

Pet Store 931

Chapter 931: The Darkest Hour

“Since I can’t push your field away, I’ll just eat it!”

Diaz suddenly exerted his strength, unleashing a powerful attraction force that was going to swallow the darkness around him. However, he found that the edge of his field was also being corroded by darkness when he tried.

He was quite shocked when this happened.

His opponent was swallowing his field too, at a high speed!

“Unforgivable!” Diaz roared abruptly. *My constitution never fails!* Cracks instantly appeared on his forehead, and black stripes were spread from his forehead to the rest of his face, neck and body.

The air of destruction leaked out of the black cracks.

“Ten Square Reincarnations!”

Diaz went on a rampage. Ten black vortices appeared behind his back like glittering black moons. A special power of reincarnation emerged and spread in the darkness outside of his field. He then abruptly stepped into the depths of Su Ping’s field, trying to tear it apart.

The darkness was indeed being cut apart. Diaz was soon able to see Su Ping in the middle of the darkness.

The latter had an odd appearance at the moment; he was continuously emitting streaks of black mist, which constructed the field around him. He was also covered in bones, like a devil hiding in the smoke.

“Found you!”

Diaz put on a hideous smile and approached Su Ping with his spear glowing brilliantly.

Su Ping raised his fist, mixed with blackness and golden light, to smash the spear with it. The counterforce pushed both of them back.

Diaz roared and launched hundreds of spear auras, each of which could have easily shattered a mountain; they completely shrouded Su Ping at the moment.

The latter indifferently drew a sword from the darkness. He raised his hand, and the spear auras collided with the sword.

The sword collapsed, only to be replaced by a new sword of laws.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Their battle was utterly intense and splendid, unlike the quick clash between Dragon Shepard and Six Lives Buddha, especially when the two fields separated the battle grounds.

“What kind of constitution is this? It’s as strong as the Reincarnation Divine Constitution!”

“It’s said that only similar-level divine constitutions can go head to head!”

“It’s not as strong, but it’s even better, or maybe the understanding and development of his constitution is better; even so, his constitution can’t be of a lower level!”

“An extraordinary but unrecorded constitution? There truly are a lot of monsters this year.”

The geniuses were so dazzled by the intense battle that they could hardly see the two fighters in action with clarity.

Luo Ying, Six Lives Buddha and a few others, however, remained calm. They thought that those two had yet to try their best.

Otherwise, they would have been too weak.

Boom!

The fierce battle came to a pause. Diaz breathed heavily, but his eyes became increasingly brighter. The longer he fought, the stronger he would become thanks to his reincarnation constitution; he could never be exhausted in a battle!

“I learned this spear technique from an ancient book; I’m not strong enough to freely perform it yet. It would exhaust all my strength in one go!”

Diaz gazed at Su Ping and added, “Let’s see if you can endure it.”

“Better not try too hard,” said Su Ping indifferently.

Diaz sneered. The Six Paths of the External Phase next to him suddenly turned into liquid and covered the tip of his spear. Then, dazzling black light radiated from the cracks all over his body; violent astral power surged from his body, which gathered on the spear.

“God Killing Spear... Die!” Diaz roared and charged at Su Ping.

A golden spear aura burst out like a lightning bolt, which penetrated the void even faster than light; its shade was still lingering in the void, but its attack had already reached Su Ping’s face.

An indescribable surge of pressure was produced by the shocking spear on top of Su Ping’s head.

It felt like a huge mountain collapsing before him.

The whole world seemed to be falling apart.

Su Ping had goosebumps all over his body. In the next moment, a bone saber appeared in his hand; then, his laws were spread out on the saber like threads and covered it up.

Slash!

Su Ping launched an attack of his own.

Bang!!

Both of their fields trembled violently, becoming unsteady.

Su Ping moved dozens of meters back; his wrist was slightly numb. Fortunately, the bone saber was sturdy enough; a weapon solely condensed with laws would have been shattered immediately.

On the other side—Diaz breathed heavily and seemed eager to fight. “You blocked it, just as I expected. However, can you block it a hundred times, or a thousand times?”

He was fully restored while he spoke, then he waved his spear again.

The spear’s aura raged on.

Then, the spear attacked again.

Three times, four times...

The horrifying sword auras instantly responded.

All the observers were shocked, seeing that such powerful attacks could be performed non-stop. *Didn’t the man mention that it would exhaust his strength?*

“It’s reincarnation. He’s renewing his strength!”

“Oh my god, we have another cheater in our midst; he practically has infinite energy. He can freely use the moves that others have to try their best to perform!”

All of them were great geniuses, and were quick to figure out Diaz’s ability; all of them were amazed.

The first cheater was already unbelievable, but then another showed up. *Do all the top geniuses have such extraordinary abilities?*

“That’s the Reincarnation Divine Constitution for you. As expected of one of the best constitutions of the universe!”

“He only needs to figure out what the strongest attack he can perform is, and he can use endlessly like a basic skill!”

Inside the palace of the Celestial State experts—

“What’s that?”

“That bone is giving me an odd feeling.”

Unlike the others, they were all staring at Su Ping’s bone saber. Shen Huang’s eyes were slightly narrowed, since he realized the bone’s extraordinary nature; Su Ping was too weak to notice it.

However, it was as eye-catching as a firefly to them!

“It looks like the bone of a Celestial State expert!”

“Where did he find such a thing? Why is he fighting with that bone?” someone remarked in a strange voice.

On the battlefield—the sword auras surged again. Su Ping’s expression changed ever so slightly; he had to admit that Diaz’ ability was quite extraordinary, being able to perform such fatal moves without stopping.

Unfortunately, it’s quality, not quantity, that matters most for an ultimate technique!

Su Ping's eyes became cold. He didn't let the guy continue; it would be pointless to fight a protracted battle with someone who could infinitely renew himself.

Bang!

Su Ping waved his saber and gathered a hundred laws; he knocked all the spear auras with the astral power in his body.

Su Ping pushed closer to Diaz after crushing a couple of spear auras.

Diaz continued the attack in surprise. He had launched the attacks with his constitution, yet Su Ping resisted all of them with his own strength?

Didn't that mean that Su Ping had several times more energy than he did?

Or, was he using a smarter trick?

In any case, Diaz felt he was being humiliated.

I've fused the power of the Six Paths of the External Phase, yet I can't break his saber. Damn it. Does it really deserve to be called a saber? Diaz fought and retreated; it was one of his tactics.

To fight relentlessly wasn't the only strategy; he needed to adopt other strategies.

"Is waging wars of attrition the only thing you're capable of?" asked Su Ping as Diaz retreated and attacked continuously.

"Just give up if you can't withstand it!" said Diaz coldly.

"I simply don't want to waste my time," said Su Ping casually, "So, your way to win is to try your best countless times in order to overcome all difficulties... That's so pathetic. Is that how you should use the Reincarnation Divine Constitution? Or are you too dependent on it?"

"Pathetic?"

Diaz trembled, as Su Ping's words had stung them like sharp needles.

He had easily defeated weaker opponents when he used his secret techniques and abilities.

However, when he met those who were as strong as him, he would have to burst out his strength again and again to wear them out!

He found great enjoyment in the process.

The others would only be able to throw their best punch once, while he could do it infinitely!

Still, Su Ping was claiming that such a way of fighting was pathetic?

"Bulls*it!"

He gritted his teeth and said, "You're forcing me to do this... I didn't want to use this move because it would kill you, but you're giving me no choice. Master will forgive me if he sees what happened!"

He stopped waving his spear and retreating.

Su Ping shook his head. "You talk too much."

He wasn't an idiot. Why wait for his opponent to launch an attack?

It would be better to take action whenever possible.

Besides, since Diaz had put it like that, taking the initiative would be advisable, whether or not the other meant it.

Phew!

All of a sudden, a dark ink-like aura emerged from Su Ping's body.

"Let's go at it then, since you're that eager to compare constitutions."

Su Ping launched his attack while he spoke. It was the first time he had used the Sorcerer's Divine Constitution that the Golden Crow elder had helped awaken!

It was the most ancient and primitive constitution of the darkness class.

"Behold your darkest hour!"

Boom!

Diaz was about to launch his ultimate secret technique, when everything in front of him faded away and darkness filled his eyes.

Has my field been invaded?

Or where my eyes blocked?

Diaz had no time to think; he was shocked for a moment. Then, his mind was paralyzed.

This was because his mind had indeed been invaded.

The darkest hour attack had deprived him of all his senses, consciousness and soul!

It meant that his mind had also fallen into the darkness.

No!!

Diaz could feel nothing but darkness in the deepest part of his soul. He couldn't even feel his own body; he wandered in the void like a ghost.

In the next moment, his darkness-infused consciousness struggled and found his memories. He managed to remember his identity and abilities.

He activated all his strength out of fear, returning to the field of his Reincarnation Divine Constitution.

Soon, the darkness enveloping his mind was lifted, and he regained control of his body; once again, he was able to see the light. However, a cold voice spoke right next to his ears, "You've lost."

The darkness faded away; Diaz saw Su Ping standing in front of him with the bone saber stuck to his neck.

Su Ping could have cut off his head and even his body if he wished to do so.

Even if he could renew himself, it was impossible for him to be reborn if his body was completely shattered; not yet at least.

“I...”

Diaz was stupefied.

What happened? I... lost?

Diaz opened his mouth, trying to turn the tide. “No, that’s impossible! I haven’t tried my best yet...” However, the Ascendant State referee was already there, looking at Su Ping in a weird manner. He then said to Diaz, “You have lost. The victor of this battle is Su Ping from the Golden Star Zone!”

The battle came to an end after the announcement.

Diaz was stunned.

He had truly lost.

He had been suffocated before he could launch his ultimate move.

What happened at the last moment?

Diaz felt a mix of frustration and dumbfoundment. He had thought about the possibility of failure, but he never thought that he would fail in such a humiliating way.

He had yet to show his strongest abilities.

Everybody else was also surprised by the announcement.

They felt as if a drama would have been interrupted before it reached the climax.

Was that an instant kill?

What exactly happened at the last moment?

They had only seen Su Ping’s field swallow his opponent’s reincarnation field. Then, they saw Su Ping’s saber sticking to Diaz’s neck when the darkness faded away.

“That field...”

Luo Ying’s eyes glittered. It wasn’t hard to infer that Su Ping’s field was even more powerful than the reincarnation field.

Does he have a never seen constitution in this universe? One that is better than the nine divine constitutions?

Six Lives Buddha on the other hand—the winner of the previous battle—remained peaceful, although he was slightly curious.

In the palace—a female Celestial State expert sighed and shook her head. “Your disciple depends too much on his Reincarnation Divine Constitution. What a shame; I thought he had mastered the path of time and space.”

Another Celestial State expert shook his head, obviously disappointed at Diaz’s performance. “It is much easier for a person with the Reincarnation Divine Constitution to master the path of time and space, yet he hasn’t grasped it. He must have been too focused on the constitution itself.”

Chapter 932: Top Clash

“It won’t be a bad thing if he creates a path of his own. People with Reincarnation Divine Constitutions aren’t obliged to master the path of time and space. Many have tried that, and it’s easy to succeed; however, it’s too predictable and boring.”

Another Celestial expert defended Diaz, but there was also a head shake mixed in, thinking that Diaz’s performance was not remarkable.

Shen Huang didn’t say anything; he was already aware of Diaz’s abilities.

The kid had great gifts, and he could always teach him even if he was on the wrong path.

Su Ping, on the other hand, proved to be a pleasant surprise with an unrecorded super constitution. He was definitely a rare genius.

Maybe there would be ten top constitutions in the Federation in the future, rather than nine!

On the void battlefield—

Diaz and Su Ping vacated the area; their battle had ended sooner than many people thought. However, those who had grasped the whole situation became solemn, knowing that Su Ping was very strong since he had defeated the Reincarnation Divine Constitution with ease.

Besides, the smart ones could tell that Su Ping had yet to try his best.

For starters, he had only merged with his skeleton.

Normal battle pet warriors might not have realized it, but most of the people present were knowledgeable; they were very much aware that the skeleton attachment was different from pet merging.

He would have been a lot stronger had he merged with his pet; the quality of his pet would have been made evident.

However, he had won easily even without the pet, which made him the center of public attention.

“I didn’t know that you had such a unique constitution,” Su Jin’er remarked in astonishment after Su Ping returned.

She stared at Su Ping, as if she were trying to see him through. It was hard to believe for her, that her body, forged with a lot of rare materials, couldn’t compare to Su Ping’s natural body. It was truly infuriating.

