

Pet Store 1361

Chapter 1361 Personality Fashioning (2)

Shen Huang saw Kayafollet at the door, only to discover that she looked completely different from her past self; there was less of the Saint Heir's arrogance in her eyes, and more of a casual and indifferent poise. She constantly wore a fake smile, which seemed to hide coldness and cruelty underneath.

The Saint Heir seems to have turned into a different person. Shen Huang's observation was keen. He didn't know how Su Ping had done it, but taming the Saint Heir in such a short amount of time was terrifying.

He talked to the Saint Heir for a while, and found that she was indeed vastly different from before.

Inside the shop.

Su Ping talked to Joanna for a while, and then left for the Demigod Burial with the pets that required professional training.

His main purpose for the trip was to give the four Superior Gods a reply. He also had other thoughts in mind.

He then teleported to the Demigod Burial and went to a forbidden place first, which was extremely dangerous, home to many ferocious Ascendant beasts. All the Celestial State beasts that used to live there had already been cleared by him and the Superior Gods.

The place had become much less threatening, but it was still a dangerous place in the eyes of adventurers.

Su Ping summoned the Lightning Rat too, and had it train and fight along with the Inferno Dragon and the others.

The Lightning Rat had not entered Su Ping's cultivation sites ever since Su Yanying died. It was far weaker than the Dark Dragon Hound and the rest, but it was still very strong at its level.

Having trained a few times in the Golden Crow world and the Archean Divinity, the little fellow was attaining the combat ability of a Star Lord.

Su Ping imparted the Great Dao he had comprehended through their bond, helping the little one to quickly improve. By then it had condensed five small worlds.

While seated on the mountaintop, Su Ping watched the Inferno Dragon and the Lightning Rat fight in forests and swamps, turning that forbidden place upside down.

With a few timid pets from his customers, they chased after the ferocious Ascendant beasts. He would immediately resurrect them whenever they got accidentally killed.

A middle-rank cultivation site like the Demigod Burial was no longer a challenge for Su Ping at the moment. Even if the strongest forces here were gathered, he could finish them off with ease.

How I miss the first time I went to the Thunder Cloud Realm.

Su Ping ate snacks with his back against a rock, watching the Lightning Rat fight fiercely against an Ascendant beast. His feelings were somewhat at odds.

Back then, he was forced to stimulate the Lightning Rat with a secret technique, all to spur its fighting will. However, it now acted like a dog on the loose, attacking any beast in sight, regardless of level. It didn't seem to know the meaning of death.

Time flew. The Lightning Rat—which used to be a cowardly creature that needed to be forced to fight—had been turned into a crazy beast after the death of its two previous masters.

Su Ping watched in silence.

He lowered his eyes, and almost saw that short and bare figure floating in the woods.

Little Skeleton...

Su Ping unconsciously raised a hand, hoping to touch those bare bones, but his hand stopped moving halfway.

Several days later

They left that dangerous place and went to the superior temple. He spoke to the Superior Gods telepathically and soon met them in person.

“Mr. Su.”

All four of them were surprised to see him. They had received Su Ping's telepathic message, right in their residences without any warning. It was terrifying.

Once they saw him again, they noticed how he was even more horrifying than before. They could not see him through anymore. All their pores were involuntarily closed off and compressed, instinctively ready for battle.

“I've asked about your homecoming,” said Su Ping in a straightforward manner, “Even the God Emperors are unable to do that. I can only ask the Ancestral Gods for help.”

“Ancestral Gods?”

They looked at each other in bewilderment. That was a term from a distant past. According to their memories, they were the real ultimate legends of the Archean Divinity.

“My current identity is not enough to ask the Ancestral Gods for help. So, there is only one way for you to return to your home, which is to pack everybody and have them enter your universes. After that, you can enter my universe and I'll take you there,” said Su Ping as he looked at the four of them.

The gods were stunned. That was the same proposal from before; none of them were willing since it was too risky.

“Is there no other way?” Heather couldn't help but ask.

Su Ping glanced at her and slightly shook his head. "You can take your time to think. Even if you want to leave, it'll take some time to gather and transport many people. If you prefer waiting, I can personally haul your world to where it belongs when I become an Ancestral God."

"When you become an Ancestral God?"

The four of them looked at Su Ping with widened eyes.

Even though they weren't as strong as their old selves when leaving the Archean Divinity, every god in their homeland knew how powerful Ancestral Gods were.

"That's right." Su Ping nodded.

One of them couldn't help but ask, "Then... What's your current level?"

Su Ping was open about it. "In terms of level, I'm not as high as you, but if you only focus on combat ability, I should be able to kill you instantly. Once I condense my Dao Heart, I will become an emperor and aim for the next level. I don't know how long it'll; after all, I'm still trying to condense my Dao Heart."

"Condense your Dao Heart? Become an emperor?"

All of them gazed at Su Ping. In the world of gods, the only emperors were God Emperors!

God Emperors were exactly a realm above them.

After a moment of silence, they glanced at each other and felt that the situation was surreal. A while back they could have easily killed him; however, the tables had turned in the blink of an eye, since Su Ping claimed he could kill them instantly. The role reversal came so fast that they couldn't get used to it yet.

There was nothing but silence.

All five of them stood there in silence. Su Ping stared at them quietly, waiting for them to digest the information.

After a long time passed, Shivalello said, "If possible, we'd like to choose the second option."

"The second?" Su Ping looked at him in surprise.

Heather said with a conflicted expression. "Although we're longing to get back home, we've lived in this place for too long. This is our home too."

"That's right. If we only take the people away, the cities we've established will be left as ruins. That would be very sad," said Eborr.

Su Ping glanced at them, knowing it was their collective decision after they discussed amongst themselves.

"Maybe you'll have to wait for a long time then," said Su Ping.

"That's all right."

Shivalello said with a smile, "If we're finally done with waiting, we can always choose the first option; we've waited for a million years already. Mr. Su, you've reached your current height in only a few hundred years; I believe that you have the potential to rise to the top, because you're by far the most unusual genius we have ever seen."

Chapter 1362 Unification of the Universe (1)

Looking at their eyes, Su Ping understood that they were unwilling to give up the land. After all, it was also home to countless gods; they couldn't just leave it behind.

"Now that you've reached a decision, I'll try not to keep you waiting too long," said Su Ping.

"Mr. Su, really, don't feel pressured by this. We actually enjoy our life here. Especially when we thought that we would soon leave, it suddenly occurred to us that there are many places we haven't appreciated yet," said Shivalello.

Eborr nodded. "That's right. I plan to travel the world again as an ordinary god. Maybe it will take several hundred years, maybe several thousand. I want to take a good look at this place."

Su Ping could sympathize with them. He nodded and said, "If you choose to stay, there's something I would like to request."

"Mr. Su, do speak."

"I need a large batch of food. If conditions allow, I hope that you can ask the local residents to plant crops for me. The more, the better," said Su Ping.

He had planned to seek help from the Heaven Path Institute, or the master of the Red Dome Realm. Considering his deputy master identity, it wouldn't be hard for him to task a batch of people to grow food.

"Food?" All four of them were stunned. That was obviously the last thing they expected Su Ping to ask for. To them, food was a strange and distant word; after all, they no longer needed any. They did eat on occasion, but only to satisfy their senses; they were certainly uninterested in normal food, and only indulged in delicious cuisine.

