

Pet Store 1181

Chapter 1181: The Naihe Soul Ocean

Whoosh!

The unknown power restricting Su Ping faded away. The five spheres of golden flesh floating in midair instantly reassembled into Su Ping and landed in front of the skeleton king.

“Huh?”

Su Ping was surprised by the skeleton king’s reaction. *Wasn’t he trying to search my memories? Why is he so panicked after entering my consciousness? Is he ashamed of himself after seeing how handsome I was in my previous life?*

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“I think something is seriously wrong with you,” said Su Ping in a low voice.

The skeleton king recovered from the shock and gazed at Su Ping. The red light in his eyes glittered. Even though he didn’t have an expression, he was obviously troubled. “You’re here to establish the sixth world, right? The method you’re using works...”

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. “Did you really peep into my memories?”

The skeleton king didn’t reply. He simply said, “The power source of the Chaotic Realm of the Undead is in the deepest part of the Naihe Soul Ocean. The creatures in every universe will be sucked into the Abyssal Hole in the Naihe Soul Ocean after they die. Those souls will float in the ocean; there’s a Reincarnation Path deep inside.

“They would float in the ocean forever if they’re unable to enter the Reincarnation Path, until they’re corrupted by the power of the undead. They either turn into hateful ghosts or become part of the soul ocean.

“However, the Reincarnation Path hasn’t been fixed, ever since it was cut off during the war. So, the creatures in every universe will be stuck there after they die.”

The skeleton king added, “This world is getting even more crowded as a result. The local creatures have been feeding off of each other. Although cannibalism will result in powerful soul beasts and undead creatures, the other universes will dwindle if their souls never return and reincarnate. If all the other universes perish and only the Chaotic Realm of the Undead is left...”

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He paused for a moment and said, “This world will also meet its doom.

“Besides, it will cause another war. The war years ago began when someone tried to block the Reincarnation Path and stop souls from reincarnating. They hoped to concentrate all souls and absorb them, so that they could reach an unprecedented level.

“Unfortunately, the method was only theoretically possible. When carried out, thousands of worlds perished, and they didn’t get the power they sowed in the end...”

The skeleton king's eye sockets glittered with red light as he spoke, seemingly regretful.

Su Ping felt dazed, not expecting that he would tell him that many details. He didn't know that a great war and so many other things had happened in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead, either.

"Were the gods not your enemies in the war?" asked Su Ping.

The skeleton king laughed. "The gods? They were just arrogant and stupid. We wouldn't have ended like this if it weren't for them, but they weren't our enemies. They didn't deserve it!"

"..."

Su Ping was lost for words. *You despise the people who despise you. Are you any different from them?*

"You'll understand sooner or later." The skeleton king seemed to know what Su Ping wanted to say, and added casually, "You have to go to the Naihe Soul Ocean if you want to establish the sixth world. I can send you there. But unfortunately, that place has changed considerably. It's not my territory; it's not appropriate for me to go there.

"Therefore, I cannot help you any further; you must rely on yourself. You can resurrect anyway; you may be able to make it if you're lucky. Still, it's much more dangerous than the worlds of gods and deities; it'll depend on yourself whether or not you can establish a sixth world and become the strongest in history."

Su Ping slightly opened his mouth, not knowing what to say.

The guy's attitude was completely different. Was it because he saw the system when he checked his memories?

That was the only possible explanation.

The only thing an emperor-level creature could be scared of was the peep-loving system.

"What did you say?" A cold snort sounded in Su Ping's heart. "First warning!"

4

Su Ping's lips curled, then he continued thinking. *The sutra old man mentioned that the system's store existed in the past, so this skeleton king might have seen it...*

"You..."

"I don't know anything." The skeleton king shook his head.

"..."

Lost for words, Su Ping could only say, "Then please take me to the border. By the way, we've known each other for a long time. Why don't you give me some farewell presents that you don't need anymore?"

While remembering the things he saw in Su Ping's memories, the skeleton king asked with a shivering red light in his eyes, "What do you want?"

“These two chicks, for example, and whatever rare materials you have. You should know my partners; do you have anything they can use?” asked Su Ping.

The two fallen angels raised their heads in shock, watery-eyed and pitiful; still neither complained. Judging by their king’s attitude towards Su Ping, they knew they couldn’t afford pissing him off.

The skeleton king said casually, “That’s no problem. However, it’s tricky if you want to take them away. If you do want them, I can seal them in the Ascendant State. You’ll be able to bind them as pets when you rise to the Star Lord State.”

Su Ping’s eyes glittered. Two Celestial fallen angels as battle pets of my own?

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“But I don’t intend to advance just yet. Maybe next time?” asked Su Ping.

The skeleton king nodded. “No problem.”

1

The two fallen angels gave pitiful and affectionate looks at their king, unwilling to be abandoned that easily. However, the latter clearly ignored them.

The black bird at the rear was stunned. *Didn’t I deliver this god as an offering to the king? Why did the king offer his beautiful guards to him instead?*

The black bird was rather panicked, fearing that Su Ping would take it away too for what it did to him.

Whoosh!

It was clear that Su Ping didn’t want the black bird; the two beautiful fallen angels were enough for them. He summoned the Little Skeleton, the Inferno Dragon and his other pets, then asked the skeleton king to pick treasures for them.

Hardly had the pets arrived when they noticed the situation. All of them became vigilant, standing protectively before Su Ping, even though they were shivering.

They had seen many things along with Su Ping. The current scene was quite terrifying, but they managed to hold back.

The skeleton king seemed less condescending upon checking their reactions. Even though those little creatures were too weak for him, it couldn’t have been easy for Su Ping to train them to such an extent.

“This skeleton doesn’t really carry the skeleton king bloodline; it only carries one which belongs to one of the branches. Now, I bestow upon it the real bloodline of skeleton kings.”

2

The great being looked at the Little Skeleton currently protecting Su Ping. He stared at the ragged bone saber on its hip for a moment, then extended his hand to it.

The Little Skeleton changed to a defensive posture and tried to resist, but Su Ping soothed it and made it aware of the situation.

The little one was confused. However, it held back the urge to attack and dodge; it stood there obediently.

The skeleton king stroked the Little Skeleton's head. His fingertip suddenly turned red, the red light gradually condensing into dark blood that flowed down into the Little Skeleton's head.

The blood flowed throughout the skeleton's little body, from its spine, just like a spider network.

It didn't stop until the blood reached its feet. Moments later, the blood suddenly solidified like some sort of blood array, which emitted an unusual aura that enshrouded the little one.

"We are born kings and we will die kings. When the rotten flesh is gone, our bones shall be immortal!" the skeleton king recited in a low voice. The entire palace seemed to be trembling. His voices echoed, causing surging energy tides; the fallen angels and the black bird were too shocked to say anything.

Our king is passing his bloodline to such a weak skeleton?

That was the king's bloodline!

All three of them were jealous.

The inheriting process ended a long while after. The skeleton king withdrew his hand; there was now a hint of redness in the Little Skeleton's bones. It seemed that the skeletal pet was even more intimidating than before.

There were also crystal marks on his bones; they were bone patterns.

"From this day forth, you'll be one of the Immortal Skeleton Kings!" declared the skeleton king.

The Little Skeleton was dazed for a moment. It suddenly lowered its head, which nearly dropped to the ground; it quickly held its own head and bowed at the skeleton king gratefully.

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Then, it quickly raised its head and looked at Su Ping, seemingly nervous.

Su Ping listened with attention, affectionately stroking its little head after figuring out what the Little Skeleton was thinking.

That kid was nervous, thinking that Su Ping would be angry for receiving that huge gift.

"Why would I blame you? I'll always be happy when you become stronger," said Su Ping gently.

The Little Skeleton relaxed. Its subconscious voice seemed to be quite delighted.

The skeleton king stared at the little pet for a while. Then, he took out more treasures and offered them to the Inferno Dragon, the Vast Sky Thunderous Dragon and the others. Some of it was food, with a bloodied appearance, while others were smoke-like; they looked like ghosts, which covered the dragon pet and gave its scales extraordinary power.

Su Ping looked at the skeleton king in silence. He wasn't afraid that the guy would do anything harmful, because it was unnecessary.

A long time passed while everything was done. The skeleton king said to Su Ping, "That's all for now. Do you want to go to the Naihe Soul Ocean right now?"

"Okay."

Su Ping nodded. He then retrieved his pets so they could digest the treasures they just received.

The skeleton king glanced at the black bird below. "I'll have it give you a ride to the bottom of the ocean. That place is dangerous even for Celestials, but you'll be sent to the depths of the soul ocean."

The black bird cried in its heart after hearing that, all its feathers shaking; it couldn't have felt more regretful. It should have just eaten Su Ping when it had the chance; going to the Naihe Soul Ocean was no different from suicide.

That place was beyond the skeleton king's territory; they would be seen as invaders. Who would show any respect?

Seeing that Su Ping didn't raise any objections, the skeleton king waved a hand to cut an opening in the void; a hazy vortex emerged. He then said, "Get inside. The channel won't last for long."

Su Ping nodded and immediately stepped in.

The channel was hazy and wet, giving off a coldness that worked directly on the soul. Su Ping felt that the gray mist had dispersed, letting him see the most bizarre view.

Space was covered by an ocean. Countless ghosts were floating; it was thousands of times more dreadful than hell!

There were enormous whale-like creatures floating in the sky. Their white abdomens made them look like clouds.

However, it could be seen upon closer look that there were countless tentacles on those abdomens. The tentacles were the arms of people shivering in the water; their bodies seemed to have been swallowed by those immense creatures.

"Is this the Naihe Soul Ocean?"

Su Ping was rather astonished. Even though he had traveled to many cultivation sites and seen a lot of terrifying forbidden lands, he was still shocked by that creepy scene.

The entire world was an ocean.

He was right in the middle of it at the moment. It was just that the water which made the ocean was as light as air.

That was mainly because Su Ping's body was extremely sturdy. Otherwise, such seawater would have been as heavy as lead, making it impossible even for him to breathe.

The souls of ordinary creatures that had been sent there could only float along with the currents!

The souls noticed him observing them, and immediately stopped wandering; they charged at Su Ping with excitement.

Even though Su Ping always considered himself resolute, he felt that his blood was curdling at the moment. A cold snort was heard before he did anything, then black light was swept out, annihilating all the nearby undead creatures; they turned into smoke and were absorbed by a feather.

The bird placed itself in front of Su Ping and moved forward. It was extremely angry, but it didn't dare vent its fury on Su Ping; those undead creatures were perfect replacements.

"Why are you so angry? Isn't it good to travel with me?" asked Su Ping while chuckling.

The black bird nearly vomited blood, teeth gritting while choosing to ignore Su Ping. It simply regretted not having eaten Su Ping right away.

"My king asked me to protect you on the way to the depths of the soul ocean. Follow me. There are many powerful souls here; even I have to be prudent. You'd better hide your godly aura, since it's their greatest temptation. I'll seal it for you!" said the black bird coldly. It was furious with Su Ping, but didn't dare to let it show.

It had no idea why its king was giving Su Ping such a special treatment, even offering his own door guards to him.

2

Su Ping's divine power aura was indeed covered as a beam of black light surrounded him. His long, golden hair turned black and started to emit a demonic aura.

Chapter 1182: Abyssal Hole

"That was actually unnecessary."

Su Ping felt the power that covered him and stopped him from releasing divine power. With a mere thought, all his cells transformed from the inside out, turning from brilliant gold to silver. He changed from a pure god into an ancient deity that carried an elegant aura.

The ancient deity constitution had an aura concealing trait. Adding the path of illusion, it was almost impossible to detect Su Ping.

"Huh?"

The black bird was astonished by Su Ping's transformation. *The guy is a god. How did he turn into a different species?* Also, Su Ping was releasing an ancient aura too. His new identity was as remarkable as that of gods.

"Which clan are you from exactly?" the black bird couldn't help but ask.

Su Ping chuckled and said, "I'm a human being."

"A human being?"

The black bird was dumbfounded. Still, the creature thought that Su Ping was only messing around, seeing how relaxed he was. Instead of asking further, it said, "It's unnecessary to seal you then."

It then casually lifted Su Ping's seal, only leaving a stream of gray undead power, so that Su Ping would melt with the ocean. He was hardly noticeable without careful observation.

"Let's go."

The black bird led the way, swimming towards the depths of the soul ocean.

Su Ping followed him.

He understood why gods were so attractive to undead creatures. He had cultivated the source of divine power, which was appealing to all species, including the undead kind.

Divine power carried the trait of endowment, able to transform stones into treasures and grass into precious herbs. If anyone grasped such a trait, they could use it to enhance themselves significantly.

When he absorbed divine power, his performance when using secret techniques was ten times more powerful than that of normal people!

"This is the edge of the Naihe Soul Ocean. I can only take you to the Reincarnation Path, which is already broken. I hear that many monsters have carved it up. I may cause conflicts which won't be in your favor if I trespass," said the black bird.

Su Ping nodded. "Let's go there first."

The black bird felt rather helpless, knowing that the human brat was a handful.

It led Su Ping all the way down. The seawater was like thin air; they saw a lot of undead creatures floating in the ocean as they made their way down. Some were like black jellyfish with a myriad tentacles, which turned out to be pale arms. Some were monsters with multiple heads...

I reckon business would be good if I open a museum in this place. The idea popped in Su Ping's mind, but he really wouldn't do it; after all, he was a pet store owner. He should leave the museum business to someone else.

2

The monsters in the soul ocean were floating along with the currents; some were sound asleep until they were woken up by the black bird's aura. Still, they were torn apart before they could even resist.

They encountered even stronger monsters as they went down.

Su Ping soon encountered Ascendant monsters that were lords with dominions of their own. A lot of other monsters followed them, like fish surrounding a whale; they looked quite intimidating.

"We're almost there," the black bird said.

An hour passed. Su Ping saw a dark crack in the ocean which stretched to unknown places.

There was a force coming from the crack which was drawing the ocean water into it.

"This is where the Reincarnation Path used to be. It's been dangerous ever since it was cut apart; it leads to many forbidden places," the black bird explained while maneuvering with Su Ping to avoid it.

