defense, the path of vitality could quickly heal him and give him an unbelievable amount of stamina. To put it simply, as long as his enemy was unable to kill him on the spot, they would definitely lose in a war of attrition!

"It's been three years..."

Inside the training room—Su Ping slowly opened his eyes and looked at the training room with mixed feeling; he had stayed there for six years. He had only stayed for three years in the Celestial Court, but he had decelerated the flow of time in the training room. Two days inside equaled one day in the outside world.

3

He had cultivated for around five years in total.

Su Ping had been completely reborn in that period of time.

His level had risen from the beginning of the Star State to the advanced phase. As long as he was willing, he could become a Star Lord at any moment.

Besides the mastering of the three supreme laws, Su Ping had accumulated more and more astral power over the years. He had also made great progress on the Chaos Star Chart. He had condensed two more Astral Paintings, namely 'Divine Dimension' and 'Universal Sea'!

The two Astral Paintings had brought him new abilities related to speed and space!

The Divine Dimension Astral Painting had increased his speed in every aspect, including his mind and his transmission of astral power; all those aspects were much faster than before.

As for the fifth Astral Painting—Universal Sea—it perfected Su Ping's path of space.

Even though the path of space wasn't listed as one of the four supreme laws, it was also rare and precious. Su Ping could become a Star Lord at any moment with his perfect understanding of the path of

space. He could now break into the seventh space with the path of time. It would be a lot harder if he had to use his physical strength, which could also end up in failure to enter.

“The sixth Astral Painting is named ‘Pendulum’, which is related to time. My understanding of the laws of time will become perfect if I manage to condense it; this will allow me to master the power of time. I’ll even be able to reverse time briefly and return to the past...” Su Ping looked forward to the sixth Astral Painting he was going to cultivate.

1

At the same time, he once again realized how horrifying the Chaos Star Chart was.

He would naturally grasp the path of time as long as he condensed the sixth Astral Painting, even if he knew nothing about it!

The technique included the laws of time!

Furthermore, the seventh Astral Painting even included the laws of time!

Su Ping found it hard to imagine what kind of being could create such a horrifying technique.

“Unfortunately, it’s twice as difficult to condense each new painting. I had to condense twenty-seven stars to build the third Astral Painting. The fourth required thirty-six stars, and the fifth required forty-five! The sixth Astral Painting required almost as many stars as the previous Astral Paintings combined...” Su Ping had a lot of mixed feelings.

1

It had taken him a tremendous amount of time, even if he currently had an inexhaustible supply of precious resources. It wasn’t hard to imagine that it would have probably taken him hundreds of years to have achieved the same thing in the outside world.

It’ll take me at least three years to condense the sixth Astral Painting if I continue training here. Elder Yan mentioned that I can get training resources in the outside world too, should I decide to venture outside, except that they wouldn’t be as effective as the ones provided here, due to the lack of the special astral array.

Su Ping looked at the training room; he was reluctant to go, but he eventually decided to return to his store.

After all, that was where he truly belonged.

It had been a long time since he had last seen Tang Ruyan and Joanna. He wondered how they had been running the store.

He had been away from his business for more than three years. He was quite an irresponsible boss.

Furthermore, Joanna had surely been rated as Outstanding Employee many times. His promise to take her to the Archean Divinity was long overdue; it was her lifelong wish.

2

Su Ping shook his head and stood up as he thought about this.

Chapter 965: Tremble

“You’re going to challenge the Divine Lord Rank, and you want me to go with you?”

In the courtyard—Elder Yan had been reading an ancient book at the time. He looked at Su Ping in surprise. He had rarely taught Su Ping anything during all his years being apprenticed. After all, the special training program had been completed, and all that Su Ping needed was to accumulate more energy. He could tell that Su Ping was making progress every day.

“Yes.”

Su Ping nodded with an unusual expression.

Seeing such a response, Elder Yan suddenly widened his eyes and asked in shock, “Please don’t tell me you’re confident of challenging the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank. Is it so?”

“Yes.”

Su Ping nodded again.

“...”

Elder Yan was lost for words for a moment. He said with a bitter smile, “I thought it would take ten years. Only three years have passed.”

He didn’t know what to say.

Su Ping had only been in the Celestial Court for three years, yet he had practically risen to the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank. Such a leap was truly horrifying!

His astonishment was substantial, even after having seen a fair share of unusual things in his day. If news were to spread out, the entire universe would probably be shocked!

“Are you confident?” Elder Yan asked.

“Yes.”

Su Ping nodded.

The elder was again lost for words; he knew he shouldn’t have asked. Su Ping wouldn’t have been as solemn if he weren’t confident. Even if he failed this time, he would definitely succeed before long.

“Do you really plan to leave after you succeed?” asked Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded. “You’ve taken great care of me over the years. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you need me to do anything.”

“I didn’t really do much; it was all Master’s instruction.” Elder Yan transferred the favor to his master. The favor from a genius such as Su Ping could be really useful; he wouldn’t have bothered had someone else thanked him.

“Three years... How time flies.” Elder Yan felt conflicted. Normal geniuses progressed quickly at the beginning, but they would slow down as they reached the Star State or became Star Lords. They would usually be stagnant for decades before being able to evolve. However, Su Ping retained his previous advancement speed, which was unbelievable.

“I haven’t investigated your old opponents, but I have no doubt that you’re the one who has made the greatest progress. You were the best in the Star State earlier on; you’re probably the best in the Star State now. I hope you can rise to the top of the Divine Lord Rank someday!” said a hopeful Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded.

The two of them immediately left for the city of virtual arenas together.

Hardly had they arrived when Su Ping noticed a familiar man who was about to leave.

“Humph!”

Su Ping saw Diaz, while the latter saw him too. They had been admitted by Shen Huang as disciples at the same time. Many people had compared them, discussing which of them had greater potential. Most answers pointed at Su Ping.

Su Ping deserved their expectation. After all, it was the champion, who had an unknown high-performing constitution.

Speaking of which, Su Ping’s constitution had been confirmed and officially recorded in the encyclopedia of the Federation. The previous nine divine constitutions had become ten divine constitutions!

It was a hit in the Celestial Court. It wasn’t hard to imagine how shocking the news would be in the outside world!

The nine divine constitutions had been at the top of the pyramid of body types for more than a hundred thousand years. Su Ping’s was the only new addition. Also—given his status as champion of the Universe Geniuses’ Contest—Su Ping was now considerably popular all over the universe, and was receiving a lot of public attention.

However, all the information on Su Ping had been blocked. Nobody had updates from his progress in the Celestial Court; there wasn’t a single morsel to be found.

“Do you have a minute? Let’s practice.” Diaz had always been angry with Su Ping. He added, “I condensed a small world and rose to the 70th on the Divine Lord Rank. It’s a completely different me, considering my performances from three years ago!”

Su Ping put on a weird expression. Elder Yan said with amusement, “Did my old friend not inform you of Su Ping’s current progress?”

One of Shen Huang’s pets had been tasked with teaching Diaz, and a special training program had similarly been drafted for him.

Diaz had completed the training and become a lot stronger over the years. He had also managed to condense a small world. Reaching the 70th place in only three years was quite the feat.

Unfortunately, Su Ping was even crazier. Elder Yan felt sorry for Diaz.

