

Pet Store 921

### **Chapter 921: Group Hunting**

Once everybody was gathered, the awe-inspiring illusion of Mu Shen appeared above the palace again; he looked down at them with the palace in his arms.

“Your resolve will be tested in the second round.

“You will have the chance to experience the void battlefield in advance; whoever hunts lord-level void beasts in the sixth space will advance.

“Now, the channel is open!”

A vortex appeared above the palace after Mu Shen’s announcement; it had a purple and black edge, emitting an evil aura and a murky light.

“Let’s go in,” said the Ascendant State expert who was responsible for the competition.

“Be careful while you’re there. Don’t go too far away from the base,” You Long said to Su Ping telepathically.

Su Ping’s eyes glittered, then he nodded.

The others were gradually moving towards the void channel at the moment.

Luo Ying and the rest of the top ten had already moved; Su Ping wasted no time entering the channel either.

Hardly had he entered when he was assailed by tremors and dizziness; however, the feeling was soon gone. He saw an island in the void when he opened his eyes again.

There were palaces, buildings and high walls on that island.

The place was surrounded by a bright energy layer.

An Ascendant expert was hovering in the sky above the island. He glanced at Su Ping and the others who had just arrived, then said indifferently, “Open the protective layer and let them in.”

An opening soon appeared, and everybody got inside.

The island floated in the void quietly; there was nothing but desolate scenery in the surroundings. There wasn’t a sun, but it wasn’t dark; the void was like an enormous cave. The “sky” in that place had a murky blue color.

“Geniuses, listen up!”

The Ascendant State expert, who was as brawny as a bear, said coldly and sharply After everybody came in, “I don’t care how rarely talented you are. You’d better drop your arrogance here!

“This is the sixth space, a place where Fate State cultivators such as yourselves shouldn’t be.

“Void beasts invade this place all year long; your task this time is to hunt them down. We will help you, but remember, you have to fend for yourselves. There are invisible dangers in addition to the void beasts... Not even Star Lords could possibly survive them!

“You’d better be fully aware of the situation you’re getting into!”

Everybody looked at each other in bewilderment after such a speech. Some seemed to be taking it casually, not considering it a big deal, but others were worried about the invisible dangers.

If even the Star Lords were as helpless, wouldn’t the Fate State kids like them be doomed?

“It’s just a part of the competition. Do we really have to risk our lives?”

“I felt that I was almost torn apart in the void. I have to try my best just to stand on my feet here; Lord Supreme said that we can’t advance if we don’t hunt lord-level void beasts. That’s too hard.”

Some geniuses kept whispering to the others. They were the best from their respective galaxies, but they had shed all condescension after having seen the other competitors.

A woman suddenly asked, “Senior, may I know how strong the lord-level void beasts are?”

Many were quick as they turned to look at the Ascendant State expert; some people didn’t bother, as if they already knew the answer.

“Lord-level beasts are as strong as Star Lords!” said the Ascendant State expert, glancing at the woman, “However, void beasts don’t have the power of faith; they only have physical strength. So, it is possible for you to kill them if you’re talented enough!

“You’re free to join your hands if it’s too hard. Of course, you’ll have to decide amongst your teammates who would claim the kill.”

*As strong as Star Lords?*

A lot of people gasped after hearing that.

Was it really just a test, and not a trap meant to kill them?

The beasts didn’t have the power of faith, but they were still as physically strong as Star Lords; many of them were masters of planetary systems in the Federation!

Could anyone really cross the gap of two major levels?

While everybody whispered, the Ascendant State cultivator said indifferently, “The test will last a week; you’ll be enlisted in the local garrison during this period. You must listen to my orders in the event of a void beast invasion!

“As for hunting lord-level beasts, that is up to you. You may also apply to leave the main cover and search for them in the void.

“I hope you can seize this opportunity and find out how honorable the warriors who defend the border are!”

The whispers died down. Someone asked, "Senior, if we leave to hunt lord-level void beasts, we're not obligated to stay and resist the invading void beasts, right?"

The Ascendant glanced at him and replied, "You won't need to heed the summons if you have left the island before the void beasts invade. But if you're still on the island when the alarms are sounded, you must obey!

"I have to remind you that you may die at any second when you're outside of the protective cover. Some of the powerful void beasts are absolutely unpredictable. Also, like I said earlier, there are invisible dangers in addition to the void beasts.

"Your seniors would surely teach you that any accident might and can happen in deeper spaces, right?"

The person who voiced the question didn't speak again. He thought hard.

All the others had considered how they should react to the situation too.

Being top geniuses, they were good at solving problems.

Seeing that there were no further questions, the Ascendant expert asked a Star Lord general to register the whole group.

Su Ping was making plans while waiting for the registration process to be completed, when someone called out to him. "Hey!"

He raised his head, and saw Su Jin'er walking over.

"Are you interested in teaming up with me?" said Su Jin'er with a smile, "You may be much stronger than me, but I have special experience when it comes to hunting void beasts; I don't think you have that."

Su Ping was stunned for a moment; he smiled and said, "It just so happens that I'm not short of such experiences."

Su Jin'er frowned and said, "That's impossible, you are merely in the Fate State; it is virtually impossible for you to tear the sixth space open on your own. Even if you could, you won't be able to stay for long. There's no way your seniors would accept the offer; taking chances won't necessarily work. How would you gain any experience in hunting void beasts?"

"I'm not lacking in such experience," Su Ping reiterated with a smile, "But I do need a tank for myself, although I don't think you qualify as a tank."

Lost for words, Su Jin'er rolled her eyes and said telepathically, "Are you kidding? Fine. I can work as a tank for you. It just so happens that I left something that can lure void beasts. I have specifically prepared it for this test. You don't have anything like that, do you? We only need to lure void beasts to a place of our choosing so we can hunt them."

Su Ping raised his eyebrows; he truly didn't have anything like that.

"How alluring is that thing? What if a swarm of void beasts are lured by this? How could it be precise?"

"It'll be good enough if it entices any void beast. We can always run back to the base if a swarm of void beasts tries to subdue us," said Su Jin'er angrily, "Don't look down on it; this item is rare. It would be dangerous if we didn't use it when looking for void beasts in their world. You could run into a group of horrifying, dominator-level void beasts at any given moment."

After thinking for a moment, Su Ping nodded and said, "Fine. Let's work together then."

Su Jin'er was secretly relieved; she put on a smile and said, "You will soon know how useful I am."

Su Ping smiled, although he didn't say anything.

"Brother Su."

Another person approached him right then; he was none other than the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes. He was the one Su Ping had enslaved earlier on.

Su Ping withdrew the sword aura that had been placed next to the man's heart after the round ended. After all, the man also had a powerful background; it would have been outrageous if he continued threatening the man.

"Are you interested in cooperating?" said the young man with golden wheels in his eyes, as if he would have completely forgotten the earlier humiliation.

Slightly surprised after hearing the proposal, Su Ping asked, "You want to follow me again?"

The young man felt awkward after remembering the earlier suppression. He replied, "We already know each other, right? It's better for us to cooperate than to work with people we don't know. You are certainly stronger than me, but an extra hand is always helpful when you're in danger."

"The first lord-level void beast will be yours if we hunt as a group; I won't blame you if you don't want to help me kill a second one."

He spoke rather sincerely.

After hesitating for a moment, Su Ping asked, "Are you sure?"

"Of course," said the young man with a smile, "The lord-level void beasts are so terrifying that Lord Supreme is using them to test us; it would also mean that not many will be able to hunt them down. I can hardly accomplish the task on my own, so might as well try to cooperate with you."

"Okay. But don't blame me if the hunting gets too dangerous and I decide to head back the moment I kill mine," said Su Ping.

"Of course I won't," said the young man with golden wheels in his eyes, smiling.

Su Ping glanced at him; he knew that the guy was doing that on purpose. It was hard for him to decline such sincerity.

"Let's go together then." Su Ping looked at Su Jin'er and told her about the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes.

Su Jin'er said with a slight frown, "That's fine. However, the second beast we hunt will be mine, and the third will be his."

She knew she had to fight for privileges. Accidents might still happen if she was the last one to get the beast.

"Sure."

Su Ping nodded.

Once they finished their discussion, a few others spoke to Su Ping telepathically, wanting to join his team; alas, Su Ping simply turned them down.

After all, every new member would require a beast. A team of five would mean that he had to hunt lord-level void beasts five times. He would rather go hunting on his own in such a case.

All the participants were soon registered. Information was relayed through the watch that was given by the military, such as the location of their assigned residence in that place.

Su Ping asked the Star Lord who was responsible for the registration about the opening and closing of the cover.

The Star Lord was quite courteous when speaking to geniuses like Su Ping. There were about thirty contestants with the chance to rise to the Ascendant State. Although the information about Su Ping's second place in the competition had yet to spread out, the well-informed organizations had already learned about him.

That Star Lord knew of Su Ping's performance too, so he answered his every question.

"It takes five seconds for the cover to be opened on a small scale, and three minutes on a large scale.

"It takes the same amount of time for it to close."

Su Ping noted it down, in case that he didn't have enough time to get back during an emergency.

Then, everybody dispersed.

Many had chosen to team up; Luo Ying, the one who had won first place, had joined hands with a handful of geniuses.

Next to Dragon Shepard, the one in fourth place, the sixth, the seventh and the ninth had been gathered; all of them were among the top ten.

Their team was the strongest one at the moment.

Some whose rankings were lower had formed a team of more than twenty people. They were hoping to hunt down a void-level beast too, but the distribution would be a problem.

Su Ping ignored them and led Su Jin'er and the young man with golden wheels in his eyes to the military department on the island.

Su Ping went there to ask for intelligence on the void beasts.

There were different kinds; Su Ping read carefully and attained a rough idea about them.

He then asked for the defense log of the base.

The log was considered confidential, but the man gave it to Su Ping anyway; he actually thought highly of Su Ping for having actually asked to see it. After all, it was possible to infer patterns of their attacks based on the log, which was why it was very important.

Su Ping furrowed his eyebrows after reading the entries of the previous three years.

*Battles seem to be quite frequent.*

The battles were more difficult than he thought. A tide of void beasts would burst out once every three days on average, but most of them would only have small numbers; a massive beast tide would happen twice a year.

Only the massive beast tides had to be resisted by the protective cover.

The smaller beast tides could be eliminated by deploying legions.

“Where are the soldiers here from?” asked Su Ping curiously after reading the log.

The general who was responsible for the defense was a Star Lord. He shook his head and said, “They’re from military departments of various places in the Federation. You would be appointed to join the military department where there are special divisions to deal with void beasts if you chose to be enlisted. All rookies are trained there first, before they are mobilized.”

“I didn’t know that there were casualties all the time here.” Su Ping sighed.

The general said with a smile, “You’ll get used to it. Maybe someone else will take my place later on; this is just the norm at the border. Casualties are unavoidable, unless the Ascendant State lords join us.”

## **Chapter 922: Incoming Attack**

Su Ping didn’t know what to say when the general talked about death in such a casual way. His galaxy was peaceful and safe from the beasts because a group of them had sacrificed themselves in places he didn’t know.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes and Su Jin’er didn’t seem too affected by this, as if already aware of the matter.

“We will serve here after we rise to the Ascendant State,” whispered the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes.

The general who was responsible for defense replied with a smile. It was very likely that he would have died in battle by then, as all the soldiers would, but he didn’t feel regretful nor that the situation was unfair.

All of them had their own beliefs; their reasons to live were different.

Su Ping said after leaving the place, "Void beasts attack this area every couple of days; a small battle just took place the day before we came. They will probably come again tonight or tomorrow. I suggest we stay and take part in the battle to learn more about void beasts before we set out to hunt."

A frowning Su Jin'er said, "Have you just turned benevolent, wanting to do your part after hearing what the general said?"

Su Ping shook his head and said, "Of course not. Our top priority right now is to improve ourselves. A single move we make will be hundreds of times more effective than one right now when we reach the ascendant state. We will be worth a whole army if we ever reach the Celestial State.

"I made the proposal only for safety reasons."

Su Jin'er glanced at him and nodded. "That's good. However, you shouldn't have talked like that, especially when it involves the Celestial State, or rumors may spread out. You should still be cautious, even if you have a Celestial State master right now."

Su Ping smiled and said, "That's fine. We're alone here; I would have to look for you in case I need answers."

Su Jin'er glanced at him and the young man with golden wheels in his eyes. Then she said, "In that case, let's meet again when the void beasts come."

"Sure."

Su Ping agreed.

