

Pet Store 1191

### Chapter 1191: Commandery Contest

“You’ve finally made the decision to become a Star Lord?” Shen Huang chuckled.

The others all glanced at Su Ping. It was clear that Shen Huang was very fond of that young man; that was why he spoke to him in such a teasing tone.

“It’s only because I had to,” said Su Ping helplessly.

Shen Huang smiled and said, “You must have heard about what happened. I didn’t plan to tell you, but don’t feel pressured even if you found out about it; just cultivate as usual. Take your time; if the sky collapses, I’ll hold it up for you!”

“I understand.” Su Ping nodded.

“The little guy the ancient devil hates so much is indeed peculiar...” A girl’s laughter sounded next to them; her voice was pleasant and somehow distant. She was exactly the Celestial expert of the Void Star Zone.

Su Ping couldn’t help but look at her, lost for words. *Is ‘peculiar’ really the right word to describe me?*

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“Little guy, I heard that you plan to publicize your unique method for cultivating multiple small worlds. Did you really mean it? What do you want in return? The Red Fire Star Zone wants to learn it first,” said another man. He was none other than the Celestial of the Red Fire Star Zone.

Su Ping said helplessly, “Senior, I have a name. It’s Su Ping.”

Chi Huo was rather surprised. He laughed and said, “You’re indeed bold. Su Ping, is it? I’ll remember it. I look forward to the day you become a Heavenly Lord.”

Many Ascendants from the Red Fire Star Zone that came along with Su Ping were sweating. Even though Chi Huo looked friendly at the moment, he was quite the tyrant in their territory; he would destroy dozens of galaxies for no good reason. Su Ping was truly bold to correct him!

“All right.”

Su Ping nodded and said, “I will publicize the cultivation method you mentioned for free, senior. I want nothing in return; everybody in this universe is free to learn, excluding those who have sided with the ancient devil, of course.”

“For free?”

Not just the three Celestials—also the Ascendants present in the palace were stunned to hear this.

They had originally thought that he would propose harsh requirements; after all, it was an unprecedented technique. Su Ping would be worth complimenting no matter what he asked in return.

But as things turned out, he was claiming that he would publicize it for free!

*Does he have any idea how many things he would lose because of that?*

*Infinite wealth!*

*Infinite resources!*

Shen Huang was dazed for a moment. He soon came back to himself and said telepathically, "Are you serious? Your cultivation technique is unique. You may be able to establish a top organization with that technique, and hire a lot of Ascendants to do your bidding; their juniors and families would also need the cultivation technique..."

"I know," Su Ping replied.

"Then why do you..."

"Master, as I said, I want the technique to be popularized, so that the overall strength of humankind will be improved; the result won't be as effective if I only teach it to a limited number of people. Even though I may have the prospect to gain a lot personally, that's not what I really want," said Su Ping telepathically.

Shen Huang was stunned on his throne, as if struck by lightning.

He didn't even dare look Su Ping in the eye for a moment.

"Little... Su Ping, do you mean what you said?" Chi Huo stared at Su Ping solemnly, adding a great amount of pressure which prevented the latter from lying.

Su Ping looked back at him calmly. "Of course."

Chi Huo gazed at Su Ping in the eye for a long time, before he finally moved his eyes away. He then took a deep breath, then looked at Shen Huang to check his attitude.

He knew that Su Ping meant what he said. However, Su Ping was Shen Huang's disciple, and it remained unknown whether the latter would accept this decision.

Perhaps Su Ping didn't know what he was giving up, but Shen Huang was not a kid.

Xu Kong also looked at Shen Huang after gazing at Su Ping for a while; she knew that Shen Huang was probably communicating with Su Ping via telepathy about the subject.

They had already learned of the power of that unparalleled cultivation technique from their disciples.

If Su Ping were to monopolize it, all the top forces in the universe would have to beg for his technique including the Celestial State experts—

After all, their disciples would be left far behind by those who did learn the technique. Those disciples would be weaker as Star Lords, and even more so in the Ascendant State. A few thousand years later, their organizations would be less powerful in comparison.

All the Ascendants in the palace looked at the young man with troubled expressions.

*Could a Star Lord be this generous?*

They felt ashamed of their own selfishness.

They had been more or less disdainful when it came to this genius who had just become famous. But all of them admired him; even those who had previously thought he was being pretentious changed their attitude.

Lying in front of the other two Celestials except Shen Huang and teasing them was tantamount to suicide.

In particular, the three star zones had just struck an alliance. The Golden Star Zone would be in a dangerous situation if the other two Celestials were affronted.

“If you insist, you have my permission,” said an unhurried Shen Huang after a long silence. Both Chi Huo and Xu Kong were relieved, and it showed in their expressions. They didn’t expect that even Shen Huang would fail to persuade Su Ping. What he was giving up was worth multiple Heavenly Lords!

Shen Huang then turned around and spoke to the other two Celestials, “However, it’s rather difficult to disseminate the technique to the entire universe; let me help you with that. We’ll start from the Golden Star Zone. Of course, if you two are willing to ally with the Golden Star Zone, we will pick suitable areas in your star zones and also teach the technique there.”

Chi Huo cursed inwardly, thinking that the latter was a sly old fox, but his delight remained. Even though he had to pay some price, early access to the technique would still be a great benefit of their alliance.

“Okay.”

Su Ping nodded. He knew that his master intended to make the best use of the technique. He wanted to disseminate it for free, but the universe was quite chaotic at the moment; it would be a major problem to prevent it from being acquired by Old Monster Ye’s subordinates. Only his master could address the problem.

Fortunately, even though the situation of the universe was changing by the day, the ancestral planet’s position was unchallengeable. The central government of the Federation was still in power.

The dissemination and theft of techniques were bound by federal law, all thanks to the saints. Even though there were underground markets, the law was at least respected on the surface.

“We’ll talk about that later.”

Shen Huang ended the topic. He wouldn’t give away the technique that easily; not until he gained enough. He wouldn’t hinder the technique’s dissemination, but he certainly wouldn’t let its creator suffer any loss either.

“After our discussion, we’ve officially decided that the Golden Star Zone, the Red Fire Star Zone and the Void Star Zone will be an alliance from today onwards. We’ll unite our troops!”

Shen Huang stood up and spoke majestically.

Chi Huo and Xu Kong rose one after the other. They slowly raised their hands, with red and black light appearing in their hands. Their light, along with the yellow light emerging in Shen Huang’s palm, floated in the temple. Very soon, a brilliant three-colored energy was formed, which fluttered in the palace.

“The Void Golden Fire Alliance has been born today. You must follow the rules of the alliance, and never kill each other!” declared Shen Huang.

“You must defend this flag with your life wherever it goes!” announced Chi Huo loudly.

“Our goal is to raise this flag in the nest of the Heavenly Devil Alliance and terminate this evil force of the universe!” Xu Kong’s feminine voice sounded rather high-pitched and inspiring at the moment.

The Heavenly Devil Alliance had been established by the Old Monster Ye along with other Celestials. It was defined by Xu Kong as an evil force; every war needed a justifiable excuse. Obviously, the Void Golden Fire Alliance considered themselves as the representatives of justice.

Su Ping’s eyes glittered while looking at the fluttering three-colored flag; he envisioned infinite blood and fire underneath that symbol.

A storm of blood would begin once the flag was erected.

This was all because Old Monster Ye had been set free.

A single Celestial expert had caused a war in the entire universe...

*I would be able to slay him on my own if I were a Celestial, and with this end all the suffering and pain...* Su Ping thought, slowly clenching his fists.

He had seen too many desolate scenes in cultivation sites; most of their lands were ragged and barren, all due to war.

He had been through desperate times on the Blue Planet too. Their world was in crisis; he saw countless broken families. Warriors went to the battlefield and fell one after the other, leaving their families crying.

Su Ping couldn’t bear watching the pain of a single planet, not to mention one that involved the entire universe.

*I have to cultivate even faster...* Su Ping thought.

“With the alliance forged today, we will need an army for it!”

The three Celestial State experts sat down. Chi Huo said, “In the spirit of fairness, all the members of this alliance who are capable enough may be promoted as generals! No nepotism is allowed here; your own skill is the only thing that matters. The strongest among you will be the commander of the troops of the three star zones!”

Everyone was shocked after hearing that.

Many unaffiliated Ascendants were so excited that their eyes were filled with tears.

They entered the alliance thinking they could be insignificant generals at best. However, there was a chance for one of them to become the commander!

The commander would only be second to the three Celestials!

Even Heavenly Lords would have to listen to their orders!

The Ascendants were excited at the thought. However, they knew that Heavenly Lords were the most likely to win the position, and normal Ascendants would not really make it.

However, they were still delighted by the whole competition.

The Ascendants who were from major organizations felt conflicted. Some of them were confident in themselves, not thinking it was a big deal. However, the ones aware of their weaknesses felt bitter; they had hoped to rise with their families' influence and connections. But it was impossible now; they could only try their best.

"We're mobilizing an army already?" Su Ping was surprised to hear the news. He didn't expect that an army would be gathered that quickly. *Is the war starting soon?*

Shen Huang heard him, then chuckled and said, "Do you want to watch? We'll pick generals before we pick soldiers. You're already a top Star Lord, and very close to the Ascendant State. Watching the selection process will benefit you greatly. It'll be much more rewarding than training in seclusion."

Su Ping felt dazed for a moment, but didn't decline the offer.

He was also interested in finding out what the Ascendant State cultivators in the universe were capable of.

"Master, are we going to declare war on Old Monster Ye soon?" asked Su Ping.

Shen Huang paused for a moment, but shook his head. "Not yet. It'll take hundreds of years to train the recruited soldiers and generals and turn them into an iron army. I don't think we'll fight the Heavenly Devil Alliance until a thousand years later..."

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"A thousand years..." Su Ping remembered that and made calculations. That would give him enough time to cultivate for 10,000 years in the cultivation sites.

It would be enough time for him to rise to the Celestial State.

"Prepare yourselves for the commandery competition. All Ascendant State cultivators that are part of the Void Golden Fire Alliance are free to participate; you will be ranked according to your capabilities!" Shen Huang said as he addressed all those present, "The contest will begin in the Void God Battlefield in three days."

Everybody accepted the request with excitement.

The meeting was adjourned.

Su Ping left the palace along with Ji Xueqing and Ye Feng. Ji Xueqing needed to prepare for the contest, so she bid farewell to Su Ping and left in a hurry; Ye Feng escorted Su Ping back to Rhea.

Su Ping asked his senior brother on their way back, "You're not going to participate in the contest?"

Ye Feng nodded. "Of course, but my responsibility is to protect you; there really is not much preparation that can be done in three days. I'll just do my best and fight."

Su Ping nodded. "That's true."

"You must come and watch, junior brother; all the Ascendant cultivators of the three star zones will be there. It's a rare opportunity for you who has reached a bottleneck," said Ye Feng.

Su Ping nodded. Although he had seen some Ascendants in the cultivation sites—mostly beasts—they were different from the creatures of his own universe anyway.

Once he was back in the store, Su Ping worked along with Joanna and the others. He had consumed a lot of energy recently; he accepted a lot of professional training orders during those three days, and he had to deliver them by himself.

He earned a lot of energy in those three days; it was all in preparation for the next training session.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye. Su Ping left for the Celestial Court with Ye Feng again.

### **Chapter 1192: Battle of Three Armies**

Inside the Celestial Court.

A lot of people were standing in the square outside the palace. Most of them were Ascendants; only a few were Star Lords like Su Ping.

He saw a lot of familiar faces among the Star Lords, including Shuai Qianhou, the 50,000-year-old Star Lord that was recently apprenticed to his master.

There was also Diaz, his other apprentice brother.

There was also Qing Hongyue, the one he defeated during the competition for the legacy.

Besides them, Su Ping also saw many familiar people of the Loulan family, including Loulan Lin, Loulan Hai among them. They were accompanied by the Loulan family's Ascendant cultivators; most were standing at the square.

Loulan Feng was obviously there; he had received Su Ping earlier on.

The Loulan Heavenly Lords were also present, including Jian Lan, Loulan Lin's grandmother.

Su Ping also noticed that there were people who had competed with him during the Universe Geniuses' Contest, including the Six Lives Buddha and Linghu Jian, who also hailed from Silvy.

Next to Linghu Jian was a slim old man wearing a black robe who looked extraordinary; his back was as straight as a spear. He was very likely the Ascendant cultivator known as the Northern Sky Sword God.

In addition, Su Ping noticed a few familiar faces next to him, one of them being Hai Tuo, the lord of Silvy.

There were also two graceful men next to him, namely You Ying and Huan Lieshen.

He had been to the Illusory God Monument Mysterious Realm controlled by Huan Lieshen, back when he took part in the universal contest. He passed a hundred levels and eventually met the elder.

*So many familiar faces...* Su Ping glanced at them with mixed feelings.

It seemed that all his acquaintances from the past had gathered in that place.

However, his acquaintances were only a small proportion of those who had gathered at the square; most were new faces.

In the crowd—Jian Lan noticed Su Ping, and said in a low voice, “He’s here.”

She was an elegant and mature lady with an alluring body figure, seemingly as unsullied as a white lotus.

Loulan Lin was standing by her side, looking less resplendent by comparison but she had her own vigor too. She had braided her long hair, which gave her a clean look.

Loulan Lin peered in the general direction her grandma was looking, noticing Su Ping who had arrived with Ye Feng; she bit her lips with a conflicted expression.

“I heard that the ancient devil has placed a bounty on his head. He nearly won the legacy; unfortunately, it was a trap. Lin Xiu, the famous Star Lord from 100,000 years ago, ended up becoming his vessel to reincarnate; it’s a shame that such a talent met such a fate,” Jian Lan said and sighed.

“He should be safe under his master’s protection, right?” Loulan Lin couldn’t help but raise his head and ask, concern reflected in her eyes.

Jian Lan looked at her and heaved a sigh. “He should be fine as long as he doesn’t do anything reckless. I heard that there’s someone else backing him. It could be one of the saints from the Holy Land, or some unknown Celestial. Only he knows the answer.”

Loulan Lin was compelled to ask, “Are there other Celestials in the universe besides the twelve we know?”

