

Pet Store 1221

Chapter 1221: Catching Ascendant State Pets

The behemoth roared angrily, infuriated by Su Ping's strange resurrection; it was beyond its knowledge and understanding. The situation not only angered it, but made it feel vigilant and scared.

Bang!

Su Ping was able to fight head to head with the behemoth using Dao Patterns. There was a great amount of chaotic energy in Su Ping. Even though he was just a Star Lord, the power of chaos, being the most primal energy, was hundreds of times denser than other energy types!

Su Ping was at the moment able to reach a tie with the behemoth when clashing with physical strength alone, despite his disadvantages.

That filled him with hope; the longer he fought, the braver he became. He continued exploiting the young Chaos Beast's power, which allowed him to develop the pet's potential.

Bang!

The behemoth roared furiously and attacked in a fit of frenzy. It completely suppressed Su Ping, but was unable to kill him.

The creature's secret techniques grew weaker because of the eight small worlds, and were no longer able to cause fatal damage when they hit Su Ping.

"Break!"

Su Ping felt terrified upon seeing the red rays of light shot by the behemoth. He unleashed his full strength and detonated his first small world, causing glamorous fireworks and dazzling scenes. Those effects were caused by the explosion of laws in the small world. Such an explosion of the law of time caused flashbacks in the explosion area.

The enormous power caused by the explosion was a great stimulus for Su Ping. His own power was boosted to a new peak. He stepped forward and slashed furiously!

Light was glowing in the void; all kinds of unusual phenomena were appearing. The rays were shattered and the sword aura became desolate. The behemoth howled and charged again amid the collapsed energy in the void.

Su Ping was unwilling to give in. He then prepared himself to detonate the second world. He would no longer be able to fight the gargantuan creature with only seven small worlds. He had to keep detonating them!

Bang!

Su Ping's declining aura rose to a new peak. He slashed again, as if ready to cut the sky apart. That was an ultimate skill he had created using the Sky Execution Technique as the main reference, along with many laws and Dao Patterns—named, Dawn!

The world seemed to be sliced in two. The clouds in the sky were pushed away, revealing the bloody moons.

The behemoth rolled out some of its bloody tongues, which had been sliced by the sword aura. The attack went and pressed for hundreds of meters, reaching the beast's body and causing a deep wound.

The severed tongues quickly grew back—

However, the wound on its body was recovering extremely slowly. The Dao Patterns and the sword aura were still digging into its body and slowing down its recovery.

I've actually injured a Celestial creature while being a Star Lord. Not bad.

Su Ping became even more excited and crazy. He detonated his third world before his aura declined.

The behemoth roared upon seeing that Su Ping's aura was still on the rise; the black universe behind its back suddenly dashed over, which acted like its core. That was its most powerful attack, and also its greatest vulnerability; it would be really difficult to fix its small universe if damaged.

The behemoth's own life would be at risk too!

The creature had used its small universe three times in a row during their fight!

Su Ping's eyes glittered upon seeing the small universe heading toward him. He roared and detonated the rest of his small worlds; the resulting surge of violent power almost ripped his body to pieces. He was now filled with such overwhelming strength that he seemed able to suppress the world by raising a hand!

"Come on!!"

He slashed using Dawn again. The entire world was shaking; time and space were in turmoil and all laws were being annihilated. The sword aura could crush billions of kilometers in a single second; it reached the small universe the moment it was launched.

There was a boom, and the black universe hummed, unleashing a black demonic aura that continuously corrupted the sword aura, until it suppressed the latter like an iron ball.

The sword aura was dispersed, and Su Ping was drowned by the small universe again.

Revival!

Su Ping was resurrected elsewhere in the blink of an eye, and watched as the behemoth recalled its small universe. His eyes were keen enough for him to notice a tiny crack!

The small universe was damaged!

It was very hard to fix a damaged small universe; it couldn't be healed in the blink of an eye like a body.

Su Ping was truly delighted by the result. There was a chance that he could kill the enemy if he continued like this!

The great beast didn't have the time to feel sorry for its small universe when it noticed Su Ping reappear. It roared with extreme fury, but the next moment—instead of charging at Su Ping, it turned around and fled!

Su Ping was going to attack, but the scene left him in a daze. *The Celestial beast is escaping?*

Even though his fighting style was almost like cheating, it was unexpected to see such a powerhouse choose to flee.

“You're not going to eat me anymore?”

“Am I not delicious enough?”

Su Ping looked in the direction the behemoth had gone to, and felt rather helpless. He wanted to give chase, but knew he couldn't.

He could kill the beast in a war of attrition with his infinite resurrections. But he would never be able to catch up if the other was determined to run.

He waited for a moment, but the Celestial State beast was still nowhere to be seen; Su Ping had to give up. In any case, he had measured his combat ability during battle: he could kill a Celestial State creature by leveraging resurrections, which was unimaginable for Su Ping in the past.

It was just like a normal Star State cultivator could hardly deal with a Star Lord, even if the former could resurrect infinitely.

After all, a Star Lord could kill a Star State cultivator with one finger. He could even kill the guy with a mere glance, or some pressure.

A Star Lord would only feel a bit tired, even if a Star State cultivator resurrected a million times; there was a long way to go until the former died from exhaustion.

Su Ping felt he would need twenty resurrections more to finish the behemoth off, on the premise that the latter didn't flee!

After all, the behemoth had to use its small universe and full strength to suppress him.

“This result is not bad at all, especially when considering that my opponent was two levels stronger than me. I simply wonder how strong that beast is among other Celestials...” said Su Ping to himself.

He was planning on trying his hand with other Celestial beasts if he encountered them. He had gone there for training anyway.

In the deep sea—all the Ascendant beasts were fleeing; some were accidentally killed during the battle. As for those below the Ascendant State, they had been run through and killed by the energy produced with Su Ping's sword aura.

It was truly unlucky for them to get involved in such a battle.

Su Ping didn't stay too long. He continued moving forward with the Little Skeleton and the other pets.

He slew the beasts they encountered, and stopped when he found suitable sparring partners. He was already able to crush any beast below the Celestial State.

Time flew.

Once back from the Dark Demon World, Su Ping put down the pets he had trained and took four different pets to another advanced cultivation site for training.

Su Ping encountered a few Celestial beasts on his way. He became more familiar with his new power as he fought, and he started using Dao Patterns more skillfully.

If I can compress the thirty-six Dao Patterns into eighteen, they will be multiple times more powerful!

Unfortunately, Dao Patterns are used to illustrate Dao Glyphs. If the Dao Patterns are compressed into one, it will become a Dao Glyph. Only God Emperors or even Ancestral Gods can probably fight with Dao Glyphs alone...

Su Ping was also working on new Dao Patterns during battle, while he became familiar with the usage of Dao Patterns.

I should be able to finish off some Celestial beasts within ten resurrections. Su Ping knew his own combat ability with increasing clarity. Even though ten resurrections were still necessary, the achievement itself was still incredible. After all, not even the top Heavenly Lords can kill a Celestial, even if they could resurrect dozens of times.

Once a Celestial became serious, they would kill any Ascendant cultivators they wanted, including the so-called Heavenly Lords.

It was practically impossible for a Heavenly Lord to kill a Celestial expert!

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“Finally, I’ve caught one successfully.”

Su Ping felt relieved as he looked at the phoenix—with black and golden feathers—which had been caught by a beast-catching ring. That was his last one; the other five had failed. He would have bought six beast-catching rings for nothing if the last one failed again!

Beast-catching rings could only be used once; they would break once they failed.

Once a pet was successfully caught, the ring would serve as a temporary home for the creature.

Su Ping felt slightly regretful since only one in six rings had succeeded. But he felt lucky too; after all, the odds were only at 1%. Even though he had beaten Ascendant pets within an inch of their lives to increase the odds of success, he estimated that the probability couldn’t go beyond a 10%.

That was only one tenth.

It wasn’t bad that he succeeded in the end.

Fortunately, he could make up for all the costs incurred if he sold an Ascendant pet.

Su Ping picked Ascendant State pets with the best of bloodlines. That Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix, for example, carried a Celestial State bloodline!

It was said that the pet's father was a beast with an emperor-level bloodline and its mother was a phoenix; cross-species mating wasn't unusual for beasts.

Reproductive isolation wasn't a problem at all for creatures that controlled laws. Even Star Lords could change laws and give birth to their unique species.

It hasn't reached adulthood yet. I will easily reach the Celestial State by the time it fully activates its potential and awakens its bloodline. I should be able to sell it for a high price. Su Ping smiled and waved a hand to recall the ring.

1

Su Ping checked the four customers' pets and examined their potential. He was relieved to see that they were all high-level, so he chose to go back to the store.

The store was quite crowded and lively.

Su Ping had chosen the pet room as a return point. He placed the customers' pets in nursing pens and then opened the door to visit the lobby.

The sutra old man and the cauldron woman hurriedly got back to work and greeted him, even after seeing that Su Ping had returned. Su Ping gave them a single glance and then ignored them completely. There was no way they would be rated as outstanding employees with such an attitude.

Chapter 1222: Sales

At the counter—Joanna was receiving customers and Tang Ruyan was helping maintain order.

Green Lady stood in the lobby; she was in charge of receiving pets and taking them to the pet room for training. There was no work in the store; most customers were quite obedient, so they weren't busy.

"The professional training for the last batch of pets is done. Ask their masters to claim them," said Su Ping to Joanna.

Joanna was the temporary manager while he was away, and even when he was back, she still acted as the head of employees. She instantly asked the sutra old man to inform the owners.

The old fellow had already registered in the virtual universe. He didn't like being bossed around by Joanna, but he didn't object since Su Ping was around. He went into the virtual universe with a smile and informed them.

Su Ping went to the other room where pets were sold.

He hadn't restocked the shelves in a long time. The pets he had caught back in the Blue Planet had already been sold out; the room was absolutely empty at the moment.

1

Su Ping instantly summoned his last catch, the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix and placed it on the shelf.

The system quickly examined the pet and decided its price—

Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix

Property: Ancient Phoenix

Rank: Ascendant State

Combat Strength: 72,283

Aptitude: Mid Level

Bloodline Potential: Celestial State

Talent Abilities: Ancient Phoenix's True Flames, Reversed Fire...

Ascendant State Mark: Red Phoenix Mark

Laws: Perfect time and space... Perfect chaos... Perfect destruction... Perfect fire...

Dao Glyphs: Fire (56%) Darkness (12%)

...

After the evaluation, the final price was set at 230 million energy points.

“So expensive? Wait... So cheap?”

Su Ping was rather shocked and excited by the price set. The cost of a single beast-catching ring was only two million energy points, six of them would amount to twelve million. He had made a huge profit!

In terms of astral coins, the price would be 23 billion.

It sounded like a lot, but it was unbelievably cheap for an Ascendant pet. It was almost being given away for free!

One had to consider how most Star Lords had trillions in savings.

Still, Su Ping didn't plan to sell at the market price. After all, very few Ascendant pets were available on the market as things were. He had already become used to the system's sales methodology. The income was a significant amount of energy for him, enough for him to enter the mysterious Remains of High Heavens twice!

I'll be able to upgrade the store if I catch four more of these pets.

Adding my old savings, I only need to catch three of them.

Su Ping glanced at the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix currently on sale. The pet had an extraordinary appearance and had a combat strength of more than seventy thousand points. It was as strong as a Heavenly Lord.

Most Ascendant's combat strength was at about 10,000 on average.

The upper limit was 100,000.

Those with a combat strength of 70,000 points were mostly Heavenly Lords. Those close to the 100,000 mark were top Heavenly Lords; even the old Heavenly Lords such as Song Yuan would have a hard time achieving that.

“The beast’s aptitude is only at the mid level. What a shame; I wouldn’t mind keeping it as my own if it were in the upper level. That way I would meet the second requirement for the store upgrade, which is an Ascendant pet with a high-level aptitude.”

Su Ping shook his head. That pet was indeed strong, but it wasn’t good enough for him anymore; he could easily beat it to tears.

He opened the system store and checked, then bought a few rare materials. They were necessary for some pets, but their prices were really low; at least for Su Ping. He would rather give them to the Little Skeleton and his other pets. The food might not be suitable for them, but at least it could keep their bellies full.

Once back behind the counter, Su Ping saw that a few men entered the store. They were the customers who were there to claim their pets.

Those who wanted to train their pets had to wait in line, but the ones picking up their pets had a shortcut.

“Tang.”

Su Ping called for Tang Ruyan. Seeing how curious she was, he said, “Let the customers know that an Ascendant pet is available for sale in this store and that they’re free to buy it as long as they’re in the Ascendant State. Star Lords can’t keep it in check.”

Even though Star Lords could contract Ascendant pets, it rarely happened in that universe, because the gap between the Ascendant State and the Star Lord State was too wide. Whenever in danger, the Ascendant pet could always abandon their master without suffering any restraint.

It was like tying a ferocious tiger to a baby. Not even the members of major families would dare to do that, fearing that the tiger would go crazy again.

After all, whoever was protected by an Ascendant pet was oftentimes a core member of such families; it would be hilarious if they got killed by their own pet.

“An Ascendant State pet is available?”

Tang Ruyan felt disappointed, expecting him to tell her something else, until she realized what she had heard. She looked at Su Ping in shock.

She was no longer the idiot she used to be when she arrived in the Federation; she already knew how extraordinary Ascendants were in that territory.

Ascendant cultivators were the kings when the Celestials were away!

“Yes. First come, first serve; if interested, they can come and take a look,” said Su Ping.

“Well... Fine.”

Tang Ruyan didn't know what else to say, and could only accept the request.