Su Ping wandered on the island after they departed; there were a lot of places of entertainment on the island, but most establishments were hospitals and supply quarters. It came as a surprise for Su Ping to see stores of major brands. He later found out that such stores were there as a sort of donation.

*Earning money from the people, and doing things for the people. They're conscientious corporations.*

The items sold there were cheaper and of a higher quality than those outside; all of them were special products.

All the mecha and pet armor sold there were of top tier; their prices were low, even though none of them was flawed.

The military offered free battle supplies too in some places.

Su Ping was too wealthy to ask for such supplies. However, it became increasingly clear to him that other human elites were also doing their part to help in the battle against void beasts.

He saw a lot of wounded soldiers in some hospitals, as well as their bloodstained pets. The scene was quite gory, but to his surprise, the hospitals were weirdly peaceful. The wounded soldiers joked about women, warships and pets; some were even competing over the number of beasts they killed.

Even if death might be right around the corner, so what?

They only needed to face it with an open attitude and fight until the last moment of their lives.

Then, they would be able to die in peace.

Su Ping was deeply touched. He had seen a lot of strong creatures and was awed many times when he explored cultivation sites; however, he sensed something truly admirable from those ordinary battle pet warriors who were even weaker than him.

A team recognized him while he wandered around. Its leader came forward and asked in surprise, "Brother Su, you're not in a team?"

Su Ping looked at him and remembered that he was one of the rankers in the top twenty. He shook his head and said with a smile, "I'm already in one."

The young man wasn't too surprised; Su Ping was so strong that anyone would want to have him as a teammate. He said with a smile, "Brother Su, you're still not leaving? A beast tide will come soon. You'll have to stay for the battle if you don't go. It'll be an awful waste of time."

Su Ping was slightly surprised, but then he realized that the guy must have found out about the frequency of the void beast invasions through other sources. He said, "There's not enough time. I'm planning to stay until the end of the battle before I go hunting."

"You're joining the battle?" The young man was even more surprised, and so were his teammates.

Taking part in the battle was seen by them as a huge waste of time, since they had made the trip for the test, not for the soldier's sake.

"The lord-level beasts killed during the tide won't be considered as ours, will they?" asked the young man in confusion.

Su Ping shook his head. "It has nothing to do with hunting; it's just my personal decision."

The young man didn't ask further since he saw that Su Ping wasn't interested in talking. He then simply said with a smile, "Congratulations on passing the test in advance then, Brother Su."

"Brother Su is definitely capable of accomplishing the task."

"If Brother Su can't, it would be even less likely for us to accomplish it."

The man's teammates chipped in with flattery of their own.

After all, Su Ping had performed in an astonishing manner and ranked second in the hunting round. Those people were well-informed by their organizations; all of them had learned that Su Ping was the champion in his galaxy.

There were altogether twelve star zones. None of their champions were simple!

Su Ping smiled and casually said, "Thank you." After all, those people were top talents too; they had the chance to rise to the Ascendant State. They were both competitors and comrades.

They would certainly be a lot closer when they rose to the Ascendant State.

The others replied with smiles after seeing that Su Ping was friendly, and talked to Su Ping for a while longer. Then, they left in a hurry to search for the lord-level void beasts.



That night—

Su Ping was resting in his residence when alarms echoed throughout the island!

The humming alarms woke him up. Their sound was rather refreshing; even those who were deep in their cultivation would be woken up.

*The beast tide is coming.*

Su Ping's eyes glittered. He rose, quickly picked up his weapon and left his residence.

A few Star Lords were ready to act. One of them announced, "Everybody, listen up! You have now been enlisted to Team No. 1! Gather in front of me in ten seconds! Those who are late will be punished and sent to Lord Supreme!"

All the geniuses still in their residences were shocked; they moved quickly to join the others outside.

It would be a great embarrassment if they were punished and sent to Lord Supreme.

The first to arrive was Su Ping; he soon saw Su Jin'er and the young man with golden wheels in his eyes approaching. The other geniuses were also rushing over; all the thirty geniuses present were gathered in the blink of an eye. The others had already left to hunt lord-level void beasts.

Su Ping saw that only one of the top ten contestants remained. He was a black-haired young man who had ranked eighth; his skin was bronze-colored, but his eyes were silver.

The guy sensed Su Ping's gaze. He looked back and was stunned for a moment; then, he nodded.

Su Ping nodded back.

"Very good. The others have left the island to continue with the test, while you chose to stay. Personally speaking, I appreciate your spirit. Now, you will follow my orders... If not, no matter how proud and talented you are, I will personally maim you as punishment!" said the fearsome Star Lord.

Everybody's faces changed ever so slightly, but none of them said a thing.

"I know you come from powerful backgrounds, but I don't fear any retaliation. Try me if you dare," added the Star Lord with a sneer.

Those who were disdainful a moment earlier became solemn; they knew that the soldiers present were no strangers to death, and they might really kill them.

All of a sudden, a distant noise that sounded like a dragon roar descended from the sky.

Moo!!

Dark brown shadows emerged in the murky purple sky; they were like giant bees, except that they had many more legs, which were very sharp. Some of them even had human faces on their shells. They were hideous looking, seemingly about to devour flesh.

The void beasts all cried and swooped excitedly upon seeing the island, as if they had just seen food.

"Prepare to attack!"

The general responsible for defense announced brutally, "Join me as we kill void beasts in Sector Seven!"

### **Chapter 923: The Long River and the Coffin**

The protective cover around the island was revealed; it turned out to be made of a lot of lozenges. Said lozenges were exactly the "sectors" the general had mentioned.

Su Ping and the others followed him to one of the sectors.

The area's cover was opened the moment they approached, allowing them to leave smoothly.

Hardly had they left that protection when they felt the pressure of the void, as if they were in the middle of a deep sea. There was no oxygen in the void; fortunately, Su Ping and the others were able to transform astral power into the oxygen they needed. They would be even less dependent on oxygen as their cultivation rose.

Moo!

Exclamations burst out. A swarm of fast approaching void beasts shrieked excitedly when they saw Su Ping and the others.

"Die!"

The general charged at the invaders, commanding Su Ping and the others as if they were his soldiers.

Everybody followed him closely.

Soon, they were caught in a fierce battle against the void beasts.

Bang!

Su Ping gathered thirty laws and formed a sharp sword, then he slashed at one of the void beasts. Still, the sword aura was blocked by its sharp claws.

Su Ping didn't bat an eye as he waved his sword again and paid attention to the circumstances.

All the other geniuses were fighting the void beasts ferociously. Some were rather relaxed, while others were trying their best.

Those void beasts were only as strong as advanced Star State beings, but they were extremely fast, perhaps because they were used to the environment. Su Ping and the others were slowed down; they could hardly keep up with the void beasts, even though they had clearly seen them.

Su Ping summoned the Inferno Dragon and merged with it so that he wouldn't seem too special.

He was significantly strengthened by that move. He was unstoppable as he unleashed his power like a barbaric dragon.

It didn't take long for the void beast before Su Ping to be cut apart.

A few more void beasts flew over. Su Ping fought them and slowly retreated to mix with the crowd; that way the geniuses at the central area who had yet to encounter enemies would have something to do.

Phew!

Su Ping increased his sword aura's power output, raising the stakes from thirty laws all the way to eighty. It had to be noted that even though he had only grasped a hundred laws, his understanding of them had significantly deepened; some of them were even flawless.

The power of the thirty laws was as great as his full strength before he challenged the Heavenly Path Mountain!

He was many times stronger than before by using eighty laws.

Su Ping was unstoppable even in that deep space.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The sword aura raged in Su Ping's hand and frightened the void beasts; some of them chose to avoid him.

Void beasts were awfully weird and unpredictable, able to quickly disappear into the void and then appear elsewhere.

The other geniuses had been gradually hurt in the battles, except for Su Ping.

Some were unlucky, as they were being surrounded by multiple beasts. They were extraordinary, yet they failed to protect themselves well.

*It's a shame that those kids won't stay long here. Otherwise, I could have taught them a military formation to boost their strength; it would've been easy to deal with such a small tide. They would have learned quickly, given their talent...* The general observed them while they fought.

He seemed comforted, and more or less regretful after seeing that all of them were fighting devotedly.

Hum!

Right after Su Ping slashed a void beast apart, his head trembled as if it would have suffered some sort of shock. He was in a trance for a moment, and frightened.

It was completely unexpected; being shocked in the middle of such a chaotic battle was almost fatal!

Soon after, Su Ping vaguely saw a coffin floating in a long river.

There seemed to be countless stars in that river; its origin and destiny couldn't be seen.

The fuzzy picture shocked and suffocated him. The black coffin in particular... it was so terrifying that it seemed as if something would reemerge at any time.

The picture was soon gone; he was back in the battlefield.

A void beast shrieked and lunged towards him. Su Ping was spooked by this, so he jumped and unleashed his full strength; his body was covered in flames, and his sword was enveloped in fire too as it cut the void beast to pieces. The fiery sword aura moved on and executed eight more void beasts nearby.

Such an astonishing attack had instantly caught the attention of the other geniuses; they shot him envious and jealous looks when they saw that it was Su Ping.

He didn't care what the others thought; he had simply lost his self control and used his real strength.

*Was that image an ancient picture etched in deep space? Who's buried in that coffin? Why is the river etched in deep space? What kind of river would stand the erosion of time?*

Su Ping was shocked; he had many questions.

In any case, it was undoubtedly related to a Celestial, if not someone even stronger.

After all, aside from the horrifying beings in the system's cultivation sites, Green Lady had mentioned that she followed the Twilight Deity King, a former Celestial. There also were Deity Emperors who could suppress everything, and they were a tier above Deity Kings.

Su Ping had heard about Heavens and Heaven Masters in the Golden Crow world; he was still clueless as to what they could compare to in the cultivation system of the Federation.

*Good thing that the battle just now wasn't truly dangerous, or the trance would have been lethal. Was that the weird unknown danger mentioned earlier?* Su Ping became vigilant, choosing to merge with the Little Skeleton instead.

The Little Skeleton was rather special, and it kept its own consciousness even while in the state of fusion.

This meant that the Little Skeleton would be able to control his body to fight enemies should he be caught in a dangerous trance.

Of course, if that came to pass, the Little Skeleton would be unable to make use of the power inside his body, as it could only control his bodily motions.

Whoosh!

Su Ping was covered in terrifying bones after merging with the Little Skeleton. He waved his sword, killing void beast after void beast.

None of those creatures were able to survive one of his attacks.

The other geniuses were shocked to see Su Ping raging among the beasts; they knew he was strong, but not to such a degree.

They had then personally fought the void beasts, which were sturdy, agile and unpredictable; even they would have to be careful when dealing with such tricky beasts. Experts such as Su Jin'er could kill them instantly, but they had to use their powerful secret techniques for that.

Such powerful secret techniques would leave them exhausted, and they couldn't be used often. Su Ping, on the other hand, was killing almost as fast as the Star Lord general!

"That kid..."

The Star Lord general was also surprised; he knew how tricky they were after having fought them for years. He was killing them with the power of faith, yet Su Ping was crushing them with his horrifying strength.

*Is this what the top geniuses of the universe are capable of?*

Normal Fate State cultivators could have hardly endured thirty seconds in front of a void beast, even in a group of ten warriors. However, not even ten void beasts could even last thirty seconds in front of Su Ping!

The gap in between was so vast, it was ghastly.

In another place—the black-haired and silver-eyed young man who was hunting void beasts saw how unstoppable Su Ping was and decided to also speed up with glittering eyes. A streak of silver light dashed through his fingers and penetrated the void beasts easily.

### **Chapter 924: Lure and Kill**

*Cooperating with him was the right choice.* The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes saw Su Ping's performance and also increased his speed.

There were fewer and fewer void beasts nearby; they were swiftly eliminated without the need for backup.

"Very good!"

"Count the casualties!"

The general put on a smile once Sector Seven was cleared; the void beasts had been finished off even faster than usual. That was exactly why geniuses were so extraordinary!

He looked around; a dozen people were hurt, but nobody was killed.

"Let's head back!" said the general.

The same cover was opened, and everybody followed the general in.

Once they were back on the island, everybody saw that the battles in other sectors were also coming to an end. After all, the soldiers had ample experience in dealing with void beasts.

"This battle will be added to your dossiers. It'll help you in the future whenever you go to a military place of the Federation," said the general with a smile.

He was clearly friendlier after having fought together.

However, he knew that the kids were probably not interested in such achievements, as the organizations backing them could give them all the resources they needed.