“Now I really believe that you’ll rise to the top three. Although you’re not as good as that monk, very few others are stronger than you.” Su Jin’er sighed.

Su Ping’s performances so far had made her feel like he could rise to the top five or even become the champion. However, she dropped the idea after seeing the battle between Six Lives Buddha and Dragon Shepard. After all, there were too many geniuses this year, and Six Lives Buddha was absolutely domineering.

“Maybe,” said Su Ping.

He felt slightly regretful since he had to expose his strength after trying to hide it all along.

However, he would have had to expose his other methods if he wanted to hide the Sorcerer’s Divine Constitution.

In comparison—while his constitution was one of his trump cards—he hadn’t fully grasped it yet. The field he had established was already the best he could do at the moment.

That technique was able to suppress a lot of other constitutions; it was a truly powerful technique.

“If only Six Lives Buddha weren’t here. How unlucky for us.” Su Jin’er shook her head as she gazed at the monk with regret.

It was a sad and helpless thing, to have been born in the same age as those geniuses had.

The third battle began right then.

This time, Luo Ying would fight another top ten player.

Both of them showed extraordinary strength the moment they entered the battlefield. Luo Ying turned out to have one of the nine divine constitutions too: it was called Floating Light.

That constitution was known as the fastest in the universe.

It could transform his body into light, as well as attack at the speed of light. Only Star Lords could fend someone like him by covering themselves with their small worlds and changing the laws in the small worlds to have the chance to capture the light.

It would be impossible for people with inferior cultivation to touch the light with their senses.

Even if they managed to sense the light, they would still be hit before they could react.

It was obviously another unbelievable constitution.

Aside from that, Luo Ying had grasped flawless laws of light, space and lightning, which were all focused on agility, making him even more unpredictable.

His opponent was quite horrifying too, since he had a top demon constitution and a better understanding of laws. The man was also using a secret enhancement technique that turned him into a dozen-meters-tall giant with infinite physical strength, which enabled him to shatter the mountains on the battlefield with ease.

One of them showed a shocking speed, while the other showed physical strength of a level that was rare even among Star Lords.

The battle was quite fierce, but Luo Ying prevailed in the end, emerging completely unscathed when the battle was over!

Many were dumbfounded yet again, thinking that Six Lives Buddha was already the strongest, but Luo Ying turned out to be surprisingly strong too.

Although the monk was able to summon his future self, such self-version was limited to the peak of the Star State and was incapable of using the truly best skills of that level.

If that were possible, his summoned self would also summon his following future self, which would have been terrifying!

However, Six Lives Buddha's future self was obviously incapable of that; it wasn't hard to tell that he could hardly beat a real Star Lord!

Luo Ying, on the other hand, could hardly be restrained given his agility. There was no clear way to gauge how a battle between them would turn out.

Diaz didn't look very happy when Luo Ying won.

The guy's constitution was as good as his, but the former was clearly better at using it than he was.

"Damn it!"

Diaz gritted his teeth. Probably not even Luo Ying would be able to defeat him if he would have developed his constitution further. Both of their constitutions were among the best, but his was clearly better in head-on clashes!

He could stand undefeated by renewing himself.

The guy couldn't hurt him, and he could kill the former instantly, as soon as he located his weakness!

Time flew.

Very soon, the first round of the battles was over.

The four victors were Six Lives Buddha, Su Ping, Luo Ying and Lilian.

Lilian was the only girl among them. She had the weird ability to make everything wither, and would have succeeded in convincing people that she had the Reincarnation Divine Constitution too.

Similarly, her technique looked like "Destruction," one of the four supreme laws!

The four victors took a rest afterwards, while the four who lost took turns to fight.

The new winners and the four invict participants would fight again for the top three positions!

The battlefield in space wasn't closed. Once the battle was over, Mu Shen showed up and had many Ascendant experts deliver some delicacies to the observers.

Everyone had a joyful rest; the battle continued on the following day.

Su Ping didn't participate in the battle; he simply continued condensing his small world in You Long's training room.

"Damn it!"

Diaz had to fight again. He only saw Six Lives Buddha in the crowd; the other three winners from the previous day didn't show up. He looked awful, feeling humiliated given that Su Ping wasn't present. *Is my battle not worth watching, at all?*

He was intending to show his real capabilities in that fight, so that Su Ping would see that he had failed because of carelessness!

The battles began soon after.

The fights between the previous days' losers were very harsh and cruel too, because they would be completely eliminated if they failed again.

Dragon Shepard showed up, since he had lost on the first day, having found replacements for the seven dragons he detonated. They were much weaker, but still rare and precious in the outside world.

Many were impressed by his deep pockets.

Training a dragon would often drain normal battle pet warriors of all their belongings, but it didn't seem to be a big deal for geniuses.

Dragon Shepard won after a fierce battle. Such a victory had also been brutal, since he had to detonate five of the seven new pets to defeat his opponent!

The latter had also shown remarkable strength too; after all, he had forced the other to once again detonate his dragons, not being able to summon a future self as Six Lives Buddha did. Dragon Shepard would have also had to pay a huge price to win, even if they would have met on the first day.

Dragon Shepard became less arrogant after the battle. He had been angry since he had lost to the monk, but the latter wasn't the only genius present.

Diaz moved forward in his second battle.

He didn't mess with his opponent this time; he simply launched his most powerful attacks with his spear.

However, his opponent was quite tough too; the man avoided his attacks with all sorts of secret techniques.

Diaz used the Reincarnation Deprivation in the end; it was the ultimate technique he had been unable to display in the first battle!

His attack cancelled the opponent's merging, and the pet still fused to the man's body unavoidably perished, finally beating the latter.

"I didn't know he had mastered that move of his constitution."

Diaz's performance in battle was a little bit surprising to the Celestial experts in the palace.

The Reincarnation Deprivation was the constitution's own ability, but it wouldn't be fully grasped until the person had developed the constitution well. Most users of the skill were at the Star Lord level, yet Diaz was already capable of using it; it was slightly unusual.

The Celestial who had defended him earlier smiled and said, "While he relies heavily on his constitution, it seems that he's already learned something from it anyway."

Shen Huang also smiled after seeing that happen, feeling a lot more comfortable.

...

On the third day—

Su Ping 's training was interrupted by You Long.

The latter didn't know what to say about his junior brother's cultivating devotion. He could've watched the battles of the previous losers, which were just as splendid. *How much can he cultivate in one day?*

"Junior brother, keep it up. I think highly of you," said You Long with a smile.

He couldn't criticize Su Ping for being hard working, because it was a good thing in itself.

It was better than going out and having fun anyway.

"Sure."

Su Ping nodded.

Back in the field—Su Ping drew lots with other people.

He raised his eyebrows after he saw who his opponent would be.

It was Six Lives Buddha, the man who had received the most attention in the first round!

Su Ping rolled his eyes upon thinking about the guy's future self.

Su Jin'er shook her head and felt sorry for Su Ping. "You're truly unlucky."

Six Lives Buddha was well-acknowledged as a potential champion.

After all, the ability to summon your future self was beyond unbelievable. Su Ping's field was indeed special, but the man could be at the peak of the Star State!

On the other hand, Diaz was feeling regretful given that Su Ping wasn't his opponent. He wanted to try his best to fight Su Ping again, and see how the battle would turn out!

Unfortunately, his wish didn't come true.

His next opponent would be Lilian, the only girl among the top six.

Luo Ying's opponent was Dragon Shepard.

I almost made it to the top in the earlier screening matches. What a shame...

Dragon Shepard had a grim demeanor when he saw his opponent. He would have had a chance of winning against Luo Ying if he hadn't lost seven precious dragons to fight Six Lives Buddha in the first round.

However... he was truly hopeless at the moment.

He had watched Luo Ying's battle; there would be virtually no chance to win, even if he were to detonate all his pets.

That would be too huge a price.

He might have tried his luck if it was for a shot at the championship.

However, there would be more matches the following day; it wouldn't be convenient to sacrifice his pets.

Everybody whispered after the announcement was made; they looked forward to the competition between Su Ping and Six Lives Buddha.

Both of them had won in the first round, showing great potential.

As for the other two groups, the result of Luo Ying's group was predictable.

There would be some suspense regarding the outcome in Diaz' group, mainly because Lilian had ended her battle as quickly as Su Ping did. Many people didn't know how she had managed it, that was why they were unsure whether or not she could defeat the Reincarnation Divine Constitution.

The battle in Su Ping's group was arranged to take place in the last slot, considering that it would be the most fascinating.

Luo Ying and Dragon Shepard were the first to fight.

Unsurprisingly, Dragon Shepard was easily defeated, not being able to even touch Luo Ying's body, although he tried his best.

It was almost a one-sided battle!

Many people sighed after seeing the result. Dragon Shepard was by no means weak, but he was ill suited for consecutive matches. He would have definitely had a shot to claim the championship if everything could be decided with a single match; detonating all his pets would do the trick.

Chapter 933: Dual Merging

The second battle was between Diaz and Lilian.

This fight also received a lot of attention. Diaz used his strength at the very beginning of the battle, intending to win it as quickly as possible.

However, something weird happened after he performed Reincarnation Deprivation on Lilian. She remained in a half-beast mode, not separating from her pet.

In addition, Lilian's power wasn't weakened or diminished.

Lilian quickly counterattacked while resisting the God Killing Spear, eventually defeating Diaz.

Everybody had expected a fierce battle, but it surprisingly ended in merely three minutes.

Many people looked at the girl in shock.

“She’s immune to Reincarnation Deprivation. What kind of ability is that?”

“She doesn’t seem to have a divine constitution. Could it be another unknown top constitution?”

Someone had realized the reason in shock. “Wait, her constitution isn’t unknown, it’s just that hers is a top demon constitution, except that...”

She didn’t separate from her pet, which meant that the change of her body hadn’t been caused by merging; after all, nobody had seen her summon her pet. Everyone had thought she had already merged with it before the battle started.

However, it was quite obvious that her beastly appearance had been caused by her ability.

This meant that she defeated Diaz without using pets, grabbing one of the top three spots!

She was another monster!

Lilian received everyone’s attention.

Her immunity to Reincarnation Deprivation also gave food for thought.

“1...”

Diaz was dumbfounded due to his failure, feeling that he would almost choke with blood.

His original estimation was that he would become the resplendent champion. However, he was defeated back in his star zone, and then suffered consecutive setbacks at the finals.

Sure enough, it was one of the four supreme laws...

Su Ping’s eyes glittered. Another person besides Six Lives Buddha had grasped one of the four supreme laws, and it was domineering.

The girl had actually grasped the law of destruction.

Reincarnation Deprivation was destroyed by her law. As far as Su Ping knew, the law of destruction could destroy all the other laws and bring forth new lives, which was similar to the renewal ability that Diaz was capable of; her own astral power could be destroyed and regenerated all the time!

Destruction and vitality, being two supreme laws, had a lot in common.

The destruction of something meant the birth of something else—

Just like the result of burning a house wasn’t “nothingness”, but “a dilapidated house.”

By burning a tree, one would gain “ash.”

The same applied to vitality.

The birth of something meant the destruction of something else.

“Mastering a supreme law is as extraordinary as to have one of the nine divine constitutions!

“Divine constitutions are something you’re born with!

“However, it takes your own power of understanding to grasp laws.”

Without a doubt, although the girl’s constitution wasn’t as good as Diaz’s, it was still easy for her to crush him with the supreme law she knew.

Lilian looked at Six Lives Buddha after leaving the void battlefield.

Both of them had grasped a supreme law among all the top ten players, while neither of the two had a divine constitution. Lilian considered Six Lives Buddha as her major enemy in the coming phase.

Six Lives Buddha also had a grim look. He had obviously not expected to find that someone else had grasped a supreme law.

If they were to fight, the one with the deepest understanding of the law would win.

It would be impossible for him to make use of the path of time and space if his opponent could destroy the time he grasped and transform space into something beyond his control.

There are more and more interesting guys.

Luo Ying narrowed his eyes and put on an eager smile.

The third battle began while people whispered amongst themselves.

The observers fell silent upon hearing the Ascendant announcer. The third battle was a clash between two experts!

Su Ping, who had defeated Diaz, was not to be underestimated.

Six Lives Buddha, on the other hand, was able to summon his future self; he had a clear shot to become the champion, and was the strongest contestant thus far!

The monk withdrew his gaze from Lilian and looked at Su Ping, becoming gentle and casual again, just like when he fought Dragon Shepard earlier on.

