

Pet Store 971

Chapter 971: Arrival in the Archean Divinity

Loulan Feng felt relieved. "I'll be waiting for your reply then, Mr. Su."

Suddenly, a voice came from the void. "Mr. Su."

A woman with an alluring body figure slowly walked out of the void. She wore a black dress that fluttered as if it were alive. It was obvious that it wasn't an ordinary piece of clothing; it had to be a treasure with divine power.

"I finally got to meet you, Mr. Su. I just heard that you have just returned from the Celestial Court and are about to travel once again. I wonder if you'd be interested in exploring the Space Tower of the Phil family," said the beautiful woman with a gentle tone.

Loulan Feng's expression changed slightly after seeing her. He said solemnly, "The Space Tower is no longer what it used to be, is it? All the beasts inside have been tamed. Not even the juniors of your own family can get anything by training there; there's no danger to be met while roaming around the place, so their potential remains dormant."

"You're wrong." The woman looked at Loulan Feng in the eye without flinching. "There are billions of beasts in the Space Tower. How can my family tame them all? We've only deployed some sentinels, to prevent our descendants from perishing. Besides, does Alisa Phil, born seven hundred years ago, mean nothing to the Loulan Feng family?"

Mr. Feng's expression changed slightly once again. Alisa was the most distinguished genius of the Phil family, the likes there hadn't been in the past thousand years, and she had already reached the Ascendant State!

She could become a Heavenly Lord someday!

"Mr. Su, the Phil family sincerely invites you to be a guest of our family. You don't need to do anything aside from accepting the title. You'll receive the privileges of a tier-1 guest!" declared the woman.

Loulan Feng's face turned cold after she said that.

Su Ping was slightly surprised. He didn't expect to be as popular. Those two seniors were Ascendants, yet they had traveled a long way to courteously extend an invitation.

Su Ping indirectly turned them down. "I need a few days to consider this."

Loulan Feng immediately said to Su Ping, "Mr. Su Ping, the Loulan family can give you anything the Phil family can. I will also have the material you need sent over immediately."

Su Ping nodded and waved at them. Then, he returned to the store.

Loulan Feng was relieved to see Su Ping accepting the materials. Even if the latter didn't accept his invitation in the end, he would still owe him a favor for the material.

According to his sources, the young man had made it to the Divine Lord Rank in only three years after winning the championship, and he was only a Star State warrior!

It was said that Lord Supreme had barred him from leaving the Celestial Court until he was capable of beating the warrior in tenth place of the Divine Lord Rank!

The fact that Su Ping was back was a telltale that he had already achieved it.

It was truly terrifying...

He wouldn't have gone there and acted obsequiously if Su Ping was merely the best Fate State cultivator of the universe. After all, being an Ascendant State expert himself, he had no need to appease anyone, except for the Celestials. However, his family had immediately sent him over after learning the news.

Reaching the top ten of the Divine Lord Rank while still being a Star State cultivator was even more appalling than becoming champion of the universe in his rank.

It was practically a given that Su Ping would become a Heavenly Lord the moment he reached the Ascendant State!

With any luck, there would be another Celestial State expert in the universe tens of thousands of years later!

The guy's massive potential was the reason why the Loulan family was willing to invest in him. Taking action while Su Ping was still weak would bring huge returns.

The nearby woman had a slight frown when Su Ping turned around and left. But then, she remembered the secrets she had found out and considered his dismissive attitude before Ascendants as understandable. After all, he would be much stronger than them once he reached the Ascendant State.

The Loulan family has one material he needs. I wonder if he'll be attracted to that, thought the woman. She had a sense of foreboding; the Space Tower didn't seem intriguing enough. After all, Su Ping had obtained a lot of resources from his master; the Space Tower wasn't a training place he would need!

Whoosh!

Two more Ascendants showed up when Su Ping returned to his store. Both were surprised to see Loulan Feng and the woman from the Phil family.

"It seems that a lot of people know that he's back," said the woman from the Phil family with a sneer.

Su Ping challenging the Divine Lord Rank was never publicized, too many people had been paying attention to him, given his renown due to winning the Universe Geniuses' Contest three years prior. Elder Yan didn't keep it a secret either; that was why many organizations had learned about the deal between Su Ping and Shen Huang.

Knowing this, all of them were shocked after seeing that Su Ping had returned from the Celestial Court.

Either Shen Huang had made an exception for him, or he had truly met the conditions!

The second possibility was much more likely to be the case—

After all, Celestials would rarely go back on their word.

“It was fated; he would be able to go head to head against Star Lords while being in the Star State when he condensed a small world while still being in the Fate State. I just didn’t expect that it would only take him three years to beat the geniuses on the Divine Lord Rank...” remarked a new visitor with mixed feelings.

He thought very highly of Su Ping. He had been appointed by his family to extend an invitation to Su Ping.

“Please report that the Myan family hopes to meet Mr. Su,” said a slim old man to Yun Mu in a courteous manner.

Yun Mu shook her head and said, “Mr. Su just said to me telepathically that he will train in seclusion for a few days and won’t meet anyone in the meantime.”

She was quite shocked, having trouble finding more words besides her standard answer, as she wasn’t expecting that many Ascendants to be paying Su Ping a visit. She knew that he was a top genius of all humankind, but hadn’t yet grown to his full potential; too many human geniuses in history had died young.

“Train in seclusion?”

Slightly dazed, the old man said helplessly, “I’ve long heard that Mr. Su is a hardworking cultivator. I have now witnessed the fact.”

Another brawny Ascendant expert smiled casually and simply waited for Su Ping, as a way to show his sincerity.

Those experts were hovering in midair; the people waiting in line were so astounded that they didn’t even dare to breathe.

Even though the Ascendants were restraining their auras, their natural pressure still terrified them, making them feel that they had seen gods.

“The Loulan family? The Phil family? I heard that there’s a Loulan family that has many Ascendant State experts and businesses in various star zones. Many popular games and shows are produced by them too. It’s a rich and powerful family!” someone whispered in the crowd.

They were living in a space age. The Loulans were far from their reach, but people knew a thing or two about them from the Internet; the power the family showed on the surface was already shocking enough to them. Many scientists from the family were recurring figures in textbooks of a lot of planets.

Was the visitor related to that terrifying family?

At ground level—both the young man in white and his uncle were terrified by the arrival of those experts. Uncle Wei in particular, trembled and mumbled, “They-They’re all Ascendants!”

The young man next to him narrowed his eyes and asked in shock, “They’re not Star Lords?”

“No, Star Lords do not exude such an aura...” said the brawny relative with a shaky voice.

The young man was dumbfounded.

...

Inside the store—

Su Ping detected the auras of two more Ascendants after closing the door. He was certain about them coming with the purpose of extending an invitation too.

Joanna glanced at Su Ping and said, "You're quite popular right now."

Su Ping nodded. "A man as handsome as me is bound to become popular."

Joanna rolled her eyes, but Tang Ruyan said in a low voice, "How strong are they? I feel that they're as unapproachable as Sister Green."

"All of them are Ascendants," replied Su Ping.

Tang Ruyan was dazed by his response; her mouth was slightly open, too shocked to say anything.

She was no longer an ignorant kid. She was aware of the cultivation hierarchy in the Federation, and knew that the Ascendant State experts were at the very top of the pyramid!

Above them were the Celestials that governed the universe.

After seeing how shocked Tang Ruyan was, Su Ping teased her, "Work harder. You have a chance of rising to the Ascendant State too. No need to envy them."

Shiny-eyed, a hopeful Tang Ruyan asked, "Really?"

"Just work hard," said Su Ping with a smile.

Joanna saw Tang Ruyan's eyes full of yearning and excitement, so she added with indifference, "You can't get anything done with just hard work. Talent matters."

Tang Ruyan pursed her lips and said, "Are you implying that I'm not talented enough?"

"Was I too subtle?"

Tang Ruyan felt upset after such a blunt remark, but she quickly bounced back; it was evident that Su Ping was trying to comfort her. It was indeed true: not everything can be obtained with only hard work.

Su Ping dropped the subject. He merely asked them to get prepared for the trip to the Archean Divinity.

"Are you planning on having your original self do the trip?" Su Ping said to Joanna.

Joanna hesitated for a moment, but then shook her head. "No. My original self is somewhere else; it's not as easy for me to relocate. I'm also going to the Archean Divinity to train my reincarnation. I'll become a True God once I'm fully merged with my original self!"

"Original self? You have an original self?" Tang Ruyan exclaimed; this was new to her.

Green Lady said with a smile, "Every Ascendant can develop a reincarnation. It's not uncommon."

After recovering from the shock, Tang Ruyan pulled a long face and said, "So to speak, I'm the only weakling in this store who has no powerful background, at all?"

“Did you just realize this?”

The three others looked at her with surprise in their eyes.

Tang Ruyan: “...”

...

Once they went to get ready, Su Ping went and cleared his storage to also get prepared. He led the two girls to the lobby and summoned the training panel that they couldn't see.

The top planes were listed at the top.

There weren't many of them; Su Ping saw that the Archean Divinity was in the fifth spot.

Next to the title was the description of the cultivation site. It was a piece of land born in chaos, inhabited by gods, who flourished there and developed the place nonstop. It was home to all gods.

“Ticket fee: 9,000.”

“Confirm your entrance.”

“I confirm.”

“Outstanding Employees detected. Do you wish to apply their earned privileges?”

“Yes.”

A vortex-like black hole appeared soon after, enshrouding and absorbing Su Ping, Joanna and Tang Ruyan.

The nearby Green Lady watched this happen. She had always been curious about how Su Ping would take Joanna to the Archean Divinity; she didn't expect to see that they would directly teleport from the store.

“This store...”

Green Lady suddenly felt terrified. Such teleportation power was not something Su Ping could muster.

Su Ping didn't give her clearance to all rooms in the store, so there were some of them she still was unable to enter.

Their senses were suppressed in the store too, which indicated that a terrifying being was somewhere hidden inside the store.

...

Dry and warm sunlight was shining down.

Su Ping had a cozy and comfortable feeling. The only thing that made him feel slightly weird was that his body was dozens of times heavier. Fortunately, he was very strong and was soon able to overcome such difficulty.

Su Ping opened his eyes and saw a golden world before him.

The sky above was vast and cloudless. Nine brilliant suns were glowing in the sky. To Su Ping's astonishment, those nine suns seemed to be moving slowly!

They were moving at a visible speed!

However, they were moving in different directions. It was a back and forth displacement, as if they were alive!

Facing Su Ping was a magnificent mountain full of trees. There was even a temple there.

Joanna nearby said in a daze, "Is this... the Archean Divinity?"

The girl was soaking in all the things she could see, and tears were flowing out.

"Why are you crying?" Su Ping was dazed by her reaction.

Joanna wiped the corners of her eyes. She wasn't as indifferent as she was in Su Ping's store; her current self was being much more emotional. She shook her head and said, "I don't know. I just feel that this place looks familiar..."

Su Ping realized that she was just feeling weirdly nostalgic since she had returned home.

"The divine power in this place is very intense." Joanna looked around and gradually contained herself. She observed the environment carefully. "This place does feel like the Archean Divinity. But... Why are there nine suns? I remember that six of the nine suns were destroyed in the war long ago..."

Chapter 972: High-Ranked God

"Six of the nine suns were destroyed?"

Both Su Ping and Tang Ruyan were stunned by Joanna's remark. What kind of brutal battle could have shattered some of the suns in the sky?

Su Ping learned from his master that the Archean Divinity was broken, and that the battlefield where he had been tested in the Divine Sea Mysterious Realm was once part of it. The Demigod Burial was also a piece of land from the land of gods. Everything indicated that an unprecedented war had indeed taken place in the past.

"Could it be that the Archean Divinity has been restored to its former glory after such a long time passed?" asked Su Ping in confusion.

Still somewhat dazed, Joanna looked at Su Ping with a dazzling brilliance in her eyes. She said, "Yes, that has to be it. The Superior Gods must have restored the realm; that's the only explanation for the additional suns. They must have recreated the six suns!"

Su Ping nodded. It did seem to be the only explanation.

"What happened here? What did the gods fight against?" asked Su Ping curiously.

That was an ancient secret. Even the Celestial experts were in the dark about it, as they didn't know the whole situation.