Everybody dispersed, but Su Ping remained standing in the same spot. The young man with golden wheels in his eyes and Su Jin'er approached him. The latter glanced at him and said, "You must be exhausted after such a battle. Do you want to have some rest first?"

"No need. I have something to help me recover," said Su Ping.

As a matter of fact, he could recover with nothing but the Chaos Star Chart.

The young man with golden wheels in his eyes remarked, "Normal void beasts aren't hard to deal with; on the other hand, lord-level void beasts will certainly be stronger in every aspect. It's a pity that we didn't meet any during that battle; we could have gained some experience."

Su Jin'er said, "There's more than one type of void beasts in this place. The void beasts we'll be luring may also be different."

Refraining from commenting on the matter, Su Ping said, "Let's go."

"I'm ready," said Su Jin'er.

She had been dawdling earlier, so she wasn't really tired.

The other young man didn't disagree; he was also ready to go.

Su Ping instantly filed an application to go hunting, which was their purpose on that island, so the general didn't stop him. He even gave Su Ping a map and a few reminders, all thanks to his remarkable performance in the earlier battle.

"Don't approach the vortex areas; those are the lords' habitats.

"Don't go to the fractured areas either. You might fall into deeper spaces and get caught in unknown danger."

Su Ping took note of all the reminders. He then left the island with Su Jin'er and the young man with golden wheels in his eyes. He moved to the east according to the map, a direction that few other hunters had gone to.

"Are we going to lure the beasts in a far place, or over to this place?" Su Jin'er looked at Su Ping.

She was obviously hoping to make the beasts approach the base; that way they could return to the island in time if any accident happened, and then kill the lord-level beasts with the island's reinforcements.

Su Ping glanced at her and said, "Is your trap reliable? It won't attract a bunch of beasts, will it?"

"It attracts a void beast named Purple Wind, which usually lives alone. The Ant Beasts we met earlier are common gregarious void beasts." Su Jin'er seemed to know them very well.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes asked in surprise, "Purple Wind? They're very rare, and weak."

"Exactly. That's why I chose them as targets," said Su Jin'er.

This would lower the difficulty of hunting to a minimum.

Once he saw that she was fully prepared, Su Ping said, "In that case, let's just lure the target over. Let's find an unappealing place in case anyone is watching us."

"It won't be easy to take advantage of us," Su Jin'er sneered.

Soon, the three of them reached a place in the void according to the map.

The island was nowhere to be seen, and the environment was filthy. The occasional wood piece and dry branches, which were already blackened, would be found floating in the void. They were already lifeless, and too worthless to be taken back to the Federation for experiments.

Once they decided upon the location, Su Jin'er took out a plate and said, "This is an astral array that can be automatically activated. It can detect and resist any creature in the Star Lord State or weaker."

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. As he had expected, top geniuses were truly well-prepared.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes put on a bitter smile and said, "I prepared an astral plate too. It's of a different model, but has similar functions."

He had intended to help too, but Su Jin'er had stolen his thunder.

Su Jin'er glanced at him in silence. She quickly activated the astral plate and opened her hand; there was a purple red bottle with some fluid in it.

She then opened the bottle and a strangely fragrant smell began to spread.

"Let's wait for the fish to bite the bait," said Su Jin'er.

Su Ping glanced at her bottle but didn't ask. He waited patiently while maintaining his fusion with the Little Skeleton. He was still wary after the mental shock in the earlier battle.

Time flew by, one second after the other.

An hour later, Su Ping asked, "How long does it take for your trap to take effect?"

Su Jin'er was also feeling ill at ease. After all, they might encounter unpredictable dangers in the sixth space, even though they were protected by the astral plate.

"Normally speaking, a quarter of an hour, unless there's no Purple Wind beasts nearby," Su Jin'er frowned and said.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes asked in confusion, "Is it possible that all the void beasts near the island have been killed?"

"That's a possibility," Su Jin'er put on a bitter smile.

Su Ping thought for a moment and said, "Let's go further then."

They were in the sixth space; he would not dare to overestimate himself.

Su Jin'er thought for a moment and closed the bottle.

Su Ping checked the map and moved forward. The area seemed to be devoid of activity, but there were floating items here and there. Also, due to the lack of continents, it was hard to get one's bearings. It was possible that they would lose their up and down reference without the map to guide them after a battle.

It would have been impossible to return to the island otherwise.

Following the map's indications, Su Ping flew towards the east.

He stopped when he was about three hundred kilometers away from the island; there were no other hunters nearby. He had a grave look, as he had heard weird roars and whispers as they moved along. The remains from the primordial times made him feel uncomfortable.

"Let's try here," said Su Ping while floating in the void.

That place was just as empty and dark, looking exactly the same as the one they had tested earlier.

Su Jin'er nodded; she then activated her astral plate and opened her bottle again.

The three of them were vigilant, ready to defend themselves.

Half an hour later—the void around them suddenly began to shake. The rocks floating in the void were quickly pushed away by something.

Roar!

A roar came from the distance. Su Jin'er turned her head and said with glittering eyes, "A Purple Wind!"

A purple bird that looked like a giant eagle was flying over; it was fifty meters long, with bloody feathers that reeked of dead fish.

There were five eyeballs on its head, and the feathers on its chest were somehow depicting something which resembled a weird human face.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes glanced at it and shook his head. "It's not a lord-level one."

"Anyway, let's kill it first."

Su Jin'er noticed it too, and seemed to be disappointed. However, she pushed her scorching aura toward the monster as a way to prevent it from luring other beasts over with its shrieks.

There was a bam, then the Purple Wind cried as it was set ablaze.

Su Jin'er dashed closer to the beast and pointed with her fingers, penetrating its body with scorching light. The Purple Wind's struggle was soon stopped, and it was burnt to ashes.

Su Ping didn't take action, as the target was only a Star State void beast; even Su Jin'er was able to finish it off with ease.

"Let's wait a bit longer," Su Jin'er said regretfully after she returned.

Su Ping nodded and sat cross-legged in the void, waiting patiently.

Ten minutes passed and the void shook again. Su Ping was able to clearly detect waves from the void. Even the sticky, oppressing force was considerably weakened.

Roar!

The next moment, a giant, purple shadow swooped over.



Su Jin'er narrowed her eyes and her expression changed. "Oh no!"

The creature was none other than a Purple Wind, evidently much bigger than the previous one. It had ten eyes on its head, and sharper claws. There was also a dark shadow on its back which was emitting a cold and horrifying aura.

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes was truly thrilled, until he saw the dark shadow. He quickly became terrified as he exclaimed, "It's the Black Shark!"

Black Sharks were among the most brutal void beasts!

That Black Shark was at the moment attacking the Purple Wind. Also at the lord-level, but it was much stronger than the other beast.

Su Ping's expression also changed a bit; he was confident of hunting one Purple Wind, but he had also seen Black Sharks in a cultivation site before!

He had actually seen an Ascendant State Black Shark followed by a bunch of lord-level Black Sharks!

"Run back to the base!" cried Su Ping.

They could always come back if the hunt wasn't fruitful, but they would never return if they died.

Su Jin'er was planning to try her luck. She put on a bitter smile when Su Ping retreated in such a decisive manner. She was actually quite confident of finishing off the Purple Wind.

Since Su Ping was stronger than her, he would only need to restrain the Black Shark.

They could escape once she finished the Purple Wind, marking one lord-level beast killed to their count.

But Su Ping was unwilling to take the risk, and she couldn't change his mind. There was nothing wrong with his choice; the most common cause of death for geniuses was acting recklessly.

Hardly had Su Ping given the order when the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes rushed back to the island.

The latter thought that they could handle one lord-level void beast, but it would be suicide to challenge two.

Also, one of them was a Black Shark. Even real Star Lords would retreat, unless they were truly strong!

The Purple Wind cried again and gave chase as they moved away. It flashed consecutively in the void, and the dark shadow on its back was right behind it with an unhurried attitude, as if enjoying the chase.

"Throw your bottle away, or it'll keep attracting that thing," Su Ping said quickly after realizing what was going on.

Su Jin'er showed a slight change in her expression as she hesitated. However, since Su Ping was unwilling to fight, she would have to regretfully give up. She would have gone there by herself if she could have foreseen this, to seize the chance of advancing.

She quickly dropped the bottle.

The Purple Wind flew towards the bottle and swallowed it.

However, it cried after swallowing the bottle. It seemed that Su Jin'er had poisoned the fluid.

It was all part of her solo hunting preparations.

The Black Shark realized something and, seemingly infuriated, revealed itself and bit apart the Purple Wind's neck. Then, it turned its head and gazed at Su Ping's team before it charged at them.

It was angry since its prey had been snatched.

The expressions of Su Ping and his teammates changed. The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes unleashed the power of his constitution and donned a silver armor. He moved even faster than Su Ping.

Su Jin'er changed her expression too and took out a bottle with some sort of drug. Then, her body turned red, and her arms turned into phoenix wings; she flapped the wings and surpassed Su Ping.

When three guys were being pursued by a ferocious tiger, the only thing to do was to outrun the others.

Su Ping was left behind at the moment.

He looked at them and changed his expression. The other two had obviously used their last resorts; his final trump cards were the two precious gifts his new master had given him.

Would he be forced to use the purple bracelet?

However, even the purple bracelet would only protect him for a while, until his master went there to help.

He would obviously lose his qualifications to advance if his master showed up to save him.

Roar!

The enormous shadow of the Black Shark got closer. It widened its bloody mouth, which covered an area with a radius of a hundred meters around Su Ping.

## **Chapter 925: Execution**

"Damn it!"

Su Ping changed his expression, becoming gloomy and aggressive.

He had intended to hide his ultimate skills until the finals; he wasn't prepared to use them so quickly.

Boom!

Su Ping unleashed the astral power in his body, right under the giant mouth. A horrifying stream of power began to spread out in an instant, like the explosion of a sun.

In the distance—both Su Jin'er and the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes were appalled by the sudden change. They looked back while running for their lives, thinking that a third lord-level void beast had shown up!

However, their eyes almost popped up when they saw Su Ping at the center of the energy outburst.

*Did the guy just break through?*

*No, wait. He's still in the Fate State.*

*But this amount of energy is horrifying!*

Both of them trembled, thinking about the absurdity of it all. They wondered if Su Ping was truly on the same level as they were.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The astral power in Su Ping's cells was released. The Astral Painting circulated quickly, forming an iron triangle with his chest as the center, facilitating the transmission of energy and increasing his destructiveness.

"Break!!"

Su Ping waved his arms. His muscles bulged as he grew, becoming almost ten meters tall. The bones covering his body grew accordingly, turning him into a scary giant.

Violent energy was unleashed from his arms, almost tearing the void apart. It was the first time that Su Ping had tried his best after rising to the third level of the Solar Bulwark!

Dazzling light burst out as he launched the Fist of Exorcist; a brilliant aura was pushed to the void as it headed right into the gigantic mouth.

Light suddenly radiated in the bottomless maw, like the first ray of light born in the darkness. Then, it became bigger and brighter.

Roar!!

A scream wrought with pain was heard, and the Black Shark wriggled crazily as if in agony. It turned its body and whipped its tail, covering an area of a hundred square meters.

Su Ping was already determined to kill it. In any case, he had already revealed his full strength, so he made the choice to go complete the task.

Hum!

A hundred laws were gathered in the void, turning into a glittering sword that landed in his hand; they released a strong path aura.

Flames spread from the point where Su Ping was holding the sword. They were the Golden Crow's flames.

Slay!

The sword aura was gathered according to Su Ping's bidding. The Void Sword he had just created was further improved to the Path of the Divine Sword. He also had new creations as his understanding of laws grew deeper.

That was the second move from the Path of the Divine Sword, Heavenly Punishment!

Boom!!

Billions of lightning bolts proliferated in the void; they were just illusions caused by the presence of actual laws. Most of them were Su Ping's understanding of Heavenly Tribulations!

Thousands of sword auras darted out like lightning bolts, shaking the void and eclipsing the huge Black Shark's tail.

An explosion took place as the sword auras moved and their energy was gathered.

The void quaked after a booming sound, and Su Ping was pushed back by the outburst; his hair was fluttering.

Far in the distance, Su Jin'er and the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes stopped running to look at the scene in shock.

Such a magnificent amount of energy, and that powerful sword technique... both were beyond their understanding of the Fate State!

*That guy...*

Su Jin'er woke up from her stupor. She looked at the back of the man with fluttering black hair, vaguely sensing that an unparalleled genius was about to shine in the universe.

