

Astral Pet Store

Chapter 11: The Abnormal Lightning Rat

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

“You’re right. This is such a shame.”

The others nodded as well, feeling sorry for such a fact.

This low-rank pet must have a strong comprehending power, to be able to master such a complicated and sophisticated advanced skill.

However, it was such a waste that such comprehending power was found in a mere Lightning Rat!

The Lightning Rat’s descent was of a low kind. Even if it could evolve to a Thunderstorm Rat, it would only reach the third rank. The ceiling was not high enough. Even an incredible comprehending power would be of no use in such a case.

7...

On the stage, the first round of this game had come to an end.

Su Yanying held the Lightning Rat that had thrown itself into her arms. She still found all this surreal. She would have never expected that she could win this first round of an otherwise fierce battle so easily. She had won without contributing at all, neither as the master of the Lightning Rat nor as a battle pet warrior.

A Lightning Rat helped her win in a breeze!

At this thought, her expression became twisted. She didn’t know if she could smile or cry about it.

On the other side of the stage, Zhang Xiao had just come around. His face was as white as a sheet when he looked at the seriously wounded Dragon Hound that was lying nearby, seemingly at the last gasp.

He clenched his teeth as he used the contract power to make the Dragon Hound withdraw to the contract space. Then, he turned around to glare at Su Yanying coldly.

He had underestimated his enemy!

He felt vexed. He should have known better. There had to be a reason why his opponent would send out a Lightning Rat in a pet tournament that had the focus of the world's attention over it.

He didn't know that this Lightning Rat was such a rare kind.

He had never heard of a Lightning Rat that could learn the pet skill of the seventh rank, "Thunder Slash".

But, that was it!

His original plan was to win all three rounds and enjoy a glamorous victory but that was not possible anymore. As such, he had to put into full play his ability as a battle pet warrior. He couldn't make the same mistake twice!

"Stone Rhino!"

1Again, Zhang Xiao mobilized his contract power. In front of him glowed a faint yellow light. Then, the stage under his feet trembled slightly. A pet in the shape of a rhino that was even larger than the Dragon Hound came out.

This Stone Rhino was covered with hard rocks. Besides, there were sharp edges like fish bones along its spine. Few pets could defeat the Stone Rhino in a face-to-face combat!

"That is a pet of the earth family!"

Su Yanying immediately noticed the type of pet. Her expression changed.

2At the same time, the Lightning Rat that was in her arms seemed to have picked up some signals. All of a sudden, the Lightning Rat moved and struggled away from her hug. Then, it turned around and stood in front of her. The Lightning Rat put on a fierce look and thick lightning was surging all over its body!

"Lightning Rat..." Su Yanying was dumbstruck.

Whoosh!

Instantly, the Lightning Rat dashed out. It was charging toward the Stone Rhino proactively!

1The audience gasped on their seats.

Even the judge and the commentator were taken aback. At the same time, they found this confusing. As the master of the Lightning Rat, didn't she know that pets of the earth

family were arch-enemies of those of the thunder family? Why would she send out the Lightning Rat again?

“Hmm, courting death!”

Zhang Xiao sneered. “Smash it into pieces. Kill it!”

8As he was giving the instructions, a starry glow appeared around him. With rapid speed, he released several astral skills with augmentation effects. “Second-rank strength augmentation, second-rank power of the blast, third-rank firmness augmentation...” Of those, the third one in particular, was the one he was adept at.

The reason for him to practice this “firmness augmentation” so diligently was so that he could cooperate with his Stone Rhino.

2The Stone Rhino was strong and tough to begin with. If this quality was improved with “firmness augmentation,” not even his Dragon Hound could leave a mark on the Stone Rhino, not to mention the Lightning Rat!

2Several of the halos that indicated those augmentation effects flashed by under the Stone Rhino’s feet. Then, those halos transformed into energy runes, circling the Stone Rhino and then immersing into its body. Although this process took little time, it did stir up exclamations in the venue.

The fact that he could cast three astral skills in a row so quickly and proficiently indicated that his ability had already surpassed that of many students present!

Moo!

8The Stone Rhino let out a bellow in a low voice; then it exerted strength and pressed toward the Lightning Rat.

Across the Stone Rhino, Su Yanying was alerted once she saw Zhang Xiao casting those skills. She was about to add some to the Lightning Rat as well, but to her surprise, she noticed that the Lightning Rat had gone beyond the sphere of her energy transference.

2Buzzing, buzzing!

The light generated by electricity came out again. The Lightning Rat was running toward the Stone Rhino.

1The moment the two of them smashed into each other, the Lightning Rat was divided into two!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Two Lightning Rats ran past the Stone Rhino from both of its sides. At first look, people might think that the Lightning Rat was smashed into two different ones by the Stone Rhino!

“Thunder Shadow Illusion!”