While she looked at the nine suns in the sky, Joanna searched her memories and replied, "It's a long story. I had just embarked on my cultivation path when the shocking war broke out. However, the seniors of my family told me that the Heavens were trying to destroy the gods. We fought back to resist!"

"The Heavens?" Su Ping and Tang Ruyan were similarly confused.

Tang Ruyan asked in confusion, "The sky, you mean?"

Joanna glanced at Tang Ruyan and then looked at Su Ping. She then said, "It wasn't one Heaven that attacked the Realm of Gods, but many of them. I heard that they were only following orders."

Su Ping had heard tales of the Heavens from the Golden Crows too. He knew that they were creatures born in the ancient chaos, and were undoubtedly on higher levels when compared to Celestials.

According to Joanna, there was more than one Heaven?

"Even the Heavens have to take orders from someone? What can that creature be?" Su Ping couldn't help but ask.

Joanna gave a slight head shake. "I don't know. I was too weak to learn back then, and I still am. I haven't even become a Superior God yet. My level was too low to be privy to those secrets."

There was frustration in her eyes, but it was soon replaced by hope and determination. She had never been a person who would give up or admit defeat.

Tang Ruyan had no idea what they were talking about, but she didn't ask, knowing that she wasn't qualified to learn more yet. She was only feeling a strong urge to become stronger and catch up with Su Ping so she could talk to them as an equal.

If the Heavens are above the Celestial State and there are more terrifying beings higher above them, I'm still much too weak in comparison. I have to reach the Ascendant State first before I start investigating them... Su Ping thought.

He had indeed grown at a fast speed, but he still wished he could go faster. He wanted to know everything, and find out why the brilliant worlds from the past had fallen.

"OK, let's not get ahead of ourselves. We're here for training!"

Su Ping got himself together and said to the two girls, "You don't need to worry about your safety while you explore the place. There's nothing that can possibly kill you. Even if you die, I would still be able to reverse time and bring you back to life. So, just feel free to go all out. It's your employee privilege; don't waste the opportunity."

Tang Ruyan was shocked. "Reverse time? You can bring us back to life..."

"That is correct."

Joanna, on the other hand, remained calm. She had witnessed Su Ping's ability, or rather, the ability granted by the terrifying being protecting Su Ping, back in the Demigod Burial. She was qualified to enjoy the same privilege.

"I would like to check the Realm of Gods and explore God Emperor City," said Joanna, "I'll become a true immortal if we can find the Ancestral Gods and get the qualification so I can engrave the Ancestral Monument!"

That was her real purpose for coming to the Archean Divinity. She wanted to find the long lost Ancestral Monument.

"The Ancestral Monument?" asked Su Ping curiously.

"Exactly. That's the top treasure of my clan; you can become a true god once you engrave a strand of your vitality. Also, if you continue cultivating, you may later grow and become an Ancestral God, an entity strong enough to face the Heavens!"

"Is that item that amazing?" Su Ping was rather surprised.

Green Lady was a super pill. Any Ascendant State expert could become a Deity King if they ate her, or even a Celestial State expert!

Merely engraving your vitality onto a monument can make you a True God?

Su Ping suddenly felt that True Gods were anything but remarkable.

These worlds must have been splendid in the past... Su Ping could only sigh.

Such a godly treasure was an indicator of the countless Celestials and overall strong members were in the clan. However, their homes had already fallen. Not even the Federation had been able to find the entrance to the Archean Divinity yet. He could only rely on the system to access the place...

Once again, Su Ping was awed by the power of the system.

"Only the Gods of Rules can use the Ancestral Monument. You're still too weak at the moment. Maybe you can ask your backer to help you find a chance when you rise to my original self's level," Joanna said to Su Ping.

She wasn't at all worried about Su Ping's future. Considering the terrifying backer Su Ping had, his future had probably been planned out a long time before.

"Okay." Su Ping nodded in excitement.

He would be able to find the treasure, even if he had to turn the place upside down, as long as the artifact remained in the Archean Divinity.

"There seems to be a settlement of gods up ahead. Let's go there and ask for directions. Maybe you know the name of the place," said Su Ping.

Joanna nodded.

Tang Ruyan had already given up; she followed them and listened to Su Ping's arrangements.

"I'm so tired!"

Tang Ruyan was already sweating and blushing as if she were suffering from a heavy cold, soon after they started rushing. Even her eyes had lost focus.

Su Ping didn't stop. He said, "The local environment may be a little bit too much for you. Try to adapt to it; you'll become stronger when you do. Remember to absorb the divine power around you; it will polish and strengthen your body."

Tang Ruyan didn't realize that the training had already begun. She gritted her teeth and struggled on after seeing how casual Su Ping and Tang Ruyan were.

She almost passed out, since she became exhausted as they made their way. The alluring thought of giving up recurred in her head, but she gritted her teeth and held on.

She knew that the only thing she could do was to hold on!

Just like Su Ping mentioned, she had to try her best.

As opposed to Su Ping and Joanna, she was an untalented practitioner that also lacked a powerful background. She had nothing, except for her diligence.

She was unable to either understand or interject during Su Ping and Joanna's conversation. She hated the feeling of being left out, more than the tiredness.

Tang Ruyan finally passed out due to exhaustion soon after.

Su Ping didn't hesitate to throw a punch and tear her body apart. A confused Tang Ruyan was resurrected shortly after. She asked, "Did I pass out just now? Odd. Why is my body full of strength?"

"As I said, you don't need to worry about anything. I'll reverse time and bring you back to life if you can't endure any longer. Just hold on," said Su Ping.

Tang Ruyan nodded quickly. She became more confident after feeling the abundant strength in her body.

Joanna glanced at Su Ping. She already knew that Tang Ruyan could be revived, but it was still an odd practice, seeing Su Ping kill her that quickly.

Ten minutes later—

Tang Ruyan passed out in sweat again; Su Ping then killed her again in order to revive her.

At the same time—Su Ping summoned his pets. The divine power in the Archean Divinity was so dense that they could become stronger just by being present.

"We're almost there."

They were getting closer to the mountain they had seen in the distance. All the trees growing from it were hundreds of meters high, while the buildings were primitive, yet beautiful in their own way. There were also some gigantic stone pillars with beautifully engraved images.

Suddenly, a roar burst out. "??Stop!?"

The guy was shouting in the tongue of the ancient gods.

Fortunately, Joanna was one of them, and Su Ping had learned some of their dialect during his visits to the Demigod Burial.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two strangers in glowing golden armor dashed over. Both of them were gods. Their shining hair was purely golden, and the huge amount of divine power in their bodies suggested that their bloodlines were tremendously pure!

They glanced at the invaders, then gazed at Joanna for a while. They became less aggressive once they saw her, but they still said with a solemn tone, "This is the Rain Clan's territory. Where are you from? Why did you bring your slaves here? Do you not know the rules?"

They were talking to Joanna. Both Su Ping and Tang Ruyan were being considered as Joanna's slaves.

After all, any other lifeforms were slaves to the gods.

Even the powerful dragons were slaves too. That was an idea that was deeply etched in their blood. All lives were inferior and stupid in their eyes, except for them; it would be an honor to be a god's slave.

"Do you know them?"

Su Ping ignored them. He could resurrect an infinite number of times with the abundant energy in that plane. He went and disrespected them as much as they disrespected him.

"The Rain Clan..."

There was a slight change in Joanna's expression, and she stepped back, somehow unconsciously about to bow and pay her respects.

Hierarchy amongst gods was even more important than that of dragons. The Rain Clan had a high rank!

Joanna had been born to a middle-ranked clan; that was the reason why she had only become a God of Rules in the Demigod Burial.

The members of high-ranked clans would generally have greater talent, and could easily become Gods of Rules. The outstanding ones could become Superior Gods.

Some of their descendants were even believed to be capable of cultivating all the way to become Ancestral Gods!

Seeing Joanna's gesture, Su Ping grabbed her shoulder and asked, frowning, "What are you doing?"

Given Su Ping's casual and disrespectful attitude, Joanna quickly said, "The Rain Clan is a high-ranked clan. It's very famous among the gods. It would indeed be rude for us to come unannounced..."

"A high-ranked clan?" Su Ping was slightly surprised, but not more than that. "We're just visiting. What's the big deal? We can simply leave if they don't want to see us."

"Huh?"

The two gods were shocked to see Su Ping's behavior. Then, they looked at Joanna with fury and contempt. "You are a god, yet you don't draw a line between you and the slaves. You're a humiliation to us all and should be killed!"

The god on the right side simply raised his hand and gathered a spear as they talked, swinging it towards Joanna. He was obviously going to destroy her as well as Su Ping.

“We don’t...” Joanna tried to explain. She gazed at the swinging spear and forgot to resist for a moment.

Bang!

An explosion paired with a furious roar burst out; it was so deafening that it seemed to have made the impossibly high and magnificent mountain quake, whose top couldn’t even be seen.

Blood splashed; Su Ping stood in front to protect Joanna. He had already merged with the Little Skeleton and the Dark Dragon Hound, unleashing his maximum strength to block the aggressive attack.

“Huh?”

The god was shocked to see that his attack had been blocked. He could easily tell that Su Ping was a level weaker than himself.

Furthermore, he was a human slave!

Even slaves at his level would be no match for him. And yet, his attack had been blocked by Su Ping!

“Bloody bastard!”

The god became furious, feeling that he had been affronted. His body glowed, and a majestic halo appeared behind his back. Then, he swung his spear and performed another attack.

The surrounding air was absorbed, and a force that could shatter a world was concentrated on the spear to then smash down.

Joanna stared at the scene with a pale face, as if having forgotten how to resist.

Su Ping noticed how Joanna was beside herself, so he pushed her with a heavy hand and roared, “What are you doing? There’s no need for etiquette if they’re trying to kill you!”

Joanna trembled and looked back. Then, she saw Su Ping roaring and fighting back with a red sword in his hand. The sword and the spear collided with a brutal force colored in a red and golden light. The next moment, the god’s arm was broken, and he was flung back.

Chapter 973: Battle

“What?!”

The other handsome god was completely shocked. He didn’t help his companion, because he thought it was demeaning for them to kill a mere slave together.

However, out of all expectation, his companion was flung back by the slave!

How was it possible?

They were superior gods. How could enslaved human beings compare to them?

“Damn it!”

The god was flung a hundred meters back before he finally regained balance. His face was red; his blood was roiling and his arm was trembling because of Su Ping's attack. It was an insufferable humiliation for him!

Why had a mere human been bold enough to do that?

"Die! You must die!" the god roared. The illusion behind his back suddenly merged with his body. Dazzling golden light radiated from his body in such a way that he looked like the Sun. He roared and charged with his spear again, freezing time and space.

However, right when time and space had been frozen, an even more dazzling red light broke the consolidated picture and shined on the god's face. The glowing golden light then ebbed like a tide, and a golden wound appeared on the god's handsome face.

His eyes widened as he found it impossible to believe.

He didn't believe that Su Ping could hurt him, or that he would even dare to!

This human being is just a slave! Such insubordination is enough to have his whole family executed!

The handsome god nearby changed his expression too and said coldly, "How bold of you!"

Still holding his sword, Su Ping gazed at them coldly and said, "Are all gods like you?"

"You're asking to be killed!" the handsome god roared and suddenly took action. A majestic illusion appeared behind his back and melded with his body. He then joined his companion and attacked Su Ping.

They had to kill the slave in order to defend their honor.

Su Ping's eyes turned cold. Joanna was still stunned, so he knew he couldn't count on her help. He asked Tang Ruyan to step back, as the battle's aftershocks would be enough to kill her.

"I've killed a lot of beasts before, but I haven't executed a god yet. I'm going to become a god slayer today!" Thirst for blood arose in his eyes. His Blood Cloud Sword was an ancient demonic sword that could trigger the brutality in his heart. Its former master had been corrupted, eventually turning into a devil because of it.

In addition, the sword could affect and influence its opponent.

Boom!

The sword emitted a torrent of bloody air that had accumulated for thousands of years. Its coldness was enough to trap the weak-minded in all kinds of illusions. At the moment, the two gods were apparently affected, although the influence was only mild.

Even so, a mild influence was enough to change the outcome of such a high level battle .

"Die!!"

Su Ping didn't hesitate to attack; he would not go easy on an opponent who was already determined to kill him.

What about the consequences? He would have been worried if he were in the outside world, but he was fearless when acting in the cultivation sites!

Boom!