Jian Lan smiled and said, “Of course. There aren’t just twelve Celestials in the universe; it’s just that some of them prefer to keep a low profile, while others spend all their time meditating in seclusion...”

Loulan Lin was stunned by the answer; she looked at Su Ping with a troubled face.

He was leaving her further behind, considering the backing of two Celestials and his own potential.

“Observe the battles carefully. It won’t be long before you enter the Ascendant State with the soul of the destructive phoenix you’ve acquired. Don’t get distracted,” said Jian Lan softly.

Loulan Lin solemnly stared at Su Ping in the distance, then looked away. “Understood.”

“You can’t get what you want unless you’re strong enough; that has always been the rule. There are things that you can’t keep even if you get them,” said Jian Lan softly.

“It’s him!”

Elsewhere—Hai Tuo, Huan Lieshen and the others noticed Su Ping who had just arrived. Their eyes glittered.

Su Ping was a genius, the most famous person to ever emerge from Silvy. All of them were proud of him; they felt moved when they saw him again.

To think that the little kid they had met in the past was already known across the universe, all in such a short period of time. He was already a brilliant star, dazzling even for them.

"I knew it. I said he would walk further and exceed us, and that he would become a Heavenly Lord once he reaches the Ascendant State. I wasn't wrong!" Huan Lieshen smiled.

Hai Tuo said with a smile, "Silvy is truly a nurturing place. Look how bright he shines!"

You Ying glanced at them and said, "Why didn't you recruit him back then? It's pointless to talk about it right now."

Huan Lieshen chuckled and said, "What do you know? I simply didn't want to squander his potential. I couldn't offer what the cultivation experts could."

"Exactly." Hai Tuo quickly nodded in agreement.

You Ying rolled his eyes.

Su Ping went to the other side of the square under Ye Feng's lead.

"All your senior brothers and sisters are here." Ye Feng pointed at them for Su Ping.

The latter immediately saw a lot of Ascendant cultivators standing one side of the square. Many were looking at him, as if discussing something; smiling though. Ji Xueqing was even waving at him, without the solemnity expected of a Heavenly Lord.

Next to Ji Xueqing were people of different heights. Some were sharp, some were as steady as mountains, while others were as deep and profound as abysses.

Ye Feng landed in front of them along with Su Ping and clasped hands in salute. "It's an honor to meet you, senior brothers and sisters."

"You, too, Brother Ye." The others returned the greeting.

Su Ping was also quick to clasp hands. "Nice to meet you, senior brothers and sisters, and junior brothers."

The last part was meant for Shuai Qianhou and Diaz who were standing at the end of the line.

The two could only look at each other helplessly upon hearing such a greeting.

Diaz patted Shuai Qianhou's shoulder and said, "Junior brother, you'll get used to it."

1

Shuai Qianhou: "..."

1

"I've heard so much about you, Junior Brother Su. You are indeed an unparalleled genius. Haha!" said a brawny young man, all smiles.

Ye Feng made the introductions. "This is Zhu Feng, your seventh senior brother; he's very close to becoming a Heavenly Lord."

Zhu Feng waved a hand. "Hey, don't say that. You're imposing too much pressure on our junior brother, aren't you?"



Ji Xueqing chuckled while covering her mouth. "Old Seven, you're overthinking; our junior brother is not as vulnerable as you think. He's not nervous even in front of me, not to mention you. Stop worrying."

After being dazed for a moment, Zhu Feng raised his thumb at Su Ping. "Awesome. You're not afraid of this tigress..."

"What did you say?" asked Ji Xueqing, her smile gone.

"Old Seven needs more spanking." A middle-aged man with a frank and trustworthy appearance shook his head with a smile. He said to Su Ping, "Junior brother, I'm your first senior brother; you may call me Senior Brother Song. This is your second senior brother, Chunyu; he doesn't talk much, but he's a nice person."

After a momentary daze, he quickly clasped hands and said, "It's an honor to meet you."

Even though he didn't know much about Shen Huang's other disciples, his own disciple status had allowed him to hear a thing or two about the most famous ones.

He had once heard that this first senior brother was one of the strongest Heavenly Lords!

The man had once fought a Celestial expert and escaped all the way back to the Golden Star Zone, traversing multiple star zones.

His master had been in seclusion back then and couldn't rescue him, and would have died if he hadn't been strong enough.

As for his second senior brother, he was a very strong Heavenly Lord too. He used to be really famous in the whole universe, but he hadn't shown up in public in several thousand years, and was thus mostly forgotten. However, those who were old enough remembered the famous Heavenly Lord Chunyu.

"I'm your third brother. Call me Senior Brother Han," said a handsome and sunny young man next to Ji Xueqing. He was dressed in a really casual way.

Su Ping gave a quick nod. The top five disciples were Heavenly Lords. This one was clearly not an exception.

The rest of Su Ping's seniors took turns to greet him officially.

In another part of the plaza—the black clad Northern Sky Sword God whispered to his disciple, "Jian'er, the guy who took part in the contest along with you is right there."

Linghu Jian had already noticed him; he glanced at the man in silence.

He knew that he had already been left far behind by Su Ping.

He had often heard of the latter's feats over the years. He was amazed by that low-profile man back in the contest.

"All his senior brothers and sisters are Ascendants. What he learns from them is much more than what you get from your own seniors," said the Northern Sky Sword God calmly, "But don't feel frustrated. There are thousands of secret techniques in this world; you only need one that lets you kill your enemies!"

“One technique is enough to break thousands of techniques!”

The Northern Sky Sword God added, “You only have to focus on your sword. One day, the two of you will stand on equal ground again!”

“Just equal...” Linghu Jian said to himself in regret. However, regret turned into helplessness as he remembered Su Ping’s glorious achievements.

However, what his master said next motivated him. “Your talent in swords is like none I’ve seen in my life; it’ll only be a matter of time for you to exceed me. Just focus on your sword. You will have everything when your sword is powerful enough to turn the world upside down. Do you understand?”

Linghu Jian said in a solemn, low voice, “I do.”

“Great!”

...

“Shen Huang is here.”

Everybody present was whispering.

They didn’t have to wait long for Shen Huang to walk out of the palace. He wasn’t concealing his Celestial aura, which swept over them and suppressed Ascendants like a giant hand.

*This is the power of the Celestial State...* Many Ascendants’ hearts were racing.

Shen Huang looked down at those gathered, then nodded at Su Ping when he saw him. He said, “Now that you’re all here, let’s head to the void battlefield. Please take care of the observers you’ll be bringing along.”

Once he said his piece, he waved a sleeve and opened the sky.

There was a massive hole in space, as if torn by something. There was a colorful light inside, as well as freezing wind and some sort of devastating moans.

The next moment—there was a power filling up the entire field. Shen Huang was the first to fly towards the opening; everybody was taken along by him.

“It’s finally starting.”

Ji Xueqing’s eyes glittered with excitement.

“I don’t think any of us can get the commander position, but it shouldn’t be a problem for us to become generals.” Zhu Feng squeezed his fists excitedly.

His other senior brothers and sisters looked forward to it too.

The channel beyond the opening soon began to glow while everybody was eager to start.

The whole group found itself in a round space when the light was gone.

In the middle of that space was the half of a gigantic bubble.

A silver light was flowing on the partial bubble's outer surface. It seemed to be an independent space.

"I think everybody is here."

Shen Huang looked around, seeing that Chi Huo had already appeared elsewhere within that space. The silver light covering the wall of that space was twisting somewhere else. The surface was soon torn open, and a pair of long and beautiful legs stepped out. It was none other than Xu Kong.

She was followed by a lot of Ascendant experts too.

The three of them formed a triangle, given their current positions; they looked at each other in silence.

Shen Huang waved a hand, manifesting plenty of seats arranged in different rows.

"Please have a seat," instructed Shen Huang, who drifted to a majestic throne at the very center.

The Ascendant experts felt that the power acting on them was gone. Each of them picked a seat.

Chi Huo and Xu Kong did the same. The Ascendants of the three star zones took seats. The three Celestials were hundreds of meters tall, looking like gods. They were seated in a way that left the massive half-bubble in the middle.

"Should we do this the old way?" asked Chi Huo.

Shen Huang said casually, "No objection here."

Xu Kong said softly, "Let's do it then. It's the most fair approach, even though it takes more time."

"All right, let's rank them according to their combat ability first."

Shen Huang raised a finger, and an enormous bronze statue appeared above the hemispherical space.

The statue was a four-winged fallen angel with crossed arms and folded wings. There was an oval stone in the creature's arms.

2

*The angel is holding a stone?*

"That's the Divine Descent Stone!"

Shen Huang announced, "All of you will take the test in turns. You will be ranked according to strength, all to set the pairings for the upcoming contest. Even though this examination method is not thorough enough, it's still informative.

"Also, I suggest that you don't hold back."

### **Chapter 1193: Ascendant State Power**

"The Divine Descent Stone?"

"I heard it's a stone that can detect Ascendant State power!"

"Are they trying to rank us according to our Ascendant potential? Such a method doesn't seem reliable."

Many Ascendants whispered, but the Heavenly Lords amongst them were calm; they seemed to have been previously informed of the rules.

“Song Yuan, set an example for the others,” Shen Huang ordered after sitting on the throne.

The first senior brother—who was on Su Ping’s rightmost side—rose and bowed to accept the request. He then flew towards the fallen angel.

Some of Chi Huo’s and Xu Kong’s disciples seemed unhappy, obviously thinking it wasn’t fair for Shen Huang to send his disciple first.

However, Song Yuan was a top Heavenly Lord anyway; they didn’t complain, even though they were angry. After all, it would be hilarious if they argued with their allies for such trivial matters.

Song Yuan soon reached the fallen angel.

“I remember that our first senior brother’s Ascendant State was measured to be more than 9,000, right?” asked Zhu Feng, who was quite talkative at the moment.

1

“More than 9,000? Our elder brother is a true monster!” said another senior, who shook his head with mixed feelings.

Ji Xueqing chuckled and said, “There can only be one commander of the troops. Master asked our senior brother to be tested first in order to awe the other two parties.”

Su Ping was seated next to Ji Xueqing; he had overheard their conversation. He then asked curiously, “Have you measured your Ascendant State too? How good is 9,000?”

The Ascendant State power was completely different from divine power.

The latter was a sort of natural power that was eventually given the ‘divine’ name.

Essentially speaking, it was just like deity aura and astral power. Although natural in essence, it was often more violent.

Ascendant State power was different; it was a special energy that could only be acquired after passing the Heavenly Tribulation and breaking through!

Such an energy was currently known as the Ascendant State power, but it had different names in other ages and cultures.

Among the gods, it was known as the power of order.

For deities, it was tribulation power.

“We’ve all tested it before. You can check it with the equipment of the Federation, even though there might be errors; the greater your reading is, the greater the error. For example, our first senior brother’s reading is above 9,000, so the error margin is probably at around 500. His actual performance may be above a 10,000 reading, while it may be only 8,000,” Ji Xueqing explained to Su Ping.

1

You Long chuckled and asked, "Junior brother, did you know that normal Ascendants only have a reading of 500 points on average just after breaking through?"

He had looked after Su Ping for a while, and was closer to him than the rest.

Su Ping felt dazed. *Only 500 after just rising to the Ascendant State?*

Didn't that mean that his first senior brother was twenty times stronger than a normal Ascendant?

"No wonder..." Su Ping gasped in shock. Was that the power of a top Heavenly Lord? The man was so much stronger than his peers!

Zhu Feng smiled. "In terms of readings, our first senior brother is only twenty times stronger than a normal Ascendant. You'll probably be able to match him when you reach the Ascendant State, junior brother. After all, you're probably a hundred times stronger than a normal Star Lord. Even though the gap will be reduced when you rise to the Ascendant State, it shouldn't be a problem for you to become a Heavenly Lord."

"Junior brother, keep it up. We all think highly of you," said another young and pretty woman. Su Ping recalled that she was his eighth senior sister.

"Junior brother, you are an unparalleled genius; you'll surely exceed us," said the other senior brothers and sisters, half-jokingly.

Su Ping was their center of attention at the moment, even though he was merely a Star Lord.

He had won their respect and admiration because of his achievements; none of them looked down on him.

"You flatter me." Su Ping quickly waved a hand, truly flattered by what they said.

At the end of the line, dozens of seats away from Su Ping—Shuai Qianhou and Diaz looked at him with complicated feelings. Although their seniors were only being nice in a way, the fact that they praised him so eloquently despite their usual prideful attitudes belied how capable Su Ping was.

They too were junior brothers, Star Lords like Su Ping, but their position was entirely different.

1

"Multiple small worlds..." Shuai Qianhou's eyes glittered and he clenched his fists. Su Ping's performance during the competition for the legacy had shocked the entire world; all of it was thanks to his multiple small worlds.

He remembered that Su Ping wasn't as good as him in terms of ultimate laws.

At least, he had already grasped three ultimate laws to perfection.

He honestly didn't think he was weaker than Su Ping, except for the fact that the latter had multiple small worlds.

*He said he would publicize the method to cultivate multiple small worlds. I don't know why he's willing to do that. I should be able to get the real version, since I'm his junior brother...* Shuai Qianhou thought.

*This guy...* Diaz was envious and jealous when he saw that Su Ping was enjoying himself. He also felt helpless, knowing he had been left in the dust. Even the fellow next to him who had cultivated for 50,000 years had been left behind. If such an expert couldn't catch up to Su Ping, he certainly wouldn't be able to.

Song Yuan started his test while everybody talked.

A golden, highly-compressed light emerged from his body, containing special power waves. The power burst out of his stomach to later spread throughout his body. It became increasingly brighter, flowing to his hands when it was the brightest, all before he laid his hands on the Divine Descent Stone in the fallen angel's hands.

The oval stone instantly started to glow, and the fallen angel statue slowly opened her eyes!

Underneath her stone eyelids was a pair of deep and dark pupils.

Besides the two eyes, the fallen angel's wings were also fluttering, feathers appearing one after the other, until two of the wings had almost turned completely golden.

"Two wings!"

Chi Huo and Xu Kong narrowed their eyes. They knew that Song Yuan was a strong and famous Heavenly Lord, but they didn't expect him to activate two wings!