At the leader’s seat close to the stage, the ones that were enjoying the games with a casual attitude suddenly opened their eyes wide.

“How is that even possible!” That red-haired lady kept her red lips ajar. Disbelief was written all over her face.

She could accept the presence of the seventh rank “Thunder Slash” skill. Why could the pet use the “Thunder Shadow Illusion” of the same rank?!

A low-rank Lightning Rat had learned two advanced pet skills??

She wasn’t the only one in disbelief. The ones next to her were stunned as well.

It was understandable if the Lightning Rat could learn one of such skills. After all, while coincidences didn’t always happen, chances were they were going to encounter one.

However, could it be regarded as a coincidence when two advanced skills were used?

“Is there something wrong with my eyes?” That strong guy could not help but blink several times.

Another person next to him forced a smile. “It might have been an illusion if you were alone. But it couldn’t be the case when all of us are watching. This Lightning Rat... is just too abnormal!”

“It has learned two advanced pet skills. This aptitude, this comprehending ability... not even those advanced pets of the thunder family could have done this, could they?”

“If I remember correctly, only that Skydoom Pterosaur of our old team leader can master those two skills. Right?”

1After this thought, those people looked at each other. They could not utter a word.

An insignificant low-rank Lightning Rat had a comprehending ability on par with a Skydoom Pterosaur. How...?

On the stage.

The Lightning Rat that had cloned itself confused the Stone Rhino. The latter could not tell which one was real.

Even its master Zhang Xiao had become speechless due to his astonishment at the moment.

Zhang Xiao had heard of the advanced pet skill of the thunder family, Thunder Shadow Illusion, in the classes he had taken.

That being said, that was all theory. He didn't know how to solve it!

Whoosh!

While Zhang Xiao was still at a loss, a figure as fast as lightning was on its way to him.

The Lightning Rat was of no threat to the Stone Rhino but it would be dangerous to Zhang Xiao.

"No!"

Having figured out the Lightning Rat's intention, Zhang Xiao was greatly shaken. He called the Stone Rhino back to defend him through the contract but it was already too late.

"Astral Shield!"

In a hurry, Zhang Xiao mobilized the astral power within him to set up a transparent barrier that covered him up.

Pff!

The moment it was set up, the barrier was smashed.

Thunder Slash!

The Lightning Rat used the Thunder Slash once again. After the barrier was broken, the sharp edge made by compressed lightning did not stop and was coming toward Zhang Xiao!

Whoosh!

In the next second, Zhang Xiao disappeared all of a sudden.

He was in midair when he reappeared; he was being carried by an almost transparent bird. They landed on the ground slowly.

“Zhang Xiao lost the second round,” the judge announced in a cold voice. That peculiar bird that was carrying Zhang Xiao turned around and flew toward the judge, gradually disappearing into thin air.

Chapter 12: Its Genius Master

1

The whole venue was in an uproar!

Zhang Xiao had lost two times in a row!

To make it worse, Zhang Xiao had sent out precious pets like the Dragon Hound and the Stone Rhino. One of them had the bloodline of a king beast and the other was a pet that was antagonistic to the Lightning Rat. For the second pet, it would reach the fourth rank once it grew into adulthood!

Two pets like this had both been defeated by a cheap, low-rank Lightning Rat!

“Is that a pet skill of the thunder family, Thunder Shadow Illusion?”

“Good heavens, how can a Lightning Rat use such an advanced pet skill?”

“That is simply horrifying. That is the king of rats!”

Many students present had recognized the “Thunder Shadow Illusion.” They discussed heatedly in shock.

“I won again...”

Su Yanying felt she was dreaming as she looked at the Lightning Rat which was bouncing back to her. None of it seemed real.

“Sh*t!!”

Zhang Xiao was embarrassed by the shouts of surprise that came from around the venue.

He could blame his carelessness and underestimation for losing the first round. However, he had to admit inferiority since, for the second game, he sent out the Stone Rhino but failed again.

A mere Lightning Rat had defeated him. How shameful that was!

“If it weren’t for the fact that the Starry Hiero Beast is still in cultivation and I cannot bring it here, I wouldn’t have allowed the match end like this!” A cold and vicious glare

filled Zhang Xiao's eyes; he directed his ill intent to Su Yanying who was in the distance. He couldn't stomach the fact that she had humiliated him!

3"Next, please send out your pets for the third match," The judge said loudly. Then, he looked at the Lightning Rat in Su Yanying's arms. This little guy was amazing. It was so talented that it would incur jealousy. Without any surprises, the Lightning Rat was capable enough to defeat all the other low-rank pets with the two advanced pet skills.

4"Hmm!" Zhang Xiao snorted coldly. He turned around and went off the stage without the third pet.

He admitted defeat.

He had another pet that was more powerful than the Dragon Hound; that pet was his ace card for the preliminary matches, but it wasn't much different from the Dragon Hound.