Roar!

A devastating scream burst out as the Black Shark became even more enraged. It dashed out of the explosion and its fins grew sharper; bizarre mouths appeared on them and swallowed the explosive energy.

Then, it slithered and flashed to Su Ping's back. A black lightning bolt was produced by its fins, slashing and illuminating the void.

Su Ping's eyes were filled with aggressiveness. The power of the Astral Painting in his chest and arms flowed to his palm and formed a triangle with his fingers and his sword. He raised his sword again; this time, the energy inside his body was gathered on his sword like boiling water, combining all laws.

"Path Light!"

Su Ping slashed again. It was the Path of the Divine Sword's third move.

The sword aura destroyed everything like a burst of light. It was a pure sword of destruction!

The sword's aura was splendid when the sword was raised, then becoming small and insignificant after it left the sword, flying into the Black Shark's mouth.

The Black Shark flashed away, intending to retreat from the horror.

However, dazzling light burst out of its head in the next moment, which then cracked. Rays were bursting out from its chins and cheeks, until its giant head exploded into a pulp of flesh and blood.

Su Ping took a deep breath and waved his sword again, unleashing Heavenly Punishment that tore the Black Shark apart and minced its internal organs.

The Black Shark stopped crying when the Heavenly Punishment's effect faded; its huge body floated slowly, starting to drift away like a whale.

Its iron-like body was already ragged; part of its spine and the rest of its bones were exposed.

"Is it dead?"

Still a distance away, both Su Jin'er and the young man with golden wheels in his eyes were stunned.

*Su Ping killed a Black Shark lord?*

*He killed it easily on his own, just like that?*

It may not harness the power of faith, but the beast was as strong as a Star Lord in any case!

Both of them were in awe as they looked at the man who was at the moment ten meters tall and covered in bones; he was like a God of War!

Phew!

Su Ping breathed heavily. He quickly scanned the environment after the Black Shark was killed, not finding other living creatures. So, he closed his pores and stabilized his cells; his body returned to its original size. He felt more or less tired.

He had almost tried his best in that battle.

*The third level of the Solar Bulwark can indeed multiply the energy inside my body and make me more tensile,* Su Ping thought.

He stopped examining himself and looked at the floating Black Shark. He rushed towards it and cut off its torn heart, then stored it.

His hunting quest had been accomplished.

All he needed to do was wait until the end of the test.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

It was then that Su Jin'er and the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes rushed back to join him.

Both of them felt envious when Su Ping stored the Black Shark's heart, knowing that Su Ping had completed the task to qualify and advance. It would be very hard for them to forget the short yet splendid battle they had witnessed earlier.

Even though he was only in the Fate State, he had finished off a Black Shark lord with only a few attacks. That was Su Ping's hidden strength!

*He's a true monster! Ascendant State potential? He'll definitely become a Heavenly Lord in the future!* thought the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes.

Su Jin'er was astonished too, and somewhat ashamed. Being a reincarnation, she had the guidance of her original self, yet she couldn't compare to him. She was too embarrassed to reveal her real identity now.

Her original self was very talented too, since it had once risen to the Ascendant State.

"Are you okay?"

Seeing that Su Ping was breathing heavily, Su Jin'er realized that he had probably used a forbidden technique that would have other consequences.

Unfortunately, she didn't have such a technique. She did have skills that could multiply her strength, but they weren't nearly as good as Su Ping's.

The Black Shark was more than ten times stronger than them!

"I'm fine." Su Ping took a deep breath, feeling lucky that he didn't see anything during the early battle. Any distraction could have left him heavily wounded, even if he could survive with the Little Skeleton's help.

On the other hand, the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes looked at the Purple Wind's body. "The other one is over there."

The beast's neck had been bitten apart, but its heart was still intact; it was a free pass to qualifying.

He didn't take any reckless actions. After all, that heart also belonged to Su Ping since he had killed the Black Shark.

"Give it to me. Tell me what you want in exchange; I should be able to satisfy your needs," said Su Jin'er straight off, gazing at Su Ping and biting her lips.

Su Ping glanced at them, not minding to talk about how fast they had turned tail earlier.

It was pointless to mention it. It would only lead to them arguing that they didn't expect him to be that slow.

Besides, you could only count on yourself when hunting; he only had himself to blame for being outrun.

"Brother Su, same here. My master is the lord of the Harus Galaxy; he has a lot of Ascendant State friends and there are a lot of Blood Tree Crystal Mines in our galaxy. I also know of three A-rated mysterious realms. My master can give them to you if you want!" said the young man.

He wouldn't have a chance to compete if he didn't offer his terms.

Su Ping glanced at them without saying a word; he flew to reach the Purple Wind and cut out its heart.

After that, he returned and said, "It isn't safe here. Let's head back first."

The two of them looked at each other and saw hostility reflected in their eyes; they could only accept the arrangement.

The trio then made their way back.

They didn't lose their way thanks to the map; it didn't take long for them to return.

The pressure of the void disappeared once they were inside, under the base's protective cover. The whispers and the flashing images were also dispelled; Su Ping was a lot more relaxed.

"There are still a few more days left. I'm exhausted because of the battle, so I would like to have some rest first."

Su Ping headed to his residence and added, "I hope you can keep what you saw a secret, at least until the end of the competition."

The young man with golden wheels in his eyes immediately said, "Of course. Don't worry, Brother Su. Just come to me if you hear any rumors. Right, I have Astral Blue Fruits and Blood Crystal Cores that can restore astral power and heal most wounds. They can also improve your health."

He presented many boxes as he spoke; there were roughly ten Astral Blue Fruits that could restore astral power.

The Blood Crystal Cores were of the highest level too, with enough power to kill ordinary people; however, cultivators could raise their strength with them. In the event of losing a limb, a cultivator could soak such crystals in water for an hour and then drink the mix; the lost limb would grow back. It was an alluring specialty of the Harus Galaxy.

*What an obsequious man!*

Su Jin'er was incensed after seeing how the young man was pandering to Su Ping. She wasn't as good at flattering others; after all, many years had passed since the last time she had done that.

"I have great items too."

Albeit a slow learner in such practices, she also took out a lot of treasures that she carried.

They were just as effective as those that the other had offered.

The young man glared at Su Jin'er upon seeing that, his expression changing.

Su Ping was amused by their antics and his anger abated. He accepted their items and said with a smile, "It would be impolite to decline your sincere gestures. Regarding the Purple Wind's heart... there's a couple of things I need."

He waved his hand and projected the materials required for the fourth level of the Solar Bulwark.

He also drew their pictures.

He had asked Huan Lieshen to search for them, but the man had failed to collect all of them; he could ask his master for the rest if those two could offer some.

A Celestial expert would probably have enough treasures to cover the rest.

"These materials..."

They were dazed for a moment, but then both noted down the materials. Su Jin'er said, deep in thought, "Some of them might be extinct."

“Do you recognize them?” Su Ping’s eyes glittered.

Su Jin’er nodded without offering an explanation; her original self had heard about some of those items years before.

The young man with golden wheels in his eyes was completely clueless about those materials. He felt threatened after hearing what Su Jin’er said, so he quickly added, “I’ll ask my master and see if he has any.”

“Sure,” said Su Ping with a smile.

Su Ping took out their items and started cultivating after the pair had left.

The Astral Blue Fruits could restore astral power, but they were obviously not as effective as the Astral Source Fruits that Su Ping had earlier.

Su Ping didn’t replenish his astral power until he swallowed three of those fruits.

He was reminded of his half-built small world, so he ate the rest of the fruits and continued his cultivation.

He had to admit that those geniuses were rich; all the treasures they offered were priceless on the market.

Su Ping had some of the Blood Crystal Cores while condensing the small world. He wasn’t wounded earlier, so they only strengthened his body.

Su Ping felt that he was indeed a lot stronger after having them. He had never eaten such things before, and that was why they showed their full effectiveness. The young man with golden wheels in his eyes had probably eaten too many of those fruits to strengthen himself.

*My body was on par to that of a Star State warrior earlier on; now it’s even closer to the limits of this level. Normal Star Lords wouldn’t even be able to hurt me, unless they use the power of faith,* Su Ping thought.

### **Chapter 926: Thirteen Men**

Time flew.

Void beasts attacked again in the next couple of days while Su Ping cultivated. He fought twice and killed many of them, making great contributions.

Su Ping helped the general kill a lord-level void beast in one of those battles, making a name for himself.

Many people were envious after learning that Su Ping had acquired the heart of a lord-level void beast and was qualified to advance. Those who had failed during their hunt outings could only sigh.

Some of them went to see him with the intention to purchase the heart for a high price; their offers were unsurprisingly declined.



"I've found two of the materials you mentioned." Su Jin'er went to meet with Su Ping. The test was almost over and she seemed tired. She would have had to go hunting on her own if her original self wasn't out there searching for the materials.

"I found one."

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes returned at the last moment too. He looked awful when he learned that Su Jin'er had found two items, so he immediately said to Su Ping, "But I have leads on four more. I should be able to find them given enough time."

"I'm sorry." Su Ping could only apologize to him.

Leads were just leads anyway; they weren't enough to pay for the heart.

The young man looked bitter, knowing he had lost the chance to advance.

He didn't really hate Su Ping. After all, it was the latter who had risked his life collecting the heart while they were trying to flee. He also didn't feel it was unfair when Su Ping decided to give the beast's heart to Su Jin'er. After all, she had found two materials.

"Fine. I'll just give this material to you, since you already made your decision and you need this in any case." The young man sighed.

Su Ping was stunned; he thought that the man would end up hating him; he didn't expect that the young man would give the material away.

"Well..."

"We've fought together for a long time. Brother Su, keep it up. I hope you will become the champion. Remember to pay me a visit if you ever go to the Harus Galaxy," said the young man with a smile.

It was unnecessary to make an enemy out of Su Ping. The material he had found was of little use to him anyway; might as well have Su Ping owe him. That favor would be much more precious if Su Ping ever rose to the Ascendant State later on.

Su Ping felt sorry after seeing his attitude. He nodded and said, "No problem. What's your name, brother?"

"..."

The young man who had golden wheels in his eyes wore a bitter smile. It seemed that Su Ping wouldn't have bothered to remember his name if he hadn't given him the material.

"Just call me Mulhouse."

Su Ping nodded and remembered the same.

The hunters returned one after the other in the last twelve hours of the round. The top ten in the earlier matches had also returned. Luo Ying's return in particular had caught a lot of attention.

Dragon Shepard and a few squads came back too; their clothes were bloodstained, but all of them seemed to be excited; they had obviously found what they were looking for.

Diaz found Su Ping and asked with concern, "How about it? Did you qualify?"

Su Ping smiled and said, "Indeed."

Diaz felt relieved; he crossed his arms in front of his chest and replied, "That's good. You've earned the chance to be defeated by me."

Su Ping smiled. He didn't mind fighting the man; he was quite interested in finding out how powerful one of the nine divine constitutions was.

On the other hand, Su Ping had given the Purple Wind's heart to Su Jin'er, who had promised to give him the materials the moment they left the place.

Su Ping wasn't afraid of her going back on her word; he had seen the materials she had found with her special projections.

"I'll be on the lookout for the rest of the materials you need," said Su Jin'er.

"Thank you."

Su Ping nodded.

The Ascendant State expert who had brought everyone to the site counted the results when the time was up.

Once the tallying was done, altogether thirteen people managed to advance!

Those who did include Luo Ying, Su Ping, Dragon Shepard, Su Jin'er and Diaz. Only two of the top ten players from the earlier matches failed to qualify.

Those five and eight more people advanced.

The Ascendant expert took them back to the palace built on the Chaos Grass. Lord Supreme praised them for their performance on the void battlefield, then reprimanded those who didn't follow the rules and failed to advance. The ones addressed trembled in fear, nearly collapsing.

The organizations behind those geniuses were horrified too.

At last, the finals of the contest had arrived.

For starters, the thirteen players would compete for the top ten first.

"No matter what secret techniques you use, you'll pass the test as long as you resist one of his attacks!"

It was easy to rise to the top ten; they would only have to endure the attack of a Star Lord general.

The expressions of Su Ping and the others changed when the rule was announced; even Su Jin'er seemed to be astonished. It was obvious that nobody had expected the sudden change of rules.

"Now, step up if your name is announced," said Ascendant indifferently, not leaving any room for discussion.

Luo Ying's name was announced first.

His face showed a slight change of expression when his name was mentioned. Even though he was confident of his capabilities, he wasn't certain that he could resist a Star Lord's attack.