Both of them had the best constitutions, but their gifts in other aspects were truly different.

Diaz was definitely not weak; Su Ping was simply growing too fast. Shen Huang had mentioned that Su Ping's own cultivation technique was rather powerful, so he didn't teach Su Ping any cultivation techniques; just the secret technique named Thousand rain.

"Huh?"

Diaz was stunned for a moment; he had a bad feeling after seeing Elder Yan's expression. He then asked, frowning, "His current situation? What situation? Is he already able to easily defeat the 70th ranker from the Divine Lord listing?"

The elder didn't want to frustrate Diaz. He said, "You're not wrong about that. All in all, the gap between you two is too wide. You're no match for him at this point; such a practice is unnecessary."

Unnecessary?

Diaz was stunned. He would've burst into fury had anyone else said that.

That was the most insulting statement possible, wasn't it?

However, it was Elder Yan himself who had made the statement, and he didn't know what to say. His heart was cold too. *Has Su Ping surpassed me again?*

His face then showed regret; he still wanted to insist on a battle against Su Ping, but he eventually held back his urge.

Elder Yan's attitude had made him vaguely realize the answer, but he was truly reluctant to give up!

He had been working hard enough, yet he was being constantly dwarfed!

He had never experienced that in the past; it all began when he met Su Ping. He was always the one who left other people so far behind they couldn't possibly catch up with him—

And now he was the one being left behind.

Looking at Diaz's expression—seemingly suffering from constipation—Su Ping had mixed feelings too. He said, "I'm about to leave the Celestial Court. See you. Feel welcome to visit my store when you're free."

He then waved his hand and left with Elder Yan.

Diaz was stunned. *Su Ping's going to leave the Celestial Court?*

The plaza's environment was very comfortable, and the people in the area were friendly. *Why would he want to leave?*

He felt really depressed for a moment. On the other hand, he too felt slightly delighted.

If Su Ping left, he would definitely not find a training environment as good as in the Celestial Court. So, would he have a chance to catch up with him?

He dropped the idea the moment it occurred to him. He cursed himself for even thinking about such a demeaning method!

Diaz shook his head and returned to his palace.

“What’s wrong?”

Inside the palace—an old man was surprised to see the genius return that quickly. Losing challenges for a spot in the Divine Lord Rank were nothing unusual. *Why is he so upset?*

“That guy is leaving,” said Diaz with a gloomy attitude.

The old man asked, “That guy... Do you mean Su Ping?”

“Who else can it be?” Diaz was bummed. Who deserved his attention except Su Ping?

“Where is he going? Didn’t Master say that he isn’t allowed to leave the Divine Lord Rank unless he’s capable of beating the tenth place holder on the Divine Lord Rank?” asked the old man in confusion.

Diaz trembled and suddenly raised his head. He asked with wild disbelief, “W-What did you say?”

He even forgot to address him as “senior.”

Seeing how shocked he was, the old man remembered what Elder Yan had told him during a conversation from half a year prior; he then wondered if that young disciple was already capable of doing that.

...

Inside the plaza—

Elder Yan made an appointment for Su Ping, and the latter entered the virtual battlefield with practiced moves. The black-robed woman was right in front of him.

Su Ping had fought against her many times during those three years, all to learn the path of destruction from her.

He felt conflicted by their new encounter.

Su Ping looked at her and said softly, “Thank you for your help over the years. Too bad I can’t meet you in reality.”

The black-robed woman remained expressionless. She was just a stack of battle data that wasn’t capable of communicating.

Very soon, the battle began.

Su Ping took a deep breath. He had been through countless such battles, and he decided to finish the last one with his real strength.

Bang!

His dazzling sword aura illuminated the entire world; just like the sun, before it suddenly perished.

The black-robed woman facing him had already been stabbed through. Her body then collapsed and vanished completely.

Su Ping returned to the plaza and took off his helmet.

A stunned Elder Yan asked, "Why did you exit this soon? Did something go wrong with the equipment?"

"It's done," replied Su Ping calmly.

Elder Yan's eyes almost popped out. He asked in shock, "It's over? How long has it been? You were there for only thirty seconds."

"This is the outcome of the battle; the equipment can never be wrong." Su Ping pointed at the monitor, which displayed "victory" in a fiery font.

Elder Yan was lost for words for a long time.

He had thought that Su Ping had a good chance of defeating his opponent, but he didn't expect the battle to end that quickly. He wasn't there to watch the battle, but it had obviously been a crushing victory.

It meant that Su Ping had a chance of beating her and leaving the Celestial Court even earlier!

Elder Yan suddenly asked, "What's the highest ranking you can beat at the moment?"

He gazed at Su Ping in the eye, not blinking even once, as if he was more concerned about the result than Su Ping was.

The latter, however, simply shook his head and said, "I haven't tried yet."

"You haven't?" Stunned, Elder Yan found it hard to believe. "Why not? Aren't you curious about the specialties of those with higher rankings? Why have you never tried them?"

"I challenged each of the top ten participants two years prior. I was too weak to beat them back then, so I only challenged them to see their specialties. I haven't challenged them again as of yet," Su Ping explained.

Chapter 966: Broken Divine Realm

"..."

Elder Yan was lost for words.

The guy defeated the top ten two years earlier?

He had barely been a Star State warrior for a year back then, a mere beginner. Why is he so bold?

"You defeated the tenth all too fast; you must be able to fight those with higher rankings then. I can make another appointment for you... Which one do you want to challenge?" asked Elder Yan.

He was eager to find out Su Ping's limits.

Su Ping, however, shook his head. "Never mind. Master said that I'm free to leave as long as I make it to the top ten. I've seen what the others are capable of; it's unnecessary to see it again."

Elder Yan was gobsmacked by his response. He asked, "Don't you want to find out your ranking?"

"It's pointless," Su Ping replied, "Rankings don't matter in a life-and-death battle. I've gauged how strong I am, and the ceiling of the Star Lord State."

Elder Yan looked at him in a daze. He found it hard to imagine that a genius such as Su Ping would say that.

Shouldn't a young man like him be proud and eager to prove himself?

"Are you really so desperate to leave?" Elder Yan stopped trying to persuade him. After all, he knew that Su Ping could already defeat the tenth place holder. He had no doubt that Su Ping would be at the top of the Divine Lord Rank when he became a Star Lord; his current ranking didn't really matter.

"Yes." Su Ping nodded.

"Is the world out there really so attractive? The Celestial Court is a holy land that everybody dreams to visit. You can get anything you want here!" said Elder Yan.

Su Ping smiled and said, "Anything but friends."

"Friends?" Elder Yan was dazed.

"My friends are out there waiting for me. I don't want to keep them waiting," replied Su Ping with a smile.

Elder Yan fell silent while staring at the latter in the eye. He said, "I understand. I'll inform Master; he's been dealing with some tricky stuff laterly. You must be very careful in the outside world. Most people will respect you because you're Lord Supreme's disciple, but he also has his share of enemies. They might be unable to hurt him, but they can pose a threat to you."

"Yes." Su Ping nodded.

That was also why Shen Huang had prevented him from leaving until he made it to the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank.

Those enemies were mostly Star Lords.