The Field of Darkness and the power of his small world were spread out. At the same time, the sword—shrouded in the power of faith—was moved to slash at the two gods.

The golden light from the two gods was soon drowned in Su Ping's field. Still, a golden light burst out when he approached them, driving the darkness away. The handsome god, ablaze with divine power, roared, "Die!"

His spear, filled with aggressive power, reached Su Ping in the blink of an eye—

But Su Ping reacted even faster. Red light flashed in his hand, and he activated the first Astral Painting, summoning power to knock the spear away. Then, he stabbed faster than the two gods could react, and caused a huge wound on the handsome god's chest. Blood gushed out.

The other god trembled with fury after seeing that. He charged at Su Ping like a golden eagle.

Su Ping flashed and covered his body with the power of the Eight Nine Astral Painting. His moves as unpredictable as a ghost's, he dashed to the god's back and punched him; his brutal strength instantly cracked the god's bones. Both high beings were heavily wounded as they fell off the mountain.

It was exactly at that moment when a furious roar echoed through the world. "Who's bold enough to cause trouble in the Rain Clan?"

The two falling gods were raised by a shining cloud. At the same time, a general in armor appeared in the void with a long spear in his hand; he gazed at Su Ping and Joanna coldly.

Joanna trembled, unconsciously lowering her head.

Su Ping, however, stepped up and looked back at him with his head held high. "Who's causing trouble? They attacked us first. I was only fighting back!"

"Shut up!" the general suddenly roared, "You're just an inferior species. You don't get to talk!"

Su Ping narrowed his eyes, but didn't bother to say anything else.

The general looked back at the two wounded gods and became even more grave. While healing them with divine power, he said, "You've hurt two guards of the Rain Clan. Tell me which clan you're from. How bold of you!"

He was speaking to Joanna, with killing intent in his eyes, as if he was going to punish not just Joanna but also her whole clan!

Being of high-rank, the Rain Clan was second to none except the Ancestral Gods. Not even the other high-ranked clans would dare to be as disrespectful, unless they were among their enemies.

However, enemies would never come alone, otherwise it would be tantamount to suicide.

Joanna turned pale. She naturally heard what the god implied; her entire clan would face the Rain Clan's retaliation if she were to reveal the name. Gods weren't the peaceful sort, but they did have a strict system. The high-ranked regarded the low-ranked as weeds, and the low-ranked regarded other species as slaves. Prejudice was deep in their bones.

"I, I..."

Joanna's voice trembled. She knew that the Rain Clan was a high-ranked clan with Ancestral Gods. Even though her original self was a God of Rules, she couldn't compare to them, at all.

"What are you scared of?"

Seeing how terrified and meek Joanna was—immensely different from her usual self—Su Ping frowned and said, "I'll prop up the sky for you if it falls. Besides, you can't be killed here. No matter who he is, we don't need to reason with him if he acts this stubbornly!"

Slightly dazed, Joanna looked at Su Ping and then the general. Her eyes were skittish, as she was having trouble making up her mind.

"Your original self is an Ascendant. Those two gods couldn't even beat me. Why did you allow them to yell at you? I'm going to find out what they can possibly do to us!"

Su Ping sneered and said to the general, "You call me an inferior species. I wonder why you're so confident and arrogant; you're nothing remarkable. Two of you are of a higher realm than mine and attacked me together, but failed. What do you think you're capable of?"

His words were delivered with sarcasm, contempt written all over his face.

His attitude made the general's expression freeze. He shifted her eyes from Joanna to Su Ping, then expressed his indifference as he softly said, "Die!"

Unimaginable power suddenly rose from all directions like an invisible hand that contained the law of destruction. It was going to squeeze Su Ping.

Su Ping sensed the danger; he then roared and unleashed all his strength. He slashed at his opponent after unfolding his small world and his field, trying to cut apart the surrounding power.

His attack caused a crack, and he instantly vanished through the opening. He then reappeared hundreds of meters away with blood on his lips, but he gazed at his opponent aggressively and laughed. "Is this the best you can do? Pfft!"

The general narrowed his eyes. The indifference in his eyes was gone; he was rather shocked actually. He was able to sense that Su Ping was a level lower than his, while he was already at the peak of his level; dealing with that human should have been as easy as killing an ant.

However, he failed to do that!

The ant had squeezed through his fingers and escaped!

His eyes turned grim, and he said, "Is this why you're so arrogant? Unfortunately, you're too stupid. A worthless bug like you should have never come here!"

The illusion of a god appeared behind his back again, as he attacked a second time.

Su Ping immediately sensed that the surrounding power was ten times greater. He could vaguely see another world, which was moving towards him, crushing him!

Is this the illusion of a world?

Su Ping was aware of the Star Lords' means of attack. Some attacked with their small worlds, and some attacked with projections of their small worlds.

It would be very hard to repair small worlds if they were broken in battle. Using projections of their small worlds was much safer.

Of course, those projections would be much weaker too.

Su Ping was incensed by his opponent's arrogance; he then unleashed his own small world.

Bang!

An unstoppable power fell on top of him. Su Ping immediately detected that his small world was being squished. Soon after, he lost control of his own body. In the end, that terrifying power rolled back, creating a force field which confined Su Ping's body.

The nearby Joanna could not help but roar, "No!"

Bang!

Su Ping's body exploded, turning into a bloody pulp the moment she said that.

Farther in the distance—Tang Ruyan's eyes widened with disbelief when she saw that gory scene happening. *Is Su Ping dead?*

No, no way!

Tang Ruyan was stunned for two seconds. Then, her eyes turned bloodshot. She let out a devastating roar and then charged at the general.

She had completely forgotten that the general was a god. She only knew that Su Ping was dead. *He cannot die!*

Bang!

Tang Ruyan's body exploded dozens of meters away. The general didn't even bother to look at her, because killing her was easier than breathing for him.

But then, the recently blown up Su Ping reappeared. He had seen how Tang Ruyan had died for him a moment earlier. Even though they could resurrect infinitely in that plane, he was still deeply touched when he saw her crying for him. He felt that there were flames burning in his heart.

"Let's see if the gods can continue acting arrogantly once your proud heads lie underneath my feet!" Su Ping chuckled and said.

Horrifying flames leaped from his back, then fluttered over his body, making the overall temperature rise. He then stepped up; his pupils were sharpened, turning into vertical slits, while his body also changed. Wings of flames behind his back made him look like a fiery bird.

“Huh?”

The general and the two gods were shocked.

They didn’t expect that Su Ping could be revived. Even stranger, Su Ping’s aura was somewhat familiar to them.

It was an honorable and distant aura that belonged to the mythical creatures from the age of chaos!

The only things that would scare the gods were those entities.

Gods were an ancient species in their own right, but some of the mythical creatures had a longer history than gods did.

Of course, there would be weaker beings among them, which would not deserve much attention.

However, Su Ping was releasing the aura of a strong mythical creature, which was very likely one of the Golden Crows!

“You’re a descendant of the God Warriors? That’s impossible. How can the bloodline of the God Warriors appear in such an inferior species?” the general mumbled in shock.

Su Ping’s hands, which had turned into claws, were already slashing at the general with sword tightly gripped.

Roused by Su Ping’s killing intent, the general came back to himself and said coldly, “Even Golden Crow descendants shall be executed for disgracing the Rain Clan!”

He projected his world, aiming to crush Su Ping again.

Su Ping spouted golden flames, and unleashed his power like the sun. He managed to shatter the small world’s projection before his body was squished, and then sent a flame to the general.

Right after dying, Su Ping chose to resurrect himself—as well as the Little Skeleton and the Dark Dragon Hound—on the spot. He quickly merged with them again and charged at his opponent.

“Again?”

The general was obviously stunned. He was certain about having killed the young human. *Is it a resurrection skill like the one used by phoenixes? But can they even do it consecutively?*

Besides, Golden Crows had different abilities, even if both species were birds.

“Go to hell!”

The general didn’t believe it. He attacked again and extinguished the flame with the power of faith.

Bang!

Su Ping waved his sword and sliced the world's projection apart. He wasn't crushed this time. After two failures, Su Ping had managed to locate the projection's weakness, as well as the trick to unleash all his strength. His sword aura popped the projection like a needle. Then, he charged at the general with brutal abandon.

Chapter 974: Perception

"You're asking to be killed!"

The general was shocked to see that his world projection had been penetrated. It was an insult for him to have such a hard time beating an inferior species!

"Thousand Gods Slaying Shadows!"

The general stabbed with his spear, which was wrapped in laws and the power of faith. The illusions produced by the spear suddenly filled up the sky. But then, all those illusions were combined into one spear, which came piercing down from the clouds with an unstoppable momentum!

Bang!

Su Ping was unable to dodge in time, and was squarely hit. His body exploded in an instant.

"No!" Tang Ruyan could not help but exclaim. Her face was pale, even though she had just seen him die a moment earlier.

The next moment, she heard Su Ping's voice again as he reappeared, "Don't worry about me."

While he merged with the Little Skeleton and the Dark Dragon Hound, he then said to Tang Ruyan, "Just like I said, we're immortal here. Just consider them as training dummies for us."

Tang Ruyan was stunned. Su Ping had already told her about this before making the trip; she didn't know he meant it.

However, everything was beyond belief, and the enemies felt so real!

Joanna's mind also clicked; she then understood that she could also be resurrected after seeing Su Ping and Tang Ruyan come back to life again and again.

However... They were facing members of the Rain Clan!

It was a high-ranked clan with influence in the entire Realm of Gods!

The fear and awe that were deeply etched in her blood were too hard to overcome. There were Ancestral Gods in that clan—those were the top beings in the Realm of Gods!

Resistance and disrespect would bring about their obliteration!

Bang!

While Joanna's expression contorted, Su Ping's body exploded again. The general found an opportunity to kill him when he was talking to Tang Ruyan.

Su Ping was resurrected once more. He gazed at the general coldly; the latter was only a Star Lord, but he was even more horrifying than the Star Lords he had fought on the Divine Lord Rank's simulations!

He has more power of faith than I do. His small world had been perfected more than mine. He's also mastered the four supreme laws... Su Ping realized that his opponent was stronger than him in every aspect, and that he was able to beat him while merely using a projection of his small world.

But...

It wasn't like he didn't stand a single chance of winning!

There was a 0.01% chance that he could win!

I can be stronger than him for an instant if I unleash all my strength in one go! Su Ping thought.

He had too much power in his body; there was a tremendous amount of astral power, faith power, and many laws. Mobilizing all his power used to require a lot of time. However, his recent battles had enlightened him; he now had a way to burst out with all his power.

However, the consequence of such a method was indeed obvious. Such a burden on his body would tear his astral ocean to pieces.

Still, he was in a cultivation site.

He could come back to life as long as he had enough energy points. That was his greatest advantage.

OK. Let's see what the Star Lord gods are capable of! Su Ping roared to himself and gazed at the general with passion in his eyes.

His body flashed forward as he unleashed the power of all five Astral Paintings; their power was combined. In parallel, the astral power in his cells was being extracted at such a fast speed that his astral ocean was almost torn apart. His skin was too set ablaze with blue flames; even his hair was rising due to the outburst.

The spear arrived again at that moment. Su Ping raised his head and slashed brutally.

He then unleashed all his power!

Bang!!

The red demonic sword released the power of a nuclear explosion, but the spear was even more powerful. Su Ping trembled and was flung back. The wind around him was as hard as a wall; his body almost fell apart when he slammed against it.

"You should have known better!"

The general seemed less scornful and more solemn as he looked at the falling and collapsing man. It was almost unbelievable, for a slave of a lower cultivation realm to push him that far.

It would have been acceptable if Su Ping were a god, but he was only a human being...

Su Ping was resurrected again, and continued charging at him from down below.

“Damn it!”

The general’s expression had a slight change. He was still unable to kill that guy.

He had seen how the man’s life aura was snuffed out. *How can he resurrect over and over?*

“Time Reversal!” the general roared; time and space around him quickly rolled back. Su Ping, who was rising from down below, fell back beyond his control. He immediately tried to balance himself with the power of time and space, but his opponent was much stronger, and he was pulled back bit by bit.

Soon after, Su Ping fell back to the place where his body had been torn apart.

Time was still being rolled back. The next moment, another Su Ping was resurrected from the broken body!

The scene shocked the general; it gave him goosebumps.

Su Ping was also a bit stunned by such a scene.

It was then that he also realized that his opponent had reversed the flow of time to send him back to his former dead status!