There were fewer monsters on their path, but the ones they found were terrifying. Most were in the Ascendant State; some were Star Lords.

The black bird concealed its aura too and kept a low profile.

Soon enough, they saw another black long path in a deeper place; it looked like a black dragon with a protruding spine at the bottom of the ocean.

However, upon closer look, they discovered it was a black soul path.

A lot of people were standing on the path and moving numbly.

While dazed for a moment, the black bird changed its expression and led Su Ping to another place as they kept diving.

“What was that?”

“That’s a monster that has claimed a territory near the Reincarnation Path. It created a fake Reincarnation Path to allure the souls that died in other worlds. The final destination of such a path is actually its stomach,” said the black bird solemnly.

Su Ping couldn’t help but look back while feeling dazed. There were countless ghosts on the black long path; some were hateful ghosts, and some were simply numb. They were all moving instinctively.

“Those souls have been reborn countless times. They repeat this process every time they return. It’s already ingrained in their instincts; they have yet to learn that the soul path has been cut apart.”

The black bird continued, “None of them would notice the anomaly, unless they cultivated enough soul power before they died. They will only end up as nutrition for the greater monsters.”

Su Ping was silent. That was the cruel fate experienced in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead.

They dived for a while longer, but then the black bird suddenly paused and looked ahead in shock.

A gargantuan shadow gradually appeared in the distance. It was so enormous that it looked like a scale in the deep sea, only thousands of times bigger. It was endless; it would look like a rising mountain when it surfaced.

“A soul beast!”

The black bird said telepathically with a solemn tone, “It’s a soul beast that has lived billions of years. Don’t move, or both of us will end up in its stomach!”

A soul beast that has existed billions of years? Su Ping stared at the mountain-like creature. He could no longer make heads or tails as it approached; it looked like a looming cloud.

The soul ocean became heavy too, and sent pushing waves.

The black bird didn’t block them; instead, it moved along with the waves. One of the surging waves flung them away. The behemoth gradually went elsewhere; it seemed that they weren’t discovered. The creature was soon gone; even its tail that disappeared in the end was as big as a dozen aircraft carriers. The feeling was blood curdling when it passed by.

The black bird was finally relieved when the soul beast left for good. Their dive continued.

The pair avoided the soul beasts they saw on the way, even those in the Ascendant State. The bird didn't want to alarm the local overlords.

Bang!

All of a sudden—a power appeared out of nowhere. The black bird reacted half a second earlier; it stopped diving and invoked a power that resisted the black, piercing force.

“Damn it!”

The black bird became grim. “We’ve got trouble.”

A deep black sea beast appeared before them as the bird spoke. The thing gave the black bird and Su Ping a cold stare with its dirty black eyes. The two of them were as insignificant as sesame seeds in front of it.

“I don’t think I can protect you any longer,” said the black bird in a low voice.

Su Ping could also tell that the monster wasn’t easy to deal with. It was very likely a Celestial creature.

Such powerful beasts were hard to come by in the universe outside, and yet it was easy to run into them in the top cultivation sites, especially dangerous places like that one.

Su Ping asked, “Is the Abyssal Hole down below?”

“Correct. It’s in the deepest part, but it will be more dangerous there. There might even be king-level creatures...” said the black bird solemnly.

“All right. Help me stall this guy for ten minutes; I’ll be on my way,” said Su Ping.

“I’ll try.”

Su Ping didn’t reply, simply swimming down to the deeper parts of the ocean.

The bird stopped hiding after Su Ping left, releasing black smoke and gradually expanding, revealing its original self. Its size was comparable to that of the monster.

The two behemoths confronted each other; neither made a move.

“Kid, I’ve done enough by bringing you here. Going to the Abyssal Hole is suicide; even I wouldn’t dare go to that place. There’s nothing I can do if you insist on getting yourself killed,” whispered the black bird.

The tricky bird had actually noticed that monster earlier, and deliberately entered its territory.

It didn’t want to keep diving and come across someone far stronger. It might die there.

It would surely be killed if it truly went all the way down with Su Ping.

That place was too dangerous, even for the king-level creatures!

...

Su Ping concealed his aura and kept diving after leaving the black bird.

The pressure of the soul ocean was getting stronger further down. It was as light as mist in the beginning, but it already felt like a real ocean at the moment; it was quite a restraining experience.

Such pressure slowed Su Ping's advance.

He transformed and neutralized the soul power around him with his own power to reduce the pressure.

"Who knows how many souls have been buried in this ocean. I feel sorry for them..." Su Ping mumbled. He was also fighting the seawater as he went down. He could vividly feel the changes of the ocean, including the differences in pressure and overall corruption.

Even if he didn't reach the Abyssal Hole, he had no doubt that he could cultivate undead power by soaking there for a hundred years.

Undead creatures are made of the undead power. Undead pets are the most wicked and least liked pets in the world; they're also the most brutal and bloody. The undead power source is probably related to corruption and decay. Maybe I should learn more about that...

Su Ping was trying to understand the power of the undead while on the move.

If he couldn't grasp it directly, he could still learn from it indirectly.

Roar!

Su Ping heard a roar while pondering. An enormous sea spider seemed to have detected him.

Su Ping snapped out of his focused state and frowned. He simply attacked after realizing that the spider was in the Ascendant State.

He had already done his best to hide from some careless Ascendant creatures on his own, now that he didn't have the black bird's cover.

The spider was clearly one of the perceptive ones. Being the case, he should simply kill it!

Su Ping hid divine power in his fist, and smashed with it when he approached the target. The divine power inflicted a special damage to undead creatures. Su Ping's punch had broken the spider's leg; the smoke of soul power was erased from the wound.

The spider was clearly shocked after receiving the heavy strike, not expecting Su Ping's outburst to be that powerful and filled with the power it liked and feared.

Hiss!

The spider bellowed and charged at Su Ping again, with an apparent mix of anger and excitement.

Su Ping didn't stop, either. He summoned the Little Skeleton and merged with it. He was further enhanced once covered in bones. He drew his bone saber and slashed, forcing the spider to retreat.

"Go to hell!!!"

Su Ping slashed its head. His violent power pierced the spider's head.

The spider screamed, and the seawater was rippling. Su Ping instantly felt that other soul beasts were approaching; none of them was weak.

His expression changed somewhat. The black bird was at first reluctant to attack exactly because it didn't want to alarm other undead creatures.

He knew he could not dawdle. Once he dealt with the spider, he simply dived to the bottom of the ocean at full speed.

There was no time to hide. Five small worlds appeared on his back and spun like lotus flowers. When enhanced by the eighth Astral Painting, the power of the small worlds was combined, giving him another significant boost. He was launched to the depths of the ocean like a cannonball.

As for flash—

Su Ping had noticed that it was impossible to flash in the ocean; space seemed to be a vague concept there, if it existed at all.

The feeling was hard to describe. However, he had also noticed that the black bird didn't flash either when traveling together. So, it probably had nothing to do with his weakness; it was due to the special environment.

Roar!

A lot of shadows lunged at him, moving as ferociously as ravenous fish.

Su Ping cast secret techniques backwards while rushing down, while accelerating with the counterforce.

Roar!

There were beasts coming at him from down below too; Su Ping simply slashed at them. He concentrated his sword aura and imbued it on his weapon, which was sharp enough to cut the ocean itself. The sword aura was swept out, cutting an Ascendant State beast apart.

The two parts which made the beast were soon assembled as Su Ping swam by, and it continued chasing after him.

Bang!

A beast caught up from the rear, and attempted to bite Su Ping's foot.

Su Ping kicked it and turned its head into smoke.

His physical outburst was as powerful as that of an Ascendant State beast. Plus the divine power and the deity aura inside his body, he could defeat normal Ascendant creatures.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Su Ping slashed and charged, fighting his way out.

Many beasts healed after being blown up; it was hard to kill them.

Exactly at that moment—all the beasts crazily lunging at him stopped. Su Ping was puzzled by this, when he suddenly felt that he was enshrouded by a freezing cold.

A bloody mouth full of teeth was slowly opened in the bottom of the ocean ahead of him.

The mouth seemed big enough to swallow a mountain.

Su Ping was as insignificant as a grain of dust in front of that mouth.

A Celestial undead... Su Ping slightly narrowed his eyes.

Chapter 1183: Advancement

Phew!

The next moment—Su Ping was pulled into the bloody mouth by an attractive force.

He tried resisting, but his strength wasn't enough to counter the effect. He inevitably flew into the mouth as an unknown power fell over him.

Su Ping instantly felt that his body and consciousness were destroyed. The world blackened, and he returned to the resurrection space.

“Instant kill...” Su Ping's lips trembled. He was absolutely incapable of resisting when facing that Celestial beast.

The gap between them was too wide.

Revival on the spot!

Su Ping waited a dozen seconds before he chose to resurrect. However, he was consumed by a destructive power again, even before he could open his mouth.

He could only return to the resurrection space.

“What's going on?” Su Ping felt dazed. Was the Celestial State beast chewing his body?

This time, Su Ping wasn't in a hurry to go out. He could remain inside the resurrection space for an hour; he would wait it out as much as he could.

He chose to resurrect on the spot when the system's reminder popped up.

Hardly had he returned when he saw an enormous shadow looming next to him. The massive creature clearly noticed his reappearance. It opened its scary eyes in the murky and dark soul ocean.

There was obvious astonishment in the creature's eyes.

Damn it, why didn't it leave after eating? Su Ping changed his expression and quickly dived to the bottom of the sea.

But hardly had he moved when he was surrounded by a force again. Su Ping felt he was grabbed and pulled towards the soul beast.

He was soon pulled to a place close to one of the soul beasts' enormous eyes. It was gazing at him.

The thing observed him for a long time. Su Ping tried to struggle, all to no avail.

The soul beast stared at him for a while. Suddenly, a bubble popped up and covered him.

He instantly felt that his body was confined and all his power was dwindling. He was under the pressure of a special force field and couldn't get out.

Is this thing trying to seal me and study me carefully? Su Ping's expression changed somewhat.

Just as he expected, the soul beast turned around and dived down after being stored in the bubble; Su Ping was pulled along like a tear in the guy's eye.

The environment became dimmer and dimmer, until it was completely dark.

Su Ping focused his power on his eyes, but he could only see things within a thousand meter radius.

Is it taking me back to its nest? This isn't so bad, though; I don't have to finish the journey on my own... Su Ping's eyes glittered.

The soul beast stopped shortly after. There was a complex nest floating in the soul ocean; the soul beast landed right in the middle of it. Many undead creatures were floating around.

All of them backed off when they saw the soul beast, only gathering after the greater beast lay down in the nest.

Su Ping then saw that the smoke on the soul beast was retracting, gradually turning from an enormous mountain to a being several thousand meters tall. The shrinking continued until it shrank to dozens of meters tall as a magnificent specter.

Its body's upper half resembled a brawny man, while its lower half was a beast with many strange limbs.

He extended his hand and grabbed Su Ping to observe him carefully. Then, he used his fingernails to squeeze one of Su Ping's arms and then tear it off.

Su Ping's arm came off instantly; the pain was excruciating.

The brawny man observed Su Ping. He went into deep thought after seeing how the young man's wound was gradually healing. It then threw Su Ping's arm into his mouth.

Moments later, he tore Su Ping apart from the waist, then ate his body parts one after the other.

It didn't take long for only his head to remain.

"This guy is studying me!" Su Ping was infuriated, but all his words were blocked by the bubble.

His vitality path had been suppressed by some sort of power; his own healing was extremely slow.

Su Ping felt enfeebled soon after.

The muscular man then darted out a white snake towards Su Ping and pulled an illusory being out of his head.

Su Ping instantly felt cold. His soul had left his body; he could feel that the head behind him was already stock-still.

Is this the Naihe Soul Ocean? It's too cold without a body here! Su Ping shivered constantly when he felt the chill.

The muscular man, however, was astonished to watch Su Ping shiver. It was clear that Su Ping's soul wasn't on a high level; it wasn't special either. It was rather unbelievable that he could endure the ocean's corruption.

He observed for a moment, and then ate Su Ping's soul piece by piece.

Su Ping felt the greatest misery when his soul was torn apart, all because he lacked the protection of his body.

Still, he gritted his teeth and cursed, not begging in the slightest.

The last piece of his soul was soon minced and eaten up, and he returned to the resurrection space.

Damn it, this thing regards me as research material. It won't let me go until it figures out everything. I'll be immediately noticed even if I resurrect; escaping is impossible.

The guy will only become more interested in me, if I resurrect again and again. It won't let me go until it figures out everything about me!

How can I leave?

Su Ping thought quickly. Considering the circumstances, random resurrection seemed to be the only option.

But if he were to randomly resurrect, where would he end up in this vast Chaotic Realm of the Undead?

To escape from a Celestial... Su Ping was grim; the task was basically impossible. He might be able to do that if he were in the Ascendant State, but the gap between him and the Celestial at the moment was still too wide.

He wouldn't be able to fight a Celestial, even if he condensed seven small worlds!

After all, he was only in the Star State...

"Huh?"

Suddenly, Su Ping's eyes glittered. That's right; he was in the Star State, but he could become a Star Lord at any moment!

He wouldn't be a match for a Celestial opponent, even if he became a Star Lord, as his combat ability would not increase significantly. However...

It's worth trying.

Su Ping's eyes glittered.

He communicated with the system and displayed the ranking of all species.

Even though he was in the resurrection space, it was no problem to talk to the system.

Su Ping soon found his ranking.

He was ranked at the top among all human beings!

That meant that his combat ability while in the Star State was unparalleled in the history of humankind!

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Five small worlds plus a really sturdy body were indeed beyond anyone's imagination!

He checked the rankings of all species, and he saw that he had risen from the nineteenth, all the way to the sixth!

I was only in the nineteenth spot when I had four small worlds. My ranking has soared after I established an additional small world. It's true that every small world is like a huge deal. Maybe I'll reach the top three if I establish a sixth small world while in the Star State... Su Ping's eyes glittered.

Once he became a Star Lord, his combat ability would be comparable with that of other Star Lords.

His ranking would probably drop by then.

However, Su Ping wasn't obsessed with being the best in the Star State in history yet. After all, there was still a long journey ahead of him. He needed his strength to grow!!