"No wonder he's famous throughout the universe. It's a shame that I haven't fought against him yet; I don't know how strong he is exactly..." remarked Chi Huo in a low voice.

Senior Brother Han, who ranked third, spoke excitedly with glittering eyes, "Almost two wings, and 1728 feathers!"

Ji Xueqing said with mixed feelings, "Our first senior brother is significantly stronger than when I saw him last."

Zhu Feng raised his thumb and said concisely, "First senior brother is awesome!"

Su Ping was intrigued after hearing their exclamations of amazement. He asked Ji Xueqing in a low voice, "Senior Sister Ji, is that very impressive? How does it translate to the reading you mentioned?"

Ji Xueqing withdrew her gaze, and looked at him with amusement in her eyes. "That is very impressive. Normal Ascendants could hardly make the fallen angel open her eyes, not to mention activating her wings. Look at the wings; each contains 999 feathers that carry a special power.

"Our first senior brother activated two wings and 1728 feathers. That is more than 8,000 points if you convert this into the Ascendant State value. One feather equals five points!"

Su Ping was enlightened. "But wasn't our first senior brother's reading more than 9,000 earlier?"

"That's when our first senior brother unleashed all his power. Just now, he only tried with a normal output. I remember that his reading was only 8,000 points while in this state. He must be five hundred times more powerful right now."

Ji Xueqing chuckled and continued, "Even though our master told us to try our best, this is just the opening anyway; it's unnecessary to reveal our trump cards. The real competition has yet to begin!"

"That explains a lot." Su Ping understood.

Song Yuan then clasped hands to salute the three Celestials after finishing the test, then returned to where Su Ping and other disciples were seated.

As for the other Ascendants, they were still discussing. Some had never seen that statue before, and were at a loss about the situation; they had to ask their friends about it.

"First senior brother, awesome!"

Senior Brother Han, Zhu Feng, Ji Xueqing and the others congratulated him.

Song Yuan smiled.

"I only activated two wings; it's nothing to be proud of."

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A few figures from the Red Fire Star Zone became angry after seeing that Su Ping and the others were complimenting their senior.

"They will know what a top Heavenly Lord truly means when our third senior brother goes there!"

"This competition is absolutely unnecessary since our third senior brother is here. They should just give the position to him."

"It's time we show them the power of the Red Fire Star Zone!"

Unlike the Ascendants from the Golden Star Zone, the ones from the Red Fire Star Zone were outspoken and arrogant. They didn't have many friends in the universe due to their personalities.

Someone from the Red Fire Star Zone jumped out after Song Yuan left. She was Chi Huo's first disciple.

To everyone's surprise, the first disciple was an alluring, sexy woman. However, her attractive face was awash with coldness and solemnity, which made her even more appealing.

"I am Liu Xia."

Just like Song Yuan, the woman reported her original name. Many young Ascendants found her unfamiliar since she didn't use her title. They had never heard that name before.

"She's the Night Reaper!" said a shocked person in the audience, although in a low voice.

"Is this what she looks like? It's said that all those who've seen her are dead. It's been more than 100,000 years since she emerged in the universe."

"The Night Reaper is always heard of but never seen. She suffocates all her enemies at night. She was a frightening devil 100,000 years ago."

"I thought she would be more patient."

Song Yuan shook his head with a helpless smile after seeing her.

His brother Han chuckled. "First senior brother, I heard that you fought with her before. Who won?"

Ji Xueqing covered her mouth and said, "Don't you know him at all? He can't beat women; he either lost or ran off."

Song Yuan rolled eyes at her angrily. Seeing the burning interest in his brothers and sisters' eyes, he could only say helplessly, "I fought her once, sixty thousand years ago, and won by a narrow margin. She's probably still angry, and is determined to break my record."

"So, a romantic bond," said Zhu Feng outright, then laughing.

Song Yuan glanced at him and said, "I think a spar is long overdue. We should practice after this contest is over."

"I humbly admit my mistake," Zhu Feng quickly begged for mercy with a bitter face.

"Senior brother, she's looking at you," said Ji Xueqing with a grimace.

Song Yuan raised his head, only to find that Liu Xia was indeed glaring at him. He couldn't help but wave his hands helplessly.

Liu Xia's test began soon after. She emitted two types of power, one dark and the other golden. Su Ping vaguely saw a law that was similar to his Sorcerer's Constitution within her dark aura. He was intrigued by it; the Ascendant State path this Night Reaper established would probably help him.

*The Sorcerer's Constitution that I activated back in the Golden Crow Clan is a top constitution, but may be having trouble developing it because it's too advanced. I've only managed to grasp the path of ultimate darkness...* Su Ping thought.

He currently carried the ancient deity constitution, the original god constitution, and the soul entity. However, Su Ping discovered that there was still the power of the Sorcerer's Constitution left in his body. It had never been purged; it was simply hidden deep inside his body because he hadn't used it in a long time.

It would have been transformed by his bloodline if it were a normal constitution.

*I should probably talk to this Ascendant cultivator if needed,* Su Ping thought.

Liu Xia's test result was finally out at that moment. The fallen angel opened her eyes, and the feathers on her wings turned golden. The third wing shook, and a dozen of its feathers were transformed.

"She did better than our senior brother." Ji Xueqing and the others wore solemn expressions after seeing that.

Zhu Feng frowned and said, "Even so, I think she made use of her constitution to achieve that."

"That's not her constitution. She has completely fused her own power with the Ascendant State power," said Chunyu, who had been silent the whole time.

Ji Xueqing narrowed her eyes and chimed in, "She'll be a strong rival for our first senior brother."



Song Yuan remained calm and silent.

Once the test was done, Night Reaper glanced at Song Yuan expressionlessly, then returned to the seats of the Red Fire Star Zone.

Someone from the Void Star Zone couldn't wait any longer, and quickly stepped up.

He was Xu Kong's first disciple, also a famous character. He looked like an old man, but his result was similar to that of Song Yuan.

The solemn atmosphere began to heat up after the Celestial's first disciples made their appearances. The other participants took the test one after the other, only to make evident how tough the three first disciples were.

"He only made the fallen angel open her eyes!"

"Bi Luo is an old Ascendant. I've heard about his tales ever since I was a little kid. I didn't expect him to be so weak."

"So weak? It's impressive enough to make the fallen angel open her eyes. You think he's like one of those geniuses?"

#### **Chapter 1194: The Beginning**

"Even Chris barely managed to make the fallen angel open her eyes. Let's go!"

In the crowd—Hai Tuo, Huan Lieshen and the other Ascendants from Silvy saw the test results of some of their old friends. Some made them feel pressured, while others amused them.

"I may not be the best, but I'm definitely better than Chris. He always acts arrogant whenever we meet. We almost ended up fighting when we competed over the purple crystal mines," said Hai Tuo with a smile.

Huan Lieshen glanced at him and said, "Being the lord of our galaxy, you must not embarrass yourself."

"Tsk. Why don't you go as representatives of Silvy to inspire awe then? Su Ping, the talented little fellow, is from our place. You must not embarrass yourselves!" Hai Tuo chuckled.

"You're wasting my time. I'll go." You Ying rose and stepped up.

You Ying's result was out soon after; he only made the fallen angel open one of her eyes.

"Was that your best?" Hai Tuo's eyes widened.

You Ying coughed. "I'm more of an assassin, you know; my skills are better than my strength. It was a given that my reading couldn't have been too high."

Hai Tuo rolled his eyes angrily, then urged Huan Lieshen and the other Ascendants to step up. He didn't want You Ying to bring shame to their galaxy.

All of them took part in the testing, Huan Lieshen being the most impressive of all. Not only did he make the fallen angel open her eyes, the lower half of a wing was also glittering!

“You’ve been hiding yourself well.”

Everybody was astonished by Huan Lieshen’s performance.

Hai Tuo completed his test too, and his result was similar to Huan Lieshen’s. It was above average when compared with all the Ascendant cultivators.

Those who had activated the wing’s lower half were above-average.

Activating half a wing placed them among the top Ascendants.

The better ones could activate a whole wing, and were very close to becoming Heavenly Lords.

As for managing two wings, only Heavenly Lords could do it.

Song Yuan—who had activated almost both wings—was at the top even among all the Heavenly Lords!

Hai Tuo was quite satisfied with his result. He didn’t forget to drop a taunting look at his old opponents from the neighboring galaxies.

They simply sneered back at him with equal intent.

Once half of the participants took the test, those present could reckon the average performance. Those who activated two eyes were already remarkable, and could be appointed as secondary generals.

As for the main generals, the Heavenly Lords would probably assume those positions.

In the crowd—the Heavenly Lords of the Loulan family had solemn faces. “It’s about time. The Loulan family should participate.”

“Let me go first.” Jian Lan looked at the people next to her. Some of them were her brothers, some her nephews, and others were even her extremely gifted grandchildren.

There were altogether five Heavenly Lords in the Loulan family!

Theirs was a top force with the most Heavenly Lords, except for the organizations run by the twelve Celestials.

Furthermore, the five Heavenly Lords were family members. They weren’t guest experts.

The upcoming war would affect the entire universe. Aside from the saints on the Original Planet, almost all the forces had been involved; few could remain neutral.

For various reasons—including their connection to Su Ping—the Loulan family had decided to join Shen Huang’s alliance.

“Grandmother.” Loulan Lin looked at Jian Lan with light in her eyes. “Grandmother, go for it!”

Jian Lan chuckled. She had lived countless years, and had participated in various sorts of matches when she was young; she didn’t need any cheering.

She petted Loulan Lin and said, “I will show that little kid that the Loulans are worthy of him!”

Loulan Lin felt dazed, then she blushed.

Jian Lan rose and dashed toward the statue. The participation of a Heavenly Lord had instantly caught a lot of attention.

“She’s Heavenly Lord Jian Lan of the Loulan family!”

“Heavenly Lord Jian Lan is as graceful as ever.”

“She might seem pretty, but she once slashed apart a river of stars. That area is still desolate to this day; her sword aura has lingered there for tens of thousands of years, without ever fading.”

Many Ascendants whispered.

In pure white, Heavenly Lord Jian Lan flew toward the fallen angel. She casually extended two fingers like a sword, which concentrated Ascendant power at the tips. She then pointed at the Divine Descent Stone moments later.

A dazzling golden light was instantly spread by the stone. The fallen angel quickly opened her eyes; then, the wings behind her back unfolded and became brilliant.

One and a half wings were glowing after only a short while. Ascendants only needed a quick glance to count 1623 feathers in total!

“Almost two wings. Heavenly Lord Jian Lan turns out to be among the top of her peers!”

“No wonder the Loulan family had her take the test first.”

“Heavenly Lord Jian Lan always keeps a low profile. I always thought that she was just mediocre among those of her level. I didn’t know that she was this strong!”

Many Ascendants were astounded. Her performance definitely placed her among the top ten.

All the top experts of the three star zones were present; her result was already remarkable.

“Everybody is fighting for positions in the army; the Loulan family cannot wait any longer,” observed Senior Brother Han.

Ji Xueqing narrowed her eyes. “I fought against her 80,000 years ago. She wasn’t this terrifying back then.”

“I heard the rumor that she left for Mirror City in the ninth space. Seems like the rumor is true,” said Song Yuan calmly.

“The Loulan family is not bad,” remarked the taciturn Chunyu.

Su Ping looked at the Loulan Lin family. He remembered that Heavenly Lord Jian Lan was Loulan Lin’s grandmother, but he didn’t know she was that tough.

Loulan Lin happened to be looking back at Su Ping. Their eyes met; she quickly turned away out of fright.

Heavenly Lord Jian Lan was casually returning to where her family was.

The other Heavenly Lords of the Loulan family also took the test. Even their weakest had also activated one and a half wings. In terms of Ascendant State value, their readings were around 7,000.

Some of the experts from the Void Star Zone stepped up after the Loulans finished. They were from the Yuantian family, one of the seven biggest families in the universe.

The Yuantians were really close to Xu Kong, but they had huge conflicts with the Loulans. They took action right after the Loulans were done.

Su Ping learned about the Yuantian family business from his senior brothers and sisters. They were focused on selling and managing both mines and planets, whereas the Loulans' forte was on developing armor for pets and battle pet warriors. Both families did have additional reach in other markets, though.

"Huh?"

Su Ping suddenly saw a petite girl amongst Yuantians and found her familiar.

"Lulu, what's wrong?"

Next to that girl was a plump and elegant Ascendant State woman. Noticing the girl's reaction, she turned to find the cause and only saw Shen Huang's disciples, including the unparalleled genius who had become the center of attention in recent times.

"N-Nothing."

Yuan Linglu quickly shook her head while having conflicting emotions.

She had the idea that she would never see Su Ping again after she left the Blue Planet. But then she met him during the Universe Geniuses' Contest, and was left far behind.

She thought that would be it; they were worlds apart and would never meet again. However, she was noticed by the Yuantian family thanks to her performance in the Universe Geniuses' Contest. They realized that she carried the Yuantian family's bloodline.

They received her in the family, and activated her bloodline through various rituals and secret techniques. Her latent power was activated, replacing her former physique with the Void Mountain Constitution, one of the top ten in the universe.

Because of that, the Yuantian family started to invest a lot of resources on her. She was even admitted by the Divine Dome Academy, becoming one of the institution's goddesses.

She thought that her life would be brilliant henceforth, but she heard Su Ping's name time and again, until she got to see him there; he was like a shadow in her life.

"I heard that Su Ping came from one of the Original Planet's duplicates, just like you. Did you know each other back then?" asked the Ascendant woman softly, too shrewd to be fooled.

Yuan Linglu bit her lips and nodded.

"Was he... your enemy?" The Ascendant State woman looked away as she asked in a low voice.

Countless incidents from the past flashed in Yuan Linglu's head. In the end, she shook her head and gnashed her teeth. "No. He never thought I was a big deal. I..."

She felt bitter. She didn't think she was Su Ping's enemy, mainly because the gap between them was too wide.

Even though she was a star of the Yuantian family and could become a Heavenly Lord in the future, she wasn't nearly as brilliant as Su Ping.