However, his resurrection wasn’t reversed!

Su Ping had originally thought that the system resurrected him by reversing the flow of time. Was it not the case?

Su Ping became relaxed soon after.

All Star Lords were able to reverse the flow of time. All the cultivation sites would have been veritable dangerous lands to him if the system’s resurrection feature could be tampered with as easily!

No longer in a rush to fight, Su Ping quickly asked in his heart, “System, what’s going on?”

He might get killed at any time, but he didn’t consider it a big deal. He could always resurrect himself by spending some energy points.

“There are many things going on. Be more specific,” said the system with a lazy tone.

Su Ping was lost for words. “You know what I mean!”

“What’s to be surprised at? I have indeed resurrected you by reversing the flow of time. However, the time and space I change isn’t the same as those which your opponent changes,” said the system casually, “In plainer terms, I cut the time and space where you’re resurrected from the real world. So, no matter how they reverse time in the outside world, the missing piece cannot be rolled back, unless your opponent is stronger than me, but that’s impossible.”

Su Ping was still a bit puzzled, yet he finally understood something by the time he heard the last sentence. To put it simply, there was nothing to fear should an enemy return him to a dead status.

This is me from a moment earlier...

At that moment—Su Ping saw himself as he was resurrected after the reverse of time. That other self was looking back at him. Their eyes met; Su Ping was then certain that it was really him.

Two instances of me exist at the same time. He and I are not in the same time and space, but we seem to be in the same place. He is me from the past, and I am me in the present. Is this how the Six Lives Buddha summons his future selves? Su Ping suddenly gained a deeper understanding of the time and space path.

He tried entering another time and space in the future, to summon a Star Lord version of himself.

Su Ping detected resistance soon after.

He had already found it impossible to go on after only going forward three months to find his future self. His expertise on time and space wasn't good enough yet.

Su Ping detected that he would still be in the Star State three months after.

It seems that I can only summon my future self in the Star State. I can't summon anything ahead of that with my current understanding of the law of time, unless I gather the sixth Astral Painting. The Pendulum Astral Painting should be able to perfect my path of time. Not even this general would know the path of time better than me by then! Su Ping thought.

Unfortunately, he was still unable to condense the Pendulum Astral Painting at the moment.

He stopped trying after learning the way to summon his future self and seeing his current limitations. He returned to the old method—he had to burst out all his strength in order to defeat the general.

He had already tried it earlier, but he wasn't fast enough!

It's too hard to concentrate all my astral power on the Blood Cloud Sword. My hand is the fastest. My other body parts have to transmit the power as fast as my hand does.

Su Ping frowned as he considered the paradox. His astral power was stored in all of his body parts. The hand was closest to the sword and would be the fastest to deliver the power. The feet, on the other hand, were the farthest, and could be 0.0001 seconds slower when delivering the power.

The general stopped reversing the flow of time while Su Ping pondered over his options. The Su Ping from the past who had just manifested then collapsed and disappeared. He simply stared at the current Su Ping without a word.

Su Ping understood himself. Nothing needed to be said. The Su Ping in the past trusted the Su Ping in the present, and believed that he could beat his opponent!

“Why can he come back to life?”

The general was at a loss. The two gods next to him were equally stunned.

They had thought that Su Ping had been revived by reversing the flow of time, but that was not the case.

What else could bring him back to life again and again?

Even though they were knowledgeable, high-ranked gods, they had never seen anything as weird as that!

“Even if he reversed the flow of time, he was already dead earlier on, and it would be impossible for him to bring himself back to life, unless someone else did it for him, but that’s impossible...” mumbled the general. He felt that he was onto something, although he was still baffled by the implications.

He gradually came back to himself. He stared at Su Ping with a weird brilliance in his eyes. “However you managed to do this, the Major God will find out soon!”

“Ant, come here!” he roared, and a splendid world reappeared around him. This time, he made use of the real world. A brilliant, golden world appeared; it had mountains and rivers which contained a vast amount of power. They were about to surround and confine Su Ping.

Su Ping woke up from his absentminded state and realized his opponent’s intention. He hated being imprisoned the most while visiting cultivation sites, particularly because it would be a huge waste of time.

“Get lost!!” Su Ping roared and unleashed his power again. This time, he made use of the Eight Nine Astral Painting and changed his body structure. The two astral oceans were transferred to the hand holding the sword, and the veins transmitting astral power were broadened too.

His body became as straight and smooth as a chute.

Such an arrangement would enable a high efficiency output of the astral power stored in his cells.

The consequences were also obvious. His organs, such as his eyes and nose, would malfunction for a moment.

However, Su Ping didn’t mind such a brief malfunction when he was concentrating his strength.

Bang!!

A glowing, blue sword aura burst out. The power of laws and faith, boosted by a tremendous amount of astral power, exploded like a nuclear bomb and illuminated the entire world.

Boom!!

The organs inside Su Ping’s body were restored after unleashing the power, allowing him to hear the deafening explosion and see the hole he had created in the general’s world. The power surrounding him now had an opening.

Su Ping quickly flashed and escaped from the world, before he detonated his body.

Bang!

His body exploded. The next moment, he was resurrected on the spot in his best status.

The method was good, but I failed to concentrate all my strength. I only gathered 70% of it!

Su Ping remembered his previous attack after the resurrection. He was fascinated by the horrifying outburst, and considered it as a newly created move; coming up with a name for it would come later.

I wonder what will happen if I perform the Heavenly Fall Sword while in that mode. Su Ping pondered.

The Heavenly Fall Sword was a technique that focused the power of the sword, giving it a boost with multiple laws. Su Ping was excited by the idea of combining the new outburst trick with the Heavenly Fall Sword, and instantly gave it a try.

The general roared in shock and disbelief when Su Ping unleashed those exuberant flames of astral power. He could not believe that his world had been shattered by that human!

He had just killed him with the projection of his world moments earlier!

But then his real world was penetrated by Su Ping!

“He’s just a Celestial God. How can he be that strong? It’s impossible! Absolutely impossible!” The general could not believe that he was fighting against a being with a lower realm.

The other two gods were just as appalled; they both found the scene surreal.

Chapter 975: The Prince

Bang!

Su Ping’s sword sliced the general’s world in two, causing an even greater opening. However, he was completely exhausted after the attack and was unable to follow through.

This isn’t good enough to kill him. I should be able to execute him from inside his small world if I summon all my power in one go!”

Su Ping’s eyes were filled with killing intent, but his heart was extremely calm. Just like a cold predator, he considered how to better use his strength.

It has to be an instantaneous outburst, more intense than a volcanic eruption!

Fire... Lightning...

Su Ping pondered about laws with explosive outbursts, hoping to find an inspiration to unleash his power even faster.

The general took this chance to mercilessly kill him again, as Su Ping was already exhausted. He was hoping to kill him for good this time.

However, the killing only interrupted Su Ping’s train of thought for a moment. He continued experimenting after his resurrection. While adjusting his bodily structure, he changed the distribution of his cells from a pillar to a python, turning it into a smooth, streamlined shape.

Bang!!

Su Ping slashed forward again. The sword’s scorching aura was even dazzling to the general.

This time, Su Ping unleashed eighty percent of his strength!

A hole hundreds of meters wide was caused on the general’s small world. The sword aura continued unimpeded towards the general’s body. He dodged it in time, but he still broke into a cold sweat.

This human’s sword technique is becoming even more horrifying!

Is he growing?

Su Ping has been killed by the projection of his small world earlier on, while he currently was already able to cut apart the real small world at the moment. His growth was shocking!

Still not enough!

If I unleash all my astral power right where it's stored, will I be able to release all of it at the same time?

Su Ping tried again but failed; it was equal to a self-explosion. Furthermore, his power blasted all over the place; it wasn't nearly as concentrated as the previous seventy-percent concentration round.

If only my control of my body were higher. I'm still too weak, Su Ping thought.

Others would probably think that he was a weirdo if they knew what he was thinking. How could anyone possibly gain control of a self-explosion blast?

Seeing that the human's strength was increasing, the general came to the awful realization that he had become Su Ping's sparring partner. He instantly shouted at his companions, "Hurry and summon the others. Someone is causing trouble!"

The other two gods were also shocked and infuriated by such development. They would only be instantly defeated if the general was unable to deal with the human. Neither of them was confident of resisting Su Ping's horrifying sword technique. *Where is this monstrous human from?*

The general held Su Ping back with his small world after the two gods left, and tried his best to deal with the young man.

He would stab Su Ping every time he was resurrected. His small world had been damaged again and again, and he had to repair it with his own energy; he was already tired.

Damn it, why can't he be killed?

The general was frustrated and angry.

Soon after, dozens of gods flew over. They were all astonished by what they saw, as they could easily tell that their captain was fighting a human being.

"What's going on here? A human being has dared to come to the mighty Rain Clan?"

"Is that human being fighting our captain? Are my eyes deceiving me? I didn't drink yesterday!"

"??"

While all of them were shocked by the sight, the general roared, "Set the formation!"

Everyone finally took action. They quickly established a gigantic formation, which emitted a horrifying and pure divine power. The general then flashed to the center of the formation; all the divine power he had consumed was replenished.

While emanating a dazzling golden brilliance, he waved his spear and roared, "Kill them!"

Boom!!

The illusion of the general appeared in the sky; the thousands of meters tall figure slashed down with the spear.

The pressure of the spear alone had made Su Ping's pores collapse, making him bleed hard. Even so, he didn't step back, at all. Instead, his eyes were filled with determination.

Bang!!

Su Ping rose to the sky and collided with the spear; he was completely obliterated in an instant.

Tang Ruyan and Joanna also fell with such an attack. Joanna didn't even try to resist, simply watching how the spear destroyed her.

Tang Ruyan had indeed raised her hands to resist, but she was too weak; resistance was futile.

Whoosh!

Su Ping revived yet again; he also resurrected Joanna and Tang Ruyan. He then stared at Joanna who was still stunned, and yelled, "Why aren't you fighting? What are you scared of?"

Joanna shivered and turned her head. She looked at him with desperation in her eyes.

"You're not yourself anymore!" Su Ping roared.

Joanna bit her lips but still didn't offer a reply.

Su Ping's resurrections shocked the gods who had just arrived. *Our formation is cutting time and space apart, yet these invaders can still be resurrected?*

"Damn it!"

The general's exasperation grew. He thought that the formation's ultimate power would be enough to completely kill Su Ping, but the guy's resurrection method was too advanced.

His actions were solemn at the moment. This time, he was planning on suppressing and capturing Su Ping, to later hand him over to the bigshots of his clan. *Such a weird human is worth studying.*

Su Ping looked at the general's small world confining him. This time, it was as suffocating as a deep sea thanks to the formation's enhancement. He found it hard to move, and then saw the general's intent in his eyes.

Su Ping thought of retreating. *Should I kill myself and resurrect in a random place?*

However, he dropped the idea when he looked at the utterly desperate Joanna, and the gods in the formation, who were surprised yet disdainful.

"Anna," said Su Ping.

While being slightly stunned, Joanna looked at him.

"Look at the high-ranked gods that you revere."

Su Ping said slowly and calmly, "Their level is higher than ours, yet they cannot defeat us without a formation. Do you think they'd be a match for us if we were at their level?"

Joanna felt frustrated upon realizing Su Ping's intention; those gods were indeed weaker than him in the Star State.

However, she wasn't scared of those people, but the Ancestral Gods backing the Rain Clan!

Ancestral Gods were the strongest beings in the world. They were worshiped by all as true gods!

"You can also become a high-ranked god as long as you want to," said Su Ping again.

Joanna smiled bitterly. Su Ping didn't seem to understand the horror of the high-ranked gods. All gods wanted to be like them, but how many had succeeded?

Boom!

The general's small world pressed closer, soon wreathing the three invaders. The laws of time and space were strengthened inside the small world to imprison them.

The general was somehow relieved after they were caught. He immediately said, "Send them to the dungeon with me!"

All the other gods nodded. One of them asked curiously, "Captain, who are they? A god came to cause trouble with two human slaves? Why can't they be killed?"

"Indeed. The three of them are pathetically weak, and yet we still can't finish them off without the formation. It's definitely weird!"

All the gods were discussing.

The general remained cold and silent inside the formation; that was the only way he could keep Su Ping imprisoned. He was worried that Su Ping could break free if he merely used his own strength.