As for the Ascendant State warriors, they would be tracked down even if they managed to kill him. Therefore, it wasn't worthwhile for them to go after him.

"Go back and wait for the reply. Master will summon you when he's free," said Elder Yan.

Su Ping nodded.

The two of them returned to the palace. Su Ping stared at the place he had lived in for three whole years; the maids and guards working there had been truly respectful toward him.

Even after he left, the people would stay there until he returned.

I just realized that I haven't explored the Celestial Court properly yet, Su Ping thought.

However, he quickly dropped the idea upon remembering the Celestial Court's size. It would take him decades if he wanted to properly explore the place. It would be better to leave the plan on hold until he reached higher levels. This was not a time for relaxation yet; he wouldn't be truly strong unless he reached the Ascendant State.

Once that last thought crossed his mind, Su Ping secluded himself in the training room again.

Elder Yan could only shake his head after seeing that Su Ping did not relax even for one second. He could not think of a reason why someone as talented and diligent as Su Ping wouldn't succeed.

His only worry was that the young man would end up stuck right before the threshold to the Ascendant State.

It was a monumental test, which had trapped many talented geniuses. They would hardly rise again if their mindsets went awry. The geniuses who held the higher spots high on the Divine Lord Rank would generally have Ascendant State potential, and yet many were mired in the Star Lord State, unable to go higher!

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

Su Ping was summoned by his master while he cultivated.

He soon went to the most splendid palace at the center of the Celestial Court, along with Elder Yan.

Countless golden-armored guards were standing by the thousands of stairs outside of the palace. All of them were Star Lords; their captains were in the Ascendant State. They could be as strong as Heavenly Lords once engaged in formations!

Inside the palace—Shen Huang was ensconced in his throne, like a god dominating the universe.

"Have you defeated the one holding the tenth place of the Divine Lord Rank?" Shen Huang's gaze was warm when Su Ping arrived. He had also been shocked by Elder Yan's report. In merely three years, Su Ping had made it to the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank, which was beyond his expectation.

"Yes, sir," Su Ping bowed and replied calmly.

Shen Huang smiled after seeing how confident Su Ping was. All his disciples were proud geniuses, not to mention that Su Ping was among the most talented. He had at first thought that Su Ping would have to spend decades cultivating, but he managed to accomplish the task while still being in the Star State.

Even though he had condensed a small world back when he was a Fate State warrior—defeating Star Lords now that he had reached the Star State thus being more logical—all the people in the top ten of the rankings were outstanding geniuses in the Star Lord State; none of them could be considered normal Star Lords.

"Your progress has gone beyond my expectations. I thought you would only accomplish the task until you became a Star Lord. Taking into consideration that you've already succeeded, I'll modify the special training program I had prepared for when you become a Star Lord," said Shen Huang with a smile.

"Thank you for your help, master," Su Ping immediately thanked him.

“I’m told that you’re here because you want to leave the Celestial Court. Is this so?” Shen Huang didn’t forget that Su Ping had previously asked how to leave the Celestial Court three years prior. It seemed that the three years enjoying privileges didn’t change his mind. Elder Yan said that he was leaving because of a friend...

Was the friend female, or male?

Shen Huang was rather curious, but he didn’t ask. He never pried on his disciples’ private business as long as it didn’t affect their training.

“Yes,” Su Ping nodded and said, “Thank you for your care over the past three years. I want to travel outside and do some things I’ve postponed.”

Shen Huang looked at him with a smile and said, “I won’t restrain you. I’ll allow you to leave since you’ve already attained a prowess on par with the top ten holders of the Divine Lord Rank. Just keep in touch with the Celestial Court after you leave. If you need anything, it will be sent to you; don’t delay your cultivation.”

Su Ping was relaxed; he quickly offered thanks once again.

“Yun Mu,” said Shen Huang all of a sudden.

Rays folded and twisted in the air ahead of him. Then, a slim woman slowly manifested. She wore ancient clothes, while her overall appearance was pretty and gentle.

“It’s an honor to meet you, Lord Supreme.”

The woman quickly knelt before Shen Huang after she appeared.

“Your task is to look after my disciple for a hundred years, or until he reaches the top of the Divine Lord Rank. Then, you’ll be freed,” said Shen Huang casually, “You’ll be obliterated if anything happens to him!”

The woman was greatly delighted. She looked at Su Ping and accepted the task. “Thank you, Lord Supreme.”

Shen Huang looked at Su Ping and said, “I will feel more at ease if Yun Mu keeps you company while you’re away.”

Su Ping was slightly dazed by this development. He looked at the woman and felt somewhat awed. Given his ample fighting experience with the Divine Lord rankers, he could tell that she was definitely not a Star Lord. She was an Ascendant!

His master had just appointed an Ascendant State expert to protect him for a hundred years?

Su Ping gave his sincere thanks once more.

“Is there anything else that you want?” asked Shen Huang with a smile.

Su Ping was truly flattered. He was then reminded of the recent Universe Geniuses’ Contest; he asked the question that had bothered him for a long time. “Master, some of the zombies I encountered in the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm seemed to still be conscious. May I know what happened to that world?”

He had never forgotten the female zombie he had seen during the trial.

Her eyes gave him a strong sense of familiarity, as if he had seen her before.

“Huh?”

Shen Huang didn't expect to be asked such a question, as it had been three years since the competition ended. He glanced at Su Ping and said, “That world is Mu Shen's territory; he knows it better than I do. To my understanding, it's an ancient world that carries the air of the Archean Divinity. Some have speculated that it's indeed a broken piece of land from the Archean Divinity.”

He then added with a thoughtful tone, “It involves incidents in the most ancient history. According to the investigations done on many relics, a fierce battle took place in the primordial times; it shattered many worlds, including the Archean Divinity where the gods lived. However, those incidents were from too long ago; we don't really know what happened.”

Su Ping fell into a slight daze. He found the theory rather familiar.

The land was actually a piece of the Archean Divinity!

He suddenly remembered that the Demigod Burial was another piece of the Archean Divinity.

Being the case, it was possible that the Archean Divinity had already fallen apart.

“If so, the zombies roaming the place used to be gods?” asked Su Ping quickly, “Then, why have they become so weird?”

Shen Huang shook his head. “Probably because of the war. Maybe a virus infection, or some sort of weird power has changed them.”

He glanced at Su Ping and asked, “Why are you asking about them?”

Su Ping changed his expression, not knowing how to explain. However, his master would easily see him through if he were to lie. He had to confess dutifully, “I saw something unusual on one of the zombies, and felt that it was conscious and... familiar. So, I wanted to know more about them.”

“Familiar?”

Shen Huang was able to tell that Su Ping's words were true. He narrowed his eyes and then said, “It's probably because of the Golden Crow's bloodline inside your body. It's said that the Golden Crows carry the bloodline of the gods... That must be why you found the ancient gods familiar.”

Su Ping nodded, deciding to drop the subject.

However, deep down in his heart, he didn't think the theory was right.

After all, he didn't have such strange feelings when he saw other zombies.

Only that female zombie gave him such a sense of familiarity.

Unfortunately, that place didn't belong to his master; otherwise, he would have asked him permission to explore it again.

...

Once he bade goodbye to his master, Su Ping was ready to leave the Celestial Court.

Yun Mu would leave with him, acting as his personal guard.