"That's great." The Ascendant woman was secretly relieved and was no longer tense. "And even if he was, you must make peace with him. There is perhaps an unknown Celestial supporting him. He is also as valuable as a top Heavenly Lord thanks to his technique for cultivating multiple small worlds!"

Yuan Linglu bit her lips. She had heard of Su Ping's value a million times. The geniuses she was acquainted with and those in the academy would talk about him all the time.

Su Ping's name had spread throughout the universe ever since the geniuses' contest. It seemed that Su Ping's era had dawned upon the whole cosmos.

Wherever she went, she would hear people talking about the unparalleled genius.

"I know," said Yuan Linglu in a low voice.

Deep down in her heart, she hoped she could learn the unprecedented method to cultivate multiple small worlds too, being a Star Lord herself!

The Yuantian family's tests were over. They were on par with the Loulan family.

Time went by, one Ascendant after the other took the test. Some of them were unknown, but achieved remarkable results, while some of the considered famous had performed mediocly.

Finally, the tests were over.

Shen Huang retrieved the fallen angel statue holding the Divine Descent Stone. Su Ping had learned from his seniors during the testing that the statue was an artifact recovered from some ruins in the depths of the universe. The ruins had been explored by Celestials, but no one knew what else they had found.

"Here's a ranking based on your performance just now; you should know your capabilities well," said Shen Huang on the throne, "Every army needs a commander, and the strongest among you shall be appointed. Now, please step out if you want to compete for the position."

Everyone was exchanging looks after hearing that.

All of them had thought that the commander would be picked before the generals were, so they were more excited than surprised. The show was finally on.

The fight for the commandery would undoubtedly be the fiercest.

Song Yuan chuckled after hearing his master's announcement. "It's our turn. Just stand up; no need to be courteous."

"Honest we shall be then, first senior brother. I hope you won't go easy on me if we run into each other," said Ji Xueqing while chuckling, then she stood up.

"I would also like to try," said Senior Brother Han with a smile.

Chunyu rose in silence.

Most of the seats around Su Ping were empty after they stood. He had been sitting between his third senior brother and fourth senior sister. Many of his seniors were Heavenly Lords.

Altogether nine of his seniors stood up.

“Senior Brother You Long, go for it!” Su Ping cheered.

The latter smiled. “I should be able to win as long as I don’t encounter the monsters that sat next to you.”

The nearby Zhu Feng said angrily, “Stop being pretentious; everybody knows that you’re as sly as a leech.”

The Heavenly Lords from the other forces had also moved by then.

As for the Ascendants who weren’t Heavenly Lords, most were sensible enough to sit that one out. Only three of them chose to join the competition, which caught a lot of attention.

All those present looked around to see the participants, seeing more than forty Heavenly Lords in total!

Only thirteen of them stayed in the auditorium. They had obviously chosen to save their strength after considering their odds.

“All right. Everyone will enter the void battlefield where we left our clones. You’ll be qualified to join the following contest if you can endure one punch given by a clone; those who fail will be eliminated. You can come out and wait for the next competition round.”

Everybody was calm. They had clearly been previously briefed about the selection process.

All the Heavenly Lords rushed into the bubbly battlefield.

The fog in the partial bubble was dispersed when they entered, revealing the vast terrains inside. All the participants were as small as ants inside. It seemed that the inner space had been expanded hundreds of times.

Everybody then saw the three Celestials inside. They were actually clones with Celestial power.

*Endure one punch from a Celestial?* Su Ping’s eyes glittered. He looked at his master hovering above. *With how sturdy my body is, it shouldn’t be a problem for me to take a punch from my master, right?*

### **Chapter 1195: Quick Elimination**

“This filtering is too brutal!”

“The strike of a Celestial’s clone? I’d feel proud of myself if I didn’t wet my pants.”

“We’re all Ascendants, but such a gap is too much.”

All the Ascendants talked in whispers; they would surely be eliminated if they participated. It would be a complete waste of time.

The Heavenly Lords in the void battlefield quickly took action.

They picked a direction and flew towards the three Celestial's clones.

Next, they reached the three clones and the test began. The trio punched slowly, but the space collapsed at a visible speed; there seemed to be black holes in their palms.

The blasts were so terrifying that even the Ascendants witnessing the test felt a chill.

The Heavenly Lords resisted the strikes via different means; most of them released their domains which covered the entire area, making it impossible to see what was happening with clarity.

They were probably afraid that the Ascendants watching would remember their trump cards, which would give them a disadvantage in the following competition.

Domains faded away soon after being established, revealing the casters within. Some seemed to be wounded, breathing heavily with their backs bent. Some seemed fine, but it soon became evident that they were shivering upon closer inspection.

The single-punch test was very fast, not taking more than five seconds for each participant. Then, they suddenly disappeared; it seemed that they had been relocated to a place removed from the eyes of the audience.

The rest of the Heavenly Lords took the test one after the other.

Su Ping observed carefully, noticing that the Celestial clones were tough, but they were different when compared to those found in cultivation sites.

*In general... they're weaker than their counterparts I've met in cultivation sites.*

Su Ping frowned a bit. This wasn't a cause for great delight or surprise, as it was within his expectations; however, he was disappointed in a way.

His universe couldn't compare to the top cultivation sites, at all.

Some of the gods and the souls in the Chaotic Realm of the Undead were better than the Celestials of his universe.

After all, those ancient planes had Ancestral Gods and were more competitive. They had a longer history too.

*There's still a long journey for our universe. It's too young...* Su Ping thought. He was even more determined to disseminate the multiple small worlds technique and that way accelerate the overall development.

The catastrophes that happened to the cultivation sites would be unimaginably destructive if they ever happened to his universe.

The test in the void battlefield was quickly conducted while he pondered over those matters.

Some Heavenly Lords unleashed their domains, while others acted in the open. Song Yuan, for example, faced Xu Kong instead of his master.

He punched back with a smile when her Celestial clone punched him.

Their fists collided, producing a dazzling light as if stars would have burst out. Then, an infinite, scorching energy surged like torrents and drowned them.

Everybody finally saw that Song Yuan emerged unscathed after the energy dispersed.

Elsewhere—Liu Xia, the first disciple of the Red Fire Star Zone’s Celestial, confronted Shen Huang by raising a hand and invoking a dark region.

Shen Huang’s punch was bogged down in the darkness; its violent power was buried. The attack struggled for a moment, but gradually thawed over. The process seemed quite simple, but it showed how terrifying the Night Reaper was.

“Indeed. The gap between Heavenly Lords is massive too!”

“I can’t believe this. Even though they’re Heavenly Lords, they’re on the same level as we are. Not only are they dwarfing us, they are also competing fiercely amongst themselves. I feel suffocated!”

“That Heavenly Lord failed, didn’t he?”

Everyone looked at a certain Heavenly Lord whose domain cracked as soon as it was unfolded. He lay still, apparently unconscious.

Then, he was gone.

Su Ping observed in silence. He no longer worried, seeing that Senior Sister Ji and the others wore relieved expressions after the test.

However, three of his senior brothers looked regretful in the end. Su Ping then remembered that their earlier test results suggested that they were bottom-rung Heavenly Lords; they had probably failed.

*It shouldn’t be a problem for me to survive a punch from one of those clones.*

Even though he couldn’t feel the power of their collisions first hand, he was still able to reach such a conclusion from what he could see.

“Grandmother...”

Loulan Lin watched anxiously as her relative was being tested. Heavenly Lord Jian Lan was rather calm when she faced Chi Huo’s explosive punch. She drew her sword abruptly, raising a sword aura that dazzled everyone’s eyes, even though this happened on the battlefield.

The sword aura passed, and the universe seemed to have been restarted.

All the power was gone. Heavenly Lord Jian Lan was standing still, without showing signs of exhaustion; she seemed to have withdrawn her sword at some point.

Loulan Lin was relieved to see the result.

All the Heavenly Lords went through the testing as time went by. The three Celestial clones disappeared from the void battlefield. Then, a fog emerged inside the bubble and blocked everyone’s sight.



Some people were ejected from that dome.

This process didn't stop until more than twenty people flew out.

The Heavenly Lords that left the bubble looked at each other in bewilderment. They felt both frustrated and lucky when they saw some familiar faces.

"Please have a seat. The battle for the commandery is about to begin," said Shen Huang casually.

The other Ascendants realized that the ejected Heavenly Lords had been eliminated. It seemed logical, as none of the Celestial's first disciples nor the remarkable Heavenly Lords were among the ousted.

"More than twenty Heavenly Lords have been eliminated. Unbelievable!"

"How cruel."

"I wonder what will happen during the competition for generals. We won't be eliminated before we have a chance to fight, will we?"

Many Ascendants were worried, feeling bitter and helpless.

Three of the eliminated senior brothers and one senior sister returned to their seats. The others immediately comforted them. "You've done well enough."

But they weren't too frustrated, even after not making the cut. They were able to assess the gap between them and their first senior brother, and they had mostly wanted to test their strength. There could only be one commander; naturally, they didn't think they could win.

However, it was still beyond their expectation that they didn't even pass the first test. They had no chance to practice with the Heavenly Lords of other star zones.

Su Ping looked at the Loulan family. Heavenly Lord Jian Lan wasn't eliminated, but two of their Heavenly Lords were ejected. Only three people had advanced, including the Loulans' famous leader who was said to be a top Heavenly Lord; his result in the test was as good as that of Song Yuan's.

"Those Heavenly Lords were eliminated too easily. The test is too hard!"

Diaz and Shuai Qianhou looked at the scene; Diaz couldn't help but clench his fists excitedly.

Shuai Qianhou's eyes glittered, feeling increasingly eager to try Su Ping's multiple small world technique. He would surely become a top Heavenly Lord if he established more small worlds before he rose to the Ascendant State, and wouldn't be eliminated like the ones just then.

*I must be the best!* Shuai Qianhou was unwilling to be left behind by anybody on any level.

The fog in the bubble dispersed after Shen Huang's announcement, and the scenes on the void battlefield changed too. Rivers and mountains were rearranged; it was extremely vast.

The Heavenly Lords who had advanced resurfaced; they looked as insignificant as dust particles.

"Based on your result when testing your Ascendant State power, you're free to choose your opponent. Those with higher rankings will pick first; those who are picked cannot refuse," Chi Huo announced.

Many Ascendants were shocked by this, not expecting that the previous test was actually a preparation for the challenges.

No wonder Shen Huang had asked them to try their best.

They would naturally pick the weakest if they could pick their opponents, so that they could advance without becoming too exhausted.

Xu Kong then waved a hand, manifesting the names and rankings of the Heavenly Lords who had advanced; Liu Xia, from the Red Fire Star Zone, was at the very top.

She remained calm; all the Ascendant had a clear recollection of the results, even without Xu Kong's announcement. Considering the number of people still present, it wasn't easy for them to figure out when they would get to pick.

"You may pick your opponent first," said Chi Huo with a chuckle.

Liu Xia gave a slight nod. She then looked at the somewhat near Song Yuan, with hostility in her eyes.

Song Yuan looked at her while putting on a bitter smile.

"She's not going to challenge Song Yuan, is she? It would be a spectacular show if she did!"

"Wow! Is it going to be this exciting from the very beginning?"

Many Ascendants were excited, as they had heard of the history between them. Also, Liu Xia had clearly been hostile to Song Yuan in the earlier test.

While everybody looked forward to their clash, Liu Xia approached Song Yuan with an indifferent expression and moved her lips.

Song Yuan's bitter smile returned after hearing her telepathic message.

Liu Xia walked past him, then approached a middle-aged man who ranked second to last in the test, announcing her choice.

The middle-aged man wasn't too surprised; he simply heaved a sigh.

"Just as I expected, those Heavenly Lords are rational."

"It's not worth it to fight over personal grudges. The commander position is the top priority."

"The commander would be too powerful and important. The three main factions want the position; it would be stupid for her to act willfully at this moment."

"I knew the Night Reaper wouldn't pick him. That she-devil is too cold blooded to let fury get the better of her."

Many Ascendants sighed, not feeling too surprised about such a decision.

The other Heavenly Lords were also quick to select their opponents.

They had mostly chosen rivals that were easier to deal with, and they were unwilling to reveal their trump cards in the first round.

Even so, the Loulans and the Yuantians chose to clash.

They didn't go for lesser opponents.

The leader of the Yuantian family picked the Loulans' family leader, and Jian Lan picked another Heavenly Lord from the rival family.

"Have they given up the commander position?"

"They must truly 'love' each other; they don't let each other go even at moments like this."

"I don't think so; maybe they have other reasons. It's possible they want to settle their grudges this time. After all, they'll become allies and would have to set their grievances aside."

"That's true. This competition would also be a chance for reconciliation!"

Many Ascendants speculated.

The confrontation of the two families made the lower-ranked Heavenly Lords feel relieved. This would mean that they too would have a chance to pick opponents.

The selection ended and it was time for the first battle.

Liu Xia was the first to step up; her opponent was an old looking fellow. Regardless of appearance, he could actually be significantly younger than her.

The battle began. Liu Xia simply unfolded her domain of eternal night and covered the battlefield.

Everybody saw that a black hole began to spin, with light bursting out every now and then, as if a man-eating monster were hidden in the dark.

The battle soon came to an end.

Liu Xia was quietly standing in the void, and the old man lay unconscious on the ground.

The Ascendant cultivators were lost for words, seeing how fast the battle had ended. That old man was a renowned Heavenly Lord anyway; many peers had heard of him.

Who would have thought that the man couldn't endure half an hour against the Night Reaper?

"Is it possible that some Heavenly Lords are as far apart in strength as we are when compared to Star Lords?"

"...Stop talking. I need a moment."

The Ascendants felt chills all over.

All the Heavenly Lords were still in the Ascendant State. They were technically at the same level.

*There's indeed the aura of the darkest law. It might not be the law itself, but they must share the same origin. If I can grasp it, I'll be able to understand my darkest law better...* Su Ping's eyes glittered.

Even though the battle was awfully short, he sensed that the Night Reaper's power was very similar to that of his Sorcerer's constitution.

If there was a chance, he would definitely request his master to make the proper introductions so he could talk to her.

The Heavenly Lord who failed was teleported out after the battle; there would be no more chances for him to fight again.

Only the one who won all the battles would attain the commander position. Those who failed would be directly eliminated.