On the battlefield—

“I’m indeed curious about your divine constitution, sir,” said the monk with a smile, “Could you tell me what it’s called? I only want to know the name.”

“I’ll tell you after you lose,” Su Ping replied, smiling back.

The monk was stunned for a moment; he then offered a more friendly smile and said, “You’re very confident, sir; however, I’m going to win. I hope you won’t try too hard, or hurt your pets like Dragon Shepard did. This is not me preaching from a higher moral ground; it’s just a friendly reminder.”

“I know,” Su Ping smiled and replied, “You’re very concerned about pets, which is better than most people in my books.”

The monk said, "Pets are our partners. We should take care of them."

"That is correct."

Su Ping nodded too.

All the onlookers were dazed, seeing them chat so casually, just like friends enjoying themselves in a bar instead of a battlefield.

"They seem to be running out of patience." Six Lives Buddha looked to the areas beyond the battlefield and chuckled.

Su Ping nodded. "Let's begin then."

"I'll win this fight as quickly as possible," said Six Lives Buddha, as if he were kindly reminding Su Ping.

The latter nodded; he was thinking along the same lines.

He had already used some of his trump cards, and some of the others had already been exposed. A prolonged battle would only exhaust him; he would have more time to cultivate if he finished it quickly.

"Be careful!" Six Lives Buddha suddenly bellowed.

Hum!

Time and space seemed to freeze for a moment. Su Ping then saw a purple dagger going straight for his throat.

A fatal attack at the very beginning!

Su Ping reacted quickly. Two vortices appeared next to him—the astral power gathered around his body turned into a few invisible swords that pushed the dagger off course.

Roar!!

A dragon roar burst out from one of the vortices. It came from the Inferno Dragon.

Its roar echoed throughout the battlefield, its lamp-like eyes gazing at Six Lives Buddha with fury.

On the other hand, the Little Skeleton crouched next to Su Ping like a ghost, its bones releasing a dark aura.

Merge!

Su Ping simply performed a dual merge with his pets.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Both the Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon turned into streaks of light which gathered on Su Ping, covering him with bones and scales; a pair of pointy horns grew from Su Ping's temples and curled.

"Are those the pets he's planning to merge with?"

"They don't seem very strong. That was not a dragon with a rare bloodline."

“They were merely Fate State pets?”

Everyone was shocked to see the Inferno Dragon that Su Ping had summoned.

Even though the dragon seemed to be strong, they could easily tell that it hadn't even reached the Star State yet!

A battle pet warrior was able to establish contracts with pets one realm higher than theirs. So, was that pet not Su Ping's strongest?

However, even if he doesn't want to use the strongest one, why use the weakest?

The combat ability of such top geniuses was right before the last bottleneck, hardly able to be improved. All the pets they had were the strongest they could find in the Star State.

However, Su Ping ended up using Fate State pets, like the Skeleton King.

Six Lives Buddha noticed this too, and frowned; he started thinking that Su Ping was being too disrespectful and deliberately arrogant.

“Let's get this over with! Future self!”

The monk's eyes glimmered. His body became fuzzy, and then clear again. However, his face was slightly different after his reappearance, and he was significantly stronger.

Chapter 934: Su Ping's Trump Cards

Six Lives Buddha, whose power was rising to the peak of the Star State, said indifferently, “You won't have a chance to summon more pets.”

He decided not to give Su Ping any leeway, since the latter was arrogantly using Fate State pets.

Consolidation!

The surrounding time and space were frozen; all the dust and flowing astral power came to a stop. Su Ping, who was about to attack, was also petrified; he looked like an idiot in that posture.

He took out a dagger and made a stabbing motion at Su Ping's neck, ready to end the battle by leaving a wound.

That would be enough proof that he was capable of killing Su Ping!

However, he had a strange feeling of danger—right when his dagger was about to injure Su Ping's neck. There were goosebumps all over his body.

His heart began to race, so he suddenly leaped back.

The time and space he had confined were restored, but nothing happened. Su Ping also returned to normal and continued his actions. Everything was just like before, except that he was in a different position, as if having just flashed to another place.

What is going on?

Six Lives Buddha was secretly alarmed. *Was it just my imagination?*

A man as experienced as him was able to foresee danger with instincts alone. He looked at Su Ping, who was still in the process of launching his attack, obviously unknowing that time and space had been frozen.

Then, what made me feel threatened?

Consolidation!

He activated his ability again, freezing everything. This time, instead of personally attacking, he controlled the dagger with astral power to stab Su Ping's neck.

However—when his dagger was about to stab Su Ping's neck—the latter suddenly rolled his eyes while his body was still, then he put on a big smile. “You're very vigilant, aren't you?”

Bang!

He suddenly extended his hand and grabbed the dagger, dispersing its power.

Time and space were still frozen; everything was paralyzed, including the dust. However, Su Ping was capable of moving.

“You...”

Six Lives Buddha narrowed his eyes in shock.

He mastered the path of time and space too?

Time and space were then restored. All their interactions were seen by the audience as them flashing to different positions.

However, all the Ascendant State experts present were shocked.

They had been able to see all their exchanges during the pause. After all, Six Lives Buddha's path of time and space wasn't powerful enough to influence Ascendants.

Su Ping also knows the path of time and space!

It was undoubtedly an ultimate weapon!

Six Lives Buddha would have probably been counterattacked and defeated instantly, had he recklessly charged at Su Ping!

After all, such an opportunity would be rare and fatal in a battle between two top experts!

“Your disciple...”

In the palace—several Celestials were showing surprise, not expecting that Su Ping would have hidden himself that deeply. The Golden Crow's power he had displayed was surprising enough, and his unknown constitution was even more peculiar. He also turned out to have grasped the path of time and space!

He was almost a genius in every aspect!

Shen Huang was surprised too, as Su Ping had not revealed that skill in the earlier fights; even he was caught unaware. Therefore, it was clear to those experts that the guy had surely been aiming to hide the skill until the finals.

“Very good.”

The expert put on a new smile, becoming increasingly satisfied with his new disciple.

“Junior Brother Su...”

You Long was truly surprised; he then shook his head with mixed feelings, also feeling happy that he had been generous and helpful to his junior brother. He was spared from having to curry favor thanks to his Heavenly Lord status, but having more friends would never hurt. Even Heavenly Lords would welcome a helping hand when they sought resources they needed.

In the void battlefield—Su Ping dropped his smile and suddenly attacked.

“Die!”

He had indeed grasped the law of time. He had understood a thing or two about it a long while back, to later gain a deeper understanding in his outings to the cultivation sites while he learned other laws. He became more or less an expert in terms of the law of time.

However, his expertise was still lacking when compared to the Six Lives Buddha’s.

For instance, Su Ping was incapable of summoning his future self.

He could hardly pause time and space; his best would be to make an area pause for one or two seconds.

It was even more difficult to reverse or accelerate time.

However, his Mid-Level Acceleration Talent was partly based on the law of time; he could understand time better through his talent.

Although fighting with the law of time wasn’t his forte, he could capture the waves when others made use of the law, to prevent himself from being paused or his actions slowed.

Six Lives Buddha didn’t look as casual as before; he had a shocked and suspicious look. He had witnessed Su Ping and Diaz’ battle, and now found Su Ping intimidating since the path of time and space was added on top of his unknown constitution.

The man probably didn’t use the path of time and space when he defeated Diaz, or the monk would have detected it.

The guy hid his technique to catch me unaware!

Six Lives Buddha punched toward Su Ping’s back and said with glittering eyes, “Since you have also mastered the path of time and space, for fairness’ sake, I’ll give you a chance to summon your future self.”

Su Ping smiled and said, “You seem innocent, but you’re quite the sophisticated sort. You want to find out how strong I am? I don’t need my future self to beat you. Come on!”

His opponent knew he was capable of using the path of time and space, but not how deft he was at it. Su Ping preferred not to admit he couldn't summon his future self, lest he would reassure his opponent.

"You will lose because of your arrogance!"

Six Lives Buddha had grim eyes; he could not tell whether Su Ping was deliberately refusing or if he was still unable to use it. After all, the man had been quite shrewd thus far, having hidden that skill until that battle.

He could only let the matter rest for the moment; he was sure that Su Ping would reveal more trump cards later in the fight.

Boom!

He unleashed his astral power with a shocking aura, this time without the laws of time and space.

He could still crush Su Ping with his future self's cultivation.

"Sumeru Saber!"

Six Lives Buddha made a sudden attack; the same purple dagger that Su Ping had snatched appeared in his hand, obviously having fetched it from another time. Releasing brilliant purple light, the dagger turned into a saber and stabbed towards Su Ping, cutting through the void and reaching him instantly.

Chapter 935: Ultimate Battle

"Path of the Divine Sword!"

Su Ping also initiated swords of laws, which contained a hundred flawless laws, which were much more powerful; he had learned a lot on the Heavenly Path Mountain.

This time, his swords of laws were ten times more powerful than before; they were pushed forward with his overwhelming astral power.

The void cracked after a booming sound; the Sumeru Saber was blocked, but Su Ping was pushed thousands of meters back.

"Are you still refusing to bring your future self? I can easily crush you with my secret techniques and laws, even without the path of time and space!" Six Lives Buddha was cold; his gentle smile was gone. He found that Su Ping was threatening; there was no certainty of him being victorious.

"Is that so? Let's find out!"

Su Ping seemed eager to fight. He activated the Sorcerer's Divine Constitution, and then a Field of Darkness was spread out. It only took an instant for nothing but darkness to be seen within a radius of ten thousand meters. It resembled a black hole.

Six Lives Buddha didn't dodge, directly stepping into Su Ping's field with glowing Buddha Light.

So, a human-shaped golden light appeared inside the dark field.

All the onlookers were shocked by the scene. Little did they expect that Six Lives Buddha would have the capability to counter Su Ping's strange constitution, even though Diaz—who had a Reincarnation Constitution—had lost to him.

My Sakya Buddhist Power is unable to disperse this field!

Six Lives Buddha seemed to be completely astonished. He had many powerful methods aside from the path of time and space. For instance, he had acquired the Sakya Buddhist Power from a place with ancient relics. It had been left by an ancient expert; at the moment he was only partially capable of using its power.

However, a tiny portion of said power was enough to pierce through a planet!

Inside the field—Su Ping was equally astonished. The strange yet magnificent power inside his opponent's body was pure and immune to his field. He surrounded the power, sensing it and feeling its extraordinary and majestic aura.

I still have advantages, even if I can't swallow it!

The Sorcerer's Divine Constitution field didn't just impair his opponents' senses; it also boosted his combat ability to a significant degree. More importantly, it could replenish his astral power, allowing him to perform costly secret techniques.

He had hundreds of times more astral power than the average Fate State warrior; it was not hard to imagine how powerful such costly secret techniques were.

“Die!”

Su Ping gathered a sword of laws in his hand again. Astral power surged from countless cells at the same time in his body, to then condense on the sword.

The weapon hummed, as if unable to bear the weight any longer.

It was Ultimate Annihilation, the fourth move from the Path of the Divine Sword!

Boom!

The sword of laws slashed forward like a tide, leaving a deep ravine in the void with an ultimate power enough to destroy anything.

Six Lives Buddha was alarmed; he felt goosebumps all over his body.

He couldn't see the source of the attack, but he instinctively felt frightened by Su Ping. This came as a complete shock, as he was a future version of himself. Su Ping was truly terrifying, making him feel in danger when he was at the peak of the Star State.

“Lighter Saber!”

Six Lives Buddha unleashed all his strength too. While holding the purple dagger, he emitted a burning golden light that was able to push back the darkness. It was exactly at that moment that a brilliant sword aura reached the edge of the golden light.

Bang!!

Six Lives Buddha's pupils became constricted. The attack had come at such a fast speed that he didn't realize what was going on; still, his body reacted promptly.

After a boom, his body fell back after taking the brunt, then he vomited a mouthful of blood.

Hardly had he regained his balance when Six Lives Buddha saw a second attack that was equally dreadful.

This is impossible!

His heart pounded.

It was his future self, who was at the peak of the Star State at the moment. He had an ocean of astral power in his body, and he was still unable to resist Su Ping's attack?

He could tell that the latter had used nothing but the power of laws in the attack a moment earlier.

As for the sword of laws, it was nothing special to him; geniuses of their caliber could often easily attain a perfect grasp of a hundred laws perfectly if they wanted to.

Not just him, even the mediocre Ascendant State reincarnations could easily grasp a hundred perfect laws!

However, many laws weren't necessarily powerful, unless one had tens of thousands of laws.