Besides, none of the best in history could be seen anymore; it was possible that they died prematurely.

I never sought a breakthrough because it seemed unnecessary to me. The improvement to the Star Lord State wouldn't significantly boost my combat ability. I've already exploited the Star Lord potential. Given the right opportunity, I'll be able to rise to the Ascendant State...

However, it seems to be the only option at the moment.

Su Ping took a deep breath. He didn't have anyone to protect him in the Naihe Soul Ocean; he couldn't go any deeper on his own, and he had to try his luck.

An hour passed rather quickly.

Su Ping resurrected and immediately saw the soul beast, who was actually staring back at him, as if knowing that he would return.

This guy...

Su Ping was grim. He immediately saw a bubble flying towards him, trying to confine him again.

However, Su Ping unleashed all his power and revealed the five small worlds before the bubble approached. He also released the shackle he had on at the same time.

His surging power found an opening, and everything gushed out.

Su Ping's aura rose at a fast pace, even causing ripples in the soul ocean.

Dazzling golden light burst out. The divine power hidden inside his body was unleashed without restraint, illuminating the dark ocean and making it look golden.

All the undead creatures around the nest were stunned. Then, they became excited, throwing hungry gazes at Su Ping.

The soul beast knew that their reaction wasn't good, its expression changing a bit as a result. It released a power that looked like a black curtain, preventing Su Ping's divine power from being detected by anyone else.

However, right when the black curtain had covered him—a golden lightning came down from the sky and struck and pierced the curtain!

The soul beast was shocked, it looked at the sky.

All the seawater began to revolve, turning into a vortex that led straight to the sky.

A vacuum had been formed in the murky soul ocean, with the nest and Su Ping's body as the center.

Golden lightning bolts were everywhere, coming from the sky above the vortex.

1

It was a Heavenly Tribulation caused by advancement!

“Roar!!”

The brawny beast was furious.

Once again, it tried to cover Su Ping's aura with darkness. However, the thunderclouds above seemed to be infuriated. A lightning strike resembling an axe struck down and tore all darkness apart!

The brawny soul beast shivered, as it detected some sort of power; it seemed to have alarmed some sort of being.

It looked up at the sky with a mix of shock and fury while shivering, not daring to do anything else.

The ocean was instantly boiling too. Countless undead creatures left their nests and approached the vortex as the water revolved, all because of the tempting divine power.

Soon after, all of them saw the young god who was glittering at the bottom of the ocean!

“This guy...”

Hovering above the ocean—the black bird detected the unexpected change as it was about to leave the ocean. It couldn't help but look at the vortex, only to see a golden flash at the very bottom.

The beast was rather shocked, not expecting that Su Ping would go as deep and cause such a ruckus!

“He's blatantly releasing his divine power. Is he asking to be killed?” mumbled the black bird.

Many more soul beasts and undead creatures were gathered around the vortex. When seen from the depths of the ocean, they looked like Buddha statues, except that they looked evil and scary. All of them were gazing at Su Ping with shock and greed.

Roar!

Some undead creatures up above couldn't hold back their natural instincts, roaring and charging into the vortex in the hopes of approaching Su Ping and eating him.

However, the thunderclouds in the sky seemed to become infuriated the moment the undead creatures entered the vortex. They expanded in size when a lightning bolt struck down.

There was a boom, and several undead creatures were hit; they were immediately obliterated.

The scene left many of the soul beasts and undead creatures in awe. However, some of them were still too bloodthirsty to hold themselves back. They jumped into the vortex and charged at Su Ping again.

The lightning bolts continued glittering and illuminating the entire Naihe Soul Ocean, annihilating all the undead creatures that entered the danger zone.

Furthermore, the undead creatures approaching were considered as Su Ping's allies by the tribulation. The cloud range kept increasing as a result, turning from a continent into a medium-sized planet. It floated above the vast Naihe Soul Ocean, while emitting a ghastly lightning aura!

"He's caused a Heavenly Tribulation of the gods!"

"It's been a long time since I saw one!"

"Weren't they already extinct? How can there still be a Heavenly Tribulation? Could it be..."

1

Many undead creatures who had awakened their consciousness were shocked and suspicious.

Some whose auras were profound seemed to be excited.

"It's a Heavenly Tribulation of the gods. Our clan is still there!"

"The Reincarnation Path has been cut apart. We cannot return to our homeland anymore, but our people have found us!"

Many of the undead creatures were souls of deceased gods; they had the memories of their previous lives as gods and other creatures. However, their other previous lives weren't as strong as their lives as gods, so they would always consider themselves as gods.

Even though they dwelled in the Naihe Soul Ocean as undead creatures, they still considered themselves gods, and they had been conspiring as an alliance.

The vast ocean wasn't entirely chaotic; it had been claimed by plenty of forces.

Those factions were divided based on the species they used to belong to when they were alive.

"Is he here to guide us home? If not, let's just eat him!"

"He had us starve for ages... It's unforgivable!"

Some undead creatures who were previously gods had strange expressions. They saw themselves as gods, but their hearts had already warped; they were as evil as the rest of the undead creatures.

Su Ping had broken free from the brawny soul beast at the bottom of the ocean while the undead creatures and soul beasts were watching. That strong guy no longer dared to get any closer to him, fearing that he would be considered as Su Ping's ally and thus be punished by the Heavenly Tribulation.

Chapter 1184: Spirit of the Gods

Translator: Henyee Translations Editor: Henyee Translations

“So many undead creatures...”

Su Ping raised his head and looked. There was a huge vortex revolving in the ocean, with countless undead creatures swirling around. Those creatures would surely swarm over once the Heavenly Tribulation ended.

Su Ping took a deep breath. He wasn't scared at all; rather, he shivered in excitement. He turned around and dashed towards the depths of the ocean.

2

The vortex stretched downwards, following Su Ping's movements, maintaining a connection with him.

“If you want to eat me, just come!”

Su Ping looked at the furious brawny sea beast and ignored its furious eyes. He rushed out of its nest, then moved deeper into the ocean.

He didn't expect the Heavenly Tribulation to be that massive, either. He had only planned to break free with the help of the tribulation's power. However, it turned out to be much more powerful than expected, enough to give pause to that Celestial sea beast.

“Hooooooooooooo!”

The undead creatures surrounding the vortex became anxious as they saw him run off.

Many of them had been holding back because they thought they could eat Su Ping after the Heavenly Tribulation. How could they let their prey escape?

Many of the irrational undead creatures jumped down and chased Su Ping in the vortex.

Thanks to vortex's special conditions, the undead creatures floating above could easily reach the bottom without enduring any pressure given off by the soul ocean.

However—

The Heavenly Tribulation was instantly triggered when the undead creatures jumped into the vortex, annihilating them all with golden lightning bolts.

1

The tribulation became even larger than before, as though angered by their actions.

“Damn it, what a bunch of fools!”

The undead creatures became furious because of this; the more powerful the Heavenly Tribulation was, the greater its coverage would be. They could even get hurt by accident.

The prospect of the young god dying became more likely too. What would they eat then?

“This brat!”

The brawny sea beast was infuriated. It had already realized Su Ping’s plan, which was to get out of his control by using the Heavenly Tribulation. He suddenly regretted not sending Su Ping into his small universe to study him. He wouldn’t have had the chance to invoke a tribulation there.

As for the current situation...

It was already too late to do anything. The mind-blowing aura was becoming increasingly evident, deep inside the clouds up above; he didn’t even dare to do anything else, fearing he might draw attention upon himself.

Countless years had passed, but a fear that had been deeply etched in his soul had never disappeared!

All creatures were like ants before a Heavenly Tribulation!

Whoosh!

Back in the depths of the ocean—Su Ping continued his descent. Light was fading away, and the area he could sense was also shrinking, turning from a radius of a thousand meters to only five hundred meters. It was still being constricted at an astonishing speed.

“They didn’t come.”

While running, Su Ping formed an eye on the back of his head to see if those undead creatures were still chasing him; he was both relieved and puzzled.

It’s just a Heavenly Tribulation. Do they need to be this scared?

Are they worried that they would be affected?

But, it’s just the tribulation of a new Star Lord anyway!

2

Roar!

The bellowing came from the deep ocean further down while Su Ping pondered, and a destructive power was swept over.

Su Ping found it impossible to dodge. He felt infuriated, so he unleashed the power of all his five small worlds.

The five small worlds were shattered like glass in the next moment; his body fell apart as well.

Revival on the spot!

Su Ping chose to resurrect the moment he died.

The rumbling Heavenly Tribulation above him showed signs of dispersing, but it soon went back to normal.

“What was that?”

Su Ping looked into the depths of the ocean, then saw a merman charging at him with an enormous spear. He was just as intimidating as the brawny sea beast from earlier.

The merman had dragon horns on his head, which made him look awesome. The latter seemed shocked, as he didn't anticipate Su Ping's resurrection.

A lot of undead creatures had started roaring around him before he made his approach.

Three of the undead creatures were in the Celestial State, and the others were mostly Ascendants. One of them—which looked like an enormous toad—said to him, “Young man, we’re all gods. Where are you going? We’ll give you a ride!”

Su Ping felt dazed.

There are gods among the undead too?

“I was a prince of the Night Sky Clan, a high-ranked clan!” said a sea beast that looked like a snake; there were creepy and vicious faces in its scales. It was clear that it had absorbed countless evil undead creatures.

The Night Sky Clan... Su Ping had heard about it while cultivating back in Ember Palace. It seemed to be one of the seven great clans that owned one of the Divine Eyes!

That prince of the Night Sky Clan, however, was a soul beast that looked like a snake.

“You’re about to enter the Nether Dragon’s forbidden territory. Be gone!” said the merman coldly. He held his spear, clearly unafraid of the gods’ souls.

“We’ll be on our way,” said the soul beast that looked like an enormous toad.

Su Ping’s eyes glittered. Once realizing their intent, he immediately said, “Guys, truth be told, I want to go to the Abyssal Hole.”

Even though the self-proclaimed gods were probably not trustworthy, Su Ping could only rely on them at the moment. He would be able to go there in his own way if they couldn't help.

“The Abyssal Hole?”

Everybody was shocked to hear what Su Ping said, not expecting his destination to be that place.

The prince of the Night Sky Clan asked, “Why do you want to go there? That’s the place where the souls of all worlds are absorbed and then sent into this ocean. Are you planning on going to other worlds through the hole? If so, I suggest you give up right now. That’s a dead end.”

Su Ping shook his head and said, “I simply want to go there, not to another world.”

The enormous toad gazed at Su Ping. “Does it concern matters of the gods? Or is it just something that you want to do?”

Su Ping replied without hesitation, “Truth be told, the gods are in a perilous condition. I’ve been sent here because it’s the only solution!”

The three Celestial State souls who called themselves gods glanced at each other and fell silent.

They had heard something about the war that happened countless years before, and experienced the gods' decline, but they didn't expect the gods to be caught in such a dangerous moment.

"You've cultivated five small worlds at this level. You must be one of the most talented gods in the younger generation. You're so rare..." mumbled the prince of the Night Sky Clan.

"Think carefully. The Abyssal Hole is where Lord Nether Dragon sleeps. You'll end up as food if you go there recklessly and wake him up!" said the merman while sneering coldly, still wielding his spear.

Su Ping frowned. It sounded like the Nether Dragon was in a realm beyond the Celestial State. He had to be an emperor!

The souls of the gods looked at each other in bewilderment after the merman's warning. Moments later, the prince of the Night Sky Clan sneered and said, "For the sake of the gods, it doesn't matter even if we have to die."

"Indeed. We didn't have a chance to take part in the war; we could only watch our homes be destroyed and our race annihilated. Now that there's a chance to hope, how can we just stand by and watch?"

"I've had enough of this goddamned soul ocean. Even if I never reincarnate, so what? I won't regret it!"

Other souls chimed in with excitement and fury after the three Celestial souls expressed their standing.

They hadn't been deeply corrupted yet; they still kept their pride and consciousness as gods.

Su Ping was stunned by their response, as he had only planned to take advantage of them. He never liked gods anyway; never did he expect that they would be willing to take such a risk for a total stranger!

Gods are arrogant when they deal with other species. However, they seem to be loyal and tolerant amongst themselves... Su Ping had a new understanding.

Most suffering in the world was perhaps due to different stances.

It had nothing to do with right or wrong.

Two kindhearted people could end up killing each other brutally only because they were protecting different things.

1

"There is an emperor among the gods too. I'll ask Emperor Yi to come immediately." said the prince of the Night Sky Clan in a low voice.

The merman was shocked to hear that, and snapped in fury, "Are you really going to start a war? We're all undead creatures; what happened in the past should stay in the past. You should consider the Chaotic Realm of the Undead as your homeland. This is the beginning and the end of all universes; your identity as gods was just a memory from one of your lives!"

"You're not wrong. However, you never lived as a god; you don't know the first thing about the pride of gods, which exceeds everything!"

"We're proud of being gods!"

“We’re proud of being gods!”

All the souls waved their arms and roared with utmost dignity. Even though they looked twisted and hideous as undead creatures, their common quality looked like a dazzling diamond. They were the pure supreme gods!

“Of all the lives that I’ve lived, the one where I was a god is the one I’ll never forget. Even though I’m an undead creature right now, I will always look down upon other species!” said the enormous toad with a sophisticated expression.

The souls of the other gods echoed those thoughts with excitement.

The merman changed his expression and shouted angrily, “Lunatics! All of you will die miserably!”

“How can a god be scared of death?” said the prince of the Night Sky Clan with a snort.

“We live forever above all worlds. It’s something that you’ll never understand!” cried one of the gods’ souls.

Su Ping looked at them, and vividly felt their pride at that moment. He had only felt their arrogance in the past, especially when he faced the Rain Clan and other gods.

It wasn’t until that moment that he experienced the unwavering pride that was hidden under their arrogance!

This godly spirit is perhaps what makes them truly great... Su Ping thought.

The ocean shook at that moment. Then, the water temperature plummeted, and all noise disappeared. Even the rumbling thunder above the vortex seemed to have been blocked.

There seemed to be something that opened its eyes and stared at those present, right from the dark bottom of the ocean.

The gods’ souls changed their expression, then looked over nervously.