Song Yuan's battle soon took place. He had also picked a Heavenly Lord whose ranking was low in the previous test. Even though the opponent probably had other trump cards that helped him resist the Celestial State strike, he was still defeated by Song Yuan with ease.

Just like Liu Xia, Song Yuan had unfolded his domain and covered his battle, so that others couldn't get to see his trump cards.

### **Chapter 1196: Observation of True Knowledge**

"Battle results aside, this is truly a rare opportunity to practice with a top Heavenly Lord."

"So to speak, it's a shame we didn't participate in the competition."

"What shame are you speaking of? You wouldn't have withstood the Celestial attack."

"But I would have at least been able to see how powerful the Celestial State strike was!"

All the Ascendant State cultivators were discussing.

The two Heavenly Lords who had failed left the arena feeling utterly frustrated, angry and embarrassed.

They had been defeated by the Celestial's first disciples. Still, they didn't feel good to be defeated as brutally by people at their same level...

"Disciple, come here."

Su Ping heard his master's voice while he watched the events. He felt stunned when he looked back, only to see Shen Huang smiling at him.

He hesitated for a moment, but then he rose and flew over.

Su Ping's actions caught the attention of his seniors sitting next to him, and were surprised to see him fly towards their master.

However, their master's passive attitude made them realize he had been summoned.

*Looks like our master is truly fond of this junior brother...* Many disciples thought.

Shuai Qianhou and Diaz, on the other hand, stared at Su Ping with a mix of puzzlement and jealousy.

"Greetings, sir!"

Su Ping reached Shen Huang's throne. His masters' image had expanded as he made his approach, ending up being merely as tall as the former's boot and having to look up.

Shen Huang smiled and lifted Su Ping to stand in the armrest to his right.

“Can you see it?” Shen Huang asked with a smile.

Su Ping felt a bit dazed; he shook his head and said, “Their domains blocked my eyesight; I can barely feel a thing.”

“Huh?” Shen Huang’s eyes glittered. Not just Su Ping, even the other Heavenly Lords were unable to sense anything except what was in plain sight, given the coverage over the void battlefield and the domains blocking.

He smiled, not overthinking about this. He said, “You’re now a Star Lord; a top one at that, considering your attainments! You’ve been invited here to watch the battle because it will prepare you for the Ascendant State. You’ll be able to understand more of the battles when the Ascendants fight for the general positions.

“The battles of the Heavenly Lords may be too sophisticated for you at the moment, but don’t beat yourself too hard if you can’t understand; just try to remember them.

“What you see now will be seedlings of knowledge for the future, when you rise to the Ascendant State. You’ll gain a lot of experience when fighting Heavenly Lords.”

Su Ping felt dazed by the prospect, feeling hesitant for a moment.

“Now, I’ll open your eyes for you; just watch the battle,” said Shen Huang softly.

Su Ping then felt that he was being lifted at a fast speed, seemingly passing through many clouds until he entered the void battlefield.

Later, he saw a hazy gray world in front of him, which was also removed quickly. He felt that he had fallen into the domain, and was then able to see the two parties fighting.

One of them was Xu Kong’s first disciple. The tall old man looked much younger at that moment, all the wrinkles gone from his face. Still, his hair remained silver and he still wore old man’s clothing.

His opponent was a Heavenly Lord from the Yuantian family, who was controlling the power of two illusory dragons. The power was very special, made of countless laws; each of their scales was a manifestation of laws.

The old man fought with one hand behind his back and the other holding a purple crescent blade, which revolved and fought the dragons.

*Is this what Heavenly Lords are capable of?*

Su Ping was dazed; he didn’t know how Shen Huang had done it, but he was able to see the battle inside the domain.

*Laws are being manifested; I think there are thousands of them, fully-grasped. Some of the laws on the dragon’s heads and claws were perfected; their claws in particular, have the four ultimate perfect laws; three perfect laws were gathered on the heads. The most powerful one of them seems to be a law the old man created!*

*The Ascendant State power is circulating inside the dragons. Is this an Ascendant secret technique?*

Su Ping was rather surprised. Undoubtedly, the Yuantians' Heavenly Lord had formidable attainments. The thousands of laws used to create the dragon scales had certainly taken a lot of time to consolidate.

Adding the laws forming the creatures' torsos, there were altogether seven of the top perfect laws.

There were other perfect laws used on joints and tails, except that they weren't as powerful as the four supreme laws.

*What terrifying achievements. However, I don't think he's making the best use of his power. Even though his laws are arranged in the shape of dragons, there are still flaws!*

*Besides, the dragons are too big!*

*I would probably choose to do something like this old man...*

Su Ping considered this while he watched. Judging from the battle, Xu Kong's first disciple was having an easier time during the fight.

The man was only controlling a purple crescent blade of seemingly simple structure, but Su Ping could tell it was much more complex than the dragons.

*When a ten kilogram saber cuts an opponent's neck, what matters is the iron right at the edge which only weighs ten grams!*

*That's overlapping perfect laws...*

The old man's purple blade seemed simple, but it was actually the stacked effect of ten perfect laws overlapping. It also had Ascendant State power, which counted as the weight of the weapon.

The purple weapon glittered in quick bursts and forced the dragons to retreat. The creatures could only fight the blade with their claws; their bodies would crack once hit.

The dragons had plenty of weaknesses, and their creator seemed to be well aware of the fact. That was why he had arranged them in a special manner, so that any blast imposed on them would be evenly distributed. Still, they were unable to resist the destructive purple blade!

*Those are two valid ways to use power; one of them is overlapping the power, while the other balances. Both approaches are useful.* Su Ping was fascinated.

The dragons were quickly destroyed by the purple blade, though; one after the other, and their power surged. The old man then charged forward, and soon won.

His opponent seemed to know it was impossible to win at that point. There weren't other trump cards; the man simply quit.

The battle came to an end; the contenders looked and nodded at each other. After that, the Heavenly Lord of the Yuantian family was sent out of the void battlefield.

"Do you know why the guy's seemingly powerful dragons were defeated in the end?" Shen Huang asked Su Ping telepathically, once the battle ended.

Su Ping paused for a moment. *Am I expected to give an answer?*

Right when he was about to reply—Shen Huang simply said via telepathy, “It’s because their expertise and law usage are different. Just remember what you saw; you’ll know the answer when you rise to the Ascendant State.”

“...”

So, it wasn’t really a question, just a conversation starter.

“Master, I actually...”

“I know you don’t understand right now. In fact, it’s unnecessary for you to understand; you only need to commit to memory. Even if I explained right now, it would only disturb your mind. Empty talk is useless,” said Shen Huang.

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Su Ping opened his mouth and nodded; he chose to play along.

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Down below—

The other disciples saw their interaction as his master’s way of seizing the chance to teach Su Ping. They were quite envious; even the Ascendant-level disciples who had been taught for many years felt conflicted. Just as expected, the legendary junior was loved by their master.

Elsewhere—Chi Huo and Xu Kong noticed Shen Huang’s actions, noticing how Shen Huang was guiding his disciple.

The situation was a bit unfair in their eyes; still, they didn’t comment on it, simply turning a blind eye to such a trivial matter.

After all, Su Ping was unlike other juniors; they were still hoping that Su Ping would teach them the multiple small world technique.

The participant who had ranked fourth in the earlier test took action; he also selected a lower-ranking Heavenly Lord. Another fierce battle began.

Su Ping watched their moves quietly, finding that the two experts had styles of their own. One of them enhanced himself with laws and was good at melee-style attacks.

The other was similar to the previous winner, the old man. He overlapped his laws and constructed a huge cat, which was agile and even more unpredictable than the old man’s purple crescent blade.

Su Ping had a good time watching the battle. He had learned a lot.

The people on his level weren’t in want of power, but of ways of using it.

Power was just the foundation. Given enough resources, even a piece of garbage could be endowed with a tremendous amount of strength.

However, those who were at the peak had comparable strength; what mattered was their understanding and usage of laws.

It was just like in company dynamics: the bottom-level workers sold their strength; the middle-level workers sold their skills, and those at the top had neither strength nor skills. Still, the latter knew how to harness both strength and skills.

Only thoughts were rare; that was why they could stay at the top.

*I never got a chance to observe when I fought Ascendants back in the cultivation sites; my sole focus was to simply finish them off as quickly as possible.*

*Looks like I still have a lot of room for improvement.* Su Ping was thrilled, thinking that the trip was totally worth it, being a good chance for him to assimilate his recent experiences.

The second battle soon reached an end; the Heavenly Lord controlling the big cat was the victor.

Shen Huang glanced at Su Ping in silence. He asked the boy Ping to watch battles beyond his level, not because he wanted the latter to immediately learn something. That would be a task for when he reached the Ascendant State.

He didn't want to be too hasty. It would be great if Su Ping didn't force himself to process the information and waited until he broke through; remembering was enough for the moment.

Su Ping had more chances to see how Heavenly Lords battled as the matches carried on. Some of the fighting methods were inevitably repeated, even though there were varied levels of expertise.

He also saw Loulan Lin's grandmother fight.

Jian Lan was one of the top Heavenly Lords too, and was qualified to pick.

*She imbued laws in her weapon, which was then melded with nature. Thus, her attained laws are one with nature, allowing her to channel nature power...*

Su Ping was deep in thought. He finally knew that his sword technique was not worth mentioning after seeing Heavenly Lord Jian Lan's performance.

He had the power, but he didn't know how to make the best use of it.

*I see...*

There were all kinds of sword techniques in his head, including those he had created on his own and the Sky Execution Technique he had learned from Ji Xueqing.

Sword techniques were just the surface.

He had an epiphany. *So, the highest level of the Sky Execution Technique is not about shaking the world with my own power, but to do so with the world's own power. My sword is just the medium!*

His understanding of the Sky Execution Technique was instantly perfected.

However, he thought that the sword technique had flaws; there had to be more effective ways to use it, but he was still too weak to understand.



*It would be wasteful if the world's power is used to hit the world itself; that's not the way I should wield my sword if I want to break through."*

Jian Lan's battle was over while Su Ping was deep in thought.

Shen Huang felt worried once he noticed that Su Ping was frowning, and wondered if he had been too hasty. The sight of Heavenly Lords fighting could be too overwhelming. Also, he was a very talented seedling; spending too much time thinking about what he was seeing could lead him to the wrong path.

It was like an ant climbing a tree, at the risk of constantly going in circles if it was unable to see the whole picture.

The ant would be able to choose the optimal route to the summit once it grew bigger, so it could see the entirety of the tree.

"There's no need to think. Just remember," said Shen Huang in a low voice.

Su Ping was woken up from his meditation. While stunned for a moment, he then said helplessly, "Master, I know what I'm doing."

Shen Huang choked for a moment, not knowing what to say; his disciple was a genius, but geniuses were hard to teach, as they had their own ingrained thoughts which were hard to correct.

"Feel free to ask me if you have any questions," said Shen Huang.

Su Ping nodded. "I don't have any yet."

Then, he went into deep thought again.

Shen Huang was lost for words again, after seeing his disciple act in such a manner. *Is my disciple trying to figure things out on his own?*

He shook his head. He planned to teach Su Ping in detail when the competition for the general positions began.

The battles of more than twenty Heavenly Lords were finally over; only a dozen of them remained.

Chi Huo said, "Now, you'll pair up again to fight; the rules are the same. Who wants to quit?"

All the Heavenly Lords remained calm; nobody replied.

Chi Huo instantly said, "All right, let's proceed."

This time, it was still Night Reaper who picked first. She chose a low-ranking Heavenly Lord again, still being the weakest among them.

This time, Su Ping was able to watch how that Heavenly Lord fought in the domain of eternal night.

Liu Xia's contender unleashed all his strength and activated his constitution. It was one of the ten divine constitutions.

Even though her opponent was using his full strength, the Night Reaper was still casual and easy. She summoned a red eye inside the domain of eternal night.

## Chapter 1197: Extreme Strengthening

The red eye floated in the eternal night sky like a bloody moon.

The world enshrouded by the darkness slowed down, as if frozen. The movements of the rival Heavenly Lord also stretched and slowed down, leaving afterimages as he passed.

However, those afterimages were brought to life. They chased and attacked the Heavenly Lord in different postures.

The man was soon caught up by his afterimages, and had to fight many opponents at the same time. He left even more afterimages as he fought; resulting in him being surrounded and left injured in the end.

“This is...”

Su Ping was quite surprised by the weird scene.

*What kind of law was that?*

*Copying? Mirroring?*

“Wait a minute...”

Su Ping suddenly realized that he couldn't see the structures making the bloody eye. The other Heavenly Lords had attacked with either weapons or creatures; however, the Night Reaper had used a bizarre eyeball that used unknown laws.

He was suddenly reminded of souls, as he had seen equally confusing methods when he fought against souls in the Naihe Soul Ocean.

Abundant golden light quickly surfaced in his eyes, bursting out like rays, until both became completely golden.

The purest god aura was emanated by Su Ping's eyes, although he didn't realize his master had looked down at him in shock when sensing the transformation.

On the other two corners of the triangle—both Chi Huo and Xu Kong looked at Su Ping in astonishment.

The structure of the world was being constantly analyzed by the godly pupils. Light, dust and laws were all being magnified into more primitive elements, like lines and particles.

The eyeball in the night sky finally revealed its original appearance—

It turned out to be a bloody vortex.

The vortex was revolving, sending out a bloody light. The eternal night was no longer dark, but deep red!

The contender had one of the top divine constitutions; instead of fighting his afterimages, he was absolutely still.

There were no afterimages around him, either.

However, his immortal body seemed to be decaying on the surface.

Such decomposition was slowly and gradually expanding at a visible speed. Not even the healing ability of his constitution could slow it down!

*That is a perfect law...*

Su Ping saw the lines of a law in the bloody vortex. It was indeed a perfect law he had never seen before; most surely the Ascendant law created by the Night Reaper.

There was actually just that single law.

The truly terrifying thing was that there were countless laws in the dark night, right where the bloody vortex was embedded!

There were dozens of perfect laws among them!

*She has fused her laws in the domain. She launches attacks to anyone within the dark range once unfolded. It's a delicate spider web! Very well hidden at that. Normal Ascendants would fall into it without realizing a thing!*

Su Ping took a deep breath. The Night Reaper's understanding of laws and battles had broadened his horizons yet again.