Laws were meant to break the opponent's. If the gap between them was wide enough, opponent's could be defeated by wielding their deeper understanding of laws. However, if all the laws were perfect, only strength would matter!

Bang!

Six Lives Buddha waved his saber again. A violent and piercing power was produced by his sword, making him feel that his arm was shaking.

Bang!

A third attack was then launched!

With bloodshot eyes, Six Lives Buddha didn't retreat. He also launched an attack of his own!

The sword and the saber collided again and again.

He didn't think that Su Ping could launch such fierce attacks in quick succession!

But this became evident quickly, after the fourth, fifth, sixth and many more attacks began to pile up. Each of those attacks pushed him dozens of meters back, rendering him much more exhausted than before. The Lighter Saber was his secret technique and couldn't be used infinitely.

It was actually his ultimate technique.

Had he used that attack earlier on, Dragon Shepard wouldn't even have had the chance to detonate his pets to strengthen himself!

He had intended to use such an attack as a battle finisher!

However, it turned out that he was still struggling to resist his opponent.

Outside the battlefield—everybody was already stunned.

Six Lives Buddha's golden light allowed them to see him within the dark field; however, he was being constantly pushed back by sword auras coming from the dark. Judging from the paleness on his face, he was clearly losing!

His future peak Star State self was still not enough; he was being suppressed by Su Ping!

Neither of them was using the path of time and space; they were only fighting with their strength and techniques!

However, Su Ping was winning in those aspects!

It had to be noted that his opponent was a peak Star State genius at the moment!

"What a horrifying sword aura; he's condensed all his power of laws. I feel like he may have what it takes to kill a Star Lord if he catches them unaware!"

"You're exaggerating. Star Lords are protected by their small worlds, which are impervious to such attacks."

"That is why he has to catch them unprepared."

All the observers whispered to each other, shocked deep down. Both Su Ping's sword auras and the Six Lives Buddha's counter attacks were horrifying moves. Unfortunately, the former was so strong that the Lighter Saber didn't seem as terrifying.

"Damn you, baldy!"

In the crowd—Dragon Shepard clenched his fists with a contorted expression.

The guy had brutally defeated him while still not trying his best. He would have been instantly crushed if the former would have used that ultimate technique and the path of time and space!

He could vaguely see through time with the power of his pets, but he hadn't fully controlled the path of time and space yet. He would have certainly lost if his opponent decided to hide such a fatal technique using the path of time and space!

With such a constitution and horrifying attacks, he's truly...

In the crowd—Luo Ying furrowed his eyebrows, wondering if he could crack Su Ping's field if he were on the battlefield. He thought even more highly of Su Ping after seeing that even Six Lives Buddha was having trouble.

In another place, Lilian was watching the battle with glittering eyes; there was no telling what was on her mind.

Boom!

Six Lives Buddha was then knocked back from the void battlefield. His intention was to rush out of Su Ping's field with the counterforce.

He had too many disadvantages while being inside the dark area; unfortunately, it would also be impossible for him to locate or attack Su Ping, if he stayed out of said field.

He was only retreating because he wanted to take a break.

However, Su Ping followed as the latter was making a hasty retreat. He was still enshrouded in Su Ping's field, which looked like a black ball.

It was easy to enter the field, but not as easy to leave.

"How can you have inexhaustible astral power?" Six Lives Buddha couldn't help but ask.

He had flown for thousands of meters, but he was still within the field's range; he simply chose to stop given that Su Ping was following him closely.

"Is that the power of a peak Star State warrior? Hmmh, not as remarkable as I thought." Su Ping's voice calmly echoed in the darkness.

Six Lives Buddha looked awful; he even suspected that Su Ping had summoned his own future self by then. Why else could the man have even more astral power than him?

Am I going to be beaten by someone with a realm below mine?

Not gonna happen!

He had always been a person who challenged people with superior cultivation, not the other way around.

"I was planning to save this technique for the final battle, but now you've forced me. I'll remember your name!" Six Lives Buddha then took a deep breath and calmed down.

There was no response from the darkness; Su Ping seemed to be watching him quietly.

The monk stopped speaking from that moment on. However, golden light surged in his eyes. Then, space around him shook, beyond Su Ping's control over the dark field.

Soon, the ripples in the void gradually died down, and another person emerged. He was none other than Six Lives Buddha!

There were two Six Lives Buddhas, both peak Star State experts!

The scene was so surprising that the eyes of all the observers opened wider.

The second Six Lives Buddha looked even stronger; evidently at the peak of the Star State, but even stronger than the first instance of his future self.

Two future selves?

Outside the battlefield—the expressions of both Luo Ying and Lilian changed. One peak expert from the future was already tricky enough, and the guy had just summoned a second one!

Obviously, the two future selves came from different yet approximate times!

“Even if you also know the path of time and space, it would be impossible for you to achieve this.” Both monks looked cold. They believed that Su Ping had indeed summoned his own future self to suppress them, since it was impossible for a Fate State warrior to launch such attacks.

He was definitely not a normal battle pet warrior.

“Die!”

The second Six Lives Buddha snorted and took action, launching the Lighter Saber.

Immediately followed by the other monk, two scorching Lighter Sabers melted the darkness with radiating light.

Su Ping was also surprised because of such a development, not expecting that his opponent would have such a technique in his arsenal. However, after gauging the strength of the guy’s future selves, he wouldn’t cower even if another one was summoned.

It’s been a long time since I tried my best. I wonder what I can achieve if I unleash all my astral power right now.

Su Ping took a deep breath with feelings of hope.

He had been cultivating and participating in the competition for a long time, never pushing his maximum combat ability like he did in the cultivation sites. Not even he knew how strong he had become at the moment.

Moving Stars!

Su Ping activated a thought. The astral power in countless cells of his body began to circulate accordingly. It was a combat ability from the Chaos Star Chart that would enable a quick mobilization of his astral power!

Boom!

Inside his body—the astral power that almost filled up his cells to the brim was quickly flowing along with his veins and suffusing his sword of laws.

The sword then shook and released the most dazzling light; still, no one saw this while he was still being covered by the darkness.

It was Heavenly Fall, the fifth move from the Path of the Divine Sword!

Bang!!

Even the dark field seemed to have been cut apart with a gray channel once the sword slashed forward. The brilliant sword sprayed bright light like a burning sun.

“Huh?”

Both future Six Lives Buddhas felt the impending danger and looked in one direction. They roared and held each other’s hands. It was then when the monks decided to gift Su Ping with an ultimate attack.

The two future selves weren't just terrifying as individuals. Their truly terrifying ability was the combination of their powers in an ultimate attack!

Lighter Saber, burst!

Both monks waved their sabers, which cut the air apart with infinite flames. Their slash combined their auras, sweeping out like a fiery river.

However, in the next moment, the fiery aura was cracked; a sword aura that was too fast to be seen approached them like a meteor. It was merely a sharp sword aura, yet it carried such an immense pressure... Just as if a planet were falling down.

"Huh?"

An Ascendant expert—hiding above the void battlefield—was shocked by the move, so he swiftly took action.

The brilliant sword was approaching quickly, expanding in monks' pupils. Their eyes widened as they witnessed an unbelievable scene.

His Lighter Sabers were cut apart. It was the power gathered after the combination of his two peak Star State selves!

Chapter 936: Cultivation

Whoosh!

All of a sudden, the sword aura that could have cut a planet apart was dissected as if it were a gentle breeze!

"Huh?"

Su Ping narrowed his eyes upon seeing that.

A majestic man slowly descended at that moment to hover in front of Six Lives Buddha. It was none other than the Ascendant expert who created the void battlefield.

The Ascendant State expert looked at the Six Lives Buddha and whispered, "You've lost."

Six Lives Buddha came back to himself, then gave a bitter smile. Indeed, he didn't have any other skills, so he neither regretted nor complained after the Ascendant helped him dispel Su Ping's attack.

He could have died otherwise!

He could have transferred himself to another time. However, Su Ping's attack had already broken the temporal barricade, not to mention that he could still pursue him since he also delved in time and space.

"I lost..." Six Lives Buddha chewed on the words. The way he felt at the moment was really strange, since he had never lost to anyone, except when fighting experts whose levels were much higher than his own.

Is this how it feels like? To fail even after trying your best?

The monk's lips pursed. He stared ahead, where the darkness began to fade, revealing Su Ping; his dragon-like body had a powerful and daunting appearance.

"Did you use your future self?" asked the monk.

Su Ping didn't respond. He simply kept a casual posture.

Six Lives Buddha realized that Su Ping would not answer the question; after all, the man was still contending for the championship.

He put on a bitter smile and heaved a sigh. He had ultimately lost, regardless of whether Su Ping had used his future self or not, even after having summoned two future selves.

"We'll probably be Star Lords the next time we compete," said Six Lives Buddha with eagerness, "I hope we can fight again someday!"

"Sure," said Su Ping with a nod.

The monk smiled and left the battlefield.

Everyone recovered from their stupor after seeing the end of the battle. No one had expected to see such an ending, with Su Ping being the victor.

The two future selves had left them in shock. However, before anyone could react, they were crushed despite being the true ultimate technique!

All eyes were fixed on the man still standing on the battlefield, wondering how strong he really was.

The eliminated geniuses also wore their share of troubled expressions.

Some of them had been fuming, thinking that their failures were caused by bad luck. However, they then realized how the ones able to advance were real geniuses.

They ran into certain problems and they attributed them to luck not being on their side that day, when similar problems were tackled by the winners; the difference was that those people were strong enough to overcome them!

"He lost..."

Dragon Shepard stared at the scene while he felt that his heart was racing. He felt regret, while at the same time he was angry at Six Lives Buddha.

He wouldn't have detonated his dragons if he knew that the monk was still hiding all those trump cards.

All those dragons used to be partners who had gone through thick and thin with him!

He thought that he could fight the guy with his ultimate methods, but the latter had not even tried his best!

"He's that strong?"

Diaz was definitely stunned. His original estimate was that Su Ping had shown at least 90% of his strength in their earlier battle. However, the latter turned out to also have control over the path of time and space, and a power that could go head to head against two high performing Star State experts!

To top it off, they were in fact two future instances of the super genius Six Lives Buddha. Such compounded power was equal to dozens of normal Star State experts!

Su Ping was still just a Fate State warrior!

The news would probably be an eye opener for all the Star State experts throughout the universe.

There's always someone stronger in the universe. Diaz dropped all his arrogant stance right then.

Inside the palace—an old man keenly saw the changes inside Su Ping's body, which shocked him.

“What an extraordinary amount of astral power he has, which seems to be related to his cultivation technique. However, as far as I know, nothing can give you that much astral power when in the Fate State realm, not even the Whale God Technique.”

Being a Lord Supreme in his own right, for years and years he had seen countless techniques and geniuses. However, he had never seen anyone in the Fate State like Su Ping, with such a colossal amount of astral power.

“He's my disciple,” replied Shen Huang, and his face turned cold, “The universe is a big place. There are still a lot of unexplored remains from ancient times. Everybody who has made it to this point has their own fortune and secrets.”

The other Celestials looked at him, knowing that he was issuing a warning to keep them away from Su Ping.

The old man chuckled. “Shen Huang, I'm too proud to rob a kid. Besides, only the best cultivation techniques are necessary; our Celestial cultivation techniques are much better than his. Indeed he has extraordinary astral power, but nobody knows whether or not the technique would bring about any ramifications, or what height he can reach. So, don't worry.”

“Exactly. You're overthinking, Shen Huang.”

A female Celestial said casually, “Don't be too astonished, but the champion from three thousand years ago, who's my disciple by the way, is just as talented. It's a shame that they weren't born in the same era. I wonder who would be stronger if they fought.”

“That's true. I heard that he's already a Heavenly Lord; as expected of an extraordinary genius. He'll probably catch up with us in a few thousand years,” remarked a young Celestial.

Shen Huang looked as casual as before; Su Ping could become a Heavenly Lord too, given enough time. After all, such a genius could naturally crush other Ascendants the moment he broke through to that realm.

...

Su Ping left the battlefield moments after the battle; he was back in the outside world.

He felt how his astral power reserves had been spent to a considerable degree, but his Chaos Star Chart was circulating and replenishing them. His previous attack had left him exhausted. It was his strongest move thus far.

Had the battle continued, he would have had to use his last resort.

“What did you eat when you grew up? You’re so strong it’s scary,” Su Jin’er couldn’t help but ask Su Ping via telepathy.

Su Ping’s strength made her heart beat faster. It was very likely that she couldn’t even withstand his Ultimate Annihilation.