Exactly at that moment—a wave of seawater in the shape of a scary mouth swept over to devour them all.

“Oh no! It’s the Nether Dragon!”

The prince of the Night Sky Clan said quickly, “Get out of the way!”

The enormous toad roared and spouted a wave in the seawater as an attempt to destroy the mouth.

However, the wave was directly swallowed when it reached the mouth; the only effect was a slight deformation.

Right when the mouth was about to swallow them all—a snort echoed throughout the ocean, and a dark figure descended from up above, landing on the mouth and shattering it.

It was a man who was eight meters tall with eight wings on his back. He looked like a devil from myth, emitting a heavy, intimidating aura of the undead.

“Emperor Yi!”

The prince of the Night Sky Clan and the other souls were thrilled to see him.

“Emperor Yi, you’ve crossed the border!” said a being with a low and cold voice, deep in the abyss.

“Nether Dragon, that was outrageous!”

Emperor Yi said indifferently and clearly, “The gods’ souls didn’t mean to offend you. Why did you attack them?”

“Emperor Yi, don’t forget your identity. You’re no longer gods; stop fantasizing. The gods are gone, and the world of gods has been shattered. You saw the war with your own eyes; even though you were but a child, I don’t think you can ever forget it. All those who saw the war will never forget, not even ants would!” said the Nether Dragon from the bottom of the abyss.

Emperor Yi snorted and said, “Of course I will never forget it. Even though we’re undead creatures right now, we’ll always be gods, because we once were. There’s no need to talk about that!”

The Nether Dragon snorted back, then said. “You’re just being stupid; I would rather not waste my time on you. I’ll spare you as long as you get out of my place.”

Emperor Yi ignored the creature and looked at Su Ping. He sized the latter up, and remarked with admiration in his eyes, “There aren’t many gods like you these days, right?”

Su Ping suddenly felt guilty and ashamed because of his lie. Those gods’ souls were obsessed with godhood, and were willing to fight for him even though they had never met before.

However, with everything reaching that point, he would cause greater trouble if he were to confess the truth. He could only say, “Indeed, there aren’t.”

“Why are you heading to the Abyssal Hole?” asked Emperor Yi softly.

After taking a deep breath, Su Ping said, “I want to find a new path and create one of my own. I want to grow stronger and break all shackles!”

That wasn’t a complete lie; he meant what he said.

Emperor Yi nodded and said, “Our clan must have tried their best to send such a genius as yourself to this place. Fine. We the deceased souls will help you reach your destination!”

Chapter 1185: Relentless Battle

“Emperor Yi!” the Nether Dragon roared furiously, “Do you really want to turn me into your enemy?”

“My enemy?” Emperor Yi smiled in disdain. “So what if all the other species are my enemies? Gods are the lords of all species. You would have been nothing but my servant in the age when we reigned supreme!”

“You’re asking to be killed!” The Nether Dragon was deeply enraged; it could not tolerate the guy’s arrogance.

Su Ping was momentarily stunned by Emperor Yi's words, while putting on a bitter, silent smile. Those were the typical gods, except that they showed loyalty to their kind and arrogance to their enemies.

What a proud species. They succeed because of pride, and fall because of it... Su Ping thought.

Roar!

The Nether Dragon bellowed, and the ocean surged with a tornado. The violent force was compressed, blowing at the gods' souls; they had to hide behind Emperor Yi.

Dark smoke was rising on Emperor Yi's body which looked like a devil. He gradually expanded, then suddenly took action, sending out a beam of light that sliced through the ocean like a shooting star.

The Nether Dragon slithered upwards, instantly engaging with Emperor Yi in another time and space, which was constantly being distorted. The resulting auras were scaring all the gods' souls.

"Let's go! While Emperor Yi keeps the Nether Dragon occupied. Let's head down there!" said the giant toad immediately.

"Stop!"

The merman stepped up and stood in their way. Other ferocious beasts emerged from the abyss at the same time. Five of them seemed to be Celestials; adding the merman, there were six Celestial experts in total!

"You think that you, the remnants of gods, can trespass the Nether Dragon's territory? You're asking to be killed!"

"Kill them all!"

"It's been a long time since I've had my fill. I'm hungry."

Those undead creatures came in various shapes, but all of them emitted a terrifying aura.

"Three against six. You don't stand any chance of winning, do you? You think those lackeys of yours will help?" said a chuckling creature whose upper half was a sexy woman, while the lower half body was a dark scorpion; there was bloodthirst in her eyes.

1

The Night Sky Clan's prince and the others were sullen. Indeed, they didn't have any advantage.

"Guys, are you scared?" asked the Night Sky Clan's prince all of a sudden.

The giant toad grinned and said, "Scared? Have we ever been scared? It was my clan that led the charge during the war. Who's qualified to charge if not us?"

They were proud gods even during the war. They acted arrogantly when dealing with other species, both in peace and in war. They were always the vanguard!

"I'm afraid that you're mistaken. We're not here to fight; we're here to devote our lives!" said one of the Celestial State souls with a sneer.

The Ascendant gods' souls were no longer timid. They stared at the six Celestials with determination. Even though they would be nothing more than fireflies in the upcoming battle, they could still glow once if they worked together!

"You're truly stubborn. We're all souls. The gods you knew were just shells some were reborn in. We've always been the cores of all species; it's hilarious to see you consider yourselves gods!" said the merman angrily.

"You're wrong. Even though souls are the cores of all species, they are distinguished from each other because of their appearances. That's what makes us different!"

"Why bother talking to them? They'll never understand the spirit of the gods!"

"Let us the deceased gods help our clan one last time!"

"Follow me! Kill them all!" roared the Night Sky Clan's prince charged forth. His body was like a snake emitting an evil aura. He didn't carry any godly gravitas; however there seemed to be some sort of power that made it special as it attacked.

The giant toad also roared and charged forward.

While it did so, he quietly released a power which concealed Su Ping.

Die!

All the other gods' souls roared and charged, like thousands of soldiers.

They were fighting their last battle as former gods!

The six Celestials under the Nether Dragon's command changed their expressions upon seeing them approach. Naturally, they could annihilate the enemies with ease. However, those lunatics weren't just fighting; they were determined to sacrifice themselves. Even though they had twice as many subordinates, they didn't really have an advantage.

They didn't want to die along with the lunatics!

One's life would be at risk once there was an injury, while dwelling in the Naihe Soul Ocean.

Heavy injuries were tantamount to eventually being swallowed by someone else!

They might even be swallowed by the Nether Dragon as additional nutrition!

Only those valuable enough could survive in that place.

"Hurry up and stop them!"

"They cannot pass; we won't be able to endure the Nether Dragon's fury otherwise!"

The merman roared and charged towards the giant toad. He had seen that Su Ping was hidden behind the toad's back. Those creatures were obviously trying to take him to the Abyssal Hole.

Die!

A fierce battle instantly broke out. The vortex caused by the Heavenly Tribulation continued to expand, soon reaching the battlefield. One of the Ascendant souls was thrown into the vortex. Immediately after, a golden lightning bolt struck from the sky and burnt it to smithereens.

The tribulation's range was still growing.

1

The Night Sky Clan's prince and the half-woman, half-scorpion approached the vortex as they thought. The Night Sky Clan's prince immediately noticed the vortex's change, and his expression reflected it somewhat. Never did he think that the Heavenly Tribulation caused by a kid like Su Ping would be that powerful. Also, he vaguely sensed that some sort of aura was reviving behind the Heavenly Tribulation.

The aura made his heart shiver. He was too scared to face it.

"If you want to fight, let's die together!" roared the Night Sky Clan's prince and grabbed the woman-scorpion and dragged her into the vortex.

The tribulation acted as though enraged when the two Celestials entered the vortex, sending several golden lightning bolts over them.

However, they were Celestials, and the lightning bolts didn't really hurt them.

Such a result caused the Heavenly Tribulation to change again, further expanding; thunder was rumbling, as if ready to turn the ocean upside down.

The thunderclouds—which were originally the size of a planet—expanded multiple times over. The terrifying pressure reached the undead creatures on the surface of the ocean, scaring them out of their wits; they tried their best to escape from the clouds' range.

Boom! Boom!

Areas full of golden lightning smashed down and struck the two Celestials battling inside the vortex. The attacks were clearly more powerful than before, eliminating a huge amount of dark energy every time. The woman-scorpion in particular, she was hit in the already injured abdomen and could not heal.

That sort of lightning seemed able to suppress them. The woman-scorpion shrieked in pain with a contorted face.

Meanwhile, the other gods' souls were still charging.

The giant toad was fighting three Celestials at the same time. He had expanded significantly by means of a secret technique. He was so strong that none of his enemies dared to get too close.

A soul beast covered in fungi shouted in shock, "They are out of their minds!"

Another Celestial god was fighting while risking his life. He suppressed two Celestials, making it impossible for them to block other gods.

"What's wrong with their heads? They were only gods once. Have they been brainwashed?" asked a furious undead creature.

Someone realized that something was wrong as the battle escalated.

“Look! The focus of the vortex is not here!”

“The target of the Heavenly Tribulation is not behind this guy! It’s down below!”

“Damn it, was the kid the one who invoked the Heavenly Tribulation?”

All of them noticed that the tribulation wasn’t invoked by the giant toad. Rather, it bypassed them and went deep into the ocean. A lot of gods’ souls were already rushing in that direction.

The anomaly made them realize that the Su Ping they had seen behind the giant toad’s back was just an illusion, whereas the real Su Ping had already passed their defense line and entered the abyss by blending amongst the gods’ souls!

The six Celestials under the Nether Dragon were terrified as they watched the vortex descend. They couldn’t imagine how their superior would unleash its fury after learning that they had failed to block Su Ping!

Also, what scared them more was that Su Ping didn’t just sneak down; he had even attracted the Heavenly Tribulation down with him...

That being was still asleep in the deepest part of the Naihe Soul Ocean!

4

Once it woke up, the entire soul ocean would be turned upside down!

The merman was so frightened that his face was twisted as he roared, “Hurry up! Someone stop them!”

The giant toad, however, rushed forward and stood in their way; his body was already cracking because of the expansion. He looked at his shocked enemies and laughed. “We’re determined to escort him on the last part of his journey. We were too weak to fight when we were alive, but we can still be heroes as ghosts. If you want to pass, do so by stepping over my dead body!”

“Just ignore him! He’s crazy for having used that secret technique. He’ll soon be swallowed by himself!”

“He sacrificed his own self, and will never be born again. What a lunatic!”

Another chaotic battle burst out.

The Night Sky Clan’s prince and another Celestial roared and joined the battlefield. All of them activated their greatest potential. Even if they could survive the battle, they would be greatly weakened and then eaten by other undead creatures. So, they no longer held back; they used all their strength!

The ocean seemed to be a void, but the water moved to an extreme.

The rumbling thunder couldn’t be heard through the water. All the undead creatures in the ocean were gathered there to witness the shocking battle.

After that day, in the years to come, they would all remember that a young god once arrived and turned the entire Naihe Soul Ocean upside down!

Deep at the bottom of the ocean—

Su Ping descended straight down, in pure darkness. There were hundreds of souls around him in the beginning, but only a dozen of them were left. All of them looked hideous, and yet Su Ping felt warm and safe among them.

He looked back, and saw that the battlefield was getting further and further behind. He was gradually unable to see the Celestial gods clearly, but he knew that they must have tried their best to hold back twice as many enemies.

“Gods...”

Su Ping was nursing conflicting feelings. His prejudice and hostility caused by the Rain Clan had vanished at that point.

Even though the Rain Clan was still his mortal enemy, there were other clans in the world of gods, and some of them could be friendly.

Maybe some of the other clans would become his enemies in the future. But even if he had to fight them in the future, he would respect their spirit and their pride after that day.

They were truly proud to their very bones!

“The Abyssal Hole is right up ahead. Even the Nether Dragon doesn’t dare to step in.

“The Nether Dragon only watches over the Abyssal Hole. If you go inside, he won’t dare to chase you down,” said the Ascendant souls escorting Su Ping.

They looked weird, and their voices were nasty; completely unlike the honorable gods. However, Su Ping could see the glittering godly souls in their bodies through their creepy appearances!

“Many thanks!” Su Ping said.

“Go now.”

“We can only take you up to this point. You must rely on yourself for the rest of the journey.”

“If there’s ever a chance, tell others that we’ve made contributions to our god kind!”

All the gods’ souls stopped; they could not move any closer. There was a terrifying power in front of the Abyssal Hole which was lethal to them, since they weren’t protected by physical shells.

Su Ping nodded hard. “You are not unknown souls. I will remember you.”

2

The dozen souls were all smiles, even though it made them seem weird; creepy even.

Without further ado, Su Ping quickly charged further down.

The Abyssal Hole was at the bottom of the ocean. That was the first time for Su Ping to touch the bottom of an ocean after such a long time swimming. He could feel rocks and sand, but it was too dark for him to see anything clearly. There were also unknown floating tentacles.

The place looked like the crater of an inactive undersea volcano; the edge of the crater was cracked, making it look like a huge mouth.

Su Ping could feel the soul power flowing out of the crater. It was so pure that he even had the illusion that it was different from the soul power he had sensed in the outside world.

Is this pure soul power? Su Ping gradually approached the area, astonished by what he could feel. As far as he knew, the power of the undead was evil, but the soul power he was sensing at the moment was as pure as glass. It wasn't evil in the slightest.

"It's even cleaner than divine power..." Su Ping said to himself without even thinking.

He gradually approached the crater and gazed inside for a moment, feeling that something inside was gazing back at him.

He heard thunder when he was about to enter, then suddenly remembered that he was still in the middle of a tribulation.

2

The vortex caused by the Heavenly Tribulation had persistently chased him down to his current spot.

Chapter 1186: Eternity

Boom~!

The thunder reached such a remote place, all the way from the sky above the ocean. It was as if a dragon were bellowing amongst the thunderclouds.

Su Ping raised his head.

It was impossible for him to avoid the Heavenly Tribulation.

I'll become a Star Lord once I pass this tribulation. In that case, let's just get it over with... Su Ping stopped in front of the Abyssal Hole. The vortex had extended all the way down and reached him. Inside the vortex was an area similar to a void, but it was actually much more special in comparison.