"Yes, food for humans." Su Ping nodded.

"You need it for your people, Mr. Su?" asked Shivalello.

Su Ping shook his head. "Not my people, but my compatriots. We're now faced with a war, and we might be short of food."

"Got it."

Heather looked at Su Ping in surprise and asked, "Mr. Su, considering your strength, there are wars that you can't win?"

"Of course."

Su Ping answered without thinking, "Even if I become an Ancestral God, there will be wars I can't win. Although strength is the only thing that matters, there are things that you can't accomplish on your own."

His own words somehow led him to a realization, and then vaguely understood how to find his Dao Heart.

All four gods felt puzzled, as they couldn't understand what Su Ping told them. A war that not even an Ancestral God can win? Is the other party an Ancestral God too? In their eyes, when someone was strong enough, they could single handedly suppress an entire clan. That was the case in the Archean Divinity; the birth of an Ancestral God could promote an ordinary clan to become a high-ranked clan.

Clans without Ancestral Gods had to back off in front of a high-ranked clan.

After all, such existences could easily destroy any clan if they ever chose to take action.

That was absolute strength!

"If you need it, Mr. Su, we'll definitely do our best. Growing food is easy for us. You killed the ultimate beasts in forbidden places a while back, now those places have shrunk in size; there are a lot of empty areas to grow food," said Shivalello.

Su Ping nodded. "I'll entrust the matter to you then; the more food, the better."

"Okay."

All of them nodded.

Su Ping didn't stay for much longer. He said his goodbyes and left that world.

He returned to the store and placed the trained pets in the pet room. Then, he picked another batch of creatures and left for a different cultivation site.

Time flew.

Su Ping traveled to many cultivation sites. While training his customers' pets, he also trained the Lightning Rat, the Inferno Dragon and the others. Even though they were already strong, capable of fighting Celestials except for the struggling Lightning Rat, Su Ping didn't allow them to relax; he continued with the harsh training, as he knew that a war would very likely break out, and there was the alien among the worms. Middle-rank cultivation sites were no longer challenging to his pets. He could only choose the high-rank ones.

Aside from the Archean Divinity and the Chaotic Realm of the Undead, there were a dozen more sites of high-rank.

They were places such as the Realm of Bleak Dragons, the Remains of Ancestral Humans, the Realm of Magic Beasts, and so on.

Su Ping discovered that the enemies in those high-ranked sites were as strong as those found in the Archean Divinity. In the Realm of Bleak Dragons, for instance, they found all kinds of dragons; many of them were in the Celestial State.

In the Remains of Ancestral Humans there was nothing but giants who were hundreds of meters tall.

The trees and mountains were extremely tall too. Su Ping had the feeling that he had been miniaturized to a thousand of his original size. Even a leaf was as massive as a cloud.

Most giants, named Ancestral Humans, were as strong as cultivators of Celestial level. Oddly enough, they didn't cultivate any small universe; their bodies were terrifyingly sturdy.

Compared to these worlds, the place I live in is only a middle-rank cultivation site at best. However, considering all the middle-rank cultivation sites, it is definitely one of the best... Su Ping considered the level of his universe and found it inferior.

How far away those cultivation sites were from his universe was a mystery. Their experts were certainly capable of tearing apart his universe. If they ever found it, the invasion of any Ancestral God would be an absolute disaster.

However, our universe has never been invaded in ages. It's like Earth in the past; in the middle of a vast universe, but it never encountered an interstellar civilization. Like an isolated village in the mountains...

Su Ping's eyes glittered. Maybe-once he became an Ancestral God and could travel beyond the universe—he would know what it was like out there.

He went to those cultivation sites and led his pets to fight and defeat all kinds of Celestial State creatures, while also making a lot of friends on the way.

Getting to know those strangers gave Su Ping an amazing feeling. Although they were from different races and had different habits, they were very similar in certain aspects.

It was quite marvelous and lovely to share similarities with a stranger from a completely different race.

All creatures were different. Maybe the differences between creatures were not meant for them to reject each other, but to understand and appreciate one another.

Su Ping's heart was further polished after returning from his outing. On the eighth day, the first Celestial expert arrived in the Celestial Court with his star zone's residents and army.

Shen Huang and Chi Huo welcomed the new arrivals.

More Celestials experts teleported over on their spacecraft carriers in the following two days.

Far in the Black Desolation Star Zone Kayafollet had been sent to help them gather their forces. All opposition and dissidents were suppressed by her; the universe was gradually unifying and gathering.

In an unknown place in deep space—there was an ancient gate, which was slowly opening

Chapter 1363 Old Friend (1)

Behind that ancient gate—a lofty, yet vague shadow was slowly manifested.

The shadow was as high and mighty as a god. It stood there, seemingly becoming the center of the universe, enshrouded in an inexplicable

aura.

“In such a weak universe?” someone said in a whisper, and the void trembled violently. The voice alone had almost caused the nearby space to collapse.

A purely dark figure appeared and knelt in front of the gate.

“...I see.”

The shadow beyond the gate seemed to have received the message and whispered, “Keep investigating. Don’t alarm anyone.”

After that, the shadow gradually dispersed, along with the gate.

Exactly at that moment, something unusual happened in the trembling universe; it was twisting quickly. Hideous arms and heads surged from a crack, seemingly creatures from the deep sea. They roared and charged at the kneeling dark figure.

The latter snorted and turned into a streak of light, vanishing into nothingness.

All the scary arms and heads came to a halt after losing their target. However, the crack kept wiggling slowly, as if it were healing.

In the Celestial Court.

The place was like a gigantic star illuminating the area within several light years.

Many spacecraft carriers were slowly flying out of the teleportation points at the border of the Celestial Court, which accommodated countless soldiers and civilians.

Some tycoons were currently standing on the observation tower at the top of a spacecraft carrier and stared at the golden Celestial Court through the transparent protective shield.

There were twelve star zones in the universe, but most people would never have the chance to set foot in another star zone in their entire lives.

Not just crossing star zones, even crossing galaxies was extremely rare; only the rich and energetic could afford it.

The civilians were hiding in the cabins at the bottom of the spacecraft. Their faces, large and small, filled up the narrow windows as they gazed at that strange place with confusion and anxiety in their eyes.

According to the notice of the higher-ups, they were probably going to live in that place for a very long time.

That would also be the last shelter of the universe.

Once those Celestials moved there, Shen Huang, Chi Huo and all the others got busy. They led the newcomers to the designated areas so that they could settle down.

The defense line around the Celestial Court had been narrowed down to the core of the Golden Star Zone, with a radius of only several dozen light years. The place was instantly flooded with all the immigrants.

Shen Huang, Chi Huo and the others had manufactured a lot of planets in advance to accommodate the immigrants.

While everybody in the Celestial Court was busy receiving the guests, the Celestial experts were all present in the highest conference room; they hadn't met in reality for a long time.

"Shen Huang, why is your command center on such a tiny planet?"

Hardly had they arrived when they posed the question. However, their tone was casual, not demanding. After all, Shen Huang was too powerful; nobody was willing to provoke a conflict with him.

They would be idiots if they argued with the host in his place, just after moving there.

"Xiao Su likes staying on this planet, so we turned it into the capital of the Celestial Court," replied Shen Huang with a smile, being open about the matter.