“My mom’s rice,” Su Ping answered casually.

“...”

There was a moment of silence before Su Jin’er said, “Seems like you’re going to be the champion. Six Lives Buddha could have reached the top three with one future self; he certainly would have become the champion with two future selves if you weren’t here. It’s impossible for Luo Ying and Lilian to defeat him.”

Su Ping looked at her, not knowing what to say. “Do you know what ‘jinx’ means?”

“?”

Su Jin’er looked back at him with confused eyes.

He snorted and said, “I think you’ve spent too much time cultivating; you’re behind the times, grandma.”

“G-Grandma?”

Su Jin’er widened her eyes. *I have a young girl’s looks, yet the guy calls me grandma?*

“You...”

She was about to burst into fury, but she suddenly realized that—counting the age of her original self—she was practically an ancestor in Su Ping’s perspective, not just a grandma.

She stared at Su Ping. *Has he always been aware of my identity?*

“Looks like you’re really good at playing dumb!” Su Jin’er sneered.

Su Ping snapped back, “I simply didn’t want to expose you. Does that count as playing dumb?”

“All men are liars. You and your innocent attitude... I thought you didn’t know anything!” Su Jin’er was angry.

Su Ping rolled his eyes and said, “Don’t be sexist. Your father is a man too, isn’t he? Besides, what can I get by lying to you? Money? Your body?”

When he said “your body”, he glanced at her breasts in disdain.

Su Jin'er was shaking with fury. She almost stomped the ground, but there were other people nearby and she couldn't make a scene.

"I'm heading back to cultivate some more." Su Ping ended the conversation. The day's battles were already over; it was pointless to stay there. He waited for You Long to arrive, then he followed the ladder to the training room.

You Long smiled and said as they made their way over, "Junior brother, your performance today was truly amazing."

Su Ping glanced at him. Even though You Long had never shown dislike toward him before, he was obviously thinking more highly of him at the moment; he was addressing the young man as an equal.

"I couldn't have made it without your training room, senior brother," said Su Ping humbly.

You Long laughed and said, "Cut the crap. How much could you have gained in such a short amount of time? Once the competition ends you'll be able to become a Star Lord at any time; you'll be free to travel anywhere in the universe after you break through. I'll be recommending mysterious realms suitable for you; you may find a lot of treasures there with any luck."

"Okay. Thank you, senior brother."

Su Ping nodded.

It was too soon to talk about that yet, but he could start drafting some plans.

"Why can I only travel until I become a Star Lord?" asked Su Ping curiously.

You Long smiled and said, "Master won't let you run loose if you're only a Star State warrior. Although his purple bracelet can protect you, its signals may get blocked in some special places, and Master will be unable to rescue you in time. Besides, the bracelet can't protect you for long if you're facing multiple attackers.

"Geniuses like you are at the center of everyone's attention. People can hire Star Lords to assassinate you if they grow jealous, or if you accidentally ruin their businesses.

"A mere Star Lord in exchange for a genius who may rise to become an Ascendant is definitely a fair deal. It wouldn't be easy for Master to investigate if something happens. After all, some assassins' identities can never be found out.

"However, things will be different when you become a Star Lord. It would hardly be possible for your peers to kill you. You'll basically become invincible at your level.

"If they send Ascendants to do the work, it would be easy to investigate. After all, no self-respecting Ascendant would be willing to live as an unknown assassin."

Su Ping was greatly enlightened.

He was already a Celestial expert's disciple, but it was still possible that his master's enemies would try to make a move.

That'll be great. I need to consolidate my cultivation once the championship ends so I can rise to the Star Lord State! Su Ping thought.

It was possible for him to break through to that realm at any time, given his cultivation. After all, he had mastered laws and flawless paths; he had even started to condense a small world.

Given enough time, he would be able to gather the power of faith in his condensed small world while still being in the Fate State, making him strong enough to kill a Star Lord!

However, the small world plan was his ultimate trump card; he wouldn't expose it that easily.

He was the main focus of public attention at the moment. Being overly prudent was not an issue.

Soon—

The two men returned to the palace; Su Ping thanked his senior brother and then entered the training room.

You Long didn't know what to say about Su Ping's devotion to cultivating. He was actually impressed; after all, it wasn't easy to endure boring and long cultivation periods.

There were actually a lot of geniuses in the world who were as talented as Su Ping and Six Lives Buddha; however, most of them had already lost their brilliance, or were no longer among the living.

Some of them were lazy and arrogant, some were imprudent, and some had been killed because of women or familial grudges.

Very few geniuses were diligent and sensible enough to rise and reach a high altitude where they could receive the protection of top experts.

Inside the training room—

Su Ping focused his attention on condensing his small world again.

As for the outside world—everybody was excited because of the last match.

Hai Tuo, Ciro, Xingyue Shen'er and the others who had made the trip over to support Su Ping were in shock due to his dazzling performance.

They had been concerned for him when they learned that Six Lives Buddha was his next opponent, thinking that it was very likely that he would be defeated. However, completely out of the blue, the monk was suppressed, even though he had summoned two of his future selves, a nigh invincible move.

Nevertheless, he was defeated by Su Ping in the end.

"Strong! He's so strong!"

Hai Tuo was so excited that he didn't know what to say. A real genius had emerged from Silvy; the galaxy would become famous because of him!

Ciro was shocked to see the boy unleash such great power while being in the Fate State. That attack was so destructive that it wouldn't fall short when compared to what a Star Lord could muster!

There was no doubt: Su Ping would become a brilliant Heavenly Lord once he reached the Ascendant State!

It was even possible for him to rise to the Celestial State.

After all, if a genius of that caliber didn't have a shot to reach the Celestial level, who would?

In the general vicinity—Luo Ying lowered his head and worriedly heaved a sigh as he stood next to an Ascendant expert.

“It seems that a fierce battle awaits.”

Chapter 937: Champion

Training room—You Long's residence.

Su Ping sat cross-legged at the core of the astral power array, which was gathering astral power and sending it to his body.

A space was gradually taking shape inside him.

That place was made of a complete path.

Complete paths contained special force fields able to construct space, which could be expanded to develop into small worlds. However, it was a strenuous process.

It was like fashioning a sesame seed into a planet!

This difficult step was the exact reason why only a few Star State warriors advanced to become Star Lords.

So this is how it feels to create a small world...

Su Ping was completely invested in the process.

The feeling of establishing a small world was truly wonderful. He had to perfect a lot of laws in the small world, the bottom line was to ensure that living creatures would be able to exist there.

Only then could the creation be called a “world.” Otherwise, it would only be a “space.”

A lot of requirements had to be met in order for living creatures to thrive. He had to infuse the place with the other laws he had control of, using them as pillars to facilitate the evolution of matter, such as water, air, flowing space, etc.

As for time—

It was a different law that most small worlds didn't include.

Therefore, most Star Lords were unable to accelerate the flow of time in their small worlds, as a few would so that things would evolve quicker, or remain in stasis.

The concept of time was indeed found in small worlds too, but such time was only a deeper separation of space. When a space was cut into a billion layers, each would be one second, giving off the illusion of time flow if they were connected.

The small worlds created by Star Lords weren't part of a real universe anyway.

Therefore, the passing of time would go awry if people lived there for extended periods of time, since the illusion wouldn't last forever. To summarize: small worlds were actually flawed, semi-real worlds.

Although my understanding of time and space isn't as good as the Six Lives Buddha, I should still be able to construct a real world, Su Ping thought.

Having access to the path of time and space, he could have time flow and flowers blossom in his own small world.

Time and space were the cornerstones of a small world.

It would still be possible to do without time when creating a small world, only using the laws of space; Star Lords mostly resorted to such a method.

However, it was impossible to construct a 100% real universe with only the laws of space.

Even small worlds created by Ascendants would fall short when compared to the real universe.

This was because the real universe contained many laws and paths, which also meant that practitioners would have to gain a perfect understanding of all the laws in the universe if they wanted to make an identical replica of the real world.

Inside the small world, which was gradually taking shape—

Su Ping tossed a seed, which then sprouted and blossomed in the flow of time.

Green grass was growing on the hills; the vegetation looked beautiful and primitive.

I'm already able to transport creatures in my small world and store faith power...

Su Ping really felt satisfied when he looked at how the small world was gradually taking shape. It looked just like the real world at first glance.

However, if one were to observe it carefully, it would be evident that many elements were missing.

Su Ping then realized that he could transfer his astral power to the small world and store it there.

He instantly created a lake in the small world, filling it with astral power. The astral power formed a cloud in the small world, causing rain when it was condensed; blue rain fell over the lake, producing a breathtaking sight.

One would expect no less of the most mysterious energy in the universe. It was truly beautiful.

As things stand, it would be practically impossible to feel exhausted, even if I were to perform Heavenly Fall again. I can even use it twice in a row!

Su Ping's eyes glittered; that change alone had significantly strengthened him.

After all, it wasn't easy to resist a Heavenly Fall attack; very few people would survive it a second time.

He would become even stronger once he had absorbed the power of faith and filled it into the sword!

I'll look for power of faith in the cultivation sites once the championship ends. Su Ping was so eager that he wanted to finish up sooner.

He was already missing his store, as well as the people and beasts in it.

He also missed the Lightning Rat, the one always waiting for its master to return.

Su Ping's excitement died down considerably upon remembering the Lightning Rat. He thought of things from the past and was only able to heave a sigh.

Regrets were inevitable in life.

However, animals could sometimes be even more loyal than human beings.

...

Very soon, the battle for the championship was at hand.

Su Ping had devoted himself to cultivation, not bothering to watch the battles of the losers' group. Luo Ying had won the competition against Lilian by then.

Six Lives Buddha had also won the battle against her.

Lilian was ranked fourth in the end; she was knocked out of the top three.

Among the top three, Su Ping had defeated Six Lives Buddha; Luo Ying and the monk would fight.

If the latter won, he and Su Ping would fight for the championship. In such a case, Su Ping was already the champion in many people's eyes.

After all, nobody thought that the monk would still have any more trump cards hidden after their previous fight.

The monk had only managed to beat the mysterious Lilian with two future selves.

Lilian failed, but many people felt sorry for her, believing that she could have made it to the top three, if not for having encountered geniuses such as Six Lives Buddha, Luo Ying and Su Ping!

After all, the monk was almost defeated even after using his two future selves!

It was confirmed that the power controlled by the girl was Destruction, one of the four supreme laws. Unfortunately, she still failed in the end.

"Junior brother, it's time to come out," said You Long telepathically outside the training room, "Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha will be fighting today; the winner will fight you later. Even if Luo Ying wins, he'll probably have to reveal all his trump cards."

Inside the training room—Su Ping was gathering astral power in his small world. He truly felt astonished, not expecting time to flow as fast. Has the battle ended already?

He finished his training and left the room. Then, he saw You Long looking at him with a smile, while clad in his usual clothes.

"So to speak, the one who loses the fight will be third place? What about Lilian?" asked Su Ping.

“She lost; it was a very close shave. If you’re interested, I’ll show you her last battle video later,” replied You Long with a smile.

“Okay.” Su Ping nodded.

He wasn’t going to fight Lilian, but the girl still had her strong suits in battle he could learn from.

You Long quickly took his junior brother to the square, where the geniuses gathered.

Everybody fixed their eyes on Su Ping upon his arrival, including the Ascendant experts hovering in space. Those were the bigshots in the outside world.

Su Ping wasn’t nervous, nor was he panicking; he simply had a mix of many conflicting feelings.

His fame had grown during the competition; even Ascendants had to pay attention to him.

It had to be noted that the Ascendant experts were as strong as Joanna’s original self.

However, Anna’s original self should be as strong as a Heavenly Lord, and a distinguished one at that, Su Ping thought.

He suddenly wondered about what would have happened if her reincarnation would have participated in the competition.

He was sure that he was only 60% confident of defeating Anna with all his methods!

However, he was 100% confident of beating Six Lives Buddha!

Anna has the Titan Divine Constitution, only seen manifested in gods. It’s unrecorded in the Federation; many would still be shocked to see it, Su Ping thought.

She was a War Goddess in the Demigod Burial anyway, only second to the four Superior Gods; her strength was not to be questioned.

You flew to a place in space where he joined the other Ascendants.

The crowd instinctively parted when Su Ping passed by; many looked at him with a friendly smile.

Su Ping smiled back at them.

Everybody present was a genius. He preferred not to offend them by being deliberately arrogant.

Besides, geniuses also admired talented individuals among their ranks. Su Ping was actually impressed by them. After all, they didn’t have a system.