There was no time or space within the vortex.

Su Ping would be hit directly when the lightning bolts struck down.

More undead creatures were entering the vortex and attracting lightning strikes at the moment. The thunderclouds above the ocean were still growing in size. Su Ping could almost see them, even though he was at the bottom of the ocean. The current distance between him and the Heavenly Tribulation was similar to that between the Blue Planet and the sun. It wasn't hard to imagine how massive the thunderclouds were.

1

Su Ping stood straight and took a deep breath.

He pushed the last stream of strength inside his body to break the bottleneck. All his cells were mutating and dissecting, producing greater power and space inside them.

In the meantime, the internal structures of his cells were also changing, becoming even more solid.

Bang!

Right after Su Ping took that step, the Heavenly Tribulation was activated, and the first lightning bolt struck down.

The entire ocean seemed to have been illuminated by the golden lightning bolt. Just like a roaring dragon, it swooped down and instantly penetrated the entire Naihe Soul Ocean as it moved towards Su Ping. It dazzled his eyes and entered his body.

The lightning bolt suddenly vanished, leaving only a golden afterglow.

Back in the ocean's bottom—Su Ping reappeared after the glow receded. His clothes were torn, revealing his tight muscles and chest. Golden hair fluttering, he gazed at the thunderclouds with eyes that looked like brilliant stars.

"He survived it!"

"That lightning strike could have killed an Ascendant, but he survived it!"

"What a terrifying young god!"

"Is he going through a tribulation to reach the Ascendant State? Why do I feel that he carries Ascendant power?"

The undead creatures floating around the vortex were gazing at the man standing at the very depths of the sea with a mix of shock and suspicion. Only when the lightning glowed could they see Su Ping's face; otherwise, they would only be able to see the dark bottom of the ocean, and the light caused by the fierce battles above Su Ping.

"That kid did reach the Abyssal Hole."

Somewhere in the ocean—the black bird had yet to leave. It saw where Su Ping was thanks to the lightning and was rather shocked, not expecting that such a weak god could really achieve that. It dawned on the creature why its king would ask him to escort Su Ping. That young god was indeed special!

However, he's catching a lot of attention... The black bird gazed at the depths of the ocean with concern in its eyes.

Boom~!

The second lightning bolt was gathering in the clouds right then. There seemed to be countless interlocked snakes of gold that were forming a terrifying chain.

The lightning bolt struck down without any warning.

Su Ping couldn't help but roar at the sky as he felt death looming over him. Five small worlds appeared behind his back and illuminated the entire bottom of the sea.

He roared and suddenly punched upwards.

His fist gathered the power of five small worlds, which seemed ready to shatter the sky and suppress the world.

Su Ping had already understood the deeper essence of the Fist of Exorcist by then. His punch carried both the aura and the power of the Ascendant State!

His fist roared, and the lightning bolt struck down. A soundless explosion burst out inside the vortex; the bottom of the ocean became brilliant. All the mysteries in the darkness were exposed.

There were actually unimaginably huge bones lying at the bottom of the ocean. They seemed to have been there for countless years.

“He survived it yet again.”

“This god is going to reach the Ascendant State in the deepest part of the Naihe Soul Ocean!”

“He’s truly crazy! I’ve long heard that gods are arrogant. I’ve finally seen it with my own eyes.”

Many undead creatures were shocked into silence; they were intimidated by Su Ping.

Thunderclouds spun and paused for a few seconds at that moment. Then, two more lightning bolts struck down; they were bigger and even more powerful.

Su Ping didn’t hold back. Using his arm as a sword, he focused all his strength and swung twice.

Two shocking sword auras cut lightning bolts apart, which covered Su Ping after they were split. He felt as if shot by a million arrows while surrounded by the lightning fragments. The pain was so excruciating that he would have been burnt to ashes if his body weren’t as sturdy.

The tribulation clouds were already far more powerful than those originally caused by him, all because of the undead creatures trespassing. Even Ascendants would have a hard time blocking the attacks, let alone Star Lords!

Not even the tribulations for Ascendants could be any more powerful...

Su Ping was still standing in his original spot once the lightning dispersed, but he was already heavily wounded. There was blood erupting throughout the surface of his body.

He managed to stand straight, however slowly and having difficulty breathing. He then tore off the arm he had used as a sword, as it had already been too damaged to be healed by the path of vitality. The power of the Heavenly Tribulation rendered all of Su Ping’s laws useless; he could only use the power of his small worlds.

After tearing off the blackened arm, Su Ping raised his head and looked at the clouds above him.

It was his Heavenly Tribulation, and he had to see it through the end.

Bang! Bang!

Lightning struck soon after. It seemed that the thunderclouds weren’t planning on giving Su Ping any chance to rest. Some of them landed on his head, and others would split during the fall, piercing him like thousands of snakes about to tear him apart.

“This tribulation is too powerful for him!”

The Night Sky Clan’s prince realized Su Ping’s limits; he wore an awful expression because of it.

They had been trying their best to hold back the Nether Dragon’s subordinates, but there was nothing they could do about the Heavenly Tribulation. Anything they did would only make matters worse. Even though Su Ping had five small worlds, he was only a God Warrior; even the Major Gods would be wary of such a tribulation!

“He hasn’t given up yet, and neither shall we!” the giant toad roared furiously.

“Is the gods’ fate sealed?” Another Celestial soul of the gods was devastated.

“It seems that we failed in the end. This Heavenly Tribulation is too much for someone in his level to bear. Even though his body has been well tempered, he cannot resist without enough power inside his body!” The merman stopped attacking and sneered.

“We only need to wait and watch his destruction,” remarked a soul beast.

“Whoever helps him will get killed. Even the heavens have been alarmed...” said a specter with faces all over his body, hissing coldly.

Bang!

Deep inside the ocean, the lightning bolts kept striking nonstop. It seemed that they wouldn’t rest until they reduced Su Ping to dust.

Su Ping was nowhere to be seen at the end of the lightning bolt rounds. Only the brilliant, golden light could be seen.

After a long, long time—

The lightning bolts finally stopped, and the light at the depths of the ocean finally faded away. Everybody had instantly fixed their eyes in that direction, only to be shocked the next second.

A man was revealed at the end of the lightning bombardment. He was none other than Su Ping.

He wasn’t dead.

However... he couldn’t have looked more miserable at the moment.

Only half his head was left due to the attacks; his back had been bent by the enormous force. His muscles were heavily wounded too, and was more of a ghost than a human at the moment. He was standing there like a half-molten candle.

1

There wasn’t a single inch of his skin intact.

But Su Ping was still alive.

His Ascendant State body had given him unparalleled vitality. Unless his body was completely shattered, or his soul was torn apart, it would be very difficult to kill him.

However, he could only remain handicapped without the healing granted by the vitality law.

“He’s still alive...”

All the undead creatures were stunned.

The Night Sky Clan’s prince and other gods were astounded, deeply shocked by what they saw. Su Ping had survived the fierce lightning strikes... He was gravely wounded, but he didn’t fall!

The young genius of the gods was truly extraordinary!

Even though ghosts didn’t have physical bodies and were incapable of crying, they still felt as if there were tears in their eyes.

“Is it... over?”

Su Ping’s consciousness was humming, while he was shivering and about to fall, just like a willow leaf in the wind. He struggled to raise his head, only to find that the thunderclouds were still hovering up above. They were not done yet.

Su Ping smiled miserably. That Heavenly Tribulation was indeed unbelievable; even he was unable to survive it.

Such a situation came to pass mostly because too many undead creatures entered the tribulation’s range and were mistaken as allies—including Ascendants and Celestials.

Never mind. I’ve already tried my best to survive this long, Su Ping thought.

He waited for the lightning strikes to descend, but there was no reaction from the thunderclouds after a long time passed.

Su Ping then discovered that the vortex before his eyes began to retract.

Meanwhile, the pressure over him was fading away too. Many laws were reviving in his body, which was gradually healing.

The recovery became increasingly faster. Flesh and fingernails were already regrowing on his ragged body.

From his ankles to his calves, the law of vitality was gradually being revealed.

The recovery power allowed him to stand straight. His body got back to normal soon after, as the law of vitality restored him to his peak status.

Is the Heavenly Tribulation over?

Su Ping was dazed for a moment. He then detected that the power inside his body was like a surging ocean. His exhausted strength was replenished thanks to the recovery of the law of life. He couldn’t have felt stronger; he even had the feeling that he could extend his hand and cut the ocean apart.

I’m a real Star Lord right now... Su Ping couldn’t help but take a deep breath. He could already tell that he was much stronger than before.

1

He originally thought that he wouldn't be greatly improved after becoming a Star Lord. After all, he could no longer establish a small world, and the advancement would only increase his power capacity. However, he discovered that not only his capacity to store energy was improved; his body had also been tempered.

3

In addition, all of his laws seemed to have been refined, including his small worlds.

Heavenly Tribulation...

As he remembered the epiphany he had when he weathered through the tribulation, Su Ping realized that he figured out a new way to establish a small world. His eyes glowed.

Su Ping looked up while holding back his excitement. Darkness surrounded him again as the vortex retreated. However, Su Ping still saw the merman and the other Celestials.

Su Ping no longer dared to stay there. There was no more protection from the tribulation, so he had to break free as soon as possible.

Whoosh!

Su Ping turned around in an instant, then ran towards the Abyssal Hole behind him.

He was so close that he had already entered it before anyone could react.

The enormous hole was extremely cold; he felt a freezing coldness in his soul.

Su Ping looked back. *I don't think they're chasing me.* His perception radius had been compressed to five hundred meters before; it was expanded to a thousand meters again.

He was slightly relieved to find that nobody was chasing him. Then, he continued diving to the depths of the Abyssal Hole.

Su Ping felt that the soul power around him became increasingly special as he descended. The impurities found in the soul power were removed, only the most essential power of the undead remaining.

What pure energy...

Su Ping found himself in the absolute darkness of the Abyssal Hole at some point. He couldn't see anything beyond the 300 meter mark; however, he could see some shimmering light around him.

The light looked like plankton, which swam in the darkness of the abyss with glittering tails.

Light seemed to be more present down below. Su Ping focused his power on his eyes and examined carefully, only to find that the light was actually the power of the undead.

The essence of the evil power of the undead is actually this clear and pure!

Is this the origin of soul power?

Su Ping observed the undead power essence and was soon devoted to it.

As he contemplated, Su Ping discovered that it was absolutely different from the power of the undead he had sensed outside. In fact, they were polar opposites!

The essence of the power of the undead made Su Ping feel sacred and inviolable.

Who would have thought that the seemingly most evil power is actually the purest...

They say that the Chaotic Realm of the Undead is the beginning of everything, and soul power is the origin of everything...

The so-called reincarnation is just living another life with a different identity in another world...

The soul is the only thing that doesn't change...

Su Ping's body kept on sinking, going deeper into the Abyssal Hole, although without any sense of gravity. Su Ping didn't feel any of it; even if he did, he didn't consider it a big deal.

Su Ping was completely focused at the moment on the abundant soul power around him. Many thoughts were in his mind.

He soon constructed the prototype of a law inside his body.

It was the law contained by the essence of the power of the undead.

Divine power is about endowment. It endows all creatures with divinity!

Deity power is about construction. It can construct everything, including laws!

The power of the undead... is about eternity!

Time and the world change. Bodies are replaced by another. Only souls are eternal!

Chapter 1187: Perfection

In the depths of the Abyssal Hole, at the bottom of the ocean—

Su Ping was floating in the darkness. The underwater battle was already over. Many gods' souls, including the Night Sky Clan's prince, had died in battle; only some Ascendant souls survived.

The battle between Emperor Yi and the Nether Dragon had also ended. Even emperors like them suffered injuries.

Neither of them could kill the other. It was barely possible for an emperor to kill a peer, unless they were both determined to fight until one of them perished. Nothing could be done if one of them wanted to flee.

A long time had passed since the shocking battle. However, there was no track of time in the Naihe Soul Ocean. According to the perception of the countless undead creatures floating there, "some" time had passed.

However, many of them thought that it happened the day before, every time the battle came to mind. A lot of creatures that lived deeper in the ocean looked at the bottom every now and then; they didn't forget that the young god had eventually entered the Abyssal Hole after stirring the entire ocean.

No one knew whether he was alive or dead.

It would be fine if he was dead.

But if he was still alive... Another battle would probably be raised once he got out.

Outside the Abyssal Hole—the Nether Dragon’s body was coiled around the dark chasm like an infinitely stretching mountain. The soul power erupting from that point brushed its scales.

The wounds suffered in the previous battle had been mostly healed after the brushing.

“What a bunch of idiots!”

The Nether Dragon opened its enormous eyes, then gazed at the deep and bottomless hole with coldness. “Their lives as gods were just one of their countless reincarnations. And yet, they identified themselves as gods and betrayed their original species. We have all been born from the Abyssal Hole. We are eternal souls; nothing like the worthless gods!”

1

“What a bunch of arrogant idiots! Damn it!”

The Nether Dragon was still angry about the battle. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became.

He was both furious and a little bit scared as he looked down.

He had been tasked with defending the Abyssal Hole. Even he would have to suffer if the young god caused a mess down there and disturbed that ominous being.

The Abyssal Hole was a forbidden place for him. The essence of soul power found inside could melt pure souls that weren’t protected by physical shells. He would be melted into the purest soul power if he entered, and be essentially reforged.

That was why all souls kept their distance from that place.

Furthermore, the higher level they were and the purer their soul power was, the faster they would dissolve.

The inferior undead, on the other hand, could struggle for a moment if they fell into the Abyssal Hole. After all, it would take some time for their impurities to be removed.

There are still remnant gods in this place. That young god was undoubtedly a rare genius. Why did the gods send him here? Do they want something from the Abyssal Hole?? Is it possible...

The Nether Dragon’s eyes were cold. If that brat was there to ask for that lord’s help, he would only be delivering himself to the lord’s mouth.

In any case, I will steal his memories and eat him when he comes out. There’s only one exit in this place. Even though the Abyssal Hole attracts the souls of all worlds over to this place, it’s impossible to go back to those worlds, even if he abandons his body...