Besides, he still had to find a strategy to counter the "Thunder Shadow Illusion" constructed by the Lightning Rat. To fight the Lightning Rat recklessly with no regard for the consequences would lead to a lose-lose situation.

He had many more opponents to compete with. Losing this one point would not hinder him from passing the preliminary match. He didn't need to reveal all his cards which would only expose all his abilities to others.

With the departure of Zhang Xiao, a great deal of cheering broke out at once.

Except that there was some booing amid the cheers.

Nobody could have thought that they would cheer for a low-rank, cheap Lightning Rat at a grand and serious event like this. While surprised, they found this turn of events hilarious.

"I won..."

Su Yanying stood there, absent-minded, and watched as Zhang Xiao left the stage. The passionate cheers were telling her that everything was real.

She...

She didn't do anything and still she had won.

1The Lightning Rat that was lying in her arms; to think she had once considered removing the contract that had brought her such an effortless victory.

“Thunder Slash, Thunder Shadow Illusion...” Su Yanying looked at the Lightning Rat that was nuzzled up in her arms. This was strange. Surprisingly, the pet skills that were so intimidatingly powerful could be found in a Lightning Rat.

Why didn't she know that it was so talented in combat before?

She just left it for a month at the store and it came back a different person. No, a different rat.

The thought of pet boarding reminded Su Yanying of something. The confusion in her eyes was fading away. She wondered if everything was related to that pet store she went to.

But, that was just a normal pet store. This was unlikely.

5...

“Such an eye-opening day!”

“Right. We have just witnessed a magical fight.”

In the leaders' seats, some powerful people were still amazed after the battle had come to an end. They were smiling brilliantly.

“I've heard some stories. People say that some low-rank pets are incredibly talented and can learn rare pet skills, and even have the ability to defeat more advanced pets. I had always doubted that. But it seems like it's possible...” the strong-built person exclaimed.

3The red-haired lady nodded in agreement. “For a Lightning Rat to have two advanced pet skills is far from a coincidence. It must be due to its master's training. All I can say is that its master is a genius!”

2“That girl over there? Well, well, interesting. She is so confident that she didn't apply any of the most basic augmentation effects to the Lightning Rat. It seems that we have yet to have a full understanding of what the Lightning Rat is capable of.”

1

“Ha, ha, you are reading too much into it. But, it's not an easy task to train a low-rank Lightning Rat to this level. I am curious. If she has such abilities, why wouldn't she train other, more advanced Astral Pets? Is it possible that there is some special reason for it?”

“Vice Principal Dong, this girl deserves our attention.”

“Of course. I will never pass up on a talent like her!”

4...

...

It was getting late.

At the Pixie Pet Store on Taohuaxi Street.

It was already dark outside by the time Su Ping woke up. He had slept straight into the night.

He got up and turned on the light. The incandescent light was kind of offending to the eyes. Su Ping placed his hand in front of his eyes and squinted to get used to the light. Then, he heard his stomach growling.

3Only then did he remember he hadn't had lunch yet.

But, other than the starving belly, Su Ping felt he was refreshed, hale and hearty.

He looked at the time. It was after ten and this was when he usually closed the store.

1Of course, the other pet stores weren't like this. Some stores would even stay open all night and two groups of people would have to take shifts. However, those were the stores that had a healthy business. Besides, the old Su Ping was unwilling to stay in this little store. He couldn't wait to pack up early so that he could go back home and play games in his cozy nest.

1And yet, this Su Ping was the newcomer. Naturally, he couldn't violate the original owner's rules. Besides, he was indeed hungry.

2He found the keys, turned off the lights, and locked up in one smooth action.

He rode the bike and headed north.

Half an hour later, Su Ping arrived home.

“I am back.”

His mother Li Qingru was sitting in the living room watching TV. She turned the volume down as soon as she saw Su Ping coming in and changing his shoes. “How was the business in the store today?” she turned around and asked him.

Su Ping observed her expression; she was concerned about the store.

"It was fine..." Su Ping gave a vague answer. He couldn't tell her that he had slept through the afternoon.

Afraid that he would feel upset, Li Qingru comforted him and gave him some advice, "Take your time and don't give up. As long as you take good care of every pet, the good ratings will increase and so will the business."

1When Su Ping changed his shoes and stepped into the living room, she stood up and asked, "You must be hungry. I'm going to heat some dishes for you. Or, do you want to eat with your sister when she comes back?"

1"She hasn't come back yet?" Su Ping was surprised.

Usually, Su Lingyue would have already finished her dinner at home by this time. Why hadn't she returned yet?

"Don't you remember? Your sister's academy is hosting a tournament today. She will be back later," Li Qingru said, grumpily. She knew about the relationship between this pair of siblings. She found it annoying, although she couldn't do anything about it.

2They were too old to always listen to her.

2

"Right..."

Su Ping didn't seem to be interested. "I'm hungry. I'll start without her," he said.