Everyone returned to the mountain.

Right when they arrived at the foot of the Rain Clan's mountain, someone asked in surprise, "What are you doing?"

The general and all the other gods were shocked to see that person. All of them lowered their heads respectfully. The general replied, "Your Highness, we're escorting outlaws that have trespassed the Rain Clan's territory."

"You are?"

It was a young guy wearing a golden robe with frost patterns. His eyes were like stars, clear and sharp. There was a mysterious old person next to him.

"A god and two weak human slaves dared to trespass the Rain Clan's territory?" asked the young man in surprise, "Even if they have, you could have finished them off alone. Why bother with the huge formation?"

The general replied respectfully, "Your Highness, those three outlaws are very weird. They resurrect again and again no matter how I kill them. So, I had to capture them first."

The general didn't want to explain why he had to capture them with a formation. After all, it was rather humiliating for the leader of all guards to be unable to suppress a human slave, whose level was in fact much lower.

"They can't be killed?"

The young man was obviously intrigued, but the old man next to him remained peaceful, unsurprised by what the general said.

"Is their expertise in time and space better than yours?" asked the young man curiously.

He could tell that the invading trio was weak, one of the girls being shockingly so. The only reason behind their constant resurrections was that their time and space attainments were better than the guards'.

Still, that conjecture was rather unbelievable.

After all, guards were considered elites in the Rain Clan. The invader's lower realms but better control of time and space was an indication of abundant talent!

"I don't think it's about time and space..." The general ventured to answer.

The young man raised his eyebrows. While he saw that the general was probably still confused, he said, "Release them. Let me check this out."

The general hesitated for a moment, but then nodded respectfully. The prince could easily suppress the invaders, even if they couldn't be killed.

Once the general's small world suppression was canceled, Su Ping and the others were immediately set free from a frozen state, physically and mentally. Su Ping looked around as he found that they were in a different place; he knew they had been imprisoned, but he didn't know what happened afterwards.

Right before he managed to get his bearings and see the environment clearly, he heard a curious yet casual voice. "Rot in hell!"

The young man had already attacked.

The invaders were just three ants to him. He was curious about them, but he didn't regard them as regular beings.

Bang!

A magnificent power rushed at Su Ping, even greater than what the general had been able to muster. Su Ping was planning on resisting, but then he found that his power was being restricted by a special field. Then, his body exploded.

His consciousness died out too.

But the next moment, Su Ping chose to resurrect on the spot. He looked at the young man with anger.

"Huh? You really can resurrect?" The young man was astonished, as if having just seen an interesting toy.

Brutality was radiating from Su Ping's eyes.

The old man nearby opened his eyes and glanced at Su Ping, as if sensing Su Ping's killing intent. The latter then felt as if a sharp nail were plunged into his forehead. His soul was torn apart, and his consciousness died out again.

Revive!

Su Ping was again amongst the living.

"Huh?" The young man was astonished. "I've already locked the surrounding time and space. How did you resurrect?"

He could not help but observe Su Ping carefully; such a weird way to resurrect was beyond him.

He was a knowledgeable prince. Very few things could surprise him.

"Are all the high-ranked gods capable of nothing except bullying the weak?!" Su Ping roared the moment he resurrected.

Dazed by this, the young man put on a smile and said, "Interesting. I'll give you a chance to confess the secret of your resurrection. Then, you may serve under me."

Su Ping gazed at him calmly, until the smile on his face was gone. Then he said, "I've seen the arrogance of the gods. What a shame. I'd love to see what the arrogance on your face would turn into when I stepped on it if we were on the same level."

The young man's expression turned grim, but he quickly composed himself, as if finding it unnecessary to feel angry because of an ant. He said casually, "You seem confident of yourself. If so, I'll give you a chance."

He raised a finger and said, "I'll lower my strength to your level, and will only use one finger. I'll forgive your disrespect if you win!"

The general's expression had a sudden change once he heard that.

Before Su Ping could reply, he said, "Your Highness!"

The young man slowly turned his head to look at him with eyes devoid of emotion.

"T-This human is rather weird..." The general didn't know what else to say; he had seen Su Ping's abilities. The prince was indeed an unparalleled genius in the Realm of Gods, but that human was simply too unusual.

Chapter 976: The Chaos Bell

"Why? Do you think I'll lose?" asked the young man softly.

His words thundered in the general's ears and his face became pale. He said quickly, "I dare not!"

The young man ignored him, then said to Su Ping, "Attack. Show me why you're confident."

He lowered his level as he spoke, making himself as strong as Su Ping.

“Great!”

Su Ping didn't elaborate, seeing how little his opponent thought of him. Words were nothing when compared to sheer power. He slowly raised his sword and relocated the astral oceans in his body. In the next moment, the power of faith and laws were concentrated on his sword.

A small world was manifested behind him. Su Ping simply used his true small world, which would be restored after his resurrection. So, he had nothing to worry about.

“Huh?”

The young man was slightly surprised to see the small world that Su Ping had condensed, not expecting to see such a talented human being.

However, he wasn't truly surprised.

That was something the elites among gods were capable of. The best ones were much stronger.

But then three supreme laws appeared in Su Ping's small world, making it become as hard as stone. He compressed the small world in front of his sword, to later summon the surging astral power inside his body. Since his opponent had allowed him to attack first, he would take that chance to try and build up his strength to launch the most powerful attack.

Seventy percent, eighty percent... Ninety percent!

Su Ping compressed all his power and transferred both astral oceans to his arms. He reached his limits; he had to attack since he could not contain himself any longer.

“Go to hell!!” Su Ping roared and attacked his opponent.

Dazzling light burst out. Astral power, divine power, laws and the power of faith were combined into the same burst, which moved towards the young man at an unbelievable speed.

Once again, the old man next to the young master opened his eyes ever so slightly.

The casualness on the young man's face was gone. He narrowed his eyes as he condensed divine light in front of his fingertip, like a sun illuminating everything. A vague and majestic illusion appeared behind his back as he attacked, also making that pointing gesture.

The illusion seemed to be laying a chess piece on the board which was the world itself. Such a move was absolutely unstoppable.

Bang!!

However, Su Ping's sword had already burst out when it descended. Its dazzling aura tore apart everything, severing lives. Everything that got in the way of the sword aura was shattered and destroyed. The power of destruction and the ninety percent surge of Su Ping's power were gathered, destroying everything at the moment!

The dazzling sun-like power was extinguished. The young man's shock was drowned in the sword aura. He then burst into fury, unleashing his previously suppressed aura. A magnificent power surged from his body, and the illusion behind his back became clearer.

The illusion laid its hand down and launched divine blades that collided with the sword aura. In the meantime, an unstoppable saber aura moved forth, cutting apart the slowed sword aura, and then moving on to reach Su Ping.

Bang!

Having no time to resist, Su Ping's small world exploded and his body was cut apart.

"You!"

Far in the distance—Joanna's expression changed ever so slightly after witnessing such a move. She looked at the young god with surprise and fury.

The dazzling divine light was gone, leaving nothing but dispersing energy. The young man revealed himself in the brilliance with a cold face.

He noticed Joanna's expression; he frowned and pointed at her.

Joanna wore a troubled expression as she looked at the finger, which was already by her forehead due to hesitation. It then penetrated her skull, and her body exploded.

Su Ping had just been resurrected on another side when Joanna's body was shattered to pieces; brutality flashed in his eyes when he saw it happen. He looked at the young man and asked with a gloomy expression, "Was that the power of one finger? Is a proud, honorable prince supposed to be scared of death?"

The general was shocked and infuriated by Su Ping's mockery. He stepped up and yelled, "How audacious!"

His back then felt cold just when he was about to continue speaking; it felt as if a ferocious beast were gazing at him. He turned back, only to find that it was the prince who was gazing at him.

The general's expression changed as he lowered his head.

The young man shifted his attention to Su Ping and said coldly, "This lowly human tried to trick me. Your clan shall be executed!"

Su Ping resurrected Joanna. He stared at the guy after hearing that senseless claim, and then smiled. "Trickery? Gods? Fortunately, human beings don't believe in gods! The gods' prince is just so-so. I'll teach you how to be a god after my next breakthrough!"

Brutality emanated in the young man's eyes. "You're asking to be killed! Do you think you can get away from this place alive?"

He had already taken action while he spoke. He didn't suppress his strength this time. Phoenixes seemed to be singing in the sky when he threw a punch. His glowing hand rushed towards Su Ping, with different colored feathers on his hands. It was a godly top skill!

The punch alone was as powerful as the general's formation.

Su Ping had already felt that his pores were collapsing and the temperature was rising before the god's fist approached. He felt the scalding temperature, even though he had the Golden Crow's body. Joanna and Tang Ruyan had already melted next to him.

Su Ping's eyes were bloodshot. He was so infuriated that he wanted to tear everything apart. However, the previous attack had exhausted his strength. Besides, the young man was indeed very strong. He was a Star Lord, but much stronger than those on the Divine Lord Rank. He was a genius among the gods.

"You have to compensate us for this, even if I have to run!"

Su Ping turned around. He didn't fight the young man; even though he was seething at the moment, he knew he was much weaker than the young god, and the latter could kill him in an instant.

Su Ping saw a glittering bell close by. It had an extraordinary appearance, and its purpose was obvious at the gate. He immediately charged towards it.

I'll tear your bell apart and let the noise disturb your clan as punishment! Su Ping thought.

He was just acting like vandals did, throwing stones to the windows of other houses.

"Oh no! He's heading toward the Chaos Bell!"

The general saw Su Ping's general direction and his expression took a turn for the worse. He hurriedly threw an illusionary spear at him.

Su Ping neither dodged nor resisted.

He wasn't in his best shape, and was hoping to resurrect soon.

The spear quickly penetrated his body, and Su Ping chose to resurrect in the next moment. Then, he charged at the bell at an even higher speed.

"That's all right," said the young man in the distance, stopping after saying that. "Only the unparalleled geniuses on the Chaos List can possibly make the Chaos Bell sound. Any others who try would only end up wounded. This stupid human doesn't know what he's doing!"

The moment he said that—

Clang!!

A vague and distant sound was suddenly heard, as if it originated from deeper spaces.

It seemed to be ringing both in their ears and head, dumbfounding all those who heard it.

The young man was stunned.

The old man next to him opened his eyes too, then looked at the Chaos Bell in shock.

A dazzling sword aura struck the bell, making the ancient artifact quake!

The echoing sound made the young man's head ring. His eyes almost popped out because of disbelief; he even forgot to continue his attacks to execute Su Ping.

The general and the other gods were completely dumbfounded. All of them wore astonished expressions as they gazed at the scene.

It can't be broken?

In front of the Chaos Bell—Su Ping sensed such a great counterforce that his arm almost became numb. He was shocked to see the bell, which remained undamaged. His sword was an Ascendant level weapon, yet it was unable to break the bell, indicating that the latter was at least an Ascendant treasure too.

Damn it, I can't even punish them by breaking their bell? Do I have to flee like a loser, just like this? Su Ping was quite gloomy.

Chapter 977: The Rain Emperor

A daunting aura suddenly began to spread from the top of the sky-reaching mountain. Cracks appeared in the void at the same time; horrific golden figures stepped out from them, producing heat as scorching as the sun.

“Damn it, they’re here already?”

Su Ping was truly flustered. He was planning to shock the gods, interrupting their cultivation by knocking the bell, but too many experts showed up right after the bell was rung. *Do those guys have nothing else to do?*

Having no time to regret, Su Ping quickly sent Joanna and Tang Ruyan into his small world. Then, he detonated himself!

Based on the experience from his past battles, Su Ping had found a quick way to detonate himself. It only took a thought; the astral power stored inside the countless cells of his body would explode at a high speed.

Let's try again!

Su Ping was reluctant to let it go. He controlled the power of his self-explosion, directing it to the bell.

He would be satisfied even if he only managed to leave a hole in it.

Dum!!!

A loud and clear ringing of the bell echoed in the world.

The ringing sound reached far and wide. It wasn't just a sonic wave; it also had a strange power that allowed it to bypass all constraints of space and time. It easily blew into deeper spaces and spread thousands of kilometers away. It had also moved decades into the past and into the future!

The people who had just arrived were stunned again once they heard the bell resound.

Someone saw the young man who was about to detonate himself in front of the Chaos Bell, quickly realizing what was going so he tried to prevent it, but they were too late. After all, nobody expected the unparalleled genius who sounded the Chaos Bell to kill himself later!