The Nether Dragon closed his eyes and waited patiently.

Deep inside the Abyssal Hole—

Su Ping floated in the bottomless darkness, while surrounded by soul power that looked like fireflies. The power was attached to Su Ping, giving his body a strange glow.

The light was half silver and half green. The soul power was stuck to Su Ping's skin; some of it even got inside his body and wandered around in his arm.

A strange energy pulse was spread out of Su Ping's body; it was something akin to a heartbeat.

After a long, long time—

Su Ping discovered that the scene before him was different on the day he opened his eyes; no longer completely dark, but lit with a strange green color.

Infinite soul power was wandering in that place. Su Ping focused his attention and looked in one direction. He then saw what seemed to be the wall of the cave through an opening.

There were floating vines on the wall.

Is this the Abyssal Hole? Su Ping was dazed for a moment, and committed that surprising scene to memory.

All his senses had returned by then. He discovered that his body had changed once again; it was filled with soul power that slithered in his cells. Some of the soul power even forced the formation of a vortex inside his body.

Am I... a soul now?

Su Ping raised a hand and saw that it was half real and half illusory; transparent in a way, but it was real flesh.

He touched his hands, and found them extremely cold.

My body has been transformed...

Su Ping gradually understood what had happened to him as he recalled the previous meditation.

He had respectively acquired the Ancient Deity constitution and the Pure God constitution when he established the Small Deity World and the Small Divinity World. He had attained the constitution of a soul after being transformed by the essence of soul power.

The pure essential power of gods and deities had been suppressed deep inside his cells.

The essence of soul power was so strong in that place that he couldn't release them. As a result, it was impossible for him to manifest as a god; he could only retain his form as a soul.

Even if I am to face intangible ghosts, I can still punch them with my current body... Su Ping touched his hands; his back glowed while he thought this.

Those were the shining small worlds.

The Astral world, the Illusory world, the Path Source World... the brilliant Small Divinity World didn't stop glowing after appearing. There was a new dark green light which carried a creepy aura; however, it was also extremely pure.

That was the sixth world established by Su Ping during his recent cultivation.

2

The law of the sixth world was "eternity."

He established the sixth world when he grasped the law. The law of eternity had almost been perfected at the moment.

"The power of eternity, along with the path of life, will be extremely great. Also, it seems to be related to the path of time, as their traits are connected somehow. Maybe I'll be able to progress faster if I fuse them..." Su Ping mumbled to himself.

Su Ping possessed more small worlds than most beings after establishing the sixth world.

At first he didn't think of anything when he established new small worlds. But his understanding became special at that moment.

If he could find something in common amongst the small worlds, maybe he would be able to unite them all!

That was also the requirement for the ninth Astral Painting. There was no telling how strong he would become if he could meet it. Maybe he would be unimaginable.

However, establishing the sixth world is still not the ceiling.

My mentor in the Heaven Path Institute once talked of an Ancestral God who had established seven small worlds before becoming an Ascendant!"

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He had an inspiration about a new small world, back when he was in the abyss' entrance. To be more exact, it was a new law.

The law of Heavenly Tribulation!

He had gained such understanding from the Heavenly Tribulation.

If he could grasp the law, he would be able to establish a small world with it.

However, Su Ping only had the most basic understanding at the moment. He couldn't grasp it fully yet.

Maybe I'll have to resort to the old way. I have to experience other people's Heavenly Tribulations. Su Ping's eyes glittered. He remembered Joanna, and felt eager to return.

But he wasn't in a hurry; he planned to cultivate for a while longer, and wait until his path of eternity was perfected.

I couldn't have understood the path of eternity or established the sixth world without their help. I may encounter those Celestial-level undead lurking at the bottom of the ocean. They're too strong for me right now...

Su Ping shook his head, and dropped the idea of avenging them. He was still too weak.

However, he didn't know how strong he was at the moment.

With a thought, he displayed the rank of all species.

He was the best of all humans when he was in the Star State.

It was inevitable that his ranking would drop after becoming a Star Lord. However, he had established a sixth world as a Star Lord. There was no telling what his ranking would be.

Su Ping soon communicated with the system to have the human ranking displayed.

Second place!

Su Ping raised his eyebrows in surprise, but then found it understandable.

He was the second best human Star Lord ever, since the dawn of humanity; his talent was almost unparalleled.

If he would only have five small worlds after the tribulation, maybe his ranking would have been significantly lower.

It seems that there are plenty of geniuses amongst human beings. I have six small worlds, and an Ascendant State body, but I only rank second... I wonder how talented the guy at the very top is. Does he have seven small worlds?

Su Ping wasn't disappointed. He had conflicting feelings, though.

Right. The system mentioned that I wasn't his first host. In that case...

"You're right. Li Jianqiu, whose ranking was higher than yours, was also a host I picked." The system's voice sounded in Su Ping's head.

Su Ping was surprised.

This damn system is indeed reading my thoughts all the time!

"I didn't expect that you would have someone else on the side! You cheater." Su Ping felt jealous. However, he realized that it had existed for countless years since it was connected to many universes.

It was a good thing that the system finally had another host after such a long time. He should feel happy for it.

At least, it should be less lonely with a host.

The system was silent for a long time, choosing not to respond.

"Why didn't you warn me for yelling at you?" Su Ping was curious.

A moment later—the system finally said indifferently, "I have no idea what you're talking about. Cut the crap."

"Why are you cursing? I didn't say anything," said Su Ping angrily.

The system didn't reply.

"Well, was that Li Jianqiu famous? What happened to him? Did he establish seven small worlds?" asked Su Ping curiously.

After a moment of silence—the system finally said, "He was as brilliant as the sun during his age; even young kids knew him. That's right; he established five small worlds in the Star State and seven small worlds as a Star Lord, all before he finally entered the Ascendant State!"

Su Ping instantly had a clear picture.

It seemed that he had been lucky to have ranked at the top back when he was in the Star State. Maybe he was slightly better off than that guy in some other respect.

"How did he die then?" asked Su Ping curiously.

The system was silent for a long time.

Su Ping waited. Right when he was about to skip that somewhat sensitive question and talk about a different topic to lighten up the atmosphere—the system said unemotionally, "He wasn't strong enough. He died valiantly in battle; he was a great swordsman whose sword could cut apart the skies, but he preferred to be a mortal rather than a deity."

Su Ping was dazed.

He had died in battle.

Even though the system sounded unemotional, Su Ping could sense the system's sentimental fiber. Perhaps he had picked up on the system's subtle changes after being its host for a long time.

After such a long companionship, Su Ping regarded it as a partner keeping him company all the time.

He couldn't consider his partner a cold intelligent machine.

"He must have been very strong; was he as strong as an Ancestral God?" asked Su Ping prudently. It wouldn't be surprising for the guy to become the strongest in the universe with the help of the system. *But how did he die in battle? Was he too careless? Or was it due to something else?*

"I'll tell you when you reach the Ascendant State." The system seemed to have lost interest in talking. It fell completely silent after saying that.

Su Ping called out several times, but received no response. He felt somewhat conflicted at the moment.

He had the feeling that he would eventually have to face a life-and-death battle.

Everything he had seen in the cultivation sites suggested that an enormous storm was waiting for him somewhere in the distant future.

Su Ping shook his head, hoping that he was only being paranoid. He refocused his attention and checked the rank of all species.

Twelve!

He was the twelfth!

Su Ping was slightly surprised to see the number.

He had thought that his ranking would plummet after becoming a Star Lord. After all, even though the level advancement didn't mean much to him, it was a big deal when comparing geniuses.

Some of them stayed in the Star State for a short period of time, and they often cultivated much longer as Star Lords.

That was to be expected, since the breakthrough to the Ascendant State was quite challenging. The more they cultivated, the stronger they would become after reaching breaking through!

So, there were many more geniuses that stayed as Star Lords than those who stayed in the Star State.

Out of his own expectations, he ranked twelfth after establishing six small worlds; he almost made it to the top ten!

It had to be noted that one of the eleven people above him was Li Jianqiu, a human being!

There are only a few geniuses that are stronger than me among all species... Su Ping thought. Not making it to the top ten was indeed a bit disappointing, but he was still thrilled because of the height he had reached.

His ranking would certainly rise again if he cultivated the law of Heavenly Tribulation.

Su Ping took a deep breath and continued cultivating.

Su Ping's path of eternity was finally perfected after a long time passed. His body had been completely transformed into that of a soul. He could be melted into the Abyssal Hole.

Su Ping also detected that he wasn't just a regular soul. His body was made of crystals that were refined from soul power; he was much stronger than regular souls.

Chapter 1188: Bottom of the Abyss

Skeletons, ghosts, specters and apparitions are all made of soul power.

Soul power is what motivates them.

Su Ping changed his opinion about undead creatures when he reached such an understanding. He could even transform into any type of undead creature by adjusting his soul power.

That kind of power would be an ultimate treasure for the Little Skeleton.

However, Su Ping didn't intend to summon the Little Skeleton right away. The Abyssal Hole was too much for the Little Skeleton to bear; the little one would probably dissolve immediately, even if it could resurrect.

Su Ping needed to set a "dosage", so that the Little Skeleton could gradually adapt itself to the new environment.

This Abyssal Hole... seems to be alive.

Su Ping seemed to be coordinated with the essential soul power around him somehow, while his soul was condensed.

His senses were no longer restrained during his coordination. Rather, they spread out quickly, much more widely than he could normally perceive, and easily detected the contours of the entire Abyssal Hole.

Su Ping then noticed something was off about the Abyssal Hole thanks to his expanded senses.

There was some sort of pulse in the cave, as if a living creature were breathing there. The cave contained a type of special power he couldn't understand.

Su Ping swam deeper into the cave.

He gradually felt that he was getting closer to that special power as he went down.

Finally, Su Ping felt that his body was shivering at some point.

His senses seemed to be obstructed in the cave below; he saw nothing but darkness.

A dim silver light gradually popped up in the middle of the darkness.

There were amber mottles mixed in the light. Upon closer look, Su Ping discovered that it looked like a pupil!

There was an eyeball gazing at him in the abyss.

An unfathomable power instantly surrounded Su Ping and stopped him from moving.

Is this how recklessness often leads to death...?

Su Ping's heart pounded. He was so frightened that his skin was on the verge of exploding. The fear was beyond his control; it had nothing to do with his own willpower. The fear made his blood flow and his heartbeat accelerate; he would have turned around and fled if it weren't for his willpower.

That is, on the premise that he could still control his body.

That's definitely stronger than a God Emperor... Su Ping's heart shivered. He remembered the fear he felt when Mo Feng summoned the Ancestral God's projection during their battle.

He was even more frightened at the moment. His body was almost falling apart; it was as if all his cells were going to abandon him and disperse.

I was only confronting the Ancestral God's projection back then. Am I facing an Ancestral God monster right now?

Su Ping no longer dared to think about it.

Who could tell what that thing was, buried in the deepest part of the Abyssal Hole.

Time passed, one second after the other. Su Ping was paralyzed in the dark, all beyond his control. He suddenly felt a push after a long time passed, right when he felt he was about to collapse.

The next second—he was launched at an unprecedented speed. All the soul power in the cave dispersed and made way for him.

1

Su Ping's body rushed out of the cave like a rocket!

Su Ping was able to see the full picture after leaving the cave. He also saw the Nether Dragon coiled around the Abyssal Hole. The dragon saw him too. It opened its cold and furious eyes and was about to chase him after noticing that Su Ping was dashing away as fast as light.

Roar!

The Nether Dragon couldn't help but roar. It was going to attract Su Ping with its power, but it retreated the moment its power reached Su Ping, as if bitten by a snake, or after touching the light of a candle!

"It's..."

The Nether Dragon opened its eyes in shock and fear.

Did it detect the aura of that lord coming off Su Ping?

1

Whoosh!

In the blink of an eye—Su Ping left the Nether Dragon's sight, and flew straight upwards.

The water in the ocean split up and gave way. All the soul beasts and undead creatures in his path dodged him. Those who failed to move in time were crushed to little pieces by an invisible power before they touched Su Ping. Whatever was left of them fell from the sky...

Su Ping quickly saw that all the scenes before him were flying backwards and reducing in size. The Abyssal Hole turned into a point, and the gargantuan Nether Dragon turned into a worm, until they disappeared.

The water was quickly moving backwards too. His body suddenly emerged from the ocean at some point.

Finally, the force imposed on him stopped.

Su Ping looked down, only to find that he was already floating in the sky above the ocean.

It only took five seconds—he had moved all the way back to the surface of the Naihe Soul Ocean, directly from the bottomless Abyssal Hole.

To think he had gone through all that trouble to sneak his way down, when it was that easy for him to come back.

"I've been kicked out?" Su Ping looked at the ocean in a daze. He originally thought his death was certain, never expecting that he would be ousted.

That being was so powerful that it could have killed him with a single thought.

That thing... wasn't trying to hurt me. Su Ping pondered.

He was absolutely unscathed.

He had swiftly returned to the surface without being hurt, which suggested that the guy had only wanted to drive him away.

Was that a gesture of kindness?

Why was that thing so kind hearted?

"I stayed in the Abyssal Hole for such a long time. Maybe it had noticed me long before, but it didn't drive me away back then..." Su Ping mumbled, and found the place odd.

Hiss!

While Su Ping considered this—the ocean began to stir, and a tremendous number of undead creatures charged out of the ocean and headed towards him.

Su Ping had to focus. He would probably be able to find the answer if he came back when he became strong enough.

As for right then...

"I'll practice with you for now." Su Ping didn't go back immediately. Since he had exited the ocean safely, it was a good opportunity to test the effects of his cultivation.

He didn't hesitate to unleash all his strength as the tremendous number of undead creatures surged towards him. He showed all of his six small worlds, which glowed like wheels and endowed him with the terrifying power of worlds.

Su Ping charged at the creatures, causing a bloody storm; many of them were annihilated. The power of Su Ping's fists and feet could easily shock those Star Lord undead creatures.

All of them were Star Lords, but they were no different from chickens in Su Ping's eyes.

The soul power dispersed as the creatures died, which attracted more creatures to the place, including those of Ascendant realm.