While he wanted to reconcile with his sister, he was unwilling to simply head on to bouts of suffering. He was starving and had to eat first. What was more, even if he wanted to wait for his sister to come back and eat with her, she might not appreciate the kindness.

1"Mom, I'm back."

Unexpectedly, the door was opened just as Su Ping uttered the last syllable. Su Lingyue stepped in. She glared at Su Ping since she heard his last sentence.

After she changed her shoes, she walked directly to the living room. She rolled her eyes when she saw Su Ping standing in the corridor. "Move out of my way!"

3

Chapter 13: Low

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Su Ping was in no mood to engage in verbal contending with her. He hung up his coat, then he went to the sofa in the living room and poured himself a glass of water.

“Hmm.”

He had just filled the glass when a delicate hand with porcelain skin reached over and took over the glass. She drained the cup with one gulp. Who could it be other than Su Lingyue?

1Her raised eyebrows which expressed “do you have a problem with that?” when Su Ping landed his gaze on her.

2Su Ping cast a glance to the Phantom Flame Beast who was crouching on her shoulder. That pet harbored no good intentions. Su Ping felt he had to be the bigger man to live his life. Therefore, he decided not to hold the grudge against her. He just took another glass and poured himself some water.

Su Lingyue snorted. She threw herself into the other side of the sofa and stretched to feel comfortable. “Someone is getting smarter today. Good, the stupid guy can be taught.”

9Su Ping paid no heed to her words. He was measuring the Phantom Flame Beast lying in her arms with his eyes.

1Soon after, information appeared in his mind:

Phantom Flame Beast

Property: pet of the demon family

Rank: upper position of the third rank

Combat Strength: 4.6

Aptitude: low

2Abilities Mastered: Phantom Flame Strike, Hellish Breath of Fire, Mental Fire Thaumaturgy, Spiritual Impalement, and Roar of Phantoms

Su Ping raised his eyebrows as he finished reading.

Aptitude, low?

That was not good at all...

The Lightning Rat he trained could be rated as below average. This Phantom Flame Beast was really bad...

Noticing Su Ping's stares, Su Lingyue glared at him. "What are you looking at with those obscene eyes of yours? My Snowball is an excellent Phantom Flame Beast. It is second to none among pets of the same rank. Hmm, there is no telling who can win even if Snowball meets a fourth rank pet."

"OK."

Su Ping did not express an opinion.

This Phantom Flame Beast currently was at the upper position of the third rank but its combat strength was rated 4.6. According to the interpretation made by the system, in reality, Snowball's actual combat strength had reached the intermediate position of the fourth rank!

Indeed, it was remarkable that Snowball could compete against those in a higher rank.

But, that was it.

The Lightning Rat he trained had its combat strength rated at 3.6 when it was only at the upper position of the first rank!

2He supposed that the Lightning Rat would be able to demonstrate abilities of the fifth or sixth rank when it reached the third rank. That aptitude should be deemed outstanding!

Yet, even such a genius Lightning Rat could only be rated as below the average by the system.

3As far as Su Ping could tell, there was a long journey of progress laid before this Phantom Flame Beast. He wasn't expecting that this Snowball could become alarmingly strong, but, maybe, it would be just average.

"What? What are you laughing at?" Su Lingyue frowned and pulled a long face.

Su Ping was speechless. "What, I can't even laugh now?"

"But that is a cold laugh."

"..."

"All right, all right. What are you two fighting about now? Come on and eat." Li Qingru came over with the heated dishes and said to the siblings, "Time for dinner. Don't watch TV now."

4Su Ping did not want to badger Su Lingyue at the moment. He got up to wash his hands for dinner.

The dinner was sumptuous, with fish soup, stewed pork with brown sauce, fried pork with hard bean curd, and some other vegetables. This feast provoked Su Ping's appetite. He washed his hands and took his seat to dig in.

Su Lingyue came to the dining table with Snowball in her arms as well.

Li Qingru filled Su Lingyue's bowl with rice and sat down. "How was the match today? Did you pass?" Li Qingru asked.

Su Lingyue picked up her chopsticks. The corner of her mouth was raised while she kept a straight face, "Today was just for preliminary rounds, which is of no trouble to me. Besides, all my opponents are just some new students in my class. It wasn't much of a challenge. It took me just one morning to collect all the points to be qualified for the next round. It is just a pity that..."

"What is a pity?" Li Qingru became concerned.

"It's just a pity that I cannot compete against the seniors in the third grade. Otherwise, I could have a chance to join in the finals." Su Lingyue appeared to be sorry for this fact.

"Eh-hem!" Su Ping almost choked. He began to cough violently.

Su Lingyue looked at him through the corner of her eyes. "No one is taking food away from you. Aren't you afraid of choking to death by eating so fast?"