Both Joanna and Green Lady heard what he said; they looked at Su Ping with troubled expressions. *Su Ping grew to such an extent in the blink of an eye?* An Ascendant pet was just as strong as them; it would be sold that casually...

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“This guy...” the cauldron woman couldn't help but mumble

She had spent a lot of time surfing the virtual universe in recent days and learned a lot about the new age. Little did she expect that the brat she could easily crush would sell a pet at her level. She experienced a feeling of crisis. Su Ping would probably abandon her casually if she didn't work hard to improve herself.

1

The rest of the customers also learned the news and were shocked, just as Su Ping's word began to spread.

Still, those customers were all between the Star State and the Star Lord State; some were even weaker. But all customers under the Star State had sold their positions in the waiting line to others for high prices, so all the customers who entered Su Ping's store were between the Star State and the Star Lord State.

2

An Ascendant State pet is available!

The crowded street outside Su Ping's store started to boil upon hearing the shocking news.

All the people waiting in line were dumbfounded by Tang Ruyan's words. Many of them quickly sent word to the major forces backing them through their watches.

A lot of people immediately tore the void apart and arrived in the sky above Su Ping's store.

All of them were the Ascendants that were set to guard the Celestial Court. They went there as soon as they received the news.

Su Ping was Shen Huang's disciple anyway; an announcement from his store was very likely trustworthy.

“Mr. Su, I'm here!”

A man broke into Su Ping's store. It was none other than Milaluo, who had left his pets to train in Su Ping's store. He had already moved to that planet, so he was the first to arrive.

“Sure.”

Su Ping saw him, then nodded.

“Boss Su, is there really an Ascendant pet available? Can I buy it? What’s the price that you want?”
Milaluo asked in a hurry.

Chapter 1223: Is It Strong?

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“It’s you...”

Su Ping remembered Milaluo, the Ascendant cultivator he had met before. He nodded and said, “Anyone with Ascendant cultivation can buy it. Now that you’re here, feel free to check if it’s satisfactory.”

He then led Milaluo into the room where pets were sold.

The other curious customers followed along, wondering if an Ascendant pet was truly available.

Su Ping was too famous and powerful to be lying.

Everybody soon entered the room and immediately saw a poster-sized board on the wall displaying a divine phoenix with black and golden feathers. The mere image was already intimidating and domineering.

“Is it truly an Ascendant pet?”

Many people were shocked, not expecting that Su Ping would truly be selling Ascendant pets, a phoenix to boot!

Although beasts had assorted bloodlines, any of those related to dragons or phoenixes were on the top tier of their level. Of course, there were some exceptions, but even those could also be hilarious pets for fun purposes.

“This is...”

Milaluo looked at the image with shock and suspicion. He could feel the powerful aura conveyed by the image, but he had never seen that type of phoenix before.

The creature wasn’t on Federation’s known Ascendant pet listing.

Is it a new species discovered in the borderlands?

But such unknown pets were usually studied first, and wouldn’t be sold until their potential and combat ability were deemed to be mediocre, even when fully developed.

“Boss Su, is this the one?”

Milaluo was stunned to see it was being sold for 23 billion astral coins.

...Only 23 billion?

What’s your problem?

Or rather, what’s the pet’s problem?

There has to be something seriously wrong with it!

Even a dying Ascendant pet should have been more expensive than that. Or being more straightforward, even the corpse of such a pet—which could only be used to refine pills—would have been sold for more than that.

“Exactly. This is the one,” said Su Ping.

Milaluo was rather suspicious. He asked, “Boss Su, do you need anything else besides money?”

“No, I only need the money.”

“...”

Milaluo was confused again.

The pet was dirt cheap, and he didn’t have to compensate with any rare materials... He would have thought that Su Ping was a fraud if he weren’t Shen Huang’s talented disciple!

Exactly at this moment—the sound of wind approached from behind them as a few people rushed into Su Ping’s store. They didn’t have to wait in line because they went directly to buy the Ascendant pet.

They soon saw Su Ping and Milaluo as they gathered.

They also saw the image of the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix when they entered the room.

The four Ascendant cultivators who had just arrived were in a daze. They hurriedly pelted Su Ping with questions.

“This is the one? It’s a phoenix! Huh?”

“Its price is only 23 billion? Are they talking about astral coins, or golden crystals?”

“Mr. Su, is this the pet you’re selling?”

Su Ping nodded. “This is the one. I only accept cash.”

He wasn’t the least bit interested in those Ascendant’s possessions. After all, he had even robbed four Superior Gods clean not long before; Ascendant State stuff didn’t attract him at all.

“Boss Su, I’m willing to pay 50 billion!”

“500 billion!” Another Ascendant State cultivator quickly raised the price.

“Mr. Su, I am Loulan Ruoyun. We’ll pay you however much you demand as long as you’re willing to sell the pet to us!” said a female Ascendant with a smile. Even though she looked beautiful and elegant, she still treated the lower-tiered Su Ping with respect.

Her attitude made the other Ascendants change their expression; the rest of the customers were shocked to see this.

They knew that Su Ping had an extraordinary identity, but they didn’t expect to see Ascendant cultivators—powerful lords in the universe—acting courteously in his presence.

“Well...”

Su Ping looked at Milaluo and asked, “You were the first to arrive. Do you want it? I’ll sell it to someone else if you don’t.”

Milaluo snapped out of his daze and quickly said, “Yes, of course. Boss Su, just name your price; I’ll definitely pay you as long as I can afford it.”

“The price has already been set. Pay up if you want it.” Su Ping waved a hand, dismissing the offer.

Milaluo was at a loss. *That’s the price?* He could tell that Su Ping wasn’t trying to swindle him out of his money. After all, the price was nothing compared to the other Ascendant’s bids; Su Ping didn’t have to lie to him.

No matter what was wrong with the pet, buying it wouldn’t be a mistake.

It was an Ascendant State pet anyway!

Even if it were sick, he could always spend some more money to heal it!

Even the weakest pet of that realm would cost more than 20 trillion, forget about 20 billion!

All things considered, he should definitely buy the pet. Milaluo looked at Su Ping and hesitated. “So, I just pay that amount and it’s mine?”

“It’s fine even if you pay while doing a headstand.” Su Ping was feeling rather helpless at that point, not expecting to waste so much time talking after setting such a low price.

“Well...” Milaluo coughed and said, “I’ll pay right now.” He then dashed to the counter and transferred the money from his account in the Universe Bank.

Loulan Ruoyun and the other three Ascendants looked at each other in bewilderment. Their biddings were considerably higher. *Why did Su Ping pick Milaluo?*

Are they friends?

“Boss Su, are you seriously not going to reconsider?”

“I have a piece of Dragon Drool Wood that’s thirty thousand years old. You can also charge me however much money you want. I hope you’ll reconsider, Mr. Su,” said another cultivator.

Loulan Ruoyun didn’t want to give up just yet, either. She said, “Mr. Su, the Loulan family will surely offer you the most satisfactory price. I hope you...”

“It’s been decided,” Su Ping shook his head and said, “Just come early next time a pet is available. First come, first served.”

The four of them were stunned. *Next time a pet is available? First come, first served?*

What about the price? Does the pricing mean nothing to you?

Any Ascendant pet can be put up for auction and raise a fortune!

At least it would be sold for a much higher price!

“Mr. Su, are you saying that you’ll sell the pet to whoever arrives first?” one of the bidders couldn’t help but ask.

Su Ping looked at him with a strange expression. “Of course. That’s the rule in business; I believe that even ordinary people know about common courtesy.”

“Well...”

The last person to ask was lost for words. *You’re applying the ‘first come, first served’ rule to sell Ascendant pets? Do you think you’re selling bread and butter?*

Loulan Ruoyun was shocked too. She had long heard that Mr. Su was a quirky man who, instead of focusing all his time on cultivation, wasted time running a pet store. Little did she expect that the guy was actually doing business in such a crazy way.

That’s an Ascendant State pet you just sold! Wake up!

“Try to come early next time,” Su Ping said to Loulan Ruoyun. She was from the Loulan family anyway, and Su Ping didn’t mind reminding her.

Loulan Ruoyun nodded, still having trouble understanding the situation.

After having made the payment, Milaluo then approached Su Ping uneasily and said, “Boss Su, the payment was made. This pet...”

“Prepare to sign the contract. By the way, you must not resell or cancel the contract of any pet sold by this store within a ten year period, unless the circumstances are special. Otherwise, you’ll be blacklisted,” said Su Ping.

“Of course.” Milaluo accepted the request without hesitation. Ten years was just the blink of an eye for an Ascendant State cultivator.

Everybody kept their eyes peeled while they looked at the image of the phoenix. They were eager to find out why that Ascendant pet was sold for the measly amount of 23 billion!

Su Ping asked the crowd to move back and clear the area. He then summoned the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix. “Come out!”

A shriek was heard, and a powerful and domineering aura was spread out of a certain space within the store. The hot waves quickly increased the temperature, but then stabilized after reaching the upper limit.

A glamorous phoenix covered in black and golden feathers descended with brutality and ferocity in its eyes. It only showed fear when it recognized Su Ping.

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Su Ping had previously beaten it up black and blue in order to improve the beast-catching ring’s success rate. He rendered it incapable of resisting while barely keeping it alive. That was an extremely delicate job, and he had to torture it bit by bit. The beast still vividly remembered the process, and considered Su Ping a fiend.

“Well...”

“What a powerful aura!”

“Is it a true phoenix? It’s so intimidating...”

The onlooking cultivators were shocked to see the creature reveal; its aura was too powerful. They were all terrified when it arrived, as if they were facing a strong ferocious beast. They found the phoenix extremely dangerous.

It might even be stronger than them!

They were absolutely shocked, and none of them could utter a word. They could only stare while dazed.

The other customers watching the transaction had been scared off; some even fell due to the pressure.

Everything was happening while the pet was being suppressed by the store. Its full intimidating aura before being subdued would have made all the Ascendant cultivators feel the urge to flee.

“Is this...?”

Milaluo was completely stunned. *Is this truly the pet that I got for only 23 billion?*

He would have gladly paid ten thousand times the original amount for that intimidating aura alone, even if it was sick.

“Prepare to sign the contract.” Su Ping’s voice dragged Milaluo back to reality.

After being dazed for a moment, Milaluo looked at the phoenix and felt uncertain. *To sign the contract... He didn’t think he could suppress that phoenix.*

However, there was no way he would back off from owning such a powerful pet. He stepped up and quickly drew a contract, condensing a powerful mental mark.

The Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix sensed something and shrieked furiously, unleashing scorching flames as it tried to attack Milaluo.

Once he saw that, Su Ping raised a hand and snorted. “Behave.”

An immense pressure was imposed; the creature shivered, remembering how it had been subdued by Su Ping. Its flames were gone, and stopped to watch as the contract was imprinted on its forehead with shock and fury.

The mysterious link was instantly established.

Milaluo felt an explosion inside his head. The next moment, he sensed that a powerful and arrogant consciousness entered his head, which belonged to the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix.

He prudently greeted and communicated with the phoenix, only to receive an angry and condescending reply.

Milaluo had also discovered that the phoenix wasn't easy to deal with, and could only smile bitterly in his heart. He would have to take time in building up rapport. For the moment he simply examined the phoenix with the contract.

The longer he examined, the more surprised Milaluo was. It was possible to detect a pet's basic stats with the contract, but only vets and trainers could diagnose their diseases.

The basic stats discovered by Milaluo had stunned him.

Strong!

So strong!

The pet was far stronger than him. He wouldn't have been able to beat it even if he merged with another Ascendant pet.

"The pet test room is over there if you wish to have a feel, or maybe in another store elsewhere," said Su Ping.

Milaluo snapped out of his pondering with a bitter smile. Was there any place an Ascendant pet could be tested? He asked Su Ping, "Is it possible to test it here? Won't it... tear this place down?"

"Don't worry about that. Not even Celestials can tear this place down," said Su Ping without giving it any thought.

His words boomed in everyone's ears. They all looked at Su Ping in surprise. *Not even Celestials can tear this place down? Is there a Celestial expert hiding here?*

Or maybe, is it an ancient array able to resist Celestial attacks?

They suddenly felt chills and uncertainty upon recalling Su Ping's achievements. They had the feeling that a pair of eyes were looking down at them inside the store.

No wonder their senses couldn't see through the store and explore the closed rooms.

He's been really casual even when he talks about Celestials like his master. There must be another Celestial expert backing him... The idea occurred to all the Ascendant cultivators, who became even more respectful towards Su Ping.

Milaluo was stunned for a moment due to Su Ping's answer. Although wrought with mixed feelings, he didn't turn down the offer; he was eager to find out his pet's real combat ability too.

Milaluo went to the test room and some curious customers followed along, including the other Ascendants.

Loulan Ruoyun spoke to Su Ping for a while, then went to the test room too.

The place wasn't too big, but it was an independent world.

Everyone was dumbfounded by the pet's performance.

The phoenix was too strong. It merely unleashed a flame, and Milaluo was almost killed!

Milaluo ended the test in a hurry and scurried out of the room. He was surprised, delighted, and more or less worried, fearing that he would die even before his opponents if he were to summon such a powerful pet on the battlefield.

“Boss Su, why did you sell such a powerful pet to me?” Milaluo couldn’t help but ask Su Ping.

All the others looked at Su Ping with shock and confusion too.

They also considered that pet to be unbelievably powerful; too much so to be sold. And in the event of selling such a pet, the price should have been much higher.

“Is it really strong?” Su Ping asked back.

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Chapter 1224: Crushing the Forbidden Area

“Is it really strong?”

Milaluo and the others were stunned by Su Ping’s answer, not knowing what to say at the moment.

Isn’t it strong?