“Whether or not you can become the champion will depend on this battle,” said Su Jin’er telepathically as she approached Su Ping, “I hope that Six Lives Buddha will try harder and beat down that fancy guy!”

Su Ping glanced at her and chuckled. “Whether or not I become the champion has nothing to do with their battle. It doesn’t really matter which of them wins.”

Su Jin’er raised her brows. However, her memories about Su Ping’s combat ability began to emerge; she thought it was only natural for him to be as confident.

A battle had already burst out in the battlefield at that moment.

Six Lives Buddha didn't hide his potential, simply summoning two future selves and attacking Luo Ying together.

The latter, however, had activated his constitution, then the monk attacked with lightning fast moves as he dodged his attacks.

Very soon, Six Lives Buddha paused time.

Everything was consolidated, but Luo Ying wasn't slowed down at all; many were shocked to see that. Has Luo Ying mastered the laws of time too?

Six Lives Buddha changed his expression too. But very soon, he performed a Time Cutting!

He predicted his opponent's moment and attacked from another time!

However, his attack was dodged again.

It seemed that Luo Ying was able to see through the flow of time, and knew where he would appear and what kind of attacks he would endure.

Luo Ying chuckled and said, "Sorry. Although my understanding of time isn't as good as yours, it isn't hard for me to resist such tricks."

He had mostly collected Divine Cores in the earlier contest, leveraging his constitution and his understanding of time. His hunting means were so fast that zombies were just weeds to be reaped, from his perspective. He could have hunted more of them if he had more time!

Six Lives Buddha performed Time Stop, Time Cutting, and Time Reverse with a gloomy mood.

His plan was to attack his opponent in a reversed flow of time, but his attacks were dodged again.

If the laws of time were a sea under his control, Luo Ying would be a fish that swam in it. The man would always be at ease, no matter what tides he would cause.

Six Lives Buddha stopped wasting his strength after realizing that, then simply attacking with his future selves.

Luo Ying moved as fast as a flash. Even though the two future selves were powerful, they could not touch him, at all.

"Have you heard that fastness is the greatest strength?" Luo Ying chuckled. "Although I'm not as strong as you, you can't possibly touch me!"

"Is that so?"

Six Lives Buddha closed his hands and said, "I didn't have the time to use this move in the battle against Brother Su; this is a good time to use it."

His two future selves joined hands again, unleashing a horrifying power. "Dual Time Stop!"

Bang!

The void shook, and everybody was solidified.

Luo Ying was also slowed down. He narrowed his eyes in shock.

The sea of time had been completely frozen. He could not swim any longer, even though he was a fish at the moment!

“It seems that it works.” Given that Luo Ying was slowed down, Six Lives Buddha chuckled and lunged at him.

Luo Ying suddenly put on a smile, then spots of light appeared on his body like lotus flowers.

“Unfortunately, your opponent is me. Anyone else would have been defeated by you. Right, that guy is an exception. So am I.”

He accelerated while he talked, dodging Six Lives Buddha’s attack with ease.

“Not even time can affect the fastest constitution in the universe!” said an amazed person, outside the battlefield.

Another person, who preferred head-on clashes over dodging, began to defend the monk.

“Unfortunately, you can’t win by simply dodging.”

On the battlefield—

The expression shown by Six Lives Buddha changed ever so slightly, then said solemnly, “Sir, is there anything else you’re capable of, except dodging? If this continues, I can’t hurt you, but you can’t hurt me either!”

“Is that you?” Luo Ying chuckled and said, “Your future selves don’t come without paying a price, do they? You can’t keep yourselves in such a state forever. I will counterattack when you are unable to endure any longer. Sure enough, the method is borderline shameless, but that’s my way to win.”

Six Lives Buddha took a deep breath and said, “Let’s find out.”

Again, he performed Time Stop and Time Cutting, attacking with his secret techniques as he tried to locate Luo Ying’s weakness and make him collapse.

However, as time went by, Luo Ying became untouchable, just like a shadow. Even the massive area attacks were dodged.

The area attacks had no flaws; they could not be dodged, either, but they were not as strong and the attacks could be resisted.

Chapter 938: Final Battle

The fight continued.

However, everybody was able to tell that—even though Six Lives Buddha was attacking continuously, appearing as though suppressing Luo Ying—none of his attacks landed squarely on Luo Ying, and his strength was being exhausted for nothing.

He didn’t have unlimited strength!

“Your weakness...”

Luo Ying narrowed his eyes and noticed a weakness exposed by the monk. It was a moment, an opening between attacks. He suddenly swooped down, coming to a stop halfway, then flashing a strange smile. “Just kidding. I won’t attack you.”

He could be hit when he tried to approach and attack the guy.

The monk’s heart became heavy when the guy came to a sudden halt. He had deliberately shown a weakness to lure his opponent and make him approach, but the guy didn’t fall for it.

His expression didn’t change while his onslaught of attacks continued. He merely showed weaknesses every now and then, giving Luo Ying a chance to attack.

However, the latter was extremely patient. Although he seemed to be nothing more than a runner, he wasn’t in a rush to prove himself; he had chosen to only dodge patiently.

He was still waiting for an opportunity.

“This kid is too prudent!”

Many Ascendants had realized the way Luo Ying could win the battle, as well as the possibilities that would lead to failure. They didn’t expect that the young man would simply let all his opponent’s weaknesses pass by, ones he could have taken advantage of.

None of them believed that he didn’t see the weaknesses. He was simply being overly prudent, opting for a prolonged battle.

He was going to exhaust the monk’s energy!

There was no time limit or unexpected factors in the match. Therefore, if one opponent was continuously exhausted, he would lose sooner or later!

What a smart and patient kid!

That was the remark made by many Ascendant experts when they saw Luo Ying perform; they held him in a higher regard now. After all, there had been too many geniuses in history; only the real smart ones would survive until the end. The excessively arrogant ones would often die young, despite their masters’ protection.

Phew!

All of a sudden, the monk’s movement paused for a moment; there was a slight change in his expression. It was not a weakness purposefully shown; he was truly becoming exhausted.

To his relief, Luo Ying was still dodging, not taking the opportunity to attack.

He created an opportunity to slow down his attacks after some quick thought.

Luo Ying had also slowed down. The pressure he felt was considerably lowered when the monk’s rate of attacks decreased; he was then able to focus more on his attacking strength.

Six Lives Buddha had to resist Luo Ying's attacks. The two of them seemed to be evenly matched at the moment.

However, it became obvious for many that the monk was obviously losing. He was like a caged beast, while Luo Ying was the brutal hunter wearing his prey down until he swallowed it.

"What a shame."

Su Jin'er could not help but shake her head; there was nothing the monk could do about Luo Ying except to let himself be swallowed.

Su Ping, however, observed without making comments. The monk was clearly stronger than Luo Ying in a head-on clash, but he was clearly being worn down at the moment. Was the path of time and space no better than this?

As time passed—

Very soon, Six Lives Buddha was unable to maintain his future selves. One of them was dispelled, and the other was also fading away.

You cannot stop me if you only use the power of one future self.

Luo Ying sneered upon seeing the other falter, not giving him a chance to rest. His attacks were so powerful that his opponent had been forced to use two future selves to resist earlier.

Bang!

Luo Ying dashed forth and attacked like lightning.

The monk's expression changed a bit as he hurriedly counterattacked. However, he shook during the clash. He was suppressed by Luo Ying, even though he was using his future self!

One had to consider that his future self was at the peak of the Star State!

Although an incomplete version, since he couldn't use all the secret techniques, he did have an extraordinary amount of astral power. It wouldn't be a problem for him to suppress a Fate State cultivator, yet he was hardly able to resist Luo Ying's attacks.

Luo Ying was the best in other aspects too, aside from speed!

Six Lives Buddha was soon wounded and was forced to retreat; he was forced to summon his second future self again.

At that moment, however, Luo Ying quickly dashed back and attacked remotely.

Six Lives Buddha looked awful. He found it rather frustrating to be fighting against the fastest constitution of the universe in such a way.

He attacked with his two future selves; still, he could not land a hit on Luo Ying. In the end he had to cancel his second future self again.

However, Luo Ying took that chance and attacked once more.

Whoosh!

The second future self, who had just been canceled, appeared in front of him without any kind of warning. Both monks had a brutal air when they gazed at the fast approaching Luo Ying.

Boom!

A daunting, unrestrained power burst out, so great that it didn't seem to have been exhausted, at all!

Luo Ying's pupils were constricted. He flashed and tried to dodge, but he was still hit; he vomited blood when he was flung back. He quickly flashed and managed to dodge the monk's subsequent attacks.

"This is impossible!"

Luo Ying looked at him in shock. "How can you possibly have that much strength left?"

Six Lives Buddha looked at Luo Ying with eyes full of regret; it would be harder for the latter to fall for his trap now that the ambush had failed.

"You shouldn't try to wear me down."

Six Lives Buddha looked at Luo Ying. They were at a stalemate, which was quite the dilemma.

Luo Ying looked at the monk with glittering eyes. Suddenly, he came back to himself and said, "Got it. You didn't cancel your second future self; you simply relocated it to the next second, predicting that I would attack, saving you the summoning time.

"As for your strength... You're constantly summoning your future selves from other times and spaces to replace them!"

Six Lives Buddha didn't comment on the latter's findings; it would have been odd if the guy wouldn't have realized this yet.

"If one second means one time and space, you have billions of times and spaces, and you're at your peak state all the time. You were just pretending to be weakening..." Luo Ying mumbled. He couldn't help but put on a bitter smile after realizing that.

Exhaust, then hunt?

Not going to happen.

Such a tactic would have worked to kill any other kind of opponent, except for one able to harness the path of time and space.

But was he going to admit defeat?

Certainly not.

He wasn't on the losing end, either, since the monk had yet to hit him.

The battlefield became quiet. The two of them confronted each other in silence and pondered about ways to win the match.

Time flew by, one second after the other.

All the onlookers were shocked after hearing Luo Ying's revelation.

Was the path of time and space so utterly unbelievable? He could summon all his other future selves?

Didn't that mean that it wouldn't matter even if he was wounded?

"It's not so simple. He had to summon his future self to heal it in another time, or his injuries would manifest somewhere in the future!" an Ascendant State expert explained in a low voice.

It was like advance payment.

Even so, it was a powerful method.

The man would only need to heal his wounded future selves when he wasn't fighting. It wouldn't affect him during battle.

"He's so unbelievable. He's like a cheater among cheaters!" cried one of the geniuses with a mix of jealousy and eagerness.

Everybody loved such an invincible method.

However, it wasn't easy to grasp the laws of time.

Su Jin'er knew she had been too quick to judge. "I didn't think he would be able to survive it..." she mumbled, then looked at Su Ping in shock. "How did you beat such a strong guy earlier?"

"He somehow lost as the battle progressed," said Su Ping.

Su Jin'er rolled her eyes and secretly heaved a sigh. Ascendants were probably the only people able to figure out how Su Ping had defeated the monk.

Her current reincarnation was too weak. She might have also figured out the reason if her original self were there.

Su Ping, for one, wasn't really impressed by the monk's ability. After all, even if he could keep himself in his best status all the time, he would eventually fail if he endured attacks that were unbearable even for his best status.

Unfortunately, Luo Ying didn't seem to have that kind of power.

The war of attrition didn't work out... What is going to happen next?

Su Ping was curious.

On the stage—

They were still facing each other without moving a muscle.

Time seemed to have been frozen.

A long while later...

Several hours passed.

Several days passed.

A week passed.

Finally...

In the sky above the void battlefield—the Ascendant referee appeared between the two constants. He communicated privately with each one, receiving the same answer.

“The battle ended with a tie!”

“Six Lives Buddha and Luo Ying are evenly matched. Nobody wins, nor loses!”

The Ascendant’s announcement echoed in space, producing an astounding effect. Very few people were surprised by the outcome after a whole week of waiting. Still, it was quite rare for players to reach a tie in such games.

“Tomorrow, to decide the championship, Luo Ying will fight Su Ping!”

The Ascendant State referee continued, “The winner will be king! If Su Ping fails, he’ll take second place, and Six Lives Buddha third! If Su Ping wins, both Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha will remain in second place!”

He had clearly asked for the Celestial experts’ opinion, to later make a fitting announcement.

“There’s another battle?”

Many were surprised; they thought that Su Ping was already the de facto champion, not expecting that he would have to fight again.

Hai Tuo, Ciro, Xingyue Shen’er and a few others were quite reluctant.

They had been shaking with excitement at the beginning of the announcement, thinking that Su Ping would become champion. The rest of the announcement was similarly surprising.