Everybody felt dazed; the reason was quite unexpected. They thought there was something special about that place, since it was chosen as their hiding place; however, it merely turned out to be that the young man was fond of it.

"Shen Huang, you truly dote on Mr. Su," said a Celestial expert awkwardly, addressing Su Ping in a different way. The latter didn't have a title yet; they could only call him by his name.

"We've come from far away. We'd like to meet this Mr. Su fellow; will he attend today's meeting?" asked someone else. Their intent was obvious; they wanted to check first hand how strong that arrogant upstart was, a guy from who knows where.

Shen Huang saw through their plan but didn't back out. He said, "Xiao Su is usually very busy; I will tell him about you and your request to meet. If he's free, he will probably come."

"What is he busy with?" asked another Celestial.

Shen Huang glanced at him. "Cultivation, of course; a genius cannot evolve with talent alone."

Chi Huo interrupted them and spoke with an impatient tone, "All right, enough chit chat. Now that you're all here, let's talk about the future defense plans for the border."

Always short-fused, he quickly became angry when he noticed that they were wasting time.

"What's the rush?" Chi Ying-leader of the Red Shadow Star Zone-rolled eyes at him. The two were old nemeses. Although he had bowed down before the Celestial Court, he was still at loggerheads with Chi Huo.

The latter narrowed his eyes and gazed at him coldly.

Chi Ying raised his eyebrows, but eventually looked away. That was Chi Huo's home field and he didn't want to start a conflict; after all, there was the monster backer who was able to kill Hei Huang remotely.

Shen Huang waved a hand and said, "Now that you're all here, ask the advisors of your star zones to attend this meeting too. We have to listen to your opinion regarding the arrangements for the defense line."

"Shen Huang is right."

The other Celestials nodded. They were clearly happier when they found that their host wasn't a dictator.

Chapter 1364 Old Friend (2)

Many decisions were made and relayed for execution as the meeting proceeded. The entire Celestial Court took action to carry them out.

At the same time-outside of Rhea's space station-a spaceship had gone through inspection and landed on one of the planet's continents.

"I didn't know it would be so difficult to visit this place again." A group of people walked out of the spaceship. They looked at the familiar yet strange planet with mixed feelings.

One of them teased, "The legitimate owner of this planet was barely able to land on it. That had never happened in the Federation, had it?"

"Good thing the alliance leader's father helped. We wouldn't have been given a temporary pass without him; requirements were truly harsh," said another with a sigh.

"Who can argue with you? According to the news, this is already considered as the Celestial Court's capital. It is as impregnable as the Court's royal palace in the past!"

"Ryan, didn't you say you'd ask Boss Su for this planet? Let's go there right now," another man joked.

"Get lost!"

A brawny middle-aged man pushed him away angrily; he was none other than the leader of the Ryan family, which reigned over Rhea in the past. He was also one of Su Ping's old friends and a member of the battle alliance.

He had been unable until then to get a chance and return to the planet ever since it was pushed across the universe by Su Ping. After that, the young man became famous in the Universe Geniuses' Contest and rose to prominence. He was too scared to make any sort of claims anymore; after all, a planet was nothing. Being a Celestial expert's disciple, Su Ping could easily receive a galaxy as a gift.

At the moment, Su Ping's status was even higher than before. Ryan already considered this planet as Su Ping's possession; he wasn't intent on trying to take it back anymore.

Besides, the place was his hometown. He too felt honored since it became so prosperous thanks to the boy.

He had benefited a lot from his connection to Su Ping. Many secondary forces in the universe had gotten in touch, hoping to get to know Su Ping through them and gain something out of it.

The tall and intimidating middle-aged man said in the crowd, "Stop spouting nonsense; Mr. Su is no longer the junior he used to be. According to what I've heard from some Ascendant cultivators, Mr. Su actually killed a Celestial. It's said that he's already a new Celestial State master. It's just that it hasn't been made official; the ceremony was postponed due to the current turmoil in the universe. After all, the ceremony is for the entire universe to watch; there's no time and energy to do that right now."

"He killed a Celestial State expert..."

All of them had heard about Su Ping's feats while traveling on the spaceship. However, hearing those words again gave them such a thrill their hearts were pounding.

"I wonder if he has the time to meet us right now," said another member, sighing. However, there was neither jealousy nor disappointment in his voice. Su Ping was already so high above them that they could only look up to him.

A girl interrupted everybody and said, "We're about to serve in the army. Let's go visit him."

"You're the boss, Miss Shen'er."

"Let's go there and take a look."

Everybody agreed. They immediately took a smaller shuttle and flew to one of the planet's stations. Then, they traveled all the way to Woffett.

Ryan couldn't help but rub his eyes as he watched from the spaceship at the current Woffett City. The place had been completely transformed. Many lofty buildings had risen to scrape the sky. The city had expanded dozens of times over and absorbed many of the neighboring cities, becoming a super metropolis.

"So many powerful auras." Xingyue Shen'er's senses were keen. She wore a solemn expression; there were powerful Ascendant State auras as strong as her father's everywhere she probed in the city. "Why do I get the feeling that all the people here are battle pet warriors?" The others were feeling the same. They didn't see many of the ordinary people.

Ryan said, "The ordinary people probably went elsewhere. Moving away is very tempting when experts are willing to pay."

Everybody understood the logic. Now that all the strong people had been attracted to that place, it was pointless for ordinary folk to stay around. Might as well move to another place where they could enjoy their lives peacefully.

Very soon, they found the most prosperous street in the center of the city.

A warning sounded in the spaceship right then. Flying was not allowed in Woffett's inner city.

They instantly parked the spaceship in the outskirts and took a car to the inner city. Then, after half a day, they finally made it to a crowded pet store.

"This is the place."

"We have to wait in line?"

“Of course!”

“We’re not here to train pets, just to see an old friend. I don’t think we have to wait in line. Let’s talk to the receptionist.”

They squeezed forward through the crowd. Xingyue Shen’er looked around and climbed the stairs, ignoring the anger in the eyes of customers around her. She asked the girl at the door, “Is this Su Ping’s store? We’re his friends.”

Tang Ruyan looked at the girl and mumbled to herself, “Friends?”.

Did Su Ping have any friends? Even if he has any, why does it have to be such a cute girl?

“Achew!”

In the store-Su Ping, who had just returned from a cultivation site, couldn’t help but sneeze. He rubbed his nose. Who’s missing me?

At the door, Xingyue Shen’er explained, “We’ll only be here for a moment; we just came here to say hi.”

“Just wait then. I’ll ask him when he returns.” Tang Ruyan glanced at the people behind the girl; she didn’t think the girl was lying. Considering how everything had developed to that point, nobody no one would dare to lie there. She didn’t think that group of people were bold enough for it.

“Thank you.”

Tang Ruyan detected Su Ping’s aura in the store. She instantly said something to those people and entered.

Once she saw him, she relayed the message and then rolled her eyes at him.

“Friends?”

Su Ping was rather surprised. He spread out his senses and immediately saw the people by the door. He was in a trance, as he wasn’t expecting to see them.

It seemed to have been a long time; however, Su Ping discovered that they had hardly changed. He instantly went to the door and smiled. “What brings you here?”

Everybody was stunned for a moment when seeing him walk out of the store, feeling that they didn’t know him anymore.

Xingyue Shen’er was dazed for a moment. She didn’t know what to say, so she went for the obvious. “You really were here.”