The pet was much stronger than average Ascendant cultivators, and could almost compare to a Heavenly Lord!

Is such a pet not powerful?

There were countless things that Milaluo wanted to say, but chose not to in the end.

There was only one reason why Su Ping would sell such a pet: his own pets were even stronger!

So...

Was this pet discarded?

But even so, it shouldn’t have been treated like garbage. It was almost sold for peanuts!

Everyone was silent, maybe because Su Ping’s answer was too crazy; it was impossible to tell whether or not he was joking.

Su Ping didn’t consider it a big deal. He patted Milaluo’s shoulder and said, “I’m glad the pet is to your liking. Train it well and it may rise to the Celestial State someday. Don’t forget to hire me to train it for you; the odds of success will be higher that way.”

Su Ping smiled and turned around.

Milaluo had recovered from the shock, but was sent to the clouds by what Su Ping said.

It might rise to the Celestial State?

The Celestial State!

Why did the Celestial State sound so easy in his mouth? He was talking as if rising to the Celestial State was just a short sprint!

Milaluo was lost for words again. He simply thought that it was Su Ping's well wishing for himself and the pet. Of course, the man could be kidding.

Nevertheless, it seemed that the man didn't have enough respect for the Celestial State.

He often talked about the Celestial State without showing enough respect... But, nevermind. His master was a Celestial State, and there might be another Celestial backer. Nobody else could tell him off about how to treat those lofty individuals.

Besides, there was a good chance that Su Ping would also become a Celestial later; his lack of respect didn't seem surprising.

A level that they would look up to their entire lives was very likely reachable for that man.

There was a brief moment of silence after Su Ping left. Then, Loulan Ruoyun was the first to approach Milaluo and say, "Hello good friend. Would you like to join the Loulan family? I sincerely extend an invitation on my family's behalf. Feel free to tell us what you need if you're willing to join. Or maybe I can take you to meet our clan master so you can talk."

The other three Ascendants realized what was going on, and could only think about how shrewd she was. It was obvious that she hoped to grab the man along with the pet, since it was impossible to only take the pet!

"Brother, I'm Liu Xiangfei. We'll be friends in the future!"

"Mister..."

The Ascendant cultivators went and introduced themselves. Milaluo had been a not-too-famous rogue Ascendant. None of the peers present had heard of him before, but they were still warm and enthusiastic.

Nevertheless, their hearts bled when they remembered that the guy had claimed such a great pet for a true bargain, even though they were speaking warmly.

Making friends with Milaluo would more or less make up for the loss.

The latter felt dazed for a moment, and then realized what was going on. He wasn't a famous Ascendant but he wasn't dumb; he simply preferred an unrestrained lifestyle. As a result, he didn't have enough resources, and his combat ability was mediocre.

However, provided that he could turn his newly bought pet into a true ally, he would surely become one of the strongest Ascendants, only bested by Heavenly Lords.

He was going to turn down Loulan Ruoyun's offer, but then he remembered that Su Ping was close to their family. If he were to turn down the offer, would Su Ping... be affronted?

He changed his mind and said to Loulan Ruoyun, "All right, I'll gladly accept the offer since the Loulan family is being so sincere. For Boss Su's sake, I'm willing to join the Loulan family."

Loulan Ruoyun was delighted. She quickly said, "I'll take you to meet our clan master immediately. Let's talk about your privileges and benefits later."

"I don't really need much," said Milaluo modestly. He followed her and left the store.

Right when she was about to leave, Loulan Ruoyun mumbled, "Boss Su is a friend of my family, but he didn't sell the pet to me. Good thing I convinced the buyer to come with me. Boss Su shouldn't have any complaints about our family. Was it really because of the 'first come, first served' rule?"

She instantly put on a warm smile when she saw him behind the counter, then said goodbye.

Su Ping also said goodbye to her with a normal expression.

Once the Ascendant cultivators left, the other customers who stayed to watch the show left too, although not entirely satisfied.

Joanna asked Tang Ruyan to close the door when the maximum number of customers were received. She then said to Su Ping, "That was surely an ancient divine pet. Why did you sell it so easily? I would have bought it if you had told me about it."

"Are you short of pets?" Su Ping glanced at her.

Joanna said angrily, "Of course not. But I'm short of top divine pets. I could easily tell that the pet deserved more than that, yet you practically gave it away!"

"That's fine; I'll just catch more in the future."

Su Ping smiled, as he really didn't feel regretful. Money had become meaningless to him for quite some time; it was only good to exchange it for system energy.

The things he could do with two hundred million energy points was much more valuable than the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix.

"If you're truly short on pets, I can take you to your world and catch some," said Su Ping.

Joanna's eyes glittered. "Really?"

"Of course. Why not go there right now?" Su Ping chuckled. "We'll train the pets at the same time. That's killing two birds with one stone."

"All right, I'll get ready." Joanna was rather excited. She didn't really have much to prepare; she simply organized the pets the customers had registered and picked a batch of Star Lord pets that required professional training with Su Ping. Then, the latter entrusted the store to Green Lady for the moment.

Tang Ruyan was a more seasoned employee, but she was only a Star Lord at the moment; she was also too weak to handle their two temporary employees.

3

Su Ping soon led Joanna to the Demigod Burial again.

"Inform them of our arrival. Ask them to accompany us during the hunt," Su Ping said to Joanna.

"Sure."

Joanna put on a smile. A few people revealed themselves in the void soon after. Heather was the first to arrive; she clearly flinched a little when she saw Su Ping, but the next second she put on a warm smile and approached him.

1

She noticed that Su Ping's aura was slightly different from last time as she moved closer.

He feels different every time he comes. I even find him slightly scary at the moment... Heather was rather shocked by Su Ping's growth. *How long has it been?*

Wouldn't Su Ping be truly capable of fighting them soon?

Shivalello and the others arrived. They felt pained and helpless as they saw the human, but they had no choice except to greet him.

"Now that we're all here, let's go hunting. We're going to capture a few pets for Anna. Surely there are ferocious beasts in your territory, right? The stronger, the better," said Su Ping straight off, not wanting to waste any time.

The four Superior Gods felt relieved; anything was fine as long as he wasn't there to rob them a second time.

However, not everyone had the privilege of asking all the four Superior Gods to accompany them hunting...

It was fine... The four of them weren't really angry. They wouldn't have a chance to return home unless Su Ping was satisfied.

"Anna, what beast do you want? Just tell me," said Shivalello generously, waving a hand.

Joanna pursed her lips and smiled. She wouldn't have been able to ask the four Superior Gods to run an errand for her in the past, even though she was the best Goddess of War. It wouldn't be bad if she could invite one of them, and she would owe them a big favor. And yet, they were at the moment working for her for free. She delightedly said, "Nothing special really. Let's just catch the Four Ferocious Gods; I happen to have four openings for pets."

Of course, she could replace some of her older pets, but they had accompanied her for so long that they were like family to her; she couldn't part with them.

3

Her parents had given her the first life, and the pets she fought alongside with had granted her a second life. Pets were all she could count on in the most dangerous moments.

Of course, pets and battle pet warriors had to help and rely on each other. That was why the connection between them could never be cut.

"The Four Ferocious Gods!"

Shivalello was so shocked that he almost swallowed his own tongue. He gazed at Joanna, wondering how she could be that bold.

Heather and the other gods looked at Joanna with disbelief too. *When did she become so greedy?*

They soon thought about Su Ping and realized the reason; her greediness was clearly due to that man's bad influence!

The Four Ferocious Gods!

They were four infamous beasts in the Demigod Burial that even the Superior Gods couldn't keep in check. They wandered in the barbaric, forbidden lands, and were as strong as Superior Gods. Fortunately, they weren't really united, and the four Superior Gods were sometimes on the same side.

So, they would suppress the Four Ferocious Gods together if the beasts caused trouble to the cities.

Beasts usually wandered in the wilderness instead of attacking cities as a result.

"Anna, it's not that we're unwilling to help you, but you'd be incapable of keeping the Four Ferocious Gods in check if you did catch them. They'll swallow you!" said Shivalello earnestly, as if he were truly concerned for her.

Joanna said with a smile, "That's fine. I'll summon them when I can beat them. I believe it won't take long..."

"Anna..."

Avril was going to persuade her too.

"Do I sense a bit of unwillingness here?" Su Ping interrupted her and asked suspiciously.

The four of them looked at each other, lost for words; they had no choice but to accept the request. They feared that Su Ping would propose even more outrageous requests.

Su Ping's growth speed was scary enough. Who knew whether or not the guy would be capable of fighting them or even exceeding them next time went to visit?

Once receiving the four Superior Gods' consent, Su Ping didn't waste any time talking and simply asked them to lead the way.

The four Superior Gods had to comply and lead the way. It was a good thing they gathered together, which rarely happened. Really finishing off the Four Ferocious Gods, it would be a good thing for the locals, who wouldn't have to worry about disasters.

They soon reached a forbidden land and entered it.

They soon found one of the Four Ferocious Gods. The beast was soon caught alive after being surrounded by the four Superior Gods and attacked by Joanna and Su Ping.

The beast was given to Joanna and subdued after being beaten up.

Shivalello and the others looked at Su Ping with even more fear after the battle. The latter had weathered through the beast's two full-strength attacks without falling. *Is he truly a Major God (Star Lord)?*

Everybody then left for another forbidden land.

There were ten forbidden lands in the Demigod Burial. Some were dangerous, some were home to bloodthirsty beasts, and others were nests of the Four Ferocious Gods. They were all conquered, one by one.

All the forbidden lands were turned upside down, which shocked the gods who were adventuring at the time. The Gods of Rules—who were as strong as Joanna—observed from a distance and realized what was going on when they saw the Superior Gods and Joanna.

News was quickly spread throughout the Demigod Burial.

The four Superior Gods and Joanna were going to cleanse the forbidden lands!

The entire Demigod Burial was shocked by the news. Countless people were too dumbfounded for words. Then came a landslide of cheers.

The gods' territory would be expanded once the ten forbidden lands were conquered, and the safe area would become larger too.

While the entire Demigod Burial was thrilled—Su Ping was leading the four Superior Gods and Joanna to conquer six forbidden areas and kill countless wild beasts.

It was a shame that Su Ping didn't have any beast-catching rings. Even though he saw some beasts that were as talented as the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix, he could only beat them up and ask his pets to absorb them.

The young Chaos Beast had a great appetite, eating everything that was offered as if it housed a bottomless hole; however, there was no sign of it reaching the Ascendant State.

Other pets would have changed significantly, but the young Chaos Beast's aura was only empowered a little bit.

Time flew.

Half a month later—

Su Ping, the four Superior Gods and Joanna tracked down the last of the Four Ferocious Gods in a desolate place, thus ending the hunting trip.

The last beast looked like a gigantic cat, but there were spots all over its body that looked like strange eyes. It also had two horns and a snake tail. The creature was extremely cunning; it had run off while Su Ping and the others were cleansing other forbidden lands.

Fortunately, the latter Ping had inferred the breed of that beast from the smell and other traces left in its nest. Then, he tracked it down based on its preferences and abilities; otherwise, it might have slipped away.

"We've conquered eight of the ten forbidden lands. The last two are extremely dangerous; one of them is even full of cracks, from which void power keeps seeping in. We might die there." Shivalello had mixed feelings. They had almost crushed all the 'villains' in the Demigod Burial in just half a month.

Chapter 1225: The Snake King's Rise to the Ascendant State

“The Four Ferocious Gods...”

Heather looked at Joanna with mixed feelings; she would become stronger than any of the Superior Gods once she subdued the four beasts.

Given her great potential, Joanna had a good chance of becoming a Superior God. She would surely exceed them after breaking through.

“Anna, the responsibility of our homecoming is on your shoulders. I hope you can understand our longing!” Shivalello said to Joanna telepathically with a friendly sigh.

Joanna glanced at him. After being silent for a moment, she sent a telepathic reply, “Don’t worry. He made a promise to me, and he will deliver; I believe that we’ll go home soon.”

1

Shivalello felt relieved. “Thank you!”

“It’s something that I’ve also been hoping for. No need to thank me,” Joanna replied.

Su Ping looked at them and asked, “What are you secretly talking about?”

Shivalello was astounded. He was a Superior God, and yet Su Ping had detected their telepathic exchange?

Joanna was slightly surprised too. Even though Su Ping had shown extraordinary combat ability that was even greater than hers, she wasn’t able to detect a Celestial expert’s telepathic message, unless they were talking to her.

“Nothing important. We’re saying our goodbyes,” said Joanna simply.

Su Ping glanced at her but didn’t overthink. “All right; it’s time for us to go back. The pets have been trained too; tell me if other powerful beasts emerge here.”

Shivalello felt relieved. He replied with a smile, “I will surely let you know.”

Su Ping immediately returned with Joanna.

“I’m planning to train in seclusion for a while. About the store...” Joanna looked at Su Ping and said, “I’ve found the answer I’ve been looking for during our march through the forbidden lands. Maybe I’ll be able to make a breakthrough.”

Su Ping was slightly astonished. He had planned to help her subdue the four ferocious beasts. However, she would be capable of breaking through to the Celestial State on her own.

“All right, leave the store matters to Green Lady then. You can find a nursing pen and train in seclusion for now.” Su Ping accepted her request.

“Thank you.”

Joanna then added, “I’m walking on my own path to the Celestial State. It might not be suitable for you. So, my understanding...”

“That’s fine; I’ll find my own path,” said Su Ping with a chuckle.

Clearly relieved, Joanna stared at Su Ping and said, “I hope we can fight side by side someday!”

“You’re already fighting by my side by watching over the store for me. Business is just like war: you must not underestimate it,” said Su Ping.