Su Ping finally recovered after he took a few sips of the fish soup. He didn't give her a response and simply focused on his meal.

Li Qingru set her mind at ease after Su Lingyue's explanation. "Look at you. You have just entered this academy of Astral Pets. It's not an easy task to stand out amongst the new students. Don't compete against the seniors or you will be worn out," the former said, sulkily.

"Sure, mom, you're right." Su Lingyue nodded at once. Her smiling eyes curled like a crescent moon.

Su Ping coughed again.

Su Lingyue threw him a look that could kill people.

Su Ping could tell that a gaze that was growing in sharpness was fixed on him without even having to look up...

“You must be tired. Eat all you want.” Li Qingru picked up some pork to put in Su Lingyue’s bowl.

“Sure. You too, mom,” Su Lingyue answered with a giggle.

Su Ping was quick to finish the first bowl of rice and he filled it again.

Su Lingyue suddenly remembered something that made her exclaim, “Anyways, there was something strange at the tournament today. I don’t think you’ll believe me when I tell you.”

Li Qingru was surprised. “What is it?” she asked with curiosity.

“There is a girl, a senior, and she seems to be one of the students always in the spotlight at the academy. But she only used one Lightning Rat in today’s matches. We all thought that she was losing her mind. Only, you know what? Her Lightning Rat won two games in a row and it defeated a Dragon Hound and a Stone Rhino!” Su Lingyue’s eyes were shining as she shared the news. She was excited.

“Lightning Rat?” The name caught Su Ping’s attention.

Li Qingru was astonished as well. “The Lightning Rat defeated a Dragon Hound and a Stone Rhino? Are you sure? Was it a Thunderstorm Rat? Alas, no, not even a Thunderstorm Rat could have...”

As a formal trainer, Li Qingru was familiar with pets. She could tell such an occurrence would be impossible!

Sensing that Li Qingru was doubtful, Su Lingyue decided not to keep them guessing. She went on with a smile, “Don’t be freaked out when I tell you that this Lightning Rat has mastered two advanced skills, a seventh-rank ‘Thunder Slash’ and the ‘Thunder Shadow Illusion’! Relying on the two skills, the Lightning Rat defeated the Dragon Hound easily and crushed the Stone Rhino who failed to protect its master!”

Su Ping was stunned.

“Thunder Slash?”

“Thunder Shadow Illusion?”

“Was this the Lightning Rat I trained?”

1“Could it be...”

All of a sudden, Su Ping remembered the look of the master of that Lightning Rat. She was young, about the same age as Su Lingyue. That was to say, that girl was very likely to be a student.

More importantly, Su Ping didn't think there could be another Lightning Rat that was so horrifying, also able to master the same skills the one he trained did.

"Such a small world..."

Su Ping mumbled to himself and produced a fake smile.

He would have never imagined that the master of that little guy was going to the same academy as Su Lingyue.

"Two advanced skills?" Li Qingru was taken aback. "What a talented Lightning Rat!"

"Right, everyone was astonished." Su Lingyue had the same feeling. "Its master is a genius. There are few people that I, Su Lingyue, admire. Now that senior girl can be counted as one of them."

Su Ping stopped his mind from wandering around and glanced at her. He was thinking, *"If you only knew your brother did this, would you still treat me the same?"*

11But that was only on his mind. His sister would not believe him even if he told her the truth. Rather, she would laugh at him.

After dinner, Su Ping and Su Lingyue went their separate ways.

Su Ping headed upstairs after his shower. He had thought that he would have more energy to burn off after his afternoon nap. However, he was assaulted by drowsiness as soon as he lay down. Soon, it was dream time for him.

The next morning.

Su Ping saw a ghost face in front of him as soon as he woke up. Having become prepared due to the last day's fright, he was only shocked for an instant before he caught his breath. He glared at Su Lingyue, who was sneering outside the door, and got up to go downstairs.

7After breakfast, Su Ping and Su Lingyue left respectively, one for the academy and the other for the store.

Su Ping felt invigorated and recharged after a night's rest. He had decided to harvest food that day, so that he could gain more energy as soon as possible!

At the store, Su Ping first fed the Managarm and then he closed the door. He summoned a cultivation plane window in his mind.

2Soon, the window appeared.

Su Ping selected a plane that only required one point of energy to teleport and chose to enter.

A series of system prompt messages sprang to his mind.

“The host has established connection to the ‘Extraterrestrial Meteorite Region 1002’.”

“Connection valid for 24 hours...”

“Within the month valid for beginner’s protection, the host will be given 30 free deaths!”

3“The host has been granted a beginner’s space, one cubic meter.”

“The host can use elementary ‘Aeon Plant Identification Spell’ three times...”

“Please head out on your own...”

Su Ping opened his eyes at once. Before him was a bleak mountain forest with no signs of civilization. He could look directly into the vast space with countless stars above his head.