“It truly is the Chaos Bell!”

“Are my eyes deceiving me? Was it a human who struck the Chaos Bell?”

“Someone who’s not a god sounded the Chaos Bell twice?”

“Was it the bell sound we heard fifty years ago caused by this young man? It’ll be heard again in fifty years...”

“Why did he kill himself?”

The other gods present were awakened by the echoing Chaos Bell. They were shocked and suspicious; their first thought had been about a genius among the gods having done that. But no, it had been done by a human. Besides, the guy killed himself right after... Was he unaware of the privileges he would be graced with after such a feat?

Someone then said in a low voice, “The Rain Emperor is here!”

The others quickly looked up, only to see a majestic person who was almost thirty meters tall, glowing in sacred brilliance while he arrived at the gate.

Countless illusions were appearing in the void behind him; those images depicted dragons and devils.

Everyone knelt in front of the Emperor of the Rain Clan.

Both the young man and the old man next to him turned back. The old man hurriedly paid his respects, while the young prince lowered his head too, not daring to look back.

“Who struck the Chaos Bell?” said a casual, yet awe-inspiring voice, as if the entire world were underneath its feet.

“Replying to you, Rain Emperor, a young human did it,” said a god in a glittering halo, lowering his head.

“A human being...” After a moment of silence, the Rain Emperor asked slowly, “Where is he?”

“Reporting to Rain Emperor, the human being detonated himself after knocking the Chaos Bell. Then, the power of his self-explosion knocked the Chaos Bell again!” said the god.

“He detonated himself?”

The Rain Emperor paused for a moment. He was obviously surprised. The holy brilliance on his face faded, revealing a pair of eyes that could almost see through everything. He slowly raised his hand and drew a curve in midair. “He was able to knock the Chaos Bell, yet he killed himself afterwards. Let’s find out why he did that.”

The air rippled as his finger moved, as if a new universe were taking shape. The world around the Chaos Bell quickly flowed back in time. The vibrating Chaos Bell gradually came to a stop. The explosive energy in front of the bell was quickly gathering, producing a human phantom.

The phantom’s body was moving back. His actions were being replayed too.

“He really is a human being!”

The expert gods who had just arrived were astonished to see what was happening. It was unbelievable; a mere human being had made the Chaos Bell resound!

Everybody saw the young human's face, and the red sword in his hand. They watched him stepping back from the bell to the front of the young prince, confronting each other.

All the gods immediately focused their attention on the young prince.

Everyone realized why the young human detonated himself.

The young prince felt awkward, noticing that everybody was staring at him, which made him feel out of sorts. Being a prince, he was no stranger to public attention, especially on major ceremonies. However, he had earned the honor by himself; he felt guilty at the moment for pushing a human who was capable of knocking the Chaos Bell to kill himself.

However, even though he felt guilty, the young prince was basically certain that he wouldn't be punished because of a human.

After all, he was much more honorable than the victim.

The Rain Emperor stopped making time flow backwards. His eyes glittered as he gazed at the young prince who had his head lowered. His eyes could see through time; he was only replaying the incidents for other gods, because he had already seen what happened when he arrived.

However, he didn't blame the young prince. After all, he was a prince of the clan.

However rare the human genius was, he would be found lacking when compared to a prince of the clan.

At that moment, a god as tall as a mountain stepped up and suggested.

"Rain Clan, why don't you resurrect the young human and have him work for our clan?"

After a moment of silence, the Rain Emperor slowly shook his head while everybody stared at him. He said, "Something's wrong with the young man. I cannot bring him back to life."

His announcement left everyone in a stupor.

Once they understood what he said, all of them looked at the Rain Emperor in shock.

Even the Rain Emperor would be unable to bring the young human being who had detonated himself back to life?

The Rain Emperor could easily resurrect the Major Gods who had been dead for more than a thousand years.

How is this possible...

The same question popped up in every god's head. For the first time, they didn't believe what the Rain Emperor said. But then, they soon realized that the Rain Emperor had no reason to lie to them. Their emperor never lied, either.

The only conclusion was that something was truly wrong within the young human.

No wonder he could ring the Chaos Bell!

"For such a great genius to kill. What a shame!"

“He’s just a human being, but he might just become strong enough to compete with the Heavens if he’s trained well!”

All the gods were regretful.

The Rain Emperor looked at the distance with peaceful eyes. But actually, he was more shocked than any of the other gods at the moment. When he tried to resurrect the young human, a power that was threatening and dangerous even for him disrupted them.

Chapter 978: The Chaos Perception Dragon

I heard that some human beings have become as strong as Ancestral Gods and go by the name Lord Supreme...

Is there a Lord Supreme backing that guy? the Rain Emperor thought, with coldness in his eyes. If a Lord Supreme was indeed involved, the human had surely gone to their clan with clandestine purposes.

“That young man couldn’t have blown himself up. It must be a special escape technique,” speculated an old god.

It also dawned on the others: such a genius would not have a reason to kill himself that easily. It was also weird that the Rain Emperor was unable to resurrect him. So, such a tactic had to be an escape method.

At ground level—the young prince’s eyes glittered. He remembered Su Ping’s uncanny resurrections, and also saw the likelihood of such a speculation. So, he might run into that human being again.

He left the Rain Clan freely. There must be a bigshot supporting him. Unfortunately, the Ancestral Gods are sleeping, or they could have caught him, thought the young prince.

...

At the same time, somewhere else in the Archean Divinity.

Blue light particles gathered, forming the shape of a human being. It was none other than Su Ping.

Hardly had he opened his eyes when he noticed a heavy breathing. He looked at the source of the sound, only to see a gigantic beast he couldn’t see entirely. Every scale on the beast’s tail was as big as a mountain.

Where have I been randomly resurrected?

Su Ping was astonished.

That beast, obviously of divine stock, had a tremendous amount of divine power. It was a strong and massive creature of the Archean Divinity; its city-like size could accommodate tens of millions of people!

What did such a size entail?

It meant that the beast could easily swallow millions of people in one go!

Su Ping probed the region and found that the beast seemed to be sound asleep. He instantly brought Joanna and Tang Ruyan out from his small world.

Both girls got their bearings and were then shocked by the beast.

“Are we no longer in the Rain Clan?” Joanna was still worried about their previous plight.

Su Ping nodded. “We’ve been teleported elsewhere; I don’t know where exactly. Do you recognize this beast?”

Joanna seemed relieved. She looked at the beast and shook her head. “I can’t see the whole body. Judging by its size though, it is most likely of a higher level than my original self.”

She wore a grave expression while she said that.

Tang Ruyan was silent for a long time, mouth wide open. The trip had been an unprecedented eye-opener for her thus far.

“This guy is sleeping. I’m going to find out what it looks like,” said Su Ping.

He had already left the Rain Clan behind. He was angry since he failed to break the bell, but there was nothing he could do. After all, the Rain Clan was a high-ranked faction. Failing was natural in such conditions. That being said, Su Ping was still upset by the outcome.

Therefore, he had to leave the matter behind, or he would only get angrier.

Whoosh!

Su Ping took to the sky and kept on rising.

It didn’t take long for the gigantic beast to look smaller under his feet; he was able to get a full view of the beast when he reached an altitude of ten thousand meters. It turned out to be a beast covered in scales, with the body of an armadillo and the tail of a crocodile. Its white horns curled above its head like a crown, making it look majestic.

“Well...”

Joanna seemed shocked and suspicious as she followed Su Ping.

“Did you recognize it?” asked Su Ping curiously.

Next to the beast was a vast plain where a lot of footprints could be seen. It was a barbaric land.

“It looks similar to a beast recorded in the secret books, named Chaos Perception Dragon. It’s one of the most ferocious beasts in the Archean Divinity!” said Joanna in a low voice.

“The Chaos Perception Dragon?” Now that he was intrigued, Su Ping asked, “What’s its level? Celestial State? Or even higher?”

Joanna shook her head and replied, “It’s as strong as the Ancestral Gods! Normal Ancestral Gods wouldn’t even be a match for it. Such beasts are born in the Eye of the Realm and they master the law of chaos. They also have other unbelievable abilities.”

“The Eye of the Realm?” Su Ping repeated the new term and was truly interested.

“It’s the source of the Realm of Gods. It’s said that all the power in this realm was released from the Eye,” whispered Joanna. “That’s what I heard from my parents.”

Su Ping nodded and looked at the beast. *No wonder I felt a strange yet familiar aura in the void. You helped me remember: it’s the power of chaos. It’s very likely that the energy exhaled by the massive dragon carries the power of chaos.*

Such an energy was easy for him to detect, since the air in the store’s Chaos Spirit Pool was similar.

“It really is the Chaos Perception Dragon...” Joanna was stunned.

She looked at the gigantic beast in disbelief. Such a ferocious creature was sound asleep before her? A being considered unstoppable in the Realm of Deities for years?

“System, if that thing kills us, can you resurrect us?” Su Ping asked the system.

A long time later, the latter replied with an angry tone, “Are you questioning my ability?”

Okay.

The arrogant reply made Su Ping feel at ease. He then said to Joanna, “Let’s get closer and steal some chaos power. It would be greatly beneficial.”

The power of chaos was the source of all powers, including astral power and divine power. All of them had been derived from it.

Joanna glared at him. “Have you lost your mind? If it truly is the Chaos Perception Dragon, the thing can easily kill us with a sneeze! Let’s get away while it’s asleep!”

“It’s all right. We can keep on reviving,” said Su Ping with a smile.

Stunned by his response, Joanna then asked, “We can resurrect even after being killed by that?”

“Yes.” Su Ping nodded resolutely. He had yet to test this, but he was confident in the system.

“...”

Joanna was lost for words; she found Su Ping more and more perplexing. *Not even a beast as strong as an Ancestral God was unable to kill us. Wouldn’t this mean that the entity backing Su Ping is even stronger than the Ancestral Gods?*

But, could there be such a powerhouse living in the world?

Or rather, could such beings still be considered as “living”?

Su Ping had already swooped down. He said to Tang Ruyan, “This is a good opportunity. Try to absorb the power of chaos. It will help you a lot.”

“Okay!”

Tang Ruyan nodded quickly. She didn’t know much about the Ancestral Gods, except that they were stronger than Celestials. She wasn’t worried though; Su Ping could resurrect her.

Soon after, the trio approached the Chaos Perception Dragon. Su Ping aimed to land on its head. The lower he descended, the bigger the beast became. He eventually reached the large beast's partially open mouth, and had a chance to see the sharp teeth inside.

The breath coming from the mouth was smelly, but there was also a vague power of chaos in the mix.

Su Ping immediately sat cross-legged on one lip, right next to the pointed teeth. The exhalations of the beast were like level-12 gales with strength to uproot trees, yet Su Ping sat tightly and absorbed the power of chaos.

Joanna was dumbfounded after seeing what Su Ping was doing.

He was probably the very first person bold enough to steal food from one of the top ferocious beasts in the Realm of Gods.

She finally understood why he had been so nonchalant when they first met. It wasn't just because he could resurrect an infinite number of times, but also because he had seen too many creatures that were more terrifying than her. He was already bold enough.

Joanna gave a slight head shake and approached Su Ping to sit down next to him.

Soon after... Three people—who seemed smaller than ants by comparison—were sitting right next to the Chaos Perception Dragon's mouth.

They were surrounded by the air of chaos.

The breath contains an immense amount of energy.

It seems to be related to nature and space. Every breath causes time and space around it to fluctuate...

Su Ping had also realized how extraordinary the massive creature was. He was greatly shocked. Could Ancestral Gods also influence time and space by merely breathing?

If so, couldn't they easily travel through time as long as they wished to?

Su Ping was having a hard time imagining what kind of things could have a chance to suppress the creature!

"This beast didn't participate in the war, or simply hid and waited it out," whispered Joanna.

The fact that the beast existed in the rebuilt Archean Divinity implied that it had indeed survived the catastrophe.

Su Ping nodded.

The three of them fell silent and devoted themselves to cultivating.

Su Ping felt that all his astral power was ebbing in the astral ocean when the air of chaos entered his body, making room for the air of chaos. All the astral power in the way backed off, as if conscious.

The air of chaos quickly sank to the bottom of the astral ocean.

Su Ping was able to tell that the bit of air was as effective as five percent of his astral power!