*I didn't see anything unusual earlier, and my own body is at the Ascendant level. It is also made of countless rare materials, and is more sensitive than those of most people. Even Heavenly Lords could be tricked in her domain...* Su Ping thought.

Still, he soon realized that his master had surely warned his senior brothers and sisters in secret about this.

*Nevertheless, it's difficult to come up with countermeasures even if they did know...* Su Ping kept analyzing the matter, imagining himself as her opponent.

The battle ended quickly. The Heavenly Lord attacked under the dark domain stood still until his body was just bones. The three Celestials rescued him and teleported him out of the battlefield, which signaled his elimination.

He recovered as soon as he was removed from the battlefield; his body healed and new flesh was generated, ultimately regaining his original appearance.

He was breathing heavily, cold sweat covering him as if having just had a nightmare. He looked fearfully at the void battlefield.

He was one of the top warriors in his level. It was extremely easy for him to slay a normal Ascendant cultivator. However, the recent events made him realize what the strongest Heavenly Lords were capable of!

He originally didn't think much about the power gap, but then realized in battle how different they were: just like a muscular man fighting against a baby.

The golden light in Su Ping's eyes was gone. He raised his head and asked his master with his normal eyes, "He was standing still just now. Was it because of the law in the bloody vortex?"

Shen Huang's expression changed a little. "You can see the eyeball's true appearance?"

"More or less," said Su Ping. He couldn't really dispel the eyeball's illusion with the naked eye.

Shen Huang looked at him thoughtfully, but didn't ask about his disciple's golden eyes. He had already made a guess; the smarter the person, the fewer questions asked.

"That's right. It's Liu Xia's Ascendant State law, which was constructed with her domain. She can put anyone to sleep forever under that eternal night. She also has the Reincarnation Divine Constitution, one of the top ten constitutions!"

"Reincarnation?"

Su Ping felt dazed as he remembered Diaz, his junior who also had such physique.

"That's right, she has the same constitution as Diaz; however, she has already developed hers to the fullest. She even fused it with elements from other constitutions, so it's no longer a pure Reincarnation Divine Constitution. She has named it the Eternal Sleep Constitution!

"The constitution was made due to a fortuitous incident; it can't be copied or passed on. That is why it's not listed among the top ten divine constitutions in the Federation."

"Got it."

Su Ping nodded and then asked, "Master, do you know what the fortuitous incident was?"

Dazed for a moment, Shen Huang looked at the battlefield and said, "I don't know the details, but I heard it's related to her receiving a drop of blood from an ancient corpse."

"A drop of blood from a corpse?"

Su Ping was stunned. Why would a drop from a corpse's blood cause such mutations to one of the best constitutions in the universe?

He asked the question only because he had detected an aura similar to his own coming from the Night Reaper. He had never felt the same from Diaz.

*Is it because of that drop of blood?*

"You seem to be very interested in her." Shen Huang saw through what Su Ping was thinking.

The latter didn't keep it a secret. He nodded and said, "I think she could inspire me. I would love to talk to her if there was a chance."

*Talk to her...* If another Star Lord, no, an Ascendant cultivator would have said that, others would have rolled eyes at them. However, Shen Huang merely thought it was odd when Su Ping said it, but didn't despise him for it.

He could tell that Su Ping was an independent and persistent man, oblivious to the different classes where people were typified in.

However, he didn't have to care about classes when talking with his master, because they were already on the top tier!

“That’s not a problem. Her battle is over; I’ll ask her to come here and talk to you,” said Shen Huang immediately.

Su Ping was astonished. “Right now? Doesn’t she have more matches?”

“The second round has just begun. She just finished her match; it’s still early.”

“But won’t it distract her if she talks to me? It would also expose her secrets...”

“You’re overthinking. I don’t think she’ll mind, but it’s hard to say; all women tend to be petty. I can only try to invite her for you.” Shen Huang quickly sounded uncertain in the end.

“...”

Su Ping had the sudden feeling that his master wasn’t all that reliable.

Still, he worked fast, as Su Ping noticed Chi Huo’s strange expression soon after. At the same time, the Night Reaper raised her head and looked at him in surprise; there was also a casual indifference mixed in.

Su Ping had made glorious achievements and was totally worth investing in; it would be rewarding if he could become a top Heavenly Lord, and a major surprise if he rose to the Celestial State.

Therefore, potential investors would be able to make a profit as soon as Su Ping became a Heavenly Lord.

Night Reaper had the capital to act disdainfully towards Su Ping, since she was already successful among the top Heavenly Lords.

“She’s on board,” said Shen Huang with a smile. “She seems to be interested in you too. It wasn’t difficult to ask her to come here; after all, your multiple small worlds’ technique is too important. I hope you won’t give it away easily while talking to her.”

“I’ll try.” Su Ping didn’t give a definite answer.

Shen Huang was amused. He could glean from the clever answer that his disciple wouldn’t suffer a loss.

Elsewhere—Liu Xia flew out of the void battlefield upon receiving Chi Huo’s permission.

“Why is she out?”

“Didn’t she win?”

Everybody was shocked, thinking they had somehow misunderstood the rules.

The Night Reaper was obviously not going to explain herself, and neither would the three Celestials. She flew straight towards Su Ping, catching endless attention. Su Ping suddenly thought that he had kept too high a profile as of late.

Still, it was all to make progress. He simply ignored the curious eyes. After all, eyes couldn’t hurt people; only fists could.

However, many people in the world would often give up because of those meaningless eyes. It was hilarious.

“You asked for me?” Liu Xia had concealed her aura; she didn’t want to hurt that junior favored by the three Celestials.

She replaced her armor with a simple black dress, which made her look like the regular girl-next-door.

However, her face was too beautiful for an ordinary neighbor. At least the ones Su Ping had met couldn’t compare with her.

“Hi, I’m Su Ping.”

“Call me Liu Xia. Let’s save the self-introductions and cut to the chase,” said Liu Xia casually as she combed her hair with her smooth hand, clearly not thinking much about their encounter.

She probably wouldn’t have gone to meet him if it weren’t for his groundbreaking technique for small worlds.

Even if he had Celestial State potential, so what?

She was one of the unparalleled geniuses mostly likely to rise to the Celestial State too.

Besides, she had already grown up, and Su Ping was more of a toddler at the moment.

“My master mentioned that you had the Reincarnation Divine Constitution until it mutated due to a drop of blood from an ancient corpse you found...” Su Ping said, leaving small talk aside, “So, can you tell me what the ancient corpse looked like?”

Liu Xia realized that Su Ping didn’t address her with any respectful titles. Even though she didn’t care much for etiquette, she still disliked his lack of manners.

Still, she didn’t say anything about it, considering that Su Ping was a favored disciple and deserved to be proud of the achievements made at such a young age. She replied, “That’s the last thing I expected you to ask. The ancient corpse... To be honest, I don’t know what it looked like exactly, because I only saw one of its arms.

“Judging by structure, well, it was 80% similar to that of a human being. Of course, I’m only talking about appearances. In terms of size, it was thirty thousand kilometers long.”

“Thirty thousand kilometers...”

Su Ping was rendered speechless after that.

*Thirty thousand kilometers long?*

*What did the creature feed on when it was alive?*

“So to speak, was the mutation really caused by the ancient corpse’s blood?” asked Su Ping.

“More or less,” said Liu Xia casually.

“Then, could you let me experience your constitution for real right now?” asked Su Ping.

Liu Xia looked at him with a weird expression. "Are you asking to be killed?"

She raised her head and looked at Shen Huang. "Sorry, I didn't mean to be rude, but your disciple's request is simply too..."

Shen Huang understood. He said to Su Ping, "You would be heavily injured if you were to confront her constitution's aura."

"You'd wish it were only that. Technically speaking, you'd die," Liu Xia added.

Su Ping wanted to say he could endure it. But then he wasn't sure, considering how serious they were. He asked his master, "Master, can't you protect me?"

"If I did, you wouldn't be able to experience the real thing. It would be no different from what you felt a moment earlier," said Shen Huang.

Su Ping understood. He thought for a moment and said, "I still want to experience it; I hope you can accept my request."

Liu Xia looked at Su Ping as if he were an idiot. "You do know that you're essentially asking me to kill you?"

"...I know, but I still want to try," said Su Ping stubbornly.

Perhaps he felt confident due to his experiences in the cultivation sites.

Seeing his determination, Liu Xia looked at Shen Huang. The latter thought for a moment and said, "In that case, just accept his request. I'll remember this favor."

### **Chapter 1198: Awakening of Ultimate Darkness**

"All right. In any case, you can reverse time and bring him back to life."

Liu Xia no longer insisted. She would only need to show her constitution to have a Celestial expert owe her a favor; it was definitely a fair deal.

Shen Huang raised his enormous hand and imposed a stream of power on the pair; they were caught in what appeared to be a solidified water ball.

Once inside, Su Ping and Liu Xia immediately felt that the space around them was infinitely stretched. They were still standing on the throne's armrest, but the area had grown to a degree that it made them feel they had entered an independent world.

*This is a Celestial expert's world...*

Su Ping examined the environment carefully; the world was similar to those of Celestials from the cultivation sites, but still vastly different from those of Star Lords, as it was bigger and with fewer flaws. No flowing laws could be seen; they seemed to be standing in the old universe.

Its overall making was clearly different from those of Ascendants too, where the aura of flowing perfect laws and the Ascendant State power could still be detected.

*If Star Lords have small worlds, Ascendants have big worlds and Celestials have... small universes!*

Su Ping had an epiphany while recalling things he had read in some secret books.

Perhaps the entities above the Celestial State had created real universes.

Then, what did Ancestral Gods grasp?

“Ready?” Liu Xia’s question sobered him up.

He focused his attention and nodded. “Yes.”

Liu Xia didn’t hold back once she received confirmation. A dark and abundant Ascendant power burst out of her body. It seemed as if there were a destructive black hole in her chest, which was about to consume her body.

Dark stripes were surfacing on her fair skin, and golden divine power was flowing in those circuits.

Su Ping gradually felt excited as her aura began to spread, as if some ferocious beast were being awakened inside him. However, such a stimulus didn’t frighten him; rather, his blood was flowing faster, beyond his control. His heart was beating fast too, and his pores were opening.

His body was gradually entering battle mode due to the energy surge!

“Huh?”

Liu Xia’s keen senses noticed that something was off. She narrowed her eyes and looked at Su Ping, only to find that his eyes were calm, with a dab of hidden excitement.

She suddenly wondered if she was too alluring.

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She had already adjusted her body to her satisfaction. Countless Ascendants cultivators had pursued her; had she manipulated them, she would have already gathered as much wealth as the top seven families in the universe.

“Humph. Pull yourself together!” Liu Xia snorted but ignored Su Ping’s rude expression, as the favor was already owed. Besides, Su Ping was merely a Star Lord; it was understandable that he would fall to her charms. It wasn’t his fault.

The abundant dark aura completely covered her body soon after. Her body then transformed and revealed what it actually was.

There were scary and sharp stings on her head, which spread out like horns. Her whole body was covered in purple and black stripes; bones protruded on her collarbone like scythes, and her fingers became long and sharp. Her energy armor was gone, substituted by a softer black covering that accentuated her breasts and made her look sexy and alluring.

Su Ping stared at her, feeling quite excited.

The Sorcerer’s Divine Constitution—formerly suppressed by the ancient deity constitution and the soul entity—was almost breaking the genetic restraints.

*This aura... is of the same kind!*



*According to the Golden Crow elders, this is an ancient constitution. The creatures that were first born in the universe, long before the gods, were known as sorcerers!*

*There were all sorts of mythical creatures in the age of sorcerers. The mutation of her constitution has to do with sorcerers. Did the arm she saw belong to one of them?*

All kinds of thoughts rolled around in Su Ping's head. There was an extremely long history when it came to the evolution of life. As far as Su Ping knew, there was the era of mythical creatures, the era of gods, the era of deities, and the modern era, when all kinds of techniques were created.

*Maybe I'll be able to fully activate my Sorcerer's Divine Constitution if I find the arm she mentioned!* Su Ping's eyes glittered with excitement.

Once his constitution was working in full, he would be able to grasp the underlying path. Maybe it would be another path that would allow him to establish a small world!

"You..."

Liu Xia stared at Su Ping and somehow felt uneasy, even though she had lived countless years. She even felt a bit shy.

As a result, she nearly ignored the fact that Su Ping was able to endure the effects of her constitution!

"Huh?"

Shen Huang was still focused on them, and also noticed Su Ping's peculiar status. He gazed at him for a moment, and was shocked.

*An Ascendant State body?*

He was greatly shocked. He knew that Su Ping was amongst the top geniuses, and still, he had underestimated his disciple.

A Star Lord with an Ascendant State body was a first for him!

Even though the Ascendant power was faint, Shen Huang was sure that Su Ping did have such a body.

No wonder he could endure the current pressure without being crushed.

*Is there anything else about this disciple that I'm not aware of?* Shen Huang was shocked and speechless, thinking he was an embarrassment as a master. He never taught Su Ping much, and the latter kept on slapping him in the face. Was the youngster self-taught?

He grew vigilant upon remembering the store backing the boy, and his eyes glittered.

Fortunately, he was Su Ping's master after all. Given such a connection, getting in touch with Su Ping's backer was possible.

Liu Xia also noticed Su Ping's bizarre condition at the moment, then narrowed her eyes in shock.

"Ascendant State power... Your body is..."

Su Ping's body also responded to the stimulus of her constitution, becoming completely dark. His eyes also turned black, emitting a wicked aura. He felt like a bottomless abyss.

Her eyes widened. She had never been as shocked in the 100,000 years prior.

"He has already grown up. Is this why he's confident?" Liu Xia knew that Su Ping would be capable of using Ascendant treasures with his current body, and would only get killed unless he was too reckless!

Only the top Heavenly Lords or Celestials could present danger to his life!

*Besides... His body is giving off an aura. It's really familiar...* Liu Xia gradually felt that something was awfully wrong, and her blood seemed to be boiling. There was an unconscious drive to approach Su Ping. The similar aura coming from Su Ping's body seemed to be much purer!