Su Ping took a quick look around. He exhaled in relief after making sure that there were no monsters of any kind. Then, he asked the system in his mind, “I heard you say 30 free deaths. Shouldn’t it be unlimited times?”

“Of course not,” The system answered indifferently, “The benefit of unlimited times is exclusive to the beginner’s quest. Currently, the host has finished that quest and therefore is no longer eligible for that benefit!”

1“Also, after the beginner’s protection for one month, the host will no longer be granted free deaths. Therefore, the host must improve his abilities as soon as possible, or else it will be difficult for the host to move a single step in the future!”

Su Ping was stunned. He found this hardly understandable. “So, according to you, what will happen to me when I can no longer enjoy free deaths? Will I just drop dead, literally?”

He didn’t have the confidence to say that he would never die, not even once, in a horrifying place like the Thunder Cloud Realm!

“The host can purchase chances for deaths with energy points and the price is one tenth of the price of that corresponding cultivation plane. When the times of available deaths return to zero, the host will be forcefully teleported back to the main world,” the system explained.

“They can be purchased?” Secretly, Su Ping sighed in relief with this new information. That would be reasonable.

Roar!

All of a sudden, a violent roar came from the distance, just like a sudden clap of thunder.

Caught off guard, Su Ping bent over. Then he saw that across the sky on the horizon, the clouds and mist were dyed red as if something were burning. It seemed that a fierce battle had broken out under that sky!

“My God, the roar was so loud. Not even a king of beasts could be this loud...” Su Ping’s heart was pounding. Without hesitation, he turned around and soon ran to the other side of the forest.

He ran for a few hundred meters.

Bang!

A shrill cry was suddenly heard. Su Ping only had enough time to turn his head. In his sight, there appeared a ferocious mouth moving in closer.

He blacked out.

Su Ping knew that he had died before he could experience the pain.

To make it worse, he didn’t even have the chance to see what killed him.

There was something he was sure of, though. His body must have been eaten up by that thing.

“Does a cultivation plane that costs one energy point have to be this terrifying? What the hell...” Su Ping had nothing else to say. How long had he been in here? He died an unnatural death without doing anything. This was such a sudden death!

“I am too vulnerable...”

Su Ping felt worn out already. He was just a common person. Some monsters that were skilled in hiding could be concealed in the dark. There was no way that he could

have noticed them. Maybe he would be just sending himself to the mouth of those monsters...

He saw a prompt message. "Revival on the spot/revival at a random spot?"

Su Ping rolled his eyes. He didn't even know his own actual state after death. He had no tangible body but with a force of habit, he chose "revival at a random spot."

1White, glaring light flooded over from all sides. He had a better sight after that jump.

Soon, he could see his surroundings. This time, he found himself on a desolate hillside with sparse weeds. There were no monsters around.

"Wait a minute. Is that...?"

All of a sudden, Su Ping saw a pile of rocks trembling in the distance. Upon a closer look, he felt his whole body break out with gooseflesh.

1That was no pile of rocks. It was a python that had a body built with rocks!

4Winding Stone Snake

Property: pet of the earth family

Rank: the lower position of the eighth rank

Combat Strength: 8.1

Aptitude: poor

6Abilities Mastered: Entangle, Swallow, Mine Burst, and Earth Guardian.

1While Su Ping was gazing into the distance, information about this python suddenly jumped to mind. Su Ping's pupils contracted as he saw the rank. This was a pet of the eighth rank!

But, this eighth-rank Winding Stone Snake had a poor aptitude. Su Ping had not seen anything like this before. This python had to be one of the weaker amongst its peers with a combat strength of hardly above eight.

"Run!"

Su Ping turned around and prepared to run away at once. He kept on mumbling, "It cannot see me."

The moment he turned around, he cast a glance through the corners of his eyes. He stopped on the spot at once.

“Scarlet Stone Fruit?”

Four or five meters ahead of him, there was a plant growing out from the stone cracks. It was a small tree that was about half a meter tall with a cluster of fire red fruits which were shaped like raindrops. Those fruits were the size of beans and they were dangling in the wind.

It was as if he had known about this plant since a long time ago. Much information about this plant surged in his mind, including the functions and growth cycles, etc.

What interested Su Ping enough to stop was the fact that this was the Vermilion Bird’s favorite food!

4“Pet food?” Su Ping was lost in his thoughts. He didn’t know that he could find pet food right there under his nose. He had to thank the “Aeon Plant Identification Spell” the system had granted him temporarily. Because of this, such knowledge would prevent him from missing out.

That being said...

The expressions on Su Ping’s face changed as he looked at the wiggling Winding Stone Snake in the distance.

After a mere moment of hesitation, Su Ping had made up his mind. He dashed out from behind the rock all of a sudden and ran toward that “Scarlet Stone Fruit,” throwing caution to the wind.