The Star Lord who was asked to attack was obviously not a third-rate warrior in the outside world. He was one of the best in his level who used to be a great genius too.

The others were relieved since it wasn't their turn yet; they watched the proceedings with rapt attention.

There was a moment of silence, then Luo Ying walked over to the place where the middle-aged Star Lord was.

"Don't worry. I won't use the power of faith," said the Star Lord with a smile. It would have been an outright slaughter otherwise.

Luo Ying was slightly relieved, so he looked a lot better. He gave a slight nod.

The Star Lord drew the battle axe hanging on his back; astral power then surged from his body, spreading out from his feet like vortices and blowing off the mist around him. He looked like a berserker as he gazed at Luo Ying and said, "Be careful!"

Bang!

He suddenly slashed with his axe, which fell down like a mountain with destructive momentum. Such a move would have torn spaces open had they not been already in a deep space.

Luo Ying narrowed his eyes and suddenly launched an attack of his own. Purple illusions appeared around him; the illusions were humanlike, all of them gathering on his body and as he took action. They significantly strengthened him while he waved his sword.

There was a boom sound as the axe and the sword collided; both of them quickly moved back.

The middle-aged Star Lord took two steps back while Luo Ying took five.

"Hiss!"

The Star Lord took a breath; he was shocked by the numbness of his arm. It was a brutal outcome—for a Fate State cultivator to resist his attack and even hurt him.

"Huh? Is it the Purple Star Divine Constitution?"

"One of the nine divine constitutions? It's said that the divine constitution is connected to the already perished stars in the sky. Were the illusions around him the ancestors of the purple stars in primordial times?"

"He managed to fight back against a Star Lord while being a Fate State cultivator, thanks to the protection of his ancestors. As expected of one of the nine divine constitutions."

Many of the onlooking geniuses seemed shocked; the Ascendant State visitors were similarly astounded.

They belonged to the organizations backing those geniuses. Some had made the trip to the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm to explore it. All of them were amazed by Luo Ying's performance.

*One of the nine divine constitutions?*

Diaz' expression changed a bit as he stood in the crowd.

He gazed at Lou Ying; the young man also had one of the nine divine constitutions, but he didn't think he was as strong as the latter.

That divine constitution seemed to be further developed.

*To be protected by one's ancestors is nothing remarkable*, he thought.

In the palace—the Celestial experts were discussing other matters while watching the battle.

There had been a consensus when they had estimated that no more than ten people would be able to hunt a lord-level void beast; however, thirteen people had. The current test also came as a surprise.

Any of the nine divine constitutions meant a possibility to reach the Celestial State.

Someone said, "I don't think any of us has a Purple Star Divine Constitution. All the fortune of that clan was surely condensed on that kid. I somehow feel that the illusions around him will arrive in reality as his guardians someday; however, he has to rise to the Ascendant State first and break his wall of time!"

"It's true that the universe is about to merge; the will of the universe is also lending a hand. I don't remember seeing this many divine constitutions in any of the earlier contests."

"It seems that the will of our universe has realized the danger too."

Those Celestial State experts had glittering eyes.

"Is the guy with the Reincarnation Divine Constitution your disciple?" An old man looked at Shen Huang.

The latter nodded and said casually, "He barely activated his constitution and received some of the legacies recently; he hasn't yet had a chance to develop it as deeply as that guy has. He might have won the championship had he mastered the Realm of Reincarnation."

"The Realm of Reincarnation... Tsk, tsk. It's a great weapon that can wipe out the heroes of an entire age. Will there be two guys who master reincarnation in the next ten thousand years?" someone remarked.

A female Celestial chuckled and said, "I think highly of the kids who are as strong as them without the need of any divine constitution, like the one who has the phantom of a primordial dragon, and the one who carries the extinct Golden Crow bloodline. I've never seen anyone like them before; I feel that something is awakening." Her skin was fair, and her smile was alluring to a fascinating degree.

...

Outside of the palace—

Luo Ying successfully passed the test. Then came Su Ping's turn.

The latter discovered that the order was based on the rankings from the earlier battles.

It wasn't a big deal for him, so he simply stepped up.

He then merged with the Little Skeleton; it wouldn't be necessary to also merge with the Inferno Dragon since the man wasn't using the power of faith.

Astral power circulated in his body as he waited patiently.

"Be careful!" roared the middle-aged Star Lord and performed the very same attack. The axe fell down with destructive might again.

Su Ping unleashed his strength too. The aggressive power of his Astral Painting was gathered in his hands, then he launched the Fist of Exorcist in quick succession, each punch containing a hundred laws.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

His dazzling fist auras illuminated the temple and enshrouded both Su Ping and the man in a majestic display.

However, all the fist auras were quickly cut apart as the axe fell down; Su Ping suddenly raised his hand and seized it.

He took a step back, while the middle-aged Star Lord stood where he was with a bitter smile.

His attack had been consecutively weakened by Su Ping's fist; there wasn't much power left in the end.

"Passed!" announced the Ascendant expert with a smile.

Then came the third guy.

He merged with his pet immediately and transformed into something akin to a bloody devil. The thick mist of blood that covered him was able to corrode and block the axe. His own chest was cut open, but it was soon healed.

On the other hand, the middle-aged Star Lord was breathing heavily.

He suddenly realized that the test wasn't for the kids, but for him.

*Are the people truly in the Fate State?*

The fourth guy was Dragon Shepard.

He summoned his pets and brought up a lineup exclusively formed by dragons.

All the dragons were extremely rare, and they mutually boosted each other in such a set up; they roared and blocked the attack without much trouble.

The other contestants followed suit, taking their turns.

Su Jin'er solemnly unleashed all her strength when her turn came. She pushed while shrouded in phoenix flames, which turned into two golden phoenixes that lunged at her opponent. They were cut apart by the axe, so she quickly launched more fist auras and managed to resist the attack. She was successful, but she ended up pale after being pushed back.

In the crowd—the young man who had golden wheels in his eyes felt lucky after witnessing such a move. He would have failed brutally had he been there.

The tests ended soon. Four of the thirteen players failed to resist the Star Lord's attack and were eliminated.

The remaining nine players drew lots and fought for the championship of the universe.

"Ha, ha..."

Diaz laughed after he saw the opponent he had drawn, as it was exactly what he wanted. Of all the eight potential opponents, Su Ping was the name he drew; even luck seemed to be on his side.

Su Ping was also surprised by his next opponent, not knowing what to say when he heard Diaz' laughter. He also became eager, as he was indeed curious about what it would feel to fight one of the top constitutions of the universe.

### **Chapter 927: Sakya Path of Space and Time**

The nine contestants were divided into four groups, with one bye.

Then, the Ascendant State expert opened a space above his head and revealed a vast continent that would be the battlefield for the finals.

Dragon Shepard, from the Heavenly Dragon Star Zone, was in the first group to fight.

His opponent was Six Lives Buddha from the Light Dust Star Zone.

Six Lives Buddha was a bald monk. There were plenty of temples and Buddhists in the Light Dust Star Zone; religion didn't lose popularity even in the age of technology.

Both of them entered the battlefield; Su Ping and the others watched the battle from outside.

In the void—a lot of Ascendant State experts were also there to observe the battles of the top geniuses of the universe.

The contestants such as Su Ping and Diaz had shown enough strength to attract their attention.

The kids were still weak at the moment, but their names would soon resound in the universe.

"Are you going to continue fighting?" said Su Ping as he looked at the relatively close Su Jin'er while getting prepared.

It wasn't easy for her to resist the Star Lord general's attack, but she did manage; she had survived through it and passed the test.

She still looked pale; she shook her head with a bitter smile. "My opponent is Luo Ying, who's even more unbelievable than you. I would rather not embarrass myself by fighting him; I'm already in the top ten anyway, I'll be getting some prizes in the end."

Su Ping nodded; he had also been meaning to persuade her into giving up. After all, even though she had Ascendant State potential, she was obviously not as good as the other contestants.

Even Diaz was much stronger than her.

Indeed, there were also differences among would-be Ascendants.

Many warships were docked in the quiet void; majestic Ascendants were on board. The contest was being held in the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm, an SSS rated mysterious realm that very few people were qualified to access, except for those in the Ascendant State.

There were several excited men on one of the warships.

“I didn’t expect him to come this far.”

Ciro looked passionate. Su Ping had killed a lord-level void beast and passed the trial... He would still be among the top ten even if he were to forfeit right then and there!

Considering his previous performances, he had a fair shot to enter the top three!

“I heard that the Planet of Origin, where he grew up, somehow jumped into our galaxy. He’s a true gift from the heavens.” Hai Tuo had also made the trip. He got there as soon as he learned of Su Ping’s second place in the first test.

After all, a genius from his own galaxy had reached such a height... How could he not cheer for him?

He had also investigated Su Ping’s past, and was made aware that the Planet of Origin didn’t belong to Silvy until recently. He had to thank the young man properly since the latter was fighting as a representative of Silvy and making himself be noticed by the real big shots.

“I didn’t expect that he would admit Lord Supreme as his master.”

Huan Lieshen was nearby, having shown up in a golden robe; he seemed to be having a mixture of regret and complicated feelings.

If he had been humbler and more generous with the prizes in the mysterious realm, would Su Ping have agreed to be his disciple?

If that were the case, even if Su Ping were to eventually learn after Lord Supreme, he would still be considered one of Su Ping’s masters. He could have gotten closer to Shen Huang through that connection.

“Such talents cannot be limited by us,” Hai Tuo immediately said after hearing the other man’s remark.

Huan Lieshen came back to his senses and said angrily, “What are you thinking? He’s now Lord Supreme’s disciple, who would dare mess with him? Nobody would even try to assassinate him; Celestials would find the murderer no matter how careful they were, unless they weren’t afraid of death...”

Once he said that, he paused and narrowed his eyes.

Hai Tuo also became vigilant.

He was quite satisfied with Su Ping’s current achievements, and was more worried about his safety.

A genius was worthless until he grew up.

Su Ping’s Celestial State master could intimate a lot of people, but he also had his share of enemies of Celestial level.

Those enemies would seldom act personally, but the forces behind them might take action.

“There isn’t much we can offer him; we must try our best to protect him,” whispered Ciro.

Hai Tuo nodded. “Let’s wait and see whether he’s going to train with Shen Huang or return with us. If he chooses the latter, I will personally protect him until he becomes a Star Lord. It would be worth it, even if I have to protect him for a thousand years.”

Huan Lieshen was stunned by that statement. He glanced at the other man, obviously not expecting that he would be as decisive.

He was an Ascendant, and the lord of a galaxy, and still he was willing to protect a kid for a thousand years?

A few others were standing on another warship nearby.

One of them was a tall and charismatic man who seemed to be in his forties. Next to him was a petite girl who was about 1.6 meters tall.

The middle-aged man asked the girl, “Shen’er, is he the genius you know?”

The girl was none other than Xingyue Shen’er.

She wasn’t qualified to enter this place, so she had to ask her father to let her take her there. She wanted to find out how far Su Ping could go, and cheer for him in person.

“Exactly!”

Xingyue Shen’er raised her chin and looked at her father proudly. “Dad, he’s a member of my alliance. Didn’t you say that my alliance was just a child’s game? My Alliance of Stars is already famous in Silvy. Everybody knows that Su Ping is a member.”

She felt really proud as she spoke.

What she said was a fact. Of course, it was partly because she had done her part in spreading the news.

As a matter of fact, countless media organizations had tried their best to find out information about Su Ping the moment he became the best in his galaxy.

Even the pacifier he had used as a kid could probably be sold for a high price.

The news that Xingyue Shen’er had released became an instant hit; everybody in the galaxy learned of the Alliance of Stars!

Too many people had applied to join the alliance in recent days; many of them were actually dominating Star Lords!

Those experts were currently at a higher level than Su Ping, but most of them had never gotten even close to his achievements!

After all, it required much more than a simple level to make one’s name resound in the universe, unless the Ascendant State was reached.



Otherwise, real battle results would be necessary!

“You were just lucky.” The middle-aged man rolled his eyes, but he couldn’t deny the fact. He was delighted since his daughter had made friends with such a genius, which also made him feel more reassured. It seemed that her daughter wasn’t just capable of causing trouble.

Such geniuses would become friends that she could count on.

“How are things between you two?” asked the middle-aged man.

Xingyue Shen’er said proudly, “He’s my little brother, and I’m his leader; how close do you think we are?”

Ignoring her nonsense, the man continued, “What do you think about his personality?”

“Huh?”