Lost for words, Joanna glanced at him and said, “Can I really never leave the store?”

Su Ping saw that she was serious, and felt comforted by it. Then, he replied bitterly, “It’s hard to say. Maybe you can do that in the future. However, even if you can, you should just stay. You’ll be gone if you die outside, while I can always ensure your safety if you stay here.”

“But I’m hoping I can take care of some problems for you...” said Joanna softly.

“That’s fine. I can take care of them on my own. It’s just a lingering Celestial from another age. He won’t be able to do anything to me when I rise to the Celestial State, and I’ll still be able to go anywhere I want!” said Su Ping with ease.

Joanna didn’t reply; she nodded and entered one of the nursing pens.

Su Ping released a few pets that had just been trained, then grabbed another batch and signed temporary contracts. Afterwards, he then told Green Lady about Joanna’s seclusion, and asked her to supervise the store.

Once again, he went back to the cultivation sites.

He was also searching and thinking about his journey to the Ascendant State while training pets.

Meanwhile, he was urging his pets to work harder, hoping they could rise to the Ascendant State too. The store could be upgraded as soon as enough energy was gathered if one of them broke through; training and energy points would come faster. New beast-catching rings for Ascendant pets would also be made available in the store.

Time flew.

A couple of months passed in the blink of an eye.

It was a couple of months in the normal time flow of the universe, while a few decades passed in the cultivation sites.

3

His cultivation was rising steadily just like before, but his level remained the same. He didn’t reach the Ascendant State; however, he noticed that his power was becoming steadier. He had fully grasped his eight small worlds, and knew of his own combat ability to perfection. He had hit a bottleneck while cultivating the ninth Astral Painting of the Chaos Star Chart.

The cultivation method of the ninth Astral Painting was unlike any of the previous eight Astral Paintings. Su Ping had yet to comprehend it.

The ninth Astral Painting was also known as the Universe Astral Painting.

It was supposed to create an Astral Painting of the whole cosmos.

1

Su Ping had yet to figure out how to construct it.

However, Su Ping had already replaced all the previous laws with perfect ones in the eighth Astral Painting.

Besides, Su Ping had studied and parsed a Dao Glyph into 109 Dao Patterns during those few decades. Then he kept compressing the 109 Dao Patterns, until there were only 12 of them.

The two Dao Glyphs the Golden Crows' elders parsed for him had been compressed into twelve Dao Patterns too.

The Dao Patterns' power was almost doubled every time they were compressed.

Even though Su Ping hadn't figured out how to break through to the Ascendant State yet, he was significantly stronger than before. It was becoming increasingly easier to solve encounters with Celestial beasts in the cultivation sites. He could slay some of the weak Celestial beasts with only three self-explosions!

1

As for opponents below the Celestial State, Su Ping had crushed them all.

"It's truly difficult to rise to the Ascendant State..."

Su Ping walked barefoot on a bleak snowy mountain, feeling the coldness of the earth. He had a lot of complex thoughts in mind.

He had at first thought that he would surely rise to the Ascendant State in ten years, considering his potential.

But, as a matter of fact, he was stuck.

He sympathized with the Star Lord geniuses who spent their entire lives trying and failing to reach the Ascendant State.

But Su Ping wasn't desperate yet; he wasn't as anxious as he used to be. Anxiety would only lengthen the distance between him and the Ascendant State.

To reach the Ascendant State is as difficult as climbing the sky!

However... It's easy to climb to the sky!

Su Ping looked up at the sky and heaved a sigh. The air he exhaled cleared the wind and the snow. The ongoing blizzard instantly came to a stop.

"It's about time you rise to the Ascendant State. Are you waiting for me? That's not unnecessary. Purple Python, why don't you go first?"

Su Ping looked back at the Little Skeleton and the others.

They had already become accustomed to following Su Ping while keeping human shapes. They all looked like kids, while the young Chaos Beast was the youngest. It was chubby, but its eyes were clever; it kept eating unknown meat.

The meat was provided by the Inferno Dragon, which the cook in a sense. Although pets no longer needed to hunt to find sustenance, delicious food could make their lives more meaningful.

“Me?”

The Purple Python spoke with a childlike voice. Shaking its head, it said, “I’m hoping to try after your advancement. Besides, I want to consolidate further...”

“You’re already capable of mincing anything with Ascendant cultivation; further consolidation is unnecessary. One of us needs to break through. It’ll be useful to me,” said Su Ping.

The Purple Python was dazed for a moment. Then, the Little Skeleton stepped up and said, “Let me.”

Su Ping glanced at the little one, which could have risen to the Ascendant State a dozen years prior. But it didn’t choose that road to the Ascendant State, thinking it wasn’t good enough. It had been looking for a different pathway.

“Have you found a new way?” asked Su Ping.

“Yes.”

“Is it the one that you found the most satisfactory?”

“...”

Seeing that the Little Skeleton didn’t answer, Su Ping shook his head and petted its head. “Keep searching then. The road to the Ascendant State is an important journey. It must be satisfactory.”

The Little Skeleton didn’t want to lie to them, so it didn’t answer. It was always shrewd in battle, but too straightforward for other things.

“Let me, then,” said the Purple Python before the Dark Dragon Hound said anything, “You said you need it. I haven’t found another road to the Ascendant State yet. The previous two I found were mediocre; the one I’ve found recently is the most satisfactory. I’m not as talented as them, so let me accomplish this task first.”

“Don’t talk like that,” said the Dark Dragon Hound quickly.

“Indeed. Although you’re indeed the least talented one, you shouldn’t settle so easily. I can do it too. I find the Fire God Path I grasped recently to be quite satisfactory,” said the Inferno Dragon.

The Purple Python rolled eyes at them. “Give me a break. You would have already risen to the Ascendant State if your choices were satisfactory. What are you waiting for?”

The Dark Dragon Hound shook its head and heaved a hypocritical sigh.

Su Ping kicked the Dark Dragon Hound and said angrily, “Stop being pretentious, or I’ll just push you to make a breakthrough.”

The Dark Dragon Hound fell to the ground, then crawled back to its feet, grimacing. "Boss, I'm your strongest shield. I must find the best defense path before I rise to the Ascendant State. Otherwise, who can protect you in the future?"

Su Ping rolled his eyes. The Dark Dragon Hound had been persistently pursuing better defenses, but it often happened to pick up aggressive laws. Su Ping thought it was more talented in offense than defense, but it never listened to him, and he couldn't do anything about it.

The Purple Python glared at the Dark Dragon Hound, then rose to the sky without further ado.

The next moment, it revealed its true form in midair, flying with a body that was thousands of meters long. It was still a snake, but it was so appalling that it seemed large enough to swallow the sky. It had even intimidated many dragons during training.

1

The Purple Python had swallowed plenty of dragons when training, but never evolved into one. It kept a snake form, except that it was more and more ferocious.

It hasn't reached the Ascendant State yet. That body size is quite remarkable. Su Ping watched in silence. He hadn't stopped the snake from reaching the Ascendant State first because he was biased against it. He knew his pets very well; it was indeed difficult for the Purple Python to find a more suitable road to the Ascendant State.

Su Ping believed that it had found a more powerful path than most of the Ascendant paths he had seen.

Roar!

The entire sky shook after that roar, and the snowy mountain was falling.

Boundless clouds were gathering, seemingly about to cover the entire sky.

The Purple Python slithered like a black mountain between the sky and the earth amid the lightning strikes. All the beasts within a radius of a thousand kilometers were scared off due to the enormous pressure, including some Ascendant State beasts...

"An Ascendant Heavenly Tribulation..."

Su Ping glanced at his pets and said, "Aren't you going to experience it?"

The pets were dazed for a moment. Then, they realized what was going on and ran forward excitedly.

1

Su Ping also stepped into the tribulation range.

Such tribulations triggered in cultivation sites were more powerful than those Su Ping had experienced before.

The clouds ready to launch lightning bolts rolled again, and deafening thunder were rumbling.

The cluster of clouds was spreading further into the distance.

The Purple Python was rather touched after seeing Su Ping and the others. "Boss, you..."

"We're just here to experience the Heavenly Tribulation. We won't help you." Su Ping smiled.

The Purple Python: "..."

1

The lightning bolts were soon formed and struck down.

They were so powerful that even Ascendant cultivators would have been wary. However, neither Su Ping nor his pets thought much of them, since they had gone through a lot.

Their faces were illuminated by the lightning bolts. All of them were extremely calm.

Roar!

The Purple Python roared and slithered upwards, swallowing the lightning bolt which glowed in its mouth and was ultimately consumed.

The Purple Python didn't seem to have enjoyed itself yet; it suddenly swung its tail at the clouds.

The lightning in the clouds was exposed as the clouds were moved. Enraged by such a taunt, the clouds threw down countless lightning bolts which enshrouded Su Ping and the others.

The Purple Python kept slithering and eating lightning bolts amidst the rumbling noises. The lightning bolts which struck its scales only left some tiny traces that were healed quickly.

1

The Purple Python's body was once clenched by a powerful Ascendant State dragon, which tried and failed to tear it apart; it was too sturdy to be hurt by the Heavenly Tribulation.

Su Ping observed in silence. The lightning bolts that hit him were gone, like flames poured into the ocean; they were absorbed as his nutrition.

The Purple Python soon passed the Heavenly Tribulation after the lightning bolts roared and struck down. Once it swallowed the last lightning bolt, the snake expanded as if reborn. It gave a deafening roar and all its scales stood up. It shook and coiled up.

Its body expanded significantly, increasing to more than ten thousand meters long; it could easily flatten mountains with its tail.

1

The powerful aura unique to the Ascendant State was spread out. The Purple Python's body was coiled in a regal manner.

1

"It was only forced to use five small worlds..." Su Ping was rather regretful to see the tribulation end just like that. He hadn't enjoyed himself yet.

Chapter 1226: The Mayhem Star Zone

Su Ping displayed the Purple Python's profile.

Property: Pet of the Snake Family

Rank: Ascendant State

Combat Strength: 99,999

1

Aptitude: Ultra High

Bloodline Potential: Ascendant State

Talent Abilities: Heavenly Bite, Worldly Coiling...

Ascendant State Divine Mark: Heaven Swallowing Mark

Laws: Perfect time and space... Perfect destruction... Perfect chaos... Perfect rock...

2

Dao Glyphs: Space (82%) Fire (93%) Rock (47%) Gold (28%)

...

"Maximum combat ability?"

Su Ping was rather stunned after seeing the evaluation. He secretly complained in his heart; there were usually infinite digits after the decimal when the number reached the maximum combat ability in the system.

He remembered when his combat ability was stuck in 9.9.

But that increase of combat ability was within Su Ping's expectation. After all, the Purple Python's combat ability had been more than 80,000 before reaching the Ascendant State. Reaching the upper limit was normal after breaking through.

The Purple Python was unimaginably sturdy with the seven small worlds taught by Su Ping, plus the experiences gained from fighting in the cultivation sites, and the ultimate blood and materials it had absorbed. Its body had evolved after reaching the Ascendant State, and was even more terrifying.

Su Ping estimated that his other pets would only be more powerful when they reached the Ascendant State.

Its combat ability was on the top of all snakes in the Star Lord State. Its aptitude became ultra high after reaching the Ascendant State. It isn't far from making it into the list.

This means that the pet isn't strong enough to be on the rank of Ascendant State snakes yet.

2

However, there are only a thousand spots on the rank. The gap among them isn't that wide. It's like having countless numbers between 1 and 2. My pet should be able to make it to the rank after

consolidating its cultivation; after all, very few creatures have ever reached the Ascendant State with seven small worlds. It simply lacks consolidation...

Su Ping was rather satisfied with his pet snake's performance.

It currently had an ultra high aptitude, and also met the requirement for the level six store upgrade.

The Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix's aptitude was only mediocre. Although its combat ability was only twenty thousand points less than the Purple Python's, the latter could kill the former with ease.

The gap between the middle level and the ultra level was too massive.

Most importantly, the phoenix had been in the Ascendant State for a long time. It had quite enough time to consolidate its realm.

The Purple Python, on the other hand, had just passed the Heavenly Tribulation, and wasn't used to the new power yet. It would surely become stronger!

It had accumulated a lot of power!

Looking at the Purple Python, Su Ping had noticed the benefit of the multiple small worlds he had tried so hard to condense. He was happy to find that his hard work had paid off.

After all, not everything in that world was rewarding; things might be hurtful in the end.

Maximum Ascendant State combat ability, seven small worlds, a law created by itself, and the strengthening that comes with the tribulation... Su Ping saw that a golden mark was appearing on the Purple Python's forehead.

The last lightning bolt the Purple Python swallowed had turned into a Divine Mark. When its power was activated by said Divine Mark, the power would be on a whole different level. Star Lords were nothing but soft sand in front of Ascendant State power.

But that only applied for normal Star Lords.

Su Ping, for example, was also a Star Lord, but his power had been polished again and again. Adding the compression of eight small worlds, he had already transformed from soft sand into hard rock. Especially thanks to the refinement of the eighth small world, the quality of his power had already exceeded that of normal Ascendant State power!

That was one of the reasons why Su Ping could kill Ascendant State opponents with ease.

"Hooo!"

The Dark Dragon Hound, the Inferno Dragon and the others ran to meet the Purple Python. They examined it carefully, feeling curious and excited.

"It's much stronger!" exclaimed Little White.

1

A red-haired boy nodded firmly. "That's right; we're no match for him right now. However, we should be able to surpass him when we reach the Ascendant State."

Once he heard that, the Purple Python glared at him. “Inferno Dragon, do you want to be beaten up?”

The red-haired boy said casually, “I suggest you drop the arrogant act. Otherwise, you’ll be the one getting beat up when we make the breakthrough.”