“Why?”

“WHY?!!”

“They reached a tie, while Su Ping had defeated the space-time monk. Why does he have to fight again?” Hai Tuo couldn’t help but roar.

Many people whispered in space too.

The Ascendant expert glanced in Hai Tuo’s direction and replied indifferently, “Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha have their respective advantages; that is why you cannot defeat each other. However, such a case may or may not be the same for Luo Ying and Su Ping. I don’t need to explain the reason. You’ll find out soon.”

Everybody fell quiet after hearing that.

After all, the Ascendant State referee was a famous Heavenly Lord!

Nobody would try to question his instructions, or demand an explanation.

Hai Tuo blushed and gritted his teeth, but he managed to hold back.

He knew that it was the Celestial experts' decision, since not even Heavenly Lords had the power to change laws the way they wanted.

He also knew that, while Luo Ying and Six Lives Buddha had ended up in a tie, this wouldn't happen again in the following fight against Su Ping, since their abilities were different.

It was even possible for Luo Ying to defeat Su Ping.

After all, maybe Luo Ying had special advantages against him.

That was why Hai Tuo was so reluctant and concerned.

Su Jin'er turned around and looked at Su Ping. "Feeling confident?"

His opponent indeed was the fastest in the universe. Yes, Su Ping had defeated the monk, but the outcome of a battle between him and Luo Ying would eventually become evident.

"Yes, I think so," said Su Ping vaguely.

He didn't want to be the center of attention, that was why he couldn't claim that it would be a piece of cake for him.

"..."

Su Jin'er was rather lost for words, as Su Ping was obviously very confident.

So, could he really win?

She wore a strange expression, thinking that the young man next to her would later become the king of geniuses in the entire universe. It wouldn't be long for him to grow up and become as strong as her original self, would it?

It was at that moment—You Long flew over and chuckled. "Junior brother, it seems that another battle awaits you. Keep it up."

He wasn't too angry about the results. He was the proud sort. being a Heavenly Lord; never afraid of an additional battle. A real man would never cower before any challenger!

"I will." Su Ping nodded.

Su Ping instantly left the battlefield with his senior brother and resumed his cultivation.

Su Ping had achieved the basic condensation of his small world after a day of cultivation. He then focused his attention on building the following Astral Painting.

The second Astral Painting was named Eight Nine Astral Painting. Like it's namesake, it was able to gather Eight Nine Astral Power once condensed inside a person's body. This would significantly increase the practitioners' control over a person's body, making your attacks unpredictable!

Chapter 939: The Strongest

Very soon, the day of the finals arrived.

Su Ping woke up in the training room and went to the palace of the Celestial State experts with You Long.

The palace was mostly empty, as the other geniuses were unqualified to go there; they could only stand on a distant square.

All eyes focused on Su Ping when he showed up. The champion of the universe below the Star State would be settled after that battle!

On a spaceship—Xingyue Shen'er mumbled, "He's here. They say that the one who arrives early always loses. He won't fail, will he?"

Her father was right next to her, seemingly at a loss for words. "Nothing but hearsay. Enough with the nonsense."

He was also hoping for Su Ping's victory; after all, the young man was his daughter's friend.

Soon after, Luo Ying arrived with a Heavenly Lord.

The two contestants looked at each other outside the palace.

Luo Ying flashed a smile, not saying a word. However, there was appreciation and passion in his eyes.

People like him wouldn't spout unnecessary trash talk. Rather, they cherished opponents who were strong enough to fight them. After all, they were virtually invincible; it was truly difficult to find worthy opponents.

Su Ping smiled back at him.

Very soon, the Ascendant State referee invited them to enter the void battlefield.

The final battle began!

"This is our last battle. I don't need to hide myself anymore." Luo Ying looked at Su Ping and sighed.

Everybody else was stunned after hearing such a remark.

Six Lives Buddha also squinted his eyes.

Did the guy not try his best in the earlier battle?

The others looked solemn too, including Lilian, Dragon Shepard, and the others who had failed. All of them were watching with rapt attention.

They wanted to find out how wide was the gap between their strengths when compared with the strongest!

Su Ping said, "Fine. Bring it on."

Two vortices appeared next to him; the Little Skeleton and the Inferno Dragon slowly stepped up. The dragon didn't roar, but it shot a cold gaze at Luo Ying.

Neither pet wasted time, immediately merging with Su Ping right after they were summoned.

He soon attained dual merging status.

Su Ping looked as intimidating as a devil, but Luo Ying frowned a bit, then said, "This is our last battle. You're still not trying your best?"

Everybody was wondering the same thing.

All of them were confused by the appearance of two Fate State pets. *It's no longer necessary for him to hide his stronger pets, since there won't be any battles after this one, right?*

Unlike before, Su Ping explained peacefully, "They are my strongest pets."

Luo Ying was slightly dazed by this. He stared at Su Ping's deep eyes and knew he wasn't lying; people like them were too proud to lie casually.

"I understand."

Luo Ying discarded his vexation and chuckled. "Let's fight then!"

A scorching illusion that looked like an angel appeared behind his back, emitting an infinite brilliance. It turned out to be a War Angel, a rare divine pet!

"That's a top divine pet. He's able to control it even though he's only in the Fate State. That pet carries an Ascendant State bloodline!"

"Not just the Ascendant State. It's as strong as a Heavenly Lord!"

"It's said that War Angels are servants to the gods. They're almost as strong as Celestials when they reach adulthood!"

Everybody was astounded by the reveal of Luo Ying's pet, especially since it wasn't the one he had used in the battle against the monk. Obviously, he would have summoned the pet if the stalemate hadn't been broken.

Six Lives Buddha looked rather grim because of this.

The next moment—having merged with the War Angel—Luo Ying glowed with sacred light and six wings appeared on his back. He looked exceptionally handsome with his starry eyes.

Su Ping was slightly surprised by such a development. Being able to have an angel as a pet was a new thing for him.

Soon, he activated his Sorcerer's Constitution. A boundless Field of Darkness was spread out and enshrouded his body, making it impossible to see him.

Luo Ying had a grave look, given the disadvantages to his constitution brought by Su Ping's Field of Darkness; he would have to enter Su Ping's field to attack him.

However, with observation and the guidance of the Ascendant expert behind him, he already had a solution!

That was the shortcoming of exposing your trump card too early!

Even if the contestants were unable to find flaws, the Ascendant experts backing them could easily spot the weaknesses and propose a solution.

“Sacred Sword!”

Luo Ying gathered divine brilliance in his hands; a gigantic sword gradually took shape, with a heavy aura of laws and a tremendous amount of divine power.

The sword dazzled in his hands like a flashlight. The next moment, Luo Ying activated his constitution, then dashed towards Su Ping’s dark field like a bolt of lightning.

An unbelievable scene took place—

Su Ping’s field of darkness, like a black curtain, was torn apart by Luo Ying who had stabbed his way forward at a rapid pace!

The opening was quickly stretched all the way to the core, dividing the field into two parts!

Still, Su Ping wasn’t hit after the field was cut apart and the opening was being healed.

Luo Ying then dashed quickly and disappeared into the void. The only things visible were the raging rays of light!

Those beams were constantly dissecting Su Ping’s field.

Even though Su Ping’s field was being reconstituted, the cutting force was much faster than the healing. Luo Ying was going to mince Su Ping’s field with speed!

What a great divine power!

Su Ping was grim faced when he detected his opponent’s divine power. Even though he had always cultivated in Joanna’s spring of divine power, the other guy was practically on par with him. This probably had to do with him merging with a top divine pet!

Su Ping’s eyes glittered as he watched his field being split open. Then, he suddenly swallowed all the surrounding darkness like a whale.

Combination with the field!

The intense power of darkness returned to Su Ping’s body, making his eyes become as dark as ink; his body, which was as scary as a devil’s, showed up again. He was covered in bones, while behind him were scorching flames; they burned with increasing exuberance, until they gathered and formed a fiery phoenix!

In space—a shriek echoed after a silence billions of years long!

That was the soul of the Golden Crows!

“Die!!”

Wreathed in sacred power, Luo Ying roared and dashed over like a comet. He slashed at Su Ping with the gigantic sword, and the distance between them was reduced to zero.

The divine sword pressed forward, as if about to shatter a planet!

But the next moment, Su Ping raised his sword too, slashing to counter the incoming sword!

Boom!!

Countless laws collapsed during that deafening explosion!

Luo Ying was flung back, but soon regained balance. He appeared several thousand meters away.

Su Ping fell down several hundred meters, but he soon regained balance too. A dark stream of air surfaced on his body, but there were golden flames mixed with the dark power. He looked both holy and evil, which made for a rather shocking sight.

“Great! Come again!”

Luo Ying’s eyes glowed. He sped up and waved his six wings of light, dashing as gracefully as a butterfly. His sword launched countless auras when he got closer to the target.

Su Ping roared and pressed his sword forward. The fire covering the sword led to an ocean of flames when it was sprayed out, swallowing the sword auras and forcing Luo Ying to retreat. He had almost made contact with the flames.

Luo Ying was able to sense that the flames could inflict a lot of damage should he make contact.

The Ascendant expert behind his back had already informed him of the Golden Crow bloodline in Su Ping’s body; it was said to be a mythical bloodline from the primordial times!

Luo Ying asked loudly while stepping back, “Aren’t you going to use your future self?”

“It depends on your performance!” replied Su Ping, while gazing at him calmly.

Luo Ying laughed, then attacked again with an even greater strength. He turned into eight clones and attacked Su Ping from every direction.

“Heavenly Punishment!”

Su Ping performed an area attack skill, launching sword auras that slithered outward like dragons.

However, the eight Luo Yings were very agile; they flashed among the sword auras, easily dodging them.

Su Ping was quick to activate Mid-Level Acceleration, which doubled his sword’s speed.

Luo Ying showed a slight change of expression, then swiftly dodged the attack again.

It was then when Su Ping realized how Six Lives Buddha must have felt when he couldn’t hit his opponent.

Is that the highest speed of the universe?

“You want to catch me unprepared? It’s useless. I’m only using half of my speed,” said Luo Ying with a smile.

Su Ping stood where he was, then stared at the other fellow.

Luo Ying, however, didn't stop. He dropped his smile and said in a low voice, "Lightning Sword!"

Bang!

He made a quick move and disappeared. It wasn't a flash relocation; if it were, Su Ping could have predicted his destination with the path of space. However, the man was merely moving quickly while traversing the primary space.

Su Ping lost sight of him all of a sudden.

However, he had seen that coming, and a circle of hot waves was swept out of his body.

Bang!

Part of the hot waves was cut apart. Then, Su Ping saw Luo Ying's shadow, so he chose to slash in that direction.

Luo Ying, however, quickly lunged in another direction, so fast that Su Ping could not react in time.

It was exactly then, that an area of darkness appeared in that direction; it was exactly the field of ultimate darkness.

Luo Ying then quickly circumvented the darkness, fearing that he would lose his senses if the darkness hit him, and he would be frozen inside it.

It would be enough for Su Ping to defeat him even if he was only frozen for one second.

Whoosh!

Luo Ying retreated rapidly after the clash, then stood at a distance. He wasn't in a hurry to attack again. Still, he looked quite solemn.

He had already seen all of Su Ping's trump cards, but he still found it tricky to deal with them.

He was wary of that mysterious, unknown field of constitution. After all, Six Lives Buddha was defeated right in it.

Su Ping's Golden Crow fire was tricky and untouchable too!

As for head-on clashes, the latter had even more astral power than Six Lives Buddha's two future selves did. It was too extraordinary.

Once he thought about it, Luo Ying suddenly realized that the young man was a monster in every aspect!

"What happened?"

"Luo Ying seems unable to break Su Ping's defense!"

"Is this battle going to end in a tie?"

"It can't be helped. Nobody can beat Luo Ying; he's invincible as long as he doesn't attack. This is going to turn into another impasse!"

Outside—the onlookers were shocked and suspicious after the sudden halt during such a dazzling battle. They wondered if two champions would be crowned.

In such a case...

Many people looked at Six Lives Buddha, and felt that the situation was funny in a weird kind of manner. If that monk didn't lose to Su Ping, wouldn't there be three champions?

Time passed slowly.

Su Ping gazed at Luo Ying. He knew he had to use the trump card after the previous clash, his enemies now intent on hiding, or he wouldn't be able to capture his opponent.

It was impossible for him to restrain his opponent with the Field of Darkness.