2He picked up the Scarlet Stone Fruit plant violently. However, its roots were quite firmly set. Since he had overexerted his strength, some of the thorns stabbed his palm, inflicting a dull pain.

“Collect into the storage space. Yes or no?” the system queried.

“Yes!”

Su Ping answered without further thought.

The Scarlet Stone Fruit plant vanished from his hand instantly. At the same time, in his mind, he felt there was an addition of a virtual space with a small area and the Scarlet Stone Fruit plant was floating around inside.

1“Is this the storage space?” Su Ping took a look and heaved a sigh of relief.

Hiss, hiss!

Unexpectedly, the ground around him began to tremble.

Su Ping raised his head. In the distance, the Winding Stone Snake had lifted its head as well and was staring at Su Ping.

“Run!”

Without further ado, Su Ping turned around and began to run at once, even though he knew the chances of him escaping were very low.

More than a dozen seconds passed.

“Revival on the spot/revival at a random spot?”

The system presented him with the choices again. It went without saying that Su Ping didn't make it. He was swallowed by the smelly mouth of this Winding Stone Snake and was squeezed to death.

He even felt the pain was surreal when he was falling apart.

Su Ping grimaced in pain. Even to this moment, he was still shivering uncontrollably, as if he had been running nude in the chilly wind.

“Well, that wasn't entirely fruitless...” Su Ping felt comforted that at the very least, he had harvested some food. It was painful but whose life wasn't?

“I have 28 more chances left. If I can harvest some food right before I die every time, I believe I can probably fill up half of the storage space...” Su Ping thought to himself. He was looking forward to the rest of the journey.

Su Ping made his choice. “Revival at a random spot.”

Consciousness came back to his body again. But as soon as he was brought back to life, he felt a bone piercing coldness. He looked around, only to see that he was floating in water.

“What random spot is this?” Su Ping was astonished. He turned around. Some monsters that looked like crocodiles were closing in slowly.

“|...”

Su Ping was given no chances to struggle. In the blink of an eye, the crocodiles sprang at him and tore him into pieces.

1“Revival on the spot/revival at a random spot?”

“...Random.”

“Random.”

“Random...”

Repeated deaths and repeated revivals.

Sometimes, he would be killed right after he was brought back to life. Sometimes, he would only encounter monsters after he had harvested special pet food.

Soon, the 30 free revival chances were used up.

“Pheew...”

Su Ping felt he had been gone for ages when the light came back to his sight and the familiar environment of the store leaped to his eyes. On one hand, he could put his mind at ease. On the other, he felt sorry for that to end.

“I believe this was a rewarding harvest.” Su Ping looked at the pet food filling up the storage space in his mind. He was content. In terms of quantity alone, it was very abundant. But he didn’t know how the system would price them.

2“Are you going to set a price on the pet food and sell them?” The system asked.

“Yes.”

Su Ping answered immediately.

Soon, the pet food in the storage space vanished into thin air. Then, Su Ping saw there were some jars and containers on the shelf behind the counter in the store, or something that appeared to be a potted landscape. With no exception, all of them were packed with the pet food that he had harvested at the risk of his life.

“Scorching Fish Seeker, 380 coins per plant.”

“Fire and Ice Snakegrass, 800 coins per plant.”

“Scarlet Stone Fruit, 130 coins per fruit.”

...

Chapter 15: A Price of 20,000

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

“This price...”

Su Ping was surprised at the price marked.

Each of those edibles could be sold at over a hundred coins, and that would be at least one point of energy if converted.

Many of them could be sold at three or four hundred, or even seven to eight hundred, which could be converted into many energy points!

To make it better, it merely cost him one point of energy to teleport to a cultivation plane.

At this rate, the revenue generated from this one trip was over a hundred times more than the cost!

That being said...

Su Ping felt that such matters weren't all that pleasing once he recalled the 30 times he died.

Besides, the fact that he could make this much money was attributable to the fact that the cultivation plane he chose was of a surprisingly high-quality and at the same time, to the free chances of revival provided by the system.

Without the 30 free deaths, he couldn't have had the chance to collect that much food.

“Anyways, all in all, to collect food in a cultivation plane is a very good deal. When I can no longer enjoy free deaths, I can buy them. It will only cost me three energy points for 30 deaths. There is no doubt I can make more money than that. It is just those deaths that are disgusting...”

4Su Ping shook his head. He wasn't afraid of instant death. It was the slow torture that he was scared of.

2“The price for Scarlet Stone Fruits is 130 coins per fruit. That plant I picked must have twenty-some or thirty-some fruits.”

Su Ping remembered when he was harvesting the Scarlet Stone Fruit. He began to check the actual number. His assumption was right. There were 34 coins!

6If he could sell them all, he could have at least 40 energy points!

Just the Scarlet Stone Fruit alone could generate massive profits.

“Well? The price for this one...”

All of a sudden, Su Ping saw another type of food that was floating in its lonesome on the side. It was like a strange-looking tree sapling, but with leaves of seven different colors.