The Purple Python couldn’t stand the humiliation and immediately swallowed the Inferno Dragon whole.

The Inferno Dragon’s expression changed a bit, then revealed its true form as it tried to break free. However, the Purple Python was very powerful after reaching the Ascendant State, and stopped the dragon’s escape efforts.

The pet snake wriggled and said, “Apologize to me right now, and I’ll set you free. Otherwise, you can come out of my body as poop!”

1

The red-haired boy had a sour look upon hearing the poop word. He would be too ashamed to talk to anyone if that happened.

“Haha...”

The young Chaos Beast laughed, amused at the thought of the Inferno Dragon swimming in poop.

The Dark Dragon Hound was also gloating. Little White sighed and said, “Being a fellow dragon, I would do anything to come out if I were you, Inferno Dragon.”

The Inferno Dragon roared and tried to break free, but it seemed to be in the middle of an abyss, and its power was quietly swallowed.

Su Ping watched them horse around and shook his head, leaving them be.

The Inferno Dragon soon gave in, and was spat by the Purple Python. Its flesh was already rotten and it looked quite miserable; it was also covered in sticky and smelly mucus.

It quickly unleashed flames that burnt up the mucus covering its body as soon as it was released. Its body was also healed while surrounded by the flames. However, it still seemed to be angry.

The Purple Python transformed into a purple-haired young man. It had only been a kid in the past, but it had grown to become a teenager with a strangely handsome face.

1

“Smelly snake, how did you become as shameless as our boss?” the Dark Dragon Hound couldn’t help but complain.

The Purple Python glanced at him. “Do you want to travel in my belly too?”

“Get the hell out of here. I feel disgusted whenever I smell you.” The Dark Dragon Hound quickly ran off, but didn’t give in.

The Purple Python ignored him and snorted. “Of all the handsomeness in the world, our boss occupies ninety percent while I take ten percent. You can’t possibly be like me in the future.”

1

“What an ass-kissing snake!” Little White rolled its eyes.

1

“Time to go back.”

Su Ping waved a hand and recalled them; his main goal had been met. The customers’ pets were already trained; he sent them back to the contract space and returned to the store.

Back in the store—business was as thriving as ever.

His store had become even more popular ever since he sold the Black Emperor Red Feather Phoenix. Although they only received a fixed number of customers every day, those customers seemed to be richer than before.

Some of the people waiting in line would choose to sell their spots to the rich. Su Ping didn’t intervene as long as it was voluntary. He would take proper measures if anyone complained about people cutting in line, but it was impossible for him to meddle with the voluntary swapping.

“Mr. Su, what a coincidence. I’m here again,” said Milaluo, who was waiting in line. He quickly greeted Su Ping as soon as he saw him.

Even though the store was Su Ping’s, it was still extremely difficult to meet him. Milaluo had been there several times while Su Ping was in seclusion; he could only go back in frustration every time Green Lady received him.

He had realized that none of the staff members in Su Ping’s store were easy to deal with... Oh wait, there was one exception; the one by the door.

That was Tang Ruyan.

The managers in Su Ping’s store were both in the Ascendant State. The previous blonde was gone, replaced by another beautiful girl who was dressed in an ancient style. Milaluo became increasingly scared and even awed of Su Ping, although he hated to admit it.

After all, Su Ping was only a Star Lord, and he was already an Ascendant.

“Indeed. What a coincidence.” Su Ping nodded.

Milaluo coughed and said, “Mr. Su, your business isn’t bad at all, is it?”

Su Ping glanced at the many customers waiting in line. Su Ping nodded and said, “That’s right.”

“Well...” Milaluo didn’t know what else to say, feeling quite awkward for a moment. Even though he had lived a long time, he had spent most of his life alone and he didn’t have to flatter anyone. That was why he wasn’t really good at socializing.

“Are you here to train your pet?” Su Ping went behind the counter and nodded at Green Lady.

Milaluo quickly said, “Yes. The pet you trained for me last time seemed as if reborn; I’d like to try professional training this time.”

“Professional training is unavailable right now. Please wait for the moment.” Su Ping shook his head.

Milaluo was rather disappointed and regretful. He looked around and asked Su Ping telepathically, “Boss Su, are there other pets being sold in your store?”

“Not yet, but there will be in a while.”

“Could you let me know the moment they’re available?” asked Milaluo in a hurry.

Su Ping raised his head and looked at him. “The date is uncertain; you must pay more attention if you want them. We don’t accept pre-orders.”

Considering Su Ping’s expression, Milaluo knew he was being presumptuous and greedy. The former had essentially given him an Ascendant pet for free. Why would he do it again?

However, he almost felt like staying in Su Ping’s store every day upon remembering the great phoenix he had bought. If he missed the next pet to be sold, he would regret it for the rest of his life.

“Sorry for the offense,” Milaluo quickly apologized.

Su Ping shook his head, letting him know it wasn’t a big deal.

When it was Milaluo’s turn, he left two of his Ascendant pets with Su Ping for training. As for the phoenix, he had been keeping it close to strengthen their bond.

Furthermore, the phoenix was already of the highest quality in his eyes; further training was pointless.

The Loulan ancestor examined my phoenix and said it was almost as strong as a Heavenly Lord... Milaluo was excited every time he thought about that.

He would have never dreamed of owning a Heavenly Lord pet, but now he had one. He didn’t really pay much for it; it was almost free.

Milaluo paid for the training and reluctantly left Su Ping’s store while ushered by the sutra old man’s direction.

A few other Ascendant cultivators in line greeted Su Ping and made an effort to befriend him.

They were definitely much better at socializing than Milaluo was. In addition, the group implied that they were interested in purchasing a pet.

Su Ping could speculate that recent pet purchase had been publicized; that was why those people were there. It was rare to see that many Ascendant clients.

Once the maximum customer capacity was reached, Green Lady said to Su Ping, “According to Xiao Tang, many Ascendant cultivators have moved to our street, all because of our store.”

“Oh, is that so?” Su Ping remained casual.

Green Lady didn’t pursue the subject, seeing his attitude. The previous follower of a Deity King didn’t hold her peers in much regard, either.

They closed the store and Su Ping was about to carry on with the pet training—

His watch buzzed exactly at that moment as it received a message.

The buzz tone was special, associated with his master's number. Furthermore, not many people had his contact information.

He activated the watch, and the data feed was linked with his brain. He accessed the virtual universe and entered a virtual room with the invitation embedded in the message. He then saw his master inside—

“Master?”

Su Ping was slightly surprised; his master rarely disturbed him, unless there was something important.

Shen Huang turned around and asked Su Ping with a smile, “Have you been training in seclusion? How did it go? Have you found your path to the Ascendant State yet?”

The latter shook his head and said, “I’m not training in seclusion precisely. The road to the Ascendant State is... slightly difficult.”

“Difficult?”

Shen Huang was slightly dazed, obviously not expecting to receive such a reply from Su Ping. He suddenly had a bad feeling and frowned. “You haven’t found your path for breaking through? You should have found clues already, considering your potential. Reaching the Ascendant State in a hundred years is impossible for others, but it’s a miracle that you can make happen.”

Su Ping heaved a sigh. “I haven’t found the path yet. I’ve been considering it a lot, but I’ve never gotten a hold of the feeling.”

Shen Huang solemnly asked, “Were you fascinated by someone else’s path? You must walk your own path to reach the Ascendant State. If need be, you can forget the path you’re attracted to.”

“Well...”

Su Ping found it hard to explain.

Shen Huang heaved a sigh, unexpectedly finding that his disciple was stumped on the step before the Ascendant State threshold.

For years and years, many geniuses showed unparalleled potential before the Ascendant State, but they were stuck and couldn’t rise higher!

To think that Su Ping—the most unbelievable genius in history—had to go through the same hurdle.

Even a genius such as Su Ping was also stuck before the Ascendant State!

“Don’t be hasty. You’re still young and have a lot of time,” said Shen Huang. He was unwilling to jump to conclusions; after all, Su Ping was only a few dozen years old at the moment.

Shen Huang would intervene if Su Ping was still unable to find the way hundreds of years later, believing he would have to intervene and remove the wrong thoughts that Su Ping was obsessed with.

“Sure.”

Su Ping nodded and asked, "Master, why did you want to talk to me?"

"Have you ever heard about the Mayhem Star Zone?" asked Shen Huang solemnly.

Chapter 1227: Dominator of the Universe

"The Mayhem Star Zone?"

Su Ping remembered hearing the name somewhere before. He searched through his memories for a moment and finally found the answer: it was a very famous star zone in the universe, the only one that barred Celestials from entering.

Such a strange rule made it the perfect hiding place for criminals wanted by the twelve Celestials.

The place was as disordered as its name suggested.

"That is correct."

Shen Huang knew that Su Ping was still a young cultivator, so he confirmed the information. He said, "The Mayhem Star Zone is a special place in the universe. There's a dangerous space crack deep within and terrifying beasts emerge on occasion, so we send Heavenly Lords to defend it.

"Us Celestials can't enter because of the zone's reigning laws. If we do go, not only would our realms drop to the Ascendant State, we would also encounter the dangerous creatures from deeper spaces. That is why many wanted criminals choose to hide there, out of our reach."

Su Ping nodded and asked, "Why did you bring that up, master?"

Shen Huang said with a solemn expression, "An ancient corpse was recently spat by the space crack in the Mayhem Star Zone! There's an independent universe and countless treasures within the corpse. From what we can tell, there must be relics and power left inside. If anyone can inherit them..."

He looked at Su Ping and said, "I might not have shared this with you if it were just some Celestial legacy, but the ancient corpse is more than that. Based on your senior brother Lian Qi's investigation while defending the place, I suspect that it may well be the remains of a universe dominator beyond the Celestial State!"

"A universe dominator?"

Su Ping was dazed.

Considering the realm naming in the Archean Divinity, those who were beyond the Celestial State were the God Emperors.

Above the God Emperors were the Ancestral Gods.

Was it an ancient corpse from a God Emperor?

"That's right." Shen Huang nodded. "All Celestial experts have been cultivating for a long time; our sole objective is to rise higher, until we become as powerful as the universe itself.

"From a planet's perspective, the atmosphere is considered the sky.

“When seeing the whole universe, the sky is much higher and the earth is much thicker. The universe is boundless; even we have to understand it and study so that we can establish small universes that are part of the grand universe. Once we master the small universes we can become the ultimate kings.”

Shen Huang added, “The universe dominator is a legendary level that nobody has been able to reach. However, the Celestial State wasn’t the upper limit, based on the books we retrieved from ancient relics; there were higher levels. That is to say, universe dominators existed in the past, but they somehow perished.

Maybe they fought for supremacy, or maybe they were killed by even stronger beings... Su Ping added in his heart.

Universe dominators were essentially God Emperors. Above them were the powerful Ancestral Gods.

“My plan was to ask you and your senior brothers to go and see what you can loot from the ancient corpse. Even if you can’t find anything, you must ensure that nobody else does,” said Shen Huang.

“The news has been spread and the entire universe is in shock. All the Celestials, and even the saints from the Planet of Origin will very likely fight for it!

“If there’s a legacy or treasures to be had, we will surely fight for them too!”

Shen Huang concluded with, “Cultivation is all about going against nature’s will! We’ll be left in the dust if we don’t compete, and we’ll be beaten in the future! Last time you showed that you were as strong as a Heavenly Lord; your safety and that of your seniors is guaranteed if you go to the Mayhem Star Zone, since no Celestials can enter. You can go there if you’re interested.”

In the end, Shen Huang left the final choice to Su Ping.

He was treating the latter differently from how he treated his other disciples, as he couldn’t just order the young man to do anything—

After all, Su Ping had a formidable and mysterious backer.

Furthermore, considering Su Ping’s own potential, there was a good chance that the lad would rise to the Celestial State if everything went well.

As for higher levels, chances were rather slim.

Su Ping wasn’t in a rush to accept the request. He considered for a moment and said, “I’ll think about it.”

Shen Huang nodded. “Take your time. The others will set off in five days; send me a message if you decide to join them. You would be directly teleported to the border of the Mayhem Star Zone by a hyperspace teleportation array, and you would also be teleported back once you’re done.”

“A hyperspace teleportation array?” Su Ping was surprised. “I didn’t know such arrays existed. If so, have the other two Celestials arrived already?”

Shen Huang understood what Su Ping was thinking. He said, “They came not long ago; the array was developed only recently. Chi Huo and Xu Kong could have made the trip over to the Celestial Court at

any time, but their subordinates would have been slaughtered if they left their territories unattended. So, they all migrated across space together.”

Su Ping understood and posed another question, “Is the Heavenly Devil Alliance still harassing us?”

“Not after we reunited. They’ll probably send people to compete for the treasures now with the news about the Mayhem Star Zone. Pay close attention to the Heavenly Lords of the Heavenly Devil Alliance. I’ve gathered their information and given it to Song Yuan; I’ll give you a copy later,” said Shen Huang.

“Thank you very much, master.”

“All right, take your time to consider.”

“Okay.”

Their conversation ended and Su Ping left the virtual universe. An email was simultaneously transmitted to his watch. Su Ping opened it and found it was the promised briefing document about the Heavenly Lords.

There were more than thirty Heavenly Lords in the Heavenly Devil Alliance!

That is, those were the ones his master had found; there could be more in the shadows.

Seven top Heavenly Lords!

Two from the Doom Star Zone, and one from the Bloody Charm Star Zone...

There are two new top Heavenly Lords. They seem to have been promoted by Old Monster Ye using ancient drugs.

Su Ping narrowed his eyes, just then realizing how resourceful Old Monster Ye was.

He went to the store and summoned the sutra old man to his own room.