Elder Yan saw him off. His master offered him a spaceship that only Ascendants were qualified to buy; it could leap to any place in the universe, and sail into forbidden lands and mysterious realms, also thanks to high security clearances.

The spaceship's warship system was powerful too; it could easily annihilate Star Lords, and pose a threat to many Ascendants. Su Ping would be safe as long as he stayed on board the ship.

Obviously, he couldn't stay in the spaceship forever, that was why Shen Huang had ordered Yun Mu to protect him as another safety measure. Nothing would happen to him as long as he wasn't too reckless.

Su Ping was really grateful to his master for those arrangements. Although he didn't think he would be caught in a dangerous situation because he would mostly stay in his store, it was still possible that the system would later ask him to go out and capture pets.

Inside the palace—Elder Yan said with a smile after Su Ping left, "You gave Yun Mu to him. That wasn't part of the plan."

Shen Huang chuckled and replied, "That kid has been making progress too fast. He's only in the Star State, yet he's reached the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank in three years. That's an achievement that even I didn't get to accomplish. But then again, there wasn't a Divine Lord Rank back in my day. I did kill a lot of normal Star Lords, but I didn't run into any of the top of that realm."

There was regret in his eyes as he talked about the subject.

Chapter 967: Monsters

In the vast universe—the splendid Celestial Court was glowing like the sun.

A warship was sailing away outside the Celestial's domain.

Elder Yan's projection appeared inside the warship. He said to Su Ping, "Tell me your address when you settle down. The training resources on the spaceship should be enough to last you for half a year. Tell me if you need more."

"Okay. Thank you, Elder Yan," Su Ping quickly thanked him.

"Master asked me to tell you that you can go to the best academy of the universe when you become a Star Lord. You have been admitted as a special student. Of course, you're not going there to take classes. An opportunity is waiting for you there; you can claim it when you become a Star Lord," said Elder Yan.

This came as a surprise. Su Ping replied with delight, "Got it."

"Be safe. Don't take unnecessary risks and focus on your cultivation," Elder Yan reminded him in the end.

Su Ping nodded.

Once he said goodbye to the elder, Su Ping looked at Yun Mu and asked curiously, "Senior Yun, what's the relationship between you and Master? Are you a pet too?"

Yun Mu was similarly observing him. She could tell from Elder Yan and Shen Huang's attitudes that they thought very highly of that young disciple, which made her curious. She remembered that Shen Huang hadn't been as invested when he admitted Qin Wenxian as a disciple, one of the best.

"Sort of. But my master died and I was confined by your master. Now, I'm finally out of prison; I'll be freed as long as I protect you for a hundred years," said Yun Mu with hope in her eyes. She considered that it would be an easy task to protect such a kid for a hundred years.

He would be safe as long as he didn't recklessly enter dangerous places, and none of the Ascendant experts would easily attack a Celestial's disciple. Only Shen Huang's enemies would probably give it a try, sending Star Lord assassins to kill him.

Su Ping was enlightened. He then said, "Thank you for your help. I'll take my leave to continue with my cultivation. You may take some rest, senior."

"That's all right. I'm already resting," said Yun Mu with a smile, "Don't mind me. Just think of it as if I didn't exist."

"Well..." Su Ping coughed and said, "I'm going to do something private. I would rather be alone."

Yun Mu was stunned for a bit. She realized that Su Ping's secrets would be exposed if she was around while he was cultivating. After all, such geniuses usually had their own hidden methods. He certainly didn't want her to know of them if she would leave a hundred years from then.

"Got it." Yun Mu nodded and then disappeared.

She wouldn't need to worry about his safety while he stayed inside the spaceship anyway.

Once she left, Su Ping set off to the ship's training room.

The spaceship's course was set to reach planet Rhea, except for the peculiar fact that Rhea was no longer in the Silvy Galaxy. Joanna had pushed it to a solar system named Rainbow, making it a wandering planet system.

...

At the border of the Rainbow Space Station.

Many spaceships were sailing close to the space station, heading in all directions. They lined up in front of the star gate, waiting to be scanned and teleported to the habitable planets in the planetary system.

"Damn it, how much longer do we have to wait? Those things will catch up to us if we don't hurry!" Macron cursed angrily inside one of the spaceships.

A couple of kids were standing next to him. They were his children.

Their entire family was on the run. They were originally a noble family on their own planet, but catastrophe struck and they had to flee from the fallen planet.

“Dad, are we going to our Uncle’s place?” asked a young man curiously. There wasn’t much fear on his face; instead there was solely eagerness and interest in what the future had in store for them.

Macron nodded and said, “Your uncle lives on the Maka Planet in the Rainbow Planetary System. We can only go to him for help. Let’s stay there until our family business is relocated. By the way, we need to find Katherine a good school and a good mentor; she still has a lot of cultivation to do.”

He focused his eyes on a young woman.

She was the daughter he was the most proud of, and she was also the hope of the family. She was extremely gifted in cultivation, and was graced by a rare constitution, having reached the Ocean State when she was only in her twenties. He believed she had what it took to enter the best academies in the Rainbow Planetary System!

“Yes, my sister has a lot of cultivation to do. Her master said she had a shot at becoming a Star Lord. She may grow to become master of an entire planetary system,” said a handsome young man as he nodded. He looked at his sister with affection, and some other unusual feelings.

The girl named Katherine, however, was quite calm. She simply frowned and gazed at the space station outside the window. “Father, why did such a disaster happen on our planet? Where did those horrifying things come from? The authorities said they had been caused by a lab virus, but I don’t think so. They looked like biochemical beasts to me...”

Macron shook his head and said, “Don’t bother about where they’re from. They’re just horrible beings to us. We need a new home. The military detachment guarding the Rainbow Planetary System will probably keep them at bay. Hopefully the creatures on our planet will be cleared by our lord in time. I can only pray to the Lord of Space for our oil fields and salt seas to not be tainted by those creatures...”

Worries and regret were all over his face; he wanted the disaster to end immediately.

Katherine glanced at her father but remained silent.

Her ambition had always been to explore the universe, not to run the family business. She wanted to know more secrets about this vast and unknown expanse. There were too many things she wanted to see; they were fascinating to her.

Bang! Bang!

Suddenly, an invisible energy burst hit the spaceship and made everybody on board shake. Four of the ordinary passengers had even lost their balance and fallen.

Macron was shocked; he quickly looked out of the spaceship, only to see fireworks bursting out in the dark space, outside the spaceship. To be more precise, it was a barrage, rather than fireworks!

He immediately looked at the dealer of such barrage, and saw hideous creatures that were marching in space like locusts.

“Damn it, it’s those things. They’re truly here!” Macron exclaimed in panic with widened eyes.

The space station also detected the invading creatures at that moment. All the annihilation cannons deployed outside the portal were activated, shooting out rounds which illuminated the dark universe.

The passengers on many other spaceships saw the monsters too. Some exclaimed, some were excited and curious, while others were absolutely fearless. They believed that the garrison of the Rainbow Planetary System was more than capable of eliminating those creatures.

Chapter 968: Return
Boom!

Rows of annihilating cannons were firing like a storm. There was no sound dispersion in vacuum, yet the outbursts and explosions made the spaceships shake, which was deafening to their passengers.