She then realized that something was off, so she looked back at her father with suspicious eyes. “Old man, what are you thinking? Damn it, are you trying to marry me off? He’s just one of the top ten of the finals. Are you going to sell your daughter to him?”

“You’re a lady now, don’t be such a child!” The middle-aged man was so angry that he wanted to puff his beard, but then he realized that he hadn’t kept a beard for hundreds of years.

“You’re an Ascendant expert anyway. Can’t you be any less desperate?” said Xingyue Shen’er in disdain, “I admit that he’s talented, handsome and reasonably decent. But marriage depends on love!”

“Then, do you love him?” the man immediately asked back.

She rolled her eyes and said, “No. I’ve hardly spent any time with him. How could I love him? Besides, I don’t know what love is; I’ve never been in love with anyone before. Anyway, just drop it. I won’t marry anyone until I reach the Ascendant State. I will make my name resound in the universe, all by myself!”

“You won’t marry until you reach the Ascendant State?” The middle-aged man glared. *When did this girl conceive such a dangerous idea?*

“When can you grow up?”

“I’ve already grown up!”

“Can’t you be more mature? You spend all your time cultivating and watching cartoons. Not even ordinary adults watch them, and yet you haven’t grown out of them after decades?”

“What decades? I’ve been busy training every day; I haven’t watched them for decades like you say. Besides, what else could I watch? Soap operas?”

“...Could you be more like your cousins, and spend your time traveling or arranging flowers?”

“Who says I can’t arrange flowers? Last time someone gave me a rose, I went ahead and arranged it right into his nostril.”

“...”

The middle-aged man was completely rendered speechless.

That little devil had been spoiled rotten; it was possible to teach her at this point.

He would soon be infuriated to death if he were to continue lecturing her!

...

At the same time, in the void battlefield—

The first battle began the moment when the countdown was over.

Dragon Shepard immediately summoned all his battle pets. A dozen dragon roars echoed in the deeper spaces; they were rather intimidating as their powers combined.

All the observers had goosebumps after hearing the roars.

Then, they saw all kinds of dragons with rare bloodlines; any of them would have caught a lot of attention in the outside world. Even the Star Lords would want to get them.

However, they were only supporting beasts in Dragon Shepard's hands.

Soon, the dragons were arranged in a formation he was controlling.

He merged with one of the dragons; horns, scales and wings grew on his body. His eyes changed to an amber color, which were filled with coldness.

On the other hand, the Six Lives Buddha placed his hands together and recited sutra.

"A full lineup of dragons!"

"All of them are rare; he even has a Black Star Dragon and a Purple Lightning Fiery Dragon!"

Outside—Dragon Emperor, who had already been eliminated, was shocked. He had been working on raising his own complete lineup of dragons, but the ones he had were weaker in every aspect!

The dragon formation soon took shape; a golden light of enhancement began to shine. All the dragons were significantly strengthened, and so was Dragon Shepard.

"You've missed your chance to attack."

Dragon Shepard stared down at Six Lives Buddha with indifference, then he waved his hand. All the dragons roared in a deafening manner.

An explosive outburst was swept out like a vortex.

The bald monk, however, remained calm and at peace. He whispered, "Buddha says that those which you can't see don't exist."

An odd thing happened next: the explosive attack vanished all of a sudden, as if it would have been swallowed by something.

Dragon Shepard narrowed his eyes.

Many of the onlookers changed their expressions.

Su Jin'er widened her eyes and exclaimed, "The Sakya Path! He has perceived the Sakya Path of Time and Space!"

"The Sakya Path?"

Su Ping was standing next to her; he was slightly puzzled.

"The Sakya Path is what many know as the Path of Time and Space. They call it the Sakya Path in the Light Dust Star Zone, because Sakya is the name of a legendary figure who is said to be watching over the past, the present and the future," Su Jin'er quickly explained to Su Ping.

The Fate State cultivators could understand many laws, but there were four supreme laws that were difficult to grasp, namely time, life, destruction and chaos.

The four supreme laws corresponded with four supreme paths. Whoever reached the Ascendant State with any of those laws would become invincible among their peers.

"If you can control time, I'll just destroy time and everything. My path destroys all the other paths!"

Dragon Shepard's eyes were cold. It was obvious that the previous attack had been relocated to another time and space. Normal attacks would be completely unable to hurt that bald guy. That being the case, he would launch the most explosive attack, one that couldn't be caged by time and space!

Roar!

All the dragons roared. This time, all of them turned their heads and looked at one of the dragons; it was a gigantic creature covered in gray scales.

The next moment, all the dragons flew towards it.

It suddenly expanded and became almost ten thousand meters tall; it looked like a high mountain!

Then, it swallowed all the other dragons.

That was an astounding sight. A ten-thousand-meter tall beast was rare even for Star Lords.

"What is he doing? Why eat his own pets?" someone asked in shock.

Chapter 928: Peak of the Star State

"What's that dragon? I've never seen it before!"

"He's only strong enough to contract early Star State pets. Even so, it must be a rare dragon with extraordinary potential!"

None of the observers recognized the dragon; it was obviously a hybrid still to be recorded in the Federation. It would be impossible to infer its abilities.

Boom!

The gray dragon's body was suddenly constricted after all the other dragons flew into its mouth. At the same time—Dragon Shepard canceled the fusion with his pet, and the latter also flew into the gray dragon's mouth.

The scales on the gray dragon instantly glowed like stars.

Its body quickly changed and then merged with Dragon Shepard.

A giant a dozen meters tall made an appearance in the blink of an eye, overflowing with energy. It was covered in scales; there were dazzling spots of light on its chest, arms, neck and forehead.

On the opposite side—the bald monk frowned and asked, "Is sacrificing all your pets worth it, just for one victory?"

Dragon Shepard sneered; there were pointy scales on his cheeks. "Sacrifice? You're overestimating yourself. However, you should feel proud, since you've forced me to activate this worm!"

After that, he made a quick move and punched.

Boom!

The void trembled; horrifying waves surged as if dozens of nuclear bombs would have exploded at the same time. A daunting fist aura crushed the void and fell on top of the monk's head.

"I don't overestimate myself." Six Lives Buddha shook his head.

The four supreme laws were not to be challenged.

He emanated golden light, as if he were truly a Buddha reborn. Clear and brilliant light circulated around him, while time and space changed in his hands.

Not just the laws of time; the laws of space had also been grasped to perfection.

He simply stopped the attacks as they arrived by leveraging time and space, transferring them to another time, for instance, ten minutes earlier.

This meant that the attack wouldn't truly hit him until ten minutes later.

None of the attacks existed at the moment.

"Break now!" Dragon Shepard roared. His scale-covered cheeks became hideous. He roared, "My path and my power will be etched in the depths of the universe. Your time and space can't imprison me!"

A murky, yet horrifying power of laws was pushed and released through the violent astral power in his body.

The spots of light on his body became even more brilliant while he was on a rampage, changing into a new formation that further strengthened him; it was an aggressive formation that abandoned all defense.

Boom!!

A horrifying and aggressive power burst out; cracking noises came from the void.

The power and fist auras that had vanished earlier reappeared; they were still shadows, but they were becoming increasingly real, as if they were returning from nothingness!

The monk's face revealed shock, obviously not expecting that anyone would be able to break his path of time and space with physical strength alone. What kind of power could exceed time and space?

Would a Fate State warrior really be capable of controlling such power?

"You're very strong!"

The monk's eyes became cold and sharp. A pet suddenly appeared next to him; it resembled a colorful butterfly, while its size wasn't really big. It quickly melted into his body and merged with him.

It was just then when everybody realized that the man had not used any of his pets yet!

"The path of time and space is truly horrifying."

"Is it the ultimate law of time? He suppressed Dragon Shepard and his full lineup of dragons with his own strength!"

"Terrifying! Why haven't I grasped such a law yet? I'm truly stupid! Ugh!!!"

A lot of geniuses were shocked, regretful, jealous and helpless.

The Ascendant experts who had shown up to watch the battle were also surprised, since none of them was able to predict the outcome of the battle. Even they couldn't tell which of the two kids was stronger. Going by logic, the path of time and space would be enough to guarantee victory, but Dragon Shepard's outburst was powerful too, being enough to dispel its influence.

Both of them were monsters!

"These people..."

Diaz became solemn. He had only respected three opponents before then, including Su Ping. However, those two fighters here were also tricky to deal with.

He wasn't confident of defeating them if he was asked to fight any of them.

Could his Reincarnation Divine Constitution weather through the path of time and space?

"Freeze!"

On the battlefield—

The bald monk became indifferent again and recited sutra after merging with the colorful butterfly.

In the next moment, the shadows of fist auras fell silent, and the aura of another time and space was sealed and gone, as if it had never been there.

"Break!"

The monk changed again.

After a boom, Dragon Shepard was punched heavily right in the chest. His ribs were broken!

The punch was so heavy that his body was barely able to endure, even though he was as sturdy as metal.

However, nobody saw Six Lives Buddha attack.

Someone realized what had happened and felt shocked. "That attack was launched in another time, not right now. Is this how the law of time is used? That's cheating!"

The other geniuses were lost for words. Everybody fell silent.

"Admit defeat, or you will die with my next strike!" The monk showed a purple dagger in his hand. It wasn't really eye-catching, but it gave off a truly dangerous aura.

Dragon Shepard had just overcome the pain on his chest. He narrowed his eyes when he heard that statement and saw the dagger, but he soon gritted his teeth and sneered. "Admit defeat? I don't even know what 'defeat' means. My name is bound to echo throughout the universe!

He roared suddenly, "You are not qualified to make me yield!" All of his hairs stood up, then he charged at the monk with his eyes radiating golden light.

"Just go to hell if you're unwilling to admit defeat!"

The monk was indifferent and unsympathetic; unrestrained benevolence would only lead to evil ways. It was time to end it!

Whoosh!

A metallic noise was heard. The dagger in the monk's hand was gone; he was surprised.

Dragon Shepard, however, had caught the dagger with his mouth and was biting hard. He also saw that there was an arm holding its handle!

"I see it! I see you!"

The madness in Dragon Shepard's eyes was replaced by coldness; there was blood on his fingertips. He bit the dagger with sharp dragon fangs and said, "Baldy, time isn't invincible. There are some powers that cannot be frozen in time!"

Pff!

The monk's arm holding the dagger exploded all of a sudden; it sprayed blood, then fell off and disappeared.

The scene had left everyone in shock. What just happened?

Some of the Ascendant experts realized what had happened after being momentarily stunned. They looked at Dragon Shepard in shock, knowing he had heavily wounded the Six Lives Buddha from another time who launched the last attack. That alone could have led to the fracture of the monk's arm in reality.

Bang!

Dragon Shepard reached for the dagger in his mouth and licked it. While squeezing the broken arm behind the dagger, he said, "I support this place with the backbone of a dragon. Time and space are both in my arms; my name cannot be buried in space. It's now time to quit the battle if you don't have any other methods to attack!"

He quickly flew over; his scales were dazzling. He punched down with his fist aura.

Six Lives Buddha gazed at him coldly and said, "You've already won by forcing me to use this move!"

He continued to stand in the same place, even though the shocking strike was approaching. His severed arm was quickly regenerated.

His aura, however, was soaring at a crazy rate at the moment!

His energy stormed out like an awakened beast, soon rising to the peak of the Fate State. Then, he surpassed it and reached the peak of the Star State!

He was currently a Star State warrior!

"What?"

The scene shocked all the observers.

Did Six Lives Buddha break through on the battlefield?

No, that's impossible. There would have been a Heavenly Tribulation if it were so!

"Is he at the peak of the Star State? Impossible! That's cheating!" a genius couldn't help but exclaim in shock.

Diaz and Su Jin'er were also shocked. Is it cheating? They didn't think so, but there was no other explanation.

Someone looked at the palace, but none of the Celestials came out.

The Ascendants frowned, thinking about a possible reason.

That was Six Lives Buddha's technique!

What a horrifying path of time and space!

"You!!"

Dragon Shepard seemed to be confused as he faced the monk, who had suddenly risen to the peak of the Star State; the thought of the latter cheating did cross his mind. However, he realized it was ten times more difficult to cheat under the noses of Celestials in order to win the championship!

What kind of method was that?

Is it a secret technique?

He had no time to think, as he was attacking with his full strength. Six Lives Buddha raised his hand too, using nothing but his physical strength!

Boom!!!

Two fist auras collided in the void. The spaces close to the battlefield began to collapse layer by layer; even the air was vaporized.