“Come on in,” Su Ping said as he invited them to the store.

All of them followed, instantly feeling flattered.

Many times they had pictured how their reunion would be, but now they found it inappropriate to say what they had in mind when they did meet.

Is this the intimidation you attain after killing a Celestial?

Everybody thought about this and gave Su Ping prudent looks. They were both eager and nervous when they talked about the latter on the spaceship. But now only the nervousness remained.

“Are you here to travel around?” Su Ping asked with a smile, trying to lighten up the mood.

“Well...” Xingyue Shen’er felt that her mind was moving in a rather rigid manner. She had seen that a lot of Ascendant State customers were queuing in Su Ping’s store. All of them were as strong as her father.

The man himself felt it more vividly. He noticed the horrifying aura from the beautiful blonde behind the counter the moment he entered. Even though she was making an effort to conceal it, he could still tell that it was impossible to overlook her.

Is she a Celestial too? His heart shivered. He had the privilege of meeting a Celestial expert up close once. The feeling was exactly the same back then.

“We’re about to serve in the army. We hoped to see you before we go,” said Xingyue Shen’er after a long time hesitating.

There were many words she wanted to say, but she couldn’t say them at the moment. She even felt the urge to immediately say goodbye and leave.

“Serve in the army?” Su Ping was slightly dazed. He glanced at them, instantly being reminded of the worm tide. He said with a heavy heart, “I can help in relieving you of your duties. You can find a planet and cultivate there.”

Making such an arrangement was but a simple matter for him.

Xingyue Shen’er felt dazed for a moment. She suddenly had a familiar feeling, and her nervousness faded. With a smile on her face, she said, “That won’t be necessary; serving in the army is our responsibility. Right now everybody is obligated to resist the worms, being such a dangerous moment. We are battle pet warriors, how can we hide behind defense lines like the ordinary people?”

Chapter 1365 Transcending the Tribulation (1)

Su Ping was slightly surprised. Seeing her determined look, he looked at the others behind her, only to see confidence with a touch of awkwardness in their eyes.

Su Ping instantly realized what they thought.

“This worm tide is very dangerous. It’s possible that you’ll never come back. Have you really thought it through?” asked Su Ping.

Xingyue Shen’er chuckled. “Don’t underestimate us. Maybe the worm tide will be averted much quicker with our intervention.”

She intentionally spoke in an optimistic and relieving manner. However, Su Ping knew that no Star Lords were that naive.

“We’ve already left our last words for family and friends. We won’t regret it even if we die in battle,” said someone in the crowd.

“That’s right. Our descendants are still waiting for us. We can’t ask others to protect our children, can we?” another chimed in.

Su Ping glanced at them, only to find that all were unremarkable. Who would have thought that they would be willing to step up in that time of crisis?

“In that case, let me give you a little something,” said Su Ping, “Stay here for one more day. I’ll give you some pets tomorrow.”

“We appreciate your kindness, but our assignments are going to be very dangerous. It’s best not to let pets suffer along with us,” said Xingyue Shen’er, shaking her head.

Su Ping shook his own head and said, ‘I insist that you accept them, or I won’t feel at ease.’”

After such words, everyone exchanged looks and could only accept it.

The next day.

They went to Su Ping’s store again. After waiting for half an hour, Su Ping returned from a cultivation site and saw that they were waiting inside. He instantly took them to the test room.

“Each of you will pick one of these little guys.”

Su Ping summoned a batch of pets and lined them up in the test room.

Everybody was astounded. Are they really “little guys”?

All of those beasts were in the Ascendant State. They had extremely ferocious looks; some were scary, while others were gloomy and brutal.

All of them were compelled to back off, even wanting to escape the room.

Some of the guys present swallowed and even trembled. They were still in the Star State. How could they withstand the pressure of that many brutal Ascendant pets?

“You...”

Xingyue Shen’er was stunned for a long time, before she slowly turned around and looked at Su Ping. “Are you giving them to me?”

“I’m not really giving them to you. I’m actually selling them,” said Su Ping. “But their prices are quite affordable to you.”

It kind of ruined the atmosphere when he said that he was selling them, but he couldn’t break the store’s rules. After all, the pets caught in cultivation sites couldn’t be taken away without being properly sold. He didn’t have permission to give them away.

Everybody simply thought that he was doing it so they wouldn’t reject the offer. After all, he did ask them to wait another day to give them something. Would he really be selling those pets?

Besides, even if those Ascendant creatures were sold in the market, their prices would be astronomical; even for Ascendant cultivators, let alone Star Lords. They would be impossible to afford.

Su Ping immediately told them the prices, and everyone took it as confirmation that the former was only doing that because he feared they would be reluctant to accept such a great favor.

“We appreciate your kindness, but all those pets are in the Ascendant State. My father can take one. As for the rest, we wouldn’t dare use them even if we took any. What if they attack us...?” Xingyue Shen’er said to Su Ping after some hesitation.

The others also looked away and nodded.

They were very interested in those pets, but they knew it would be difficult to use them.

Even the Star Lords of many major families would think twice about having Ascendant pets, because the gap between Ascendants and Star Lords was too wide. It was easy for the pet to get out of control despite the contract’s restraint.

“Don’t worry about that; I’ve planted some restrictions in their souls. They would never defy you,” said Su Ping.

Naturally, he had foreseen this, so he “persuaded” those Ascendant pets by making use of laws. Even the normal Celestials could do that; it was certainly easy for him.

“You can do that?”

Everybody was surprised, knowing that Su Ping had no need to lie to them.

“You can give it a try,” said Su Ping with a smile, “Feel free to examine their abilities in this place. I’ll feel better if you’re protected by Ascendant pets during your service.”

Everyone decided to accept after Su Ping said it that way.

Noticing that the Star State cultivators in the crowd were feeling envious, Su Ping approached them and said, “If you don’t mind, I’ll help you condense a small world, so that you’ll immediately advance and become Star Lords.”

“Help us condense a small world?”

Not just them, the others also looked at Su Ping in a daze.

What kind of method is that? We’ve never heard about it before!

“No, we certainly don’t mind.”

One of them was quick to react. He was astonished and thrilled.

Having heard all the legends about Su Ping from Xingyue Shen’er’s father, he already considered the young man to be a Celestial State master. The abilities of such existences were beyond his imagination. He wouldn’t even doubt for a moment, even if Su Ping claimed that he would turn the universe upside down.

“Okay.”

Seeing that they accepted his offer, Su Ping instantly began to impart the needed knowledge.

Chapter 1366 Transcending the Tribulation (2)

He chose to teach them the law of illusion and build the Illusory World with it. Even though such a world wasn't too destructive, it was very useful when it came to survival. Su Ping hoped that all of them would return alive.

Back in the Archean Divinity, the God Emperor elders could publicly transmit their understanding of Dao.

Not even Celestials could do that, because their realm was merely at the threshold to the understanding of Dao.

Su Ping wasn't a God Emperor yet, but he was already halfway there. Imparting knowledge wasn't difficult for him, especially when it was just about laws.

After covering them in barriers, Su Ping simply transmitted the law of illusion into their minds. Meanwhile, he released a bit of chaos power to them.

That bit of power surged like waves and soon raised a storm inside their bodies, turning into the cornerstone of their small worlds.

Su Ping guided them via telepathy. He was essentially controlling their bodies and helping them cultivate.