“Colored Buddha Leaf, 20,820 coins per fruit...”

2Su Ping thought he had read the number wrong. Upon a closer look, he was sure he read it correctly. How could it be over 20,000 coins?

Startled, Su Ping noticed the effect of this food. This wasn't the average pet food, but a type of herb that could be regarded as an intelligence enlightening treasure!

“It can help a pet develop its intelligence by a large margin, so that the pet's power of understanding can be greatly enhanced!”

10The power of understanding was of critical importance to pets!

The pets that had the power of understanding could learn strong skills easily and comprehend their masters' instructions in battles.

2Also, the progress and evolution of pets with the power of understanding would come much easier for them when compared to average pets!

In particular, in the same race, pets with a stronger power of understanding would usually be the rulers in their respective race. They could defeat others of the same race easily because of their better understanding of their powers, and their skills in battle were far superior!

1In a nutshell, the power of understanding was something that could enable a pet to grow and become a ruler of its race!

Su Ping had a faint memory that he seemed to have harvested this thing next to a pond. It wasn't a risky journey. Rather, it was surprisingly easy. He didn't check it carefully back then. He just picked it up after confirming that it was food. He didn't expect that it would be the most precious among all the food he had harvested.

2“That is over 20,000... and I can make two hundred energy points when I sell it?”

1Su Ping did the math. He was over the moon. This Colored Buddha Leaf alone could solve the problem of him buying the “Awakening Potion” and he would have some extra money left!

3“This trip was so worthwhile!” Su Ping was thrilled. All of a sudden, he felt some extra deaths would not be a problem.

Soon, Su Ping calmed himself down. He asked the system at once, “Is it possible that we have set the price too low? If it’s used on an advanced pet, the effect produced would not be something that can be bought with merely 20,000 coins.”

Su Ping was sure that if this plant could inspire an advanced pet to learn a rare ability, even adding another zero to the current price would be considered a cheap price. He had beginner’s luck as the buff to help him stumble upon this plant. Usually, people could not find a place to buy it even if they wanted to!

“The host doesn’t have the right to negotiate the price,” The system replied coldly, “The Colored Buddha Leaf is not the best food to improve the power of understanding. This is just a usual kind of herb. At best, it can exert influence on ninth-rank pets. A price that can be converted to 300 energy points is reasonable!”

2Su Ping almost flared up. “The effect is already incredible when the plant can influence ninth-rank pets. The ones above the ninth-rank pets are king beasts. There are few and far between in this entire continent. What more do you want?”

1“There is no need to say more. To go on would incur pain experience as punishment!” The system went straight to the point without the slightest hesitation in a colder tone.

4Su Ping indignant. The system was being unreasonable!

5In the end, Su Ping had to compromise. He heaved sighs as he checked the remaining food. When he had the total price calculated, his mood turned for the better.

1“Now, the food is ready. All I have to do is to sell them!”

Su Ping took a deep breath. He opened the roller shutter door to welcome in the sunlight.

He spent over half a day on the cultivation plane but only an hour had passed in the real world.

2Su Ping went back to the store. He sat behind the counter to search for information on pets in the federal government resources on the computer, so that he could adjust to this world faster while he waited for customers to arrive.

Not long after, there came one.

“Sir, please give me a bag of food for a Conflagration Canine.” A young man in leisurewear came in without looking up from his phone.

1Su Ping turned his sights away from the computer. He searched on the shelf and finally found some food that a low-rank canine pet could eat. "Here you go. Three-leafed Flame Grass, just the food for the canine pet of the fire family. The price is 380," Su Ping said.

"Okay." The young man in leisurewear answered without thinking. He was just about to pay when he suddenly raised his head, shocked. "How much?"

"380." Su Ping frowned. "This food can increase the intensity of fire elements in pets of the fire family. With a long-term administration, there is a chance that the low-rank pet in the fire family can evolve into a more advanced pet," explained Su Ping.

"Intensity of the fire element? Evolution?" The young man in leisurewear raised his eyebrows. He looked at the counter behind Su Ping. The prices for those foods stunned him. When he saw the "Colored Buddha Leaf" at a price of over 20,000 coins, the young man said nothing and left right away.

"Sh*t. This must be an inn run by brigands. It's just some dog food and you're telling me about evolution. F*ck you..."

1Su Ping watched as this young man left, interspersing his talk with curses. Su Ping pulled a long face. He was angry but he managed to suppress it eventually.

Judging by price alone, it might seem high. But that food had excellent quality and was reasonably priced. He didn't fool anyone. Rather, as far as he could tell, he was sacrificing part of the profit!

1He started on the wrong foot, But Su Ping was not frustrated. As long as his goods were of high quality, they would be eventually sold. Gold is bound to shine!

"Hi, do you sell bird food?"

At noon, another customer came.