Dragon Shepard was trembling; several bones were broken. He vomited blood, flying back with heavy wounds.

Six Lives Buddha, on the other hand, only took two steps back to offset the counterforce. He then gave a cold look at Dragon Shepard and attacked him.

Dragon Shepard quickly regained his balance. He furiously gritted his teeth as he watched the other man approaching with horrifying power; there was madness and grief in his eyes. "You deserve to die!"

Bang!!

One of the spots of light in his body was suddenly ignited, glowing like a super powerful flashlight.

Following that, a few more spots burst out.

There were five spots altogether, dazzling at the same time.

His aura soared simultaneously, at an appalling rate. His eyes were already bloodshot as he madly charged at the monk.

Bang, bang, bang!!!

Their fight traversed every part of the void, and yet, they were nowhere to be seen. Only the collapsed spaces—which looked like inky flowers—could be seen in the void.

"Are they really in the Fate State?"

"Oh my god, now I feel fortunate to have been eliminated."

"Would we have to fight similar monsters if we survived to the end? Even Star State warriors would have been immediately crushed!"

"Seriously? I feel that both of them have the potential to become the champion!"

"What's with Six Lives Buddha's level? No Celestial State expert has shown up yet; he can't be cheating."

Everyone seemed to be in shock while they discussed.

The battle had refreshed their understanding of the Fate State; such warriors were strong enough to defeat any Star State expert!

Even the experienced guys at the peak of the Star State would be no match for them!

Su Ping was silent. The universe was truly a large place with a lot of geniuses. He had the system's help and he had trained with a vengeance, but those geniuses belonged to powerful organizations, and they had a hefty amount of luck.



“They’re so strong,” Su Jin’er remarked.

She was almost losing confidence in herself. She had originally thought that she could easily make it to the top ten with her reincarnation; her plan was to avoid the championship to keep a low profile. However, it was already lucky enough for her to reach the top ten!

She had noticed that a few more contestants were also reincarnations, but they had already been eliminated.

All those reincarnations had Ascendant State potential, but they weren’t as good as real geniuses such as Su Ping, who would become Heavenly Lords when they reached the Ascendant State!

None of the Heavenly Lords had taken part in the contest.

After all, the prizes weren’t tempting enough for them.

It would have been possible for the Heavenly Lords’ reincarnations to defeat them if it were otherwise.

Boom!

There was a loud explosion; Dragon Shepard and Six Lives Buddha revealed themselves on the battlefield and then separated.

To everyone’s astonishment, Dragon Shepard was covered in blood, heavily wounded. He had shown his strength by cutting off one of Six Lives Buddha’s arms earlier on, but then he ended up being utterly miserable in the blink of an eye.

On the other hand, Six Lives Buddha wasn’t wounded, but he had a gloomy look while breathing heavily.

“You’ve sacrificed your pets; you’d surely lose the next match, even if you win this one. Do you want to continue?” asked the gloomy Six Lives Buddha.

“I don’t believe you can remain like this!” Dragon Shepard’s eyes were bloodshot; two more spots of light glowed on his body, giving him even more power.

“Your pets are pathetic!” Without further ado, Six Lives Buddha became cold as he attacked again..

## **Chapter 929: Entrance**

The intense battle continued, and all the void shook.

A moment later, Dragon Shepard reappeared. His hair was messy as if he were a raving maniac; he gazed at Six Lives Buddha with anger and regret.

“You’re quite strong, to actually fight me this long.”

Six Lives Buddha kept a cold look.

Bang!

There was no sign when Dragon Shepard's chest collapsed; he was flung back with blood in his mouth.

Six Lives Buddha quickly moved forward. A purple dagger appeared in his hand and pierced the other man's chest like a condensed lightning bolt.

Roar!!

Dragon Shepard roared and unleashed his power, waving hundreds of claws.

But then blood burst out of his body the next moment. The monk's dagger had caused wounds before it even reached him; then, Dragon Shepard's chest was stabbed through and ripped apart.

"It's over!"

Six Lives Buddha stuck his dagger close to Dragon Shepard's neck. The battle was over.

The latter seemed upset, humiliated, and mad. He gritted his teeth while he gazed at his opponent, unwilling to admit defeat.

A majestic shadow arrived right above their heads; it was the Ascendant State referee.

The Ascendant State expert looked at them and announced peacefully, "The victor of the first battle is Six Lives Buddha from the Light Dust Star Zone."

"Good..."

The dagger in the monk's hand was gone. He recited sutra and then became fuzzy; he became solid again a few seconds later, returning to the Fate State as he used to be.

"Why do I feel that his face looks different?" someone whispered in confusion.

Su Jin'er—who had been standing next to Su Ping, deep in thought—suddenly exclaimed, "I got it!"

Then, she looked at Su Ping and said, "I know what he just did. He didn't cheat, it was only a clever use of the time and space path!"

"Huh?"

Su Ping's guess was along those lines, but he had yet to confirm this.

"If my guess is correct, he must have summoned his future self with the path of time and space! It means that the person who fought against Dragon Shepard wasn't his current self, but his future peak-Star State self!" Su Jin'er said telepathically, "No wonder none of the Celestials made a move. He summoned his future self with his current power, so it didn't violate any rule. How horrifying. If he could summon his Star Lord self..."

Su Ping's eyes glittered, as Su Jin'er's theory was the same as his own.

The man had indeed borrowed power from his future self.

His future version had a more mature face, and an even balder head.

"I don't think he's capable of summoning himself as a Star Lord," Su Ping ventured, "There must be a limit to such power. Even if he can summon himself, he would probably have to pay a high price. There are bound to be some restrictions—

"Otherwise, he would have easily steamrolled his way to become the champion by only using that technique."

Su Jin'er put on a bitter smile after seeing how calm Su Ping was, then replied telepathically, "Indeed. It would have been too horrifying if he could summon his Star Lord self, with authentic power of faith, not to mention that he would be one of the top Star Lords given his genius, even without the power of faith.

"However, even if he's not able to do that, he's still very strong!

"Speaking of which, the real horrifying person in that match should be Dragon Shepard."

Su Jin'er changed the topic; she then remarked, "He's lasted a long time fighting a peak Star State genius. He would have won the battle if he were also in the Star State!"

Once she made such a declaration, she patted her head and said, "Oh, wait. The baldy will also be in the Star State too when Dragon Shepard breaks through; he would then be able to summon his Star Lord self. That is truly cheating!"

Su Ping was amused. That was indeed cheating; how could he defeat an opponent who was always one realm higher?

Besides, the ability to summon his future self proved that he was strong enough in his level even without it. Adding that ability, anyone who ran into him would have to pray.

Su Jin'er shook her head and said, "You'll encounter him sooner or later if you want to become the champion. I feel sorry for you."

Her goal was only the top ten; she would not dare to win the championship even if she could.

After all, for Ascendant reincarnations to participate in the contest was already a partial violation. There was a chance that Celestial experts would punish them if they shamelessly claimed the championship.

The Universe Geniuses' Contest was meant to choose the real geniuses of the universe.

It was already benevolent enough that experts such as her were allowed to make it to the top ten.

"Indeed. I'm feeling sorry for myself too." Su Ping also heaved a sigh. The universe was too big. He had previously thought that Diaz was already one of the top geniuses, but Dragon Shepard and Six Lives Buddha turned out to be even stronger.

Good thing he was going to fight Diaz in the first round.

Su Ping could not help but look at Diaz when the thought crossed his mind; the latter sensed something and turned his head to sneer at him. The obvious message conveyed was that it would soon be Su Ping's turn to fail!

Su Ping smiled too.

He found his junior brother rather adorable.

...

“You must have been using your future self; the Sakya Path of Time and Space deserves its fame!”

On the battlefield—Dragon Shepard lost his strength and gnashed his teeth at Six Lives Buddha after the Ascendant expert announced the end of the battle.

He’d be an idiot if he didn’t know what technique the guy had used after having fought the man for such a long time!

“You’re very strong, since you forced me to borrow power from the future. To be honest, the battle was quite unfair,” Six Lives Buddha shook his head.

“Get lost!” Dragon Shepard roared.

He wasn’t weak enough to need his opponent’s sympathy.

Six Lives Buddha nodded solemnly after being stunned for a moment. “Sorry; you are a worthy opponent. I would have admired you if you had cherished your pets. However, it’s not bravery, but stupidity, to blindly pursue what you can’t reach. A wise man knows when to bow depending on the circumstances!”

Dragon Shepard became gloomy, seemingly in pain at the mention of his pets.

He had detonated seven of his twelve pets; that was the maximum number of pets that any Fate State warrior could establish contracts with.

Only five of his precious and beloved ones remained.

The seven sacrificed dragons were rare; any would have caught the attention of countless Star Lords in the outside world!

And yet, he still failed in the end!

Perhaps he would have won had he detonated more of his pets, but what about the future matches?

He would be significantly weakened. It wouldn’t be a problem to suppress other geniuses, but none of the top ten candidates were easy to deal with. He might not have been able to even advance to the top three!

“The Sakya Path of Time and Space, I will remember this!

“It will be a bad memory!”

A cold faced Dragon Shepard flew out of the void battlefield without saying another word.

An Ascendant expert flew over from a distance and took him away. He cupped his hands before all the people present and said, “I’ll go and treat him first.”

Then, both of them vanished in the void.

Everyone withdrew their gazes and looked at the bald monk.

Nobody expected that plain-looking fellow to be that terrifying.

“The Sakya Path of Time and Space... Interesting.”

In the crowd—a solemn and cold Luo Ying narrowed his eyes.

A few others were also staring at Six Lives Buddha, as if considering their odds of winning against him.

*I didn't expect that there would be this many monsters.*

Diaz was quite grave; he had already figured out Six Lives Buddha's method, but that didn't mean he could crack it. Obviously, the man wasn't reluctant to show it to them.

All the contestants were in the Fate State, while he would be fighting with peak Star State power.

They would have laughed at and brutalized a normal guy at the peak of the Star State.

However, this man had mastered the path of time and space!

Even though he had been somehow weakened during the fight, he was still horrifying.

The first battle was over, yet the monk's name and appearance was deeply etched in everyone's memory; all of them believed that he was bound to be a warrior that would stand out in the future.

The second battle would begin moments after Six Lives Buddha left the battlefield.

It was Su Ping and Diaz.

“It's his turn now.”

On one of the warships—Xingyue Shen'er's eyes glittered, nervous and hopeful.

In another place, Ciro and Hai Tuo were also excited. Hai Tuo said in a low voice, “The junior who used a full dragon lineup lost seven of them. Even if he finds replacements, he would still be too weakened to be a worthy opponent now. That bald monk, on the other hand, could be a potential champion.

“I wonder if he can make it to the top three. It'll depend on whether or not he can win this battle!”

Ciro narrowed his eyes and said, “His odds of winning should be at around sixty percent. His opponent has one of the nine top divine constitutions of the universe, but our little friend has performed better than his opponent's so far. I wonder how the clash between them will turn out.”

Hai Tuo became nervous and hopeful after hearing that.

“It's our turn now.”

Diaz turned his head and grinned at Su Ping.

Su Ping smiled too.

Without further ado, they flew towards the void battlefield.

“Finally, we have the chance of clashing head-on.”

Diaz took a deep breath and examined the aftermath of the previous battle the moment he arrived. Leaving that matter aside, he stared at Su Ping solemnly.

Su Ping said with a smile, "Will you grant me ten attacks first?"

Diaz changed his expression and snapped, "Are you done? How petty of you, to be holding that grudge for so long!"

Su Ping smiled and replied, "I thought you'd go easy on me."

Diaz rolled his eyes and said impatiently, "Cut the crap and let's begin. We shouldn't try killing each other since we have the same master, but this is a contest; I won't go for the kill, but don't blame me if you accidentally die!"

"You too." Su Ping nodded.

In the palace—a Celestial State old man asked, "Which of the two young disciples do you think will win?"

Shen Huang, who was seated elsewhere, replied with a smile, "I'm happy no matter who wins. Two of the top ten will be from the Golden Star Zone anyway!"

Some other Celestials smiled. One in the group glared at him, wondering why he wasn't ashamed since no one from the Golden Star Zone had made it to the top ten last time.

The Ascendant referee left the battlefield and the match began.

"Ten Square Ferocious Beast!" Diaz called out. A dark vortex appeared behind his back, and a cold and horrifying aura began to leak out. Then, a hideous pet that looked like the combination of an insect and a dragon emerged.

"It's a top demon pet!"

"Isn't that the legendary beast who serves the Lord of Hell? It's already extinct in our universe!"