There were apparitions, ghosts, Dark Demons, and many more.

Su Ping went on a killing spree with his iron fists. He discovered that not even the Ascendant undead could endure his punch!

My soul entity seems to be even more attractive to them than a god's body is! Su Ping discovered that the undead creatures were unusually excited and greedy as they fought. They were even more rampant than when he snuck into the Naihe Soul Ocean as a god.

Su Ping had an epiphany. *Right, while a god's body is great nutrition for them, my soul entity is even more nutritional. If they consume me, there will be a chance for them to transform into essential souls, so that they will no longer be bound by race or bloodline...*

His current body couldn't be underestimated.

All creatures were bound by bloodline. Some dragons could reach no higher than the Ocean State, and some were bound below the Fate State. Other dragons with greater bloodlines, however, could become Star Lords or enter the Ascendant State.

The young Chaos Beast, for example, had the ultimate bloodline. It could cultivate and turn into a grand monster as strong as an Ancestral God!

It would become a Celestial when it reached adulthood.

That was why bloodline mattered.

Even though Su Ping was a human being, his physical attributes had already been changed. He didn't know the upper limit of his soul entity, but it was definitely more powerful than normal constitutions!

Bang!

Su Ping punched out again; his green soul power burned as furiously as flames did. An Ascendant monster was hit and instantly set ablaze; it screamed miserably, and a huge hole appeared on his body soon after.

The monster had to tear off the burning part, becoming greatly weakened as a result. It had been ambushed by another Ascendant soul before it lunged at him again.

Su Ping roared and fought his way out of that chaotic battlefield. Then, he suddenly switched to an ancient deity's constitution. The Small Deity World surged and covered his body, then compressed and disappeared.

The undead creatures chasing him watched as he disappeared; they looked around but lost their target.

Deities are truly experts when it comes to hiding, Su Ping thought. He had disappeared while everybody was watching; even the Ascendant creatures were unable to locate him. He was a real genius in terms of saving his life.

Su Ping communicated with the system and chose to return after dashing over a short distance.

The returning space channel surfaced, and Su Ping soon went from the terrible Naihe Soul Ocean back to the simple and ancient pet room.

Su Ping was greatly relieved to see the familiar environment. He took off his disguise and concealed his aura, restoring his human appearance.

Su Ping opened the door and went outside. He discovered that it was late at night, but it was still very busy outside the store. Many customers were talking while waiting in line.

It is busy as always... Su Ping remarked. He suddenly thought that it was time for the training efficiency of his store to be improved, or the customers would have to spend a long time waiting.

"You're back." Tang Ruyan and the others who were resting inside the store noticed him.

They only needed to receive the customers during the day and send the pets into the pet storage; they didn't need to do anything else. Joanna could easily heal injured pets whenever they received them. After all, her peak Ascendant self was there; it was really easy for her to treat normal pets.

Su Ping nodded.

The sutra old man was seated on the couch. He had changed his old-fashioned clothes into a set of casual leisure wear with a pair of sunglasses; he couldn't have looked more fashionable. He pushed his glasses and looked at Su Ping, only to be shocked. "You seem to have grown again."

Su Ping was dumbfounded after seeing the old man's attire. "You're wearing sunglasses in the middle of the night?"

2

"It doesn't affect my eyesight," said the sutra old man.

"..."

Su Ping was lost for words, and had to change the subject. "How long have I been cultivating?"

"Three months," replied Tang Ruyan immediately, laced with complaints. Su Ping had been spending less and less time in the store as of late. He was either traveling outside or training in seclusion; it was getting harder for her to meet him.

"So long..."

Su Ping was surprised. He immediately remembered the days when he cultivated in the Abyssal Hole. He had indeed lost track of time, thinking it had only been a few days.

"Something happened outside recently. Your master sent for you and left you a message," said Joanna softly while gazing at him.

Su Ping looked at her. He had to admit that Joanna's original self was even more stunning than her clone. She was mature and charming; her previous clone was more or less juvenile despite her majestic tone.

Joanna's original self was an authentic goddess of war. She looked like an elegant lady when she smiled, but she would turn into a fearsome battle goddess when she frowned!

"What's the matter?" asked Su Ping straight away.

He remembered Old Monster Ye. *Did the guy cause any trouble during these three months?*

"The deity that left here earlier sent someone to attack us. Fortunately, it was noticed in time. Otherwise, the entire planet would have been destroyed."

Joanna continued, "Your master had seen it coming, and sent some of your senior brothers to protect this planet. They stopped him in time, or the customers would have suffered."

Su Ping was sullen and dazed.

Had that old monster not caused enough trouble in the universe? Is he that eager for revenge?

"I thought he wouldn't come at us until his own force was established. I didn't expect him to be so hasty..." Su Ping's eyes were cold.

“What a shame!”

The sutra old man heaved a sigh. “I know Ye Chen well; he never postpones revenge. It’s already remarkable that he held back for this long.”

“That old monster was as cautious as always. He didn’t come in person; probably because he was scared of your master. He simply sent some Ascendants he hired.” The cauldron woman was clad in wild attire on the couch; with bandages as her bra, her abdomen and collarbone were exposed.

Su Ping sneered. Perhaps the guy wasn’t scared of his master; more like scared of the store.

He had probably sent the Ascendant cultivators to destroy the planet and find out how the store would fight back.

Tang Ruyan comforted Su Ping, “Your master has pulled this planet closer to the Celestial Court in case he sends more attackers. I don’t think that devil would dare come again.”

Chapter 1189: New Direction

“Thank you very much, master.” Su Ping nodded.

Although he was unafraid of Old Monster Ye’s attacking the store, the other residents on that planet were innocent. Even a powerful Star Lord would have destroyed it easily, not to mention Ascendants!

Considering the old monster’s personality, he could have sent several loyal Star Lords capable of destroying the planet, which would possibly aid him in figuring out the trigger for the store’s counterattack.

“Are you going to train in seclusion again?” Joanna asked Su Ping. She could tell that he was significantly stronger than before. It seemed that he would make great progress after each training session, even without her help.

“I’m going to rest for a few days, and then visit and thank my master,” said Su Ping.

Even though he was eager to cultivate, he could wait for a day or two.

Besides, he needed to consolidate and digest what he had just picked up.

“You’re going to leave the store?” asked Tang Ruyan nervously. “Even though this planet has been relocated by your master to the Celestial Court and is protected by him, it’s possible that the old monster will send Ascendant State assassins. None of the guards present will be able to help you if you leave the store. As for me...”

She bit her lips. Even though she could leave the store, she was simply too weak. Even a Star Lord could beat her easily, let alone someone in the Ascendant realm.

Su Ping chuckled and said, “That’s fine. I don’t think that the old monster is going to come in person. And even if he does come, my master will be there for him. As for the Ascendant assassins... they cannot hurt me.”

He believed that Old Monster Ye was too busy reorganizing his subordinates to leave his base and attack the Celestial Court.

The old guy could only send some Ascendant assassins at best. After all, he could have been defeated by any Ascendant when he last showed up. But the situation had changed.

“Huh?”

Joanna and the others in the store felt dazed after hearing his answer.

The information he had just revealed was too shocking.

Ascendant State assassins can't hurt him?

They couldn't help but gaze at Su Ping. Could it be that he had already entered the Ascendant State and was only pretending to be weak?

After staring at him for a moment, the sutra old man asked in confusion, “You haven't reached the Ascendant State yet, have you?”

“Not yet.” Su Ping chuckled. “But it shouldn't be a problem for me to deal with normal Ascendants. Even if I can't kill them, I'd still be able to ensure my own safety.”

Everybody was shocked upon hearing that.

The breakthrough to the Ascendant State was hard to achieve. However, Su Ping was claiming that he could deal with normal Ascendants? Normally speaking, if Star State warriors could challenge Star Lords, they would be considered unparalleled geniuses. After all, very few in the entire universe were able to condense small worlds while in the Star State.

However, the gap between a Star Lord and an Ascendant was even bigger. There had rarely been anyone able to do that in the history of gods and deities.

All those capable of doing that were mythical figures; young Deity Kings, God Emperors, and even people on higher levels.

“Are you serious? You mustn't joke on this matter. You may die,” said the cauldron woman with a frown.

Su Ping looked at her and wore a bigger smile. “You're right. Let's go to the test room and have a spar. It just so happens that I haven't fought other types of Ascendants yet.”

“All right.” The cauldron woman quickly accepted the request and rubbed her hands. “It was you who proposed the practice; don't blame me when you get beaten up.”

“Sure,” Su Ping replied with a smile.

The two of them instantly left for the pet test room.

Joanna and Green Lady looked at each other, then followed after them. Both had noticed that Su Ping had improved significantly, but they were eager to find out if he was as strong as he claimed.

After all, cultivators would tend to feel overly proud when their strength was rapidly increased, thinking that no one was their match. But that was just an illusion; they would know the harsh reality when they encountered a tough rival.

Inside the test room—

Su Ping and the cauldron woman stood in position. The test room was adjusted to recreate space. The room instantly changed from an empty room with a coverage of a hundred square meters to an infinite void with stars in the distance.

The cauldron woman looked around and remarked, “It’s barely possible even for me to change space like this. Whoever did this must be at least a Deity King.”

“Come on.” Su Ping was ready to start.

The cauldron woman grinned cunningly. “Can’t wait to be beaten up, huh? I’ll show you what great power is!”

Su Ping instantly attacked.

Boom!

Her aura burst out, warping the surrounding void. Su Ping, on the other hand, dashed quickly into the seventh space.

The ancient whispers and the compressed energy of the universe in deep space couldn’t affect his body, which stunned Joanna, Green Lady and the others. The sutra old man changed his expression. “His body is as sturdy as Green Lady’s?” His voice was full of shock and disbelief.

The cauldron woman instantly realized that something was off. Feeling shocked, she quickly expanded and became almost eight meters tall, unleashing abundant and scorching heat that came from the fire in her body.

1

Bang, bang!

The two of them instantly clashed. The cauldron woman waved her fist, performing deity techniques as well as ancient body skills. Her hands were covered in a fire that could melt any weapon. That was also why the other Golden Deities had tried to keep their distance from her when fighting.

However, the use of fire seemed rather hilarious in her battle against Su Ping.

Su Ping was covered by an extremely pure and hot fiery power, his body gradually turning brilliant and golden. He switched to the original god constitution.

Golden flames were burning, originating from the dazzling divine power. They were the flames of the Golden Crow.

“The original god constitution...” Joanna was too stunned for words when she noticed his constitution.

She had never seen such a pure constitution, even back when she was in a high-ranked clan. Only the princes of the seven clans could possibly attain it!

Boom!

The flames were interweaving in the void. Su Ping was actually on par with the cauldron woman. Dazzling light burst out after each collision.

The void was filled with fire. Even though they fought in the vacuum of space, the fire was real because it wasn't caused by the burning of substances, but by a power beyond laws. It was a fire from a higher dimension!

"This is great!"

Su Ping swung his fist, feeling as if he were smashing iron. He combined his fist technique with the Sky Execution Sword Technique, making his punch both forceful and piercing.

Dong, dong, dong!

The cauldron woman's fist produced heavy sounds. She unleashed all her strength and roared, but she was still unable to suppress Su Ping; she was constantly being forced back instead.

She found it hard to believe, and felt frustrated because of it. The kid had been completely vulnerable in her eyes not long before. However, it only took a year for him to grow that much; she wasn't able to suppress him anymore.

Most importantly, Su Ping had yet to reach the Ascendant State!

If he reached her realm, wouldn't he be able to crush her completely?

But I am an emperor-level cauldron! roared the cauldron woman in her heart. The fire covering her hands turned from red to purple, gaining much more power. Meanwhile, she performed many other techniques, surrounding Su Ping with meteors and tornadoes.

However, Su Ping simply weathered through the destructive techniques with his body; none of the attacks was able to hurt him.

"God's Arrival!" Su Ping suddenly bellowed and smashed forth with his fist, unleashing fifty percent of his power in an instant. The attack transformed into a golden fist that was as brilliant as the sun.

The cauldron woman narrowed her eyes and hurriedly resisted the attack with her full strength. She summoned auras and giant shields with her power, but the fist penetrated all her defenses and struck her.

The piercing power of the fist was spread to a planet far in the distance. The planet shook violently, leaving a huge fist mark. Dust arose on the planet just like the detonation of a nuclear explosion.

The planet, which seemed barren and desolate, was on the verge of collapsing.

The aftermath of his punch was already that terrifying!

Seeing that Su Ping was about to charge again, the cauldron woman quickly shouted, "Wait, let's stop here!"

Su Ping stopped in time. Then, he saw that the cauldron woman's arms were twisted, with fist marks on them.

She rubbed her arms in frustration. “How can your body be harder than mine? I wouldn’t have fought you had I known.”

“Every man should be hard.” Su Ping chuckled in delight.

5

The cauldron woman’s body was clearly on the top tier of the Ascendant State. He had tested his physical sturdiness in the cultivation sites and was unparalleled in the Ascendant State. He had also seen it during the present testing.

I do owe the humans of the Archean Divinity a big favor. However, besides the countless rare materials they offered, my body has been polished and hardened by original divine power and original soul power. That’s why it’s so sturdy right now... Su Ping remarked in his heart.

His body had only reached the mid tier of the Ascendant State back in the Ember Palace—

However, it had been further enhanced in the Divine Eye and the Abyssal Hole. His Golden Crow bloodline had also been improved. In terms of physical strength, he was already on the top tier of the Ascendant State.

I haven’t used the power of my six small worlds yet. If I use all my strength, I probably will be able to fight against Heavenly Lords... Su Ping thought.

“Is this how effective this ancient store’s grooming is?” The sutra old man was shocked as he watched in the distance. Su Ping had been improving astonishingly fast. Maybe it wouldn’t be long before he could step over Ye Chen. It was inevitable. Even if he were still by Ye Chen’s side and offering aid, there would still be no stopping Su Ping!

A storm is raised every time this ancient store reveals itself. I seem to have encountered this one, the sutra old man thought. He couldn’t help but look forward to the future. He had read the information from some ancient books, thinking it was just a tale. However, this time, he was there to witness the whole thing.