“Su... Boss?” The sutra old man unconsciously called him by his name, but changed very quickly. He was slightly confused and nervous. *Has Su Ping realized that I’ve been slacking off?*

“Tell me what you know about Old Monster Ye. Does he have any drugs that can significantly improve combat abilities?” Su Ping asked.

The sutra old man felt relieved. “There are indeed a few recipes that can make such drugs. I can provide them if you want them, boss, but I don’t know if you can find the necessary materials.”

“Show me,” said Su Ping quickly.

The old man quickly handed over four recipes, which contained thousands of words, even though they were very concise and meaningful.

Su Ping gave them a quick read, then waved at the old man and said, “Bring Xiao Rong here.”

Xiao Rong was the cauldron woman’s nickname. She could refine both pills and weapons, and had potential to grow.

“Did you summon me, boss?”

The cauldron woman had grown accustomed to her new role; she met a lot of customers in Su Ping's store, and argued with others in the virtual universe every day. She was having much more fun in comparison to her life at the bottom of the ocean, caged by Old Monster Ye.

"Old Monster Ye knows a few recipes. Check and see if they are the real deal; he must have used you to refine them before." Su Ping gave the recipes to Xiao Rong and asked her to confirm; after all, the sutra old man was a cunning fellow.

Xiao Rong read carefully and nodded. "That's right. Those are the right materials. Looks like the old man is not playing any tricks."

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. Xiao Rong and the sutra old man had never seen eye to eye, which was a good thing.

"All right, work harder in the store. Maybe I'll consider offering you some rare materials that will help you rise to higher levels if you get the Outstanding Employee rating!" said Su Ping casually.

Xiao Rong felt dazed, then her eyes glittered. "Are you serious?"

"Why would I mess with you?"

"I'll try my best!" she quickly replied, feeling excited. Even though she was proud of herself and thought that she would become an emperor-level cauldron sooner or later, how "soon" remained to be seen. Refining rare treasures would certainly help her break the bottleneck much sooner!

"Go now."

Xiao Rong left, then Su Ping considered for a moment and contacted his master a second time in the virtual universe.

Shen Huang was surprised to see him again so soon. "Have you made up your mind?"

"Not yet." Su Ping shook his head. "I've found several ancient recipes that can make drugs with all sorts of effects. Some are stimulants to aid in breaking bottlenecks, but their effectiveness is unknown.

"Some can strengthen the taker, but their realms can't be improved and they come with terrible side effects. It would be hard for the takers to make breakthroughs again..."

Su Ping gave the ancient recipes to his master and added, "These are the ancient recipes I found in one of Old Monster Ye's books. The materials are probably extinct, but making those drugs is possible if they are found."

Shen Huang's eyes glittered as he accepted and checked the recipes. Then, he said with delight, "They are indeed marvelous and truly powerful. Are you sure that the recipes are legitimate?"

"I made sure to confirm." Su Ping nodded.

"All right. I'll have someone search for the materials; we'll be able to manufacture the drugs if we can gather enough materials," said Shen Huang. He knew how valuable the recipes were. Su Ping had previously announced that he would publicize a technique to cultivate multiple small worlds, and now

he was handing over such precious ancient recipes. Shen Huang was at a loss, feeling that his disciple was even more generous than him.

Shen Huang held back his excitement as he said to Su Ping with a smile, "I've improved your universe rank to level eight, which grants you Heavenly Lord privileges. You will also have the key to my treasury; feel free to enter without asking for my permission."

2

"Thank you very much, master." Su Ping nodded.

Shen Huang was disappointed by Su Ping's reaction. *Is my treasury not appealing?* He was essentially sharing his treasures with Su Ping; anyone else would have felt thrilled.

However, it was hard for him to see through that young disciple of his. Feeling slightly frustrated, he said, "There isn't much I can do for you as your master; just tell me if you need anything in the future."

"Okay."

Su Ping nodded.

Shen Huang helplessly waved a hand and bid him goodbye.

Once again, both left the virtual universe. Su Ping returned to his store and calculated the time, then took some pets to the cultivation sites for the appointed training.

Time flew.

Five days passed in the blink of an eye.

The time difference made it stretch to fifty days in the cultivation sites.

Regretfully, Su Ping had yet to find any insight regarding how to break through to the Ascendant State.

His only progress had to do with grasping more laws.

Do I have to destroy my eight small worlds?

All the laws he created were absorbed by the World of Mythical Chaos as patterns that would roam within.

Given such absorption, the eighth small world became almost as powerful as the other seven small worlds combined.

Su Ping even visited the world of Golden Crows for advice. He also took 100TB worth of movies as a gift for the princess.

2

Alas, his situation was so unprecedented that even the Chief Elder of the Golden Crows was unable to offer any advice.

Su Ping had never imagined that he would be stuck in the threshold right before the Ascendant State.

Even though he had never tried his best before, he had always thought he would succeed if he tried hard enough.

However, he couldn't break through even when going all out.

Am I truly stuck?

Su Ping felt rather helpless.

Five days later—

Su Ping left the store and handed the reins to Green Lady. Joanna was still training in seclusion; she had turned into a golden cocoon, surrounded by countless golden lightning bolts inside one of the nursing pens. Su Ping had left instructions to Green Lady, all to ensure that nobody disturbed her.

In the Celestial Court—

Su Ping quickly dashed to the temple.

There were four Ascendant State guards posted; all of them recognized Su Ping. They were curious, but they didn't show any unusual expressions.

"I want to meet my master," said Su Ping straight off when he arrived.

"Please wait a moment. I'll report this right now," said one of the Ascendant cultivators.

Hardly had the guard said that when Shen Huang's voice resounded. "Let him in."

The Ascendant guards were surprised. Judging by Shen Huang's attitude, it was easy to tell how he favored that young disciple of his.

"I heard that this Star Lord kid is one of the most important people raising waves in the universe. His achievements will be remembered by future generations, even though he's still young."

"Old Monster Ye from the Heavenly Devil Alliance hates his guts; he placed a bounty on his head throughout the universe, one that is tempting even for Heavenly Lords. I truly wonder what he could have possibly done."

"I heard he turned Old Monster Ye's nest upside down."

The Ascendants gossiped heatedly via telepathy.

The temple was opened and Su Ping went in. Then, he saw seven familiar people inside.

Chapter 1228: Country of Criminals

"Junior brother?"

The seven people in the temple noticed Su Ping arrival, then shared astonished looks before they looked at their master on the throne.

"Greetings, senior brothers and sisters," said Su Ping and then looked at his master. "Greetings, master. I'm here to report for duty."

“Have you made a decision?” Shen Huang looked at Su Ping with a mild smile on his face. “Song Yuan, your primary mission on this trip is to ensure your junior brother’s safety. Your secondary mission is to fight for the ancient corpse; just destroy it if you can’t get the treasures. We must not let others have it if we can’t.”

1

The group of seven were none other than Shen Huang’s disciples, including Song Yuan. They wore strange expressions; however, Su Ping had shown that he was as strong as a Heavenly Lord during the commandery contest, which was shocking to all the Ascendant cultivators.

So, even though they thought the mission was arduous, they didn’t think that Su Ping would be a liability.

Su Ping being that strong was unprecedented. They could only infer that it was due to the unusual boost produced by the multiple small worlds in his body.

Song Yuan realized what other people were thinking, and asked his master, “Master, our junior brother is exceptionally talented. Does he also need the treasures in the ancient corpse?”

Shen Huang nodded. “Su Ping is currently stuck in the bottleneck right before the Ascendant State; he might glean something new if he goes traveling. Besides, the ancient corpse is of paramount importance. It would be fortunate for all of us, no matter which of you gets the legacy.”

“Our junior brother is stuck before the Ascendant State breakthrough?”

The seven disciples were stunned. They couldn’t help but give Su Ping surprised and sympathetic looks, as if they had expected him to be an exception.

“Su Ping, you are indeed talented, but you still lack experience; you must listen to your senior brothers and sisters. The strong ones aren’t necessarily the ones who win; sometimes the real battle happens outside the battlefield. There’s a lot you need to learn,” said Shen Huang to Su Ping.

1

Everybody was greatly relieved to hear that.

All of them could tell how fond their master was of Su Ping. They would feel frustrated if they had to sacrifice themselves to protect him. Su Ping was a genius, but he was too young for them.

Furthermore, they all used to be geniuses in their time, and were still glowing to that day.

“Alright.” Su Ping nodded modestly.

“Right now, the people of various star zones have gathered in the Mayhem Star Zone; the battle for the ancient corpse has already begun. Fortunately, there are a lot of obstacles for them; you will meet with Lian Qi as soon as you arrive. Anyone is your enemy, except our allies from the Red Fire Star Zone and the Void Star Zone.”

Shen Huang added, “Mind you, even our allies are not to be trusted fully. Exercise caution and return safely!”

“Yes, master.”

Song Yuan said solemnly, “I’ll take care of my juniors and bring them back safely.”

“Okay.”

Shen Huang gave them a smile reflecting comfort. He waved a hand and all sorts of marvelous weapons, treasures and medicines appeared; some of the medicines had already attained wisdom and were floating like shy kids.

“There isn’t much I can do for you. These are top Ascendant treasures and pills from my vault. Just take them.”

The items flew toward Song Yuan, Su Ping and the others, slowly descending.

Right before Su Ping were three pills that looked like butterflies and a piece of pure black armor of ancient design. The armor’s shoulder pads were slightly damaged, but still carried a mysterious power.

He glanced at the others and found that each set of armor and weapons matched their own laws perfectly. His master had surely picked those treasures according to their circumstances.

Su Ping readily accepted the armor and his body absorbed it.

He sensed an abundant power and the aura of Dao Patterns when a mind link was established with the armor.

“This armor...” Su Ping was rather shocked. Even though he had yet to examine it fully, he could tell that the armor was an ultimate treasure that any Ascendant would crave for!

As for the three shivering pills, Su Ping stored them inside the World of Mythical Chaos. The chaotic aura would nurture the pills and raise their effectiveness.

“Your weapons and armor are ancient treasures I’ve found in many relics throughout the universe; the method to forge them is already lost. Even though they’re slightly damaged, they’re still a grade beyond the Ascendant State. We call them the Dao Pattern treasures!”

Shen Huang added, “Even I have a hard time getting hold of an intact Dao Pattern treasure. Celestials will often fight for it. These are the best treasures I can offer.”

Song Yuan and the others acknowledged their respective treasures. They all became excited while sensing the overwhelming power inside and expressed their sincere thanks to their master.

“Master, don’t worry. We will try our best to get the ancient corpse,” said Song Yuan.

Shen Huang nodded and replied, “Those pills have different effects, you can find out later. Some of them may save your lives in a crisis.”

Some of the disciples had suppressed their pills and learned their effects. They were excited to hear what their master said.

Su Ping was rather curious too. He split some of his consciousness and sent it into the World of Mythical Chaos. While looking at the three dazed pills floating about, he said, “Report your effects.”

The three pills appeared as tiny kids. They were shaking in their boots as they saw Su Ping.

One of them gritted her teeth and ran off while protecting the other two boys behind her. "If you want to eat, eat me. I can break all the obstacles inside your body and give you a five-fold power up. The downside is when the effect wears off, you will have a weakened period and won't be able to feel any laws or power."

Su Ping waved a hand, drawing that timid yet stubborn kid over. He flicked her forehead, forcing her to roll backwards. "To sum it up, you're basically poison, aren't you?"

"Poison?"

The kid covered her forehead and trembled with fury. "You're calling me poison? Your strength can grow by five times so you can slay much stronger enemies and save your life in a pinch... And yet, you think I'm a poison?"

"What if I eat you by accident?"

"B-By accident..."

The kid choked. Such a question was completely unexpected.

The other two boys rushed over and stood in front of the girl. After a round of Su Ping's beating, they all covered their heads and confessed their effects. One of them could temporarily help Su Ping stretch his laws into the void and connect with the Dao Patterns.

The other one could bring him back to life. It could create a copy of Su Ping's body with a single drop of blood. If Su Ping died while the copy existed, he would be able to resurrect with blood alone, no matter how he was killed.

Su Ping's consciousness returned to the temple after finding out the pill's effects; his interrogation only lasted a brief moment. Back in the temple—Shen Huang waved a hand and said, "There's no time to waste. Let's go!"

The temple around them was instantly gone. Everybody was standing underneath a sky full of glittering stars.

They were relocated to a high platform; before them was the ancient hyperspace teleportation array.

"Master, aren't we going to wait for the Red Fire Star Zone?" asked You Long.

Shen Huang looked at him and said, "Coalitions are pointless when the reward is too appealing. But they're allies anyway; don't make enemies out of them unless it's necessary."

You Long nodded and understood.

The ancient corpse was essential for them. That was why no one else was qualified to join them in the fight, not even the Loulan ancestor or the other Heavenly Lords working for the Celestial Court; only Shen Huang's disciples could go.

Those people were asked to stay in the Celestial Court.

None of them were truly daring to go and plunder the ancient corpse. After all, all the Celestial's disciples were sent there; they were too unorganized to fight them. Even if they struck deals and alliances for the trip, those agreements would probably not be as solid and trustworthy. It was better for them to stay at the rear and work on breaking through to the Celestial State.

Shen Huang looked at the group and said solemnly, "Be safe."

Su Ping and his seniors nodded back with equal seriousness. Then, they followed Song Yuan's lead and entered the hyperspace teleportation array.

The vortex-like gate was connected to a distant part of the universe.

The strange sensation felt during a space jump was over pretty quickly. Su Ping and the others found themselves in another star zone when they opened their eyes.