She couldn't help but walk towards Su Ping; they were drawing closer, and closer.

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Her aura was even more stimulating to Su Ping as the distance shortened. Su Ping woke up from a dazed state, then realized that his Sorcerer's Divine Constitution had been activated. He no longer tried to hide it, using it in full force since it had already been exposed.

The surrounding rays of light seemed to be swallowed. Not just that, all substances and energy were gone too.

The Sorcerer's Divine Constitution was transforming all energy into pure dark energy.

"I didn't expect you to be such a big surprise..." Liu Xia looked at Su Ping with a face showing conflicting emotions. She remembered all the miracles the kid had worked; she had never anticipated to find that he would attain an Ascendant body while still being a Star Lord!

"Do you know where the arm you mentioned is right now?" asked Su Ping.

Liu Xia's eyes glittered. "Your constitution has the same aura as mine, but that's not the Reincarnation Divine Constitution. Is your constitution related to the ancient corpse too? That's the only explanation possible. It's been frozen in my master's treasury; if you want it, you must ask your master to help."

"Okay." Su Ping nodded, believing that his master would indeed help.

"Your body..."

Liu Xia's eyes glittered. She couldn't help but touch Su Ping's chest, feeling even closer to him. There was an itching feeling across her body; a certain voice was shouting inside her heart, asking her to meld with Su Ping's body and his aura!

Su Ping shivered when Liu Xia's finger touched him. He suddenly felt the strong urge to tear that woman apart and assimilate her into his body.

3

Fortunately, the extraordinary willpower he had developed after his visits to the cultivation sites had aided in curbing his rising desire. He took a deep breath and gritted his teeth. "Better keep some distance from me."

Liu Xia also controlled her thoughts. She looked at Su Ping with a troubled expression. "Your master owes me a favor. Now I'll be giving you another gift."

Her hand left Su Ping's body as she spoke. The special link between them was cut off, but the excitement was even greater than before.

The next moment—dark power arose in her palm, turning into a ball that quickly smashed into Su Ping's body.

After a boom, Su Ping felt that his head went blank, then felt a thrill akin to having seen the most delicious food; his head was out of control for a moment.

Roar!

Su Ping roared like an animal, but Lu Xia had already controlled her body and moved away by then. She feared that she would do something embarrassing if she stayed too close.

Some sort of balance seemed to have been broken in his body. He was surrounded by a dark power, which turned into a giant ball.

His roar weakened while being inside that energy sphere, seemingly having regained his self control.

Liu Xia glanced at him, then canceled her constitution's aura. She moved out of Shen Huang's universe like a wisp of smoke.

Shen Huang stared at her as she reappeared outside the sphere. Her actions confirmed the expectations for a top Heavenly Lord, having easily broken free from a Celestial's universe.

Although he wasn't completely serious, it was still fairly easy for her to get out.

"What did you give him?" asked Shen Huang.

"What he wanted." The redness on Liu Xia's face faded away, gradually returning to her former cold demeanor. She said to Shen Huang, "If that is all, I'll be on my way."

Shen Huang looked at her and nodded. "Thank you."

Liu Xia nodded in silence, then flew back to the void battlefield.

Once Liu Xia returned, everybody realized that she had just left the battlefield because of Shen Huang's invitation.

"Shen Huang invited the Night Reaper in the middle of this important contest, all for his disciple's sake, and Chi Luo gave her permission. It seems that all three Celestials think highly of the kid!"

"You don't say! He's only a Star Lord right now. He'll surely become a Heavenly Lord to look up to when he enters the Ascendant State."

“Becoming an Ascendant isn’t that easy. Many geniuses remain stuck in the bottleneck their entire lives; it’s hard to tell.

“That being said, there’s still a great chance for him to break through. Those who are really persistent are rare; let’s not piss him off.”

Everybody was discussing, none underestimating Su Ping, the rising Star Lord.

The juniors taken there to watch the contest were mostly Star Lords. They looked at the dark sphere on top of the throne’s armrest with conflicted expressions.

They were all unparalleled geniuses in the outside world, but Su Ping had eclipsed them all.

*The gap between us will only get bigger and bigger...* Diaz heaved a helpless sigh, as he had long given up on the idea of catching up to Su Ping. Still, he was jealous to see the latter’s privileges.

Shuai Qianhou shook his head while nursing complex feelings.

Su Ping continued his contemplation in a pure, dark world atop the Celestial’s armrest, while Heavenly Lords were fighting in the distance.

He seemed to be in another time and space.

*It feels as if I were in the Divine Eye or the deity rivers in the cultivation sites again. Is there a door to another world deep inside this constitution?*

Su Ping wondered, then felt the intense power of darkness. He was absolutely awake at that moment; all kinds of understandings regarding the Sorcerer’s Divine Constitution surged inside his head.

Su Ping had an epiphany. *Perhaps this is what the universe looked like at the beginning...*

At the same time, in the void battlefield—

A brilliant sword aura sliced a red domain open. Heavenly Lord Jian Lan and a peer from the Yuantian family were fighting fiercely, both equally strong. Neither of them could split their attention and cover their domains anymore, and merely focused all their strength on attacking.

“Grandmother...”

Loulan Lin felt concerned. A Heavenly Lord of her family offered to aid her viewing, so she could see the battle.

Elsewhere—Chi Huo was communicating telepathically with the Night Reaper, who had just returned to the battlefield.

“What did Shen Huang ask you to do for his young disciple?”

“Master, his disciple requested to meet with me. He wanted to see my constitution.” Liu Xia was forthcoming about the matter. She paused for a moment, then continued, “Shen Huang owes me a favor now; I also gave his disciple a gift. In addition, his disciple is already capable of fighting on his own right now.”

“Capable of fighting on his own?”

“That’s right. He has already attained an Ascendant State body!”

### **Chapter 1199: Evolution**

“An Ascendant State body?”

Chi Huo narrowed his eyes, compelled to look in Shen Huang’s direction. He then saw the black cocoon within the small universe on top of the throne’s armrest.

The little guy had undoubtedly gained something else, and was assimilating it at the moment.

*He’s only a Star Lord no older than a hundred years of age. And yet, he’s got an Ascendant State body...*

*Has the old man invested all his treasures in the boy?*

Time flowed.

The Heavenly Lord battles became increasingly fierce. Only six contestants remained after the second round of elimination, including the three Celestial’s first disciples, the leaders of the Yuantians and the Loulans, as well as a Heavenly Lord who was Xu Kong’s disciple, who had glowed for 10,000 years in the past!

The silent genius shined again at that moment, making the audience remember his name.

“Yuantian Zhan doesn’t care for ladies, at all!”

Ji Xueqing, You Long, Chunyu and the others were eliminated; they eventually returned to their seats. Ji Xueqing was picked by the Yuantans’ ancestor. Even though she was a top Heavenly Lord, the guy was much more skilled; she suffered a brutal loss. Even the secret technique she had worked on for years was absolutely useless.

“It’s impossible to awe the troops without unparalleled strength!” Senior Brother Han heaved a soft sigh.

Chunyu was silent. He had been defeated by Xu Kong’s disciple, the genius whose name had spread throughout the universe sixty thousand years prior. He was the guy’s senior in terms of age; the latter was unstoppable when he rose.

The genius further consolidated his brilliance as time went by, becoming even stronger. Being defeated by a junior had never crossed his mind.

Both were unparalleled geniuses. Someone had once compared them, and their achievements were similar.

However, it was obvious which one of them was better once their talents were tested in battle!

The loser didn’t slack off over the years; it was just that his rival had been advancing too fast!

He unconsciously looked aside and noticed the empty seat, then finally remembered something and looked at his master’s side to find the black sphere.

Maybe his junior brother was the only one capable of catching up with that genius in tens of thousands of years.

“Why did our junior brother Su go to see Master?” You Long had already recovered from his defeat. He had been aware that his opponent was indeed strong; his only option was to go full out. To actually win would have been exhilarating, and yet completely understandable if he lost.

Regardless of his diligence when it came to training, the other guy was clearly stronger!

“Master probably opened up our junior brother’s sight, fearing that the guy wouldn’t get to see your battles clearly. You shouldn’t have covered your battles,” said Zhu Feng with a shrug.

Ji Xueqing sighed, “Our master truly likes Junior brother; we didn’t have such treatment.”

“It can’t be helped, our junior brother is too talented; probably not even Junior Brother Liu Xing can compare to him.”

“Yes.”

The rest of Su Ping’s seniors felt conflicted. They were more or less jealous, but not angry; after all, they had all seen the young man’s talent, and knew they couldn’t have done the same at that age and level.

It was all because of Su Ping’s unique technique for cultivating multiple small worlds.

Furthermore, he was the only one who had the secret technique at the moment.

“Eldest brother is the only one of our group still competing; I wonder if he can make it to the end. I felt he had more trump cards during the fight between Yuan Tianchen and me. Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to force him to reveal them,” said Ji Xueqing with a frown. She was in fact worried; the army’s commander was of paramount importance, and as powerful as a Celestial expert in a way!

If someone from another star zone were to win the position, they would probably assign the difficult battles to the Golden Star Zone in the future.

That is, it was impossible to argue about the decision taken, unless their actions became too outrageous. The Golden Star Zone would have had to endure the loss.

“The Loulans’ ancestor is by no means simple.”

“I think Heavenly Lord Tian Ye has reached his limits while under Xu Kong’s command, even though he has only cultivated for 60,000 years; he is probably the most likely person to rise to the Celestial State in the next 10,000 years.”

“Look at those geniuses. If I were to forget my past achievements I would think of myself as mediocre.”

All those disciples felt troubled.

“The Night Reaper and our first senior brother are mortal enemies; they’re probably going to fight in the next round,” said Senior Brother Han.

“Not necessarily; she was just invited to talk with Master and Junior Brother Su, and they did so for a good while. Maybe she’ll go for a weaker rival in the next round!” said Zhu Feng.

Ji Xueqing and the others were surprised. “The Night Reaper came out to talk? Why?”

“How could we know? My guess is that it has to do with our junior brother. Anyway, our junior has been training since their conversation ended; apparently he learned something,” said the fifth-ranked Heavenly Lord.

Ji Xueqing, Chunyu and the others felt bewildered as they looked in Su Ping’s direction.

They all knew that Shen Huang was fond of the latter, but going as far as inviting the Night Reaper to give him pointers was completely unexpected.

Another elimination round took place while they discussed.

The Night Reaper got to pick first again.

She had missed one of the battles while talking with Su Ping. However, her master had made a recording of it, which he replayed for her during the break.

Liu Xia approached Song Yuan while everyone was watching.

Song Yuan couldn’t help but put on a bitter smile, knowing it was bound to happen.

“We...”

“I hope you can make it to the next round,” said Liu Xia indifferently, “Don’t disappoint me.”

Song Yuan felt dazed.

The next moment—Liu Xia walked past him to meet with the Loulans’ ancestor. She said casually, “You were mean to my junior brother just now; I shall avenge him.”

The elder was stunned for a moment, but then said with a smile, “Injuries are inevitable during practice. You want to pick me? Let’s get started then.”

Liu Xia realized he didn’t want to make an enemy out of her; her answer was a nod.

Their battle started right after everybody backed away.

Neither of them had the time to hide their trump cards at the moment; it was a high performing competition from the get go.

Domains, constitutions, laws, secret techniques and battle pets; they pulled out all the stops, launching shocking attacks.

“Ten Ascendant State pets! Oh my god! An Ancestral Dragon! The Black Fire Phoenix! They are top demon beasts with Celestial State bloodlines!”

“The Loulan ancestor is even more unbelievable. That Void Flame Dragon is even more ferocious than the Ancestral one; alas, neither of them has reached their peak status yet.”

“Is that what top Heavenly Lords have? They could have crushed us with pets alone.”

1

All the Ascendants in the audience were shocked.

They were all experts and masters on the territories they oversaw; however, the two contenders' battle pets were stronger than any cultivator in the audience. Honestly speaking, even the food they ate was inferior to the pets' sustenance.

Of course, not even their excretions were comparable to the ones coming out of those pets, either.

"As expected of one of the seven biggest families in the universe; they do have a lot of treasures." Ji Xueqing looked at the battlefield with mixed feelings. "Those are among the best and rarest pets; five of them are considered to be of the mythical kind. Any of them would cause a storm of blood in the outside world."

The top rare pets in the Federation had another name, aside from the one related to their level.

Celestial pets were collectively known as mythical pets.

Pets with top, Ascendant bloodline were known as legendary pets.

Lesser pets didn't have special names. They were simply categorized as Ascendant or Star Lord pets.

Even Celestials would fight over a mythical pet!

There were currently five mythical pets among all the pets summoned by the Loulan ancestor!

It was clear that the guy had acquired those pets via unknown ways. The creatures had already become adults, but were unable to reach the peak of their bloodlines due to the man's limitation in relation to his own level.

Ascendants couldn't summon pets above their level.

In fact, even though Star Lords could only aspire to have pets one level higher than them, none of them dared to use Ascendant pets, all because they couldn't suppress them!

Their only choice was to use Ascendant pets, which had been domesticated and controlled.

However, such creatures could merely compare to normal Ascendants beasts, being only slightly stronger than Star Lords. Some of the top Star Lords were capable of dealing with such pets.

For those in the Ascendant tier and beyond, they could only establish contracts with pets on their level.

"Night Reaper isn't bad, either. She has four mythical pets, and her other pets are all legendary. It's unbelievable! She'll probably grow as strong as other Celestials when she rises to their level," remarked You Long in astonishment; he only had one mythical pet, so he couldn't feel any more envious.

"It's impossible to tell who has more trump cards until the very last moment!" Ji Xueqing was quite jealous too; she had only gotten her hands on two mythical pets at a great cost, after so many years. One of them nearly got her killed!

The battlefield became chaotic as the pets emerged one after the other.

The bombardment of secret techniques, arrays using pets, and the combination of secret techniques were too much for the void battlefield, which seemed to be on the verge of exploding.



“The Night Reaper’s pets are not as good as those of her opponent, but her strength is obviously better than the Loulans’ ancestor; the domain of eternal sleep is truly terrifying!”