The War Angel and the terrifying divine power in his opponent's body could protect that guy from his field, just as it happened to Six Lives Buddha. Even the man's fastest constitution was even able to break through.

He was strong, but such a fact would be useless if he couldn't hit his opponent.

What a shame. I was planning to wait until it was perfect.

Su Ping was slightly regretful, not thinking that it would be the best time to use it.

However, he had to win that battle.

He then walked slowly towards Luo Ying.

Luo Ying narrowed his eyes and gazed at Su Ping without making a move. He was merely ten meters away from the latter; he could break free at any time if he wanted to. Su Ping was too slow to catch up with him.

However, he instinctively felt unsafe, as the sensation given off by Su Ping drew near.

What was the unknown sense of pressure about?

Soon, Luo Ying decided to back away from Su Ping.

The latter raised his eyebrows, but chose not to say anything and to keep a safe distance. There would always be another time, given that his opponent had detected something. *Might as well wait for the next time.*

The battle reached an impasse again.

Several hours passed in the blink of an eye.

Luo Ying saw that Su Ping was standing still. Luo Ying attacked again, as he was no longer able to hold him back.

He was the one who had control over the battle; after all, Su Ping was completely unable to hit back. If he wanted to fight, they would have to fight. If he wanted to retreat, he was able to retreat!

The same applied with Su Ping; he didn't want to see two champions, as it would be pointless!

There could only be one champion!

Chapter 940: Best of the Universe

Su Ping smiled as he watched Luo Ying charging at him.

Game over.

Hum!

The void shook, and a strange force field emerged.

Luo Ying—who was no more than a hundred meters away from Su Ping—suddenly felt an odd feeling of restraint, as if he were enveloped in some sort of plastic membrane.

He immediately realized that it was a trap!

That restrictive feeling intensified before he was able to step back, turning from a soft cloud into an iron hand that grabbed his body tightly!

“Heavenly Fall!”

Right when Luo Ying was immobilized, the most dazzling sword aura illuminated the surrounding space and moved toward Luo Ying.

“This is impossible!”

Luo Ying had goosebumps all over his body; he could not help but roar and activate his constitution. The laws he had grasped also turned into acute, tearing forces, which were spreading from inside his body, attempting to tear the restraining force apart.

He was able to detect that the blocking force was based on laws!

However, those laws were unimaginably powerful!

How could anyone in the Fate State grasp such laws?

These laws are beyond perfect!

Boom!!

Luo Ying’s outburst failed to set him free, while Su Ping’s accelerated attacks had already reached him; he had to resist. The attacks landed and Luo Ying vomited blood, almost losing consciousness. He opened his eyes, and saw nothing but a red canvas.

Blood had burst out of his eyes and covered his entire face.

His wrist had been twisted into a weird angle, while broken bones pierced through his skin.

“You’ve lost.”

Su Ping dashed over at such a fast speed that it seemed as if it were a flash movement. Still, Luo Ying didn’t detect any spatial waves. The whole matter was bizarre.

Heavenly Fall!

Su Ping's sword slashed down again, producing a swift sword aura that felt like a falling planet.

Luo Ying was already overwhelmed as it was; everything had gone beyond his wildest expectations. He had difficulty breathing upon seeing the horrifying sword aura; he summoned all his strength to control his body and break open that strange force field.

However, his body was extremely slow. Even his attempts at resisting had been slowed down.

Bang!!!

A golden sword aura illuminated the area, glowing like a star in the dark and boundless universe.

Luo Ying's previously raised arm was gone!

Half of his body had also been vaporized into nothingness!

"Heavenly Fall!"

Su Ping attacked for the third time!

The attack made all the observers widen their eyes; none of them were able to believe what was going on.

Suddenly, someone spoke in a soft voice, "Stop!" The same entity extended one finger to block Su Ping's sword at the same time.

The destructive and violent sword aura collapsed and disappeared, as if it would have slammed against a mountain.

However, Su Ping didn't detect any counterforce; the whole exchange felt as if going against a cotton-like surface, which absorbed his attack in its entirety.

He then looked at the man who had appeared before him.

It was other than the Ascendant State referee who was in charge of the battlefield.

"You have won."

The referee looked at Su Ping with astonished eyes. He wasn't surprised by the power of Su Ping's attack, but by the small world moving around him!

He was only a Fate State warrior, and yet he had already condensed a small world.

"It's a small world!"

Inside the palace—the other Celestials were similarly surprised.

The scene was downright unbelievable. They were certain of Su Ping's current cultivation, and yet the small world was real.

"To condense a small world while he's still only a Fate State warrior. He's an absolutely rare genius!"

An old man's eyes glittered so brilliantly that nobody else could look straight at him.

A woman nearby also seemed to be overwhelmed by shock. She said, "It's not fully developed yet, but it is an authentic small world. He can become a distinguished Star Lord immediately, as long as he wants to. He'll be invincible in his cultivation category!"

"Well, well. It's been so many years since we've seen a genius of such stature. Shen Huang, you also condensed a small world when you were in the Fate State, right?" another man asked Shen Huang.

The latter was equally shocked by Su Ping's talent. The shock in his eyes was then masked, to answer with an indifferent tone, "I was only lucky."

"Luck is part of your strength. Your disciple is quite lucky too," someone said.

The others looked at Shen Huang with jealousy.

Earlier during the battles—although Su Ping and the others had been outstanding—they only had a slim chance of rising to the Celestial State; to be able to take such a grand step would involve an extreme amount of luck. Otherwise, their best outcome would be to reach the Heavenly Lord level.

However, while there were a lot of fortuitous encounters in the universe, very few could help an expert reach the Celestial ranks.

It had to be noted that all the Heavenly Lords had once been amazing talents, but they were still in the lookout for a chance to break into the Celestial State, despite countless years of searching.

It was a classic example of too many wolves and too little meat.

However, Su Ping had shown exceptional talent; he had at least a 50% chance of rising to the Celestial State!

Even if he was unable to make it, he would become an excellent Heavenly Lord, one with close proximity to the divider before the Celestial breakthrough!

Everybody was whispering inside the palace.

In outer space, however, everybody was silent.

All the Ascendant exerts were wide eyed, as if unable to believe what they had seen.

The Star Lords were also dazed; such a development was truly shocking.

As for the juniors who were there to watch the battle, including the other geniuses, all of them were confused. According to their estimations, Su Ping should have been completely unable to hurt Luo Ying who was too fast in comparison. How could the latter fail that quickly and brutally, ending up with half his body being cut apart?

He would have been killed if not for the Ascendant taking action in time!

"That's... an undeveloped small world!"

In the crowd—Su Jin'er's eyes widened. She was so shocked that she forgot to close her mouth.

In the sky—You Long was also stunned; Su Ping had truly shocked him this time. This well-known senior brother had not achieved a similar feat in the past!

He had been recognized as the best in the universe that year!

Inside the void battlefield—

Su Ping stopped attacking upon seeing the Ascendant intervene.

The referee then turned around and nurtured Luo Ying's body with a gentle yet magnificent divine power, rebuilding his shattered body.

Luo Ying came back to his senses, then realized that he had failed. If not for the timely interruption, it would have been impossible for him to block Su Ping's attack.

He had lost.

His heart was filled with discomfort and confusion.

“Why?”

While letting the Ascendant expert rebuild his body, he stared at Su Ping and asked, “Did you use a small world?”

Su Ping looked at him from the corner of his eye and nodded.

Luo Ying was shocked by the answer, then discarded the anger in his heart; all that was left was bitterness and confusion. He asked, “Can Fate State warriors condense small worlds too?”

Su Ping said, “They're not allowed to?”

Nobody said they couldn't.

Luo Ying was caught off guard by the question, as he couldn't offer an answer.

Didn't this mean that given enough time, Su Ping would be able to gather power of faith, and then brutalize people like them!?

So, that was the true Fate State bottleneck...

Luo Ying felt bitter. He had always thought that he was at the very edge of the bottleneck, and that the things that mattered were battle experience and natural advantages.

After all, they couldn't have worked any harder.

He had barely realized that there was another road beyond!

“I admit defeat,” said Luo Ying after a long time of silence.

Seeing how frustrated he was, Su Ping said without giving it much thought, “Keep it up.”

The man was a rare opponent. He admired people like him; it wasn't easy for them to reach that step.

Luo Ying shivered upon hearing that answer, then looked up at him. However, he saw no mockery in Su Ping's eyes; there was only sincere encouragement and friendliness. He felt warm, so he put on a smile too. “I will. Let's fight again when we break into the Star Lord rank or the Ascendant State.

“Although you've condensed a small world in advance, I believe that mine will be even more powerful!”

His eyes were once again filled with confidence as he talked.

Su Ping smiled. "Let's wait and find out."

The Ascendant expert had already rebuilt Luo Ying's body. Having seen that they didn't turn into enemies because of the contest, he smiled and said, "You are worthy opponents for each other. I hope that you use this chance to chase and strengthen each other; the future of humankind depends on people like you!"

Luo Ying smiled casually, becoming his usual, proud self.

Su Ping remembered the battlefield upon hearing that. He had killed void beasts back then, and the world that the Twilight Deity King had locked with his body; he suddenly felt heavy.

The Ascendant expert mentioned humankind and the future. It was obvious that the situation wasn't very promising for the human race.

The voices in deeper spaces... The monsters that ancient heroes sacrificed themselves to kill... Are they still alive? Su Ping wondered.

At that moment, the Ascendant expert announced the result loudly, "I hereby announce that the champion of this year's Universe Geniuses Contest is Su Ping!"

"He is from Silvy, a galaxy in the Golden Star Zone!"

His voice echoed in space, making the whole area seem unusually quiet.

Everybody started to seethe after a moment of silence.

Su Ping won the last battle!

"Even the fastest constitution of the universe failed!"

"He's so strong. Is this what the king of geniuses should be like?"

"It's true that there's an obvious gap between us and the best. We can only admit defeat!"

Many geniuses remarked in mixed feelings.

Six Lives Buddha smiled bitterly after a long time passed, then mumbled, "I didn't realize that he had hidden such a skill, even going so far as to condense a small world while still being a Fate State warrior. Why did such an idea never occur to me? What a monster..."

"A small world..."

The other top geniuses were finally able to recover from their shock, then they looked at Su Ping in shock.

This meant that even Star Lords would have to try very hard if they wanted to kill Su Ping!

Once the latter gathered the power of faith in his small world, he would be as strong as a Star Lord!

This meant that Su Ping would be safe from then on, unless an Ascendant attacked him!

However, which Ascendant would try to kill him?

Su Ping had a Celestial State backer; killing Su Ping was tantamount to dying soon!

Even the big organizations were unwilling to trade an Ascendant for Su Ping's life! They would not be as reluctant to sacrifice a Star Lord if needed, since there were too many of them in the vast universe.

A sacred beam of light appeared outside of the palace once the official announcement was made. Following that, an illusion with a size as big as a planet emerged.

The illusion was produced by none other than Mu Shen, who smiled and said, "The champion of this Universe Geniuses' Contest is Su Ping from the Planet of Origin. He has condensed a small world, grasped a hundred laws, and mastered an unknown constitution while still being at the Fate State realm. I hereby announce that Su Ping will receive a Tier Seven Identity for Fate State warriors.

"In addition, he will have the privilege to pick three Heaven-level treasures from the Heavenly Star Pavilion.

"He will also be admitted by the Divine Dome Academy, the best academy of the Federation, as a special student!"

His words were spread to every corner of the space; the expert spoke in a friendly and gentle way. Still, everybody's hearts were pounding. They could not help but feel awe.

"An Tier Seven Identity? Oh my god. That's a category exclusive for the Ascendant experts!"

"It's also given to those who have made remarkable achievements!"

"Doesn't this mean that all practitioners below the Ascendant State in the Federation have to lower their heads to him?"

"The Heavenly Star Pavilion is an ancient place where you can find countless treasures; you can find the best items in the universe there. He'll get to pick three of them? That's unbelievable!"

"The prizes for the best are indeed generous, let alone having access to the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm!"

Outside the palace—all the different organizations were in shock. The geniuses who had failed were also surprised and jealous.

Luo Ying licked his lips, tempted by the winner's prizes; but in the end, he could only heave a sigh, knowing he could not beat Su Ping.

Su Ping searched for relevant information via his watch after hearing the announcement.

He had never heard about the prizes.

He was truly surprised after reading the search results. The most precious prize was the privilege of picking three top-tier treasures in the Heavenly Star Pavilion!

The Heaven-level treasures include Ascendant State puppets? He was shocked and delighted, since he would have a chance to pick such treasures.