It was worth mentioning that if released, five percent of his astral power could turn into mist and cover a whole town.

That tiny bit of chaotic air was much smaller in volume, but it was just as effective!

If I can possibly transform all my astral power into chaos power... Su Ping's eyes glittered. He was excited by the prospect. He would be thousands of times stronger if realized!

Such an improvement would be unbelievable!

However, Su Ping was certain about this being a realistic idea.

After all, that primal air was dispersed since the age of chaos. This Chaos Perception Dragon was born from chaos, so it stored the air of chaos inside its body, which enabled it to become as strong as the Ancestral Gods.

I'll see if I can get anything from the Chaos Spirit Pool in my store, Su Ping thought, feeling the urge to return.

The wind around him stopped at that moment.

Then, time seemed to be frozen.

Su Ping's head was completely blank. His body stiffened as it was wreathed in an indescribable pressure.

While in a trance, Su Ping seemed to see a pair of gigantic eyes gazing at him, devoid of emotion.

The eyes were as massive as the sun, imposing more pressure on him than any creature ever had.

Su Ping had a strong mind, and yet he still felt as if his blood were freezing.

"Crack! Crack!"

Su Ping then heard teeth chattering, and struggled to turn his head back. He found that Joanna was pale and trembling.

On the other side—Tang Ruyan was also rigid. A closer inspection would reveal that she was no longer breathing. She had been scared to death!

Yes, she had literally been scared to death.

However, Su Ping didn't want to make light of the situation and tease her. He had seen countless terrifying creatures, but he was still too terrified to move at the moment. Any average Star Lord would have died from shock!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the next moment, Su Ping could no longer think.

Joanna, Tang Ruyan and he himself exploded without giving any sort of warning.

Su Ping was finally freed from the beast's pressure when he reappeared in the resurrection space. He breathed heavily, and was somehow too scared to resurrect.

But Su Ping became determined all of a sudden.

He resurrected in the original place.

Whoosh!

The trio reappeared in the same place, but to Su Ping's surprise, they saw a vast world in front of them, and the gargantuan dragon was gone!

Su Ping looked around. He could see the claw marks on the ground that continued and faded into the distance. The dry grass assured him that he was in the same place.

The system's resurrection had never gone wrong.

"Has it left?"

"I think so," replied Joanna, stunned by what she saw.

Su Ping felt disappointed. He could still sense the great dragon's remaining air, but it had left already, probably heading to a deeper space, or maybe another point in time.

Obviously, the beast didn't leave because of them.

After all, they were nothing more than ants or pebbles to a beast.

"What a shame." Su Ping sighed, but deep down he was somehow relieved. The horrifying pressure from moments earlier... Su Ping was reluctant to face that beast again.

He shook his head and said, "We should get going too."

"Where to?"

Joanna wore a troubled expression.

"I don't know. Let's find out."

Once he said that, Su Ping took them into his small world and blew himself up again.

Chapter 979: The Heaven Path Institute

Joanna and Tang Ruyan were obviously disconcerted by what Su Ping meant when he said "let's find out." Su Ping opened his eyes, to find himself standing on a branch.

He immediately rose to the sky and saw a vast, boundless forest around him.

Should I change my location again?

Su Ping raised his eyebrows. The Archean Divinity was extremely big, as could be inferred from the Demigod Burial, which was merely a fragment of the realm and was home to a hundred species. It wasn't hard to imagine that the Archean Divinity wasn't smaller than the actual universe.

It would actually be faster to travel by killing himself and being reborn in a random location.

Su Ping pondered over his next course of action, but then he raised his eyebrows. He stood still and raised a hand, when a streak of red light "penetrated" his body.

He emerged unscathed after that flash of light; there were no traces of blood on his body. The light was about to hit his back, but he reached out and grabbed it.

The light was not a weapon; it was a stream of condensed divine power.

Even though divine power was intangible, it was confined in Su Ping's hand. He had made use of the laws of time and space a moment earlier, to appear elsewhere. Dodging the attack was within his abilities, although he seemed to be standing still.

He raised his head a bit and looked in a certain direction.

There were four men standing on one of the trees in the forest. All of them noticed his reaction.

"He sees us," said a handsome young man who had golden hair and purple eyes.

"He's indeed something. No wonder he dared to be airborne without worrying that he would be collectively attacked."

"Did you see? He just used laws of time and space. They're supreme laws; he must be a top genius among human beings!"

The other three had similarly grave expressions. No one who took part in the trial was easy to deal with. And yet, the guy was exposing himself in such a grand manner. He was either too confident or a downright idiot. It was obvious that his case was the former.

A young man with fiery tattoos on his forehead said indifferently, "Let's see if he's going to fight back. We'll just fight him if he does."

He was obviously the leader of the team. He stood at the center, and all the others stood on either side of him.

"He's only a genius by human standards. For gods, understanding the laws of time and space isn't as remarkable," whispered the golden-haired young man.

The other two present weren't gods, but they came from high-ranked species. That was why they were qualified to take the trial along with the two proud gods.

While they observed him, Su Ping realized that the four people who had ambushed him neither fled nor continued their attacks. He brought Joanna and Tang Ruyan out from his small world and roared, "Follow me! Our dummies are here!"

Joanna and Tang Ruyan were stunned for a moment after noticing the strange environment, but they soon adapted themselves to it. Joanna immediately detected the four guys who were lurking in the woods after Su Ping pointed them out. She was slightly surprised, as she didn't expect to run into two middle-ranked gods and two members of the gods' vassal races at the same time.

However, she was from a middle-ranked clan too. Without any hesitation, she gathered a golden spear in her hand, ready to vent the fury that she had accumulated when they encountered the Rain Clan.

Respect and fear over godly ranking had prevented her from standing up against the Rain Clan, but she wasn't scared of the middle-ranked gods.

On the other side—Tang Ruyan also detected the four guys in the woods as she followed Su Ping and Joanna. She wasn't scared at all, as she couldn't be truly killed anyway. She would try her hardest to kill them if Su Ping wanted her to do so.

"Was there a god hidden in his small world?"

"That god carries the air of the middle-ranked Original Ladies clan."

"For a middle-ranked god to actually hide in a human's small world. Was she suppressed by the human being, or did she do it to ambush us?"

All of them became solemn; after all, they couldn't snub a middle-ranked god. They instantly attacked with full strength.

"Four Star Lords..." Su Ping detected their strength as they approached. His eyes were then filled with brutality; he unleashed all the fury he had repressed back in the Rain Clan.

He revealed his small world and released his power of faith. Then, he drew the sword and burst out again with the new tricks he had grasped in their recent fight with the gods.

Seventy percent of his strength!

It was the maximum strength he could muster at the moment. The violent astral power paused the energy in the world for a moment. This time, he chose the first move of Thousand Train, which had a more piercing nature.

An infinite, dazzling sword aura penetrated through space and time like a raindrop.

"Damn it, what kind of power is that?"

Facing him—the four guys were shocked by Su Ping's daunting attack; even their leader narrowed his eyes in fear.

He felt that Su Ping was only a Star State warrior, but that was clearly just a disguise. It was well known that all the participants in the trial were at least Star Lords!

However, even if the human had the same realm as them, the power he had unleashed still left him in awe!

One had to remember that all gods absorbed divine power!

Divine power was a great and honorable kind of energy. As a matter of fact, divine power was ten times as effective as astral power!

This meant that a god with the same cultivation as a human being would be ten times stronger, not to mention that the brilliant gods in the past had created countless secret techniques for their juniors, which was why gods were superior to other races.

However, the power that Su Ping had just unleashed seemed unstoppable to them.

Run!

It all happened too fast. Almost instinctively, the young man who had fiery tattoos on his forehead dodged Su Ping's sword. Still, right when he flashed with his ultimate technique, the sword jumped at him again.

A crack echoed from inside his armor. Then, a brilliant shield appeared in front of him, only to be shattered the next moment.

Another illusion appeared and reached for the sword once the shield was broken.

Bang!!

The sword aura collapsed, shattered by the illusion!

But the next moment, the illusion gradually faded away.

The young man with fiery tattoos was frightened. Both his lifesaving trump cards had been activated by Su Ping's attack!

The second trump card in particular, was a bit of soul power that a Major God of his clan had given him!

Such a defense was enough to resist a regular attack of a Major God!

Even though it had easily spared him from Su Ping's attacks, the trump card was now gone.

"Hurry! He's weakening! That attack had to be his ultimate technique. He surely had to pay a high price to use it!" roared the god with golden hair and purple eyes. He too was a genius of his clan, and saw Su Ping's weakness. He roared again and charged at him.

"Get lost!"

It was exactly then when a snort was spread out, and a glamorous woman flashed in front of Su Ping. Following that, an unstoppable spear came slashing down like a lightning bolt, forcing the golden-haired god to retreat; he felt that he would be heavily wounded if he didn't.

The latter looked at the girl from the Original Ladies Clan and said grimly, "I heard that the Original Ladies used to be the Titans' servants, and were actually carriers of their bloodline. Let's see how strong you are!"

"You're not worthy!"

Joanna turned back into the proud Goddess of War. She looked down at the god facing her, with increasing brilliance surrounding her body. "I'm too weak to beat you right now, so let me make a breakthrough first!"

A dazzling surge of divine light burst out of her body once she said that, turning the forest golden.

Her aura was rising continuously, like a flood that had just collapsed the dam. A magnificent power was instantly spreading out.

In the blink of an eye, Joanna made a breakthrough from the Star State to the Star Lord State!

The weird thing was, there was no Heavenly Tribulation in the sky above.

Once they witnessed the appalling scene and processed what Joanna said, the four gods realized something since there was no testing after the breakthrough.

“You are a reincarnation!”

“Damn it, why was a reincarnation allowed to participate? It’s unfair!”

“Retreat!”

None of them were in the mood to fight anymore. It wasn’t a fair deal to fight reincarnations; all their original selves were Major Gods with abundant battle experience. Such reincarnations knew much more secret techniques than they did.

“You want to leave? Too late!” Joanna yelled and flashed. She turned into countless illusions and surrounded all her opponents. Then, their spears stabbed forth, cracking and twisting the air. All the spear auras were destructive. The four gods were soon riddled with holes, bleeding profusely.

It only took a single attack for them to be heavily wounded and on the verge of death.

Their lifesaving treasures had also been activated, but that didn’t free them from Joanna’s blockage.

Su Ping had originally planned to detonate himself again and launch a second attack, but then he was lost for words after seeing Joanna dealing with them that fast. *Is she that strong after becoming a Star Lord?*

She couldn’t be that much weaker than the prince of the Rain Clan, could she?

“Speak! What is this place?”

Joanna went easy on them; she didn’t kill them immediately. Instead, she probed them to know more about the place.

The four gods, already prepared to beg for mercy, were stunned by her question. They gave Joanna weird looks, wondering if she was making fun of them.

You’re here for the trial, yet you don’t know where you are?

“You won’t confess?”

Joanna was puzzled by their odd expressions, feeling that she was overlooking something. Still, she didn’t choose the polite path. She simply stabbed the tattooed god in the chest, causing a bloody hole that made him grimace in pain.

“Please stop! I’ll talk!” said the tattooed god quickly, “We admit defeat. We’re all here for the trial. There’s no need to make enemies out of us. We promise we won’t retaliate... We can swear it in the name of the gods!”

“The trial?” Joanna raised her brows and said, “Swear later. What do you mean by trial?”

“...”

The four prisoners were lost for words again.

Joanna's solemn expression made them realize that she wasn't making fun of them.

Did she actually sneak into this place?

But, is it even possible?

"Well, we're here for the trial to enter the Heaven Path Institute. We're currently on level two," said the tattooed god prudently, shedding all arrogance.

After all, Joanna was a middle-ranked god too, and was obviously the leader of the three-member team.

Someone then roared and rushed over. It was none other than Tang Ruyan, who was yelling and charging with sword in hand while they talked.

All the others: "..."

The nearby Su Ping began to sweat. He didn't know what to say; the battle was already over.

Everything happened too fast. A few seconds were enough for them to finish the battle, but time was barely enough for Tang Ruyan to reach the battlefield.

Once she got close, Tang Ruyan found that Su Ping was simply standing next to the four strangers, as if they had already reached a truce. She immediately slowed down and asked in suspicion, "Why did you stop fighting?"

Su Ping glanced at her and said, "Do you think they can still fight?"