“If Liu Xia were a pet, she would probably become a top mythical pet.”

2

All the audience was astonished. Even though their pets were rare and tough, what was truly terrifying was the two parties fighting at the moment. The Night Reaper had suppressed a mythical pet with her own strength!

Not all mythical pets were as strong, when gauging their power head to head. Liu Xia’s pets had already grown to their limits. This was caused since Liu Xia was stuck in the bottleneck just before the Ascendant State, and so were they.

Even though they had reached their limits, they weren’t as strong as Liu Xia.

There were rumbling noises; some pets were soon wounded and had to quit.

The Night Reaper also revealed her true power; everything was withering under her eternal darkness domain.

Five of the pets aiding the Loulan ancestor instantly fell asleep, and their bodies began to decay at a fast pace.

The Night Reaper’s illusion appeared next to the sleeping pets; she used her scythe to slash and pull the pets’ souls out of their bodies with her scythe!

It was a soul technique!

The Loulan ancestor also performed an ancient secret technique. He became as sturdy as a statue and remained indestructible, even though Liu Xia’s pets would attack him constantly. He charged at her.

However, there were wounds covering the elder’s tough body, received from Liu Xia’s sharp blade. He, on the other hand, had trouble keeping up with Liu Xia; even if he caught up with her, she would unpredictably disappear like smoke.

“I heard that the Night Reaper had once entered the Nether World. Is that the secret technique she learned? It is super effective against the Loulans’ elder.”

“The Loulan ancestor is already unbelievably strong. Still, he looks like Lu Xia would, but everything has been lined up for Liu Xia to win.”

“You’ve done well enough.”

Their Senior Brother Han and Chunyu were observing in silence; both of them would be defeated in the second round. Being top Heavenly Lords, they were quick to tell that the elder was losing.

It was impossible for him to turn things around, unless there were other trump cards.

The battle ended, ten minutes later—

Just as expected, Liu Xia was the final winner, and the Loulan ancestor avoided using desperate measures.

Being part of one of the seven biggest families also meant that there were too many responsibilities riding on his shoulders. Perhaps winning wasn't his original intent, but to showcase his family's strength.

Nobody knew what exactly he was up to; in any case, all the audience shared similar thoughts after watching the battle.

It was best not to cross the Night Reaper!

Likewise, it was better not to cross the Loulans, either!

"I heard that the Loulan family had once explored an ancient domain and found an unparalleled technique. Still, I never saw their ancestor use it during the fight," said You Long softly when the battle ended.

Chunyu said with a peaceful tone, "Sometimes an unused technique is more effective than the one being used."

Ji Xueqing sighed. "What a shame; he didn't help our first senior brother test Liu Xia's limits. I think she's still hiding something."

Everybody was silent, complex feelings floating about.

The next battle began soon after. Their eldest senior Song Yuan picked Yuantian Zhan, the Yuantians' ancestor.

His reasoning was simple too; he wanted to avenge Junior Sister Ji Xueqing.

Their battle was just as fierce; they summoned as many pets as the Loulan elder did. Even though there were very few mythical pets in the entire universe, some had been born during the Federation's long history, and most were controlled by the Celestials and their subordinates.

Owning such pets was tantamount to disaster for normal people, which would often cause their deaths.

While the fierce battle raged on the void battlefield—the black sphere revolved quietly on the throne's armrest. The black fog on the surface faded away, revealing the figure within.

## **Chapter 1200: Arrival**

Shen Huang realized something, then lowered his head.

He saw that the black sphere on the armrest seemed as if ready to hatch like an egg. A weird and mysterious aura was being dispersed as the dark power was being concentrated.

Shen Huang's eyes glittered. Others weren't able to notice what was inside his small universe, but he was able to perceive everything with clarity. Su Ping was as unpredictable as a ghost inside his small universe, as if about to slip away like a wisp of smoke!

Such an amazing feeling astounded him. He was a Celestial, and his small universe was like a secret garden under his absolute control.

Still, he found that it was difficult to catch his disciple in his own dominion.

He would only get such a feeling when he dealt with top Heavenly Lords.

*Is it possible...*

Shen Huang shook his head, as the idea was absurd. Su Ping was only a Star Lord; rather than a genius, he would be a true monster if he were as capable as a top Heavenly Lord!

A monster the universe had never seen before!

6

Such an idea was impossible!

“Liu Xia must have helped him activate his constitution, as their auras shared a common origin. It seems that he’ll certainly become a top Heavenly Lord when he reaches the Ascendant State. Still, whether or not he can fully develop his Constitution in the end remains unknown...” Shen Huang mumbled.

While all the top Heavenly Lords were precious, Celestials were on another level.

The ancient devil reborn using Lin Xiu’s body as a vessel, who had changed his name back to Ye Chen, was a new Celestial causing great changes in the universe!

The guy had sowed chaos everywhere!

Su Ping was waking up at that moment.

His senses were connected to the time and space around him; this allowed him to feel all the details, including the darkness and the energy he had never felt before. He was able to see everything around him.

Comparing his past self, it was like living with one of his eyes covered; he was used to the feeling and never felt anything amiss. However, he instantly noticed the difference once his other eye was liberated.

*Looks like... there are tiny cracks in my Master’s universe.*

Su Ping was greatly shocked after examining his surroundings carefully, thinking it was all an illusion. Besides, his master was a Celestial; how could there be cracks in his universe?

Enemies could take advantage of this if there were any!

However, careful observation did reveal that those “cracks” were indeed present!

It was just that, unlike normal cracks, they were like shadows of the energy which made the small universe.

The old Su Ping wouldn’t have considered those shadows as cracks. However, he could now tell with ease that he could crawl through!

It was similar to standing before a vine-filled wall. There was a feeling of being blocked at first, but he could climb said vines.

Su Ping's mind was racing, but held back his urge to go through the cracks in the end; it would be better to experiment this in the cultivation sites.

After Su Ping completely suppressed his power—Shen Huang finally canceled his small universe and asked with a smile, “How do you feel?”

“Terrific.”

Shen Huang felt his lips twitch upon hearing his disciple's calm reply. He too sensed that Su Ping had somehow improved significantly, but he didn't pursue the matter. Guiding such a genius was stressful for him, especially when he knew that a mysterious expert was backing the young man; it would be inappropriate for him to intervene with Su Ping's cultivation.

*Being his nominal master, I can only try my best to offer him other types of help,* thought Shen Huang sadly.

He was a Celestial expert.

There were lots of geniuses who wanted to be his disciples, which he didn't even bother to lay eyes on.

However, he felt a lot of pressure when it came to teaching Su Ping.

“Liu Xia carved her own path to the Ascendant State; everyone has their own path. Like I said, you can learn from them, but you mustn't imitate them!”

Shen Huang ended in a low voice, “It's impossible to rise to the Ascendant State by imitation.”

Su Ping nodded. “I understand. I'll create a path of my own to reach the Ascendant State!”

Shen Huang nodded and was about to add something else, but then his expression changed as he aggressively looked in a certain direction.

Meanwhile—both Chi Huo and Xu Kong felt something, then looked in the same direction. Chi Luo wore a grim expression as he suddenly rose. A scorching heat was swept out, making it seem that the entire universe was on fire; the temperature was rising rapidly.

“What's going on?”

“Chi Huo...”

All the Ascendant State cultivators were stunned; a vortex appeared in the void and powerful auras were spreading out before they could utter their shock.

Their expressions changed when a torrent of power which felt as if an animal would have rushed in like a tide amidst the aggressive auras.

A black sphere emerged from the vortex, revealing many people as it faded; the one in the lead appeared to be Ye Chen!

“It's Old Monster Ye!”

“Why is he here?”

“An Hei is with him. He ended up conspiring with Old Monster Ye!”

“His own disciple was possessed by that guy, and yet he’s still conspiring with him. How shameless!”

Everybody was shocked. They rose to their feet, instantly releasing their Ascendant auras like bristling hedgehogs.

Nobody expected that villain to appear.

*Wasn't the void battlefield supposed to be well hidden?*

*Are there traitors amongst us?*

Everybody exchanged bewildered looks, but remained silent. There were too many people; the idea of one being bought out was understandable. Besides, Ascendants could also create clones; it was easy for them to have their clones relay messages.

“There’s nothing to be afraid of. If they dare to come, they must die!” said a furious Heavenly Lord next to Chi Huo as he rose. Several geniuses from his clan had perished in the star zone brutalized by the old devil; their souls were absorbed and destroyed.

They couldn’t be revived even if time was reversed!

“Wait, Xue Mei is here too!”

“Are the three Celestials of the Heavenly Devil Alliance also here?”

Everybody was shocked to see the sexy, bloody figure which was half hidden in the shadows.

The three leaders of the Heavenly Devil Alliance were there. Did they want to start a war immediately?

“Are you having a party?”

Ye Chen stood at the center, looking starkly different than when he had just gotten out of the relic. His black hair was fluttering, and his hands were clasped behind his back. His handsome face reflected violence and domination, while his eyes were filled with infinite brutality.

His voice was chilling, even though he smiled as he talked.

Shen Huang slowly stood up. His small universe reappeared and protected Su Ping.

“You’re bold enough. Aren’t you afraid that we’ll seize the opportunity to destroy the nest that your Heavenly Devil Alliance has just built?” asked Shen Huang indifferently, glowing like a god.

An Hei, who was standing next to Ye Chen, chuckled and replied, “You should worry about your own base when you say that.”

Xu Kong said indifferently, “That is an empty threat; you’ll be caught the moment you dare step into the Void Star Zone.”

Ye Chen raised his eyebrows to glance at her. He soon looked back at Shen Huang, then fixed his eyes on Su Ping who was on the throne’s armrest.

The smile on his face was instantly gone; his eyes turned cold.

"I didn't expect that you would be bold enough to leave your store. You are but a lowly Star Lord; why are you here instead of cultivating? Do you want to gain more experience by watching?"

Ye Chen sneered and continued, "I'm waiting for you to rise to the Ascendant State. I hope you won't keep me waiting for long!"

Su Ping replied calmly, "You're just as talkative as before. Even your treasury was looted by me, remember? You're allying with so many people right now... Are you trying to unify the universe and reach the emperor level?"

"The emperor level?"

"Is that beyond the Celestial State?"

Many Ascendants were stunned by the revelation. Many Heavenly Lords changed their expressions and looked at Su Ping thoughtfully, to later look at Ye Chen with wary and cold eyes.

They had learned that the Celestial State wasn't the ultimate level in the universe after reading some ancient books.

There were even superior beings. Some legends spoke of more levels; it was just that the higher levels were like baseless tales.

However, there was still valid proof that there was another level beyond the Celestial State, known as the Empyrean State!

The Empyrean State was used to speak about all levels above the Celestial State. However, no one in the recorded history of the universe had reached it.

It was said that Empyreans could easily shatter the universe, control all laws and power!

They were far stronger than Celestials, almost Creators themselves!

They had truly existed in the past, based on the evidence found in some ancient relics. Such a fact was terrifying.

It was also said that there were other levels beyond the Empyrean State, but there was very little information about them. Still, some people knew that it was 70% likely to be true!

However, such realms were still too far away.

The battle pet warriors in the universe saw as already glorious enough for them to reach the Ascendant State, while their lifelong goal was to become Celestials!

"The Empyrean State... This ancient devil lived in the era of deities. Does he have any secret techniques that allow him to advance further?"

"He'll be the only king of the universe in the future if he rises to the Empyrean State!"

All the Heavenly Lords looked concerned. Their cultivation realm was named as such because they were capable of escaping from Celestials. But if Ye Chen broke through to a higher realm, he would have the power to crush Celestials like ants!

They had enjoyed their lives as Heavenly Lords for a very long time; Celestials would leave them alone as long as they weren't too outrageous.

They had a special position, and they could do anything they wanted!

However, the rise of an Empyrean would surely lower their position significantly, making them no different than normal Ascendants. They could only count as tough subordinates at best.

They could not tolerate the prospect of being unable to control their fates!

"Kid, it's been such a long time, but you're just as cunning as before!" Ye Chen was grim. What Su Ping said made a lot of people hate him. The people from the three star zones weren't as united in the beginning; after all, they didn't have a lot of shared interests. But now Su Ping had painted him as the common foe to beat.

The young man had been so convincing that even the neutral Celestials would step in!

"The Empyrean State is just a legend; it's beyond my reach. I would have cultivated in seclusion for 100,000 years to then come out and kill you all if breaking through were possible!" said Ye Chen with a snort, holding back his fury.

He was a Celestial expert. And yet, he had to explain himself after Su Ping spoke. It was humiliating!

"Nonsense. You are an Empyrean; you're merely wounded and weakened right now. You're collecting resources from all over the universe because you want to heal faster and return to your prime state; that's what your weapon told me," said Su Ping solemnly.

Ye Chen was infuriated by Su Ping's confident bluff. *When was I an Empyrean? How could it be that simple?*

"If you think I'm an Empyrean, that also means that my treasures are also emperor-level items. You stole them all; I suggest that you give them back to me, lest they swallow you soon!" said Ye Chen coldly.

"Your treasures were indeed emperor-level items. However, their essence was dispersed when you died; now, they're only Celestial items. I would have already conquered the universe if they still preserved their Empyrean level," said Su Ping innocently.

Ye Chen snorted. "How can their emperor-level essence disperse so easily? Besides, even if it did, they could return to their original level. I don't know what kind of deal you've made with my weapons, but you won't be able to rely on them anyway!"

"No need to waste time talking to him; we're not here to argue with this brat," An Hei suddenly interjected.

Su Ping raised his eyebrows and sneered. "Your own disciple was possessed. To think that his master would be conspiring with the culprit... Is that the dignity of a Celestial State expert?"

An Hei's expression changed. He didn't expect the lad to be that bold, mocking them left and right.

In all his life as a Celestial State, never had an insignificant Star Lord addressed him so. Even Star Lords had to behave in front of him!

Even though the top Heavenly Lords could escape from a Celestial's pursuit, that was only when the latter wasn't determined to kill them!

Not even Heavenly Lords could defend themselves when a Celestial was determined!

The gap between cultivation realms couldn't be surmounted with extraordinary talent alone. Besides, for a Celestial to rise implied that their talent was much better in comparison!