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Very soon, they began to emanate Star Lord auras, and their strength grew.

While Xingyue Shen'er and the others watched in shock, the shapes of small worlds appeared behind their backs soon after. Their level of completeness increased, and they emitted a mysterious yet powerful aura.

“He really did it!” one of them said, obviously amazed.

“Why do I feel that it's even more powerful than my small world?”

“What an illusory aura.”

There was envy in some people's eyes, realizing how extraordinary those guys' small worlds were.

Soon after, Su Ping canceled the barriers and said to them, “The Heavenly Tribulation is blocked inside this store. You will have to go through it once you leave. Still, it should be easy for you with the protection of Ascendant State pets.”

Those people opened their eyes and couldn't help but examine themselves after hearing what Su Ping said. They were thrilled as they sensed the abundant power in their bodies. They never expected to become Star Lords so easily.

“The Heavenly Tribulation is being blocked?”

Everyone else was shocked again, after processing what Su Ping mentioned. Is this the power of a Celestial State master?

Xingyue Shen'er's father was just as shocked. Su Ping's methods were beyond his imagination.

"Go and pick your pets," said Su Ping. Everyone snapped out of their shock, but mixed feelings remained. They knew that the gap between them and Su Ping was huge, but never did they imagine it would be as huge as that between mortals and gods.

Xingyue Shen'er wore a complicated expression. Su Ping was merely in the Star State and she could beat him easily when they first met. Still, he quickly managed to reach a height she couldn't even see. His capabilities were completely beyond her understanding. Is this what talent means?

She dismissed her thoughts, knowing it was pointless to think about it. She followed her father to see the Ascendant State pets and pick to her liking.

The beasts crouched on the ground obediently while everybody was choosing. They looked angry, as if ready to lunge at any moment, but they were being restrained by some sort of power.

Thankfully, Su Ping was right next to them. All of them were scared, but they gritted their teeth and went to see them.

Soon after, someone picked a pet and completed the contract.

Su Ping asked the person to freely test and command their pet there, so that they would become more intimate.

Soon, earthquakes shook the test room as many secret techniques were cast, causing a large-scale destruction. However, the damage was fixed in the blink of an eye.

A long time later, Su Ping led everyone out after they completed their contracts and finished testing.

They walked out of the test room and were less scared of their pets. Although the pets looked ferocious, they were extremely obedient, which was a delight.

"Thank you for your great help." Xingyue Shen'er's father cupped his hands at Su Ping gratefully.

The others also rushed to express their thanks.

Su Ping waved a hand and said, "We're all friends; no need to thank me. You'll be embarking on a perilous journey. I hope that you'll be careful. I'll prepare another great gift for your safe return."

Someone asked curiously, "What great gift?"

Su Ping smiled but didn't answer. "You'll know when you return."

Xingyue Shen'er slapped the head of the person who asked, and said angrily, "Su Ping only hopes that we can return in one piece. What more do you want?"

The guy stuck out his tongue and smiled awkwardly.

"I will surely bring them all back," said Xingyue Shen'er to Su Ping. She was both perky and serious, as if she were making a vow.

Su Ping nodded and walked them out.

Right after they left the store, the sky was instantly filled by clouds; the Heavenly Tribulation was invoked.

“Indeed, there’s indeed a Heavenly Tribulation!”

All the new Star Lords looked up at the sky, searching for the tribulation source.

Other people on the street were also astonished.

The ones who summoned the tribulation flew to the sky and passed their test, attracting a lot of attention.

The lightning bolts struck down. Their new Ascendant pets took action and blocked all the lightning strikes. The Heavenly Tribulation was over.

Once passing the tribulation, they landed and thanked Su Ping solemnly again.

The latter stood at the door and bid them goodbye.

He felt lost as he watched them leave, wondering if any of them would be missing next time he saw them.

He shook his head; there were things he couldn’t stop even if he were omnipotent. Each person had their own decision, their own life, and their own faith; Su Ping couldn’t interfere.

He returned to his store and continued exercising in cultivation sites.

Time flew.

In the World of Magical Beasts

Su Ping was sitting on a cliff, bones piled up underneath his feet. There was a commotion in the vast forest down below. The Inferno Dragon, the Lightning Rat and the Dark Dragon Hound were hunting beasts and making a scene.

He was drinking a spicy and strange liquor from a bottle made from a stomach. It was a local specialty.

Next to Su Ping was a brawny, human-shaped beast. His golden eyes were glittering, with hair unkempt, like a primitive barbarian.

“Brother Su, does someone as strong as you have worries too?” The Magical Beast spoke hoarsely.

Su Ping looked at him and said, “Every living creature has worries. Come to think of it, your child was just born; I don’t have anything special for you. It just so happens that I killed a Chaos Sorcerer not long ago. That’ll be my gift for your child.”

The guy was a local he had befriended in that world.

He was also the young master of a certain tribe, talented and strong. At the moment he was already a Celestial.

“A Chaos Sorcerer? That’s a great gift,” said Aryado, “Brother Su, your world must be very vast. It can’t be as tiny as our place.”

Su Ping shook his head. “It’s not much different. The tiny place you’re familiar with is only the area you’re in. Beyond the surrounding ocean there are other places and more of your compatriots. However, those regions are even more dangerous. It’s fine to just stay here.”

“Is that so?”

Aryado became interested. “Have you been to any of those places? Can you tell me?” Su Ping smiled and then told him about the general situation of some places he had randomly teleported to. One of them listened and the other talked. Su Ping finished his retelling by the time the battle in the forest ended. He stood up and said, “I have to go.” “I really envy you, Brother Su. You can travel everywhere,” said Aryado.

Su Ping smiled. “If there’s a chance, we’ll be able to travel together. You can break through this universe and truly regain freedom when you reach higher levels.”

Aryado shook his head. “My potential is running out. Maybe I’ll have to rely on my child in the future.”

“Maybe. I didn’t get a chance to see your child this time. See you then,” said Su Ping.

Even though that world was full of brutal magical beasts, many of them had gained wisdom, such as the primitive human beings. Also, they attached great importance to lineage; they had few children, and most of them had better potential than their parents.

“Okay.”

Su Ping bid his friend goodbye, then looked at the Lightning Rat and his other pets, then beckoned to them and simply teleported back to his store, right in front of Aryado’s eyes.

Aryado was then left alone on the cliff.

“Maybe we will meet again in the future...” Aryado mumbled.

Chapter 1367 Anomaly of the Universe (1)

Su Ping placed the customers’ pets in nursing pens when he got back to the store. Then, he entered the lobby as he used to, only to see a lot of Ascendant cultivators; most were exhausted and even wounded.

Su Ping’s eyes glittered. The battle outside had been fierce; he had seen injured people in the store since a few days prior.

“Boss Su.”

“Mr. Su.”

All those cultivators looked refreshed upon seeing him appear. They greeted him with smiles.

Su Ping’s feats had already spread out in the Ascendant cultivator circle; even a fair amount of Star Lords knew of him too. The Celestials of every star zone warned their disciples and subordinates not to cross him.

All the rumors made Su Ping and his store all the more mysterious.

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As a result, this attracted a lot of Ascendants, which made up for most of his recent clients, and the pets he trained were of Ascendant realm.

“Are the worms rampant again at the border?” Su Ping asked.