The cauldron woman was angry after admitting defeat. She thought that Su Ping had pretended to be weak to lure her into challenging him and later humiliate her. She stormed off once she regained her normal human form, too embarrassed to stay there.

Joanna, Green Lady and the others snapped out of their stupor; they looked at each other with conflicting expressions.

They had watched Su Ping grow from a weak human being to a strong expert. They thought it would take him at least hundreds of years to reach their height. However, Su Ping had torn down their expectations.

He said he didn’t need to eat me to reach the Celestial State... Green Lady’s eyes glittered. She now believed what Su Ping had told her in the past. Indeed, that young man didn’t need her help; he could reach the Celestial State on his own.

“Great, great!”

On the other hand, Tang Ruyan hopped and applauded in delight. Even though she couldn't understand the battle at all, she saw the cauldron woman admit defeat; she felt both shocked and happy.

She had been following Su Ping for the longest time. He hadn't even reached the Ocean State yet when he captured her. However, he miraculously rescued the Blue Planet and traveled to the Federation. He had worked so many miracles that she was no longer surprised; she could only feel proud of him.

2

Su Ping canceled his power and switched to his human body; his divine power and golden light faded away. He smiled at the women who were at the moment feeling happy for him.

Su Ping talked to them about recent events after leaving the test room. He opened the door at midnight, hoping to get some fresh air. But then, he only saw the long line of customers; the fat mouse under the statue was gone.

Su Ping felt dazed; he turned around and asked Joanna, "Where's the Lightning Rat?"

Joanna replied, "There was a girl who constantly fed the little one. She signed a contract with the rat and took it away half a month ago."

4

He was stunned for a moment. Su Ping remembered the girls he had met a couple of months before; one of them was clearly very fond of the Lightning Rat.

"This little fella..."

Su Ping raised his head and looked at the gigantic moon in the sky. He couldn't help but put on a smile of relief. "It seems that it's finally willing to let go."

The Lightning Rat had been staying outside the store for a very long time. Many of the customers had noticed the little fella that always slept outside of Su Ping's extraordinary store, and had attempted to take it away. Some truly liked it, and some had other purposes.

However, they all failed.

Only the girl had successfully changed its mind. She helped the Lightning Rat escape from the gloom of the past and find a new person to protect.

Some things aren't as bad as I thought. They will eventually pass.

Su Ping truly felt happy for the Lightning Rat. After all, it was the very first pet he had trained. He was fond of it.

Even the Lightning Rat could free itself from the past and find a new life. Is Old Monster Ye truly a big deal?

Su Ping chuckled and said goodbye to Joanna and the others. He was planning on visiting his master to express his gratitude in person.

Chapter 1190: Clash of Celestial State Experts

In the Celestial Court—

In the very center of the Golden Star Zone, emitting eternal light like dozens of stars.

There was no dark night; it was always as brilliant as a diamond.

The Celestial Court was extremely vast, surrounded by natural satellites that were very prosperous.

Once he approached the Celestial Court, Su Ping saw that Rhea was spinning around on a nearby orbit.

Whoosh!

“Junior brother,” said a clear and loud voice all of a sudden. Su Ping turned around, only to see a young man with black hair and black eyes clad in a black robe behind him. The guy had a cold face, but he put on a smile when he looked at Su Ping. “Are you going to see Master?”

“And you are...?”

Su Ping looked at him in surprise. He couldn't help but wonder if the guy was his Ascendant senior brother who had been protecting Rhea.

“I'm your thirteenth senior brother. You may call me Senior Brother Ye Feng,” said the young man with a smile.

Once enlightened, Su Ping quickly said, “Thank you for your help, senior brother.”

“I'm merely carrying out our master's instructions. I've heard so much about you, junior brother. You condensed a small world in the Fate State and then created multiple small worlds. If the legacy hadn't been fake you would have been a young Celestial right now.” Ye Feng chuckled; he clearly liked Su Ping.

“You're being too kind. I was only lucky.”

“No need to underestimate yourself.”

“I was only lucky.”

“...”

Ye Feng put on a helpless smile, putting an end to the niceties. He said, “The Celestial devil sent someone to assassinate you a while back. Master didn't want you to know it, fearing that it would disturb your cultivation. But the matter got too big; I hope you don't mind. Master has moved your planet near the Celestial Court; I don't think the old devil would dare send anyone again.”

Su Ping nodded. “I'm on my way to meet Master and thank him for this.”

“You're very courteous, junior brother.” Ye Feng smiled. “I shall accompany you on the journey then.”

“Okay.”

Su Ping and Ye Feng went straight to the palace on top of the Celestial Court where Shen Huang lived.

There were a lot of checkpoints and secret arrays on the way; Ye Feng simply waved and passed them all.

Ye Feng decided to find a topic as they traveled. “Junior brother, you haven’t cultivated for long, have you?”

“Indeed. I have only cultivated for about fifty years in total,” said Su Ping.

He was no older than thirty in the universe, but he had spent quite a long time in cultivation sites. He didn’t really know how long.

“You’re already a Star Lord before fifty years of age. How young.”

“It’s not that hard.”

“Haha...”

End of conversation. They fell quiet again.

Su Ping looked at Ye Feng, and thought that he should find a topic too, or else he would seem cold and unfriendly.

“Well, Senior Brother Ye Feng, what have you been busy with?”

“Me? I’ve been looking out for you as per our master’s instructions.”

“Oh right. I forgot.”

1

Su Ping coughed, then looked at the passing scenery around him, suddenly thinking that it didn’t look bad at all. He said, “The Celestial Court is very beautiful, isn’t it?”

3

“Yes.”

“...”

A long while later—

1

The two of them finally reached the palace.

Hardly had Su Ping arrived when he detected an assortment of auras. Several gargantuan spaceships had been docked above the palace; they had unique appearances and seemed intimidating.

Even though the spaceships weren’t alive, Su Ping somehow found them dangerous; it seemed that they carried a great amount of firepower.

“That’s a spaceship from the Red Fire Star Zone. It’s Zhurong¹, which belongs to the leader of the star zone!

“That spaceship which carries a flag with purple circles is Black Hole, which belongs to the leader of the Void Star Zone.”

Ye Feng pointed at the two biggest spaceships and introduced them to Su Ping. "All the other spaceships belong to Ascendant State experts. Some of them have chosen to ally with the Golden Star Zone due to the rising turmoil in the universe."

Su Ping was a bit astonished. "Are the people from the Red Fire Star Zone and the Void Star Zone present as our allies too?"

"That's right. The Celestial experts of the two star zones have been friends with our master for some time. Right now, the Celestial devil has sowed discord in the entire universe. There are three groups taking shape as we speak. The Golden Star Zone is destined to fight this devil!" declared Ye Feng.

Su Ping gave a slight nod; he had heard his master talk about the matter before.

They flew close to the palace, and saw a lot of Ascendants outside. Su Ping was quite familiar with some of them; one of them was Ji Xueqing, his fourth senior sister who had taught him secret techniques.

Ji Xueqing also noticed him and Ye Feng as they approached. She greeted them with glittering eyes after being momentarily stunned, "Junior Brother Su?"

"Haven't you been training in seclusion on your planet? Why are you here? It's said that the Celestial devil has issued a bounty for your head; the reward for killing you is terrifying," said Ji Xueqing quickly.

"Really? What's the reward?" asked Su Ping curiously.

Ji Xueqing felt dazed. She was rather lost for words upon seeing that Su Ping wasn't panicked in the slightest. She said, "It's said that whoever kills you will receive infinite wealth and any ten types of top rare treasures. There will also be an ancient pill that can let Star Lords experience the power of the Ascendant State; it will also increase their odds of advancing by fifty percent!

"Even the most untalented Star Lord will have a fifty percent chance of rising to the Ascendant State!

"They'd be the weakest even if they reach the Ascendant State... However, this pill has another effect, which is that those who are already in the Ascendant State will be enhanced if they consume it. So, it's tempting for the Ascendant State experts too."

"He has such a treasure?" asked Su Ping in astonishment, "He's not bragging, is he? I remember looting his treasury; he should be abjectly poor right now. Where did he find this pill?"

"You looted his treasury?"

Ji Xueqing nearly bit off her own tongue. She looked at Su Ping in shock.

Ye Feng was also shocked. He looked at his junior brother while lost for words.

"Seriously?" Ji Xueqing couldn't help but mumble. However, she already knew the answer when she saw Su Ping's expression, finally understanding why the ancient devil hated Su Ping's guts and wanted to kill him at the cost of offending multiple Celestials.

"Of course it's true. Master knows that too," said Su Ping innocently, as if thinking that his actions weren't shocking.

Ji Xueqing said with a bitter smile, "Junior brother... You're truly as expected."

He hadn't even reached the Ascendant State yet, but he had looted the treasury of a Celestial expert; nobody else could have done that.

"He's obviously bragging. Can we issue a bounty for him too?" asked Su Ping curiously.

"..."

Ji Xueqing nearly choked, and Ye Feng hummed too. He suddenly felt that his taciturn junior brother wasn't scared of dealing with people in the slightest.

"A bounty on a Celestial State expert..." Ji Xueqing almost wanted to slap her forehead. She didn't know why her junior brother was so bold. She could only say, "The Celestial State is already the peak of the universe. It's impossible for Ascendants to kill them, even when outnumbered. The only chance is for other Celestials to take action. But..."

"Even a Celestial expert would have difficulties when dealing with another Celestial, unless multiple peers attack together."

She looked at Su Ping, with an obvious hint in her eyes. *Do you have any idea what price you would have to pay to hire multiple Celestials?*

Su Ping patted his head and realized his error.

He had spent too much time in cultivation sites and had been desensitized in relation to Celestials.

That wasn't the Archean Divinity. If he were there, it wouldn't be too hard for him to put a bounty on a Celestial. He probably could even have emperor-level experts on the wanted lists, as long as his offer was good enough.

"That's true." Su Ping nodded in embarrassment.

Ji Xueqing said helplessly, "Junior brother, it's a shame that you didn't get a legacy despite your unparalleled talent; you could have become a young Celestial expert and spread your name in the entire universe. But right now you have to reach the Ascendant State on your own."

"Sure."

Su Ping nodded and said, "However, I didn't want the legacy to begin with. I was only fighting to get it for my pets. It's not really a shame."

Ji Xueqing: "..."

Ye Feng: "..."

1

"Senior sister, why do you look so weird?" Su Ping looked around, only to find that the other Ascendants were also gazing at them. To be more exact, they were looking at him.

Have I become so charming since my body entered the Ascendant State that even Ascendants can't resist me?

2

Su Ping unconsciously touched his face. He suddenly regretted leaving in a hurry; he didn't have the time to look at himself in the mirror.

"Chi Huo and Xu Kong are meeting with our master; let's wait outside." Ji Xueqing felt relieved; she feared that Su Ping would say another outlandish thing.

She had already noticed that her junior brother was unlike most people.

If they were exceptional, Su Ping would definitely count as inhuman.

"Oh, okay."

A few others approached while the three of them talked.

"You must be Su Ping, Shen Huang's famous disciple, right?" said a common-looking Ascendant with a friendly smile.

Su Ping looked at him. "And you are?"

"I heard that you nearly won the legacy that the new Celestial in the universe got. You were the one who invented the theory of multiple small worlds that's becoming popular too. Is it really possible to cultivate multiple small worlds?" asked the Ascendant curiously.

Ji Xueqing frowned and said, "That's my junior brother's private business; he doesn't have to tell you."

"I'm sorry. I was only curious," the former quickly apologized. He was clearly scared of Ji Xueqing, who was an authentic Heavenly Lord that once survived the attacks of a Celestial State expert.

"Multiple small worlds are possible and authentic. I'll teach everybody the specific cultivation method when I'm free. However, it would be pointless for you. It's only useful to your juniors," replied Su Ping. He was frank and serious; publicizing the method wasn't a big deal for him.

After all, it was one thing to know, and a whole different matter to actually make use of it.

Also, having witnessed a lot of universes, Su Ping knew full well how weak his universe was overall. Nobody would be able to resist if any catastrophe befell them.

"Junior brother, you..." Ji Xueqing wanted to stop him, but it was too late. She looked at Su Ping with a mix of shock and suspicion. She had heard about cultivating multiple worlds too, and confirmed it with her master.

She didn't need to think to know what an incredible cultivation method it was.

And yet, Su Ping was planning to publicize it?

It was like teaching the whole world their family's techniques!

"It's not a big deal. Humanity would have one more expert if someone grasps the technique," said Su Ping with a smile.

Ye Feng, Ji Xueqing and the other Ascendants who approached them felt dazed after his answer.

They suddenly felt that he had some sort of charisma after seeing how frank and casual the young man was.

Is this the generosity expected of a Star Lord?

After being dazed for a moment, Ji Xueqing looked at Su Ping thoughtfully, but didn't say anything else.

"I admire you for your generosity, Mr. Su Ping!" said the plain-looking Ascendant with solemnity.

"You have my admiration!" said another Ascendant who wasn't fond of talking. He eyed Su Ping in a different way too.

The other Ascendants that were further away overheard their conversation. They looked at each other; some seemed respectful, while others looked puzzled, and some were obviously disdainful. They thought that Su Ping was only being pretentious.

Exactly at that moment—loud laughter resounded above them, echoing directly in their ears.

"Is he your disciple? Haha. He's indeed unusual."

Everybody looked up, only to see that the gate behind the man was opening slowly. Then, Shen Huang's voice came from inside. "Come on in."

He sounded gentle and delighted.

Everybody saw the three magnificent Celestials seated inside the palace through the slowly opening gate.

Shen Huang was at the center, while flanked by Chi Huo and Xu Kong.

Chi Huo was tall and brawny, with long red hair; the air around him seemed to be dyed red due to the fire on his hair.

Xu Kong, on the other hand, was a purple-haired woman who was elegant and mysterious.

All of them were looking outside with a smile. To be more exact, they were staring at Su Ping.

Su Ping wasn't really nervous while feeling their gaze. He would have felt some pressure in the past; however, he had seen a fair share of Celestials, and even the emperor-level experts. He couldn't feel any pressure from Celestials anymore.

Su Ping entered the palace, then humbly and respectfully said, "It's an honor to see you, master."