The sky above them was no longer full of glittering stars; the cosmic dome was instead filled with brown clouds, as if the universe were suffering some sort of disease. There were also dim yellow nebulae; right before their eyes was a dark region where things were barely visible.

"My age has increased by two years..." Chunyu said in a low voice.

Su Ping heard this and instantly examined himself, only to discover that his own age had also increased by two years. He raised his eyebrows. That could only mean that the brief teleportation they had sensed previously had actually lasted two years!

Maybe it was due to the special time and space fluctuations during their jump.

"This is the Mayhem Star Zone," Song Yuan looked at the dark region and said, "We're currently in the peripheral region. Let's inform Junior Brother Lian Qi; he must be waiting for us."

He waved a hand and launched a purple dragon that broke into the void and disappeared.

While everybody was waiting—Ji Xueqing approached Su Ping and said, "Junior brother, stick with me while we move in the Mayhem Star Zone. This place is very chaotic; not even Celestials can intervene. We must keep a low profile, even if we have our lofty disciple status and Heavenly Lord power. After all, we're outnumbered here."

Su Ping understood. "I will, senior sister."

He had already learned the lesson after having traveled and trained a lot in cultivation sites.

"Junior brother, you must have been training in seclusion, right? Your life aura seems to have increased by decades," said Senior Brother Han.

His full name was Han Ye. He flashed a big smile at his junior.

"Yes. I've been trying to break through to the Ascendant State, but I haven't found the right direction." Su Ping sighed.

You Long approached Su Ping and grabbed his shoulder. "Master told us about it, but it hasn't been more than a hundred years yet, has it? Does it really count as being stuck, though? It's certainly not a big deal. Only monsters can reach the Ascendant State in a hundred years."

Su Ping said with a bitter smile, "But I feel like I've been stuck for a long time."

"It's getting more difficult for us to understand you, junior brother," said Song Yuan jokingly.

"He's here," Ji Xueqing said.

There was a glimmer in the void all of a sudden, then a man emerged out of thin air; black haired, with purple tattoos all over his cold face.

It wasn't until he saw Song Yuan and the others that the coldness was finally replaced by a smile. "Senior brothers and sisters, you're all here."

"Lian Qi, how is it going?" asked Song Yuan calmly, his smile gone.

Lian Qi was astonished to see Su Ping in the crowd. He replied, "Senior brother, the situation is rather complicated. Many Heavenly Lords arrived earlier than you, and a lot of locals are occupying the areas near the ancient corpse."

"Several skirmishes between locals and foreigners took place near the corpse. Then, they found that getting the corpse wasn't easy. Besides, the foreign Heavenly Lords aren't easy to deal with, so the locals are already backing off."

"Right now, everybody is exploring the ancient corpse on their own."

Once the briefing was done, Lian Qi finally had the chance to ask, "Who's he?"

He looked at Su Ping.

Song Yuan frowned and pondered over the situation. Ji Xueqing replied in his stead, "He is our junior brother. Don't let his Star Lord realm fool you, he's as strong as a Heavenly Lord. Even you might be no match for him."

1

Lian Qi's eyes widened after he heard that. "Why, a junior as strong as a Heavenly Lord? A Star Lord... A Heavenly Lord..."

He was dumbfounded, feeling that he had heard the most unbelievable piece of news.

You Long patted his shoulder and chuckled. "Don't feel so surprised; we were just as shocked as you. You've been defending this spot for our master's sake, so it's only natural that you don't know what's going on outside. This junior of ours is the most famous person in the universe right now."

Lian Qi looked at Su Ping, still stunned. He found it impossible to understand, even though You Long had tried to make things clear.

A Star Lord can be as strong as a Heavenly Lord? Is this a joke?

"Junior Brother Su was the first one to establish multiple small worlds." Ji Xueqing covered her mouth and chuckled, seemingly amused by Lian Qi's expression.

The latter felt dazed. Even though he wasn't quite informed while living in the Mayhem Star Zone, he had heard a lot about the multiple small worlds; he didn't know they were related to that junior brother of his.

Exactly at that moment—Song Yuan frowned. “Huh?”

Chunyu also gazed coldly at a certain direction in the void.

Su Ping looked at Lian Qi in surprise. To be exact, he was looking at the man's back.

Boom!

A powerful aura was swept out from a point in the void, and a few men revealed themselves shortly after.

Chapter 1229: The Snake King's Battle

“They're still chasing me. What a bunch of obnoxious guys!”

Lian Qi sensed the intruders behind his back too. He turned around sullenly, with coldness in his eyes.

Ji Xueqing and all the others turned to look, only to see five men stepping out of the void with powerful auras. The two parties recognized each other the moment their faces were revealed.

“Song Yuan, the God of War in the Deep Spaces!”

“Ji Xueqing, the Queen of Destruction!”

“Chunyu, the Saber King of the Universe!”

The group of five showed stern expressions when they saw Song Yuan and the others, not expecting the Celestial Court's reinforcements to arrive as quickly. *No wonder Lian Qi went to the edge of the Mayhem Star Zone instead of his nest at the center.*

“They're from the Doom Star Zone...”

Coldness glittered in Song Yuan's eyes. His power was spread out to form a domain and block the enemies.

“Die!”

Song Yuan attacked straight off. Chunyu, Han Ye and the others unleashed their strength too; the void was filled with Ascendant State power. It was clear that the guys from the Doom Star Zone had been chasing Lian Qi, which made them enemies.

“Let's retreat!”

The vicious five wore grim expressions, as they were outnumbered by their enemies; escaping was the better choice.

1

One of them noticed Su Ping, who really stood out in the crowd—

It wasn't because his aura was too powerful, but because he was like an opening on a ring, being the only Star Lord among Ascendants.

"Isn't he the wanted genius? Why is he here?"

"He's just a Star Lord. How gutsy of him to show up. Is it because Celestials can't enter this place?"

"If we kill him..."

All five of them were Heavenly Lords, and were instantly reminded of the juicy bounty when they saw him. One of them shot a beam of crimson light that contained unusual laws while he was retreating; it would invade Su Ping's mind the moment he saw it.

"Watch out!" Song Yuan roared and punched, launching a golden fist aura that tore the crimson light to pieces. He hurriedly looked at Su Ping; he had indeed neutralized the attack, but some laws were faster than light, especially those which worked on souls. Billions of creatures could be killed in an instant.

Su Ping dashed over and said to Song Yuan, "I'm fine, senior brother. Don't let them get away."

The latter was surprised, seeing that Su Ping wasn't the least affected, and was even charging at the five Heavenly Lords.

He knew that Su Ping was as strong as a Heavenly Lord. However, the previous attacker had been really sneaky; he could have also been hit unaware.

"Huh? It didn't work?"

The retreating Heavenly Lord was stunned for a moment when he saw Su Ping dashed toward him. He thought that his previous strike would be enough to kill the brat and claim the bounty, but the brat got out of it unscathed.

How is it possible?

He even suspected that he had attacked the wrong target.

The guy's a mere Star Lord... Does he have an ultimate treasure to protect his soul?

That was the attacker's best guess. He became grim, knowing it would be difficult to kill Su Ping; escaping would probably be impossible if he kept on fighting, so he immediately left Su Ping alone.

"Just ignore the brat; they say he's as strong as a Heavenly Lord. Let's retreat!" said a tall and handsome young man.

The five foes instantly worked together to break Song Yuan's domain and escape.

Even though they were not as strong as Song Yuan, he could hardly stall them if they were determined to run away.

"The path of destruction!"

Ji Xueqing moved as elegantly as a deity in the void. She swung her hand, launching attacks shaped as crescent moons which collapsed the channel made by the enemy.

“Die!”

Chunyu suddenly drew his saber, which echoed loudly in space. The sound went directly to the soul, and it also had the power to eliminate them!

A dazzling aura surged out like a furious dragon, creating a long river in the void that shattered all laws in its way, turning them into specks of energy.

“Dusk!”

One of the five Heavenly Lords raised a hand and pointed with his finger. The void became dark and a channel appeared in front of the saber, which connected to an unknown space. The brutal attack was transferred elsewhere.

Vision and the other senses were blocked by a darkness that couldn't be torn apart by laws. Su Ping, however, saw the five men who were trying to escape. He summoned the Purple Python without hesitation.

The most powerful aura rose like a dragon soaring from the abyss. A creature ten thousand of meters long crawled out of the void and coiled its body, covering that region of space.

There seemed to be an independent world at the center of the coiled body!

That was one of the Purple Python's bloodline abilities, Worldly Coiling!

Once bundled in a coil, laws would be isolated from the rest of the universe. The five enemies were caged.

“What the heck is this?!”

The five from the evil faction were appalled to see that mountainous snake, just like encountering a primordial beast; hairs stood up and bodies shivered.

“Is this a pet?”

“Is it Junior Brother Su's pet?”

Song Yuan and the others were all taken aback by the Purple Python, which appeared out of nowhere. They could sense a terrifying and life-threatening aura from the pet.

“Die!”

Su Ping gave the order.

The Purple Python instantly tied up the enclosed space where the five enemies had been caged. They couldn't feel the outside world nor the laws beyond the snake's body. Underneath them was the thick snake's tail, while above them was a bloody and threatening mouth.

“Damn it, what kind of pet is this? Is it a Celestial creature?” One of the Heavenly Lords was shocked and infuriated.

“Cut the crap. Let's get the hell out of here!”

All of them felt that their lives were at risk. They chose to go all out, bringing out all their pets.

Their brutal Ascendant pets charged out of the void. An ancient phoenix—which was the first to rush out—was bitten by the snake the moment it revealed its aura. The Purple Python activated its second ability, Heavenly Bite!

A terrifying force pulled the ancient phoenix over; the latter screamed miserably and struggled hard. However, its feathers fell and the creature's glow faded; all its flesh was withering too. It was sucked into the Purple Python's stomach.

The creature soon turned from thousands of meters long to hundreds of meters, and was eventually swallowed by the Purple Python.

An Ascendant pet died, just like that!

The phoenix's owner shouted with fury, eyeballs almost popping out. The other pets were already launching their attacks towards the Purple Python.

However, the space narrowed even more after the Purple Python hissed furiously. The five Heavenly Lords within could hardly breathe, even if there was enough space to accommodate them; the enormous pressure was almost squeezing them!

"The thing is still alive?"

The five Heavenly Lords were shocked. The snake was indeed terrifying. *It didn't die, nor was it even wounded, after enduring that many attacks?*

"Had enough fun? Eat them all," said Su Ping.

Once the command was given, the Purple Python quickly slithered and one of the Heavenly Lords vomited blood. The light of laws covering his skin was shattered; he couldn't gather laws in that tightly enclosed region, because the laws had given in to the pressure and broke to pieces. The laws he had perceived were no longer useful.

2

"Ahhhhhhh...!"

"Break... Break out of this place!"

The five Heavenly Lords roared furiously and unleashed their light. Their pets also attacked the Purple Python from the outside. However, their claws and teeth couldn't hurt the snake; the beast was like an indestructible iron cube.

The gap of strength couldn't have been better manifested. Song Yuan and the others were baffled and feeling chills; Su Ping's terrifying combat ability was beyond their imagination.

He could easily crush Heavenly Lords with one of his pets!

"Come on! Don't let them run away!" Song Yuan quickly ordered the others to help.

"Damn it!"

One of the five Heavenly Lords had already exploded. They couldn't withstand the restrictive force, even though they had activated their Ascendant bodies. They became desperate as Song Yuan and the others moved closer. Never did those unrestrained powerhouses ever think they would die as easily in such a place.

Unwilling to give up—one of them roared furiously and split his body, using a strange ancient technique which allowed him to escape into the void. He didn't even have time to care about his pets.

Another one separated his soul from his body and darted toward the distance while protected by an ultimate treasure.

The body of one of the Heavenly Lords collapsed, but then he reappeared with one of his pets outside. He quickly escaped into the void while the others were still stunned, leaving his pets to block any chasers.

In the blink of an eye, the three surviving Heavenly Lords escaped using their ultimate techniques.

The other two were soon squeezed into oblivion; their souls were shattered along with their bodies. It was impossible for them to resurrect.

Their Ascendant pets were dazed for a moment as their contracts were invalidated—

Still, they were quick on the uptake, fleeing in panic after their initial shock.

“Don't let them get away!” Song Yuan roared and chased another Heavenly Lord.

Chunyu and Han Ye chased the Heavenly Lord who had transferred his body to his pet.

“Junior brother!”

Ji Xueqing was going to chase them too, only to find that Su Ping had vanished into the void, pursuing the Heavenly Lord who had escaped as a soul. She called out to him and followed, fearing that he would be caught in a dangerous situation.

After all, a Heavenly Lord's dying strike was truly terrifying; they could drag their enemies to die along with them.

You Long and the others—seeing that Ji Xueqing was chasing after Su Ping—stopped following and suppressed the rest of the Heavenly Lord's pets.

Ji Xueqing dashed forward in the deep spaces at full speed. She kept blasting through spaces with the path of destruction, and jumped across spaces at an unimaginable speed.

She reached the depths of the seventh universe in the blink of an eye.

Still, no sign of Su Ping. Not a single trace.

Her shock had not abated. *This junior brother of mine is too crazy; has he entered the eighth space?*

That was a place that even the top Heavenly Lords were scared of. Only Celestials could travel freely there.

However, remembering Su Ping's safety, she determinedly broke the void with the path of destruction and entered the eighth space.

She quickly detected Su Ping's aura, along with the aura of the fleeing Heavenly Lord in the eighth space.

She tracked down the auras, soon finding Su Ping who had stopped in the middle of nowhere.

"Great!"