Most of the locust-like beasts were hit by the barrage. The cannons were so powerful that some beasts were skinned, while others were shattered.

However, even more beasts came rushing like a tsunami.

The human attack continued. More beasts perished, but their swarm was still getting closer at a considerable speed; those who were merely enjoying the show dropped their smiles and became nervous.

Many spaceships sent out distress signals as they tried to jump away from that disaster. The space station was already in chaos by then.

Inside one of the spaceships—a guard asked his lord, “My lord, are we going to lend a hand?”

The lord was a brawny middle-aged man who mastered a galaxy; this was a clear indicator that he was a Star Lord dominator.

“Don’t overstep their boundaries; this is their personal business,” replied the middle-aged man with indifference, as he was unwilling to help. That wasn’t his galaxy, anyway. He had only gone there as part of a business trip. To help would mean to fight the beasts which were clearly in the Star State, seeing that they were traversing through space with their naked bodies.

He didn’t want to get involved in such trouble even though he was a Star Lord himself.

The guard was stunned for a moment, then fell silent afterwards.

Warships sailed out of the space station. They were part of the local garrison; they had protected the space station from wandering beasts countless times.

A chaotic battle unfolded at a distance, once the warships sailed out. The warships were firing, and Star State battle pet warriors charged forth.

The brutal encounter was taking place right in front of the passengers who were on the spaceships nearby.

“I hope they’ll be fine,” said one of the onlookers, with hands put together to pray.

Some, however, were more concerned about the guards’ performance, wishing they were able to deal with the beasts.

Soon, the beasts crawled onto the warships and tore them apart, while the battle pet warriors were also surrounded and swallowed soon after. Not even their screams could be spread in the vacuum.

It was a ghastly sight for a lot of people, which gave them goosebumps.

“Damn it, why are there so many of them?”

On one of the spaceships—Macron felt desperate as he watched the troops collapse. The most frightening thing was, there seemed to be more beasts than there were in his hometown.

“Is our space station going to fall too?” asked a kid, upset and suspicious.

“Enough with the nonsense!” someone instantly criticized him, but his own face was absolutely pale, too.

The space station sent out alarms at that moment. The signal towers all over the space station were emitting red lights, symbolizing a top-tier alert. Many drones immediately flew out, and a defensive energy field was activated. Distress signals were also transmitted; the dazzling red light looked like blood on people’s faces.

Right when anxiety and desperation reigned, an eternal light glowed from the depths of the universe and flew by.

That was a particle cannon round, which caused a gigantic hole in the cluster of beasts!

The formerly desperate onlookers were left dumbfounded by the unexpected scene.

Then, they saw a spaceship flying right towards the beasts, showing no intention of stopping.

A black shield was activated by the spaceship once it approached the beasts, enshrouding it whole. All the beasts that made contact with the shield were reduced to ashes.

The ferocious beasts thawed like snow as the spaceship plowed them. Only the creatures by the edges were able to flee from the catastrophe.

“Why did a beast tide come to this place?”

Inside the spaceship—Su Ping was quite surprised by the event.

Yun Mu was standing next to him, with a transparent ceiling above their heads, which allowed them to see the vast space. She said softly, “Maybe some of the wandering beasts happened to reach this area.”

Su Ping nodded. He then looked at the debris in the battlefield and gave a slight head shake. There would have been even greater casualties if he hadn’t returned in time.

“There’s not even a Star State warrior in this spaceship. It would be too dangerous if they run into Star State beasts.”

Yun Mu was amused by what he said. “Star Lords are too important to defend a space station, not to mention that this is an unimportant one. The important space stations which lead to the corners of the universe may be supervised by Ascendants. And there aren’t that many Star State beasts...”

The alarms in the space station stopped while Su Ping and Yun Mu talked. The passengers of all the spaceships looked at the newcomer in shock. The spaceship crushed a beast tide on its own?

Many people found it hard to believe their eyes; the escaping beasts were escaping..

They had fallen into hell moments before, but then they saw heaven.

“What’s that spaceship? It’s terrifying!”

“There must be a bigshot inside that spaceship!”

Many people wondered who was aboard the ship.

“We’re saved!”

Macron collapsed on his chair, tired yet flashing a smile full of delight, as if he would have personally taken part in a great battle.

His closeby children were also cheering excitedly.

Katherine’s eyes glittered as she looked at the spaceship in astonishment. There was no doubt in her mind: She had no doubt that the owner of that vessel was certainly an esteemed person.

Order was restored on the spaceship, as the beasts dispersed. A fleet was deployed to clear the debris. One of the fleet’s spaceships flew over to Su Ping’s and sent a request for communication.

Su Ping chose to accept the call after hearing the spaceship’s notification.

A hologram was soon projected on the spaceship. She was a short-haired woman in armor, who was quite surprised to see Su Ping. She obviously didn’t expect that the owner of the spaceship would be that young. She quickly overcame her surprise and respectfully said, “I’m the director of the Olm Space Station. Thank you for helping us. I was wondering if there was a way we could return the favor.”

“To easily talk about reciprocating makes the favors cheap,” replied Su Ping with a smile.

The woman was a bit stunned by his response; she quickly apologized to him.

“It wasn’t a big deal. No need to return the favor. Just clean the battlefield and prepare a funeral for the deceased heroes. By the way, I’m going to the Rainbow Planetary System. Please complete the paperwork for me.” Su Ping chuckled.

The woman understood by his response that he wasn’t expecting anything in return. She thanked him sincerely, and then completed the paperwork as requested.

I was granted a tier-7 identity after the contest ended. I think it’ll give me the privilege to cut in line. Su Ping suddenly felt relaxed as he saw the long queue of warships ahead of him; waiting in line was more tiresome than fighting beasts in his perspective.

The paperwork for Su Ping’s jump was soon completed.

The short-haired woman almost shook when she saw that Su Ping had a tier-7 identity. That was usually the clearance given to Ascendants. The young man is an Ascendant!

She nervously completed the paperwork for Su Ping, then opened a special channel so he could pass through.

“That spaceship is taking the level-1 special channel. The bigshot on board is truly extraordinary. He’s either an Ascendant or someone who has made great contributions!”

“Are you jealous? He deserves to take the level-1 channel after saving us all!”

“You’re right.”

Some warships turned on their lights at that moment; many others followed suit. Such beacons usually worked as identifiers. All of them were turned on as a way to thank Su Ping and bid him farewell.

“They’re thanking you,” said Yun Mu with a smile once she noticed this.

Su Ping also smiled after seeing their gesture. He then asked the spaceship’s AI to also turn their lights on as a response.

The people on the other spaceships were surprised to see Su Ping’s response. They didn’t expect the bigshot to be as approachable.

Su Ping’s spaceship reached the star gate and was ready for the jump.

An infinite burst of light was gathered in front of the spaceship as the jump initiated, establishing a space-time channel. There was a spaceport before them when the light was gone. Beyond said port was a planetary system composed of seventeen planets and a star at the center.

“This is the Rainbow Planetary System. It does look like a rainbow...” Su Ping noticed that the planets had different colors, producing the rainbow effect which inspired the name.

Su Ping then saw Rhea at the very edge of the planetary system.

“I’m back...”

There was eagerness in Su Ping’s eyes.