“There was an accident. Our Andrey Fortress was almost broken into; fortunately, reinforcements came in time and we averted the situation,” said one of the Ascendant warriors with an innocent smile.

Su Ping had heard a fair amount of news of the battlefield and was almost used to it. However, he did see too many injured people in recent days.

When a war burst out, the ones to realize first about the situation was probably at the infirmary, aside from the command center.

“Be safe.” There wasn’t really much he could say.

Then, he entered the incubation room and displayed the system panel.

The balance of his account had already reached an astronomical figure.

It had been three years since the alliance of the universe was formed. His store flourished since then, bursting with customers every day. During those three years, Su Ping had spent a hundred years in cultivation sites, and was very close to condensing his Dao Heart. The Inferno Dragon and the Dark Dragon Hound had both evolved and reached the Celestial State.

If not for the alien among the worms, Su Ping could have crushed the entire universe with nothing but his pets.

Nothing had changed much on the surface in that three-year span. No one knew that Su Ping had grown to such an extent.

My balance is enough to upgrade the store to level 7. Once the upgrade is done, I’ll be able to train Celestial pets and charge more; my money-making efficiency will improve.

Considering the system’s ranking, I can probably accept God Emperor pets when the store reaches level 8. As for level 9, which is the maximum, maybe I can train Ancestral God pets?

Su Ping’s eyes glittered. The system had always been unimaginably powerful.

Based on his speculations, the system could very likely be as strong as the Golden Crow ancestor, if not even more terrifying.

He pondered as he looked at the energy points’ balance for a bit longer, then decided to upgrade.

The cultivation sites would be closed during the upgrade. In any case, him going to cultivation sites was no longer as effective. He was planning on making some gadgets to be used on the front lines. Although he couldn’t go there, he could offer some help to aid their cause.

“Do you confirm going through with the

upgrade?”

“Confirmed.”

“There are still customers in the store. The upgrade sequence will be initiated after all customers leave.”

The balance was deducted. Su Ping looked at the long progress tube that had just appeared, and realized it would require a hundred times more energy to upgrade his store to level 8.

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However, after the upgrade is complete, I'll be able to train Celestial State pets, and my money making speed won't be greatly impacted. I should be able to save enough in five years at most. If level 9 also requires a hundred times more energy than the previous level, I will only have to work hard for ten years...

Su Ping's hand trembled with excitement.

He would find out how to resurrect the Little Skeleton once the store was upgraded to level 9.

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The waiting wouldn't be too long; he could afford waiting a dozen years.

It would have taken longer if he made money at the previous speed. However, his store had become popular during the war; most customers were either Ascendants and Star Lords, or members of rich families. Most would pick professional training, raising the store's money-making efficiency by more than ten times.

Su Ping returned to the store, then asked Joanna and the others to keep receiving customers. He went to his master's residence.

“Xiao Su.”

Shen Huang was not too surprised as he sensed his disciple's aura. His reaction was much faster after returning to the Celestial State and mastering a new universe. Surprise was still there, yet he could calm himself down in one millionth of a millisecond.

Su Ping sat down on a couch and asked, “How is everything going outside?”

There were a few deep wrinkles on Shen Huang's forehead, probably due to frowning for too long. He shook his head and said, “Worms have been running rampant as of late, as if stimulated by something. Many places at the border were affected, and there were a lot of casualties. Fortunately, reinforcements were sent in time. The situation is stable now.”

“What was the reason?”

Su Ping was curious.

Shen Huang looked at Su Ping. The former walked over and said, “I'll show you something.”

He made a pointing motion, summoning a picture of energy particles; it was as clear as a picture. Obviously, it was a scene from outer space.

Weirdly enough, the space region being shown was extremely dark, in the shape of a vortex, like a black hole. However, even if it were, stars should still be visible at the border of its attraction range. The place was even darker than a black hole.

Chapter 1368 Anomaly of the Universe

(2)

Shen Huang moved his fingers to magnify the picture. A terrifying scene was immediately displayed.

There were many planets in that place. However, their surfaces seemed to have rotten for some reason. All plants and buildings were half-melted, as if soaked in powerful acids.

Furthermore, those planets were arranged in a helical shape, with a hole at the center.

Su Ping narrowed his eyes and looked at his master. "What's this?"

"There's also this."

Shen Huang displayed another picture, where a gigantic arm was floating in the void. However, upon closer look, it could be seen that one end of the arm was connected to a corpse. It seemed that the arm was reaching out somewhere beyond the universe.

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Shen Huang quickly snapped his fingers, displaying picture after picture. There were strange vines in space, piercing through and taking root in those planets, turning them into massive vases.

There were also plenty of dead and cold dragons floating in space. It was quite weird.

"The Celestials of all the star zones have moved there. To prevent leaving any innocent civilians behind, I organized an investigation group to comb through the abandoned planets. They didn't find anything at first. However, they started noticing those weird things in the past year."

Shen Huang added in a gloomy tone, "Right now, almost all the population of the universe is now gathered here. Ninety percent of the universe is currently desolate and uninhabited.

"Do you remember the merging of the universe I mentioned earlier?"

Su Ping couldn't help but look at the pictures. "Master, are you saying that the universe is merging and those things were squeezed out of the deep spaces of the universe?"

"That is correct."

Shen Huang said solemnly, "Such a merger was not a problem we had to solve immediately. After all, based on our observations, it was happening at a very slow rate; it could take at least ten thousand years before we had to take action. Our greatest concern was the worm tide..."

"However, something seems to have happened. The merging has been significantly accelerated!"

He looked at Su Ping and continued, "I asked Kayafollet to sneak into other star zones and investigate this. So far, it's reached the sixth space!

"It has even reached the seventh space in some areas!

"The detector she took with her showed that the merging is moving fast and is fluctuating a lot. It is highly abnormal. According to the specialists, the merging will be complete in five to ten years!"

Su Ping frowned and asked, "Have they found out the reason?"

The man sighed and shook his head. "Not yet. However, I suspect that some sort of power is pushing this change; it could be the alien hidden among the worms. But there's also another possibility. Our universe might have received some stimulation and accelerated the transformation on its own. As you said, every universe has wisdom; maybe the universe we're living in is intelligent too!"

Su Ping's eyes glittered. "In other words, it has decided to do this because of some sort of threat? To protect itself?"

"It's possible."

Shen Huang said, "It's probably because of the worms rampaging as of late. But that's not a good thing for us; people like us will be fine once the universe is completely merged, but the ordinary folk won't have a chance to live peacefully anymore. Many planets will change fundamentally, and so will the overall environment of the universe. By then, even Ascendant cultivators will have to struggle in order to live.

"We had originally planned to build a shelter before the merging of the universe was completed. It would be called the New Land.

"There would be similar shelters in all of the twelve star zones. Now that the worms are here, the New Lands in the other star zones have already been abandoned. The New Land in the Golden Star Zone has also been left aside because we're too busy dealing with the worms. Right now, even if we work at full speed, there won't be enough time."

Su Ping became grave. "If there's no time, we'll have to send those people into our small universes."

Shen Huang said with a bitter smile, "That's the only solution. However, based on my calculations, even if all the Celestials and the Ascendant cultivators empty their small universes and worlds to accommodate them, there won't be enough room for all the population of the universe. There's barely enough room for half. A lot of people will be sacrificed..."

His expression showed sadness. "Such catastrophe is unavoidable. Ever since ancient times, there have always been casualties in disasters like these. We can only strive to save as many as possible."