Ji Xueqing was delighted and relieved. She approached Su Ping quickly. "You were too bold. You shouldn't have chased a Heavenly Lord alone. Being already cornered, he could have chosen to die and take you with him. He might have even attracted something strange lurking in the eighth space..."

She couldn't help but look around while she talked, as she was rather scared.

Su Ping heaved a sigh of relief and said, "Thank you for your concern, senior sister. I'm fine now. Let's head back."

"All right, it's fine even if you lost track of him. We'll meet him again; don't chase a desperate enemy." Ji Xueqing nodded.

Seeing that she misunderstood, Su Ping explained, "I didn't lose track of him; I've already taken care of him." He opened a hand, revealing a long, black colored shuttle, which was the vessel that took the Heavenly Lord's soul away.

"...?"

Ji Xueqing felt her head burst.

It wasn't until a few seconds later that she finally stopped gazing at the black shuttle and raised her eyes. "You took care of him?"

"Yes." Su Ping nodded. *Why else would I come to this distant place?*

"Y-You..." Ji Xueqing didn't know how to conduct herself, and couldn't help but ask, "How did you take care of him? In here? This is the eighth space, isn't it?"

"Well, I caught him unaware." Su Ping nodded and looked around. "Senior sister, let's go back, or at least leave this space first; I fear we'll attract strange creatures if we stay for too long."

Ji Xueqing quickly nodded and then left the eighth space with Su Ping, later traversing the seventh space.

Ji Xueqing seemed to have calmed down as they traveled, but she was still extremely curious. "Can you tell me more about it?"

"I simply followed him into the eighth space. I popped up and struck when he thought he was safe, which killed him in the end," said Su Ping.

"..."

Ji Xueqing was lost for words.

Just like that?

Just like that? Just like that?

1

She didn't know whether Su Ping was poor at describing, or she was just too unimaginative.

Is it that easy to kill a Heavenly Lord?

1

Not to mention that the Heavenly Lord was desperate!

Su Ping and Ji Xueqing soon rejoined the others. You Long and the rest had already cleared the battlefield along with the Purple Python.

Su Ping's gigantic snake was coiled in the void with a slightly protruding belly. Even though it was quiet, the aura it constantly released was terrifying his seniors.

Chapter 1230: Crack of the Universe

"Are you all right?"

You Long quickly dashed to where Su Ping was, mostly to keep some distance from Su Ping's ominous pet. "You were too reckless, chasing him on your own. Even if you can defeat him, never underestimate the dying strike of a Heavenly Lord; some of them can even be troublesome for some Celestials."

"Well..."

Su Ping looked at Ji Xueqing.

The latter had a strange expression. Her lips curved even more, until her cheek was all twisted.

Noticing her expression, You Long asked in astonishment, "What's wrong with you?"

Ji Xueqing couldn't help but roll her eyes at Su Ping, seeing his innocent looking face. She held back and said to You Long, "Have you cleared the battlefield? Was anyone hurt?"

"We're fine." You Long seemed puzzled.

A man suddenly dashed out of the void; he was none other than Song Yuan, who had moved to chase an enemy earlier on.

"Senior brother."

They all flew to meet him.

Song Yuan looked around, noticing that Su Ping and the others were all safe and sound. He said with relief, "I'm glad that you're fine."

You Long saw blood on Song Yuan's shoulder and asked with concern, "Were you wounded?"

"It's not my blood."

Song Yuan flipped his hand, making a head appear; it belonged to one of the Heavenly Lords that escaped. Strangely enough, it was still alive, giving everyone vicious glares. "Today's not my lucky day. You..."

His mouth was gagged before he could finish.

Song Yuan stowed away the head and chuckled. "I'm sure we can negotiate with the Celestial of the Doom Star Zone and trade the head for some good stuff."

"Might as well just kill him, so that he won't cause trouble to us later," said a young and cold-looking senior as he flew closer. It was Mo Ye, who ranked thirteenth among them.

"It's better to sell him than to kill him. He's terribly wounded anyway, and he won't recover in thousands of years. We can sell him before the war so he can't participate. This will also be a humiliation for the Doom Star Zone which will affect their morale," said You Long.

Song Yuan smiled. "That's right. He's a Celestial's disciple anyway. Still, we don't know whether or not his master is willing to save him."

Mo Ye raised his eyebrows but didn't offer a reply.

Chunyu and Han Ye returned soon after, with mild wounds. The Heavenly Lord they had chased was as strong as them working together, as the former was almost at the top of the realm, on par with the Loulan ancestor.

The two of them failed to kill him, but they forced the man to enter the ninth space; the odds of him escaping alive were no more than one percent.

"Risking to enter the ninth space is suicide. So to speak, only one of them escaped. It's not a bad result." Song Yuan chuckled. Having dealt with that many Heavenly Lords from the Doom Star Zone was definitely great news.

Ji Xueqing glanced at Su Ping and said to Song Yuan, "Senior brother, you're mistaken. The one our junior brother chased is already dead. All five Heavenly Lords of the Doom Star Zone would be gone if the one who fled into the ninth space doesn't make it. The people of the Doom Star Zone will probably be 'excited' when they learn the news..."

Everybody felt dazed. They couldn't help but look at Su Ping in shock.

You Long repeated what Ji Xueqing said, unable to process the information, "The Heavenly Lord our junior brother chased was killed by him?"

Lian Qi, Mo Ye and the others were wide eyed. Chunyu and Han Ye gazed at Su Ping; they knew that Su Ping was as strong as a Heavenly Lord, but defeating versus killing one were completely different things.

Su Ping is capable of killing a Heavenly Lord on his own?

Was it because the man had been too gravely wounded by the snake?

Even so, the news was still extremely shocking.

Seeing their expression, Su Ping explained rather modestly, while trying to sound natural, "He was just too careless. I was lucky."

Song Yuan snapped out of his shock and took a deep breath. He patted Su Ping's shoulder and said, "Junior brother, good job!"

"Junior brother..." You Long wore a complicated expression. The kid that used to need his protection not long before was already as strong, if not stronger than him. To think that he had cultivated for more than 100,000 years...

"This junior brother..."

Lian Qi was shocked and having trouble finding words. Ji Xueqing had no need to lie; so, the kid was definitely a monster!

"Come back."

Su Ping waved a hand and retrieved the Purple Python.

The pet's coiling body suddenly moved towards the summoning space and disappeared; its terrifying aura lingered for a bit and faded.

Everybody wore complicated expressions. Not only was Su Ping strong, he also had a powerful pet. It would be nigh impossible for an Ascendant to kill him.

2

To think a mere Star Lord was that strong, with many trump cards at hand. If he rose to higher levels...

Seeing their expressions, Ji Xueqing covered her mouth and giggled. "Like I said, never underestimate our junior brother, or he will slap you silly."

Su Ping looked sheepishly at his senior. *That's not important. Does she have to say it over and over?*

Song Yuan had a strange feeling too, but he didn't overthink it. He was Shen Huang's first disciple, and he had seen a lot of geniuses with a shocking potential; some reached the Ascendant State in a thousand years and became Heavenly Lords in ten thousand years. Still, those geniuses were beneath him at the moment. After all, it was the accumulation that mattered for Heavenly Lords.

Above was the Celestial State that all the Ascendant cultivators looked up to.

It won't take long before my junior brother catches up to me, provided that he can break through his obstacles and successfully rise to the Ascendant State... Song Yuan thought.

He didn't overthink. In any case, they were brothers under the same master.

"Let's go."

Song Yuan said to Lian Qi, "Why did the people of the Doom Star Zone chase you? Let's talk while we go to the ancient corpse."

"Okay."

Lian Qi quickly nodded. While following Song Yuan in the channel he had just made, he said, "I met them as I came to pick you up; I don't know if it was coincidence or an ambush. I couldn't have survived without the treasure my master gave me."

"An ambush..." Song Yuan's eyes glittered. He shook his head and said, "These are unusual times. Let's look for the traitor when we return. Good thing that nothing happened to you."

Han Ye said, "Senior brother, do you think the teleportation points of other star zones are at the edge of the Mayhem Star Zone too? Should we just wait here and ambush our enemies from the Heavenly Devil Alliance?"

Song Yuan shook his head again. "Our main purpose is to get the ancient corpse. The balance of the universe will tilt if anyone gets the legacy. Master said that the ancient corpse used to be a universe dominator with a realm beyond the Celestial State. Whoever gets the legacy will surely conquer the universe!"

Everyone's eyes glittered with passion.

Universe dominator!

The simple phrase stirred their emotions.

They traveled for a short while and reached the center of the Mayhem Star Zone.

The spatial resistance at the periphery was little, while the center was extremely chaotic. Even Heavenly Lords would tread lightly, not daring to teleport over long distances. It was very likely that they would accidentally go from the seventh space to the ninth space.

The nine layers of space were shattered in that region. They could be traveling in the third space one second and in the eighth space the next.

However, while long-distance teleportation was dangerous, short-distance flashes weren't as risky.

Secondly, the Ascendants who had perfectly grasped the path of space were safer there. Their spatial awareness allowed them to predict danger.

"This is the City of Sins!"

1

Everybody emerged somewhere in space, right above a seemingly dilapidated city. There were countless lights that stretched to the distance and ragged buildings of different heights at ground level.

"The laws here..."

Su Ping instantly discovered that the place was really special: the laws were constantly crumbling!

The resulting substance contained a great amount of law-based power!

Su Ping turned his head and stared at the ragged buildings, which contained an assortment of laws, such as elasticity, solidity, hardness, protection, and others.

Those laws were combined and gave structure to the buildings.

However, those buildings were constantly worn out and couldn't exist for a long time, given the crumbling laws in that area; they would collapse within a hundred year span.

"Those who can afford to have a house here are surely Ascendants or members of powerful families." said Lian Qi, seeing Su Ping's astonished eyes, and remembering that his junior was very young and had probably never gone there before. He introduced the general facts about the city as they flew.

"Many criminals wanted all over the universe are hiding here. However, the local environment is harsh and the laws are crumbling all the time. Everybody has to stay inside the buildings; only Ascendants can resist the effect of the crumbling laws. Normal Star Lords end up exhausted after spending a day or two outside. Star State warriors may even be killed upon arrival, unless they're protected by ultimate treasures.

"Not even Ascendants can stay for too long outside, particularly during the universal tide which takes place once a week, when the crumbling effect is more extreme. Even Ascendants have to go full out to weather through it."

Lian Qi pointed at the alleys and dirty gutters in the city. "Most escaping criminals hide over there. The satellites of the Federation outside the Mayhem Star Zone will detect them immediately if they go out; they can only wait there until they die, unless someone smuggles them out."

Su Ping saw a few women in some alleys, wearing revealing clothes while doing business with some handicapped men in ragged armor.

Some of them were selling themselves, while others were exchanging items for resources.

I never thought that an Ascendant would do something like this...

Su Ping saw that an Ascendant State woman hooked up with a dirty middle-aged man and entered a ragged building. His eyes were keen enough for him to see through the building and witness what was going on inside.

Someone of that caliber had the power to command many solar systems, and yet she was demeaning herself.

Noticing Su Ping's eyes, Lian Qi spoke calmly, "Those Ascendant cultivators have offended either the Celestials or the saints on the Planet of Origin; they can only hope to survive here. They can only rely on their bodies to make a living if they're not strong enough to kill beasts in the wilderness for resources..."

You Long chuckled. "Junior brother, you probably would've caught a lot of attention if you hadn't come with us. You're a fat and delicious lamb in their eyes."

Ji Xueqing glanced at Su Ping. "Our junior brother isn't a fat lamb; he's a little monster hiding under a lamb's skin."

Chunyu frowned as he looked at the void. "The laws are collapsing faster than thirty thousand years ago."

"That's right. They didn't collapse as fast last time I came." Song Yuan was also observing the area.

Lian Qi nodded. "Laws have been collapsing faster ever since the ancient corpse appeared; the crack deep inside the City of Sins has also grown wider."

"Are they going to the ancient corpse too?" Han Ye pointed at a team of Ascendant travelers. They wore clean armor, which contrasted with the filthiness of the city; they were obviously outsiders.

"Probably. A lot of rogue cultivators have come recently. They want a share of the treasures," said Lian Qi in disdain.

They quickly flew across the sky above the city.

A few men quickly dashed out and stood in their way, but quickly changed their tune when they recognized Lian Qi who was leading the group. "We didn't recognize you. We're terribly sorry for offending you."

"Get lost!"

Lin snorted.

The four frustrated assailants quickly left.

"Blind idiots." Lian Qi spat and led everybody onward.

Su Ping realized what the disordered place truly was as they traveled across the sky. Crime was rampant; rotten bodies and muddy bones could be seen in some of the dark alleys.

This is the home for all outlaws. Only strength matters here...

The city was extremely vast. Buildings were increasingly taller as they traveled forward, and the streets grew sloped too. The further they went, the higher the altitude.

Laws were collapsing at approximately 1.5 times faster compared to the periphery.

Several days later—

Everybody went to the city's central area, which was much cleaner than in the outer districts. The number of Ascendants was more concentrated there too; practically everyone was an Ascendant.

People of such a realm lived long lives. Those who had committed crimes elsewhere would gather there and establish their own forces.

Some of the buildings had flags on top. According to Lian Qi, they belonged to the eight major forces.

Those forces were run by locals of the Mayhem Star Zone. They weren't concerned about outsiders sent over. Since they were criminal factions, any Heavenly Lord sent to that place would have a hard time doing their job.

"Look, it's over there."

Lian Qi suddenly pointed ahead, and everybody looked in that direction. They saw a rising landscape beyond the endless buildings which seemed to have a massive volcano. The closer you got there, the taller it was. There was a dark cloud in the sky in the furthest point of the horizon, and right past the cloud was a terrifying vertical crack!