"It's unbelievable, to think he has such a pet."

All the geniuses watching the battle were shocked.

Even though it was just a demon pet, it was one of the best ones, and was even stronger than many rare dragons!

"Merge!"

Diaz simply merged with the pet. Soon after, sharp wings grew on his back, and his arms were somewhat twisted. His overall body became weird, ending up looking like a ghoul.

"I know this is an ugly look, so let's get this over with!" said Diaz with an unusually pale face.

Su Ping smiled and said, "I find you rather cute."

The Little Skeleton emerged next to him while they spoke; it then turned into bones that soon covered up his skin.

"Is that... from the Skeleton King's family?"

“It is indeed rather weak.”

“Skeleton Kings aren’t weak among the skeleton type, but they’re too weak when compared to the Ten Square Ferocious Beast. Any of Dragon Shepard’s pets would be better.”

“He’s unwilling to expose his trump cards? Such an obvious move!”

Everybody was discussing the match. Nobody expected that Su Ping’s pet would be the Skeleton King’s descendant. It was also a demon pet, but it was clearly subpar for such a contest.

“You’re planning to fight me with that thing?” Diaz saw it too, and became cold.

“Huh?”

Su Ping frowned and looked at him. “Do you want to die?”

“You...”

Diaz meant to say something else, but he paused when he had eye contact with Su Ping.

The latter’s eyes were cold, as if determined to exterminate anything; he was definitely not kidding.

Su Ping wasn’t wearing any smile at the moment.

Diaz recovered from a momentary shock, but then he burst into a fit of rage. “You’ll regret this!”

### **Chapter 930: Six Paths of the External Phase**

Bang!

Su Ping simply threw a punch.

A dazzling, golden fist aura was pushed out like a meteorite, along with the power of a hundred perfect laws; even the void seemed to be shaking.

“Die!!”

Diaz punched in kind, not showing any mercy.

His fist was purple and black, seemingly containing a destructive lightning bolt, but there was a strong attractive force in his palm. It collided with Su Ping’s fist aura, causing visible ripples in the air.

Whoosh!

A sword aura dashed out from the fist aura, cutting it apart and slashing towards Diaz.

Diaz narrowed his eyes and quickly raised his hands to launch a purple vortex to fend against the sword aura.

The vortex was cut apart, but the twisting force inside the vortex was able to rip apart the sword aura.

Bang!

Su Ping had already approached Diaz before he could react.

A hundred laws were condensed into a sharp sword in his palm, slashing through the cracked vortex.

The quick attacks were definitely unexpected to Diaz, not thinking that Su Ping would launch that many fatal attacks in quick succession from the very beginning. Still, he was a top genius with abundant battle experience, so he quickly reacted and gathered glittering purple vortices behind his back.

He waved his arms and the void in front of him was twisted, becoming part of the gigantic vortex.

Su Ping's body was instantly swayed. At the same time, streams of power were attached to him, ready to dissect the energy inside his body.

"Path of the Divine Sword, Heavenly Punishment!"

Su Ping waved the sword and cut straight toward Diaz's head, ignoring the swaying force.

A hundred sword auras burst out in front of the sword, slashing down at the same time.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Diaz was soon drowned in the storm of sword auras; they were manifestations of laws which carried a truly destructive force. They also contained the power of tribulations, increasing their damage.

"How fast!"

"How relentless, even from the very beginning of the battle. Do they really want to kill each other?"

"He's unstoppable."

The clash left all the onlookers dumbfounded; none of them expected the battle to be as breathtaking from the start.

Some geniuses were astonished by the man who was drowned by sword auras. They knew they would have hardly endured that strike.

That meant that Su Ping could instantly defeat them!

Roar!!

A man roared like a crazy beast exactly at that moment, while being under the sword aura bombardment. Then, two vortices that looked like eye sockets appeared, and Diaz emerged absolutely unscathed, except that his clothes were somewhat ragged.

"Are you capable of nothing except being beaten up?" Su Ping withdrew his sword and retreated from the man's field of reincarnation.

"You're too hasty. Warm-up is over." Diaz squeezed his shoulders with a cold smile. "Thank you for helping me stretch my arms."

Su Ping remained casual and silent, simply attacking again.

"Freeze!"

Diaz raised his hand and then pressed it down, confining space around him. It was a complete path of space!



“Break!”

Su Ping took a deep breath. His sword aura penetrated space without being hindered immediately reaching Diaz.

His eyes glimmered. “Your path of space is flawless too? No wonder you’re so arrogant.”

Pff!

Su Ping cut his chest apart with the sword of laws, but the next moment, he grabbed Su Ping’s wrist and chuckled. “Gotcha.”

Su Ping was unsurprised; he simply stared at him peacefully.

“Have a taste of my sword!”

Diaz’s other hand gathered sword aura and slashed at Su Ping.

But the latter stepped aside and dodged the attack with ease. He looked at his tightly held wrist, and he simply cut his opponent’s healed body apart once again.

Pff!

Whoosh!

Diaz seized Su Ping with one hand and attacked consecutively with the other. He didn’t dodge Su Ping’s attack, and his body was healed again and again after being cut.

It was one of his constitution’s abilities: his body could be constantly renewed.

And yet, all his attacks were dodged by Su Ping with agile moves, even though one of his hands was caught. Diaz was reluctant to cut the arm he was seizing, because Su Ping could break free once he lost his arm. When facing a genius as strong as himself, he could only make the best use of his advantages by restraining the guy in his field. He was confident that he could withstand it until the end.

“Are you capable of nothing except being beaten up?” Su Ping asked again.

Diaz’s face turned cold after he heard that. It was only mockery the first time, but it felt like a slap right in the face the second time. It was true that his attacks had not landed, while he had been hit many times. Su Ping wasn’t causing real damage, but it was still quite upsetting.

“Get lost!”

Diaz couldn’t hold back any longer after missing the target several times. None of his attacks landed a hit, while he was being constantly bashed. This made him look really stupid.

Whoosh!

He slashed at Su Ping’s arm, ready to get back at him.

And yet, Su Ping’s wrist unleashed a horrifying force which knocked away his fingers, breaking free.

“Was that your best?”

Su Ping looked up at him.

He usually didn't talk that much during battle.

However, Diaz was a special target.

He felt that his victory would be flawed if he didn't say anything.

Diaz gazed at Su Ping with gloomy eyes and suddenly put on a smile. "You really think I was trying to attack you? Did you not realize that you lost a lot of astral power?"

Su Ping replied with a smile, "Did you steal my energy with your field during your attacks, then use it to heal yourself? So, you didn't really lose anything in this clash, did you?"

Slightly stunned, Diaz changed his expression and said, "It seems that you've investigated my constitution."

"Do I even need to investigate? It was too obvious. Also, didn't you realize that I haven't lost any energy, at all?" Su Ping asked back.

Diaz examined himself and instantly looked awful.

He knew that his plan didn't work out, given Su Ping's peaceful attitude.

He didn't know how Su Ping had done it, but the guy probably had a similar method.

He recalled how Su Ping broke free from his grasp, so he knew that the latter probably let himself be caught on purpose.

A good predator was often disguised as prey to fool their targets.

"It seems that tricks are truly useless." Diaz looked at Su Ping thoughtfully and calmed down. "There's no need to mock me. You think I'll burst into fury? I won't let anything affect me while I fight. Let's get serious, now that the warm-up is over."

"Sure."

Su Ping nodded.

Their conversation left a lot of the eliminated geniuses dumbfounded and lost for words.

*That fierce clash just a moment ago was just a warm-up to them?*

They felt that they would've already been defeated during the warm-up.

Whoosh!

Diaz took out a long spear. It was exactly the weapon he had used to single handedly fight three top geniuses in the earlier battles.

He looked much stronger than before when he held the spear; he took a deep breath and unleashed his strength with dazzling light in his eyes.

Bam! The void behind him shook. He used the counterforce to instantly charge at Su Ping; there was a great attraction force on his chest and spear tip.

The pull force was a hundred times greater than before. It looted and crunched all the surrounding energy.

The soil and stones on the ground ten thousand meters down below were quaking and rising.

Su Ping stood where he was; golden flames emerged all over his body. He activated the Solar Bulwark, and the aggressiveness of the Astral Painting was added to his astral power. He then stepped up and swung his sword, launching a sword aura able to cut apart the atmosphere!

Bang!!

Diaz's hair was fluttering. His spear attack met Su Ping's sword, seemingly holding up the entire sky as he held the spear with one hand.

"Great!" he exclaimed. Then, six dark gray spheres appeared and floated around him; one of them flew closer and swiftly moved towards Su Ping like a sharp needle.

There was a slight change of expression in Su Ping's face. He detected a horrifying threat from the gray needle, so he spewed a mouthful of flames that could burn anything.

The flames were swept out, but the long needle continued moving through them.

Su Ping was stunned. *Not even the Golden Crow flames work? This had never happened before!*

In the palace—a Celestial State remarked in surprise, "It's the Six Paths of the External Phase!"

Some of the Ascendant State observers were stunned by this, so they became solemn; others shook their heads and sighed, feeling that the battle was already over.

The Six Paths of the External Phase was a method of the Reincarnation Divine Constitution, based on the Grand Reincarnation of the Six Paths!

They could form six flawless paths with the power of reincarnation, which could destroy or swallow anything!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Su Ping snapped one secret technique after the other.

Some were laws of ice, in an attempt to freeze the needle; some were laws of solidity, trying to block it; others were laws of swallowing... However, all of them were penetrated by the gray needle.

Su Ping became solemn; he gathered all the power of laws in his body on a single point and shaped it into a long needle too.

Bang!

The two needles collided. Then, Su Ping's needle of laws was broken, while the gray needle was deviated, becoming a lot paler.

Diaz raised his eyebrows, but he wasn't truly surprised; Su Ping would have lost long before if he couldn't counter that attack.

"You've already made use of all your laws. What can you do now?"

Diaz sneered.

The other five spheres around him also turned into needles and moved to stab Su Ping.

The latter narrowed his eyes. A fierce, dark astral power surged out of his body all of a sudden, which had an ink-like appearance. The space around him turned black; all kinds of rays were gone, and even senses were impaired.

"Huh?"

Diaz was stunned for a moment.

But the next moment, he realized that it was Su Ping's constitution!

Whoosh!

His long needles lost their way in Su Ping's Field of Darkness. His control over them was also weakened, which shocked him. He had tried very hard to practice that technique, and it was closely related to his constitution. And yet, it was affected by Su Ping?

*What kind of field is that?*

It was clear that it couldn't be a simple Field of Darkness.

There was a darkness constitution, which belonged to the demon class.

There was also the dimness constitution, the hellish constitution, and so on.

All those constitutions could form a Field of Darkness to block the opponent's senses. However, there was something more in Su Ping's field.

"Come back!"

He could only recall his Six Paths of the External Phase as he was unable to track Su Ping down. He was worried that they might be ruined if they stayed there for long.

"The attack has been countered."

One of the onlookers was stunned by what he saw, not expecting that Su Ping could deal with the Six Paths of the External Phase with such a move.

In the next moment, everyone saw that the inky field was swiftly expanding.

Diaz quickly moved back, unwilling to step into Su Ping's field.

However, the field was expanding really fast in his direction. His body was soon touched by the edge of the field; he instantly trembled, since he felt an extreme cold.

He felt that he was touching ice. Very soon, he could see nothing but blackness.

“Break!!”

Diaz didn't panic. Rather, he was determined to keep fighting.

*A competition of constitutions?*

*I have one of the nine strongest divine constitutions!*

*It's one of the best in all the history of the universe!*

Only one of the other divine constitutions could compare to his.

However, Su Ping's field didn't look like any of the divine constitutions he knew.

Boom!

Vortices appeared around Diaz; he opened the Field of Reincarnation, unleashing a horrifying attraction force that tried to swallow the Field of Darkness.

Alas, he quickly realized that his reincarnation constitution failed to expand any further than several dozen meters from him, as if it were being suppressed!

*How is this possible?*

Diaz narrowed his eyes in shock.

*I'm being subdued and defeated in a competition of constitutions?*

*Is Su Ping's field better than mine? Or has he developed it more deeply?*

*No way!*

Diaz found it impossible to accept such a result. He could accept being defeated by Su Ping, but he couldn't accept that his constitution wasn't as good as Su Ping's!

He had the reincarnation constitution, one of the best!

Diaz became thoughtful. *Master said that my constitution hasn't been fully developed. That must be it. I haven't gained full control of my constitution yet.*