"Only half..." Su Ping mumbled. Did it mean that the other half would be squeezed and killed during the merger? He thought that the worm tide was tricky enough. He didn't expect that the accelerated merging of the universe would be a greater disaster.

After a moment of silence, Su Ping said to his master, "I will think of a way."

Stunned, Shen Huang couldn't help but look at Su Ping. "What way do you have?"

“If necessary, I will ask my employees to help.” Su Ping thought of a solution. “It should be possible to accommodate the other half, if there are several dozen more Celestials.”

“Several dozen Celestial State experts?”

Shen Huang was quite taken aback by Su Ping’s proposal. He knew there was a Celestial State blonde in Su Ping’s store. Had his disciple kept more Celestials hidden?

Su Ping, however, was considering how to address the imminent problem. Judging from the current situation, he would have to hire more Celestial State employees from the cultivation sites.

Shen Huang interpreted the silence; Su Ping wouldn’t say anything unless he was certain. The former thought for a moment and said, “It would be great if that problem can be addressed, but there are other troubles.”

“Huh?”

Su Ping looked at his master.

“After the merging is finalized, not only will it be impossible for ordinary people to live, there will also be a resurgence of hidden existences left between the layers of the universe, as well as the power fragments from ancient times. The entire universe will very likely become a jungle. Even people like us will have to struggle to survive...” Shen Huang said with utmost concern.

Su Ping felt dazed for a moment. The outlook gave him a chill as he looked at the floating pictures and the terrifying scenes.

He had encountered a lot of dangers when he tore through deep spaces. He also saw the terrifying beasts living in deep spaces; they would definitely be released in the outer world after the merger.

Furthermore, ancient bodies like the War Emperor’s would probably appear too.

Even as corpses, they were determined to fulfill their duties.

Some of those were probably different; maybe they became the cradle of terrifying existences.

“When it rains, it pours...” Su Ping was sullen. He felt terrible about his lack of strength. If he were an Ancestral God... He would probably be able to easily take care of everything

“Are there any updates about the alien among the worm tides?” asked Su Ping.

That alien was a source for deep concern. After all, it was probably one of the Heavens, a race that even the Golden Crow ancestor chose to hide from.

“No, it looks like it’s gone, but nobody dares to go and confirm it. Only Celestials attract that thing’s attention when they take action...” Shen Huang shook his head.

After a moment of silence, Su Ping said, “In any case, I want to know the moment anything happens. That alien is unimaginably dangerous.”

Seeing how serious Su Ping was, Shen Huang nodded. “Certainly.”

“Right, if the universe is merging, how’s the situation in our area?” asked Su Ping.

Shen Huang replied, "That is one of the weird things I wanted to talk to you about. All the areas we've found in the process of merging are in the desolate, unoccupied areas; ruins, essentially. So far, this part of the universe is relatively stable; there's no sign of any merging."

He looked at Su Ping and added, "If the universe is intelligent, do you think it's aware of us and is avoiding us on purpose?"

Su Ping was dazed. If that was the case, the possibility was truly there.

Once I condense a Dao Heart, maybe I'll be able to perceive the spirit of the universe. If I can communicate with it, maybe I'll find out about a lot of secrets... Su Ping's eyes glittered. He was even more eager to condense a Dao Heart.

Chapter 1369 War Outburst (1)

"Even if the universe is intelligent and is specifically avoiding our area, I don't think that would last long. There are some signs of merger in some places at the border..." Shen Huang said, "In any case, we do our best and prepare."

"All right."

Su Ping nodded.

Shen Huang wanted to say something else, but he suddenly changed his expression, as if he were listening to something. His expression turned grave.

"What's wrong?" Su Ping narrowed his eyes.

"There was an accident."

Shen Huang finally replied half a minute later. He stood up with an awful expression. "The report just came in: a fortress at the border just collapsed. There was some sort of power that destroyed it straightaway, and it kept on invading. Worms are also swarming in. This is a feed of the current situation."

He waved a hand and displayed a scene.

In a space fortress-countless remains of both humans and pets were floating in space. The rubble leftover from the fortress was next to them; worms were flooding in.

Su Ping saw a lot of golden-armored worms and even the purple-armored kind at the rear. There weren't many of them, but their purple color was quite eye-catching; their bodies were enormous.

"Celestial worm kings!" Su Ping slightly changed his expression. The worms had assaulted many places, but the purple-armored worm kings had rarely appeared. Lots of them had gathered to destroy one fortress. Were they going to launch a joint attack?

Humans had discovered over the years that the worms were as smart as ordinary adults. Some of the worm kings were exceptionally cunning.

Su Ping had tamed Greeny as a pet, and knew fully well that those insects were intelligent. His first thought was that attacking the fortress by surprise was the worms' strategy.

“Damn it!”

Shen Huang wore an awful expression. Part of his consciousness was connected to the command room on the Astral Nexus. Someone posted in the front line was reporting. However, the information made him feel panicked.

The fortress’ destruction had nothing to do with the worm kings; it had been done by an invisible power.

The place was completely unable to resist, and was instantly destroyed; countless people were instantly ripped apart.

Said power was at the moment surging towards the second line of defense behind the fortress, and was unstoppable. Those who tried to stop it were killed without exception!

Who would have thought that such an urgent situation would take place at the front line?

“Xiao Su, I may have to ask Kayafollet to go there.”

Shen Huang listened to the battle reports. He didn’t have to command in person; many emergency measures had been taken by the military commanders. Hot weapons that could threaten Ascendants were deployed on the battlefield to suppress the worms.

In addition, the reinforcing Ascendant cultivators had set up military formations to stop the enemy; alas, the result was not ideal.

“She’s yours to command.”

Su Ping didn’t know what was going on in the front lines, but his body tightened, seeing how serious his master was.

The previous deduction was that the war would last a thousand years. Or rather, humans would have to endure for a thousand years. However, war was never as predictable as data. Accidents could happen at any time.

The alien lurking among the worms in particular, was an uncontrollable factor. It could destroy all defense lines immediately if it ever took action.

Shen Huang summoned Kayafollet via telepathy, who rose from one of the buildings on that street and flashed over.

She looked at Shen Huang and Su Ping respectfully. The Saint Heir from the Planet of Origin had essentially been killed and replaced with another personality, ever since Su Ping tampered with her memories.

Shen Huang immediately ordered her to stop the worms along with the soldiers in the front line.

Chi Huo and Xu Kong arrived after she left; both of them looked anxious. Chi Huo said, “The Anmu Fortress was destroyed. The second line of defense there is also under attack and will soon be broken through. There are six worm kings there; do we need to take action?”

Shen Huang said gloomily, “Six worm kings. Those are all the worm kings we’ve detected recently. They want to tear the defense lines apart, once and for all. However, the report I just received suggests that

the fortresses weren't destroyed by them. I think the alien did it; just wait until they reach the fifth defense line."

Xu Kong's cute face was cold. She said, "Are those worms trying to go all out? They never attacked so fiercely before. Did something stimulate them?"

Shen Huang and Su Ping looked at each other, as they were immediately reminded of the universal merging they had just talked about. Was it going to affect the real world that soon?

"I will send someone to the border of our star zone and investigate the merging, just to find out how bad it is," said Shen Huang quickly. Meanwhile, he reached out telepathically to another department and sent out the order.