...

On Rhea.

A certain district in Woffett City—

The street was already crowded. Countless people were queuing in front of a store.

“Don’t push or cut in line.”

A tall and pretty girl standing by the store’s entrance was maintaining order.

“Miss Tang, can you accept a few more pets today? I’ve waited for days,” someone at the rear of the queue begged the girl.

Tang Ruyan looked at the person who had just talked. Even before she said anything, the guy before him said, “Just days? I’ve waited for almost a week!”

The groveling person immediately fell silent.

Someone further ahead, however, turned around and said, "You think one week is long? I've waited for half a month!"

"I..."

Tang Ruyan raised her hands and said, "Be quiet and obedient if you don't want to wait for a longer time."

It was then that a young man in white clothes, followed by a brawny middle-aged man, flew over from the end of the queue. He waved a paper fan in his hand as he said with a smile, "Miss, could I have my pets trained first? I can pay double the money."

There were incensed responses upon hearing his request. Some rolled their eyes and shouted, "You think you can do anything because you have money?"

"Yes, I can do anything because I have money," responded the young man with a smile.

"Damn it..." They gritted their teeth, but they realized that his identity was definitely honorable; no one complained afterwards.

The young man then looked at Tang Ruyan with a smile. Seeing how cold and uninterested she was, he asked in surprise, "What do you think, miss?"

"No matter how rich you are, you have to wait in line if you want your pets trained," said Tang Ruyan coldly.

The young man frowned and said, "I can pay three times the normal price, or any number you name; it isn't easy for me to come here. I heard that you can't train many pets every day. I don't have time to wait in line."

"Not even ten times the normal price would do." Tang Ruyan looked at him and continued, "This is the rule. Don't make me repeat it."

"..." The young man was rendered speechless.

"Watch your manners!" said the brawny man accompanying the young scion, as he stepped up with a daunting attitude, "You're just a receptionist. Has your boss not taught you how to receive guests? Are you really qualified to decide whether or not to serve a guest?"

Tang Ruyan was unfazed by his outburst; it was obvious that it wasn't the first time she had been in such a situation. "This is exactly what our boss commanded. I advise you not to bring trouble to yourself."

"How bold!" said the brawny man as he suddenly took action, determined to capture Tang Ruyan.

But right at that moment—a pressuring force swept out of the store and suppressed the brawny man, forcing him to fall on his knees while still in midair. His bones were cracking, and there was blood on his lips.

The brawny man's eyes widened with fear. What terrified him was not the pain he felt, but the ominous aura coming from the store, which was even scarier than a Star Lord's.

“Uncle Wei!”

The young man’s expression became stern, realizing that something was wrong.

Some of the people in line were surprised by such a development, while others merely looked on. They mocked the poor sod. “They dare to cause trouble here? Their accent seems foreign; they should have known better!”

“He’s just a Star State warrior, and yet he dares to go wild? I remember seeing an overbearing Star Lord once, but he was beaten up, and he ended up vomiting blood in the end.”

“This is the fifth time I’ve waited in line. There’s been troublemakers every single time. How interesting!”

“There are too many arrogant people. They think they’re strong enough to do anything they want.”

Everybody joined in the whispering.

Those not in the know were really confused. Even a Star Lord vomited blood after causing trouble?

After overhearing those conversations, the now pale brawny man said in fear, “S-Senior, spare my life. I didn’t mean to insult you. I was wrong!” He continuously kowtowed after pleading.

The young man in white also fell to his knees with a pale face.

Tang Ruyan rolled her eyes and said, “You should have listened to my suggestion. All right, you may leave.”

The sky above them suddenly became dark after she spoke, wreathing the entire street in shadows.

Chapter 969: Accumulation

A spaceship suddenly descended and stopped above the street, blocking the sunlight.

“Who dared to bring a spaceship to the inland?” asked someone in astonishment.

The spaceship was opened and two people flew out. They were Su Ping and Yun Mu.

Su Ping wore an affectionate smile upon looking at the familiar street and the familiar girl.

“This is just an ordinary planet. Why are we here?” Yun Mu looked around in confusion.

“This is where I do business,” replied Su Ping with a smile.

“This is where you do business?” Yun Mu was stunned.

One of Lord Supreme’s disciples is a businessman?

A man as talented as Su Ping is short on money?

Su Ping didn’t elaborate. He stored the spaceship and flew towards the girl whose eyes were already drenched.

More and more people saw his face as he descended. The noisy street became weirdly quiet all of a sudden, but the silence didn't last long. It was broken by an outburst of cheers and roars. The people who had seen Su Ping before were flushed due to excitement.

"It's Boss Su!"

"He's the strongest genius of the Silvy Galaxy!"

"Wrong. He's the strongest genius of the Golden Star Zone. Boss Su fought on behalf of our galaxy and became the champion!"

"You're so ignorant. Haven't you heard that the overall champion of the Universe Geniuses' Contest is Boss Su?"

"Damn, champion of the universe? Seriously?"

"I learned of this through a secret channel. It can't be wrong!"

All the people waiting in line whispered excitedly.

Some were saying that Su Ping was the champion of the universe. Nobody was able to confirm the fact, but that was irrelevant; the fact that he was the best in Silvy and the Golden Star Zone was exciting enough.

"He is Su Ping? Is he the strongest genius of our star zone's rounds from the Universe Geniuses' Contest?"

"I heard that he's been admitted by Lord Supreme as a disciple. Is it true?"

Everybody was discussing Su Ping while their eyes were focused on him.

Even though three years had passed and Su Ping might not be known on other planets, Rhea was definitely an exception!

Su Ping was running a store before participating in the contest!

The news that he was a store owner on that planet was spread out as he made his way to the store. It made all the locals feel proud.

The best in both the galaxy and their star zone had a store on their planet!

The people on other planets were probably disinterested when it came to such an honor, but all of Rhea's inhabitants felt proud of him.

"What's all the noise about?"

Across the street, in a pet assessment store—Cleo was awakened by the noise. She had been napping on a couch found on the second floor. She frowned and then went to the window. She soon saw the man as he slowly made his descent.

"It's him?"

Cleo narrowed her eyes and almost forgot how to talk.

Su Ping then landed in front of his store.

“Sorry I’m late.”

He suddenly felt guilty as he looked at the girl; she was teary eyed, biting her lips.

Tang Ruyan gnashed her teeth as she said, “I thought you forgot the way back.”

“I’m the boss. Of course I have to come back,” Su Ping joked. He didn’t want their reunion to be that sad.

Tang Ruyan bit her lips again, ever so slightly. There had been countless things she wanted to say to him when he wasn’t around; she even blurted a lot of words that had been rolling in her head when she ate or slept. However, she didn’t know what to say when she finally saw him in the flesh.

“You’re back.”

Two women slowly walked out of the store.

One of them was Joanna. She had blond hair, a young girl’s body figure, and a cold, mature lady’s face. She looked calm at the moment, but her twitching eyes indicated that her heart wasn’t as tranquil as she let on.

Green Lady, however, was delighted. It had been three years since she last saw Su Ping. She would have thought that something could have happened to him if Su Ping hadn’t said goodbye to her earlier.

Joanna and Green Lady’s appearance left all the queuing people dumbfounded and wide-eyed.