Tang Ruyan finally noticed their wounds, and was immediately astounded.

"The Heaven Path Institute..."

Joanna was stunned.

The three words uttered by the tattooed god left her so overwhelmed that she didn't even notice Tang Ruyan's arrival.

"The president and all the students of the Heaven Path Institute fought and died in the wilderness, during the war. How is it possible...?" she mumbled to herself.

The Heaven Path Institute, which was destroyed in the war, was still standing.

Was it rebuilt? They preserved its legacy?

After hearing her mumbling, the tattooed god couldn't help but ask, "Are you kidding?"

Then, he realized that his tone was too unfriendly, so he quickly stopped. Even so, he was still angry.

The Heaven Path Institute was revered by countless gods. Yet for some reason that woman claimed that it had been destroyed. It was absolutely unacceptable!

"Huh?"

Joanna snapped out of her stupor and looked at him. "What did you say?"

The tattooed god was frightened. He quickly replied, “N-Nothing. I only meant to say that the Heaven Path Institute hasn’t been destroyed; you can find countless experts there. Even the high-ranked gods respect the Heaven Path Institute too. How could it be destroyed?”

“It wasn’t destroyed?” Joanna was dazed for a moment.

By seeing the guy’s expression, she then realized something and was silent for a long time. After that she sighed and said, “You’re too little. It seems that such events have already been forgotten.”

She shook her head, then changed the topic by asking, “How do you pass the trial?”

Chapter 980: Joanna’s Wish

“About that…”

The tattooed god hesitated upon realizing that the three weren’t real participants of the trial; there was a chance that he could be punished later for revealing information to them. However, he didn’t have a choice except to grit his teeth and say, “You have to gather ten Divine Cards to pass the second level, either from the beasts roaming the place or the other participants.”

“Divine Cards?”

Joanna raised her eyebrows, immediately realizing the cards’ sole purpose was to measure results. She looked at the four gods and said, “So, you have Divine Cards too? Hand them over.”

The tattooed god’s heart began to race, but he already knew that she would ask once he mentioned them. He opened his hand and said, “This is a Divine Card.”

A glittering golden card appeared in his hand.

Joanna glanced at them and accepted it naturally. Then she said, “Just one?”

The tattooed god bitterly smiled and said, “We just came for the trial. We haven’t hunted any beasts or other participants. We thought this human was alone so we tried to ambush him. But then…”

Joanna said indifferently, “Is that so? I don’t believe you.”

“…”

“It’s true!” the tattooed god declared earnestly.

“Swear on your divinity,” said Joanna.

“…”

The tattooed young man’s lips twitched. He didn’t expect the woman to be as petty as to demand him to swear. *Does she think that divinity means nothing?*

“I can swear on my divinity and promise that I won’t get back at you in any way. I simply hope that you can let us go,” said the tattooed god with gnashing teeth.

Joanna said coldly, “You need to swear that too, but don’t change the subject. Swear that you only have one Divine Card first.”

“...Is that really necessary?”

“Yes.”

The tattooed young man collapsed. He moved his hands and took out two Divine Cards, before he said with a bitter smile, “I didn’t mean it. We killed two divine beasts to get this. We’ll definitely be eliminated if we give them to you.”

Joanna was unsurprised. She observed the cards and naturally accepted them. “Swear on your divinity.”

“...”

“Swear on your divinity,” repeated Joanna.

The tattooed god looked awful. He looked at his companions, knowing that his efforts were moot.

Should we fight?

How could they fight the three weird smugglers?

An expert had surely helped them slip into the Heaven Path Institute.

He gloomily took out sixteen additional Divine Cards, before he said in a low voice, “That’s all.”

“Swear on your divinity.”

“...”

The tattooed god’s cheeks twitched. He took out three more cards, and voluntarily swore on his divinity before Joanna warned him again.

Swearing upon divinity was based on the laws of the Realm of Gods. It was an inviolable oath, unless one had a deathwish.

Joanna finally nodded after he vowed, and then robbed the others of their Divine Cards too. She acquired twenty-seven divine Cards in total, which suggested that their team was a strong one. All of them could have advanced after collecting a dozen cards more.

“Now, swear that you won’t tell anyone about us; not one thing, or come to us for trouble,” said Joanna.

The four gods felt frustrated; they reluctantly swore on their divinity.

The oaths were effective once golden divine power flashed in the world. Joanna stopped there; she only asked the gods about something else, and then let them go.

Both Su Ping and Tang Ruyan were lost for words after seeing how adept Joanna was at robbery; it was their first time seeing that side of her.

“That was nothing; I’ve robbed countless races in the past. It’s much easier in the Archean Divinity, as I don’t need to roll back time to investigate. I only need to force them to swear if I want to know whether they’re telling the truth,” said Joanna casually.

Su Ping asked curiously, “If swearing on your divinity is inviolable, is it impossible to lie?”

Lying was indeed bad, but a world without lies could also be terrible.

“You have to pay a price to make an oath to divinity. That price is part of your soul. So, normal people wouldn’t easily force each other to use them unless the situation was critical. Fortunately, the people we met aren’t our friends,” said Joanna, as if reciting a tongue twister.

Su Ping nodded and asked, “Are you planning on going to the Heaven Path Institute?”

Her purpose was obvious, since Joanna asked them for the Divine Cards.

“Yes.”

Joanna nodded and continued, “The Heaven Path Institute is the best cultivation land in the Archean Divinity. It is presided over by an Ancestral God, and the professors there are also powerful. All of them participated in the war against the Heavens.

“Eventually, all the gods from the Heaven Path Institute died in the war, and the rampant Heavens were also suppressed!

“The institute saved countless people. Unfortunately, they weren’t able to survive the cataclysm in the end!”

Joanna seemed to be rather frustrated as she recalled the past, and the heroes among the gods from those times.

Su Ping was also in shock. He didn’t expect a cultivation academy to be as selfless. He found the Heaven Path Institute quite worthy of admiration.

“I wonder if an institute that bears the same name has been restored to its former glory,” said Joanna as she sighed, “In any case, it’s a lifetime honor to be a student of the Heavenly Path Institute. There’s also an Ancestral God Monument in the institute, which can allow me to become a Superior God if I’m lucky.”

Su Ping said, “You have to be there in person if you want to use the Ancestral God Monument?”

“Correct. That’s why I’m planning on sending my original self there with my second reward,” said Joanna as she looked at Su Ping, “You nominated me Outstanding Employee twice. You’ll bring me here again, right?”

“Of course,” Su Ping replied with a smile.

“As a matter of fact...”

Joanna felt relieved after seeing Su Ping accept her request so readily. She looked at the distance and said with a gloomy tone, “At first, I wanted to find the Archean Divinity and let my plane rejoin it when you mentioned that you had access to it. After all, this is my hometown.”

She suddenly looked back at Su Ping and asked, “Can you take in a few more employees? I was planning on recommending the four Superior Gods to you. They would gladly work for you if they knew you could bring them here. With their help, it is possible that we can push our plane back to our hometown.”

Su Ping was stunned by her plans. He immediately said with a smile, "Fine with me, but even if they're Superior Gods, they would really have to work hard in order to become Outstanding Employees. Besides, only one Outstanding Employee is elected every year, which means that the more employees there are, the more competitive it'll be. Are you willing to share this opportunity with them?"

A momentary perplexity flashed on Joanna's face, but she was already accustomed to the store's bizarre rules. Obviously, not even Superior Gods would be an exception. She said, "Everything will be fine as long as our plane can once again be part of our homeland."

She continued after a pause, "Besides, you name one Outstanding Employee per year. If we take turns, a hundred years would be enough for each of us to come and visit many times. When considering a thousand, or ten thousand years, we would have plenty of chances to visit."

"Fine then." Su Ping nodded.

He wasn't in sore need of Superior God employees, but he wasn't reluctant to take them in, either, if they wanted to work for him.

Unfortunately, those employees could only work in his store, a place where he was invulnerable thanks to the system's protection. They weren't necessary in those conditions.

"System, can employees not leave the store under any circumstances?"

"Not yet," replied the system.

"Not yet? When would they be able to leave?"

"You will know the answer when the time comes."

"..."

Su Ping was lost for words. Why was the system going about in riddles?

Su Ping refocused his attention and said to Joanna, "Enough about the future. If the Heaven Path Institute is so awesome, I might as well go there and take a look too. The trial is about to end. Let's look around a bit more."

Joanna nodded.

The trio quickly took action. They rushed around in the woods without hiding their auras, nor worrying about leaving traces. They simply took to the skies.

Thanks to the information drawn from the four participants, they learned that the strongest beasts in that place were only at the Star Lord level. After all, Ascendant beasts would easily kill countless participants.

"Can reincarnations make breakthroughs at any time?"

Su Ping was feeling curious about Joanna's breakthrough.

“More or less. After all, all the great paths are already in my head. For you, levels are stairs that you must climb; but for me, they are shackles that can help my reincarnation learn more about the original path.

“The purpose of developing a reincarnation is to seek another path to the Ascendant State. This way, the two paths can later be combined to make a superior, eternal path.”

Su Ping then understood and stopped asking.

Tang Ruyan had been following them, listening and learning in silence. She knew that she was too far behind when compared to Su Ping and Joanna; therefore, she had to work a lot harder.

Joanna thought of something and glanced at Tang Ruyan. “So, all the participants are Star Lords. Would she be too eye-catching if she passed the trial?”

Tang Ruyan’s heart was heavy. She looked forward to entering the institute and cultivate there after hearing Joanna’s explanation.

“That’s a good point.” Su Ping felt baffled for a moment.

They had snuck into the place anyway. For Tang Ruyan to make it while only being in the Ocean State would be quite surprising.

“Let’s give it a try first. We can always say that she’s our teammate. We’ll find a way later if the institute is unwilling to acknowledge her. After all, this is just the second level of the trial; there are still more tests awaiting for us. We can later teach her what we learn if she can’t pass,” said Su Ping.

Joanna nodded. “That’s true. She’ll be in your store once we leave this place anyway. The Heaven Path Institute won’t know a thing if you teach her in private.”

Neither of them was worried about not being accepted, as they were both confident of their strength. Not passing the trial would imply that the place was truly terrifying.

The fact that four gods had looted that many cards suggested that they were among the strongest participants in the trial. Their failed attempt to ambush Su Ping suggested that it wasn’t the first time they had attacked other participants.

Tang Ruyan was quietly following them. Su Ping’s last remark made her purse her lips. Her eyes were filled with tears, but she quickly lowered her head so that they couldn’t see.

She knew that she was a liability to them, but neither of them thought of her as a nuisance.

Right when they started to move, they encountered a lurking beast that tried to ambush them. The creature ended up as prey and was killed easily.

Half an hour later—the trio had already flown out of the woods. They reached a swamp filled with hidden beasts. It was a dangerous place, although good for picking up Divine Cards.

Neither Su Ping nor the others step into the swamp. They simply wandered at the edge, as they had gathered enough Divine Cards; it was unnecessary for them to take action.

They only had to bide their time and wait for the trial to end.

Su Ping wasn't idle while they waited. He summoned the Little Skeleton, the Dark Dragon Hound, the white-scaled dragon and the Purple Python, then he asked them to hunt an isolated beast along with Tang Ruyan.

Su Ping offered her advice; Tang Ruyan continued gaining more battle experience, making substantial progress after each death.

A team of eight people, with a red haired girl at the center, showed up while they were fighting. Her seven teammates also looked graceful and attractive.

"How could any participant be that weak?"

They were surprised to see Tang Ruyan and the pets; even more so when they detected her level. But they soon noticed that Su Ping and Joanna were close by. They instantly realized that the human woman was probably a slave.

The eight of them despised Joanna for letting her slave and pets fight, not doing anything hands-on.

The redhead glanced at them and lost interest; she coldly led her teammates away, not intent on fighting for the beast.

Su Ping had also noticed the strangers. He was really happy after seeing them simply take their leave; his time would be saved.

The progress he could attain by fighting them would be too small.

He delved into his own memories while he taught Tang Ruyan. The method to instantly unleash all his strength could now be used as his ultimate technique. He could release it dozens of times along with the Heavenly Fall Sword Technique he had created, using his normal strength.

Time flew by.

The trial soon came to a close.

The beast was badly tortured. It tried to flee several times, only to be stopped by the Little Skeleton and the Dark Dragon Hound. It had to grit its teeth and continue fighting.