"The merging of the universe..."

Both Chi Huo and Xu Kong knew about that phenomenon. Their faces didn't look very good.

"Ask the other Celestials to meet with us immediately. Also, have the third defense line send battle reports right now. I want all the information we can gather about the enemy!" Shen Huang gave the order.

Chi Huo nodded. "I'll relay this to the other Celestials right now."

He disappeared after saying that.

Half a minute passed. The Celestials flashed to that place, one after the other.

Meanwhile, Shen Huang had reached out to the third defense line. The second defense line was too busy fighting to respond. The intelligence analysis job could only be entrusted to the following defensive checkpoint.

They had considered such an arrangement since the beginning, when they planned all defensive measures. So, the reconnaissance system of each defense line could cover the range of the previous two defense lines.

Chapter 1370 War Outburst (2)^[a]

Very soon, images were relayed by the third defense line.

A fierce battle was raging in the second defense line.

The scenes from the battle were instantly transmitted. Shen Huang waved a hand, transforming the building into another space to better project the scenery. Although soundless, severed limbs were flying everywhere. Countless battle pet warriors were charging at the worms; one could almost hear their brave and angry roars.

Everybody wore somber expressions.

Su Ping looked at the cruel and bloody battlefield. Even though he had seen countless deaths in cultivation sites, he was still shocked by what he was seeing. All his pores were constricted; not because of fear, but of pure anger!

“What’s that?”

Long Yang pointed in a certain direction on the battlefield, where an array of Ascendant cultivators were fighting the worms. All of a sudden, the array seemed to have encountered an invisible wind blade. The array was simply cut apart, instantly. Some of the Ascendant cultivators died on the spot, and the others were jetted towards the worms like dumplings. They were quickly consumed.

Chi Huo couldn’t help but remark, “Did the worm kings take action? Impossible. Even creatures like them are unable to make a Titan formation collapse!” He clenched his fists with anger and anxiety.

Shen Huang too was very sullen. Su Ping had taught him the Titan Military Formation, and he shared it with the others; it was the best formation of Ascendant rank in the Golden Star Zone. It had also been introduced to other star zones.

Only a group of eight Ascendants were needed to unleash a power close to the Celestial State. They would be stronger than any of the top Heavenly Lords!

If eight Heavenly Lords teamed up, they could emulate a combat ability of the Celestial State. Even Shen Huang would be hard pressed to beat them quickly!

A mid-sized Titan Divine Array required a group of thirty-six people, with a more powerful enhancement. If exclusively formed with Ascendants, they could unleash the power of the Celestial State!

There were also large Titan Divine Arrays, which required seventy-two people in the group. They could even defeat Celestials!

It would be hard to kill them, but the average Celestial would have to escape!

The array seen by Shen Huang was a small Titan Divine Array of eight people, which was torn apart instantly. Not even Celestial State worm kings could manage doing such a thing, unless their leader was a special mutant.

“Should we deploy large Titan Divine Arrays?” one of the Celestials asked.

Shen Huang narrowed his eyes in silence.

The members of the large Titan Divine Arrays were considered as the last reserves.

They were strong, but they had to practice together for a long time to coordinate their divine power. The loss of any team member would be hard to bear.

If things go on like this, the second defense line won’t survive for more than five minutes! said a Celestial solemnly.

As crazy as it might have sounded, that was the truth; the worms’ attacks were too fierce. The second defense line was enough to fend off a Celestial cultivator for a thousand years. However, it seemed unable to hold for more than five minutes at the moment.

“I’ve already sent Kayafollet. If the alien hiding among the worms takes action, we can only initiate the final plan: Annihilation,” said Shen Huang solemnly.

Everybody was overtaken by shock. They knew that the Saint Heir from the Planet of Origin had been enslaved by Su Ping. After all, they had been there for years, and they had already obtained that intelligence.

Therefore, they were even more scared of Su Ping.

Shen Huang had sent Kayafollet to help... Was she the bait?

Su Ping stared at the projection in silence. His senses stretched into the void and observed the distant place through the Original Dao World.

However, he wasn’t planning on getting close. He could only watch from afar.

All of a sudden, his expression changed as he said, “Ask Kayafollet to come back.”

“Huh?”

What Su Ping said gave everyone a shock; they quickly turned to look at him.

Shen Huang asked in a daze, “What’s the matter?”

“It’s the alien,” Su Ping replied with gloom, “I detected a powerful aura lurking among the worms. The worm tide is just a disguise; it must have been the alien who tore the fortresses apart.”

While looking at the projection, a mid-sized Titan Divine Array fell apart all of a sudden. Dozens of Ascendants were like collapsing ants as they moved toward the worms. They summoned their battle pets, but the struggle didn’t last for long; the worms overwhelmed them. A mid-sized Titan Divine Array—which was as strong as a Celestial cultivator—was destroyed, just like that!

Based on the power waves he had just detected, Su Ping’s expression took a turn for the worse. It was none other than the alien taking action.

The expressions of all the experts present changed; they agreed on Su Ping’s statement. If it wasn’t the alien who could kill a Celestial with ease, how could the worm kings achieve that?

All of them were compelled to look at Shen Huang with grief on their faces.

Annihilation!

It was the plan they had discussed to cope with the most dangerous scenario.

The alien among the worms had always been the problem; it finally revealed itself. The Annihilation Plan had been prepared for it. However, aside from the alien, they would be annihilated too...

“Everyone, get ready!” Shen Huang said in a low voice.

They exchanged looks; not a single word was said; they knew that such a day would eventually arrive.

Although Celestials couldn’t enter the battlefield because they were scared of the alien, the latter had already led the worms to their base. They had to fight back; there was no time to consider anything else.

According to the Annihilation Plan, the eight Celestials were going to establish a Titan Divine Array, activate an ancient Mysterious Realm, and send the alien there.

The ancient Mysterious Realm had been recorded as a forbidden land by the Federation. It was said to lead somewhere beyond the universe. It was so dangerous that even Celestials would think carefully before venturing inside. A few Celestials went to explore when it was just found, but two of them died; the place had been marked as forbidden ever since then. It was a taboo even among Celestials.

The place was eventually forgotten by the public since no one paid it any more attention.

That place would be used once more, but not for exploration or development; rather, it would be harnessed as a weapon to deal with the disaster.

The Celestials from the other star zones had been studying the Titan Divine Array since they joined the alliance. They cooperated and managed to deploy the array.

However, the level of enhancement wasn't as great as would happen with the arrays powered by Ascendants. The small Titan Divine Array made with eight Celestials allowed them to crush any Celestial; even so, they weren't confident of taking down a universe dominator. Considering the power they were able to unleash, their impression was that they merely reached the peak of the Celestial State.

Maybe if they could deploy a large Titan Divine Array made of seventy-two Celestials they could defeat a universe dominator.

But where could they find that many Celestials?

"I heard that Mr. Su helped Shen Huang return to the Celestial State. If we are unlucky and die in battle, we hope that Mr. Su can help us recover our Celestial bodies as per the agreement."

The others also looked at him eagerly. They were willing to take the risk partly because they wouldn't really die. At worst, they would only lose their Celestial bodies. Su Ping was going to say something, but then suddenly narrowed his eyes. "Wait a second."

[a]Hello! Sorry for leaving a message here, as I don't recall having an e-mail to contact you.