The young man in white clothes who was still on his knees was similarly shocked. He never thought that he would get the chance to see two gorgeous and stunning women at the same time!

Su Ping nodded at them with a smile, then said with mixed feelings, “You’ve had it hard.”

It was obvious that business had been thriving while he was away. Joanna had been taking care of it all the time.

“It’s good to have you back,” said Joanna casually. She then glanced at Yun Mu who was next to Su Ping and returned to the store.

Green Lady also noticed Yun Mu and asked in surprise, “Who is she?”

Su Ping made the introduction. “She is Yun Mu. My master sent her to protect me.”

Yun Mu was also shocked as she observed Green Lady; she could easily tell that the latter was an Ascendant too, and they were evenly matched. However, she didn’t detect a human being’s aura from her, which meant that she was from a different species.

“It seems that your master has been taking good care of you,” said Green Lady with glittering eyes.

“Yes, he has.” Su Ping nodded, and invited Yun Mu to enter the store. After all, the store entrance wasn’t suitable for a proper conversation.

Once Su Ping entered the store, the young man in white mumbled while watching the former's back, "Is he the best genius of the Golden Star Zone?"

Uncle Wei, who was by his side, trembled and said in a low voice, "Young master, let's get out of here..."

Even though Su Ping had not even bothered to look at him when he arrived, he was somehow terrified.

The young lord snapped out of his shock and nodded.

In a jewelry store nearby—

A young man who was picking jewelry suddenly wore the item in his hand and left in a leisurely manner. He sent a message via his watch as he left. "He's back."

In a clothing store—a woman was trying on a dress. She suddenly took it off and left the store straight away.

Several people who had been waiting in line had quietly left the crowd.

It wasn't a secret that Su Ping was running a store on that planet; there were a lot of traces anyway. Besides, he had arrived on that planet three years prior. All his genius peers knew him.

Only three years had passed since the Universe Geniuses' Contest was held, but most people had already forgotten about it. After all, most of them were too busy with their own lives; they didn't have time for things that were too far beyond their reach.

...

Inside the store—

Su Ping felt conflicted as he looked around; his store was absolutely the same as three years prior. There wasn't a speck of dust or any sign of disrepair.

"You've worked hard in the last three years," said Su Ping.

Joanna said casually, "It's my responsibility as your employee."

"Humph!" Tang Ruyan raised her head.

Green Lady was quiet however, as if she had something on her mind.

Yun Mu looked at the three women and found Su Ping's conversation strange and absurd. *Did he ask an Ascendant State expert to run his business for him?*

As for the other two women, while Tang Ruyan could easily be seen through, the last one felt somewhat familiar to her. If her eyes didn't deceive her, there was a high chance she was the reincarnation of an Ascendant.

If that was the case, there were two Ascendants minding the store!

"..."

Yun Mu was lost for words.

As far as she knew, a business run by two Ascendants should at least be an interstellar corporation; its daily revenue would be enough to buy out a tier-5 planet!

“Let’s call it a day today. Close the door. We need to adjust the store a little bit,” said Su Ping.

Joanna nodded and then sent out the notice.

Many customers moaned and complained outside, but they weren’t too regretful. Rather, they were excited about Su Ping’s return. The best genius of their star zone had not forgotten his store; he made a special trip to supervise it. Once the news were spread, people would show up in droves just to see.

Many of them thought that the days of waiting had already been worth it after they saw Su Ping up close.

Once they closed the store, Su Ping said to the three women with a smile, “All of you achieved the Outstanding Employee recognition for your work in the past three years.”

Joanna glanced at him. “I’ve been one since a long time ago. When are you taking me there?”

She didn’t urge him earlier, because she had already waited for tens of thousands of years. However, Su Ping had been away for three years; she was worried that he might be gone again.

“I’m taking you there soon,” said Su Ping, “I also want to explore it.”

“I’ll be holding you to your promise,” said Joanna immediately with glittering eyes.

Su Ping smiled and replied, “I’ve owed you that for a long time.”

He looked at Green Lady and Tang Ruyan and said, “You’re also free to choose a place to visit. I’ll take you there.”

“Any place?” asked Green Lady right away.

Su Ping nodded.

“I want to visit the Realm of Deities then,” she quickly said. It was the world where she and the Twilight Deity King used to live; she wanted to see it again. Back then, the Twilight Deity King locked her in the palace and fought until he died; she didn’t know whether or not the world she knew still existed.

But even if it was broken and desolate, she wanted to see it for the last time.

“Okay.” Su Ping nodded.

Tang Ruyan looked at Su Ping and lowered her head. “I haven’t decided yet, but I want to become strong...”

Su Ping nodded. “I’ll make arrangements.”

After that, he looked at Yun Mu and said, “Senior Yun, sorry, but I need to enter secluded training in my store for a couple of days. Could you watch over from outside?”

Yun Mu was slightly surprised. She gave Su Ping and the three women weird looks. She had never heard about the Realm of Deities that Green Lady had just mentioned; she guessed it was a world from ancient

myths. Still, Su Ping promised her that he would take her there. There was no way the promise could be delivered.

I didn't know that Lord Supreme's young disciple was such a trash guy, Yun Mu thought.

Only a worthless piece of trash would have made a promise he could never deliver.

Furthermore, the man had to be disloyal and dishonest, since she fooled three women into working for him.

I didn't know that even Ascendant women would fall for him. I need to be extra careful. Yun Mu became vigilant, but she did accept Su Ping's request.

She only needed to protect Su Ping for a hundred years, and she didn't want anything else to happen between them.

Yun Mu left, and Su Ping no longer had to hold back. He didn't want to tell Yun Mu too many things, because she would later leave after a hundred years passed. He said to Tang Ruyan, "You'll come to the Archean Divinity with us. Even if you don't find any treasures, you'll still be strengthened by merely being there."

"I can grow strong just by being there?" Tang Ruyan was stunned. "How?"

He merely said, "Just breathe."

Tang Ruyan: "..."

Joanna glanced at Su Ping and said, "Don't underestimate the difficulty. The war from years back shattered the Archean Divinity. Their environment is not as wonderful as you think, unless you've already been there."

"Well, that's true." Su Ping remembered that his master mentioned that the Archean Divinity had been broken, and a battlefield during the contest was one of its pieces. He thought for a moment and asked, "Should I go there and explore it first?"

"You've never been there?" asked Joanna.

"No," Su Ping shook his head and added, "But don't worry. You can certainly go there."

"Okay." Joanna glanced at him, not saying anything else.

Green Lady stood in silence.

Once he finished talking to them, Su Ping went to check the revenues of his store, and found that the numbers were more shocking than expected.

The income had been accumulated for three years without any expenses incurred. It almost suffocated him.

Is this the fun of automation? Su Ping thought.

He had so much money that he could do anything he wanted. The ticket to the Archean Divinity was nine thousand points per visit, which used to be a high price for Su Ping in the past. But now, it was just like a dime to him. He wasn't at all reluctant to spend it.

Chapter 970: Invitation of Loulan

Su Ping immediately made a plan after seeing his income.

First of all, he was able to upgrade his store.

His store used to be level-4 earlier on. He had been unable to upgrade the store despite having enough energy, all because he was incapable of training Star State pets with high aptitude. However, his pets were already in the Star State, and their aptitudes were much higher. So, the prerequisites for the upgrade had been met.

Su Ping would soon be able to train Star State pets for his customers.

He was planning to have the Little Skeleton and the other pets reach the Star Lord State as soon as possible, all in order for his store to be quickly upgraded to level six!

Su Ping was really excited about the new store functions that the upgrades would bring.

Besides the upgrades, Su Ping also planned to take Joanna and Tang Ruyan to the Archean Divinity, as a special reward for their hard work. He was also interested in making the visit to the Archean Divinity himself. It was a top cultivation site, and the main world in the primordial times. He would probably make progress faster if he cultivated there.

"Did anything happen to my egg?" Su Ping suddenly remembered the egg he had brought back from the Heavenly Star Pavilion, so he went to the Chaos Spirit Pool room to check.

"Nothing as of yet." The three women followed him. Joanna continued, "The requirements to hatch such an egg are too rigorous. You must have the ancient chaotic air."

Su Ping observed the egg in the pool, and found that it hadn't changed one bit. He nodded and said, "I'll see if I can hatch it during the upgrade of the store."

The chaotic air was already extinct. It was an ancient kind of energy that used to be found in nature. However, Su Ping knew that the Chaos Spirit Pool still had it, as every pet hatched was actually created with the original chaotic air of the universe. After all, not just any kind of energy was useful when making a living creature.

Joanna and Green Lady looked at each other silently. They had seen the Chaos Spirit Pool while they watched over the store; even though they didn't have the clearance to use it, both of them had detected the ancient aura it contained. Such an aura was very likely the chaotic air mentioned in myths!

Su Ping displayed the store panel and inwardly gave the upgrade command.

"Do you confirm that you want to upgrade the store?" asked the system.

Su Ping nodded.

“The requirements for level 5 have been met. Upgrade is now possible. The upgrade will take 72 hours to complete. Business will be closed during the upgrade. Only the cultivation sites will remain open. Please confirm.”

“Confirm.”

Su Ping quickly noticed that a hundred million energy points that had been saved over the past three years were deducted.

The word “Upgrading” appeared on the panel, right behind the name of the store.

The upgrade will take three days. Not bad. I can go to the Archean Divinity, Su Ping thought.

He said to Joanna and Tang Ruyan, “Get ready. I will soon take you to the Archean Divinity as part of your reward.”

Joanna was slightly dazed. “Right now?”

“Yes.” Su Ping nodded.

He looked at Green Lady and said, “I’ll take you to the Realm of Deities after their trip.”

“Okay.” Green Lady gave a slight nod. She wasn’t in a rush, as she still doubted whether or not Su Ping could take her there. Everything would become clear until Joanna and Tang Ruyan returned.

“I’ll check out the Archean Divinity first and explore before I take you,” said Su Ping.

Tang Ruyan knew that Su Ping was doing it for her sake. She quickly said, “That’s unnecessary. Let’s go there together; I want to visit it even if it’s broken.”

She was no longer the ignorant young master of the Tang Family; she had heard a lot of secrets and hidden stories of the universe over the past three years. Her knowledge had also been expanded through her conversations with Joanna and Green Lady. She knew that the Archean Divinity used to be the main world in the primordial times, when the gods were among the strongest species in the universe!

Tang Ruyan believed that the trip to such a world would be worth it even if it was broken.

At the same time, she was quite curious about the place Joanna was always dreaming to go back to.

“Are you sure? You might not be able to get stronger there if that place is broken,” said Su Ping.

Tang Ruyan nodded firmly and replied, “Positive. I’ll consider it an adventure. If not for you, I would probably never have a chance to visit such a place in my entire life.”

“That’s true.” Su Ping smiled without any hint at modesty.

Tang Ruyan immediately felt like rolling her eyes. *Why does this guy always have to burst the bubble every time? Can’t he behave like other guys?*

Joanna remained silent.

However, she wore a troubled expression. She wasn't as cold and indifferent as usual, as she was showing a faint nervousness.

Returning to the Archean Divinity was the dream of every god in the Demigod Burial!

Even the four Superior Gods were no exception!

Gods saw the Archean Divinity as not just their hometown, but also their origin. It contained the core power of the being. They couldn't become stronger unless they returned!

Joanna wanted to go to the Archean Divinity, partly because she hoped to find a way for the gods in the Demigod Burial to return to their ancestral home, and partly because she planned to advance and become a Superior God in the Archean Divinity!

If she did, she would become a true immortal!

Someone knocked on the door, right when Su Ping was about to take them away.

The store was already closed and everything outside was blocked, but the knocking and other exterior sounds could still be heard. Su Ping heard Yun Mu's voice, and was slightly surprised. He asked the two women to wait for a moment, and then opened the door.

"Mr. Su, someone is here for you," Yun Mu said immediately after she saw Su Ping. She was slightly curious, as she couldn't detect what was going on inside the store while being outside. The store seemed to be protected by a barrier, but she couldn't detect it, which amazed her.

"Huh?" Su Ping was puzzled. Someone was here for him. To train pets?

Before Su Ping could ask further, a man flashed down from the high sky and landed outside Su Ping's store. He wore an exquisitely made purple golden robe.

The stranger was a charming and intimidating middle-aged man. However, he was at the moment wearing a friendly smile as he said to Su Ping, "Greetings, Mr. Su. I am Loulan Feng. I heard that you left the Celestial Court. An elder of my family invited you to be a guest of my family three years ago, back in the Heavenly Star Pavilion."

"The Loulan family?"

Su Ping was slightly dazed by this, but he immediately remembered the time when he took his pick of items in the Heavenly Star Pavilion. He said, "It's you..."

He was indeed astonished; it hadn't been long since he returned, yet the guy had already tracked him down. It was obvious that they had kept an eye on Rhea for a long time.

That gesture was indicative of the Loulan family's sincerity and determination.

That being said...

"I'm sorry..." Su Ping gave a slight head shake; he didn't want to get involved with those major families yet. Besides, he could accept their request at any time if he did need anything from them, given his capabilities.

“Don’t decline the offer just yet, Mr. Su,” Loulan Feng quickly shook his hand and said with a smile, “I’ve heard that you need some uncommon training resources. It just so happens that one of them is in our treasury and Elder Yan has yet to find it. Such an item can’t be taken out easily, or I would have taken the liberty to bring it.”

Su Ping was surprised by his reply. A training material for the Solar Bulwark?

Aside from that, the guy seemed to be implying a lot of other things.

He was aware that Elder Yan was looking for materials on Su Ping’s behalf, and what kind of materials he needed.

However, that wasn’t too strange. After all, the elder had forwarded the list as he searched for them; it would have been too inefficient if he did it in secret. Besides, it was unnecessary to keep the materials a secret. It would make no difference if others learned of them.

“Got it. I’ll consider your offer.” Su Ping nodded.

Loulan Feng was relieved after seeing the young man’s expression. He asked with a smile, “I wonder, how much time do you need, Mr. Su? I’ll just have the material sent to you first.”

“A few days,” replied Su Ping.

He planned to accept the offer after returning from the Archean Divinity.

It would be too rude and unreasonable to turn the man down a second time, since the latter had already offered him the material with such sincerity.